

Obituaries

Leonard F. Coleman

The Society sadly announces the passing of former SMPTE President Leonard F. Coleman, on July 29, 2006, at age 75. A Life Fellow, Len had been a member of SMPTE for 45 years. He served the Society in many capacities, including Vice-Chair of the International Papers Committee, Chair of the Dallas Section, National Membership Chair, Governor of the Southwest Region (1974-1975), and later SMPTE President (1983-1984).

In 1985, Len was awarded an Honorary Fellowship from the British Kinematograph, Sound and Television Society (BKSTS) for his considerable contribution to the motion picture and television industries.

Most recently, he attended the meeting of former SMPTE Presidents, which was held in Rochester in May 2006.

Len is survived by his wife, Norma (Klein); sons, Leonard Jr. and Elliot; daughter, Paula (David) Boehm.

Len Coleman Remembered

In the entertainment business, the biographies of many who went on to achieve great success often begin: "...he started his career in the mailroom. "At Kodak, Len Coleman had a similar beginning. In 1948, he was hired as a messenger at Kodak Park, the company's huge manufacturing complex in Rochester, New York, where (among many other products) Kodak produced its Eastman color motion picture film. Within two years, Len had moved into that area of operations—and never left.

He stayed with the motion picture business, moving up the ranks, for the next 41 years until he retired from the company in 1991. Len started as a Kodak motion picture laboratory technician in 1950, worked through a series of engineering assignments, and by the late 1960s was the Mid-western district sales manager for what was then called Kodak's Motion Picture and Education Markets Division.

From there, he moved into regional sales manager positions, first in Dallas, then back to Chicago, to New York, City, and finally, back to Rochester where he settled for the last decade or so of his career. When he retired, he was head of sales and marketing for the Motion Picture and Television Imaging Division and a vice-president of Kodak. He was the number 2 manager in the division where he began more than 40 years before.

While all that adds facts to Len's biography, it says nothing about the kind of man Len was, about the impact he had on those with whom and for whom he worked, about



the contributions he made to his company and his customers, about the leadership he provided to SMPTE and to other organizations.

For all that, we need to hear the voices of those who knew him, because they worked with him throughout his Kodak career. They describe a man who was "...the eternal optimist, with always a positive attitude who took a genuine interest in other Kodak people and their families..." (Jim MacKay, Kodak's former director of Student Filmmaker programs)... "A warm and caring person, always with a helping hand even for complete strangers... who was also very lucky at raffles, particularly those at SMPTE meetings. We were always surprised—he was not; he expected he would win something..." (Bob Woolman, Kodak's former market-

ing manager in Entertainment Imaging).

But the longest, most detailed remembrances come from John Johnston, now a regional director of sales and marketing for Entertainment Imaging. John knew Len through the years, as a boss, peer, mentor, and friend. He remembers:

"Len was a Kodak employee for over 40 years, somewhat private, a little quirky. He was one of the most loyal Kodak people I ever knew and had one of the most complete collections of Kodak cameras probably anywhere in the world outside of the Eastman House. And they all worked...!"

"One of Len's proudest achievements was serving as President of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers. I still remember listening to a speech he gave at a conference. His topic was, "How do you become president of SMPTE?"

"Before he began, I wondered, how interesting could that be? Then he gave this inspiring talk about how anybody can do anything they put their mind to, no matter what their background or education and experience. He said "...if you are willing to apply yourself, to work hard, to learn, to get involved and to give back to the organization, you will be successful... And he used himself as that example..."

—Robert Gibbons and John Johnston, Kodak

Dwight I. Temple, a SMPTE Life Member, has passed away. He was 92 years old.

Temple's career at CBS spanned more than 30 years, where he held positions as television engineer, technical supervisor, and later technical director.

Temple served as director of the Veteran Wireless Operators Association. He was a recipient of the Marconi Memorial Gold Medal of Achievement, and the 75th Anniversary Award from the Quarter Century Wireless Association.