

Biography

Richard W. Burden

Richard W. Burden was born August 4, 1931 in Mount Kisco, New York. Upon Graduation from Mount Kisco Public Schools in 1949, he attended Lafayette College as a student of economics, transferred to RCA Institutes, and graduated in 1952 as a Broadcast Engineer.

Following graduation, he joined the faculty at the Signal School, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Called to active duty from the Army Reserve during the Korean Conflict he returned, in uniform, to the faculty of The Signal School, Fort Monmouth from 1953 to 1954 as an Administrator of Electronics Instruction in the Radar Division. In 1954, he was reassigned to Armed Forces Radio Service, New York City as a staff engineer.

Upon release from the military in 1955, he joined General Precision Laboratory, Pleasantville, New York, as a staff engineer. At GPL, his work encompassed circuit design, technical writing, environmental test and systems engineering of both military and commercial products.

In 1956, his avid interest in Hi Fi Audio, and his relationship with many of the pioneers of the industry, encouraged a part time business activity in the sales and installation of home entertainment systems. This opened an interest in yet another part time venture in 1958 with co-inventor William S. Halstead, leading to the development of the Halstead Stereoplex FM Stereo System. He was a member of that team of engineers that brought us FM Stereo. In 1960, his interest in and his knowledge of FM Stereo Broadcasting encouraged him to leave GPL to concentrate on full-time consulting in broadcast system engineering as principal in his firm of Burden Associates. In the late 70's he also worked with the team of engineers to bring us Television Stereo and continues today as a member of the National Radio Systems Committee.

In 1972, his firm was engaged as the project engineer on a "Developmental" broadcast system to provide traffic, parking and terminal location information to incoming motorists at Los Angeles International Airport. It was his work that assigned the use of 530 and 1610 kHz to the Travelers Information Service. He is known, in the industry, as the father of the Traveler's Information Service (TIS) as we know it today, and the system at the Los Angeles International Airport is well known as the very first TIS facility in the nation.

He is a patentee in the field, a Life-Fellow of the Audio Engineering Society (AES), AES author, and chairman of numerous AES technical sessions, past Western Vice President of the AES, AES representative to the Joint Committee for Industry Coordination (JCIC) for the Ad Hoc Study of Television Sound, a member of the National Stereophonic Radio Systems committee (NSRC) (FM Stereo Standards), a member of the Broadcast Television Systems Committee (BTSC) (TV Stereo Standards) and a member of the National Radio Systems Committee (NRSC). He is a Life-Member of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE), a Certified Professional Broadcast Engineer (CPBE) and a Fellow of the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE).

He was honored on the Golden Anniversary of the Audio Engineering Society in 1998, as an individual who had made significant contributions to the art and science of audio during that 50-year period.

Also honored by the Society of Broadcast Engineers in 2005, with their Lifetime Achievement Award (the seventh of nine given in their 50-year history), for 55 years of service to the broadcast industry and the mentoring of fellow engineers.