

In Memoriam



Robert Rypinski

On March 13, 1992, the audio community lost a true friend with the death of **Robert Rypinski**, after a long illness. Born in 1908, Bob was introduced to radio at an early age by his father, who worked for Westinghouse and was charged with buying and testing all of the competing radio models. When the tests were completed, Bob would be the recipient of all these radio sets.

Bob entered M.I.T. in 1925 to study communications. In 1927 he suspended his education and went to work for The Federal Telegraph Company in Palo Alto, California, whose primary business was manufacturing direction finders and high-powered arcs used in long distance radio communication. His audio-related duties included assisting in the development of an experimental optical sound recording/reproducing system for motion pictures.

When he returned to M.I.T. in 1928, his work experience had changed his professional perspective. Noting that while the laboratory staff often worked late hours, and the office staff always went home at 5 p.m., he

changed his course of study to engineering administration.

Upon graduating from M.I.T. in 1930, Bob went to work for Westinghouse. About a year and a half later he resigned to travel abroad. After several months he returned home to get married. Bob and his wife moved to the Los Angeles area, which remained their home for the rest of his life.

In Los Angeles, Bob's first business was an automobile dealership. He also briefly entertained the idea of buying a radio station. During World War II, as a radar officer in the Navy, Bob attended radar training at Harvard, M.I.T. and California Institute of Technology. After the war, he sold his car business to pursue work more in line with his interests. In 1949 he joined the Jet Propulsion Laboratory as field test coordinator at the White Sands Proving Grounds during development and deployment of the Corporal missile system.

Soon after its formation, Bob joined Ramo Wooldridge Company to establish and manage their office at Cape Canaveral. His work included planning and preparing the Atlantic Missile Range for developmental testing of ICBM's. Later, he worked for the Missile Division of Chrysler as chief engineer of field service and support during the development of the Redstone and Jupiter missile systems. In 1960 Bob rejoined Space Technology Laboratories (now the Space and Electronics division of TRW, Inc.) where he held several management positions until his retirement in 1970.

Bob was a fellow of the British Interplanetary Society and an associate fellow of both the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Royal Aeronautical Society. He received the Board of Governors Award from the AES in 1980. He is survived by his wife, Doreen, and two sons, Donald and Alan.

In the course of "An Afternoon with..." sponsored by the Los Angeles Section, Bob talked about his professional association with audio. He said that he "felt like an imposter," but that he was "quite pleased to be allowed to join the AES and the Hollywood Sapphire Group." Although his professional career only briefly involved audio or radio, his genuine avid interest along with his warmth, humor, and gentleness of spirit always made him welcome company to those of us who were graced by his presence. Bob, you were no imposter.

Harvey Rubens
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Paul Weathers, an audio/electrical engineer and inventor, died on February 23, 1992, in Camden, New Jersey. He was 86 years of age.

Born in Marengo, Indiana, Weathers received his education at Purdue University and Indiana University in the 1920s. He began his career working at RCA Corp. in motion picture sound, sound reinforcement and industrial electronics. In 1950 he founded his own company, Weathers Industries, to market the then state-of-the-art, lightweight phonograph arm. An important contributor to high-fidelity sound, Weathers was responsible for the first FM capacitance integrated phonograph pickup and arm. He received numerous patents for his work. In addition to the phonograph arm, his firm introduced one of the first three-piece loudspeaker systems in the late 1950s. The company eventually merged with Advanced Industries. Weathers also achieved prominence as an inventor of the low-mass turntable.

For his innovative work in sound, Weathers was named to the Hi-Fi Hall of Fame in the mid 70s.