

# Obituary



**Herman M. Gurin**

Herman Gurin, known to all his many friends as "Hank," died on 9 January 1981 at the age of 66. Hank retired in 1979 after a long and brilliant career as an outstanding engineer and scientist mostly with the RCA Corporation. Following his retirement he devoted much of his time to local and community activities.

In 1936, he received a BS degree in mechanical engineering from New York University, graduating with honors. Even before graduation, he began his career at NBC in 1934 in the engineering department, where he was concerned

with the design and operation of broadcasting studios. During World War II he was on active duty from 1941 to 1945 with the United States Navy, and completed his tour of duty with the rank of Commander.

Following the war, he resumed his activities in the engineering department at NBC, where he was deeply involved in the rapid post-war expansion of television broadcasting, particularly in the design of studios suitable for broadcasting television programs in color. During this period he made major contributions to the design of lighting equipment and acoustic facilities.

In 1957 he obtained a year's leave of absence to serve on the staff of Radio Free Europe in Munich, Germany, as Chief Engineer. In 1958 he transferred to the Astro-Electronics Division of RCA, and participated in the engineering and management phases of major satellite programs including the development of the first weather satellite, TIROS I, launched in 1960.

He left RCA in 1969, after 34 years of service, to become the Executive Officer of the American Astronomical Society at its Princeton headquarters. In this important position he was involved in numerous activities of the Society including fund raising, program planning, organizing technical conferences and editing the official bulletin of the Society.

During his long career, Hank was an active member of a number of professional societies including the Acoustical Society of America, the American Association for the Advancement of

Science, the American Astronomical Society, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the Retired Officers Association and the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers. He also participated in the work of a number of committees engaged in preparing technical standards for the industry. The SMPTE recognized his many contributions to television broadcasting by electing him to the grade of Fellow. During these years he also maintained his membership in the Naval Reserve, and was promoted to the rank of Captain, USNR, in 1956.

In his community of Princeton Junction, N. J., he participated in a wide variety of local activities and is remembered for his unselfish devotion to such local causes as the township Shade Tree Committee.

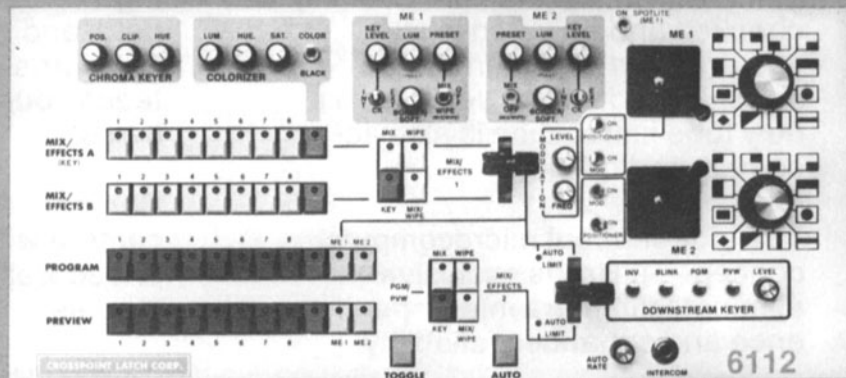
He is survived by his wife, Terry, his daughter, Lenore, his son, Douglas, and hundreds and hundreds of relatives and friends who deeply mourn his passing. — *Waldemar J. Poch*

*Ed. Note:* Herman Gurin was a Life Fellow of the SMPTE. He joined the Society in 1948 and was made a Fellow in 1956. He was active in Society affairs, serving on a number of committees, including the Television Studio Lighting Committee (of which he was Chairman in 1956 and 1957), the Standards Committee and the U.S. Committee of the International Commission on Illumination. He authored a number of papers on television and studio lighting, many of which have appeared in the *JOURNAL*.

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