

Obituaries



William Tylee Wintringham

William T. Wintringham died 19 November 1976, in Chatham, New Jersey, at the age of 72. He will be remembered, among many accomplishments, as a particularly outstanding expert in the technology of television in all its phases and related arts.

He was born in Brooklyn, New York, on 18 January 1904, received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering at Harvard in 1924, and that year entered the Department of Development and Research of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company in the study and development of long-wave transatlantic radio telephony. When the department was transferred in 1934 to the Bell Telephone Laboratories he turned to UHF and VHF radio relay systems, and was involved in the development of receiving equipment for the MUSA installation. During the war this work changed into radio aids to navigation, radar and military communications projects. Subsequently he engaged in a comprehensive study into all features of television systems, including eventually color reproduction and an extensive analysis of visual responses to pictorial stimuli.

In later years, especially after formal retirement in 1969, he extended his interests over all aspects of pictorial reproduction such as photography, motion pictures, printing, and allied arts that included illumination, colorimetry, information theory, and even nomenclature and standardization.

He served on many varied committees and other bodies concerned with these subjects. The range of his interests included studies of the financial and physical history of U.S. railroads.

It is difficult to outline the versatility of these interests and activities without a listing of some of his contributions to the development of standards in a variety of fields. In these functions he distinguished himself with a remarkable capacity for assimilating the conditions involving complex phenomena, procedures, mathematics and the use of language.

The various lines of the activities that Bill Wintringham engaged in covered first, and more particularly, broadcast television and its obviously needed standards. He was especially interested in the pictorial and other qualities of the results and the influence which transmission conditions would have on these results.

He was Chairman of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers Television Committee; Chairman of the Institute of Elec-

trical and Electronics Engineers Standards Committee; Chairman of a panel of the National Radio Systems Committee (covering besides television — particularly later, color television — broadcast and stereophonic FM broadcasting); Vice-Chairman of two panels of the National Television Systems Committee; and, more generally, Chairman of the SMPTE Standards Committee; a member of the American National Standards Institute Executive Standards Board; an early member of the Institute of Radio Engineers (later IEEE) Standards Committee; and also SMPTE Representative on the American National Standards Institute Member Body Council. Activities in these committees included, in some cases, other subjects than standardization and also other facilities than television.

He was further involved in the setting of standards for other specialized areas as a member of the Photographic Standards Management Board; a member of the Acoustical Standards Management Board; Chairman of the IEEE Standard Dictionary Subcommittee; a member of the Nomenclature Committee of the Illuminating Engineering Society; and voting representative of SMPTE on the Inter-Society Color Council.

One of his most recent accomplishments was a study of the problems of introducing the metric system into the United States, the study covering not only the relatively simple substitution of dimensions but the much more difficult problem of becoming familiar with the meaning of the numbers encountered (such as the feeling for how hot or cold it is at a given Celsius temperature).

Aside from the setting of diverse forms of standards and dimensions, Wintringham has contributed his services in more general ways to technical organizations. He was Engineering Vice-President of the SMPTE, and member of the Board of Editors of its *Journal*. He was a Fellow of both the SMPTE and the IEEE, and also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and of the New Jersey Academy of Science. He was a member of the Acoustical Society of America, and also of the Optical Society of America, of the Professional Group on Information Theory of the IEEE, also of Sigma Xi. To indicate the appreciation of the industry for his work he was listed as "Engineer of Distinction" by the Engineers Joint Council of New York.

He had been issued 22 U.S. patents and a number of foreign patents.

We shall all of us feel the absence of Bill Wintringham's cogent and versatile comments in the many fields in which he served, and his advice in them. — *Pierre Mertz*

Eric A. Herren

Eric A. Herren, Managing Director of Pinewood Studios, Ivor, Bucks, England died suddenly in the spring of 1976 at the age of 62. Known affectionately to his friends as "Kip," he had been a senior executive of the Rank Organization for 19 years and for 14 years had been Managing Director of Pinewood Studios. According to one of his friends and co-workers he was "primarily responsible for updating Pinewood's operation in many ways. In particular he built J, K, L & M stages at the studios which are multi-purpose stages and which have been in constant use since they were built. This in itself was quite an achievement. When the rest of the film world was standing still, Kip was ensuring



that Pinewood would be the leading studio in the U.K. for many years. Kip's death was a very great shock to his friends and colleagues but it was in the nature of the man that he would want us to 'carry on' . . ."

In 1935 Herren joined Denham Laboratories when it was first established. In 1939 he joined the British Army serving in World War II, with the rank of Major. In 1946, following his army service, he joined British Lion Studios at Littleton Park, Shepperton, Middlesex, England, as Laboratory Contact and Technical Adviser. While there he made a detailed study of reciprocity failure and its attendant problems as well as engaging in various projects directed to the improvement of picture quality.

His association with the Rank Organisation began in 1957.

He joined the Society in 1946.



Milton W. Willenson

Milton W. Willenson, Executive Director of the Germain School of Photography, died suddenly of a heart attack 1 September 1976 at the age of 60.

He was co-founder with Morris Germain (now deceased) of the Germain School of Photography. Established in 1947, by 1970 the school had become so successful that some 400 to 500 students were graduated each year. Dr. Willenson held several degrees — Bachelor of Science from City College of New York in 1935; Bachelor of Law from New York University in 1938 (he was admitted to the Bar in 1940); Master of Arts (1955); Juris Doctor; and Doctor

of Education (1968) from New York University. He was a Past President of Phi Delta Kappa.

In 1973 he established a branch of The Germain School in Jamaica, West Indies, to give young people there an opportunity to earn a living in photography without having to leave their native country.

Dr. Willenson joined the Society in 1967 and shortly thereafter organized a Student Chapter in the Germain School of Photography of which he was Faculty Advisor until the time of his death.

His published works include *Careers in Photography*, a book described in a New York Times review as "... the most intensive study of the subject ever undertaken in such depth."



Georg Neumann

Georg Neumann, a pioneer in the field of audio recording and the inventor of the gas-tight nickel cadmium battery, died at his home in West Berlin on 30 August 1976 at the age of 77.

During his entire career he was closely associated with the development of sound recording and reproduction techniques. As a young engineer he developed a carbon microphone known as the Reisz microphone, an improvement over the carbon granule types then in use. In 1928 he produced the first commercial condenser microphones and in 1930 he developed the first of a long line of disc mastering lathes as well as one of the first electro-mechanical disc cutting heads.

Among his many other inventions was the first linear motion pen recorder and other developments of importance to the field of audio recording.

Frank J. Bingley

Frank J. Bingley a pioneer in the development of monochrome and color television died on 16 November 1976. He lived in Meadowbrook, Pa.

Born in Bedford, England, on 13 November 1906, Bingley was graduated from the University of London in 1927 with degrees in physics and mathematics. He joined the Baird Television Co. of London in 1927, and in association with John L. Baird developed some of the earliest mechanical scanning TV systems.

He joined Philco Corp. in 1931. As chief television engineer during the early 1930s he was responsible for the development of Philco's first all electronic TV receivers, and for the design and construction of Station W3XE, one of the



world's first all electronic experimental TV stations. He provided technical direction for the experimental remote telecasts of the University of Pennsylvania football games broadcast over W3XE as early as 1940, and for Philco's TV relay system linking New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. in the early 1940s. He was a member of the first National Television Systems Committee, an industry group responsible for generating the monochrome television standards approved by the FCC in 1941.

In 1948 and 1949, on a leave of absence from Philco, he designed and directed the installation of two new TV stations for the Mutual Broadcasting System.

Bingley was appointed director of Philco's color TV systems research section in 1949. During the period of 1949 to 1953, he and his associates developed several types of compatible color TV systems as well as a flying spot scanner system for televising color motion-picture film. These were field tested using the transmitter of Philco's commercial TV Station WPTZ. He was a member of a number of technical committees of the second NTSC, the industry group which generated the color TV system standards approved by the FCC in 1953 for commercial use in the United States.

His published technical articles on the application of colorimetric principles to color TV systems won him worldwide recognition. For this work he was awarded the Vladimir K. Zworykin television prize by the Institute of Radio Engineers in 1956.

During the 1950s and early 60s Bingley and his associates at Philco also developed a three-dimensional TV x-ray system for medical use, an airborne TV system for the study of re-entry vehicles, and several high resolution contrast enhancing TV systems for use in photographic interpretation.

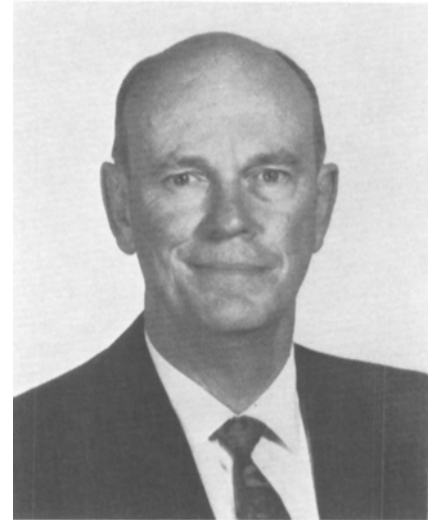
Mr. Bingley was awarded 29 patents in the television field, including United States Patent 2,842,697 issued to him in 1958, covering the improvement in color TV picture tubes by using spaced phosphor dots separated by black' light-absorbing material.

Bingley joined the RCA Astro Electronics Division in 1962. While there he participated in a number of very important programs which included the use of a high resolution TV camera tube for use on the Earth Resources Satellite, and the design of the RCA Apollo color TV camera used to provide live color telecasts from the moon. He retired from RCA in 1971. From 1971 to 1976 he did consulting work and served the IEEE as a member of Definitions Subcommittee G 2.1.1, of the G-B, Audio-Video Techniques Committee G 2.1.

He was a member of the Franklin Institute,

was elected a Fellow of the IEEE in 1950, and a Fellow of the SMPTE in 1967. He received the Philadelphia IEEE Section Award in 1973. His citation read:

"For over four decades of outstanding creativity, leadership and technical contributions in the field of television broadcast systems, applications of colorimetric principles to color television systems, and space technology." — Joseph F. Fisher



Russell John Tinkham

Russell John Tinkham died 29 September 1976 at his home in the Santa Cruz mountains of California.

He was born 30 March 1911 in Detroit, Mich. He attended the University of Oregon (1930-1933) where he majored in architecture and where he acquired a deep interest in applied acoustics. He then transferred to the University of Illinois where he studied under Prof. F. R. Watson, one of the pioneers in scientific acoustics.

Following graduation he went to Washington, D.C., where he maintained a one-man branch office for a Baltimore acoustical contractor. He remained there five years, applying his skills in acoustical engineering to many and varied kinds of buildings including the Pentagon, Library of Congress Annex and numerous others.

In 1941 (the week before Pearl Harbor) Tinkham joined the Research Foundation of the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. Projects there included design of underwater sound equipment and the testing of air raid sirens and explosives. During the last year of World War II he became involved in managing the beginnings of the development of magnetic recording at the Foundation.

In 1952 he joined Ampex, opening the firm's first regional sales-engineering office in Chicago. Shortly thereafter he was moved to the Ampex home office in California. In 1950, Tinkham and another engineer founded Vega Electronics.

Holder of many patents and author of a number of papers on acoustics and magnetic recording, his publications included "Stereo-phonetic Tape Recording Equipment," in the January 1954 issue of the *Journal*, and "Magnetic Recording Media Considerations for Improving Masters and Dubs," in the October 1958 *Journal*.

He had been a member of the SMPTE and was a member of the Acoustical Society of America and a Fellow of the Audio Engineering Society.