



William B. Snow, pioneer in acoustics.

**W**ILLIAM B. SNOW, pioneer in acoustics and audio, Fellow of the Acoustical Society, Audio Engineering Society and IEEE, died suddenly on October 5 at the age of 65.

Bill, who was born in San Francisco on May 16, 1903, received a B.S. degree in 1923 and an EE in 1925 from Stanford University. At the Bell Telephone Laboratories, he played a major role in acoustics during the golden years of sound—1923-1941. From 1941-1945, he was assistant director of the Navy's Underwater Sound Laboratory at New London, Connecticut, then returned to BTL for a year before joining Vitro Corporation of America, where he became director of physical research and development in 1950. From 1952 to 1960, he ran a consulting practice in Santa Monica, and after a short period at the Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation went to Bissett-Berman Cor-

poration in 1961 as head of electro-acoustics. Just a few months ago, he retired and went back to consulting, this time for LTV Research Center.

It is hard to describe Bill without seeming to exaggerate. He was a true gentleman, conservative but of open mind. He was simple, modest and strictly honest. He could laugh at a joke on himself. But on matters of principle you could not move him. His writing, like himself, was clear and to the point. All whose lives he touched were somehow better for it.

**C**LAUDE L. RIE, president of his own firm, International Recording Company, Bronxville, New York, died on November 16 at the age of 40 after a long illness. Born in Paris in 1928, Claude, a veteran of World War II, studied at New York University's College of Engineering before becoming a specialist in disc-cutting

problems, "setting new and higher standards in recorded music." He was able to "accomplish the impossible" when other engineers had given up. It was these challenges which kept him in his laboratory almost to the end when he moved the lab to his house and kept on working, with the help of his wife Claire, despite his declining health. Mr. Rie leaves his wife, two daughters, Mary Lynn and Theresa Jean, and a son, Claude.

**T**HE SOCIETY also deeply regrets the loss of two other members: Gus S. Caltabiano of Bedford Heights, Ohio, who worked for the W. M. Jamison Supply Company (electronics) in Cleveland at the time of his death; and John H. Riggs, Kenmore, New York who from 1935 until his death, was with The Wurlitzer Company, most recently as chief electronics engineer, phonographs.



Claude L. Rie, disc-cutting specialist.