

In Memoriam

Glen Akins, AES life member, died of heart failure on November 14, 2003, in Los Angeles, CA. He was 87 years old.

Atkins was born in York, PA, in 1916. While attending Gettysburg College, he worked as a theater projectionist, which spurred his interest in all things audio. Trained as an electronics engineer, Glen was employed by the International Telephone and Telegraph in their short wave radio transmitter final test department.

In 1942, he joined the Office of War Information, and after a series of harrowing transportation incidents spent four years in China setting up and maintaining radio transmitting equipment, which often involved dubious political consequences. This position involved associations with prominent journalists and political figures in the area, which led to an additional post of gathering and broadcasting news from China for the CBS radio network.

In 1948, Glen joined the sound department of RKO Studios in Hollywood, CA. When commercial television became a reality, he moved to ABC television, Hollywood, in 1951. Hired as a video projectionist, he rapidly advanced to positions involving the planning and maintenance of new equipment and facilities. He developed a working 3-D video system, which was demonstrated at the 1953 NAB convention.

In 1960, he designed the first video/audio/machine control routing switcher that served 24 sources to six control rooms. Automation of video and audio switching for the local station control room was another project that involved unique approaches. Many landmark broadcasts bore his fingerprints, such as the 1960 Democratic convention, Nixon Kennedy debates, and the Wide World of Sports. The conversion to color television under his aegis was

accomplished with speed, innovation, and economy.

Akins retired in 1977 after leading his departments with a calm, wise, and humanistic statesmanship that belied the frenzy of television broadcasting. He then traveled the U. S. and worldwide with his wife Alice, visiting all continents but Antarctica.

Audio was equally important as video in Glen's mind. He encouraged and promoted the design and construction of production audio consoles and communication systems, which were not available commercially at the time. At home, he was an avid gardener, an ardent amateur radio operator, and a hi-fi audio enthusiast. Loudspeaker systems were his particular interest. He built much of his own equipment. Ham swap meets and conventions continued to be a part of his life. He never stopped learning.

Don McCroskey

Joseph Habig, AES life member, died of Parkinson's disease on September 21, 2003, in Tinton Falls, NJ. He was 79 years old.

Born in New York City, Habig received a bachelor's degree in music education at the City College of New York. He also attended Julliard and the Manhattan School of Music. Trained as a classical musician, he worked with many of the top classical artists during his career as a producer. He also recorded major popular and jazz artists.

A Grammy Award-winning record producer, Habig won the award for his recording of Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms*. For 10 years he played the trombone with various symphony orchestras. He later became an artists' and repertoire producer at RCA Victor Red Seal for 19 years (1954 to 1973). After that he worked as an executive producer at *Reader's Digest* Music Division for 16 years. He is survived by his wife, Virginia Harlow Habig.