

Waldon O. Watson, AES member and fellow of the SMPTE, died 1986 August 15 in Fullerton, California. Born in Los Angeles in 1907, he was educated at UCLA and the California Institute of Technology.

In 1928 he was employed by a company that made sound conversions to silent motion picture theaters of the day. This early involvement in the newly emerging "talkies" started him on his lifelong commitment to improving the sound of motion pictures. This led him to a job with RCA recording services in Hollywood, where he got on the ground floor of photographic sound recording. In 1932 he joined Republic Studios in North Hollywood, where he worked as an engineer, attaining the position of chief sound engineer. During this time he was instrumental in establishing many advances in equipment and methods for motion picture sound recording: among them was the first practical implementation of noise-canceling push-pull photographic recording. He also participated in sound stage design and development of flexible interlock systems. He coauthored two SMPTE papers on these subjects published in the *Journal* in 1946 December and 1947 July.

At Republic, his fertile imagination and reputation for getting things done brought him to the attention of MCA management, whose Revue Pictures subsidiary was a tenant at the Republic lot. MCA at that time was pioneering film production of programs for the television networks. This association led to Mr. Watson being offered the position of sound director when MCA moved to the Universal Pictures lot in 1957. His first priority was to triple the size of the sound department at Universal in order to meet the burgeoning film production for television and features which MCA brought to the lot.

During his 15 years as sound director at Universal, he received seven nominations from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and a scientific or technical achievement



W. O. Watson

award for acoustic design and construction of the Universal music recording stage. He was awarded the SMPTE Samuel L. Warner Award for his work in motion picture sound in 1974. He regularly served on the Scientific or Technical Award steering committee of the AMPAS and often contributed to SMPTE Hollywood Section programs. During his lifetime he was awarded five patents for inventions relating to motion picture production and postproduction.

After retiring from the position of sound director in 1971, Mr. Watson was retained at the studio as a consultant in sound quality control, engineering, and development, where he continued productive activity five days a week until just before his death. One of his many projects during these years was development of the Sensurround System and overseeing technical matters involved with theater installation of the system. In this work he became widely known and made many friends among motion picture exhibitors.

His skills, knowledge, and affable personality will be missed by all of his colleagues.

RICHARD STUMPF
Vice President
Engineering & Development
MCA

William J. Moreland, one of the founders of Conrac Corporation's Conrac Division, died at his home in San Clemente, California, on August 12. Born in New York City in 1908, Moreland majored in electrical engineering at City College of New York and worked in production and sound installation in theaters in the early days of sound motion pictures. He held several patents for microphone equipment. During World War II, he worked on the development of the Norden bomb site.

In 1949 Moreland became president of Conrac Inc., a Glendora, California-based manufacturer of high-quality television receivers marketed under the brand name "Fleetwood." Under his leadership, the company shifted its emphasis from home receivers to professional grade television broadcast monitors, and the company's growth closely paralleled that of the television industry over the next 25 years.

Conrac's first professional broadcast monitor, the CA-16, was introduced in 1950, with CBS the company's first customer. The first color monitor was developed in 1953, and Conrac rapidly became the leading supplier of professional grade monitors to the broadcast and teleproduction industry. Conrac Inc. was acquired in 1961 by Gianinni Controls Corporation, a diversified manufacturer of aerospace and industrial electronic products, and in 1966 the name of the parent company was changed to Conrac Corporation. Moreland continued to manage the Conrac Division until appointed vice president and group manager of Conrac Corporation's Communications Group in 1968. He served in this capacity until his retirement in 1974.

Moreland was a member of the Society of Television Engineers, the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and a fellow of the Audio Engineering Society. At the time of his death, he was serving on the board of directors of Dynair Corporation of San Diego.