

Obituaries

Herbert E. Bragg

Herbert E. Bragg, a Life Fellow of the SMPTE, died on November 23, 1987, at the age of 84. He devoted his life to advancing the technology of motion pictures and television, his most notable achievement being the development of CinemaScope.

Herbert Bragg was born in Bangor, Maine, in 1903. Following his graduation from the Univ. of Maine in 1925, he joined Bell Laboratories as a research engineer. After a few years with Bell, Bragg went to Theodore Case Laboratories, where he directed the research and development of what would later be known as Movietone.

At Case Laboratories, Bragg was associated with E. J. Sponable, who organized the Fox/Case Newsreel under Fox Film Co. When Fox Film Co. was reorganized as Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corp., Sponable became director of research and Bragg associate director. Bragg continued his work on the development of sound recording technology and color photography.

During the war years, Bragg served as director of a division of the Office of Scientific Research Development in Washington, D.C. He received many World War II honors, including a National Certificate of Merit bearing President Harry Truman's signature.

After the war, Bragg returned to Twentieth Century-Fox to head research and development of key projects, among them the application of color television in the theater. With the leadership and direction of Bragg, Twentieth Century-Fox, in cooperation with General Precision and Eastman Kodak Co., developed CinemaScope. CinemaScope had great impact on the motion-picture industry, as theaters around the world converted to the anamorphic, wide-screen technique of film presentation. For CinemaScope, the group at Twentieth Century-Fox won an Oscar.

In 1963, Twentieth Century-Fox closed its research department. Bragg was retained as a consultant to coordinate the activities of the company's office in Europe. He later became president of Deluxe Laboratories, retiring in 1972.

Bragg was active in the SMPTE engineering committees involved in colorimetry and theater television.

Herbert E. Bragg is survived by a sister, Marion K. Bragg. Those who had the privilege of working with Bragg will remember him as an outstanding human being and a brilliant and accomplished engineer.

— Alex Alden

Walter R. Hariu

Walter R. Hariu, a Life Member of the SMPTE, died on October 9, 1987, in Madison, Wis. He was 73.

Hariu spent a lifetime in the broadcast industry, primarily as an employee of Morgan Murphy Stations. He engineered the first Morgan Murphy radio station in Hibbing, Minn., and subsequently oversaw start-up operations for stations in Duluth and five cities in Wisconsin. He served as chief engineer for Morgan Murphy's WISC-TV, with responsibilities for the design and construction of that television station.

Hariu, who was recognized by some as a role model for other television engineers, was a member of the Broadcast Pioneers and Society of Broadcast Engineers, in addition to the SMPTE. He is survived by his wife, Betty, two sons, and two daughters.

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