

Obituaries

Henry Ball

Henry Ball, co-inventor of the chromakey process, died on September 1, 1992, at the age of 66.

Ball, who was born in Germany and educated in Czechoslovakia, came to the U.S. after fighting with the French Resistance during World War II. After attending college at the University of Illinois, UCLA, and LaSalle University, he held a series of engineering positions with NBC and RCA Broadcast and Communications Products Div. While at NBC, he was president of the National Association of Broadcast Engineers and Technicians Burbank Local for two years.

In 1969, Ball was presented with the David Sarnoff Award for the development of the single-tube color camera. In 1970, he became director of systems development for Selectavision, RCA's home videodisc process. He was the founder and President of Video Craftsmen Inc.

Rick Chace

Rick Chace, an Active Member of the SMPTE, died from complications from AIDS on November 14, 1992, at the age of 47. He was president and founder of Chace Productions, an audio post-production facility.

During his lifetime, Chace worked closely with synchronizer manufacturers, enabling him to develop equipment to play back audio directly to video masters, which had previously been a complicated, multistep process. The most notable of his many accomplishments was the development of the Chace Optical Sound Processor for the playback of negative optical soundtracks and Chace Surround Stereo™ (CSS) for creating true directional stereo from mono audio. The CSS process was used to restore a number of stereo features, including *Gone With the Wind*, *Giant*, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. In recent years he expanded into digital audio editing and high-end equipment for digital audio processing.

David C. Regan

David C. Regan, an Active Member of the Society, died on December 4, 1992, at the age of 45, following a three-year battle with lung cancer.

An SMPTE member since 1982, Regan joined RCA Broadcast Technical Training in 1978 as an instructor for TK 47 camera training. He had previously held positions with Eastern Kentucky University, Vinnell Corp., and the Dept. of the Army.

While at RCA, Regan developed materials for advanced technical seminars in various equipment manufactured by RCA, and taught those seminars to a large number of television engineers. In 1987, he joined NBC Broadcast Training, where he provided a wide variety of schooling for in-house systems of studios.

Milestones in Motion-Picture and TV Technology The SMPTE 75th Anniversary Collection

In commemoration of SMPTE's 75th anniversary, a selected group of milestone papers originally published by the Society during its 75-year history are being published in a single book. The book contains papers on such motion-picture milestones as the first SMPTE standards, natural color cinematography, sound, and the Technicolor process. Television milestones include papers on color television, NTSC, the Ampex VTR, and digital recording. This is a worthwhile addition to the library of anyone interested in the early history of motion pictures and television.

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