In Memoriam

I am profoundly saddened to report that Norman H. Crowhurst died on March 7, 1991 after a brief illness. He was 77 years of age. Born November 3, 1913 in Southend-on-Sea, U.K., Crowhurst earned degrees at Streatham Hill College and at Goldsmith’s College, S.E. London Technical College, where he was later a senior lecturer.

His career began at Johnson & Phillips Ltd. In 1935 he became chief engineer at Tannoy, Ltd. where he remained for 10 years.

He and his wife emigrated to the United States in 1953. They became naturalized citizens in 1960.

A prolific author, Crowhurst wrote in the audio field for some 32 commercial publications and many professional journals. He once claimed to have written over 2000 articles and papers in addition to some 50 books. He held a number of patents.

An associate member of the British IEE, he was a senior member of the British Sound Recording Association, an AES fellow (1959), a member of the SMPTE, IEEE, ASE, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and Professional Engineers of Oregon.

He worked as an editor at several British and U.S. publishing houses both on staff and as a consultant, and for two years at Fairchild Recording Equipment Company. He was best known to electronics buffs, especially audiophiles during the 50s and 60s as the most prolific of authors on audio theory and construction. He developed many unique answers to problems, such as a stereo power amplifier which supported only one pair of output tubes but two transformers. He had an unusually clear writing style and an exceptional ability to explain difficult theoretical concepts in terms beginners could understand. A remarkable number of admirers among his readers credited him with being the first author to stimulate their appreciation for audio and electronics.

In mid-October of 1990 the bicycle he was riding was struck by a passing car in his adopted home of Dallas, Oregon. Medical examination revealed little or no obvious damage, but he failed to recover completely. He became ill in late February and was bedridden for much of each day. His death came suddenly from heart failure.

Edward T. Dell, Jr.
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