



Benjamin Bauer

**Benjamin Bauer**, a dear friend of the society, and an important figure in the field of audio, died suddenly of a heart attack at the Stamford Hospital in Connecticut on March 31. He had a significant role in the AES through the years: He served as its president in 1969, was the recipient of its gold medal, and was given the honor of life membership. For his important contributions to science and technology during his illustrious career, Ben received a great deal of recognition, which has been previously reported in this *Journal*. As a recipient of the Silver Medal from the Acoustical Society of America, he appeared in the 1978 December issue. Only a few weeks before his death, he earned still more accolades: The Belgian Academy of Science and Fine Arts honored him for the "Invention of a Quadraphonic Microphone," and he was given membership in l'Ordre de Chevalerie de L'Etoile de la Paix, a Vatican-based nondenominational organization founded in 1229 and dedicated to peace.

Here, on this page, we want to

remember him for his qualities as a human being: a hardworking man dedicated to his work and motivated by his desire to contribute to a better world. In his eulogy, Ben's son said that one of his father's favorite records was the "Man of La Mancha." Don Quixote was the idealist, and Sancho Panza, the realist. Ben was both: he made "the impossible dream" come true. His inventive mind furnished the ideas and the dreams which were realized by perseverance and disciplined effort. One of Ben's habits was to awaken in the middle of the night, sit down at his typewriter, and put his thoughts on paper rather than risk losing them.

Ben fought for his ideas and did not mind the struggle required to convince others. He continued to work vigorously to realize a quadraphonic system for broadcasting in spite of an earlier warning that his heart might not be able to withstand such strenuous labor. There was no such thing as an 8-hour day for Ben. But, despite long and heavy work schedules, he always had time for his friends. It was good to

spend time with him because he made you feel that he cared. Socially, he was a good conversationalist who particularly enjoyed being gallant with the ladies.

His vitality was demonstrated in various aspects of his life. As a citizen, he was active. He took a firm political position and stated it openly even when it was not popular. He often expressed his opinions in letters to his senator and congressman. As a teacher, he liked to help those who tried, but he had little patience for those who did not. The acoustics course he taught at Penn State University was known to be tough, and though his students had to work hard, he inspired them to love it—the hallmark of a great teacher.

Ben was a person who loved life and made the most of it. He found time to spend with his family, which was his first love, and to contribute to the field of acoustics, his second love. We shall remember him for his accomplishments and as a fine human being.

ROBERT O. FEHR  
*Editor*