



Samuel H. Bunchez

Samuel H. Bunchez, a Fellow of the SMPTE, died 20 November 1980 in Beth Israel Hospital, New York City, at the age of 67. He had been a member of the Society since 1948 and was made a Fellow in 1979.

His professional career was mainly involved with the development of methods for the preservation and restoration of motion picture films and for better film projection. Early in his career, in the 1940s, he developed the Vacuumate Process, a vapor-in-vacuum process for better projection of motion picture films and the prolonging of film life. During his years with the Vacuumate Corporation, his work consisted mainly of the development of film preservation

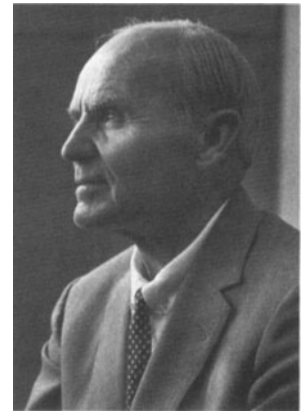
methods, the treatment and cartridgeing of endless loop films, and the rejuvenation of badly shrunken films.

He was awarded a number of patents, both in the United States and foreign countries, including a patent for the development of a slippage treatment for endless loop and cartridge films and a method of dimensional restoration of badly shrunken films. He is survived by his wife, Helen, a daughter, Mrs. Paula Newfield and two grandchildren.

Alexander M. Poniatoff

Alexander M. Poniatoff, founder of Ampex Corporation, died 24 October 1980 at the age of 88. He founded Ampex in 1944 and served as President until 1955, when he was elected Chairman of the Board. He resigned as Board Chairman in 1970 and was named Chairman Emeritus. Although not active in recent years in the management or administration of Ampex, he maintained an office at corporate headquarters in Redwood City, Calif., participating in several foundations undertaking research in health and preventative medicine.

Poniatoff was born in Kazan, Russia, on 25 March 1892. He attended the University of Kazan; the Imperial College in Moscow; and the Technical College, Karlsruhe, Germany, obtaining degrees in mechanical and electrical engineering. He was a pilot in the Imperial Russian Navy during World War I and then in the White



Russian Forces that were defeated during the revolution. He escaped to Shanghai, China, in 1920 and worked as an assistant engineer for the Shanghai Power Company until 1927, when he emigrated to the United States. He became an American citizen in 1932.

In 1947, Ampex, down to eight employees in a post-World War II recession, introduced the first practical magnetic audio recorder in the United States. In 1956, Ampex introduced the first practical videotape recorder. Since then Ampex has grown into a half-billion dollar corporation with worldwide operations and over 12,000 employees. The company's name comes from Poniatoff's initials plus "EX" for "excellence."

Frank E. Cahill

Col. Frank E. Cahill (Ret.), a Life Fellow of the SMPTE, died 30 September 1980 at his home in Lighthouse Point, Fla., at the age of 80. Educated at Manhattan College and the Columbia University Graduate School of Business, throughout his career he was active in the development of sound on film, 3-D, wide screen processes, and theater television.

Col. Cahill joined First National Pictures in 1925, and until 1929 he was Assistant to the Managing Director of First National's Burbank Studios. In 1929 he became associated with Warner Brothers, remaining until 1959, except for a leave of absence from 1942 to 1945 when he was on active duty with the U.S. Army Signal Corps as Executive Officer, Army Pictorial Services. With Warner Bros., he served as Director of Sound and Projection and Coordinator of Technical Activities.

He became a member of the SMPTE in 1931 and was made a Fellow in 1936. Active in Society affairs, he served for several years as Financial Vice-President. Organizations other than the SMPTE of which he was a member include the Motion Picture Pioneers, the Military Order of the World Wars, and the American Legion.

He is survived by his wife, Elsa, and one son.

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