

OBITUARIES

Paul R. Heyl, for many years a physicist at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D. C., died on October 22, 1961, at the age of 89. Dr. Heyl, who was born in Philadelphia, received his PhD in physics from the University of Pennsylvania in 1899, and he taught for several years thereafter at high schools in the state of Pennsylvania. In 1910 he became a member of the physics staff of the Commercial Research Corporation in New York, and in 1920 he joined the National Bureau of Standards as a physicist. He remained at the Bureau until his retirement in 1942.

Known for his work on the redetermination of the constant of gravitation and for other studies involving gravitational problems, he shared the 1922 Magellan Prize of the American Philosophical Society with a fellow NBS physicist, Lyman J. Briggs, with whom he had collaborated in the design of an earth induction compass. Dr. Heyl also was awarded the Franklin Institute's Boyden Premium in 1907 and the Potts Medal in 1943. He was a fellow of the American Physical Society.

O. B. Hanson, retired vice president of the Radio Corporation of America and a pioneer in the radio and television broadcasting industry, died on September 26 at the age of 67. He was born in England, but spent most of his life in the United States. His formal training in engineering was gained largely at the Hillyer Institute, where he studied at night, and at the Marconi School in New York. In 1923 he joined radio station WEAJ in New York, which became the key station of the National Broadcasting Company when the NBC network was formed in 1926. He served as chief engineer and vice president of NBC from 1937 to 1954, when he was named a vice president of the Radio Corporation of America. Mr. Hanson was a fellow of the Acoustical Society of America.

Edward J. Leshan, a 35-year-old physicist at the General Dynamics Corporation's General Atomics Division in San Diego, died of a heart ailment on November 14, 1961. Born in New York City, he received his bachelor's degree from the University of California in 1947 and his master's degree in theoretical physics from Cornell University in 1951. He then held successive positions on the staffs of General Aniline and Film Corporation (1951-52), California Research and Development Company (1952-53), and the University of California's Lawrence Radiation Laboratory (1953-56). In the latter year, he was named manager of the physics section of Advanced Technical Laboratories, and in 1960 he joined General Atomics as a physicist. He was a member of the American Physical Society.



Tom W. Bonner

Tom W. Bonner, chairman of the Department of Physics at Rice University, died unexpectedly of a heart attack at his home in Houston on December 6. He was 51 years of age. Born in Greenville, Texas, he took his BS at Southern Methodist University in 1931 and his PhD at Rice in 1934. He remained associated with Rice the rest of his professional career. During the period 1934-36, he was a National Research Council fellow at the California Institute of Technology. He joined the staff at Rice Institute in 1936 as an instructor, became professor in 1945, and was named chairman of the Department of Physics in 1947. He held a John Simon Guggenheim fellowship in 1938-39, working at the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge University, and from 1941 until 1946 he was at the Radiation Laboratory of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he served as associate head of the Airborne Division.

Prof. Bonner made prolific contributions to the field of nuclear physics—particularly in neutron physics, where he was a recognized international authority. He had served as a consultant to the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory since 1946, as a member of the Council of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies since 1949, and as a member of the Neutron Cross Section Advisory Group to the Atomic Energy Commission since 1951. His invention of the neutron-counter-ratio technique for the determination of neutron-emission thresholds and his invention of the sphere-moderated neutron spectrometer are but two of his many contributions to experimental nuclear physics.

In addition to his many scientific research contributions, Prof. Bonner was noted for the spirit of dedication that he brought to scientific affairs. He served as associate editor of the *Review of Scientific Instruments* during the periods 1946-49 and 1952-55, and he was an associate editor of the *Physical Review* in 1951. Since 1957, he had served as a member of the United States National Committee of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics.

Prof. Bonner's honors included fellowship in the American Physical Society, the American Nuclear Society, the Physical Society of London, the Dutch Physical Society, and the Japanese Physical Society. He was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 1959.