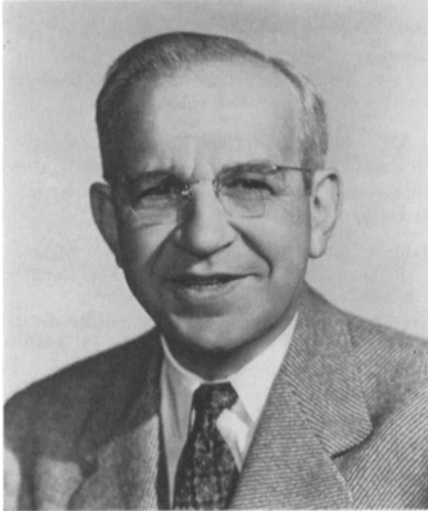


## Obituary

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**Nathan Levinson** died on October 18 at his home in Hollywood. He was 64. He was head of Warner Brothers sound department and well known for his work in the early days of sound motion pictures. He was credited, with the late Samuel L. Warner, with responsibility for the first sound film projection which was the musical score for *Don Juan* exhibited in New York in August 1926. Voice reproduction followed in 1927 with the release by Warner Brothers' Vitaphone Corp. of Al Jolson's *The Jazz Singer*.

Born in New York City he was early at work as a Western Union messenger. After learning telegraphy "on his own," Nathan Levinson became a civilian radio engineer with Marconi and for the Navy. World War I found him a Signal Corps Major in command of the Fort Monmouth,

N.J., Laboratories. In the early twenties he was a commercial engineer in the radio broadcast field for the Western Electric Co. on the Pacific Coast and in 1925 he was managing director of San Francisco's radio station KPO. A year later he was Warner Brothers' sound director and western division manager of Vitaphone Corp.

Col. Levinson was a Fellow of this Society and most recently served as a member of the Theater Television Committee. He was awarded the Society's Samuel L. Warner Memorial Medal in 1948 "for his outstanding work in the field of motion picture sound recording, the intercutting of variable-area and variable-density sound tracks, the commercial use of control track for extending volume range, and the use of the first sound-proof camera blimps."

He was interested and instrumental in a variety of developments. For instance, the use of 16mm motion pictures with high-speed development, while not an original idea with Col. Levinson, was, under his guidance, commercialized for recording race-track events. During World War II the Navy asked Warner Brothers to take over the manufacture of a special combat camera and responsibility for it was added to Col. Levinson's direction of Warner Brothers' sound department. He was a Warner Brothers' representative on the Research Council for the past twenty years. In 1941, Col. Levinson was given a special award by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for "outstanding service to the industry and to the Army." The next year he received the Academy Award for the best sound recording, that of *Yankee Doodle Dandy*.

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## SMPTE Lapel Pins

The Society will have available for mailing after September 15, 1952, its gold and blue enamel lapel pin, with a screw back. The pin is a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. reproduction of the Society symbol — the film, sprocket and television tube — which appears on the *Journal* cover.

The price of the pin is \$4.00, including Federal Tax; in New York City, add 3% sales tax.