In Memoriam

James Kogen
1927–2004

James Kogen, a life fellow of the AES, who rose from chief engineer of Shure in 1962 to become president of the microphone and audio electronics manufacturer, died on December 2 at his home in Evanston, Illinois. He was 77 years old.

A native of Chicago, Kogen grew up in East Rogers Park. His parents were musicians. Kogen was valedictorian of his high school class. After graduating from Sullivan High School, he joined the Navy and served in World War II. He earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering in 1949 from the Illinois Institute of Technology. In 1956 he received a master’s degree in electrical engineering from Northwestern University. He worked as an engineer for three other firms before joining Shure in 1962.

“As the second president of Shure, Jim will be remembered and appreciated by all those who worked with him for his integrity, compassion, and important contributions to the growth and success of our company,” Rose L. Shure, chair, stated.

Kogen retired from Shure in 1996 after 34 years with the company, headquartered in Niles. After retiring from Shure, Kogen became involved with the Evanston Community Foundation. He chaired the philanthropic group’s strategic planning committee and was later appointed to the foundation’s board. A fellow committee member commented on how humble and genuine Kogen was. “He used to say ‘Oh, I’m just an engineer.’ But, of course, he was much more than an engineer.”

About two years ago Kogen was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.

Kogen possessed an analytical mind and meticulous nature. He had an intellectual curiosity that fueled interests in astronomy as well as Japanese culture. According to a daughter, he had a soft spoken charm and sense of humor. She recalled laughter and fun growing up and pointed out that her father retained his humor and spirit despite his illness.

A Memorial Service was held on December 17, at the Piser Funeral Home, 9200 North Skokie Blvd., Skokie, IL, 60077. Kogen is survived by two daughters, Ann and Jennifer, a son, Peter, and two grandchildren.

Bruce Patrick Martin
1944–2004

With the death of Bruce Patrick Martin, AES member, on September 23, 2004, the world of Pro Audio lost one of its pioneers. Martin was 60 years old. His accidental death occurred while he was performing his duties with the Ocean Bay Park Water Company.

Martin was the founder of Martin Audio, one of the first and largest pro audio dealerships in the 70s and 80s, but his career began in the 60s as a student at Columbia University where he helped to rebuild the school radio station, WKCR-FM.

Martin’s company began with his invention of the Martin Vari-Speed. This device allowed recording engineers to alter the speed of the tape recorders used at that time. He also designed and built recording consoles for a number of very prestigious recording studios in the U.S. and in the Caribbean. “The first new recording board I ever used was built by Bruce Martin for a studio in NY.” said Mike Bogen, the former vice-president and general manager of Martin Audio. With his partner, Norman Kassel, Bruce expanded Martin Audio to the point where it handled products from over 300 manufacturers, and employed over 60 people. In the days before computers were commonplace, Bruce created a company-wide network and wrote a suite of programs to handle the company’s needs. Bruce and Norman had the ability to combine commerce and compassion in a unique fashion. The business was sold to Video Services Corp. in 1989.

In recent years, Martin was a commissioner in the Ocean Bay Park Fire Department on New York’s Fire Island where he lived. He was also the president of the Ocean Bay Park Water Company. He applied his creative and technical skills to designing and installing a very sophisticated remote computerized water testing and measuring system to control leakage and billing. His innovations have been emulated in countries around the world. Martin’s intellectual skills were balanced with a sense of honesty, decency, and kindness. He leaves a legacy of leadership and dedication to the people he served.

Dick Maitland and Mike Bogen