



John E. Volkmann

John E. Volkmann, a fellow and past director of the Society, died 1980 July 9 in Princeton, New Jersey, after a short illness. His professional career spanned more than 50 years.

Mr. Volkmann was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1905. He received his B.S. degree in 1927, followed by an M.S. in 1928, and later earned a professional degree from the University of Illinois in 1940.

He worked continuously with RCA in the field of acoustics, specializing in the development and application of large-scale auditorium loudspeakers and stereophonic sound systems. In addition, he was a consultant on architectural, electronic and acoustic problems. His contributions were solutions to numerous projects, including stereophonic sound systems for the Radio City Music Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, the recording acoustics for Walt Disney's "Fantasia," custom loudspeakers for the New York World's Fairs of 1938 and 1964-65 and the Jones Beach Marine Stadium. He provided the acoustic design for the RCA Italiana's 364,000 cu. ft. Studio A, which was considered the largest and first studio built for the recording of full-scale operas and symphonic orchestras. He was responsible for the development and design of the sound systems for the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He applied his pioneering concept of variable acoustics to the design of the RCA Victor Recording Studios in New York City.

For more than three decades, Mr. Volkmann was in charge of the ad-

vanced acoustic development and theater engineering activities at RCA in Camden, New Jersey. In 1964 he transferred to the RCA Laboratories in Princeton, as a member of the technical staff. He retired from RCA in 1970.

He has written numerous technical papers for scientific journals and holds several U. S. patents.

In 1962 he received the RCA Achievement Award for "Advances in the Development of Architectural Acoustics" and in 1967, the John H. Potts Memorial Award from the Audio Engineering Society for "Elegant Application of Acoustic Principles in the Development of Large Scale Loudspeakers and Sound Systems." He was a member of honorary scientific fraternities, a fellow of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, the Acoustical Society of America and the Audio Engineering Society.

He is survived by his wife, the former Dorothy J. Johnson, and a sister, Mrs. Ellen V. Donohue of Saratoga, California.

Harry F. Olson
Editor Emeritus

Hugh McDowell, AES member, died recently in California. His professional life was spent working for over 40 years in the motion picture and television field. He was the sound mixer for the television show "The Beverly Hillbillies" and won an academy award for his work on the film "The Jolson Story."