DONALD BALLARD, owner of the firm of Custom Designs and a sound engineer for more than 30 years, died September 5, 1973 at age 55. His business, conducted in Van Nuys, California, embraced the design and manufacture of audio consoles, recording equipment and, in recent years, certain cords commercially. Mr. Ballard served in the Army during World II and his company, formed soon thereafter, is reported to have been the first manufacturer to use 16 2/3 RPM records commercially. He was a member also of the SMPTE and of the Hollywood Sapphire Club.

ALLEN B. CLAPPER, president of Universal Recording Corporation of Chicago, died at age 55 in November 1973. He had previously been vice president of Universal and had served the company in that capacity, and later as president, since 1947. A native of Martinsburg, Pennsylvania, Mr. Clapper studied electronics at Valparaiso Tech. He was a member of the Chicago Acoustical Group.

GORDON F. COLE, of Magnecord International Pty. Ltd., Sydney, Australia, died some months ago. He was 53. A radio engineer, Cole had worked for some years with Radio 2UE in Sydney. His education was at Hurstville Technical School, New South Wales. He was also a member of the Institution of Radio Engineers in Australia.

ARTHUR E. CHASE died last December at the age of 66. His career included positions with RCA Commercial Sound in Connecticut, and more recently with Moses Radio Electronics Co. in Hartford, as an audio sales engineer in each case. He was also engineer for the Maxim Silencer Co. as acoustical engineer in the design of silencers for guns, engines, and waste heat boilers.

ERNST A. GUILLEMIN, an honorary member of the Audio Engineering Society, died earlier this year. Dr. Guillemin received an honorary membership in the AES in 1964 in recognition of his contributions to the field of audio engineering through his advanced mathematical analyses in the field of circuit theory.

SUMNER HALL, charter member and president of the AES in 1953, died at his home in Gilsum, N. H. on September 25, 1973. He was 66.

Mr. Hall was the owner of Audio Accessories, Inc., maker of jacks, jack panels and patchcords for the audio industry. Most recently his business has been located in Keene, N. H. The firm's catalogue lists more than a thousand different jack panels, all machined from laminated Bakelite.

Mr. Hall's son David is continuing the business.

Mr. Hall was a member of the Keene Rotary Club, a director of the Cheshire Hospital, and a trustee of the Gilsum Public Library, to which he had recently donated land for a new building soon to be dedicated.

MURRAY NEWTON of New York City died earlier this year. He was 43 years of age and had been a member of the AES since 1964. Mr. Newton entered the audio field in 1950 and became a consultant to numerous firms in the design, construction and installation of audio systems.

FRANK WILKERSOHN of Louisville, Kentucky, a student at Rose Hulan Institute of Technology, was killed in an accident in July 1973. He had been a student member of the AES since late in 1970. While still in high school he had been active in performing, recording and broadcasting music and had been in the top of his school class while studying music, mathematics and the sciences.