

## we hear that

the subject of low-energy electron diffraction.

Germer was born in Chicago on 10 October 1896 and lived most of his childhood in Canastota, New York. He graduated from Cornell University in 1917, immediately joined what is now Bell Labs and then served in World War I as a fighter pilot on the western front where he obtained a citation from General Pershing. He returned to Bell Labs and obtained his PhD in physics from Columbia University in 1927. In that same year C. J. Davisson and Germer discovered that the electron can be characterized by a wave length, by observing low-energy electron diffraction from a nickel crystal. This work subsequently led to a Nobel Prize for Davisson, which was shared with G. P. Thompson. In the early papers on this subject Germer did experiments and pointed out the potential application of this technique for surface crystallographic studies of clean



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crystals and adsorbed species. His subsequent work was primarily involved with numerous applications of conventional 50-keV electron diffraction to crystal studies. At the time of his retirement from Bell Labs he was head of the contact physics department, which was formed to study the mechanisms that led to the degradation of relay contacts. His last three years at Bell Labs were devoted to the perfection of the low-energy electron diffraction display apparatus and research on surface structures with this apparatus. He then went to the department of applied physics at Cornell University where he maintained an active low-energy electron diffraction program.

He was a past president of the Ameri-

can Crystallographic Association, a fellow of the American Physical Society and the recipient of awards in recognition of his technical achievements. Lester Germer is best known by the great number of people he stimulated as a result of his curiosity, love of living and intense interest in sharing his excitement with others.

ALFRED U. MAC RAE  
Bell Laboratories  
Murray Hill, N. J.

## Lucy J. Hayner

A professor emeritus of physics at Columbia University, Lucy J. Hayner died 23 September at the age of 73.

Hayner's teaching career at Columbia began in 1920 when she received her MA degree there. She left Columbia briefly to study in Cambridge, UK from 1924 to 1925 and then worked for three years in the research laboratory of General Electric Co on problems of electron emission in vacuum tubes. After returning to Columbia in 1929, she taught in and later headed the Ernest Kempton Adams Laboratory. A specialist in atomic and electronic physics, Hayner had also designed and constructed a circular Braille slide rule.

## Finn J. Larsen

Finn J. Larsen, a vice-president of Toro Manufacturing Corp and former principal deputy director of defense research and engineering in the US Department of Defense, died 11 October of a heart attack. He was 55 years old.

Before coming to Toro in 1969, Larsen had also served the Defense Department as chief US representative to the NATO council of national armaments directors and to the NATO defense research group. Before his appointment with the defense department, Larsen had been vice-president of research and development at Honeywell, Inc, which he joined in 1948. While working for his PhD degree at Iowa State College, which he received in 1948, Larsen was instructor of physics there.

## Junius B. Reynolds

Junius B. Reynolds, associate professor of physics at Washington University, St. Louis, died on 7 October at the age of 49.

After undergraduate training as an electrical engineer at the University of Utah, Reynolds switched into physics as a graduate student, receiving the MA degree from Utah in 1949 and the PhD for nuclear physics from Princeton University in 1955. For the next two years he remained at Princeton as a research associate in a group headed by Donald

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