

# Obituaries

## Michael Brinkman, Panasonic VP

With great regret and sorrow Panasonic Broadcast & Television Systems Co. announced that J. Michael Brinkman, Vice-President of Strategic Business Development, died Sunday, March 16, in Santa Clarita, CA. Well known to many in the film and television production world, Michael exemplified the best of our industry by giving of himself and fostering education and understanding among his colleagues. Laser Pacific's Leon Silverman, president of the Hollywood Post Alliance, said in his memorial tribute:

*"Michael gave of himself, of his time, of his ideas, not because it was something he had to do for his job or his career. He had established his own stature in the industry long ago. Michael gave of himself because he wanted to, and because he knew his efforts could and would make a difference. His work in the old ITS helped to redefine what had once been an adversarial relationship between the post production facilities and the manufacturing community. Through events such as the Presidents Retreat or the Technology Retreat, Michael had this way of building bridges; of transcending his company or his current work assignment that would result in the blurring of the roles and invariably, through the force of his large and contagiously enthusiastic personality, lead to colleagues becoming friends. It was through this bridge building of Michael's that led directly to the Hollywood Post Alliance. The Hollywood Post Alliance was to be that place where the former adversaries of the post production community could meet as...well, colleagues and friends—and Michael's role in its founding was unquestionably key."*

Michael's career began in Instructional Media and Administration in the San Diego public school system in 1974, where he worked for ten years and was an award-winning producer-director working in the fields of documentary and education production. He loved teaching kids about television and film production—everything from how to frame a shot with a camera, to editing and directing. He then joined Tri-Media, an AV systems design and integration company, and also did a short stint in sales and marketing for PMP Marketing, a manufacturers rep firm, before joining Panasonic in 1987. In his 16 years with Panasonic he served in several key roles, notably as manager and then later director of business development, where he was responsible for Panasonic Broadcast's strategic business development activities. As vice-president, he directed the company's innovative Technology Partnering Program where he worked with more than 30 of the industry's leading manufacturers, including companies like Apple Computer, Avid Technology, SGI, and Pinnacle, to incorporate Panasonic's leading digital compression technologies into their products and systems. *"Michael Brinkman was a dedicated, talented executive, and the entire Panasonic community will miss the invaluable contributions he made in furthering the company's initiatives in the broadcast and production industries,"* said John Baisley, President of Panasonic Broadcast.



Michael was a long-time member of the Society of Motion Picture & Television Engineers (SMPTE), the International Teleproduction Society (ITS), a founding member of the Hollywood Post Alliance, and active in numerous other industry organizations. A well-recognized figure at IBC and the Montreux Symposium, he sat

on the board of directors of groups as diverse as USC's Entertainment Technology Center, The Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, and the AAF Association. *"He was a serious fellow who loved this business and knew a lot about it. He had a real facility for being able to put people and ideas together, and he had interesting ideas of how to apply new technology,"* said Fred Rheinstein, chairman of the Post Group and a founding member of the HPA.

Always a great orator, Michael was selected to speak at his high school graduation. This ability led him to make many other speeches and presentations. While perhaps his best remembered speech was the one in which he reflected on the role of a father and son at his own father's memorial service six years ago, even his colleagues at Panasonic really enjoyed learning from Michael. Leon Silverman also said, *"He had this way of speaking. He made those great and amazing off-the-cuff, sincere, funny, and cogent presentations. When Michael spoke, you knew he meant it and you wanted to listen."*

As dedicated as he was to work, Michael was an avid outdoorsman, adept and at home in the woods, as comfortable hunting and fishing as he was working to conserve our natural resources and wildlife. He would have rather been hiking through Devil's Post Pile or deep sea fishing, fly fishing, or hunting pheasant in Nebraska. He learned a love for nature as a young boy from the many days he spent bird hunting with his father or fishing with his mother; and he loved fishing, as well as quail, pheasant, and dove hunting. Michael also loved cars and car racing, from the earliest 1970s U.S. Formula 1 tours to Top Fuel in Pomona and the Long Beach Grand Prix.

In his eulogy for Michael, Phil Livingston of Panasonic said, *"Michael was proficient at so many things, professional at so many levels, passionate about so many causes, personable in so many ways, persistent in so many endeavors. Please remember him as I do: a mentor, a colleague, a vital force. I am proud to say he was my friend, and I admired and respected him."*

Jon Michael Brinkman, 54, was born in Portsmouth, Virginia, and is survived by Deborah, his wife of 27 years; his children, Tamara, Michanne and Andrew; his grandson, Ethan Dempsey; and his sisters, Nona Reimer and Cindy Hill. He attended San Diego State University, Class of 1972, and did his Graduate work there as well. A memorial service for family and friends was held March 20, 2003, in the Chapel of the Oaks at Eternal Valley Memorial Park in Newhall, CA.

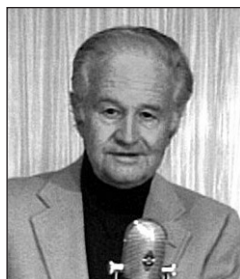
## Elsie Eggers

The beloved wife of Life Fellow member Walter G. Eggers, passed away on February 1, 2003. Elsie Eggers was a participant for many years in organizing SMPTE ladies activities at SMPTE's Technical Conferences in Los Angeles.

## Warren R. Isom

Life Fellow Warren R. Isom passed away on January 11, 2003. During his career, Isom worked as a mechanical engineer, where he designed 16 and 35mm projectors for television use. He was 92 years old at his death.

## Robert Morrison



Longtime SMPTE member Robert Morrison passed away at age 77, on March 10, 2003.

With a keen interest in audio recording from a very early age, Morrison entered the industry at the start of World War II when he was only 16. His first job was at Picto Sound Productions, a San Francisco film and audio studio.

Morrison later earned a B.A. degree from the University of California at Berkeley. Following a year's service in the early 1950s as a recording engineer and staff announcer with Voice of America in New York, he returned to the Bay Area to assume the positions of chief engineer and a primary air talent with KRE Radio in Berkeley. During this same period he worked on contract with Ampex Corp. in Redwood City and ultimately assumed fulltime management of their alignment tape facility in 1960. Morrison founded his own firm, Standard Tape Laboratory, in 1969, and continued to manufacture test tapes and magnetic films into the 1990s.

Morrison retired in 1995, but he never ceased being active in recording technology. Most recently, he collaborated on a series of videos that introduce and demonstrate classic microphones, and also authored a book on disc recording.

## John I. Newell

Life Fellow John I. Newell passed away on February 2, 2003. Newell was owner of Western Cine Labs in Denver, CO. During WWII, he served four years with the U.S. Navy as a combat photographer in the South Pacific. After the war

he attended the University of Denver, where he graduated with a B.A. degree in communications.

Newell founded the Denver Section of SMPTE in 1963 and was Chairman for the first two years. He also served two terms on the SMPTE Board of Governors and co-authored several papers, which were published in the *SMPTE Journal*.

## Kemp Niver

SMPTE has recently learned of the passing of Kemp Niver, a Life Fellow. Niver developed various processes for restoration and photographing of paper positives from the Library of Congress paper film collection, for which he received a special Academy Award. He had been a member of the Society for almost 50 years.

## Edward Reingold

SMPTE has recently learned of the passing of Edward Reingold, a Life Member. Reingold was 61 at the time of his death.

## Gary Wolf

Gary Wolf, a former SMPTE member, died March 9, 2003 at age 46, following a brief illness. The son of Barbara and the late Lou Wolf, he was active at the campus radio station in high school and after graduation studied radio and television production at Pasadena City College, where he was on the Dean's Honor List. Utilizing his educational experience, he began a career following in his father's footsteps in the television industry, holding a position on the staff of Keylite PSI, a lighting equipment rental company where he learned all levels of lighting for feature film and television. Later at Bexel Corp. he managed their insert stage and studio facility for five years. He was also affiliated with TriTronics and Arc Lighting. In 1988 he established his own business as a licensed electrical contractor and continued to freelance as a lighting director in the television industry.

He is survived by his mother, Barbara, of La Canada Flintridge, CA; a younger brother, Greg, of Castaic, CA; and three young nephews.

The SMPTE Lou Wolf Memorial Scholarship Fund, which was established in 2001, is named in honor of Gary's father, Lou, who died in 1997. Lou held office in the Hollywood Section and also served on the SMPTE Board of Governors. Barbara Wolf is an active member of the scholarship fund's subcommittee.