

OBITUARY



Ethan M. Stifle

Ethan M. (Ed) Stifle, President of the SMPTE for the 1965-1966 term, died February 25, 1982, at his home in Robinson, Ill., after a long illness. A Life Fellow of the SMPTE, he was 73 years old at the time of his death.

He was graduated from the University of Illinois in June 1931 with the B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering. In July 1931 he joined Eastman Kodak Company where he spent his entire professional career. He retired in 1971.

His career began in the Research Laboratories in Kodak Park. Later (1935), he became Supervisor of the Cine Department and in 1938, Administrative Supervisor, Cine and Sheet Film Department. In 1945 he moved to New York City where he was a motion picture engineer in the motion picture film department, and in 1950 he was appointed Manager of the East Coast Division of the Motion Picture Film Department. In 1966 he was appointed Director, Sales Development, Motion Picture Industry Markets with headquarters in Rochester, a post he held until his retirement.

Stifle joined the SMPTE in 1945 and was made a Fellow in 1952. For many years he was closely involved in SMPTE activities. As Sections Vice-President, in 1958 he was instrumental in establishing the Nashville Section (the 10th SMPTE Section.) In addition to serving as Sections Vice-President he served also as Financial Vice-President, Executive Vice-President and as a member of several SMPTE Committees. In 1963 he was one of the four delegates from the SMPTE who visited the Soviet Union in response to the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Cultural Exchanges Agreement

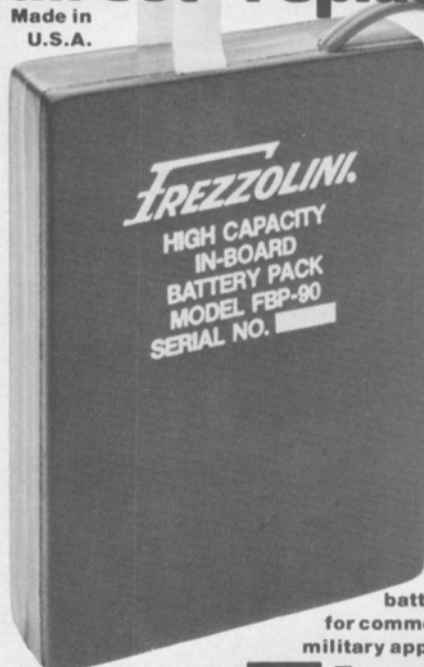
to meet with motion picture technicians and exchange information.

Organizations of which he was a member included the International Radio and Television Society, the Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers, the BKSTS, Motion Picture Pioneers and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Stifle was a man who had deep concern for the present and future welfare of mankind. In his Presidential Remarks at the 100th SMPTE Conference in Los Angeles, he asked, "What of the problems facing mankind in the next fifty years? I can state categorically," he said, "that his greatest problem will be to correct the imbalance between technological progress and social progress that has left social progress way behind throughout the history of man. The competition between groups has been responsible for technological advancement but this same competition has greatly retarded social progress, that is, man's ability to live peacefully not only with this fellow men, but within the hostile environments he creates for himself, not the least of which is the pollution of air, water and food supplies which has been an accepted by-product of our technological sophistication. It is a gloomy possibility that man will not exist through the next fifty years or will have descended to the dark ages unless he can change this historical imbalance."

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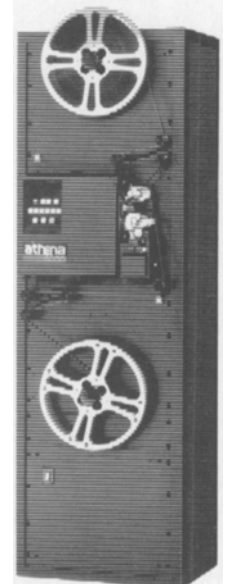
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Surviving Ethan Stifle are his wife, Mildred, and two daughters. Commemorative remarks contributed by William A. Koch follow:

The deep sense of loss that I feel because Ed Stifle is no longer with us is shared by his many friends and the many colleagues who worked with him over the years. I had the privilege of working with him in the 1950's when he was Manager of the Motion Picture Film Division, and during those years he was a strong influence on my career. An excellent manager, he was highly dedicated and had the gift of inspiring the enthusiasm and dedication of those who worked with him.

He was a first-class person. Friendly and outgoing, at the same time he had high standards and the determination to meet those standards. He was innovative in his work and gave support to all of us who shared in his work and his interests.

During his term of office as SMPTE President, his influence was felt in many areas of the Society's interests and activities. An example of both his dedication to enhancing the Society's image and his determination occurred in 1965 during the 98th SMPTE Conference in Montreal which, incidentally, was the second Conference held in Canada and the first in Montreal. Since Montreal is bilingual the Conference Program was published in French and English. As President of the SMPTE, Ed thought that, as a friendly gesture, his opening remarks should be in French, although at that time he did not speak French. Nothing daunted, he learned enough of the French language in somewhat the same fashion that foreign languages are learned by actors—that is, phonetically—so that at the Conference he welcomed the French-speaking members in their own language. This is, of course, only one of the many incidents that could serve to illustrate the fine character of this man who will continue to live in the memories of his friends.

I hereby extend my deep sympathy to the family he leaves behind and to all his many friends.—*William A. Koch*

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