



*C. J. LeBel*, first president, long-time secretary and prime mover of the Audio Engineering Society for nearly two decades, died in New York of a heart attack on April 14. He was 59. During this time, and throughout his conspicuously distinguished career as an audio engineer, C.J. (Clarence Joseph to family only) won many honors. He was an Honorary Member and Fellow of AES, a Fellow of the Radio Club of America, and held 10 patents, among them the much-litigated LeBel fundamental patent on the fluorescent lamp.

If he had been asked, C.J. probably would have singled out the AES Harpoon Award—a unique plaque inspired by members who had felt the sting of his promptings, and designed and executed by Victor Pomper of H. H. Scott—as the honor closest to his heart. The Harpoon Award hangs, as it has since its presentation in 1961, on the wall of C.J.'s office at the Audio Instrument Company in New York.

Audio Instrument, LeBel's own business specializing in audio measuring equipment and instruments, was the place where the articulate New York-born engineer could be found most frequently wearing his three hats: one for the company; one for the Society; and one for Audio Devices, Inc., makers of magnetic tapes, of which he was a founder and where he continued as vice president until his death.

In an eloquent tribute to C. J. LeBel, the *New York Herald Tribune* called him a "Man for the Century," a strong statement supported by his many accomplishments in the audio and instrument fields since he graduated from M.I.T. in 1926, and earned his M.S. in elec-

trical engineering there the following year. "A college education is fine," he was fond of saying, "as long as you are willing to learn something afterwards."

What C.J. learned led him from his first job as research physicist with Raytheon, Inc., where he worked on lamps and rectifiers from 1927 to 1929, to research engineer with Sylvania Electric Products from 1929 to 1932, where he continued on lamps and worked on ozone tubes. Then followed five years of consulting on sound recording problems before he became one of the founders, and chief engineer, of Audio Devices in 1937. At Audio, he was active in the development of lacquers for, and machine production of recording discs, as well as magnetic formulas for sound tapes. In 1940, he was made vice president of the company, a responsibility he kept until his death.

During a five-year sabbatical from Audio Devices, LeBel was chief engineer of the Maico Company where he worked on hearing aids—applying psychoacoustics to hearing aid design—on hearing test equipment and a surgeon's metal locator, called a Stethetron, the first successful electronic stethoscope. He continued his work as project engineer at Cambridge Instrument Company in 1945-46, finally founding his own firm, Audio Instrument, in 1947.

C. J. LeBel was a member of the Acoustical Society of America and an active member of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers. A bachelor, he leaves a brother Everett, who lives with his family in Connecticut.

Victor Pomper, left, presents one-and-only Harpoon Award to C. J. LeBel at 1961 Fall Convention. Center, C.J. discusses new Audio Instrument product with Walter Selsted at AES Exhibit. Right, LeBel

is Society spokesman on variety of audio topics in transatlantic radio discussion with British Association of Public Address Engineers. With him are A. W. Schneider, Col. R. H. Ranger, and Arthur W. Fury.

