

OBITUARIES



Elda E. Anderson

Robert H. Kent, for many years a research physicist in the Ballistic Research Laboratory at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, died on February 3 in Havre de Grace, Md., at the age of 75. He was known as a leading authority on ballistics and was formerly chairman of the Explosives and Armament Panel of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board.

Born in Meriden, Conn., he was educated at Harvard University and served there for a time as an assistant in the Physics Department and as a mathematics instructor before receiving his MA in 1916. Thirty-seven years later Harvard awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science. Before joining the Aberdeen Proving Ground Laboratory in 1922, he spent a year with the Electrical Engineering Department of the University of Pennsylvania, two years as a captain in the Army during World War I, and three years as an ordinance engineer with the Office of the Chief of Ordnance. He spent 34 years working in the Ballistic Research Laboratory at Aberdeen prior to his retirement five years ago.

A member of the National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the American Physical Society, Dr. Kent was honored by the Franklin Institute in 1947, when he received the Howard N. Potts Medal for distinguished work in science.

E. L. Kinsey, former chairman of the department of physics at the University of California at Los Angeles, died on May 26 at the age of 58. A native of Baltimore, Md., he was educated at Johns Hopkins University, and taught there as an assistant in the physics department while earning his PhD. Following a year as a National Research Council Fellow at Yale University, he joined the faculty of UCLA in 1928 and remained there until his retirement in 1959. He was appointed full professor in 1943 and became chairman of the Physics Department in 1949.

Prof. Kinsey, who was widely known for his contributions as a spectroscopist, was a fellow of the American Physical Society.

Guido Vidale, manager of work in physical chemistry at the Space Sciences Laboratory of General Electric's Missile and Space Vehicle Department, died in Philadelphia on April 14. He was 33 years old.

A native of Bologna, Italy, Dr. Vidale graduated from Yale University in 1947. He was awarded the MS degree in 1952 and received a PhD in physical chemistry in 1954 from the University of Michigan. During the years 1952-56, he received an American Cyanamid Fellowship, a Riggs Fellowship, a Corning Glass Fellowship, and a University of Michigan Chemistry Teaching Fellowship. Dr. Vidale was a member of the American Physical Society.

Elda E. Anderson, internationally known health physicist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, died of leukemia on April 17 at the age of 61. A native of Wisconsin, she graduated from Ripon College in 1922 and received both master's (1924) and PhD (1941) degrees in physics from the University of Wisconsin. She was professor and head of the Physics Department at Milwaukee Downer College in 1942 when she left to become an OSRD staff member at Princeton University. In 1943 she moved with the Princeton group to the Manhattan District's Los Alamos Laboratory where she worked with the cyclotron group until the end of the war. During that period she took part in many nuclear experiments, including a fundamental one on scattering of neutrons from ortho- and para-hydrogen. In 1946 she returned to Wisconsin under a joint appointment as professor of physics at Milwaukee Downer College and the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Anderson went to Oak Ridge in 1949 to take charge of the Education and Training Section of ORNL's Health Physics Division and was largely responsible for developing the Division's joint program with Vanderbilt University to provide graduate training in health physics. In addition she directed training programs for military personnel, state and federal officers, and university professors, many of whom are now leaders in the field of health physics and owe much of their success to the training and inspiration received from Dr. Anderson. To her friends and associates, Dr. Anderson (or "Andy" as she was affectionately known) was much more than a competent physicist and accomplished teacher. She combined the judgment of maturity with the vigor and enthusiasm of a youthful outlook. She was the one to whom her associates could and often did take their personal problems; her own problems, particularly during the last few years of her life when she knew she had leukemia, she kept from her friends.

At the time of her death she was chairman of the American Board of Health Physics which was formed by the Health Physics Society to determine professional standards and to certify the professional competence of persons meeting those standards. She also served as secretary-treasurer of the Society from the time it was founded in 1956 until 1959 when she was elected as its president. An Elda Anderson Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established in her memory by the East Tennessee Chapter of the Health Physics Society. Those wishing to contribute should do so through the local secretary, Jack T. Sutherland, 100 Plymouth Circle, Oak Ridge, Tenn.