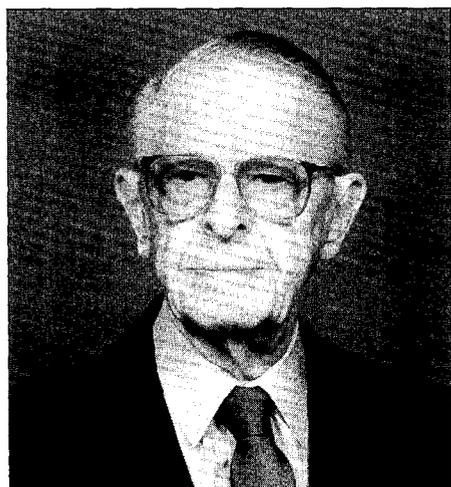


In Memoriam



Franklin Seaney Cooper
1908-1999

Franklin Seaney Cooper, an AES life member, engineer and pioneer in the field of speech communication, died on February 20 in Palo Alto, California, at the age of 90.

Born on April 29, 1908 in Robinson, Illinois, Cooper received a B.S. degree in engineering physics with honors from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. in physics from MIT. His research interests were speech perception, speech production and radiation biophysics.

Cooper began his career as a research engineer in the General Electric Laboratories in Schenectady, NY. In 1935, together with Caryl P. Haskins, he founded Haskins Laboratories, a private nonprofit research institution devoted to basic research in speech and language, which for many years was located on W. 43rd Street in New York City. It is currently based in New Haven, CT. Dr. Cooper served as the laboratories' president and director of research from 1939 until his retirement in 1975—a period interrupted only once from 1941 to 1946 when he served as a liaison offi-

cer and then senior liaison officer in the Office of Scientific Research and Development under Vannevar Bush. He remained a director of the laboratories until shortly before his death.

Cooper was the author of numerous papers on speech synthesis and perception, but his principal contribution to speech research was the invention of a machine or research tool for synthesizing speech. With this electromechanical device, long before the advent of personal computers, he and colleagues at Haskins

Laboratories made substantial advances toward codifying the acoustic features underlying the perception of speech. The results of their research were later to be applied in many computerized speech synthesis programs.

During his career he was recognized for his work with many awards. He received the President's Certificate of Merit in 1948. Later, in 1972 the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers honored him with its Pioneer Award in Speech Communication. In 1975, the Acoustical Society of America awarded him its Silver Medal in Speech Communication. The American Speech and Hearing Association awarded him the Honors of the Association and in 1975 he was a corecipient of the Warren Medal from the Society of Experimental Psychologists. He was elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering in 1976. His academic awards included an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from Yale University in 1976 and the Fletcher-Steven Award from Brigham Young University in 1977. For many years, he held academic appointments at Columbia

University, the University of Connecticut, and Yale University.

Cooper also undertook several public responsibilities. He was a consultant to the secretary of defense in the late 1940s and a scientific consultant to the Atomic Energy Communications Group, and U.N. Secretariat during that same period. In 1973 he was a member of the panel of six experts who were selected by the White House to look into the origin of the 18-minute gap in President Nixon's tapes during the Watergate investigation.

Cooper served as a member of the National Advisory Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke Council at the National Institutes of Health, as chairman of the Communication Sciences Interdisciplinary Cluster, on the President's Biomedical Research Panel, and as a director of the Center for Applied Linguistics in Alexandria, VA. He also served in an advisory capacity in the College of Engineering of New York University and the Modern Languages Department at MIT.

Cooper was the one-time mentor of numerous current investigators in speech throughout the United States and abroad. In addition to inspirational guidance, he will be especially remembered for his wisdom, unfailing generosity and courtly manner.

In 1935, Cooper married Frances Edith Clem who died in 1991. He is survived by two sons, Alan K. of Palo Alto, CA, and Robert Craig of Amherst, VA, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Alan Cooper
Palo Alto, CA 94301, USA

We have been informed that **Leslie R. Ticknor**, AES life member, died on December 20, 1998. He was a former staff engineer of the Voice of America in Washington, D.C.