WEISS, Sam

OBITUARIES More obituaries on Pages C 9, 11

PS 5 4/29/01

R.I. native Sam Weiss, 74; artist, director, film Academy member

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — Sam Weiss, 74, of Santa Monica, formerly of Providence, a director of animation and a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, died March 24 in St. John's Hospital from complications after heart surgery.

A versatile animator, film director and musician, he won more than 30 awards, including the Gold Award of the Art Directors Club of New York, Outstanding Film of the Year at the London Film Festival, a first prize at the Zagreb International Film Festival, and the Jack London Award.

Mr. Weiss was also honored with an Academy Award nomination and an Emmy Award nomination.

He had worked on a number of children's cartoon series at Shamus Culhane Studios, Hollywood; as an art director and designer for UPA Pictures; director of G.I. Joe, for Marvel Productions; staff director at Pantomime Pictures; and designer/director of Alvin and the Chipmunks, for Format Films.

He was the staff director at Bosustow Entertainment for 11 years, during which he directed more than 50 films, including four hour-long specials for CBS TV. During his career, he directed the voice talents of famous actors, including Milton Berle, Mickey Rooney, Carol Burnett, Rob Reiner and Alan Arkin.

He also had been an instructor of animation at both UCLA and the University of Southern California.

An aficionado and historian of contemporary jazz, Mr. Weiss played the trumpet in jam sessions with many famous jazz musicians.

He was the husband of Marjorie Weiss. Born in Providence, a son of the late E. Max and Lillian Peyser Weiss, he had lived in Providence until the 1950s, when he moved to California to continue his art education.

Mr. Weiss was a 1944 graduate of Hope High School, a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, in Providence, and a graduate of the Art Center School of Design, in Los Angeles.

A Navy veteran of World War II, he served as a radar operator in the Pacific for two years.

Besides his wife, he leaves a sister, Selma Lapides of Stratford, Conn.

A memorial service and cremation took place in California.