

we hear that

Floyd R. Watson celebrates 100th birthday

Floyd R. Watson, the first editor of the *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* and a former professor of physics at the University of Illinois, celebrated his 100th birthday on 23 April.

Watson's interest in acoustics began at the University of Illinois, where he taught from 1902 until his retirement in 1940. In 1923, he wrote the first organized book on the acoustics of buildings. During his lifetime, he has acted



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as a consultant on the acoustics of about 1000 buildings and auditoriums, the largest being the Pentagon Building and the latest the Beckman Auditorium at California Institute of Technology (done when he was over 90).

In the summer of 1928, Watson and Wallace Waterfall, one of his former students and currently secretary of the American Institute of Physics, visited Vern Knudsen at the University of California, Los Angeles. At lunch the three decided that there should be an Acoustical Society of America, and in 1929 the society was formed. When the ASA's *Journal* was formed, also in 1929, Watson became its first editor, and in 1939 he was elected president of the society. Currently, he is a fellow of ASA, as well

as a fellow of the American Physical Society.

A native of Lawrence, Kansas, Watson graduated from the Los Angeles Normal School (now UCLA) in 1893, received his BS degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 1899 and his PhD from Cornell University in 1902. Before going to the University of California, Watson worked on several newspapers, including the *Los Angeles Times*.

NAS elects new members and officers

Five new officers, seventy-five new members and twelve foreign associates were elected at the National Academy of Sciences 109th annual meeting in April.

Reelected to a second four-year term as treasurer of the academy was Emanuel R. Piore. He is a retired vice-president and chief scientist and a current member of the board of International Business Machines Corp. Lewis M. Branscomb, the new chief scientist of IBM and former director of the National Bureau of Standards, was elected as one of the four new council members.

Among the new members are Henry H. Barschall, professor of physics at the University of Wisconsin; Roy J. Britten, staff member of the Carnegie Institution of Washington's department of terrestrial magnetism and a visiting associate at the California Institute of Technology; Rodney L. Cool, professor of experimental high-energy physics at Rockefeller University; Albert V. Crewe, professor of physics and biophysics and dean of the physical-sciences division at the University of Chicago; and Vincent P. Dole, professor of physics at Rockefeller University. Other new members are Frank D. Drake, professor of astronomy at Cornell University, associate director of the Center for Radiophysics and Space Research and director of the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center; George B. Field, professor of astronomy at the University of California, Berkeley; Peter C. Goldmark, recently retired president and director of research at CBS Laboratories; Peter M. Gol-

dreich, professor of planetary science and astronomy at California Institute of Technology; Erwin L. Hahn, professor of physics at the University of California, Berkeley; Robert D. Luce, psychophysicist at the Institute for Advanced Study, and Malvin A. Ruderman, professor of physics at Columbia University. Also elected to NAS were Gertrude Scharff-Goldhaber, senior physicist at Brookhaven National Laboratory; Charles Tanford, Duke Professor of Biochemistry at Duke University Medical School; Sam B. Treiman, professor of physics at Princeton University; Steven Weinberg, professor of physics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Robert W. Zwanzig, research professor of physical chemistry at the University of Maryland.

The twelve distinguished scientists elected as foreign associates included Yuval Ne'eman, professor of physics at Tel Aviv University and Marcel Nicolet, director of research at the Institute for Space Aeronomy, Brussels, Belgium.

Four geophysicists honored by AGU

The American Geophysical Union presented awards to Carl Eckart, John M. Wallace, W. Ian Axford and W. Jason Morgan during its 53rd annual meeting in April.

Eckart, of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, received the William Bowie Medal "for outstanding contributions to fundamental geophysics and for unselfish cooperation in research." Although best known for his work on geophysical fluid dynamics, Eckart has also done research on thermodynamics. His career in oceanography began in World War II with research on submarine acoustics.

The James B. Macelwane Award was presented to Wallace, of the University of Washington's department of atmospheric sciences. He was cited for his work on the presence of long waves in the equatorial upper atmosphere. To achieve his results Wallace had combined knowledge of atmospheric physics with that of modern signal analysis.

For his work on geomagnetism, atmospheric electricity, aeronomy and