



P. Wilson

**P**ercy Wilson, honorary member of the AES died after a coronary in May. He was 84 years of age. Despite failing health over the last few years, he kept up his lively interest in audio. Nowhere was this more evident than in his work for the Society. He was a protagonist of the British Section, and acted as Chairman in its formative years. He also served on the Awards Committee for the Society for several years.

Mr. Wilson was the doyen of all audio journalists. From 1924 to 1938 he was technical advisor to *The Gramophone*, and later became its technical editor. His contribution was both significant and stimulating. A technical advisor to the British Council for Industrial Design, he was an inveterate experimenter and part-time inventor.

He was born in Halifax and obtained scholarships at Heath Grammar School, Halifax and at the Queen's College, Oxford. After serving as a naval instructor in HMS Dreadnought and at the Royal Naval College, Keyham, he entered the Board of Education in 1919 and moved to the Ministry of Transport in 1938 to take charge of the Trunk Roads Division.

In addition to his work in audio, Percy Wilson maintained a lifelong interest in spiritualism. He was President of the Spiritualist National Union

from 1950 to 1953 and was a founding member of the Spiritualist Church in Oxford where he moved after his retirement from the British Civil Service. He was also Chairman of the Board of *Psychic News* until the time of his death.

In 1966 he was the recipient of the Society's Citation of the Year "in recognition of his quest for perfection in sound reproduction during four decades." During his long and productive career, Mr. Wilson helped to establish the feasibility of disc records with a constant linear speed and the first long-playing disc record (at 24 rpm with up to 250 grooves per inch) despite the expressed views of the record companies that it could not be done.

Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Wilson was a lecturer and author of numerous technical articles. He also wrote *The Gramophone Handbook* and was a coauthor of *Modern Gramophones and Electrical Reproducers*.

In the course of his distinguished professional life, Mr. Wilson left an impressive legacy in his work in audio. He will be remembered for his keen sense of analysis, his ready wit, creative imagination and dedication.

He is survived by his widow, Winifred, and three sons, one of whom is Geoffrey Wilson, an active member of the Society.

RAYMOND E. COOKE

**O**le Barrit of Denmark died at the age of 56. He was a member of the Society for several years, and worked as a systems engineer for more than 15 years.

**H**ubert Lamontagne, AES member, died suddenly at the age of 54. The owner of Lamontagne Electronique, he was director, coordinator and chief designer of electronic equipment, particularly, audio equipment for sound systems.

**A**rch T. Rye, Associate Member, died at the age of 56 in Rio Linda, California. He worked in the area of installation and design of sound equipment for more than 25 years. At Western Electronic Distributors, Inc., in Sacramento, he held the position of vice president.

**L**eonard Verrilli, Associate Member of the AES died in Bradenton, Florida at the age of 71. Active in sales engineering representation in the New York area for over 25 years, Mr. Verrilli was a familiar face with broadcasters and distributors specializing in sales to the professional market. He worked for some twenty-five years as a sales representative for Shure Brothers, via the F. E. Schmitt Company, and then was associated with the Electro-Voice Company and their New York distributorship. His detailed knowledge of microphone usage, specifications, and basic design was helpful to all those who had any technical association with him. In addition to his abilities in these areas, his concern for the people he worked with over the years made him a welcome visitor at studios throughout his area.

A native of New York, Mr. Verrilli moved to Florida about two years ago.