



RENE SNEPVANGERS

**R**ENE SNEPVANGERS died this June in New York City at the age of 67. Rene was a shy and friendly person whose work in the audio field has resulted in what music lovers now take for granted—fine-groove records (33½ LP) and light-weight pickups.

Born in 1900 in Antwerp, Belgium, Rene received his degree in electrical engineering from the University of Ghent in 1922, then did work in physics at the University of Liege in Brussels. Before coming to the United States and RCA in 1939, he was at the Brussels plant of Tungsum Electrical Works. At RCA, where Rene worked until 1944, he was involved in the development of their 45 rpm record. Fifteen patents were filed during this period. In 1944, he moved to CBS Laboratories where, as project leader, he worked on the development of the 33½ or LP record, the "360" phonograph and the Chrysler highroad record (16½ rpm). Late in 1958, he joined the staff of Fairchild Recording Equipment Corporation. When he died, Rene was consultant to Dejur on advanced audio-visual techniques, and particularly "in recognition of his contributions to fine-groove recording". Rene Snepvangers will long be remembered for his pioneering work in audio.

At the Society's Fall Convention in 1960, he was presented The Emile Berliner Award for "outstanding development in the field of audio engineering".

**G**ORDON E. PETERSON, founder and Director of the Speech Communications Laboratory in Santa Barbara, California, died of leukemia on July 29, 1967. Born in Danville, Illinois, on October 14, 1913, Dr. Peterson was a Rector Scholar at DePauw University, receiving his Bachelor's degree in Mathematics in 1935. Going on to Louisiana State University, he received his Master's degree in 1937 and his Ph.D. in Speech and Electrical Engineering in 1939.

Dr. Peterson was concerned with the problems of speech from the outset of his career. From 1939 to 1949, he was Director of the Speech and Hearing Clinic at Ball State Teachers College. For the next two years, he was a Research Fellow in the Psycho-acoustic Laboratory at Harvard University and in 1946 became a member of the Technical Staff of the Bell Telephone Laboratories.

Joining the faculty of the University of Michigan in 1953, Dr. Peterson became Professor of Speech, Communication Sciences, and Electrical Engineering, Director of the Communication Sciences Laboratory and Chairman of the Graduate Program in Communication Sciences. He remained at Michigan until 1966 when he established the Speech Communications Research Laboratory in Santa Barbara, a non-profit corporation devoted to basic scientific research on human communication processes.

Dr. Peterson's life work is reflected in more than seventy-five scientific articles, mostly concerned with the technical problems of speech. A member of the Permanent Council for the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, he was editor of the *Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders* from 1955 to 1957 and associate editor of *Phonetica* since 1959.

Dr. Peterson was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Association for Computing Machinery, the Audio Engineering Society, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Linguistic Society of America. A Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America, he served as Vice-President during the past year. He was a fellow and past Vice-President of the American Speech and Hearing Association

which awarded him the Honors of the Association in 1961. Dr. Peterson was also a member of Eta Kappa Nu, Phi Kappa Phi, and Sigma Xi.

The laboratory which Dr. Peterson organized and directed at the University of Michigan was one of the world's foremost in the field of speech communication. He had even greater plans for the Speech Communications Laboratory in Santa Barbara. The passing of this outstanding and dedicated scientist leaves a void that cannot be filled. The scientific community has suffered a great loss.



GORDON E. PETERSON

**F**LANGFORD-SMITH died last December in Australia. Mr. Langford-Smith was made an Honorary Member of the Society in 1959 for his *Radiotron Designers Handbook*, "its importance in the education of a generation of audio engineers."

**J**OSEPH B. CRAIG died this summer in Hollywood, California. Mr. Craig, a longtime member, worked for James B. Lansing.

**A**LFRED M. ZEMLO, Chicago, Illinois died in August. Mr. Zemlo was a recording engineer.

**A**LFRED S. NORBURY, Kansas City, Missouri died late this summer. Mr. Norbury's work concerned the recording end of motion pictures.