



# Obituaries

## Alex E. Alden

Alex E. Alden passed away on April 22, 2008. A Life Fellow of the Society, Alden served as SMPTE manager of engineering for 25 years. He joined the Society in 1961 as staff engineer. Alden was responsible for administering the secretariats for the development of national and international standards for motion picture and television. He was devoted to both national and international standardization in the industry and wrote articles for the *Journal* on the topic.

Before his tenure at SMPTE, Alden worked at 20th Century-Fox Film Corp for 15 years, as a research engineer. He was involved in the design and development of special optical and mechanical equipment for use in motion picture studios and laboratories and held a number of patents in that field.



## Carl G. Eilers

Carl G. Eilers, stereo FM radio and television pioneer, died suddenly on Friday, June 20 of an apparent heart attack at his home in River Forest, Ill. He was 83.

During his 50-year career at Zenith, Eilers worked on the world's first pay television system, Zenith Phonevision, earning key patents on subscription TV technologies. He also led Zenith's development effort on stereophonic FM radio broadcasting. The stereo FM standard he co-developed was first adopted by the Federal Communications Commission in 1961 and is still in use today around the world.

Among other awards, Eilers received two technical Emmy Awards for Zenith developments: stereo TV in 1986 and HDTV in 1997.

Eilers was a SMPTE Life Member and also a member of IEEE and the Audio Engineering Society and served as Chair for several of their special committees.

Eilers is survived by his wife, Sandra; son, John Eilers; and daughter, Janet Ames.

## Michael Strong

Michael Strong passed away on Saturday, May 30, after a long illness. A SMPTE Life Fellow, Strong had been an active member for over 30 years. During his career, Strong was involved in motion picture and television sound engineering, equipment development, and quality control. He served on several committees in sound recording and reproduction, including as Chair of the A.12 Sound Recording and Reproduction Committee for two terms in the 1980s. Strong authored papers that were published in the *Journal* and also presented at SMPTE conferences.



## Frederick J. Kolb, Jr.

Dr. Fred Kolb died on May 10, 2008, two days after his 91st birthday. He was a Life Fellow of SMPTE and had a 45-year career in the Manufacturing Experiments Division and as a consultant to the Eastman

Kodak Co. in Rochester, N.Y., contributing many advances to motion picture film technology.

Kolb graduated with a B.S. in 1938 and D.Sc. in 1946 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. At Kodak he became recognized as a giant in his field and published widely on many topics, such as air cooling of film during projection, measurement of screen brightness, magnetic striping, liquid gate for projection, splicing of polyester base film, wear of magnetic heads against striped film, print film lubrication, and particle transfer roller (PTR) cleaning of film. He was the lead scientist in the introduction of magnetic tape by Kodak. He worked on projection concerns in the conversion of film from cellulose nitrate to cellulose triacetate base and with the introduction of polyester base.

In addition to his Kodak activities, Kolb was a major contributor to SMPTE Standards Committees, the Audio Engineering Society (AES) and to ISO TC 36 - Cinematography.

Kolb received the SMPTE Journal Award in 1950 for his paper "Air Cooling of Motion Picture Film for Higher Screen Illumination;" the Samuel L. Warner Medal Award in 1988 for his contributions to the development of magnetic striping of film; and the Technicolor/Herbert T. Kalmus Gold Medal Award in 1995 for his outstanding contributions in the development of color films, processing, techniques, or equipment. In 1990 Kolb received a Technical Achievement Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Art & Sciences for the development of a 35mm projection test film.

Kolb is survived by his daughters Carolyn, Katharine, and Merribeth; daughter-in-law Kathie; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. His wife Polly (Priscilla) died in 1987, and son Jay (Fred Kolb III) passed in 2001.

## Errata May/June 2008:

In the May/June 2008 *Journal*, the names of Jean Pelletier (pg. 17) and Mark Forman (pgs. 18–22) were misspelled. We apologize for the error.