

Obituaries

Vernon L. Kipping

Vernon L. Kipping died of heart failure at his home in San Francisco on October 21, 1994. He was 73.

Born in Cape Girardeau, Mo., on October 19, 1921, Kipping's career began during World War II, when he worked at the FBI as a fingerprint examiner and later as a radio communications specialist. From 1944 to 1946, he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a radioman on reconnaissance and bombing flights in the Pacific theater. He joined the FBI in San Francisco in 1948 as a special employee for technical work in electronics, photography, and cinematography. He received a law degree from the University of San Francisco in 1951. In 1976, he retired from the FBI, going into private consulting work.

During his career with the Justice Department and as a consultant in private industry, Kipping developed processes leading to nineteen U.S. and international patents, along with dozens of copyrights in diverse technologies ranging from photography, motion pictures, cosmetics, marine science, and anti-terrorist measures for law enforcement. Among his accomplishments was a one-camera/one-lens 360° cinematography process for surveillance and other uses. His patents include a variable pre-flashing system for 16mm film cameras that allowed the shooter to vary the film's sensitivity "on the fly," as well as camera and projector designs, including a 16mm camera with only ten moving parts and variable shutter speeds.

Kipping played a key role in helping federal prosecutors convict Patty Hearst of bank robbery in her famous 1976 trial. Using a variety of novel film processing



Vernon L. Kipping

techniques he invented specifically for the case, he created for prosecutors a "real-time" movie from the footage of two motorized "still" cameras that had taken a series of photos of the bank robbery at different angles and different frame rates of about four to five frames/sec. Because the 2 1/4 x 2 1/4-in. photos lacked sprocket holes and therefore had no usable registration, Kipping used common points of reference visible within the photos to register each frame as he transferred the images to 16mm film using a modified animation camera. He did most of the work at W. A. Palmer Films, then located in San Francisco. The final split-screen film, complete with a clock showing elapsed time, allowed accurate analysis of the physical movements and behavior of Hearst and her accomplices while they committed the crime. The dynamic, nearly full-motion footage proved Hearst was an active partic-

ipant. At the time, the short clip was one of the most widely watched pieces of motion-picture news footage in U. S. history.

A member of the Society since 1976, Kipping served the San Francisco Section as a Manager (1979-1981, 1986-1988), Secretary/Treasurer (1988-1990), and Chairman (1990-1992). He was instrumental in setting up the student chapters of the San Francisco Section, and helped maintain and support them over the years. He was recognized for his efforts in 1986, when he was awarded the Citation for Outstanding Service to the Society.

Kipping is survived by his wife, Anna Ruth Uelsmann Kipping; three sons, Theodore, John, and Douglas; and two grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to the Educational Fund of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, 595 W. Hartsdale Ave., White Plains, NY 10607, earmarked for support of student training and student chapter development.

— Peter Hammar

G. Edward Hamilton passed away on October 7, 1994. He was 82 years old.

Hamilton became an associate of the Society in 1956, while he was an electrical engineer at WABC-TV, New York City. In 1962, he became the vice-president of engineering for the Educational Broadcasting Corp. in New York. He assumed the position of vice-president of the engineering technical department for the Corporacion Venezolana de Television, Caracas, in 1965. Hamilton later developed his own company, Communications Consulting Services.

Calendar

April

National Association of Broadcasters 73rd Annual Convention, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev. Info: NAB, 1771 N St. NW, Washington, DC 20036. *April 10-13, 1995.*

June

19th International Television Symposium and Technical Exhibition, Montreux Palace Pavilion, Montreux, Switzerland. Info: Montreux International Television Symposium and Technical Exhibition, P.O. Box 1451, Rue du Théâtre 5, 1820 Montreux, Switzerland. *June 8-13, 1995.*

July

The SMPTE Australian Intl. Conference and Exhibition, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Center, Darling Harbour, Sydney. Info: B. Loveridge, Professional Conference Management, 39 E. Esplanade, P.O. Box 547, Manly, N.S.W. 2095, Australia. *July 3-6, 1995.*

September

International Broadcasting Convention IBC95, RAI Exhibition and Congress Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Info: IBC Convention Office, 2 Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL, England. *September 14-18, 1995.*

SMPTE Activities

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. — 1995 SMPTE Advanced Television and Electronic Imaging Conference, St. Francis Hotel. *February 9-11, 1995.*

MONTREUX — SMPTE Cocktail Party during 19th International Television Symposium and Technical Exhibition. *June 8-13, 1995.*

NEW ORLEANS, LA. — 137th SMPTE Technical Conference and World Media Expo, New Orleans Convention Center, *September 6-9, 1995.*

For more information on these activities contact SMPTE Headquarters:

(914) 761-1100

Fax: (914) 761-3115