

## OBITUARY

JOHN J. LYNQ

John J. Lyng, late Vice-President of Electrical Research Products, gave up his life on August 9, 1930, in trying to save his sister-in-law from drowning. His age was fifty-three years.

His business career was a lifetime of service in the Bell System that started in 1905 when he joined the New York Telephone Company as switchboard installer.

Two years later he was transferred to the Western Electric Company's engineering department, now known as Bell Telephone Labora-



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tories. There Mr. Lyng was engaged in designing and testing apparatus for the Bell System.

As his special abilities received recognition he was placed in charge of a large group of engineers and technicians who comprised what became known as the Apparatus Development Department, organized to develop communication equipment that would be both economical to manufacture and convenient to use. Much of the present-day convenience and adaptability of telephone equipment can be laid to the work of that department.

Under Mr. Lyng's direction the Bell Telephone Laboratories

developed the first commercially successful equipment for producing and reproducing talking motion pictures, including devices for recording on both wax disks and films; amplifying, controlling, and projecting sound in connection with motion pictures and for the complete synchronization of sound with sight as applied to pictures.

In October, 1928, he was appointed Vice-President of Electrical Research Products, in charge of engineering and technical development, the subsidiary organized by the Western Electric Company for the distribution and servicing of its talking picture sound system. In carrying out the duties of this office Mr. Lyng sponsored, as an addition to the Bell Telephone Laboratories, the first laboratories in the world devoted exclusively to development and research work on sound pictures. He was also the moving spirit behind the inauguration of Electrical Research Products' testing laboratory in Hollywood.

The esteem in which he was held by all his associates is perhaps best expressed in the following extract from the tribute paid him by John E. Otterson, President of Electrical Research Products:

"John Lyng was a man's man. A hard worker himself, he inspired others to work hard, and yet he loved to play. Unselfish, big hearted, genial, endowed with a keen sense of humor—he was beloved and respected by all. Underneath these qualities was a rugged honesty and fearlessness which dominated his character. It was typical of the man that he should meet his heroic death in saving the life of another."

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