

In Memoriam

for his contributions to the science of hearing. His son, Ulrich Tilmann, accepted the award at the Awards Banquet of the 90th Convention in Paris 1991, in February. Finally the AES recognizes the outstanding work of this great man, whose work will cer-

tainly be quoted in the future (the 21st century), just as the work of Hermann Helmholtz or Lord Rayleigh is quoted in the 20th century.

To his widow, Erika Zwicker-Emmel, his son, Ulrich Tilmann, and daughter, Andrea Elizabeth, I convey,

on behalf of the AES Executive Committee and the Board of Governors, our condolences and sorrow for the loss of such a fruitful life and fine human being.

HERMAN A.O. WILMS
Secretary, AES Europe Region

We are deeply saddened to announce the death of **Robert Trabue Davis.**

Through his dignity, humor, intelligence, and gentleness of spirit, Bob truly made this world a better place for all who knew him. In addition to his contributions to the audio industry, he will also be remembered for his gift of music.

Bob began studying piano at the age of five. By the fourth grade he switched to the clarinet. Within two years his skills were advanced and he began taking lessons at the Music Department of the University of Kentucky. In the summer of his eleventh year, he went to the Interlochen Music Academy in Michigan, and studied with Keith Stein of the Chicago Symphony.

His dedication to music continued throughout his junior and senior high school years. Every other weekend, he traveled 160 miles from his home in Lexington, Kentucky, to the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music to study with the principal clarinetist of the Cincinnati Symphony.

Bob attended Michigan State University for two years before transferring to the University of Kentucky, majoring in broadcasting and communications, with a minor in music. After receiving his B.A. in 1959, he did his postgraduate work at the University of Kentucky, where he received a master's degree in musicology. Upon graduation, he joined the faculty of the Music Department. Although he loved the study of music, he often said, in jest, "the only thing a master's in musicology is good for is teaching others to be musicologists."



Robert T. Davis

He joined the Lexington Philharmonic as principal clarinetist, played in the faculty woodwind quintet, and gave recitals. He also became interested in vocal music, which was to become his lifelong passion.

He left the university and went into broadcasting as operations manager and announcer at radio station WSAC, Fort Knox. His vocal training enabled him to work on-air without a regional accent.

In his youth, Bob had worked with his father a well known audio/visual dealer in the Southeast. After his short career in radio, he reentered the audiovisual industry with a commercial sound contractor in Lexington, Kentucky. From there, he joined Technical Service Corporation, a sound contracting firm in Louisville, as vice president of sales.

While in Louisville, Bob joined the Louisville Woodwind Quintet, the Ken-

tucky Opera Association, and the Louisville Bach Society. His operatic roles included both Jenik and Vasek in *The Bartered Bride*, Semerana's Edgardo in *Lucia*, Rinuncio in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, and Faust in Gounod's *Faust*. He also enjoyed performing in musical comedy, singing the lead roles of Tommy Albright in *Brigadoon*, Billy Bigelow in *Carousel*, and El Gallo in *The Fantasticks*. He also pursued his love for sacred music with performances of St. John and the St. Paul Passions by J.S. Bach.

In 1971 he moved to Detroit and joined Industrial Communication Company as a sales engineer and sound system designer. He began the practice of including his resumé with his proposals so that the client could judge the qualifications and character of the designer. He also gained a reputation as the man who installed more multicell horns in churches than anyone before him. Combining his teaching background with his knowledge of architectural acoustics and sound system design, he began to lecture at the University of Detroit and the Lawrence Institute of Technology. He continued his performing career with the Detroit Cantata Academy.

In 1975 he joined Altec Lansing Corporation, in Anaheim, California, as manager of market development and training. After just two years he was promoted to director of systems/application engineering, and in 1979 he became vice president for market development. During this period dynamic products such as the first digital delay lines, incremental power amplifiers, constant-directivity horns, and large-scale touring sound systems were developed at Altec un-

der his supervision. He worked on sound system designs for the 1976 Montreal Olympics, The Moscow World Trade Centre, Sun Devil Stadium, Rupp Arena for the University of Kentucky, and the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo.

When Altec moved its operations to Oklahoma in 1982, Bob stayed in southern California and became a system consultant, working with companies like Countryman Associates, Inc. In 1983 he joined Yamaha Music Corporation as a product specialist for commercial audio products in the Combo division. Six months later, he was promoted to national sales manager for the Professional Audio Products division. In 1988 he became manager of promotions and advertising.

He was a member of the Audio Engineering Society, Acoustical Society of America, and the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers. He was very active in the Audio Engineering Society, serving as chairman for the 72nd Convention, workshops co-chairman for the 81st Convention, and exhibitor liaison for the 89th Convention. In 1984, he received the AES Board of Governors' Award for his work for the society.

Whether you knew Bob as a profoundly dignified, spotlessly attired, articulate, and witty person at trade shows and professional meetings, or more closely, as a humorist relaxing in pressed blue jeans and plaid shirt who would rattle off the tongue-twisting lines of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Modern Major-General" to test loudspeakers and sound systems, or, if you were blessed to hear him sing, he will be missed. Not only have we lost someone who made a great contribution to the audio community, we have lost a friend who taught each of us a lot about being human.

A Robert Trabue Davis Scholarship Fund has been established to benefit the Central Kentucky Youth Orchestras, 161 North Mill Street, Lexington, KY 40507.

RON BENNETT
Cosmic Muffin Group