

In Memoriam

Oliver Summerlin, the inventor of the Pultec Equalizer, died in Flat Rock, North Carolina, on 1988 June 13 at the age of 70.

A graduate of the RCA Institute and the Naval Research Center in Washington, D.C., Oliver served as a lieutenant in the Naval Air Force during World War II. Following the war, he joined Capitol Records as one of its original engineers. Soon after he formed his own company, called Pulse Techniques, and won industry-wide fame for the creation of the Pultec Equalizer. It played a major role in the "new world" of recording in the late '40s, when a fuller, brighter, and often more emphatic sound was sought.

There were equalizers in use before the invention of the Pultec, but that unit offered wide frequency flexibility and easy integration into existing recording systems of the day. Its introduction facilitated the transition from a purist to manipulative recording technique.

Compared to the countless signal processing devices that are now available to recording engineers, the Pultec may seem rather elementary. But today's exciting and sophisticated world of audio technology would not have been possible without the pioneering vision of this extraordinary man. Thank you, Ollie.

DONALD J. PLUNKETT



Michael B. Faulkner, a professional audio sales and marketing executive and AES member, died August 25 at Norwalk Community Hospital in Norwalk, Connecticut. He was 47 years of age.

Faulkner began his career as a salesman and sales manager for Scully Recording Instruments Corp. in Bridgewater, Connecticut, and later worked in sales management positions at Dolby Laboratories, Audiotechniques, Martin Audio, and Sony Professional Products. According to Hamilton Brosious, chairman of Audiotechniques, Faulkner was one of the best-liked people in pro audio and a good friend.