



Sherman M. Fairchild at Fairchild Camera & Instrument

As befits a man who was a legend in his lifetime, the daily and trade press gave us detailed accounts of the many-faceted career of Sherman M. Fairchild after his death on March 28 at the age of 74. It was melancholy reading, reminding us of the loss of this man's rare combination of great technical creativeness with the financial resources, the organizing ability and the personal drive to make that creativeness count on a really large scale. He made basic advances in aviation and photography. He enriched sound recording, broadcast instrumentation, photoengraving. He became one of the giants of American industry, multiplying many times over the fortune he inherited from his father George Fairchild, a founder of IBM.

Fairchild's genuine excitement about new technical ideas and his basic habit of personal communication, uncluttered by any trace of rank consciousness, made him a marvelous listener, stimulating and encouraging with understanding and suggestions on organization. He was a charming man and his going leaves a gap in friendship circles of scores of people who knew him personally and through his many business enterprises.

His boost to the advance of the semiconductor industry, in backing the "Young Turks" who formed the nucleus of the original Fairchild semiconductor operation, has, of course, high interest for members of this Society. The transformation of all fields concerned with electronics by rocket-fast advances in semiconductor tech-

nology has long been an acknowledged fact: early in the game, Fairchild understood the importance of large-scale semiconductor production and made his vision a reality.

But this Society has a more direct and special view of Sherman Fairchild and its own strong reasons for missing him. His remarkable balance of creativeness with organizing prudence had real value for the AES at a crucial period in its history. He was active in Society affairs near the end of its first decade, becoming President for the 195X-X term. At that time, the AES needed some basic additions to its organizational underpinning if it were to move strongly to a higher level of effectiveness and influence. It was pushing against a ceiling set by methods that had worked well in the beginning, but were not well adapted to the expansion to come.

Sherman Fairchild provided a large measure of the readjustment push that put the AES in shape for its later growth. He saw that the conventions must be lifted substantially, not only in size and in technical interest and importance, but also as business operations that, properly managed, could be major sources of Society income. That is what AES conventions are, in fact, today.

He was an early advocate of advertising in the Journal as another financial necessity for a Society seeking to operate on a higher level. He personally underwrote the beginnings of the preprint system, which has become an indispensable adjunct to both

conventions and the AES Journal. He was rich in suggestions for many other phases of Society organization, leading to new ways of doing things that helped AES to move forward strongly to meet a world-wide need for service to the audio profession.

In short, Sherman Fairchild was a leading figure—one of many, but an extremely important one—in building the AES to its present unique position in the field both here and abroad. His ability to see the large shape of the future, while recognizing the step-by-step route for arriving at that future, was a major factor in its growth.

His friends in the Society will remember him for his personal charm, and for his very special contributions to the AES.

WILHELM FRANZ, founder of Germany's Elektromesstechnik (EMT), whose reverberation unit and other studio equipment is used around the world, died of a heart attack on April 10th in Lahr, Germany at the age of 57. Born in Bremen, Franz got his early experience in electronic testing in the laboratories of the U.S.-owned C. Lorenz Company of Berlin, and soon became assistant head of the labs. In 1939, he set up his own company in that city and was later joined by his younger brother Walter, who was still working with him at his death. War forced a relocation to Lahr in the Black Forest. At the end of the war, the Allies confiscated all of

Franz' machinery and equipment, but by 1948 he had started again with 10 employees, and built from that foundation to the present operation which employs 350 people. Mr. Franz was also sole owner of EMT's Swiss export subsidiary and a principal in the Thorens-Franz AG and Studer-Franz AG companies in Switzerland. He leaves a wife and four-year-old twins.

ARTHUR W. SCHNEIDER died in Palm Springs, California in February. He was 65. In 1929, he was graduated from the Engineering College of New York University, immediately thereafter joining the Engineering Department of RCA Photophone, the talking-picture division of RCA. During this period, he was actively associated with the concept, design, manufacture and installation of the sound system at the 1939-40 New York World's Fair. After fourteen years with RCA, he moved to Commercial Radio-Sound Corporation in New York City. Here, among other projects, he headed a team which designed and created the programmer for the synchronization of light and water effects with recorded sound, which controlled the Fountain of the Planets, a highlight of the 1964-65 World's Fair. The 32nd charter member of the Society, Mr. Schneider was elected a fellow in 1964. He was also a charter member of the U. S. Institute of Theater Technology and a member of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers.



Wilhelm Franz

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