

**Bill Robinson**, fellow, life member, and recipient of the Bronze Medal of the AES, passed away in his sleep April 19 while aboard his boat the "Whatever's Fair" on which he had been living for several years. He was 67 years of age.

Services were held at the First Christian Church of North Hollywood on April 15. The services were well attended by Bill's many friends from the industry, his family, and the Coast Guard. The eulogy was delivered by Commodore Phillip S. Biernecki, DCO, Eleventh District.

Bill was national branch chief, telecommunications management U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. He received two Coast Guard Awards for his outstanding efforts in establishing a direction-finding network and a high-level repeater system. Bill's ashes were committed to the sea from the Coast Guard Cutter Point Evans, with several other boats participating. There was a flyby of six Coast Guard aircraft at the time of the sea committal ceremony.

Bill spent his life in the broadcasting and recording industries. At 14 years of age he was chief engineer of a Los Angeles radio station. Born in Kansas City, Kansas, in 1916, he was an engineer at WDAT at 15 and at WABC, New York, at 16. Back in Los Angeles, he joined the Mutual Broadcasting System in 1937 and handled 90 percent of the dance band remotes in the area including Freddie Martin, Horace Heidt, Count Basie, and Duke Ellington. He was a radio amateur for many years holding the last call sign of KA6LIR.

During World War II Bill served as a bomber pilot, landing the first B29 on Iwo Jima and conducting the first broadcast from Okinawa. He radioed the bombing of Hiroshima from a courier plane. Three of Bill's broadcasts are in the archives of the Library of Congress. After a crash landing of a courier plane on Guam, he was hospitalized for many months before his discharge in 1945 with the rank of Captain USAFR.

After the war and experience in several independent studios, Bill returned to Hollywood. He joined the newly formed Capitol Records,



**Bill Robinson  
(1916-1984)**

working his way up to director of recording. His accomplishments at Capitol are too numerous to mention. After leaving Capitol in 1968, he became manager of Sunset Sound Records for owner Tutti Camarata. He retired in 1981.

From 1958 Bill was active in AES West Coast activities. He was responsible for initiating AES conventions in Los Angeles. He remained as convention manager until the early 1970s, pioneered seminars at conventions, and suggested the idea of anthologies.

So much of Bill's time was devoted to helping and educating others that his legacy is a fond memory in the hearts of his many friends. He stands as a model of professionalism to all.

Bill is survived by his long-time companion Virginia; his sisters Barbara, Virginia, and Marguerite; his daughters Carla and Toni; and grandson Matthew. He will be sorely missed by all whose life he touched.

HUGH S. ALLEN, JR.

**Pierre C. Gilotau**, AES member, died 1983 October 3 at the age of 74. Born at Rimogne in 1909, he spent his early life studying in France. He graduated as ingenieur in electricity and electronics in 1932 from the Electronics Institute of Nancy and from the École Supérieure d'Électricité in 1933. He completed his studies in New York at the Institute of Radio Engineers in 1934.

He began his engineering career in 1934 at Pathé Marconi in Paris, where he worked until 1971 when he retired. Gilotau held several important positions at the company: design engineer, chief engineer of research and development, technical director of the recording and cutting studios, and director of research and development.

He represented the interests of audio engineers in Scart and Siere, two trade unions in France. Internationally he represented France by serving on committees of the IEC and EBU, dealing with audio. His membership in the AES dates back to 1956, making him one of the first members in France.

Gilotau also contributed to various audio magazines in French such as *Revue du Son* and *Audiophile* until his illness. After his pioneering work in the field of television in 1935-36, Gilotau did additional work in perfecting the technology of disk recording, manufacturing, and pressing. Everyone who worked with him appreciated his competence, honesty, precision, and tenacity. For these qualities his colleagues and friends admired him.

His many friends in the AES sections in France and Belgium profited from his years of experience, which he frequently related to younger audio engineers. We regret his having left us so early, and we extend our sympathy to Madame Gilotau.

CLAUDE LAMY