

In Memoriam

Tom Lininger, AES life member, and manager of Crown International's microphone department, died suddenly on August 22, in New Buffalo, Michigan. He was 63 years old.

While working side-by-side with Tom for 15 years, I came to know him not only as a fine engineer and manager, but also as an exceptional human being.

Tom began his career as a TV cameraman for WSBT in South Bend, Indiana. He joined ElectroVoice (EV) in December 1960 as a microphone design engineer, where he developed the RE-20, a Variable-D cardioid dynamic microphone used everywhere in kick drums and in DJ booths. It was a large, massive microphone, and with good reason. Tom often quoted his mentor, Lou Burroughs, in saying "Microphones are sold by the pound."

Another large microphone developed by Tom was the EV 643, the world's largest shotgun microphone, used in Presidential news conferences. Tom also was responsible for the RE-55 omnidynamic microphone. Other microphones he helped develop at EV include the RE-50 (shock-mounted 635A) and the Variable-D line of dynamic microphones. He was



Tom Lininger
May 14, 1935–August 22, 1998

also involved in starting EV's line of electret condenser microphones, such as the CS-15.

While at EV, Tom wrote an AES paper on microphone transient response. With Lou Burroughs, he studied the acoustical comb filtering caused by phase interference between multiple microphones, or caused by the combination of direct and reflected sound at a microphone. This research resulted in the Mic Mouse, a microphone foam mount for stage floors. Its principle is used today in directional boundary microphones such as the Crown PCC series.

In 1983 he joined Crown International as manager of the microphone department. The microphone group at Crown felt like family with Tom at the helm. He took great pride in his company, its products, and its

employees. While he gave us freedom to work on our own, he let us know what had to be done. I have never had such a congenial yet competent manager. He had a hand in every microphone in Crown's extensive line, and made working here fun. We appreciated Tom's wide experience and considerable skill in shepherding product designs through engineering and production into the marketplace.

Tom enjoyed working closely with superstars such as Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, and Garth Brooks to create microphones that satisfied them. Yet Tom could, and did, befriend anyone who crossed his path. He was a warm, big-hearted man with a zest for life.

A U.S. Army veteran, Tom was a New Buffalo harbor commissioner and a member of the board of directors of the New Buffalo Yacht Club, serving as commodore for two terms. His hobbies included photography and boating on Lake Michigan. A delightful storyteller, Tom enjoyed good times with friends and family.

He leaves his wife, Joyce, and a huge number of friends whose lives have been made richer for knowing him. We'll miss you, Tom.

Bruce Bartlett
Crown International

Editor's Note: The following obituary was composed by members of Mr. Webster's family.

Theodore Dawson Webster passed away on March 16, 1998. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, on February 13, 1910. As a young boy, he would often ride the elevated train into Manhattan to visit his father's Wall Street office.

The family spent summers in



Ted Webster at the Webster Lab in 1960.

the Berkshires and by the early 1920's his parents moved permanently to Great Barrington, Massachusetts, where they bought a country estate. The property was known as Fairfield Farms. From this home, Theodore began to develop the broad range of accomplishments for which he is remembered.

He attended local schools, graduating from Bryant Elementary School, Searles High

In Memoriam

School, and then, from Sedgewick Academy which provided him with four years of college level instruction. He studied privately with a doctoral student and attended both Heidelberg University in Heidelberg, Germany, and the Sorbonne University in Paris, France.

He briefly owned and operated a photographic supply store in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. During the war years he worked at Colt Firearms in Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1956 he moved to Reno, Nevada, and later to Carson City, Nevada. He was part owner and engineer for KPTL Radio in Carson City, owned his own laboratory, Webster-Lab, worked for Turbo-Dynamics, and finally worked as a bio-medical engineer at the Carson Tahoe Hospital. As a trained hypnotist, he often worked closely with local physicians in his own work with patients.

Before going to the West he spent time at Union Medical School in Albany, New York, developing measurement equipment for medical treatment applications of radioactive isotopes. He designed and built sophisticated audio equipment. He flew hundreds of hours from Great Barrington airport, producing finely detailed aerial photography of the area.

His gifts and accomplishments were many: philosopher, physicist, pilot, photographer, motorcyclist, mathematician, electrical engineer, audio engineer, ballistics expert, humanist, and artisan. He gave freely of his time and knowledge to all. Much of his life was spent surrounded by students and colleagues. He loved music and poetry, often quoting favorite passages from Shakespeare and Tennyson to the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam. His intelligence was finally lost to age and dementia, but his gifts remain. His greatest gift always was love.

He is survived by three children, one step daughter, thirteen grandchildren, fifteen great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.