

the Kalinga Prize for popularization of science.

His contributions to science were recognized in his election to many national academies, including those of the US, the Soviet Union and Denmark. Plans are under way at the University of Colorado to honor his memory through a memorial fund to further his interests in theoretical physics. Contributions may be sent to the department of physics and astrophysics.

It was a privilege and an inspiration to have known and worked with George Gamow and to have experienced his intuitive thinking. The world of physics will not be the same without this free spirit.

RALPH A. ALPHER
*General Electric Research
& Development Center*

ROBERT HERMAN
General Motors Research Labs

Former Rice President William V. Houston

William V. Houston died in Edinburgh, Scotland on 22 Aug. while attending the 11th International Conference on low-temperature physics at St. Andrews. He was 68 and had been ill a short time.

At his death, Houston was honorary chancellor and distinguished professor of physics at Rice University where he had served as president from 1946 until his retirement in 1960.

Houston was born in Mt. Gilead, Ohio on 19 Jan. 1900. He received his BA and BS degrees in education in 1920 from Ohio State University, his

MS from the University of Chicago in 1922 and his PhD from Ohio State in 1925. The University of California and Ohio State granted him honorary degrees of doctor of laws and doctor of science, respectively.

After being a National Research Fellow at the California Institute of Technology from 1925 to 1927, he taught there until he became president of Rice University, then Rice Institute, in 1946. His California career was interspersed in 1927 with a Guggenheim fellowship for study and travel in Europe and with defense-oriented research during the second world war.

The Navy awarded him its Medal of Merit for directing development of the first homing torpedo and for supervising scientific studies that helped improve US weapon effectiveness, especially in the area of undersea warfare. A modest man, Houston never wore the Medal of Merit ribbon.

He was perhaps best known for his pioneering efforts in the fields of atomic spectroscopy and solid-state theory. His many publications include *Principles of Mathematical Physics* (1934) and *Principles of Quantum Mechanics* (1951) as well as numerous scientific articles. With the assistance of Gerald C. Phillips, Rice professor of physics and director of Bonner Nuclear Laboratories, he recently completed an updated version of *Principles of Quantum Mechanics*; the manuscript is being readied for publication.

On his arrival at Rice in 1946, Houston greatly expanded graduate study and research; the number of PhD degrees awarded annually increased from



WILLIAM V. HOUSTON

four in 1948 to 35 in 1960. During his presidency other important advances included the initiation of a five-year engineering program with a greater emphasis on the humanities and the introduction of a residential college system.

A fellow of the American Physical Society for many years, Houston was elected president in 1962. He also served on the society council.

A member of the National Academy of Sciences, he served on its council and on several important committees and was also a member of the American Philosophical Society and many other scientific and educational associations. He served on the National Science Board and as a trustee of the Carnegie Foundation for the advancement of teaching.

KENNETH S. PITZER
President, Rice University

Richard M. Goody has been made Mallinckrodt Professor of Planetary Physics at Harvard University. Also elected to Mallinckrodt professorships were **Robert V. Pound** and **J. C. Street**.

The University of Massachusetts has appointed **Fraser Price** professor of polymer science and engineering. He was formerly with General Electric in Schenectady.

At the State University of New York at Albany **James W. Corbett**, of the GE Research and Development Center, has been appointed professor. Promoted to associate professor were **Chih-Ree Sun** and **Richard I. Brown**.

Jerry Modisette, chief of space physics at NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center, has been named to the staff of the director of science and applications at the Houston center. Modisette's successor is **Stanley C. Freden**, formerly with Aerospace Corp in El Segundo, Calif.

Ronald F. Stebbings of University College London has been appointed professor of space science and physics at Rice University. Appointed an associate professor of space science was **Henry C. Goldwire Jr** of Cal Tech.

Thomas B. Clegg has joined the faculty of the University of North Caro-

lina at Chapel Hill as an assistant professor.

Bernard Hamermesh of TRW Systems has been named professor and chairman of the physics department at Cleveland State University. He will succeed **Harold E. Morgan** who has decided to return to full-time teaching. **Herbert C. Corben**, also of TRW Systems, has been appointed professor of physics and dean of graduate studies at Cleveland State.

Harald H. Nielsen, professor and past chairman of physics at Ohio State, is spending the academic year at the