

Kenneth M. Mason, Sr., Past-President and Honorary Member of SMPTE is Dead at Age 83

to graduate work in organic chemistry and business administration.

With the exception of his service in the Navy (1942-46), Mason's entire working career was with Eastman Kodak Co. He retired in 1982 after a distinguished 47-year career, which began in Rochester. After he had served in Chicago, New York City, and Hollywood

as Regional Manager, in 1973 he came, full circle, back to Rochester when he became Manager, Product Programs and Research and, later, General Manager of the Motion Picture and Audiovisual Markets Division. He was elected an Eastman Kodak Vice-President in 1978.

An excerpt from a report in the *SMPTE Journal* on Mason's retirement states, "...among Ken's out-



Eastman Kodak's baseball team in the summer of 1949. In the center of the first row is smiling Kenneth Mason.

standing characteristics are his warmth and his kindness. It is unusual for a man of Ken's stature and strong convictions to have the respect and affections of everyone with whom he has been in contact; but it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find an exception to the universal esteem in which he is held....It has been said of him that he brings out the best in those who are associated with him."

In addition to SMPTE, Mason was an Honorary Fellow of the BKSTS and a member of the University Film Assoc., ATAS, ASC, and the Motion Picture Academy. He was a member of the Board of Directors for the Will Rogers Institute, Allied Film and Video, and the University Film and Video Foundation. In 1978, the Inter-Society for the Enhancement of Theatrical Presentation, which Mason founded for the purpose of providing a forum wherein trade organizations could meet to discuss mutual issues, created the Ken Mason Award in his honor.

Mason is survived by his wife, Janice, and five sons. A memorial service was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Pittsford, NY, on Friday, June 1, 2001.

Kenneth Mason, SMPTE President John Mason's father, passed away on Saturday, May 26, 2001, at Mease Dunedin Hospital in Oldsmar, FL.

Mason joined the SMPE in 1946 at the age of 29. His services to and in behalf of the Society were many and varied. He served continuously on the Board of Governors for over a quarter of a century, and held various offices in the Society including Conference Vice-President, Financial Vice-President, Executive Vice-President, and the Society's President for the 1975-76 term. He was made a Fellow in 1955.

In 1981, Mason received Honorary Membership in SMPTE for "his involvement in the field of motion picture technology since August 1935. He is renowned not only in the United States, but throughout the world, as a leader and trusted friend of the motion picture film community."

A native of Rochester, NY, Mason matriculated at Washington and Jefferson College in 1934 at the age of 16, with the intention of becoming a physician as his father had been. At the close of his sophomore year, the illness of his father caused a hiatus in his education. During that time he joined Eastman Kodak in the company's cine processing department. He returned to college and went on



Kenneth Mason (1976).