

News

Marvin Camras, an Honorary Member of the SMPTE, was awarded the National Medal of Technology by President George Bush for his trailblazing work in recording techniques. During the White House ceremony, Bush referred to Camras as "a real life pioneer."



A research professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Camras has often been referred to as the "father of modern tape recording in the U.S." As a student in the 1930s he built a wire recorder for his cousin, an aspiring opera singer, to use when he practiced his singing. He later received more than 500 patents for technical discoveries that provided the basis for audio and video recording and computer data storage. In 1985 he was named to the Washington Inventors Hall of Fame.

George T. Waters, European Broadcasting Union, Geneva, has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. His doctoral thesis — the first work of its kind — was on high-definition television, addressing the aspects of both production and transmission.



Waters holds honors degrees in engineering and business administration and is a former director general of Radio Telefis Eireann (RTE), the Irish national broadcasting organization. He was appointed to his present position in 1986. He is a Fellow of the SMPTE, the IEE, the Irish Management Institute, and the Institution of Engineers of Ireland.

Joseph Flaherty, a Fellow of the SMPTE, has been appointed to the position of senior vice-president, technology, at CBS. In his new position he will advise the CBS management and its divisions on issues and strategies relating to broadcast technology. He will also represent the company, nationally and internationally, with major manufacturers and on government and industry committees and organizations.



Flaherty joined CBS in 1957 and has

directed the company's engineering and development department since 1967; first as general manager, and since 1977 as vice-president and general manager. During his career he has been the recipient of many awards including several Emmys for technical achievement; the SMPTE David Sarnoff Gold Medal Award and Progress Medal; the National Association of Broadcasters' Engineering Award; and the International Montreux Achievement Gold Medal. He is the recipient of France's Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, and in 1985 he was awarded France's highest decoration, the Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has reopened the newly renovated Samuel Goldwyn Theater. Considered one of the world's preeminent cinema facilities, the theater is now able to better accommodate live events in addition to film and video screenings. The seven-month renovation included the upgrading of all theater equipment, from the recently introduced cinema digital sound, custom-configured JBL speaker systems, and

Dolby noise-reduction system to computerized theatrical lighting controls by Lee Colortran, a 24-channel professional sound mixing console for live events, and a unique computerized projection monitoring system designed exclusively for the Academy. The renovation of the 1034-seat theater was overseen by the Academy's Theater Standard Committee, a group of technical experts from the motion-picture studios and leading sound and optics firms.

IN MEMORIAM

Brigid French

It is with deep sympathy that the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers announces the death on December 15, 1990, of Mrs. Brigid (Bridie) French, wife of our Past-President Maurice French. Bridie died after a courageous fight with diabetes at the age of 60 years.

For the past three decades Bridie supported and encouraged Maurice in his SMPTE activities, traveling with him despite failing health in the last few years. She had many SMPTE friends and enjoyed the spouses programs.

She was the devoted and loving mother of Michelle and Sean. As Maurice said, "She was a wonderful wife; she gave me happiness and love and I will miss her so much."

Experts Needed to Participate in '91 ISO Meeting in Japan

Motion-picture technology experts are needed to participate in the 14th Plenary Meeting of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Committee 36. The meeting will be held May 20-27, 1991, in Tokyo, Japan.

ISO/TC36 covers international standardization of all aspects of motion-picture technology.

A delegation of U.S. technical specialists will represent the American National Standards Institute, the U.S. member body of ISO, in the deliberations of the TC36 Working Groups, joining with similar specialists from other member body nations in considering new and existing international motion-picture technology standards.

The work of TC36 is divided among five Working Groups.

- WG1, Film Technology, considers raw stock physical properties, interfacing camera hardware, and photographic image capture.

- WG2, Laboratory Services Technology, works on film processing, printer hardware, editing and post-production, duplicating, requirements for laboratory exchange and distribution, and image specifications in the stages between the original and the release print.

- WG3, Audio Technology, considers optical and magnetic record placement, characteristics of the recording and of the recording medium, the reproduction of sound, and description of data accompanying images.

- WG4, Presentation Technology, includes reproduction of the image, the psychophysics of audience image perception, and the physical and environmental contributions of the theater.

- WG5, Film/Electronic Interface Technology, is responsible for the use of the film medium in television, both as a source material and as a recording medium, including telecines and video-to-film transfer.

Persons wishing to participate in this important work are invited to contact Sherwin H. Becker, Director of Engineering, SMPTE, 595 W. Hartsdale Ave., White Plains, NY 10607, (914) 761-1100.