

In Memoriam



Donald Wesley Powers
1912-1993

Donald Wesley Powers was one of the audio communities most active contributors. His recent death should remind us of his many years of selfless service. In his business and professional careers he was very active but always found time to contribute his talents to the Audio Engineering Society.

Don Powers was a New Englander by birth, as anyone could easily tell from his Yankee accent. A 1935 electrical engineering graduate of Northeastern University, he practiced engineering in several companies engaged

in the development and production of sophisticated recording, sound distribution and electromechanical transducer equipment. His combination of engineering talent and leadership and organizational skills led him into the management arena. Until his retirement in 1980, he was chief executive officer of Roanwell Corporation, a subsidiary of High Voltage Engineering Corporation of Burlington, Massachusetts. After his retirement from his active business life, he moved to Florida, where he lived with his wife, Marjorie.

It is important to remember Don for the many contributions he made to the AES. He first became a member in 1960, and while he was a very self effacing person, he was always active within the society. AES secretary from 1975 to 1979, he also served as chairman of the microphone and headphone sessions at the 1964 and 1965 AES conventions. In the spring of 1971 he was presented with a fellowship "in recognition of his contributions to the development, engineering design and production of audio transducers." In the autumn of 1971 he received a citation for establishing and coordinating section activities in

the United States, Canada and Europe, while serving as sections chairman from 1968 to 1970. In 1972 he became vice president of the Eastern Region. He was awarded a Bronze Medal in 1973 in recognition of his part in the organization of the British and Central Europe sections.

Don's busy business schedule never inhibited his willingness and ability to take on many of the society's jobs, each dispatched in a totally businesslike manner. But, if anyone has the impression that his life was only work, it is not correct. There was another side. He was an avid yachtsman and enjoyed hours of cleaning, scraping and tinkering to achieve the final reward of boating on Long Island Sound and its adjacent waters. With his retirement and failing health, he was no longer able to participate in the society's activities, and he was missed by all who had worked with him. Few have made so many far reaching contributions without seeking personal gain. The finality of his passing reminds me of the value that he gave to the community which he served.

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William B. Wadsworth, an AES member and emeritus professor of electrical engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, died on May 16 in Plymouth, New Hampshire. He was 78 years of age. Born in New Castle, New York, Wadsworth attended Indian Mountain School in Lakeville, Connecticut, and Browne and Nichols School in Cambridge. He continued his education at Worcester Polytech-

nic, earning a bachelor's degree in physics and a master's degree in electrical engineering.

Wadsworth, who held numerous patents, was productive in acoustics research. He is credited with inventing the first effective ear muff hearing protector for use in shielding aircraft carrier deck personnel from jet noise. A diligent academician, he also taught at his alma mater from 1941 until his retirement in 1981. Some of the pro-

fessional organizations to which he belonged include the Acoustical Society of America, the American Society of Engineering Education, and the IEEE. He also served on the Committee on Hearing and Bioacoustics of the National Research Council.

In the past year, Mr. Wadsworth donated 1000 acres of property in Groton to be preserved as a wildlife habitat by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.