

Obituaries



Rodger James Ross

Rodger James Ross passed away on March 30, 1998 at 91 years of age. Ross was granted Honorary Membership, the highest grade and greatest distinction conferred by the Society, at the Honors and Awards Luncheon during the 131st SMPTE Technical Conference and Equipment Exhibit in 1989. The honor was presented in recognition of his lifetime work in motion picture and television engineering. Ross also received the SMPTE Progress Medal in 1971, and was the first recipient of the Agfa-Gevaert Gold Medal Award in 1975.

Regarded as a pioneer in television film engineering, Ross became involved in large scale photographic operations after enlisting in the Royal Canadian Air Force at the start of World War II. He was transferred to the Canadian Armed Forces Identification Unit after graduation where he served as photographic officer in Canada and the U.K. until the end of the war.

Ross then joined the National Film Board in Ottawa, where he helped set up sensitometric control systems in the motion picture laboratory. His next stint of employment was spent with the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., from 1953 to 1971. As supervisor of technical film operations at the company, Ross set up a laboratory for recording television programs on 16mm film for distribution to TV stations across Canada. He was also involved in a project to standardize the performance of telecines used in reproducing motion picture films in the television system.

In addition to being the recipient of many SMPTE honors, Ross served the organization as a Governor and as Editorial Vice-President. He was a Life Fellow of the Society and an Honorary Fellow of the BKSTS.



Herbert Barnett

The Society sadly announces the passing of former SMPTE President **Herbert Barnett** who died on July 30, 1997 after a long battle with cancer. Serving as President of the Society from 1953 to 1954, the SMPTE Life Fellow began his career as an engineer at Bell Telephone Laboratories and was involved in research and motion picture development. After five years at Bell, Barnett moved on to the General Precision Equipment organization where he was director of engineering of the International Projector Corp., executive vice-president of General Precision Laboratory (GPL), and assistant to the president of GPL.

While President of the Society, Barnett also served as executive vice-president of Cinerama, Productions Corp. He went on to finish his career as engineering vice-president of V&O Press Co.

Barnett's loyalty to the Society was evident, as he held several positions at SMPTE. He was a member of the Board of Governors and served as Executive Vice-President in 1951 and 1952. Barnett also contributed an article to the 80th anniversary issue of the *Journal* in October, 1996 (p. 590).

"In retirement, Herb was an avid reader of the *SMPTE Journal* and frequently spoke of colleagues and experiences he enjoyed during his years of active membership in the Society," said his wife Dorothy Barnett. The Society sends its condolences to Barnett's family and friends.

Edward K. Kaprelian, a Life Member of the Society, passed away in July of 1997. A member of the Society for 50 years, Kaprelian enjoyed a distinguished career including involvement in the U.S. Army and eventual self employment. He was chief of the Photographic Branch U.S. Army Signal Corps Engineering

Laboratories from 1947 to 1952 and was responsible for all research and development in photography and optics.

Kaprelian left the Signal Corps in 1952 and established his own consulting firm, Kaprelian Research & Development. He served as president of the firm before retiring in 1988.

Kaprelian holds many patents on optical and photographic apparatus, and has published several papers relating to his field.

Earl L. Arnold, a Life Fellow of SMPTE, has passed away. He joined the Society in 1935 and was elevated to Fellow in 1965. Arnold retired from Eastman Kodak in 1966 and was given Life Fellow status in 1979.

Peter Hunt, a Life Member of SMPTE, passed away on October 24, 1997. The Irish native joined the Society in 1959. During his career, Hunt served as director of his own self-titled recording studio based in Dublin. His achievements included the development and design of motion picture film recording equipment in 1958 and automatic control equipment for Neuman Disc Recording Lathe in 1956.

Warren C. Jaynes, a long-time member of SMPTE, has passed away. Jaynes joined the Society in 1955 and was awarded Life Membership in 1978. His employment history included chief sound engineer of Century Plaza Hotel and manager of Information Transfer Corp.'s audiovisual division.

Andrew MacGowan Jr., died in October of 1997 at 73 years of age. He began his career in New York making Kinescope TV commercials at Paramount Pictures. MacGowan then moved to Rochester and was employed by Kodak as a motion picture writer-director. He was eventually promoted to senior writer-director at the company. MacGowan spent 12 years at Rumrill-Hoyt, Inc., as manager of broadcast and audiovisual before becoming an independent writer-director-producer in 1976. While self-employed, MacGowan received Clio statuettes for both studio and television projects. He joined SMPTE in 1954 and was awarded Life Membership in 1989.

Ralph G. Grover passed away on April 9, 1995. He was 76 years old. Grover worked for Memorex, Inc., as a video specialist; Karex, Inc., as a tape evaluation manager; and Hammett and Edison as a project engineer. He joined SMPTE in 1966, and was elevated to Life Fellow status in 1987.