

## *Biographical Sketch*

### **Frank J. Haney Editorial Vice-President 1989-1990**

For some people, careers are a matter of destiny. This may be the case for Frank Haney, director of television facilities, Capital Cities/ABC, Inc., Hollywood, Calif.

An SMPTE member since 1960, Haney said his interest in electronics and engineering dates back to his early childhood. "I've always had an affection for electronics," he said. "I remember building my first radio at the age of seven or eight. You could almost say that I started when television first started."

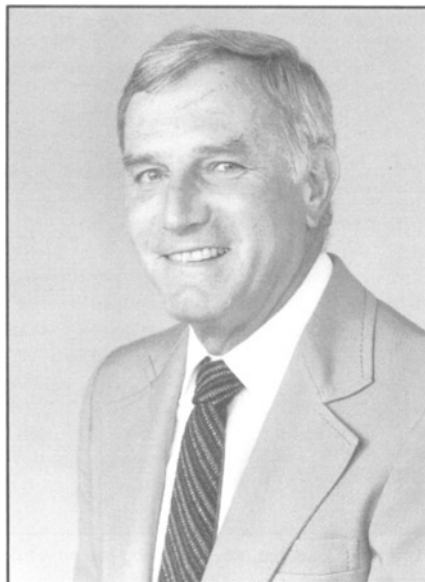
Haney put himself through college by doing operations and maintenance at radio and television stations in his hometown of Philadelphia. In 1950, he graduated from Villanova University with a B.S.E.E. Following his graduation, he joined the navy, where he served as an electronics repair officer.

"When I graduated, the Korean War was just starting," he recalls. "At the time, the navy was offering a direct commission to electrical engineers. I figured this was better than waiting to be drafted by the army, so I joined up as an ensign and left as a lieutenant (jg). My duties were mainly repairing electronic equipment, particularly radar systems. This really convinced me that electronics was for me. It put me through school *and* it kept me out of the army!"

#### **Career in the Television Industry**

When his naval term ended in 1952, Haney returned to WCAU, a Philadelphia-based CBS affiliate, where he had worked during his school years. But after a year he became frustrated with the progress he was making and accepted an offer from NASA, where he worked for two years on missile electronics.

In 1954 he returned to the CBS-affiliate. "I got a godfather offer," he explained. "I was offered a position in management at a higher salary. The



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job was in the area of design, and I was in charge of colorizing the station."

Haney's career path took another turn in 1958, when the station was sold to CBS. He was sent to New York, where he spent four years designing television studios.

In 1962, a new career opportunity gave him a chance to further pursue his interest in colorization. "ABC announced they were going into color. I went there and designed television studios, mobile units, and convention facilities. The position involved the building of new color facilities, often around ongoing operational monochrome facilities. It also required the conversion of existing facilities while remaining in operation.

"In 1968, I worked at the Winter Olympics held in Grenoble, France," he added. "Since the French broadcasting systems are different than ours, it was necessary to build new studio and videotape facilities for color."

After the Olympics ended, Haney accepted a position as general manager of Visual Electronics, a Sunnyvale, Calif.-based manufacturer of videotape machines, studio cameras, and UHF transmitters. This brought him to the West Coast.

But two years later, CBS invited Haney back. "In 1970 the FCC stated that networks could not own cable systems, so CBS took its cable operations and started Viacom, a California-based spinoff company. I joined them as vice-president of engineering."

Four years later, though, Haney was ready for a new challenge. "I decided it was time to hang my own shingle, so I started an independent consulting service, Frank Haney, P.E. My work included design for studios, mobile units, and communication systems for high-rise buildings."

One of his major accomplishments as a consultant was the design of a life-support communication system for the headquarters building of Standard Oil of California. Fire codes had just been developed that required separate floor communication systems. This way, in case there was a fire, different floors could get different instructions on how to handle the emergency. For instance, if there were a fire on the 35th floor, people on that floor would be told what evacuation procedure to follow, while occupants of other floors could be warned on the events that were taking place. "A system like this helps to cut down on panic and simplifies the matter of coping with an emergency," he said.

In spite of his success as a consultant, in 1977 Haney accepted an offer from ABC as director of engineering facilities.

"The new position offered me the challenge of applying everything I've learned since birth," he explained. "Part of my job was to create a ten-year, overall modernization plan, which we are just now completing."

The plan included the creation of a large routing distribution system, which he says, "is at the core of everything." He also converted three film studios to television and built a fourth. In addition, he supervised the modernization of the studio, videotape, and post-production facilities at KABC-TV, an ABC-owned television station.

In 1984, the position at ABC served as a stepping-stone toward achieving



Windsurfing is one of Haney's outside interests. Here he shows the art of keeping the small craft afloat.

one of the highlights of his career, an Emmy Award.

"ABC was the host broadcaster for the 1984 Olympic summer games. As host broadcaster we had to build facilities for the foreign broadcasters," he said. "To do this, we took a piece of the old Columbia Pictures lot and built an international broadcast center, which was a major building program and a part of its modernization plan.

"At the ABC broadcast center, we built a studio that could accommodate the Olympics first, and later be used for regular broadcasting," he added. "It was very new for its time. Also, it was the first time fiber optics were used for television broadcasting on a wide scale."

#### Plans for the Future

Since then, Haney has hardly spent his time resting on his laurels. He foresees the industry's future as actively proceeding into digital and is determined that ABC will keep up with that trend.

"We are currently planning to build all new post-production facilities," he said. "We are making design plans right now and will get into the building of it later this year. The plans include a total of seven post-production facilities: five video editing suites and two audio editing suites. We an-

ticipate that this will be a two to three-year project.

"This business never quiets down," he added. "The technology is constantly changing."

#### The SMPTE

The SMPTE, Haney said, helps him to keep up with the pace of the industry. "SMPTE is on the leading edge of what is happening within the industry," he said. "The *Journal* writers are on the cutting edge and the publication is a good source of data. The conferences also help me keep up with new technology, and offer one-on-one conversations which have proved to be very educational."

Haney is an active SMPTE member, currently serving as Editorial Vice-President. He was elected an SMPTE Fellow in October 1988 and has served as conference Program Chairman in 1987, and Co-Chairman for the 1988 Technical Conference. He served as the TV Progress Report Chairman for 1986 and 1987. From 1963 to 1967, he served on the Videotape Recording Committee. From 1956 to 1960, he sat on the TASO Committee, Panel 6.

Haney has found SMPTE to provide personal as well professional benefits. "I was on my way to an SMPTE Conference in 1971, when I met Denyse, my wife," he chuckled.

"Denyse is originally from the Province of Quebec, the conference having been held in the city of Montreal."

Also an ambitious worker, Denyse runs her own bookkeeping business. The couple, and their 16-year-old daughter Tamara, reside in Van Nuys, Calif., where they enjoy taking advantage of the great outdoors. "We enjoy skiing," Haney said. "Several times a year, we drive between one and two hours to do some cross country. We have just completed a ski trip to Canada."

#### Predictions

Haney closed by sharing some thoughts on the future of the SMPTE. "The Society's opportunities are global. We will see expansion overseas. With broadcasting going toward privatization, there will be a lot of growth in Western and Eastern Europe first, and later in Russia.

"But, there will be a challenge to accommodate that change," he warned. "SMPTE will have to quicken its pace and work fast to keep up with these changes, or something else will come along. We need strong presidents, like our current President Maurice French, of the Canadian Broadcasting Co., who are aware of this need to work quickly during an era of change."

— Carol King