Emmanuel (Bert) Berlant died 1985 April 22, at Cedars-Sinai Hospital, Los Angeles, CA, after a long illness.

A fellow of the AES and a member of the Hollywood Sapphire group, Bert enjoyed a long and successful career as an electronic engineer, consultant and manufacturer. He became associated with the New York experimental theater group during the mid 1930s and was involved primarily with set design and lighting. His efforts to improve sound and lighting led to intensive study in electronics and research in the field of optics.

During the early war years (1941–1943) Bert became the director of research for Optical Research, Inc. of Long Island, New York. One notable product developed under his direct supervision was a 70 mm combat camera for Signal Corps battlefield reconnaissance photography.

In 1943 Mr. Berlant went to the U.S. Signal Corps Photo Center in Astoria, New York, where he was retained as an expert consultant to the Signal Corps Pictorial Engineering Research Laboratories. He remained there as supervisor of the laboratories until the end of the war in 1945. During that time he designed and patented the Robotron camera, subsequently designated the approved, general purpose camera of the U.S. Medical Corps. After moving to Los Angeles in 1946 he and several former associates of the Signal Corps Center founded Berlant Associates, Inc., which designed, manufactured, and distributed high-fidelity home music systems.

From 1949–1953 the company introduced several new multitrack stereophonic, magnetic tape recorders. Two different series were presented—the Berlant concertone series for high-fidelity home music systems and the Berlant professional recorders for recording studios and radio stations. Bert won a reputation as a pioneer in the manufacture of stereophonic and high-fidelity music equipment.

During this period the industry was changing from radio vacuum tubes to solid state (transistor) operation. Bert's companies were one of the first manufacturers to convert to total solid state equipment. It was during that time that Bert became a fellow of the Audio Engineering Society for his contribution to the art of magnetic recording. Active in trade associations, Berlant helped found the Institute of High Fidelity Manufacturers and served for four years as the West Coast Electronic Manufacturing Association representative on the board of directors of the National Trade Show.

In 1956 Bert left Berlant Associates and became president of Stephens Trusonic, Inc., a manufacturer of professional microphones and theater loudspeaker systems. He redesigned the entire loudspeaker line and introduced it to the high-fidelity home music market. In 1960 he became an independent engineering and product management consultant for various electronic firms. In 1963 Packard Bell Electronics, Inc. enticed Bert to join them with an unusual working arrangement. During the next few years he served in the following capacities: product manager, senior research scientist, corporate planning, assistant to the president, and as director of operations for Teledyne Commercial Products, Inc.

An ardent student and collector of southwest American Indian art, Bert was president of Amerind Art, Inc., dealers in museum quality American Indian art objects, since 1972. In the last few years he designed a radically new loudspeaker with improved acoustical ambiance. This loudspeaker designed for digital use was appropriately named the "Omni Radial Speaker." He received a patent for its design shortly before his death.

Berlant will always be remembered by his close friends and associates as a dedicated, innovative engineer with an open mind, trying nonconventional approaches to engineering problems.

He is survived by his wife Gertrude and two sons, Tony and Jeffrey.

HARRY L. BRYANT