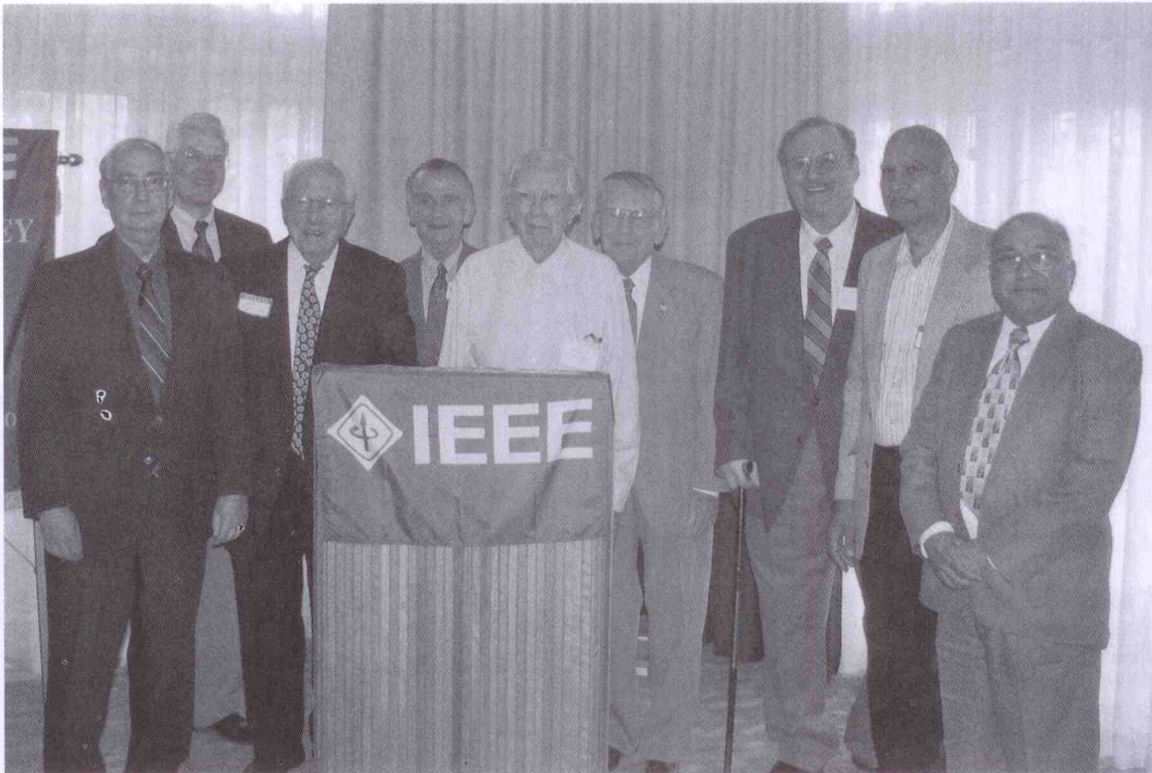


In Memoriam, Jerry B. Minter

By Howard Leach, Historian

In 1947, he organized and chaired the first Northern New Jersey Subsection of the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE), the predecessor organization of the IEEE North Jersey Section. He was named a Fellow of the IEEE in 1969 and became a Life Fellow in 1979. He is shown below with other past Section Chairs at the seventh annual Life Grade Luncheon on October 18th, 2008, at the Hamilton Park Hotel & Conference Center, Florham Park, NJ.



From left - Dr. Michael Liechenstein (1993), Howard Leach (1989), Steve Mallard (1966-67), Ken Oexle (1979-80), Jerry Minter (1947), Herb Blaicher, Jr. (1970-71), Al Stolpen (1980-81,2000), Har Dayal (2005-06), and Kirit Dixit (2007-08)

Jerry B. Minter, 95, engineer, inventor, and businessman of Morris Township, NJ, passed away on May 19, 2009. He will be remembered by his family, friends, and business and professional colleagues for his many remarkable accomplishments and contributions.

He grew up in Fort Worth, Texas, and graduated from MIT in 1934 with a BS EE. During that time he showed his technical gifts at an early age with the building of crystal radio sets and the sale and installation of radios at the age of 12 through stores in Ft Worth, Texas. He went on to build, sell, and service other radios and public address systems in Texas and in Massachusetts while at MIT. After graduating from MIT, he returned to Fort Worth to build a ham station. From one of his ham contacts, he heard about a job in New Jersey. As a result he arrived in Boonton on May 20, 1935 with his portable 5-meter ham rig on his old Model A roadster. He used to drive to Sheep Hill in Boonton and work ham's at Rocky Point, Long Island.

In 1935, he joined Boonton Radio at \$15.00 per week in the development of band-pass intermediate frequency transformers. In 1936, at the Radio Frequency Laboratories of Boonton, he help design aircraft receivers for new tower frequencies. Unfortunately, RFL was closed when the IRS ruled in 1936 to tax all surplus corporate profit at 100 percent. He then joined the Ferris Instrument Corp on Boonton Ave in 1936 and worked on the Model 16 and 25A Standard Signal Generators. He also worked on the US Navy Model 32A Radio Noise and Field Strength Meter.

In 1939, he helped found the Measurements Corporation, Boonton, NJ, as VP and Chief Engineer with some of his associates from the Ferris Instrument Corp. They were successful with the design and production of test equipment, particularly signal generators models 78, 79, and 84 that supported the WWII radar development and operation. In fact the first Model 84 was shipped to England to help with a countermeasures laboratory. Another of their signal generators was in use at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack. At that time, they were producing about ten percent of the test equipment made in this country. Later they developed the Model 90 Signal Generator for color television receiver testing.

In 1947, he formed the Northern NJ Subsection of the IRE, the predecessor organization of the IEEE North Jersey Section. This became the IRE Northern NJ Section in 1954 which was eventually re-named the IEEE North Jersey Section in 1962-63 with the combination of the IRE and the AIEE into the IEEE. The Section is now celebrating its 55th anniversary.

The picture on the right was taken from the 1948 'Proceeding of the IRE, Waves and Electronics Section', which recognized him as Chairman of the IRE Northern New Jersey Subsection, organized in October of 1947.

In 1953, after the Measurements Corp. was sold to the Edison Company, Jerry had a number of conversations with Charles Edison about his father, Thomas A. Edison. One related to the fire at the West Orange Laboratories where Thomas Edison, excited about the size of the fire, asked his son, Charles, to go get his mother so she could see the blaze.

In 1954, Mr. Minter bought the Components Corp., Denville, NJ, and entered into the audio business where he developed a series of special test records using their own 'Professional' turn table and record presses. Also in 1954, He was elected president of the Audio Engineering Society and helped start publication of 'The Audio Engineering Society Journal.'

In the 1960's, the company designed and built miniature high voltage power supplies for use in high altitude probes for NASA. They also developed a high-reliability edge-board connector called the "DigiKlip" that was used commercially in the Univac 1108, DC-10, as well as in space and military programs. Jerry also worked on video taping systems, many that were setup in the surgical suites within hospitals in New York City and in other major hospitals across the country. In another medical project, he modified VCR's to reduce their startup time for recording surgical training videos in NYC. Jerry, at the time of his death, was still President of The Components Corp., Denville, NJ, which is still in business and provides printed circuit wireform interconnect products, see: <http://www.componentscorp.com/>.



His most recent technical innovation was a passive collision warning system for small aircraft. Jerry Minter holds 26 patents of which the last six are on his aircraft collision avoidance system. As a private pilot with his own 1946 Navion airplane at Morristown Airport, he was a member of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and used his own plane to perform search and rescue and other CAP missions. He was also a longtime member of the Quiet Birdmen.

In 2006, he presented a demonstration of his patented aircraft collision warning system to a joint meeting of the IEEE North Jersey Section Aerospace and Electronics Systems Society (AESS) Chapter and the Lone Eagle Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, Peapack-Gladstone, NJ. He was also in the process of installing a prototype system on his aircraft for in-flight demonstrations.



The above photo shows left to right members of the Lone Eagle Composite Squadron with Jerry, Capt Will McLain V, commander, and Dr. Naresh Chand, Chair of the AESS Chapter.

On March 13th, 2007, Mr. Jerry B. Minter, the founder of the predecessor organization to our IEEE North Jersey Section made history again by becoming the first individual to be videotaped for an oral history for the IEEE History Center Archives. Until this time, the oral history recordings were all audio only. The video oral history taping was arranged by Mary Ann Hoffman, Archival & Web Services Manager, and conducted by Dr. Michael N. Geselowitz, Director, of the IEEE History Center, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. On the right, see photo taken of Jerry with Mary Ann Hoffman just before the video oral history taping at the Components Corp., Denville, NJ. A Measurements Corp. product, a Grid dip meter, which were produced in large volumes, is shown on the table.



It is fitting that Jerry was the first to have his oral history video taped as he was instrumental in the innovation of the use of video taping of surgical procedures for educational purposes. To see his edited video go to: the www.ieee.org home page, search on IEEE TV, select it, and under IEEE.tv Public Access, scroll down to: Oral History: Jerry Minter.

This article just hits the some of the highlights on Jerry's technical contributions. To get a much better understanding of his career and the many technical contributions he made, please read his oral history text. Go to:

www.ieee.org, home page, search on Oral Histories, select it and the alphabetical link at the bottom, then scroll to: Jerry B. Minter.

Jerry Minter was also very active in other profession organizations as well. He was a Fellow and past President of the Radio Club of America. Some of the information in this article was taken from an autobiography (1995) and profile (2002) of Jerry Minter published within the Radio Club of America Proceedings. He was also a past President of the Audio Engineering Society and held memberships in the Radio Electronic Television Manufacturing Association, the Society of Automotive Engineers, the American Standards Association, and the American Society of Metals.