

Arthur C. Keller, who pioneered high-fidelity and stereophonic recording techniques, died August 25 in Bronxville, NY. He was 82 years old.

He attended Cooper Union, Yale University and Columbia University. He held a master's degree in electrical engineering and was a licensed professional engineer in New York State.

Mr. Keller's invention of a "moving-coil" playback stylus made possible the first hi-fi records. His work with sound engineer Irad S. Rafuse led to the first single-groove stereophonic recordings, and their proposal for recording two sound channels onto a master disk became the standard stereophonic technique.

In 1931-32 Keller made the first known stereophonic and high-fidelity recordings of orchestral music during performances and rehearsals of the Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Leopold Stokowski. The recordings were part of a Bell Laboratories project aimed at improving the quality of recorded and amplified sound transmitted over the telephone network. In 1979 Mr. Keller identified and classified the Stokowski disks from among some 600 early recordings stored by Bell Labs at Murray Hill, NJ. The following year Bell Labs presented a collection of the historic recordings to the nation's major record archives.

Mr. Keller joined the Western Electric Engineering Department in 1917, and became an employee of Bell Laboratories when AT&T's research and development unit was formed in 1925. He retired from Bell Labs in 1966 as director of the switching apparatus.

In the early part of his career he specialized in the development of systems and apparatus for recording and reproducing sound, including electrical transcriptions for broadcasting, and in the development, design and testing of telephone instruments. Later he did extensive work in sonar, electromechanical instruments and switching apparatus. During World War II, he received



A. C. Keller

two U.S. Navy citations for his work in sonar systems and other devices.

The author of 35 technical papers, Keller received 40 U.S. patents (150 worldwide) in the fields of electro-mechanical devices, sound recording and reproduction, sonar, switching apparatus, electronic heating, sputtering, magnetic tape, and complete telephone systems.

Mr. Keller was awarded the Gold Medal from the AES in 1981. He also received the Emile Berliner Award from the AES in 1962 for outstanding developments in stereophonic disk recording. He was a fellow of the Acoustical Society of America and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and a member of the American Physical Society and the Yale Engineering Association. He also received honors from the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the National Association of Relay Manufacturers.

After his retirement from Bell Labs he served on the boards of directors of several companies and also worked as a research and development consultant.

It is with deep sorrow that I report the sudden and untimely death on July 10 of **George Owen**, our vice-president in charge of engineering.

George joined us in July, 1979, after more than twenty-nine years with Motorola. He brought with him impressive academic credentials and extensive experience in audio product engineering and development. These were soon reflected at Rauland Borg in an outpouring of new and improved products from a restructured and invigorated engineering division. Just recently, George instituted a redesign of engineering work stations.

George Owen held a number of audio patents, was a member of many honorary societies, and chaired important committees of the EIA, AES, and the IEEE.

The course charted for us by George Owen provides a long-range, clear-cut engineering program which will remain uninterrupted and continue to be motivated by the characteristic vigor and enthusiasm he instilled. His work will go on. But we shall miss him sorely.

WILLIAM KRUCKS
President
Rauland-Borg Corp.

Massey L. Printz, past treasurer, committeeman, and faithful supporter of the DC Section, died of a heart attack in May. Massey, who lived in Falls Church, Virginia, was vacationing in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, when he was stricken.

Massey, who was 73, was born in Lurray, Virginia. He was a graduate of Washington and Lee University and earned a master's degree at George Washington University. He moved to Washington and joined the government in 1935, working for several government agencies, including the War Production Board and Civil Service Commission, before joining the Maritime Administration in 1963. He retired in 1969 as its senior budget analyst.

In addition to his excellent work with the AES, Massey was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and was past president of the Sleepy Hollow Citizen's Association.