The following is a personal historical review of the events leading up to the founding of the Ophthalmic Photographers' Society and of its subsequent success. My first view of an ocular fundus came shortly after being hired as a medical photographer trainee at Duke University Medical Center in July, 1957. I managed to escape from the photographic darkroom long enough to look over the shoulder of Mr. Raymond L. Howard, medical photographer, while he was photographing a patient's eye. He was using a strange looking instrument called a Zeiss-Nordenson fundus camera. What an incredible view! What would they think of next? Although I was thoroughly impressed with that incredible view of the retina, it never occurred to me that one day I would be taking photographs of the eye on a full time basis.

Two years passed quickly, and as fate would have it, Leonard M. Hart, R.B.P. moved from the Chicago area to accept the position as Chief of the Medical Illustration Department at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Durham, N.C. When Mr. Hart offered me the position as Assistant Chief Photographer, I jumped at the chance. I recognized that this was a tremendous opportunity to finally gain some experience as a clinical photographer. Little did I know that I was making a direct move toward ophthalmic photography.

As it happened, Noble J. David, M.D., then Chief of Neurology at the Veteran's Administration Hospital had recently read an article by Novotny and Alvis on "Photography of Fluorescein Dye Circulating Through the Retinal Vessels." At Dr. David's request, Mr. Hart placed the (KW-47) exciter filter and the (KW-56) barrier filter in the appropriate tube. After arrival in Durham, Mr. Hart had modified an old Bausch & Lomb fundus camera by replacing the carbon arc light source with an electronic flash tube. Incredibly, his first attempt at fluorescein angiography was successful. Soon, under the guidance of Mr. Hart, I was taking fluorescein angiograms.

In retrospect, it is difficult to relate the excitement and apprehension that I felt as I anticipated the perfusion of dye through the central retinal artery. That day, one of the primary uses of fluorescein was in determining arm-to-retina circulation time. It was critically important to obtain good quality angiograms of the initial appearance of dye in the central retinal artery. Because of the slow recycling time of the electronic flash power supply (one exposure every 6-8 seconds!) one can imagine the frustration of trying to obtain good quality fluorescein angiograms. At that time, Mr. Hart had modified an old Bausch & Lomb fundus camera by replacing the carbon arc light source with an electronic flash tube.

Incredibly, his first attempt at fluorescein angiography was successful. Soon, under the guidance of Mr. Hart, I was taking fluorescein angiograms. In April, 1963, I became fascinated with the field of fluorescein photography. At that time, fluorescein angiography was put before several people in the field at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) meeting in Sarasota, Florida. The overall reaction to my idea was very gratifying and led me to believe that the establishment of an association of this type would be advantageous, not only to ophthalmic photographers, but also to ophthalmology. At that time, Mr. Don Wong had several suggestions and ideas which I included in my original letter. Most of these suggestions and ideas have become realities, including his suggestion to publish a professional journal.

On October 15, 1969, an informal meeting of the proposed Ophthalmic Photographers' Society convened at the Palmer House in Chicago. I opened the meeting by telling how enthusiastic the response to my letter had been from people in the field of ophthalmic photography. Following in-the-proofreading from others in attendance regarding organizational matters, Mr. Lee Allen was nominated and unanimously elected Interim-President of the Ophthalmic Photographers' Society. Mr. Allen then appointed me to act as Interim-Secretary-Treasurer and Program Chairman until the society had its first formal election of officers.

At a later meeting on March 6, 1970, Mr. Don Wong was appointed Interim Vice-President. On July 13, 1970, the Ophthalmic Photographers' Society, Inc. became a formal reality. Without the enthusiasm and hard work of my then secretary, Mrs. Jessica Eichrodt, and the understanding and support of my wife (and now assistant) Mrs. Carol P. Justice and especially without the encouragement and constant "prodding" of Mr. Don Wong, this society may not have become a reality. Our society has grown from an original group of 10 to an international group of close to 500 members. We can be proud of our growth, but we cannot rest on our laurels. Since its formative years, many new individuals have, through their efforts, kept the society moving on an upward course. Some names in particular stand out in my mind. Mr. John L. Johnson has done an outstanding job as Editor of the OPS Newsletter and was primarily responsible for the design and construction of our current OPS Exhibit. Mr. Caiba Martonyi, Chairman of the Certification Committee has followed the early lead of Mr. Don Wong toward establishing ophthalmic photography as a recognized profession. Mr. Barrett Walker, Chairman of the Education Committee, has successfully upgraded the quality of education by establishing a comprehensive course in ophthalmic photography.

If we proceed on our present upward course toward a program of continuing education and certification, I foresee nothing but continued growth and improvement of the professional image of our members and for our society.