

Biographical Note

Donald C. McCroskey
SMPTE Governor
Hollywood Region
1984-1985



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Donald C. McCroskey, manager audio/video systems, American Broadcasting Co., Hollywood, is an SMPTE Governor for the Hollywood Region.

McCroskey attended Washington State University, receiving the B.S. degree in electrical engineering in 1944. In 1948, following service in the Army Signal Corps, he joined ABC in Hollywood as a studio engineer. ABC began television broadcasting in the Los Angeles area in 1949, and since then McCroskey has been involved in various engineering operations and design projects.

McCroskey spent three years operating cameras, and engaging in video control, audio, projection, and video switching. In 1953, he was made assistant supervisor of the network master control. He served as transmission engineer for the ABC West Coast network in 1956, and in that post he dealt with internal and external video and audio transmission problems.

In 1959, he was appointed project engineer for the installation of one of the first routing switchers; then for the following five years, he served as supervisor of engineering maintenance. In 1965, he assisted in the formation of an audio/video systems design and installation group, the nucleus of the Audio/Video Systems

Dept., of which he is now manager. The department is on loan to the 1984 Summer Olympic Games where it is responsible for the design and installation of three presentation control rooms.

McCroskey joined the SMPTE in 1956, and has participated in many section activities. He has served the Hollywood Section as manager, secretary-treasurer, and chairman. An active participant in the SMPTE international conferences, he served as television papers chairman at three conferences and also as session chairman. He has authored several technical papers, among them, "An Audio Control Facility for a TV 'Break' Control Room," which was published first in the *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society*, and reprinted in the December 1975 issue of the *Journal of the SMPTE*.

In 1982, McCroskey became chairman of the Hollywood Section's Education Committee. In that capacity, he organized and conducted courses in television techniques taught at the University of Southern California. These courses are sponsored by the SMPTE in cooperation with USC.

Herbert Farmer, USC professor, Dept. of Cinema/TV, was instrumental in bringing about this cooperative effort. The educational program initiated and continued by the Hollywood Section has been of much benefit to the industry. The Lighting Seminar, under the leadership of Howard La Zare, was an early project that has been successful.

In addition to his responsibilities as SMPTE Governor, McCroskey was appointed director of editorial television. The appointment was confirmed at the SMPTE 18th Annual Television Conference held in Montreal in February.

Commenting on the SMPTE, McCroskey said, "The SMPTE is composed of many individuals having varied interests in the fields of motion pictures and television. Their continued support is related to the services that the Society provides including articles in the *SMPTE Journal*, section meetings, international conferences, tutorial seminars, and other educational services.

"Standards for the recording and display of images and sound are being challenged by a number of improved systems, particularly in television, but also in the motion-picture field. The choice of new systems will influence the direction of new developments and improved performance for, perhaps, the next half-century. The SMPTE's contribution to the generation of new standards is of the utmost importance. The decisions that must be made will require a great deal of study and testing in cooperation with other organizations."

Other professional organizations of which McCroskey is a member include the IEEE, the Audio Engineering Society, and the Society of Broadcast Engineers. His interests include travel, photography, gardening, and computers. One of his computer's tasks is to keep track of a large collection of audio and video recordings.