

# Obituaries

**Leslie Holmes**, an expert in the field of sensitometry (measuring sensitivity to light) died in Scarborough, Canada, on March 2, at the age of 79. It has been said that Holmes saw only in black and white—and everything in between, after he invented the gray-scale slide in 1961, the first accurate method to calibrate TV signals.

Following service in Manitoba during World War II, Holmes enrolled at the Rochester Institute of Technology to study photography. As chief instructor of photographic arts, he inspired his students with his love of the subject at Ryerson Institute of Technology between 1949 and 1962. Later he was a research officer with the National Film Board of Canada, technical director of the Government Photo Centre in Ottawa, and supervisor of film quality control for the CBC. Holmes ended his career back in the classroom at CBC's training division.

Holmes was a Life Fellow of the SMPTE.

**Heinz Thiele** joined the Society in 1953 and “wore the S M P T E badge with great pride at all fitting occasions.” He was a w a r d e d

Fellowship in 1967 in recognition of prolific writing and numerous patents for motion picture equipment. He became a Life Fellow in 1982.

As head of engineering at Ziess Ikon in Stuttgart, Germany, Thiele realized many of his ideas toward perfecting cine technology. In that capacity, he developed a complete theater sound projection equipment system, including magnetic heads, pre- and power amplifiers, loudspeakers, and soundheads.



Heinz Thiele (1984)

## Benjamin J. Homenick

**Benjamin J. Homenick**, 53, Chairman of the New York Section, died suddenly while attending his son's Little League game on April 27. For the past ten years he had been very active in SMPTE affairs. He served as audio-visual chair for the 139th, 141st and 143rd Technical Conferences in New York and served the New York Section for many years as conference volunteer, manager, education chair, student liaison chair, secretary-treasurer and chairman. In 1991 he coordinated the New York Section's first nationwide satellite teleconference during its December meeting at the Museum of Television and Radio.



Facilities were set up for call-in questions from other SMPTE Sections and the uplink was on a G-Star 4 transponder #8.

Homenick joined the Society in 1981, the year he became director of the Nassau County, New York, Police Department's Visual Communications Unit. As chief engineer, he was responsible for all aspects ranging from equipment specifications to operations. During his 21 years he oversaw the development of full-scale production facilities, which included a large television studio. Previously, he had been chief engineer for the Adelphi University Department of Communications, audio engineer for Dawn Recording, audio recordist at L.H. Productions, and an audio course instructor at the New York Institute of Technology. He received a B.S. degree in education from Southern Connecticut State College in 1971 and a M.S. degree in instructional technology in 1975. For subsequent technical education, he received certificates from the Sony Video Training Center and the JVC Video Training Center.

Homenick was active in many other phases of the industry. He was a founding and board member of the Long Island Film and TV Museum, a member of the Audio Engineering Society, Past President and Board member of the Long Island Chapter of Media Communications Associates (formerly ITVA) and the Law Enforcement Video Association.

Homenick is survived by his 90-year-old mother, Olga; his wife, Kathryn; son, Christopher; and daughter, Kelly. The Board of Managers and officers, members of the New York Section, as well as the SMPTE Headquarters staff will miss this talented, enthusiastic, and dedicated SMPTE member.

*Ed Schuller, Chair,  
Archival Papers and Historical Committee*

Later he was occupied with developing electronic components for photo and movie cameras and projectors.

All the while, Thiele was involved in communicating interest to young people, with the aim of ensuring a steady crop of enthusiasts to find technical solutions for the equipment. Toward that end, in 1964, he founded a local

office of the Deutsche Kinotechnische Gesellschaft at Stuttgart, where he held monthly meetings, similar to local section meetings of SMPTE, for discussion on problems within his special field.

Thiele was a member of various German standards committees and Working Group 65b of ISO TC 36.