IN MEMORIAM

LINCOLN WALSH, a pioneer in high quality sound reproduction, died November 17 at the age of 68. The many friends he made during his years in audio engineering will remember him for a famed amplifier of many years ago: Mr. Walsh founded the Brook Amplifier Company before World War II. During the war period he worked with R. T. Bozak at the Dinion Coil Company in Caledonia, N.Y., developing very high voltage power supplies for radar use (he ended up redesigning the “Mark II” power supply to prolong the unit’s life, postponing breakdown). In recent years he had been a consultant on transformer design. Others who knew Mr. Walsh might connect his name with a high-quality AM receiver in pre-FM days. His interests also extended to loudspeaker design; years ago he was involved with the development of the kettledrum baffle one associates with some of the first Bozak speaker systems. Working on his own, he came up later with a direct-radiator design using a single speaker with an aluminum foil cone, operating out of a vertical column, and offering a wide frequency response. Bozak helped with magnet structures for this unit. With all his interest in speaker design, few of his monographs on the subject have ever been published. One, “A Simple Quality Rating System for Loudspeakers and Audio Systems,” appeared in the Journal of the Audio Engineering Society for July, 1963. An editor’s note remarked that, with subject matter regarded as controversial, the article was being published “to stimulate further discussion.”

Lincoln Walsh was a Charter Fellow of the Audio Engineering Society, and an early member of the IRE and AIEE, now both part of the IEEE. Educated at Stevens Institute of Technology (M.E. 1926), he also studied at Columbia University and at Brooklyn College.

George J. Saliba, co-founder and former president of Presto Recording Corporation, died July 5 of complications following major surgery. He was 66. A 1927 graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mr. Saliba was the author of the book, “Home Recording,” and of many papers and articles.

He was a charter member of AES, and a senior member of IEEE, formerly IRE. With Morris M. Gruber, he founded the Presto Recording Company in 1936, and was its president and untitled chief electrical engineer. The company, manufacturer of “instantaneous sound recording equipment and discs for both professional and home use,” was sold in 1956. During the Second World War, Mr. Saliba, with Mr. Gruber, directed the engineering effort on LORAN trainers, and on the Vicalloy tape recorder (an early type of recorder using a metal alloy tape mounted on drums) for the armed services. He was deeply involved in the development of the early lacquer-coated master recording disc. A longtime resident of Englewood, New Jersey, Mr. Saliba became even more active in his community’s affairs after his retirement eleven years ago.

George J. Saliba