

## A Bit of History ... by Mari de Wit

This month's spotlight is on Loyd Jones who served as our local ROSA president in 1920. He was born Loyd Ancile Jones in York, Nebraska. He was educated at the University of Nebraska, where he received a Bachelor's degree in 1908 and Masters degree in science in 1910. He was also awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Rochester in 1933.

Following graduate school, Jones moved to Washington D.C., where he worked for several years as a laboratory assistant at the U.S. Bureau of Standards. In 1912, he joined the scientific research staff at Eastman Kodak Company, where he became chief physicist in 1916, a position he continued with until his retirement.

**Did you know...** When the U.S. became involved in World War I, George Eastman offered the U.S. Navy the expertise of Jones (who served in the U.S. Naval Reserves) and others for the purpose of researching naval camouflage in relation to optics and physics. (Ackerman 1930, p. 310) In connection with his research of naval camouflage, Jones and his staff developed in the laboratory an "experimental ocean," which used an observation tank, artificial sun, movable sky, and other components that simulated outdoor viewing conditions, as miniature camouflaged ships were observed through a submarine periscope. He also developed an outdoor observation stage on the shore of Lake Ontario. Painted cut-out silhouettes of camouflaged ships were suspended from a framework, at a height that made the ships appear to be floating on the water.

Jones was a prolific inventor. He was responsible for at least eighteen registered patents, and authored dozens of articles on such subjects as photometry, physical optics, illuminating engineering, colorimetry, photography and motion pictures. One of his wartime inventions was a scope-like observation device called a visibility meter (U.S. Patent No. 1,437,809), which measured a ship's visibility in an ocean setting. In 1943, he was awarded the Ives Medal recognizing overall distinction in optics. The Frederic Ives Medal is the highest award of the Society. It was endowed in 1928 by Herbert E. Ives, a distinguished charter member and OSA President in 1924 and 1925.

1924-1925: President of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers

1929-1943: Professor of Optics, University of Rochester

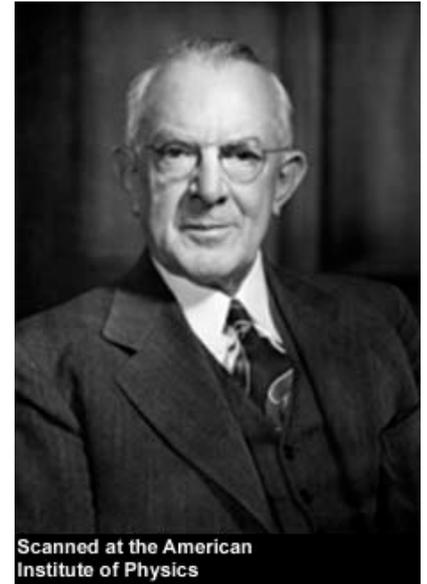
1930-1931: OSA President

### Links/Papers:

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loyd\\_A.\\_Jones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loyd_A._Jones)
- Photographic granularity and graininess. VII. A microphotometer for the measurement of granularity, JOSA, Vol. 41, Issue 3, pp. 192-200
- Photographic granularity and graininess. VIII. A method of measuring granularity in terms of the scanning area giving a threshold luminance gradient, JOSA, Vol. 45, Issue 2, pp. 107-
- Scientific American Supplement (1919), "A Theatre for Studying Camouflaged Ship Models," (December 13), pp. 348-349
- <http://camoupeia.blogspot.com/2011/04/wwi-ship-camouflage-teams.html>
- <http://www.rockwell-center.org/exploring-illustration/the-dazzling-ideas-of-science/>

**Loyd A. Jones**

April 12, 1884 – May 15, 1954



Served as OSA-RS president:  
1920