Obituaries

Hugh C. Oppenheimer

Hugh C. Oppenheimer, Professor of Communications at LaGuardia Community College, died 3 June 1974 at his home in Malba, N.Y. He was 53 years old. He began his military career as a staff sergeant in the Horse Cavalry. After graduating from West Point in 1945 he joined the Army Pictorial Service and later became head of TV and motion-picture production at the Army Pictorial Center in Long Island City. He retired in 1965 with the rank of Colonel. He also attended the University of Southern California where he was granted the M.A. degree in Cinema and the Ph.D. degree in Communication.

After retiring from the Army, he produced Encyclopedia Britannica films in Chicago and later became Vice-President of Public Media, Inc., in New York City.

Col. Oppenheimer, who became a member of the Society in 1960, was one of the first to recognize the value of television to military operation. The October 1954 issue of the *Journal* contains a report by (then) Capt. Oppenheimer on "Applications of Television to Military Operations," in which he discussed a series of studies then being conducted in the fields of tactical and training uses of television. He also reported (with Lt. Col. Edward L. Scheiber) the first public demonstration of combat television at Fort George G. Meade ("Combat Television," *Journal*, March 1955).

Aside from his work for the Army which included adapting television equipment for Army field maneuvers, he was also executive producer of the *The Big Picture*, a public service television program.

A LaGuardia Community College spokesman said, "Dr. Oppenheimer was a respected member of the LaGuardia faculty who worked diligently on developing the College's communications programs. He was also involved in planning for the utilization of the Army Pictorial Center which was acquired by the College in 1972. A popular faculty member among the student body, Dr. Oppenheimer's untimely death deeply saddened all segments of the LaGuardia College community."

Henry M. Lester

Henry M. Lester died 29 June in University Hospital in New York City. He was 75 years of age.

A pioneer in the use of high-speed photography for nature studies, especially the behavior of birds, insects and reptiles, one of his early motion pictures, made at 3000 exposures a second, showed how a housefly flies — and that it beats its wings some 300 times a second. Later he made high-speed color films showing the flight of a hummingbird and the strike of a rattlesnake. Problems involved in making a high-speed motion picture of a rattlesnake's strike were described by Mr. Lester (with Sam Dunton of the New York Zoological Society) in "Time-Magnification Study of a Rattlesnake Strike" in the February 1958 issue of the *Journal*. "A captive rattlesnake is not easily provoked to strike," Mr. Lester explained. He said that 26 rattlesnakes had been flown in from Texas before they found a 6-foot-long specimen that would strike at anything in sight. The snake was promptly isolated to protect it from all possible disturbances while producing a motion picture of immense value to herpetologists.

Among many other activities he was a member of the firm of Morgan & Lester, publishers of photographic books, for many years. In the 1950s, Mr Lester, who spoke and read fluently Russian, Polish, French and German, organized a project to evaluate foreign scientific and technical literature ordered from the McGraw-Hill Book Co. by the Department of Defense.

In 1962 he founded and edited *Abstracts of Photographic Science and Engineering Literature* at Columbia University. In 1964 he resigned as editor for reasons of health. A joint announcement from Columbia University and the Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers expressed deep regret for his resignation and noted that "Mr. Lester's vision, enthusiasm and energy were essential to this venture and its literary success is a tribute to his all-out effort."

Oscar Burritt

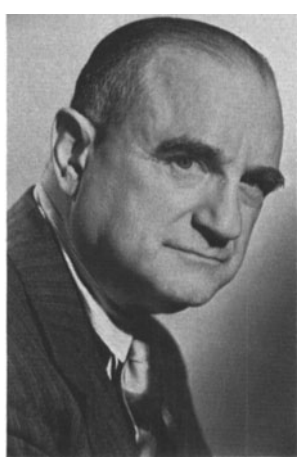
Oscar Burritt died suddenly 27 May 1974 in Toronto at the age of 65. Formerly Supervisor of Distribution and Supervisor of Film Evaluation for Canadian Broadcasting Corp., he had retired in June 1973.

Born in Vancouver, B.C., he became interested in filmmaking at a very early age (at the age of four, according to an informal interview at the time of his retirement); a few years later, his father gave him 300 feet of nitrate film to use in a German-made magic lantern equipped with a coal-oil lamp as a light source. This primitive toy apparently represented the starting point of a life-long interest in films. At the time of his death he was a Director in the Toronto Film Society, a nonprofit organization for the study and appreciation of film as an art which he had helped found in 1950.

Mr. Burritt began his career in film with the Lean Shelly Film Co. where he produced documentary films, acting as cameraman, editor and script writer. He joined CBC in 1950. Before CBLT Toronto went on the air in 1952, he was given the task of screening all films that might be available for use on television. He found very few films of good technical quality and program content, whereupon he set about the establishment of standards for the acceptability of films for CBC use. The standards he set have been described as "the highest in the industry."

Although during his career, Mr. Burritt trained some 2,000 people in film work through the CBC Film Service, he somehow found time for nonprofessional enthusiasms including rapid transit systems around the world, railway systems, automobiles and auto racing; all land transportation systems for human beings were of intense interest to him. Whenever he visited a large city—New York, Paris and London—he would ride joyfully on the subway, Metro or Underground. He followed subway construction in cities throughout the world through the *New York Times*.

He joined the Society in 1956 and kept abreast of activities through the *Journal* and Conferences. His technical knowledge was recognized internationally. Among other honors he received the Canadian Film Award in 1949.



Alfred N. Goldsmith

Alfred N. Goldsmith died 1 July 1974 in St. Petersburg, Fla., where he had resided since early in the spring of 1973. He was 85 years old. At the time of his death he was an Honorary Vice-President and Senior Technical Advisor for RCA Corp. A prolific inventor, he made vital contributions to the development of the first color television tube to find commercial and worldwide use. He proposed a color television picture tube employing a screen of color phosphor dots and a perforated plate. In its simplest terms it was the basic idea for the shadow-mask color picture tube now in widespread commercial use throughout the world.

A native of New York City, he began his career as an instructor at the College of the City of New York in 1907 — the same year in which he received the B.S. degree. In 1911 he received the Ph.D degree from Columbia University and in 1935 he was granted an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree by Lawrence College. Earlier he was given a lifetime appointment at CCNY as Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering.

A member of the Society since 1928, he was made an Honorary Member in 1961. He served as President of the Society from 1932 through 1934. In 1956 he was presented with the Progress Metal "for his many contributions . . . particularly his early recognition of the importance of a tri-color kinescope and his concept of the means for its accomplishment."

Membership in professional associations other than the Society included the Institute of Radio Engineers of which he was co-founder in 1912. The IRE later merged with the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to become the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, of which Dr. Goldsmith was a Fellow, a Director and Editor Emeritus.

A Biographical Note setting forth details of Dr. Goldsmith's career and achievements appears on pages 869-870 of the November 1972 issue of the *Journal*.

Sadashiv J. Row Kavi

Sadashiv J. Row Kavi, President of the Indian Motion Picture Distributors Association and an active member of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, died in Bombay on 7 April 1974 after a severe heart attack.

Born at Mangalore in South India on 21 March 1921, Sadashiv J. Row Kavi hailed from a family with a literary background. When he had to cut short his higher studies because of a monetary crisis in the family, he came to Bombay in 1938 and joined the Excelsior Film Exchange (a distribution concern) as a stenotypist.

In the early fifties he turned his attention to film making and produced and directed many Marathi and Hindi films. Several of his films were widely acclaimed and won awards.

During all these years, Kavi also kept himself in the forefront in film trade circles. An active member of the Film Producers Guild of India and the Indian Motion Picture Distributors Association, he had also served for some time on the executive committee of the Film Federation of India. He will be missed especially by small up-country distributors and exhibitors, whose cause he willingly espoused in the film capital.

Kavi was actively associated with several projects of the film industry as well as of the Government, including the Maharashtra State Government's Film City project.

Under the auspices of the Indian Motion Picture Distributors Association a condolence meeting was held at the office in Bombay. The offices of all film distribution concerns in the city remained closed for a day as a mark of respect to the departed trade leader. — *H. Krishnan*

Edward H. Rechberger

Edward H. Rechberger died 12 August 1974 in the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Edison, N.J., after the antique car he was driving was crushed by a tractor-trailor on the New Jersey Turnpike. At the time of his death he was a resident of Watchung, N.J., where he had lived for the last 12 years.

Born 14 August 1920 in Easton, Pa., he attended Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh and Syracuse University. During World War II he served with the Army Air Force. He was stationed at Eglin Field, Fla., where, in 1945, he was Movie Lab Chief in the Photographic Section.

Later he joined the Ansco Division of General Aniline and Film Corp. where he served as Laboratory Manager. He had recently retired from the Ansco Laboratory in Union, N.J.

He had been a member of the Society since 1945.

C. B. Neblette

C. B. Neblette, Dean Emeritus of the College of Graphic Arts and Photography and Director Emeritus of the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences of Rochester Institute of Technology, died 18 May 1974 in Sun City, Ariz., at the age of 72.

An outstanding educator in the field of photography, Mr. Neblette began his professional career at Penn State University in 1921. In 1925 he became Head of the Technical Photographic Laboratory at Texas A&M University. In 1930 he joined Eastman Kodak Co. in Rochester, N.Y., where he remained until 1935. During that time he also served as an Instructor at Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute (Rochester Institute of Technology as of 1946). In 1936 he became Head of the Department of Technology and in 1960 he became Director of the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences and Dean of the College of Graphic Arts and Photography. He retired in 1967. Among other accomplishments in behalf of RIT he supervised the design of the photographic facilities of the new (1968) RIT campus accommodating some 1000 photography students.

He was Assistant Editor of *Camera* from 1923 to 1924. He is the author of *Photography: Its Materials and Processes*, an authoritative work still in print having gone through several editions since it was first published in 1927. Other books of which he is author or co-author include *Elementary Photography* (1936); *Careers in Photography* (1946); *Elementary Photographic Sensitometry* (1950); *Photography: An Introduction* (1950); and *Photographic Lenses* (1950).