

Corporate policy required John's retirement from LTV in 1968. The Western Division had grown to more than 50 scientists and engineers.

For John, retirement was only a misguided corporate policy. He continued to be involved in all aspects of the Western Division's operations as his activity as a consulting engineer evolved. By 1970, John was well known to architects within the Orange County area; his counsel was sought in the design of public spaces, churches and residential developments.

During a portion of the early 1970s, John directed the operations of the Bio-Medical Engineering Corporation. This group offered hearing conservation services and under John's guidance became a leader as consultants to engineers, architects and public agencies throughout Southern California. John formed his own consulting group, J.K. Hilliard and Associates, in the mid 1970s. As consultants, John's group provided acoustical engineering services on a wide range of projects. Most notable was his influence on multifamily residential construction standards. He encouraged developers, building officials, and a host of public agencies to upgrade the acoustical performance of separation assemblies, plumbing installations, and the insulation from unwanted exterior noise for new condominium and apartment construction. His attention to details and persuasive personality have significantly influenced the requirements for noise control to the benefit of tens of thousands of homeowners.

J.K.Hilliard and Associates was disbanded in 1985. John again retired, this time to his love of music, his garden and a continuing passion for his chosen field—acoustics. At a gathering of his friends and colleagues one week after his death, it was reported that he had collaborated on the design of an audio equipment sales installation, specifying equipment, wall configurations and the other aspects of its acoustical design: this just a few months prior to his sudden death on March 21.

J. J. Van Houten

It is very easy to love someone for whom you have great admiration. So it was that of the hundreds of people who were even slightly a part of **John Hilliard's** life, many loved him deeply. His energy and enthusiasm were infectious; his contribution to any project was complete dedication, whether the original concept was his or yours. Life was for living and doing, not for keeping score. This became abundantly clear to me with the passage of time.

I first met John at an AES reception in the early 70s. Not content with retirement, he had recently opened his own consulting firm. This new venture drew on his long experience in the acoustical and noise fields. As always John was compelled to contribute to these disciplines as he had done for the movie industry. He was an authority involved in the formulation of noise control legislation in California that became a model for the rest of the nation. He conducted seminars for architects and builders to acquaint them with the basic principles of noise control in dwellings and in industry, and he was frequently called upon to solve sound problems for the Department of Defense.

Privileged to work with John during this period until his second retirement in 1985, I benefited from the association in many ways. Since then his close friendship was a comfort and a joy. My heart grieves for his wife, Edna, and we mourn this loss as do all friends and acquaintances.

Cecil R. Cable

Milton T. (Bill) Putnam, founder of Universal Recording in Chicago, United and Western Recording in



Bill Putnam (1920-1989)

Hollywood, Coast Recorders in San Francisco, and United Recording Electronics Industries (UREI) died on April 13 at the age of 69.

Bill was born in Danville, Illinois, in 1920 and later studied at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. He began his career in radio broadcasting at WDAN and later worked as chief engineer of WDWS in Champaign, Illinois.

From 1941, when he published his first article on high fidelity, until a few days before his death, Bill was involved in research projects involving all aspects of electronics, acoustics, and amateur radio. An avid boating enthusiast, he would often use his boating knowledge in other fields, and his electronics techniques to solve nautical problems.

Many of the recording industry's favorite toys are the product of Bill's fertile imagination and hard work. These include the UREI 800 series monitors, the famous 1176 limiter, and the first low-noise tube microphone preamplifier. As a recording engineer he pioneered half-speed record mastering, the "Double Feature" record, and was involved in many of the top ten record releases in the 40s, 50s and 60s. For many years, he was the only engineer that Frank Sinatra would allow in the booth.

From the beginning Bill shared his knowledge with everyone. He wrote numerous articles for trade publication, conducted seminars and classes, and gave advice to anyone who would ask. Bill was an instructor at the BYU Audio Recording Seminars in the 1970s, and received their Harris Fine Arts Award. He was a fellow and honorary member of the Audio Engineering Society, and an officer of the Chicago Acoustical and Audio Group. A member of the Hollywood Sapphire Group, he also had Grammy nominations from NARAS.

Bill Putnam not only taught us how to record, but he taught us how to build studios. He also designed and built the equipment to make them work.

Shelley Herman