In Memoriam

Jones, Libby Mastoloni, and Emily Fleischer, and four grandchildren.

Irv Joel

We were shocked to hear the sad news that our good friend Donald J. Plunkett passed away. Don was the driving force in the beginning of AES conventions in Europe: Cologne, Munich and Rotterdam (1971 to 1973). In 1974 we had the 47th Convention in Copenhagen, at which Don was present for the first time as AES secretary. At the end of 1974 he returned to Europe, where he fine tuned the collaboration between the UK Committee members and the continental functions for the 1975 London convention.

From then on the importance and size of the European conventions increased, expanding to Zurich, Paris, Hamburg, Brussels, Eindhoven, Montreux, Vienna, Berlin and Amsterdam up to 1994.
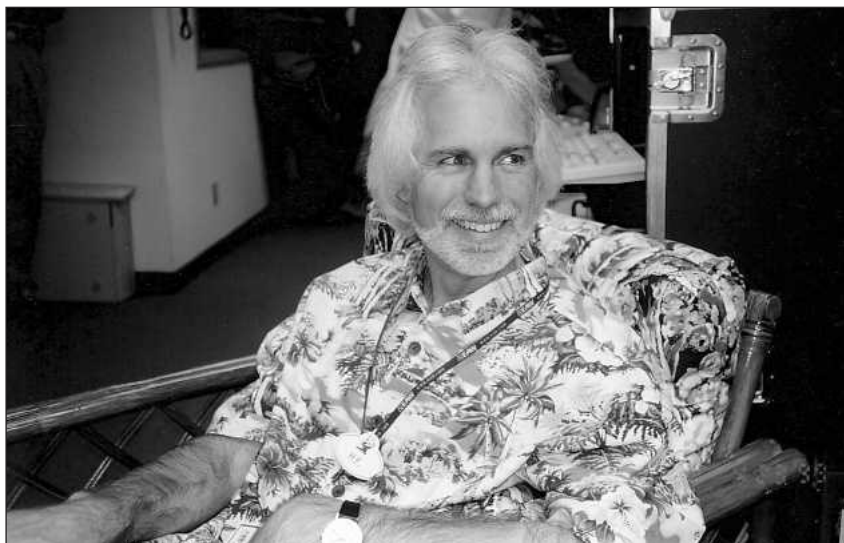
We will never forget Don's worldly wisdom, his quick perception, and his diplomatic skill, which helped organize and overcome many problems. We appreciated the excellent collaboration with Don as executive director over the 20 years from 1975 to 1994. His substantial contribution to the development of the AES in Europe.

We wish to express our gratitude and our heartfelt sympanthy to his wife Liz, his son Chris, and three daughters, Hilary, Elizabeth, and Emily.

Titia K.S. Bakker, Benjamin Bernfeld, Reinhard O. Sahr and Herman A.O. Wilms.

Don really was the AES to many people. From its inception to its fiftieth birthday and beyond, he was there. He had an incredible memory for names and faces and could usually remember where he had met someone and what they had talked about. He was a quiet guiding hand and mentor to many, including myself, and will be sorely missed by his many friends and colleagues in the AES and in the audio industry.

Roger Furness

HF Crane
1955 – 2005

HF Crane, AES member, died on April 26, at his home after a long battle with cancer. Crane worked for Walt Disney Imagineering in Glendale, CA.

Born in Montclair, CA, in l955, Crane was educated in California where he studied theater and recording engineering.

Crane worked in Theme Park entertainment for most of his career. Starting in 1977 at Knott's Berry Farm, he was the manager of the sound department and was in charge of all sound systems in the live performance stages in the park, as well as running the recording studio. He joined W.E.D. in 1981 and designed the audio video system for WDW's Living Seas Pavilion.

In 1985, he was a partner at R. A. Gray, working on many projects around the country, such as the Gene Autry Museum in conjunction with Walt Disney Imagineering, Sea World in San Diego, and the Hershey Theme Park in Pennsylvania. In 1999, he returned to Walt Disney Imagineering, where he served in various leadership roles in the Audio Video Engineering Department including a short stint as chief engineer of the Sound Department. In 2003, he was promoted to technical video director, A/V Engineering, where he was responsible for the development of the video server, which is used in the Disney Parks today.

Crane's skills were called upon in all of the Disney Parks, both domestic and international. Most recently, he provided A/V engineering efforts for WDW Soarin' over California, WDW Mickey's PhilharMagic, and for WDW Mission: Space. However, Crane was most proud to be the recording engineer in the Oval Office for the Hall of Presidents speeches for both President Bill Clinton and President George Bush. His great sense of humor under the pressure of tough project installations never failed to keep things in perspective.

Crane served on the executive committee of the Los Angeles Section. He is survived by his 14-year-old daughter Amanda, wife Marybeth, father W.J., sister Lez, and his first wife, Betsy Arns. The family requests that donations be sent to one of the charities listed below. (Please write "in memory of HF Crane" on the check.)

Restoration of the Fox Fullerton Theater, P. O. Box 6753, Fullerton, CA 92834.

Or his daughter's high school:

Santa Susana High School Performing Arts Center Team (PACT), 3570 Cochran Street, Simi Valley, CA 93063.