

teams that will compete in the 1983 Pan American Games and the 1984 Olympic Games.

The 17th Photokina, World's Fair of Photography, Photo, Cine, Video, and Audio-**vision** has a new word added to its subtitle. The inclusion of "video" acknowledges a development that has been evident for years. Since Photokina '72, the video section has grown steadily and has come to acquire a major position within Photokina as a whole. One of Photokina '82's central points of interest will be consumer equipment for "active videography." For the first time, firms who have traditionally acted as suppliers to the photo trade will be showing video equipment for amateur use. Video equipment for professional use will be on show as before, but over a slightly larger area.

OBITUARY

Joseph Polonsky

The recent untimely death of Joseph Polonsky has robbed radio and television

broadcasting of one of its most creative pioneers. His notable career, which spanned more than three decades, included a host of awards from his peer groups in recognition of his significant contributions to television technology. He was elected a Fellow of both the SMPTE and the Royal Television Society; he received the Montreux Symposium Citation for his excellent work on that world forum; and he was a member of the prestigious Edward Rhein Foundation. In addition to his well publicized work in the electronics field, he was also active in bio-medicine, and was in the process of writing a book on that topic.

Mr. Polonsky started his long string of unique contributions to broadcasting in the late 40's with the development of high power transmitters and non-echoic antennas. He began using very short (cm) waves in 1952 on some of the first mobile TV links, and eventually pioneered the first monochrome ENG units using vidicon cameras and a portable backpack transmitter. These camera units were used by CBS in 1956 to cover the major political conventions in the U.S., and were the forerunners of today's widespread ENG operations.

In the radar field, Joe Polonsky developed a novel TV conversion technique which, after its introduction in 1958, became a standard all over the world.

His affiliation with various French



electronic firms culminated in a long-time association with Thomson-CSF, where he rose to be Technical Director of the Broadcasting Division, and where he, after his official retirement a few years ago, continued to serve as a member of the board of directors and a consultant on major projects.

Polonsky was also very active on various standards groups and, most recently, in the field of high definition television, where he spoke frequently at major technical conferences advocating a universal standard for this emerging technology. In this regard, his most visible role was as the moderator of the Montreux Symposium Round Tables, where he assembled knowledgeable executives from all sides of the TV industry to debate controversial topics.

On the personal side, Polo (as his family and friends knew him) was a tireless traveler and frequent speaker at the technical conferences he attended all over the world. He was equally fluent in French, English, Russian, and his native Polish, as well as understanding several other European languages. He was proud of his role as a member of the Resistance in France during World War II, but had buried his animosities to deal amicably with his former adversaries in both Germany and the Soviet Union.

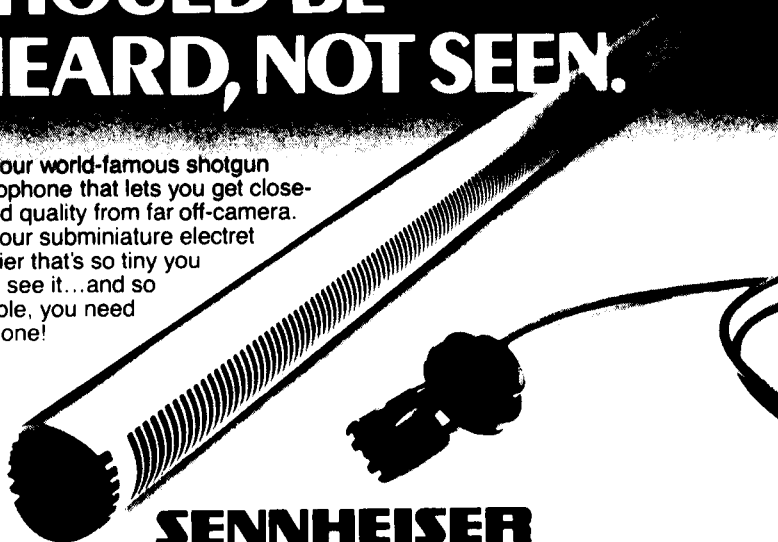
His home in Ver sur Launette, a little hamlet 50 kilometers out of Paris, was a popular meeting place for his many friends who ran television services on both sides of the political spectrum. It was not unusual, on a pleasant Sunday afternoon, to find the Deputy Director of Soviet TV lunching with the V.P. of Engineering for CBS at his renovated home, which he and his wife Danuta had converted from an abandoned derelict to a pleasant example of period architecture, surrounded by flowering gardens that both of them tended with passionate care.

Joseph Polonsky will be sadly missed by his many friends, especially those who had the privilege of working with him during his many productive years.

— Joseph Roizen

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