

Frank L. Flemming

Frank L. Flemming, the founding partner of Brooks-Flemming Associates (BFA), passed away on 28 October 2019, at the age of 91. His last hours were spent in the company of his wife, Sandy, his daughter, Leslie, and his friend and business partner, John Brooks.

Flemming was an outstanding member of the international broadcast community for more than 60 years. He began his career at Sylvania Electric Products, designing television broadcast equipment. From 1954 to 1967, Flemming was the director of systems engineering for the CBS Television Network, responsible for engineering and installation of technical facilities at both the network facilities and the owned-and-operated stations. In 1967, Flemming joined Visual Electronics of New York, as chief engineer, when the Plumbicon color television cameras were introduced to the U.S. market, significantly affecting the entire nature of television production.


In 1969, Flemming joined NBC as the vice president of engineering,



where he was responsible for the design and installation of all major technical systems at the network and the station's studio plants, including the modernization of the network. Projects such as New York Switching Central, Network Video Tape Renovation, numerous studio rebuilds, and other major capital activities were his direct responsibility. After NBC, Flemming formed his own consulting group in 1982, later helping to build Cinedco-Ediflex, a pioneer

in edit control systems for motion pictures and television.

In 1988, Flemming, together with John Brooks, formed BFA, a consulting firm specializing in large-scale broadcast, motion picture, and entertainment projects. During Flemming's tenure at BFA, he managed numerous projects, both domestic and international, including those for NBC, CBS, ABC, Paramount Pictures, DreamWorks, Universal Studios, Disney, Kuwait Radio-TV, Dong Ah TV Korea, Phoenix TV China, and many others. One of the many notable projects was the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism/KAET-TV Channel 8 facility at Arizona State University, which is now the west location for the PBS News Hour. Flemming remained active in the firm until shortly before his death.

Flemming graduated from the University of Buffalo and was a Life Fellow of SMPTE, a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and the Audio Engineering Society (AES), and a Life Member the Society of Television Engineers (STE). 

Frederick M. Remley

Frederick M. Remley enjoyed a lifelong career in radio and television at the University of Michigan. He was also a leader in international video standardization efforts and in the production and distribution of educational television programming in the U.S., and he also contributed significantly to SMPTE nationally and on the global stage.



Remley was born on 20 May 1929, in Washington, PA, to Edythe Rosemary Yorke Remley and Frederick Marion Remley. Growing up in Wayland, MI, it was clear from an early age that Remley would be an engineer. He "assisted" telephone operators working in the front of the house, where his father was district manager for Michigan Bell Telephone. He was fascinated by the telegraph at the railroad station, and he built radios and amplifiers in high school.

As a student at the University of Michigan, Remley worked at

Digital Object Identifier 10.5594/JMI.2019.2956664
Date of publication: 21 January 2020

WUOM-FM and helped to launch WCBN, the campus student station. He received a BS degree in physics from the University of Michigan in 1951 and did graduate work in electrical engineering. While working in student radio, he met his future wife, Anne Gardner. They married in 1952 and lived in Ann Arbor, MI, for over 66 years. Son Paul Gardner (Fiona Robertson Remley) is a professor of English, specializing in Medieval Studies, at the University of Washington in Seattle. Following in her father's footsteps, daughter Kate (Catherine Anne; Dylan Forrest Williams) is an electronics engineer, employed at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Boulder, CO.

During his 42-year career, Remley oversaw the construction and operation of University media facilities, including its Flint TV station, three FM stations, two TV video production centers, and TV facilities for classrooms, labs, and the U-M Hospital. He was appointed as the director of Michigan Media in 1982, retiring from the University in 1993. Educational films and videos from Michigan Media are now part of the U-M Bentley Historical Library's collection.

Remley is best known for his work in global standards development for video recording. He served as a U.S. delegate for SMPTE, and he chaired the Committee on Video Recording and Reproduction Technology from 1966 to 1970, the Standards Committee (1970–1974), and

the Committee on New Technology (1975–1979). In 1966, he attended the five-week Eleventh Plenary Assembly of the Consultative Committee on International Radio-Television (CCIR, later ITU-R), in Oslo, Norway, where he chaired the committee concerned with Standards for Video Tape and Film Recording, continuing to chair this committee for CCIR through 1979.

By the late 1970s, a standard for 1-in. videotape was urgently needed. Companies in the U.S., Europe, and Japan were competing for an estimated \$500m market, producing incompatible recorders. Remley, with the strong backing of broadcasters, led the committee members to reach an agreement on the future SMPTE Type C Format. In 1978, Remley, on behalf of the Society, received an Emmy citation for the standards effort.

With other SMPTE officers, Remley participated in the groundbreaking 1979 engineering and cultural exchange between the U.S. and China. "In a sense, that trip changed my life," he said. "Not only was the experience rewarding because of the exchange of technical information, but the exposure at first hand and in-depth to a culture combining the ancient with the new and to customs and ways of thinking far different from ours certainly resulted in a broader perspective and a more comprehensive world view."

Remley chaired the Standards Committee during the 1972 Reaffirmation of the SMPTE Sound-Picture

Synchronization Standard, later addressing digital time-codes in the *SMPTE Journal* in 1981. Remley's work on video recording standards continued between 1981 to 1995, as Chair of Subcommittee 60B (Video Recording) of the International Electrotechnical Committee (IEC). From 1984 to 1986, he also chaired the committee that standardized the first digital video recording system, the 19-mm SMPTE Type D-1 format.

Having joined SMPTE in 1954, Remley served the Society between 1965 and 1995 as a vice president for Televisions Affairs and Educational Affairs, as a member of the Board of Governors, and, for many years, as Chair of the Board of Editors of the *SMPTE Journal*. Remley became a SMPTE Fellow (1967) and was awarded the Citation for Outstanding Service (1987), the Progress Medal (1990), and the Eastman Kodak Gold Medal (1995). He became an Honorary Member of the Society in 1991 (joining the ranks of Thomas Edison, George Eastman, Walt Disney, and others), and a Life Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (1995).

Remley enjoyed using an early Apple II for his contributions to the *SMPTE Journal*, having been an early adopter. His love of computing continued in his retirement years, and he remained an active and engaged enthusiast of electronic technology to the end of his days. Remley will be greatly missed by all who knew him. 