

IN MEMORIAM

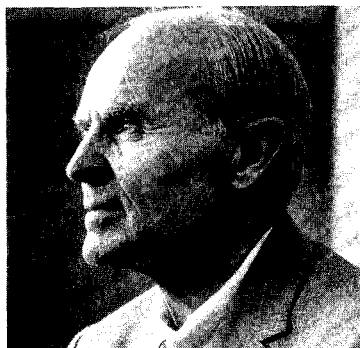
Alexander M. Poniatoff, whose boyhood fascination with a locomotive eventually led to two major technological breakthroughs, died 1980 October 24 at the age of 88. In 1944 he founded Ampex Corporation and served as president until 1955, when he was elected chairman of the board. He resigned as board chairman in 1970 when he was named chairman emeritus.

Although Poniatoff was not active in recent years in the management or administration of Ampex, he maintained an office at corporate headquarters in Redwood City, California, participating in several foundations undertaking research in health and preventive medicine.

Poniatoff secured his place in the history of magnetic recording twice during his long life. The first breakthrough occurred in 1947 when Ampex—down to eight employees in a post-World War II recession—introduced the first practical magnetic audio recorder in the United States. The technical milestone helped launch a multi-billion dollar industry and set Ampex's future course of development. That was followed by introduction of the first practical videotape recorder in 1956, an invention that revolutionized the television broadcast industry and gave Ampex a worldwide reputation for technical innovation.

Ampex has since grown into close to a half-billion dollar corporation with worldwide operations and over 12 000 employees. The company's name comes from Poniatoff's initials, together with EX for excellence.

During his lifetime Poniatoff received many awards for his pioneering



A. M. Poniatoff

work in magnetic recording, including the 1968 "Medal of Achievement" from the American Electronics Association, the National Association of Manufacturer's award citing him as "Modern Pioneer in Creative Industry," and an honorary membership from the Audio Engineering Society.

Poniatoff was born in Kazan, Russia, in 1892. At the age of 84, during an interview, he recalled that he saw his first horseless vehicle, a locomotive, when he was seven. "I decided right then that I would build these locomotives," he said.

He attended the University of Kazan, the Imperial College in Moscow, and the Technical College in Karlsruhe, West Germany, obtaining degrees in mechanical and electrical engineering. He was a pilot in the Imperial Russian Navy during World War I, and then in the White Russian Forces that were defeated during the revolution. He escaped to Shanghai, China, in 1920 and worked as an assistant engineer for the Shanghai Power Company until 1927, when he immigrated to the U.S. He became an American citizen in 1932.

In the U.S. his first job was in the

research and development department of General Electric Company, Schenectady, NY. Until 1944, he held research and development positions with several companies in the San Francisco Bay Area.

He lived in Atherton, California, with his wife Hazel. In addition to his wife, he is survived by a niece, Mrs. Peter (Anna) Kashkadanmoff, of San Francisco.

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John R. Saul, president and founder of MICMIX Audio Products, Inc. passed away 1981 January 2, at the age of 49. He is survived by his wife, Babs, and daughter, Teresa. Mr. Saul, a mechanical engineering graduate of the University of Notre Dame, was a member of the Audio Engineering Society, National Association of Broadcasters, Society of Broadcast Engineers, and the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers.

Mr. Saul worked as a senior project engineer for LTV Corporation and resigned in 1972 after 20 years of service. In 1972, after MICMIX Audio Products was incorporated, he assumed the position of president. He was a pioneer in reverberation technology, having recently applied for several reverberation-related patents. The XL Series of Master-Room reverberation systems is the result of an intense research program led by Mr. Saul. This established MICMIX as a leader in spring reverberation technology.

John Saul was widely known for his outstanding business ethics, warm personality, and inventive mind. He will be deeply missed by the entire audio industry.