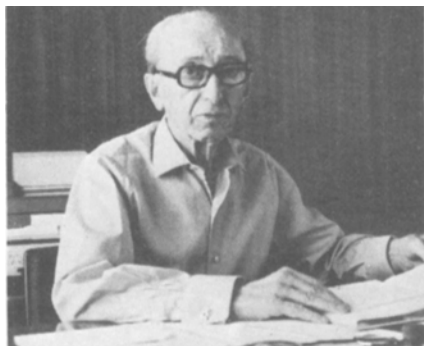


## Obituaries



### Isaak Weinberger

Isaak Weinberger, a member of the SMPTE since 1952, died unexpectedly of heart failure on 27 December 1977, at the age of 71, while on vacation in the South Pacific near the Island of Bali. Born on 8 July 1906 in Zurich, Switzerland, he was one of seven children of a textile merchant. A pioneer and innovative businessman in the photoinstrumentation field, Isaak Weinberger was also a gifted musician, an accomplished linguist and a typist of phenomenal speed and precision.

Young Isaak Weinberger was five years of age when he started to play the violin and to learn his first foreign language. In 1921 he entered a commercial college in Zurich. In addition to the required courses, he undertook the study of three foreign languages and virtually every optional course offered by the school. His autodidactic pursuits at the time centered around his exper-

iments in radio technology and the study of violin and viola.

In 1926 he opened a workshop for the construction of radio sets. At about the same time he turned seriously to his musical studies under Professor Schaichet, conductor of the Zurich chamber music orchestra. In 1929, at the age of 23, young Isaak Weinberger started a full-time career in music as a cinema musician, but the introduction of sound movies to Zurich theaters in the early thirties summarily put an end to this activity. He continued on as a cafe musician, earning supplementary income by tutoring foreign medical students in the German language and by editing their doctoral theses.

His musical career came to an end during the great economic depression of the thirties, which forced him to return to the commercial field for employment. He excelled as a typist, as he did in most other pursuits he undertook in earnest. In 1936 he was awarded the virtuosity diploma in dactylography for typing in five languages. At about the same time he began to study cinematography under Professor Rust. This started him on a life-time interest in photography and its related technologies.

During World War II he served in the Swiss army radio news service where he spent many long and tedious hours monitoring and translating the war news from foreign broadcasts for Swiss army intelligence.

Following the war, Isaak Weinberger joined the Associated Press as news editor for one year; then, in 1947, he opened an import and export business under his own name. The major activity of the new firm of I. Weinberger soon centered

around the manufacture and marketing of audio-visual products. In 1948 he was impressed by a demonstration of high-speed photography and three years later he introduced the Fastax high-speed motion-picture camera to the European market.

Isaak Weinberger can best be characterized as a man with flair (or as the Swiss say, "one who hears the grass grow"). He always strove vigorously for efficiency and perfection in everything he attempted. Dissatisfied with certain features of American-made cameras imported for the European market, he designed and manufactured his own modifications, electronic controls, mechanical and optical accessories, associated lighting gear and other refinements for the Fastax and other high-speed cameras marketed by his firm throughout Europe, including the Hycam, Stalex and Lexander. In 1954 he introduced zoomar objectives to the European market, called "rubber lenses" in Europe. The manufacturing company of Starkstrom-Elektronik AG was founded by Isaak Weinberger in 1966 to produce control and programming units for the photoinstrumentation field, in addition to light and stage dimming controls for the theatrical market. Production of the Stalex high-speed motion picture camera in Switzerland was started in 1968 under his direction.

In the past few years his son Alexander has assumed a growing responsibility in the direct management of the family business so that Isaak could devote more of his time to foreign travel, music and the quiet country life he loved so well at his mountain home in Rieden with his wife

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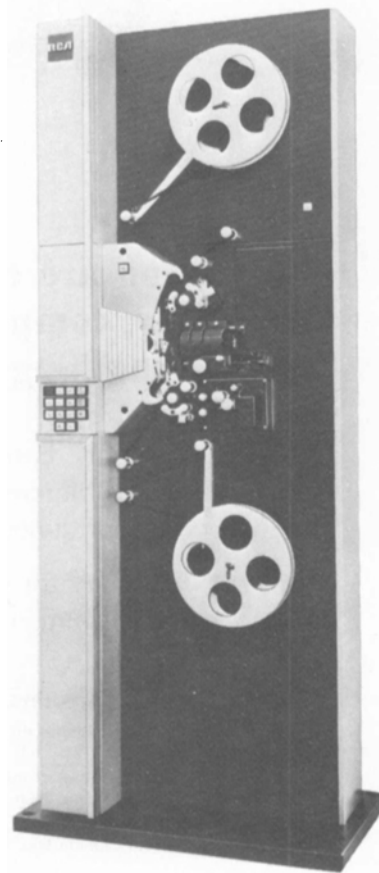
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**1** Angenieux 9.5-57mm AV30 zoom lens. The lightweight, ultra-fast (T1.9), wide-angle 6×1 zoom lens permits close focusing at 24" from the film plane.

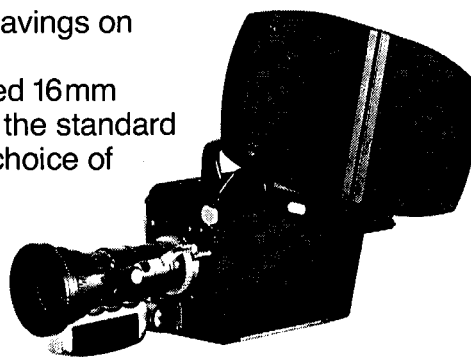
**2** Angenieux 12-240mm AV30 zoom lens. The ideal 20×1 zoom lens for any situation requiring wide-angle as well as telephoto coverage, such as sports events, political gatherings, etc.

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AV30 Zoom Lens

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**Consider the advantages.** Advantages like BIDIREX, which gives you full bi-directional search capability in both shuttle and jog modes. And that means 100% post-production creative freedom, with all the ease and flexibility of 35mm film techniques.

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Kitty. Isaak Weinberger was a man of great wisdom, boundless energy, and good will up to his very last days, whose advice, especially on matters of business and particularly in the field of photoinstrumentation, was sought by many, and freely given, even to his competitors. His death will be mourned by all. He is survived by his beloved wife Kitty, his daughters Charlotte and Elisabeth and his son Alex, all living in Switzerland, — *W. G. Hyzer.*

### John R. Sullivan

John R. Sullivan, known to his friends as "Sully," was born in Hollywood, Calif., 16 March 1909. He began his career with Eastman Kodak Company in 1938 and since that time has been an extremely active and well known member of the Hollywood motion-picture industry.

Sully developed a reputation for being the one man that you could always turn to for help when you needed a job done thoroughly and well. He was extremely active in the affairs of the Hollywood Section of the Society, serving as Section Officer and as chairman and as a member of several committees. In 1970/1971 he was elected to the Board of Governors as one of the representatives of the West Coast. Whenever a national conference was held in Hollywood, he was the first to volunteer for any job for which he was needed. He served as Chairman for Local Arrangements, Registration, Transportation, and as Sessions Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Historical Significance Committee which prepared the historical exhibits for the 103rd and 106th Technical Conferences. Through his efforts on



the Education Committee, the SMPTE-sponsored courses at the University of Southern California were extremely successful and well organized. He was an educator more often than a teacher, seeking out a need, then organizing a class to fill that need.

Never seeking acclaim for himself, he was very conscious of the work of other people and put forth every effort to see that they received the recognition they deserved for their efforts. He suggested and organized the Hall of Fame for SMPTE awards recipients and designed and obtained the display plaques which are currently exhibited at SMPTE headquarters in Scarsdale. During his long association with the SMPTE he was elevated to the grade of Fellow of the Society and received the Outstanding Service to the Society award and many certificates of appreciation from the Society for specific efforts.

His dedicated life of service extended in several other areas but always with a single purpose

in mind — what could he do to help? Sully loved the outdoors, and a natural expression of this love was to pass it on to other people. This he did through his activities with the Boy Scouts of America. Serving in several capacities — as adult leader, committee man, assistant scout master, and scout master — he did his best to pass on his appreciation of nature to the men and boys of his community. The film he produced on Camp Whitsett was extremely influential in increasing the attendance of the camp, thereby bringing to hundreds of boys a camping experience. He received the Scouter's Award and Key and, in 1969, the Silver Beaver, the highest award a local council of the Boy Scouts of America can give.

When the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department formed a motion-picture unit in June 1948 to assist in preparing training films for that organization, he was one of the first to join and he devoted many hours to this organization. He retired from the Sheriff's Reserve in 1974 with the rank of Captain. He was a life member of the Peace Officers Associations.

Throughout his life, his efforts to help others were expressed in his educational activities in the SMPTE, in the Boy Scouts, in the Sheriff's Department, and with students of motion pictures in the various schools and organizations in the Hollywood area. One of these groups, the California Student 8mm Film Festival, has decided to call their top sweepstakes award The Dick Sullivan Award, in memory of the continuing assistance he has given to the festival since its inception.

Surviving Sully are his wife, Emolyn; a son, John; and a daughter, Colleen Squires. — *Roderick T. Ryan*

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