

Obituaries

Joseph A. Flaherty, Sr.

Joseph A. Flaherty, Sr., a Life Fellow of the SMPTE, died on November 12, 1987, in Kansas City, Mo. He was 81.

Flaherty had a long and distinguished career in radio and television broadcasting. He joined WDAF (AM), Kansas City, Mo., in 1925. WDAF, one of the original NBC Radio Network-affiliated stations, was expanding its programming at that time, and Flaherty became involved in the development of new system designs. The pick-up equipment he designed was used to broadcast the popular hotel band music of the era.

During World War II, Flaherty was instrumental in setting up and operating a radio emergency network designed to alert the public to enemy activity. In 1948, he designed and built WDAF-TV, one of the first "prefreeze" television stations in the U.S. and the only one in Kansas City. He subsequently supervised the colorization of the facility.

Flaherty left WDAF in 1958 to become chief engineer in the television division of the U.S. Army Pictorial Center. He designed and operated the center's production facility and produced training films via electronic means.



Joseph A. Flaherty, Sr.

Joseph A. Flaherty, Sr., had been a member of the SMPTE since 1954 and of the American Radio Relay League since 1931. He is survived by his son, Joseph A. Flaherty, Jr., vice-president and general manager of engineering and development, CBS, Inc., and Governor-At-Large of the SMPTE; and daughter, Kathleen.

Vernon J. Duke

Vernon J. Duke, a Life Member of the SMPTE, died on December 19, 1987. He was 86.

Duke was born in Shenandoah, Iowa, and attended the University of Denver and University of Colorado (at Boulder). He graduated the latter with a B.S. in electrical engineering, then enrolled in an engineering study program at General Electric Co. After working at GE briefly, Duke joined NBC-affiliated KOA-TV, Denver, Colo., in 1929. In 1937, he was transferred to NBC in New York City to work on an electronic television system.

During his 37-year broadcasting career with NBC, Vernon Duke participated in the development efforts for several key projects, including the Ultrafax system and the lenticular color kinescope system. Building on the latter, he developed a system for recording color television programs on color film from a composite color television signal. This engineering achievement earned Duke the 1966 Herbert T. Kalmus Gold Medal Award from the SMPTE. The honor coincided with his retirement from NBC.

Duke's survivors include a daughter, Laura L. Determan, of Denver, Colo.

New Products

Further information about these items can be obtained from the addresses given. As with technical papers, the Society is not responsible for manufacturers' statements, and publication of these items does not constitute endorsement of the products or services.

The MicroStar™ and Challenger™ video microwave systems have been introduced by Harris Corp. (Farion Division), 1691 Bayport Ave., San Carlos, CA 94070. MicroStar, featuring a 23-GHz microwave link, is designed for transmitting video over short distances. With its T1 data-above-video capacity, the video as well as two audio subcarriers and 1.544 Mbytes of data may be simultaneously transmitted over a single microwave link. The Challenger is a portable transmit and receive system operating in the 2 and 2.5-GHz frequency bands. The Challenger's central receiver features switchable IF filters and coverage of all frequencies between 1990 and 2690 MHz.

The LDK 900 studio camera has been announced by BTS Broadcast Television Systems, Inc., P.O. Box 30816, Salt Lake City, UT 84130. The compact 33-lb production camera is designed for broadcast and OB applications, as well as for use in production houses and for corporate communications purposes. It has a full range of features, including 7-in. viewfinder, high-fidelity audio channel, and two external video inputs. A teleprompter channel is optional.

A portable MII VCR has been put on the market by JVC Co. of America, 41 Slater Dr., Elmwood Park, NJ 07047. The versatile KR-460U accepts both component and composite video signals, providing more than 90 min recording time with high-quality video and audio performance. The recorder is developed with Chroma Time-Compressed Multiplexing (CTCM), which maintains picture quality



JVC KR-M460U VCR

over several generations of recording and playback. The KR-460U also features a video signal-to-noise ratio of better than 49 dB for component signals and better than 47 dB for composite signals, built-in SMPTE time-code generator/reader, built-in RF modulator, 8-digit LCD display, Dolby-C noise reduction, and search function. A cast aluminum chassis makes the unit suitable for rugged use in the field.