

Dr. Roderick T. Ryan

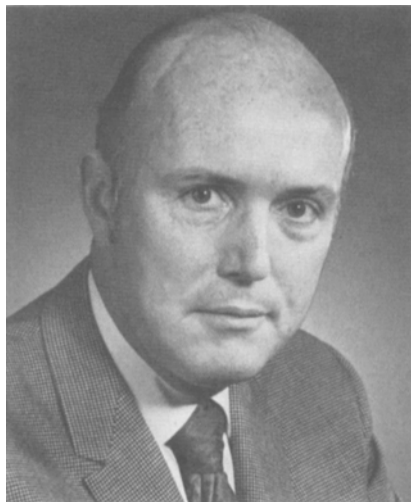
SMPTE

Vice-President

for Motion Picture

Affairs

1979-1981



SMPTE for his continuing substantial contributions to color print film and processing systems. He is co-author of *Control Techniques in Film Processing* for which he received a Special Commendation Award. He received a commemorative plaque for his work on the 60th Anniversary Issue of the *SMPTE JOURNAL*. His most recent award was a Scientific and Engineering Award (Academy Plaque) from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science.

A summary of Dr. Ryan's career appears in *Who's Who in Engineering*, published by the Engineers Joint Council. He is also mentioned in *Who's Who in Technology*, a 10-volume work, in the photographic section of the volume on Chemistry.

In 1973, Dr. Ryan helped organize the Symposium on Underwater Photographic Applications held in Coronado, Calif., and of which he was Program Chairman. For his dedicated work on the symposium he was awarded a plaque by the SMPTE.

### SMPTE Activities

Dr. Ryan has held a number of offices in the SMPTE. He has served on the Board of Governors and he served eight years as Vice-President for Photoscience. "In the early years," he said, "the Society gave considerable emphasis to photoscience and to photoinstrumentation, but photoscience has been phased out and there is less emphasis on photoinstrumentation. In both instances the gap has been pretty much filled by other societies such as the SPIE and the SPSE."

Among many other activities, Dr. Ryan has contributed to at least 10 Progress Reports where he covered both Photoscience and Motion Pictures.

In 1980 (May 22 through June 14) Dr. Ryan was one of a five-man SMPTE delegation which visited five

Dr. Roderick T. Ryan, who served as the SMPTE Vice-President for Motion Picture Affairs from 1979 through 1981,\* became a Student Member of the SMPTE in 1949 when he was an undergraduate at the University of Southern California where he was granted the B.A. degree in 1952. Following graduation he became an Associate Member. In 1962 he became an Active Member. Graduate work at USC earned him the M.A. degree in 1956 and the Ph.D. degree in 1966. He was made a Fellow of the SMPTE in 1964.

With the exception of four years as Photographer for the U.S. Navy, his entire career has been with Eastman Kodak Company in Hollywood where he held various engineering and executive posts. He is currently Regional Director of Engineering Services for the Motion Picture and Audiovisual Markets Division of Eastman Kodak and is internationally known as an expert in color processes and processing. He served as Quality Control

Engineer in the Color Print and Processing Division where he was responsible for printer and process control of the Minicolor Process and early type print processes. Later, in the Color Technology Division, he assisted in the introduction of new photographic film systems including the Ektachrome, Kodacolor and Eastman Color Film and Process Systems.

### Lecturer and Author

Dr. Ryan has lectured frequently on films and film systems at the American Film Institute, the University of Southern California, the University of California at Los Angeles, University of California at Irvine, Brooks Institute of Photography and the University of California at Berkeley. He is the author of *A History of Motion Picture Color Technology*, published in 1977 by Focal Press Ltd. He edited the 3rd edition of *Principles of Color Sensitometry*, which was published by the SMPTE in 1974.

### Honors and Awards

In 1978, Dr. Ryan was awarded the Herbert T. Kalmus Medal by the

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\* Dr. Ryan's term of office as Vice-President for Motion Picture Affairs ended December 31, 1981. He is succeeded by Howard T. La Zare whose biography will appear in a subsequent issue of the *JOURNAL*.

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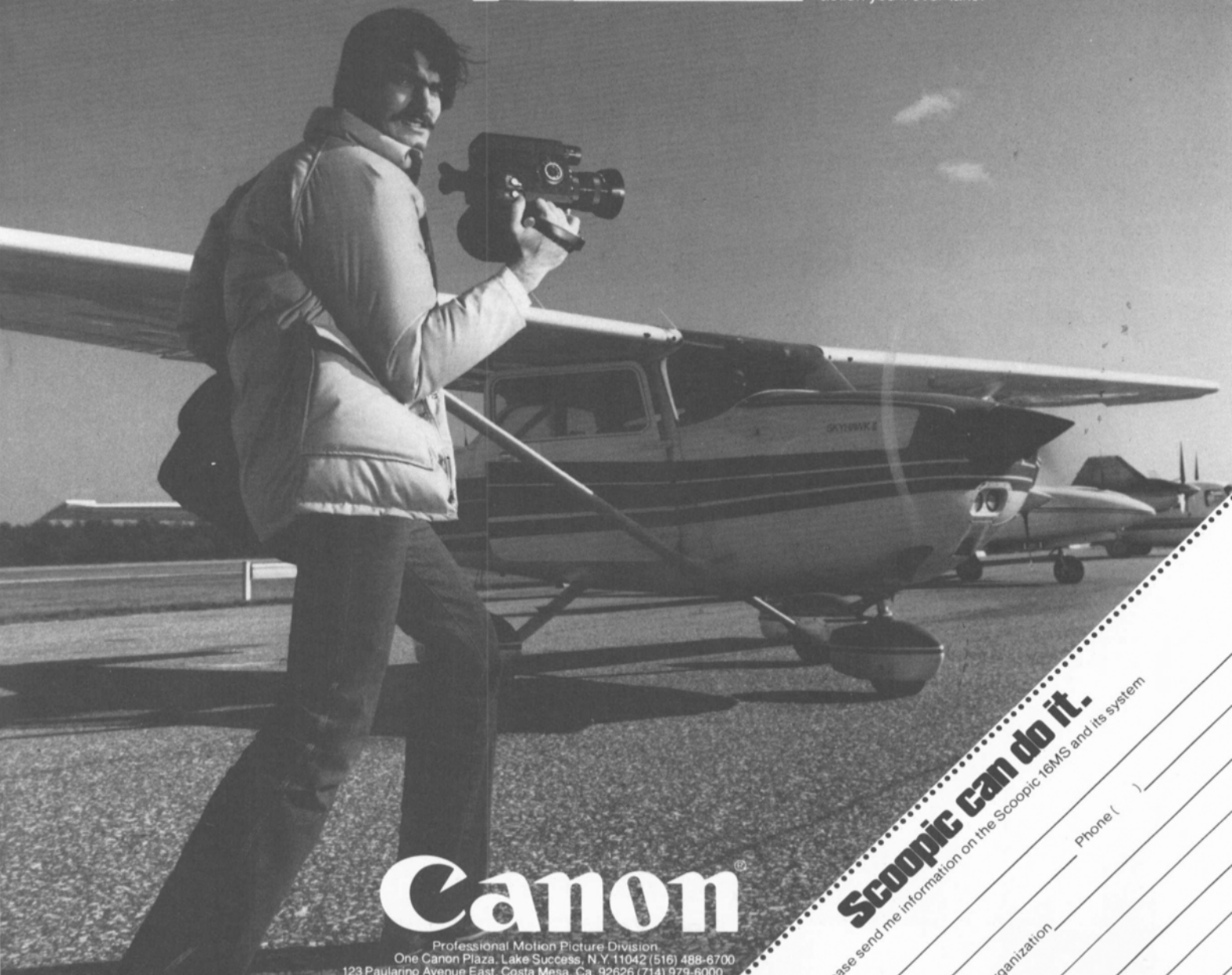
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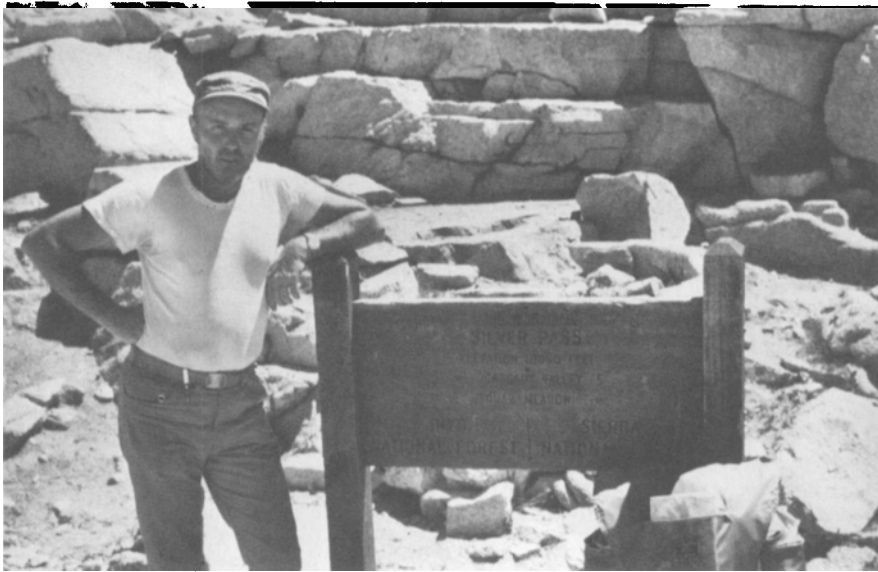
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Dr. Ryan on the John Muir Trail in the Sierra National Park — a backpack trip at the top of Silver Pass, elevation 10,880 ft.

countries in the Orient, Southwest Asia and Australia for the purpose of exchanging information with leaders of the motion picture and television industries. Meetings were held in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Australia. At the end of the trip each of the five members of the delegation contributed a report to the *SMPTE JOURNAL* recording his impressions and evaluating the events of the trip. The reports were coordinated, and the overall report of this important trip appears in the November 1980 issue of the *JOURNAL*.

In addition to reporting on the five-countries trip, Dr. Ryan has contributed papers on sensitometry, quality control, color in motion pictures, plastics in laboratory equipment and reports to the *JOURNAL*, including biographies of Eric Berndt, Carroll Dunning, and Carl L. Gregory.

During the years that Dr. Ryan has been a member of the SMPTE, he has seen many changes. He has noticed especially the increasing emphasis on electronics, beginning in 1950 when

the SMPE became the SMPTE. "This trend is evidenced," he said, "by exhibits at the SMPTE Conferences and articles currently being published in the *JOURNAL*, the papers that have received the Society's Journal Award and papers presented at the SMPTE Conferences."

He noted that, concomitantly, there has been a lessening of the participation of motion picture studios, judging by papers presented at Conferences in recent years and those published in the *JOURNAL*. "This is not to say," he emphasized, "that we do not get excellent papers from the motion picture industry, but the papers seem to come mostly from film and equipment manufacturers such as Kodak, Fuji, and Agfa Gevaert, whereas in the past, the papers came from many sources, including studios and laboratories."

Dr. Ryan's long years of active participation in the SMPTE have enabled him to evaluate the role the Society will plan in the future. "There is no question," he said, "but that the SMPTE will continue to gain new

members and to expand its influence. There will continue to be changes in its interests as changes take place in the technology, but fundamentally, the aims and purposes of the Society remain essentially the same as when it was founded in 1916."

### Hobbies

Dr. Ryan has been actively engaged in Boy Scout activities. He has been camping with his two sons, Tom (Roderick Thomas) and Richard, and with them he has backpacked in the Sierras; a favorite being the John Muir Trail. At various times he has been a Cub Master, Scout Master, Post Advisor and Advisor for the Order of the Arrow.

Dr. Ryan, like many busy, active people, is a collector. He said that he has a small collection of edged weapons, mainly daggers and a few swords, and also a collection of belt buckles.

### Family

Dr. Ryan and his wife Helen have five children. Their son Richard is interested in motion pictures and is currently working for Audiomasters, a company manufacturing audio magnetic film. Tom, the older son, is the manager of the Los Angeles office of a national insurance company.

The three daughters, Nancy, Patricia and Eileen are homemakers. The Ryans have seven grandchildren.

### Organizations

Organizations of which Ryan is a member include the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the British Kinematograph, Sound and Television Society, the Society of Photoinstrumentation Engineers, the Society of American Cinematographers, and the Foundation of Motion Picture Pioneers. — *Rae Hargrave*

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