

Obituary

John G. Baer

John G. Baer, a Fellow of the Society, died on May 16, 1989, at the age of 55 of Lou Gehrig's disease. Baer, a Fellow of the Society, was a former president and chief executive officer of Century Projector Corp. and a former director of research and development at 20th Century Fox.

He was chairman of American National Standards Committee PH22 on motion pictures and participated in international standards work through ISO Technical Committee TC 36 — Cinematography. He attended meetings of this committee as a member of the U.S. delegation and was one of two U.S. specialists on projection. He was also a member of the SMPTE Film Technology and Audio Recording and Reproduction Technology Committees. He wrote and presented papers on a variety of subjects.

Baer received many honors during his career. He was named *The Independent Film Journal's* Equip-Man in 1975 and

received the Meritorious Award from the 25-30 Club of Pioneer Motion Picture Projectionists in 1976. In 1978, he was listed in the *Who's Who* international motion-picture almanac.

He was hired by Century Projector in 1972 as director of engineering and was instrumental in the development of Century's Showmaster system. He was named president of the company in 1975. He was the director of the research, development, and engineering division of 20th Century Fox before joining Century Projector.

He graduated in 1955 with a B.S. in physics from the University of Chattanooga. He translated an interest in photography and electronics into a specialization in optics. He was able to draw on this background when he took a job at Bausch & Lomb after graduation, where he worked on projection lenses, vacuum deposition, and dichroic lens coatings.

Baer was on the board of directors of the Theatre Equipment Association and was a life member in the 25-30 Club. He was an active participant in several professional groups including the Optical So-



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ciety of America, the Society of Scientific and Photographic Engineers, and the Inter-Society Color Council. He was a former mayor of West Windsor Township, N.J. Baer had been interested in magic since he was a young man and maintained membership in the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Magic Circle of London.

He is survived by his wife Dorothea and three children, Debra, Suzanne, and John.

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