

In Memoriam

Brian Gary Wachner, AES member, founder and president of BGW Systems, Inc., passed away on October 22, 1997, a victim of an aggressive cancer.

Born in 1945, Wachner had a passion for audio engineering, which first became evident during his high school years when he designed and built a vacuum tube power amplifier that won top prize at a California State Science Fair.

He received a B.S. degree in electrical engineering with a computer science specialization from the University of California (Berkeley) in 1967. He held computer design positions at Xerox Data Systems and Litton Data Systems. In 1971, he started BGW Systems, building professional power amplifiers in his garage while working as a field sales representative for National Semiconductor. In 1973, BGW's business grew enough for him to devote full time to it.

BGW's first major contract was the supply of power amplifiers for Universal Pictures' Sensurround add-in sound package, which accompanied the film "Earthquake" in 1974. With the increase in discotheques in the late 70s, the company continued to grow.

In 1992, capitalizing on his computer experience, Wachner expanded into manufacturing rack-mounted computers for industrial applications, a business that continues today in parallel with BGW's audio product line.

BGW products were first exhibited at the Audio Engineering Society's Los Angeles Convention in 1971. Wachner remained committed to AES activities, chairing the Los Angeles AES Section for two years.

Brian's wife, Barbara, was deeply involved in BGW's operations from its outset. After his death she assumed the presidency and is continuing the company's operations.

Brian was one of a now-vanishing breed of entrepreneurs who express their love of music and their technological skill in the creation and marketing of high quality audio products bearing their personal stamps. He will be missed.

Garry Margolis
Los Angeles, California