

IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD J. PIETSCHMANN, known as one of the film and television industry's pioneer sound technicians, died in March at the age of 62. Mr. Pietschmann helped to develop multi-channel stereo sound for motion pictures, beginning in 1952 with "This is Cinerama," for which he received an Academy Award nomination. His music recording career included sessions with Pablo Casals, Duke Ellington, and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. In recent years he had concentrated on recording specials and documentaries for CBS television; his last special being the recent interview with Lyndon Johnson. A member of the Audio Engineering Society since 1949, he also had memberships in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and the SMPTE.

JOHAN NASH WOLKING, president and chief engineer of General Sound Recording Studios, Covington, Ky., died on October 28th at the age of 60. After attending the University of Cincinnati, Mr. Wolking handled transmitter and remote broadcast pickups for WCPO, and later worked as broadcast engineer for WSAI in Cincinnati.

HENRY J. GEIST, president of Electronic Media, San Rafael, California, died at age 59 on July 14. A long career as development and broadcast engineer found Geist working with Bell Telephone Laboratories in 1934, developing the original binaural (stereo) system. Geist was also engineer for Leopold Stokowski, producing the "Philadelphia Orchestra Programs." There were years during World War Two as technical director of surface search radar for the United States Navy. Later Geist was associated with the ground communication system for the Project Mercury space program and for the U-2 project. He also owned and operated his own sales representative organization, Geist Associates (1950-66). He had become an AES member only last May; "I'm sorry he didn't have more time to appreciate it," his wife wrote of his membership when informing the Society of his passing.

ALBERT W. FRIEND, president of Acoustex, Inc., Philadelphia, Pa., died late last year. He was 63. Holder of two degrees from West Virginia University and a doctorate in communications engineering from Harvard, Dr. Friend held various positions before becoming owner in 1953 of the firm of consulting engineers bearing his name. He had been president of Acoustex since 1961. In addition to his Audio Engineering Society membership, he was a fellow of the IEEE, ASA, AAAS, and other groups.

RALPH H. ROSS, long associated with American Telephone and Telegraph Co. as a plant operating engineer, died February 27th. He was 77. Holder of a bachelor of science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1917), Mr. Ross at AT&T was in charge of a staff group responsible for plant maintenance and construction methods and with long distance telegraph and telephone services. A member since 1954 of the AES, he was also a fellow of AIEE.

WILLIAM R. NEILSON lost his life in a car accident in October. He was 30 years old, and lived in Sainte Anne, Manitoba, Canada. He had been service manager with Superscope-Chicago, Inc., Elmhurst, Ill., and before that was associated with Sherwood Electronics Labs., Chicago, in an engineering capacity. Mr. Neilson had also been with Ampex Corporation and with Mattes Electronics. He attended Shimer College in Illinois.

LEONARD HUGH JONES, president and engineering supervisor of Technical Services Corp., Louisville, Ky., died in March, 1972, at the age of 63. His firm is the Louisville distributor for Atlas Sound, Altec, University Sound and other manufacturers of audio and electronic products. Long in this distribution business, Mr. Jones in 1966 was presented with a membership in the AES as a surprise gift by member Robert Trabue Davis, a friend.