In Memoriam

Editor's Note: *When the sad news of Bart Locanthi's death reached AES members, many of his longtime friends and colleagues called headquarters. Their voices were filled with sorrow as they recalled the manner of the man and moments they had spent together. They spoke not only of his brilliance, of his being ahead of his time, but of his ability to solve problems, to be a good listener, and to be helpful. "He knew so much that you could bet your seat in heaven what he said was correct," reminisced one of his close friends. The AES grieves the loss of this intellectual, unassuming, and very gentle man.*

Bart Locanthi
1919-1994

Bart Locanthi, AES fellow, Silver Medal award winner, and former president of the society, died 1994 January 9 in Glendale, California, after a long bout with cancer. Bartholomew Nicholas Locanthi II was born in White Plains, New York, in 1919. Although his studies at California Insitute of Technology were interrupted by the war, he returned there to graduate with a B.S. degree in physics in 1947. Bart was certainly one of the most versatile audio engineers of his day. His distinguished career spanned the development of analog computers, acoustical transducers, audiophile amplifier design, and digital techniques.

From 1947 to 1953 Bart was associated with an analog computer development group at Cal Tech. It was during this time that he published a seminal paper on modeling loudspeaker performance via electrical equivalent circuits. This paper (later reprinted in the *Journal* in 1971) has become the foundation of most of the loudspeaker driver/enclosure programs available today.

From 1953 to 1960 he was a partner in Computer Engineering Associates, a company specializing in large scale analog computers and engineering services. In 1949 Bart had begun a long consulting association with William Thomas and James B. Lansing Sound Incorporated, and was later vice president of engineering at JBL from 1960 to 1970. Those of us at JBL are reminded every day of Bart's contribution to the art; such cone transducers as the LE-10, LE-14, and a host of large format compression drivers were all Bart's handiwork, and their progeny are mainstays in the present JBL catalog. He also developed the acoustical lens products, long a hallmark of the company.

It was during the late sixties that Bart developed the "T-Circuit," an output configuration for solid state power amplifiers that has become a standard in the industry. Some of the original 20-year-old JBL consumer amplifier models embodying his circuitry now command collector's prices, especially in Japan.

I had first met Bart in New York during the late 60s. It was my pleasure to be a colleague of his at Altec Corporation when I moved to California in 1971. Bart later was associated with Cetec Gauss, a company that manufactured high-quality tape duplicating products and professional sound components.

In 1975 at the invitation of Takeo Yamamoto, Bart joined Pioneer North America as vice president of development. Out of this association grew the notable HPM series of consumer loudspeakers and TAD series of professional transducers. Bart was also deeply involved in digital development at Pioneer during the early years of the Compact Disc. Bart officially retired from Pioneer in 1986 and formed his own consulting company, BNL Research Associates. Pioneer remained his principal client.

Active in AES affairs, Bart served as papers chairman for conventions, member of the Board of Governors, and as president (1986-87). His major AES activity in recent years was chairmanship of the technical committee on digital audio. The significant role AES plays today in standards in this vital area is a direct result of Bart's determination and enthusiasm.

His other technical affiliations included membership in the Acoustical Society of America, of which he was a fellow, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers. He was also a member of the Hollywood Sapphire Group, an association of audio and recording engineers.

Bart is survived by his widow Dorothy, daughters Carol Wainwright and Jeanne McLaughlin, son Bart III, sister Rose and seven grandchildren.

Among Bart's passions were au- ➥

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tomobiles and airplanes. He was also a superb teacher. He knew his technology cold and when you approached him with a question, he would not simply give an answer; instead, he would lead you, by example and analogy, to your own answer. This we shall miss most of all.

John Eargle
JME Consulting Corp.

It is with deep regret that we advise our members that our colleague and friend **Chris van de Lest** died on the 19th of November 1993, at the age of 56. His untimely death has deprived all his audio colleagues of a devoted and giving friend.

Van de Lest started his career in the professional Audio Recording Group at Philips, Eindhoven, the Netherlands. In January 1970, he joined the Heynen Audio Department in Gennep, Netherlands, where he represented well known audio companies such as Studer, EMT, and others. He was active in commercial applications of audio. In the nearly 25 years of serving his audio world, he was involved in many areas including analog multitrack recording, digital audio, and the most recent use of the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN).

A charter member of the first Board of the Netherlands Section in 1973, van de Lest continued as a lively and active treasurer/secretary of the rapidly growing section for the next ten years. Because he was endowed with great energy and spirit, he was also able to be a devoted husband and father, enjoying an excellent family life with a dedicated wife and two charming children. His only regret was that there were only 24 hours in a day.

We will always remember his voice when he welcomed us to chat. Surely, we will all miss him.

Cor L. Doesburg
Netherlands Section