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# OBITUARIES

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## Walter I. Kisner

Walter I. Kisner, a Life Fellow of the SMPTE, died in December 1983 at his home in San Francisco at the age of 77. He retired from Eastman Kodak in 1969 as a technical specialist, after 36 years of distinguished achievement in the field of motion-picture technology. His professional career was spent at Eastman Kodak, beginning in 1933.



Walter I. Kisner

Kisner joined the SMPTE in 1949. He wrote many technical papers, chiefly on advances in motion-picture film technology, several of which were published in the *SMPTE Journal*. "Improved Color Films for Color Motion-Picture Production," in the December 1953 issue of the *Journal*, is of historical interest, noting that "the preferred system appears to be that of using black-and-white separation positives and color internegative." Between 1957 and 1962, five papers by Kisner appeared in the *Journal*.

Before retiring and moving to California, Kisner was active in the Rochester Section, serving in various capacities including that of section manager for the 1957-1958 term.

## Jamison Handy

Jamison Handy, a film pioneer who created and directed Detroit's multimillion dollar film industry, died November 12, 1983, at the age of 97.

Handy founded the Jam Handy Organization in 1911. During World War I, the organization used cartoon animation to produce training manuals for machine gunners, artillerymen, and operators of electrical equipment. In 1933, Handy built Detroit's first sound studio where he made the first Technicolor film and the first film biography (two reels on the life of his friend, Thomas A. Edison). He also pioneered the use of films, filmstrips, and slides in industrial training and education.

During World War II, Handy worked as a dollar-a-year government consultant, making hundreds of training and motivational films for which he was awarded the President's Certificate of Merit.

A teetotaler and a vegetarian, Handy was a world class swimmer. In 1904, he won a bronze medal in the Olympics, and 20 years later he competed for the U.S. Olympic water polo team. Although he was a man of many achievements, it is his impressive contribution to the film industry for which he will be remembered. An associate once commented, "It is almost impossible to overestimate the importance of Jam Handy's contribution."

## Gordon A. Chambers

Gordon A. Chambers, a Life Fellow of the SMPTE, died March 2, 1984, at La Jolla, Calif., at the age of 80.

A native of Rochester, N.Y., Chambers attended St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y., graduating in 1926, having earned the B.S. degree, cum laude. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. In 1921, he was employed as an assistant physicist in Kodak Research Laboratories, working there intermittently during college vacations. Following graduation, he was employed full time to do research in the Physics Dept. of Kodak Research Laboratories. He assisted in the early development of the science of sensitometry and its application to sound on motion pictures and quality control of sound motion-picture film processing.

In 1929, Chambers was transferred to Kodak's Motion-Picture Film Dept. in Hollywood to assist in the development of special films for sound recording and to train Hollywood studio engineers in the science of sensitometry and densitometry and control of motion-picture film processing.

Chambers volunteered for duty with the U.S. Navy in October 1942, and was assigned to the Photographic Science Laboratory at Anacostia. He was instrumental in the standardization of motion-picture film printing and processing and film handling procedures.

In 1945, Chambers returned to Rochester as chief engineer in Eastman Kodak's Motion-Picture Film Dept., and in 1965, he was appointed director of engineering services. He retired in 1967 after 41 years of service.

Chambers joined the SMPTE in 1930. He was made a Fellow in 1948, and became a Life Fellow in 1969. In 1967, he was awarded the Progress Medal, the premier medal award of the SMPTE, "in recognition of many outstanding and significant technical contributions to the field of motion-picture science and engineering."

In addition to his career at Eastman Kodak, Chambers devoted a great deal of



Gordon A. Chambers in 1942 when he joined the U.S. Navy.

time and effort for the benefit of the SMPTE and for the industry. He was a member of the Laboratory Practices Committee, among others, and he served as chairman of the Standards Committee from 1962 through 1965. From 1949 through 1950, he was chairman of the Honorary Membership Committee, and he served on the Board of Governors from 1953 through 1955. He was the SMPTE representative on PH22 from 1963 through 1965.

From 1960 through 1980, Chambers served as a U.S. specialist on motion pictures for ISO/TC36. He was a member of the U.S. delegation at plenary meetings in Moscow (1967) and in London (1971). In 1976, he was chairman of the plenary meeting in Paris.

Gordon Chambers is survived by his wife, Maryliz, and by two daughters, Cynthia Bates, Louisville, Ky., and Susan Evans, Cleveland, Oh.

## Joseph E. Bluth

Joseph E. Bluth, president of Bluth Video Systems, died March 3, 1984, at the age of 54. He was born in Los Angeles, March 7, 1927. He studied electrical engineering at the University of Southern California and the University of California, Los Angeles. During World War II, he served with the U.S. Navy in aviation electronics.

Following the war, Bluth was instrumental in setting up the Los Angeles Div. of the Columbia College of Chicago. He spent 11 years at KTTV, Los Angeles, as technical operations supervisor. He then became executive vice-president and chief engineer of Glenn Armisted Inc., and vice-president of Glen Glenn Sound Co. and served as member of the board of both companies. He was also on the staff of Columbia College, teaching mathematics and television. Later he became president of Vidtronics, and his next career step was to become president of Bluth Video Systems.

Bluth joined the SMPTE in 1961, and was made a Fellow in 1970.