

saddle wiring, the simplest way of binding, which will be particularly welcomed in view of difficulties with the May issue which was delayed a full week in binding after it was printed on schedule.

Advertising will be published in the new *Journal*. The New Members column will be resumed in July. Otherwise the substance and the policies of the *Journal* remain unchanged.—V.A.

Obituary



Fred Waller died on May 18 at his home at Huntington, L. I., at the age of 68.

He left Polytechnic School in Brooklyn at the age of 14 and went to work in his father's photographic studio. He entered the motion-picture field in 1905 as a lobby display creator. In 1918 he was operating a photo illustrating studio in New York and branched out to photographic title illustrations for silent movies. Famous Players-Lasky Corp., later Paramount, gave Waller the job of doing exclusive title illustrations. In 1922 he was one of the founders of the Film Guild, Inc., an independent motion-picture company which produced five features and three three-reel historical films. These were dramatically successful and financially a loss.

In 1925 he rejoined Paramount as head of the special effects department. When

Paramount closed its Eastern studio, Waller became partner in a sales agency for motor boats, William H. Young & Company. Soon he had invented and produced the first water skis and personally tested them. From 1929 through 1936 he was with Paramount again to produce and direct 235 one-reel short subjects.

By 1937 he was interested in the New York World's Fair. He designed the successful projection method for the inside of the Perisphere and he planned and executed the Hall of Color demonstration for the Eastman Kodak Co. At this time he was building his first model for the Cinerama process but he failed to sell it to World's Fair exhibitors who considered it too radical. Out of this came the Waller Gunnery Trainer which used five combat films projected on a hemispherical screen to train aerial gunners in simulated combat conditions. The trainer was credited by the Air Force as averting 350,000 casualties in training and combat.

At the end of World War II, Waller opened a small research laboratory in Huntington, L.I., where he designed and built analyzing apparatus for the Air Force to determine the behavior of bullets fired from fast-moving airplanes. In 1946 he began the construction of the present Cinerama demonstration in Oyster Bay which was first shown operating in 1948. Since 1946 Waller had worked with Hazard Reeves, President of Reeves Soundcraft Corp., to develop stereo sound to accompany the Cinerama picture.

This Is Cinerama, which opened in New York nearly three years ago, has been a continuous success. There are now installations and exhibitions in 10 other cities. Although his gunnery trainer and Cinerama were the most important type among his inventions, in addition to water skis and a photographic measurer of a man for a suit of clothes, he had many other inventions including an automatic photographic timer, a 360° camera and a wind velocity indicator. He was a Fellow of this Society and was the recipient of the Society's Progress Medal last year. Regrettably, he was unable to attend the Pioneers' Dinner during the recent Convention, at which he was one of 26 pioneers honored as having been active since the early years of the Society.