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ACOUSTICAL NEWS—USA

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Editor's Note: Deadline dates for news items and notices are 2 months prior to publication.

Albert G. Bodine • 1914–1990



Albert G. Bodine, a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America, died in Santa Monica, California on 25 January 1990 after a brief illness. Bodine was an unusually productive and prolific inventor and entrepreneur in the field of vibration technology. Over 400 U.S. patents and 700 foreign patents were granted to him during the course of his career.

Much of his work was based upon the development and application of the "orbiting mass" vibration generator, which he directed to such diverse uses as pile driving, oil well drilling, stimulation of oil bearing strata, oil well pumping, materials separation, installation of underground cables, earth moving machinery, deephole coring, dental tools, and so on. His entrepreneurship began to emerge in the early 1940's when, in succession, he formed five separate but parallel enterprises: Bodine Soundrive Co. (1942), Soundrive Engine Co. (1946), Soundrill Corporation (1949), Soundrive Pump Company (1950), and Soundrive Process Co. (1952).

Bodine was eminently successful in attracting the corporate world to invest in his development efforts without his relinquishing proprietary rights. A visitor to his Van Nuys development facility could only come away bedazzled by the diversity of projects underway, each whirring, whining, thumping, or screeching a song of sonic power unleashed.

Bodine's detractors often complained that he spent a lifetime re-inventing resonance. The fact is that he was a master at evolving strikingly new and useful applications of a fundamental phenomenon. That is, after all, what invention is about!

Al Bodine attended the University of California and the California Institute of Technology during the 1930's. He became a registered Professional Mechanical and Electrical Engineer of California.

Bodine served as a member of the Patent Advisory Committee of the U.S. Patent Office, and received the Los Angeles Patent Law Association's Inventor of the Year Award in 1975. He was elected a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America in 1969, and was the recipient of the Society's Silver Medal in Engineering Acoustics in 1986, being cited "...for his ingenuity in developing sonic and vibratory devices of great technological importance."

Al Bodine is survived by his son Albert Jonathan, his daughter Linda Anne Fox, and by his wife, Jean, of a second marriage.

Although Bodine's remaining active enterprise, Bodine Soundrive Co., being a sole proprietorship, was dissolved upon his death, his son, Jon, who had entered business with his father in late 1989, has decided to form a new company to carry on his father's tradition of free-spirited invention.

JOHN V. BOUYOUCOS

William J. Sette • 1906–1990

William J. Sette, a Fellow of the Society, and a near-charter member since 1930, died on 14 June 1990 after a long bout with Alzheimer's disease. Sette was born in Derby, Connecticut in 1906. After graduating from Yale University, he received an MS in Physics at Lehigh University and a Ph.D. some years later at the Catholic University of America. His professional

career began at Electrical Research Products Inc. (ERPI), a subsidiary of the Western Electric Company, where he participated in acoustical measurements in auditoria.

In 1941, as World War II was approaching, Sette joined a new Navy laboratory in the Washington area then called the "David Taylor Model Basin," now the "David Taylor Research Center," where he remained until retirement in 1970. His first project was to investigate the properties of various alloy resistance wires for the newly developed piezoresistive strain gauges. These were to be used to measure the static strains in submarine hulls at increasing depths of submergence, and also the transient strains when the hull is subjected to underwater explosions. Later he organized and headed the acoustics section, then concerned mainly with measuring and quieting the sources of underwater noise radiated from submarines, especially propeller cavitation noise. These measurements provided the data on submarine propeller noise published in the well-known *Principles of Underwater Sound*, one of the *Summary Technical Reports* of the National Defense Research Council.

In 1945, Dr. Sette essentially left acoustics to head the ship dynamics section and then the ship protection section, both concerned with the response of ships to air and underwater explosions. In connection with this work, he participated in the atomic bomb tests at Bikini in 1946 and Eniwetok in 1955. After his retirement in 1970, he continued to do research on ship structures for another 10 years under contract.

William Sette was a member of the American Physical Society and of Sigma Xi, and a member and past president of the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley. He leaves his wife, Betty, who will continue his hobby of cultivating prize camellias.

I cannot conclude without expressing my debt of gratitude to Bill for hiring me for my first research job, and for being my friend and mentor as well as my boss in those early days. He taught me many simple but important technical details not found in text books. Those of us who knew him and worked with him will miss him, and miss his honesty and insistence on accuracy and attention to detail.

MURRAY STRASBERG

Marvin Camras receives IEEE Information Storage Award



ASA Fellow Marvin Camras received the first Information Storage Award given by the IEEE Magnetics Society at a meeting held in 1990 in England. Camras, a pioneer in magnetic sound recording, demonstrated his research progress and results often at meetings of the Acoustical Society in the 1940 and 1950 decades, before videotape and computer disc recordings greatly expanded the field of magnetic recording applications. Since 1940 Marvin Camras and his colleagues at Armour (now IIT) Research Institute provided much of the technological

basis for the development of the magnetic recording industry. Camras has been inventor for over 500 patents and is a member of the exclusive Inven-