

the physics community

Sawyer is honored with AIP's Compton Medal

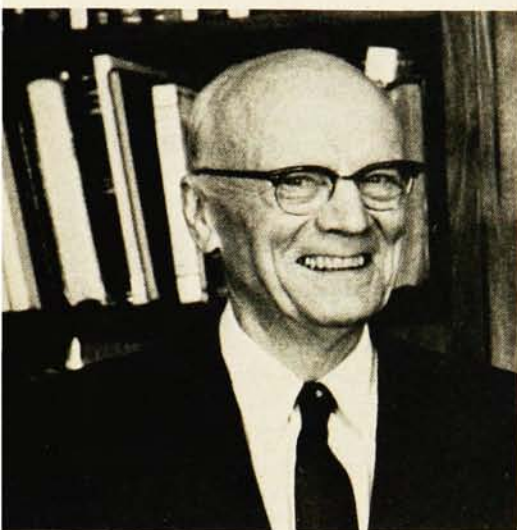
Ralph A. Sawyer, former president of the Optical Society of America and for 12 years chairman of the governing board of the American Institute of Physics, has received the Karl Taylor Compton Gold Medal, the highest award conferred by AIP.

Sawyer was honored by the Institute at the 40th anniversary meeting of society officers and corporate associates of AIP. H. William Koch, director of

Ground at Dahlgren, Virginia. Later he directed the "Crossroads" atomic tests at Bikini. In 1950 he was made a captain in the USNR.

The author of "Experimental Spectroscopy," Sawyer specializes in the fields of spectroscopy, radiometry, extreme uv spectra, spectral line hyperfine structure and quantitative spectrographic analysis. He has published more than 50 papers.

The Karl Taylor Compton Medal is an award established by the AIP governing board in 1957. The recipient is chosen by the board on the recommendation of a special committee. A certificate and a cash award of \$1000 accompany the gold medal.



SAWYER

AIP, presented the award, which lauded Sawyer for "outstanding statesmanship in science." The citation recognized "his many accomplishments, his keen perception, strong leadership, and devotion to the cause of science and society as a whole."

Sawyer was formerly vice-president for research and dean of the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies at the University of Michigan. There, his remarkable ability to draw research funds from Washington to Michigan labs brought him grateful recognition from his colleagues. He was on the physics staff at the University of Michigan from 1919 to 1964.

He joined the Optical Society of America in 1926 and served as its president from 1955 to 1957. In 1954 he became the OSA representative on the AIP governing board and became governing-board chairman in 1959, a post he held until this year. He is also a fellow of the American Physical Society and a member of the American Association of Physics Teachers.

Sawyer served in the Navy in World War I in the Bureau of Ordnance and he returned to the Navy in World War II, when he was placed in charge of the experimental labs at the Naval Proving

NAL users group elects new executive-committee members

The National Accelerator Laboratory Users Organization has announced the names of newly elected members of its executive committee. According to Earle C. Fowler of Purdue University, the chairman of the organization, the new members (who will serve two-year terms) are Drasko D. Jovanovic, Argonne National Laboratory; Donald H. Miller, Northwestern University; Michael Tannenbaum, Harvard University; Pierre Piroué, Princeton University; Richard Zdanis, The Johns Hopkins University and Gerald A. Smith of Michigan State University. There are currently 1120 members of the users group.

Legislative solutions to environmental problems

Physicists and physics students at Yale University have been working with law students on possible legislative solutions to environmental problems in an independent non-profit organization called Yale Legislative Services. YLS provides legal and technical assistance to state, local and national legislators who desire assistance in the preparation and evaluation of legislation. About 200 people have participated on a part-time basis in the activities of YLS, which is currently considering 45 projects.

The Environmental Technical Coordinator of the two-year-old organization is Edward J. Bentz Jr, a graduate student in nuclear physics. According to Bentz, eight physicists have participated in YLS programs, including John Rasmussen of the Yale chemistry de-

partment, D. Allan Bromley, chairman of the Yale physics department and Jack Gibbons of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Although the initial activities of YLS were in Connecticut, Bentz has recently worked with the New York City government in an effort to revise air-pollution laws. Other environmental activities of the YLS have included reports to the New York City government on automotive air pollution, solid-waste disposal and air-pollution detection using lasers and a February 1970 report to the Meriden, Conn., city council on air pollution in that city.

All of the members of the YLS are volunteers at present; most of the \$11000 required each year to operate the organization is provided by the Yale law school and a New World Foundation grant.

AURA to admit PhD-granting institutions to membership

The Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc has adopted the policy of admitting to membership PhD-granting institutions in the US with a strong commitment to teaching and research in astronomy. AURA operates the Kitt Peak National Observatory and the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory.

Under the present bylaws of the corporation, a two-thirds vote of the AURA board is required to admit a new institution. Two representatives of the newly admitted institution then serve on the board as directors. A screening committee has been set up to review membership applications, which should be addressed to the Office of the President, AURA, Inc, P. O. Box 4130, Tucson, Arizona 85717.

Users group for Indiana cyclotron is established

The Indiana University Cyclotron Facility Users Group has been organized. The four-sector cyclotron, capable of accelerating protons to 200 MeV, is being constructed under a \$4.6-million National Science Foundation grant. It is scheduled to become operational in mid-1973. The users group was formed in April and is currently led by William D. Ploughe of Ohio State University. Scientists interested in participating in the users group or desiring further information should contact Guy T. Emery, Department of Physics, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47401. □