

Edgar A. Schuller

The New York Section, along with the entire SMPTE community, is saddened by the passing of Edgar A. Schuller this past December. We remember Ed as a man with a passion for SMPTE and a tireless advocate of “getting involved” in our Society. His wife, Doris, stood alongside Ed since they met in college—through decades of working, as well as volunteering: organizing meetings, and writing memos and journal articles. In the earlier days of SMPTE conferences, formal dances followed the conferences, and Doris actively participated on the women’s committees, which helped to organize these events. Many of us on the New York Section Board of Managers fondly remember Doris and Ed hosting the Section for annual summer parties at their home in Long Island, NY. An excellent description of Ed’s career highlights and SMPTE involvement is published in his award for the Presidential Proclamation in the October 2007 issue of the *Journal* (<http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=7269543>).

Some “out-takes” and anecdotes that follow will hopefully highlight the person we’ve known and cherished over the years, during his tenure with SMPTE.

Ed’s life encapsulates multiple snapshots during a half-century in the sound and motion picture industry, less from a Hollywood perspective than from a film’s application in news, training, and community centers.

Ed Schuller was born in Jackson Heights, Queens, in 1928. He attended Brooklyn Tech, which had an outstanding radio program—the



school’s iconic antenna tower was used to broadcast WNYE-FM. He also volunteered at WNYC, where Doris says Ed was very proud of spinning the station’s first 33 1/3 RPM disk on air. He went on to become a speech/radio major at Queens College. In those days, they would visit local hospitals or community centers to host radio shows. Drafted after college, Ed made the Signal Corps and became the head instructor in sound recording at Fort Monmouth. Students from all service branches trained to produce Newsreels in the early 1950s.

After his service as a sound technician working on Fox’s new CinemaScope Sound system, John Frayne, President of SMPTE 1955–1956, enlisted Ed to initiate an educational program for the Society. As Chair of the National Education Committee, Ed spearheaded the creation of technical courses in Los Angeles and New York—those at New York University evolved into 20-week programs.

Professionally, Ed worked at Reeves Broadcasting, Cine Magnetics, Movie Lab, and Deluxe Labs. In 1973, he founded Cartridge

Display Systems, which provided Super-8 projection and sound gear for restaurants, hotels, and recreation industries, including community centers and schools. Video projection was later incorporated into these installations. He retired in 1995 and devoted much of his time to SMPTE, chairing the Archival Papers and Historical Committee, among other functions.

Although debilitated by dementia in his later years, and thus naturally apt to repeat himself, Ed always reminded us of the fundamentals—the nitty-gritty of planning Section meetings, the simple jobs that cultivate a member’s involvement in our community—running a mic during Q&A, printing name tags, ushering speakers, and writing up a meeting report for the *Journal*. We will quickly forget the repetition, but will remember the enthusiasm and the honest human approach that Ed exemplified.

Ed is survived by Doris and their two daughters. If you’d like to get in touch with Doris, contact SMPTE headquarters and we can put you in touch.

—Bruce Follmer

