

In Memoriam

It is with profound sadness that I report the death of dear friend, colleague, and associate editor of *Audio*, **B. V. Pisha** on November 6, 1991. He died of a heart attack following a prolonged affliction with Parkinson's disease.

Born in New York in 1916, Barney Pisha spent part of his youth in Czechoslovakia before taking up permanent residence in the United States in 1926. He received an amateur radio license in 1927 as a result of his early interest in audio. Although he pursued studies in music and electrical engineering (audio), lack of employment opportunities diverted his interests to medicine. He became a physician in 1942 and served with the Army Medical Corps in North Africa during World War II.

While a practicing physician, Barney kept alive his love for music and audio by establishing a small, part-time testing laboratory for evaluating audio products in 1953. He retired from his medical practice in 1973 and became a consultant to a major drug company because of his expertise in clinical pharmacology. During this time, Barney was instrumental in the development of a number of significant new drug modifications, currently in wide use. It was also in 1973 that he expanded his testing laboratory and became *Audio's* resident expert on phonograph cartridges, tonearms, and turntables.

Well-schooled in the disciplines of laboratory procedures, Barney's reviews of phonograph cartridges and associated equipment were widely viewed as authoritative because of his utilization of the most advanced ideas and instrumentation in measurement technology. He was a close friend of most of the scientists and design engineers in the phonograph industry and was greatly respected for his ability to knowledgeably dis-



Barney V. Pisha

cuss the most arcane aspects of phonograph record reproduction.

Barney was near-fanatic in his quest for accuracy and objectivity in his reviews, but he always emphasized that technology must be a servant to the music. He had a lifelong love affair with opera and held season tickets to the Metropolitan and New York City Operas for many years. His expertise resulted in a collaboration with Tom Stockham (of Soundstream digital recorder fame) to restore Enrico Caruso recordings for RCA Victor, with digital processing of these early acoustic recordings.

In 1986 Barney was made a fellow of the Audio Engineering Society for "significant contributions to the testing and evaluation of audio products." He had a very wide circle of friends in the audio industry who admired him as much for his probing questions as for his ready wit. Barney's unflagging courage in the face of a debilitating and disabling illness inspired all of us who loved and admired him.

Bert Whyte
Associate Editor
Audio Magazine