SMITH

of optics to aerospace photography, interferometry, and the development of optical-test and image-evaluation methods. Before joining Itek, he was chairman of the department of physics at Boston University and director of the Boston University physical research laboratories. Formerly a director-at-large and chairman of the technical council of OSA, Smith is the current chairman of the US National Commitee of the International Commission for Optics.

New role for "Current Physics Microform"

The American Institute of Physics has come up with a new plan for overcoming two of the major difficulties in the journal publication program—the exclusion to a large extent of lengthy tables of data and delays in the publication of papers for which page charges are not honored. Publication in microfilm costs so much less that some of the economic handicaps to journal publication can be surmounted by adding a primary publication role to *Current Physics Microform* (CPM). This proposal has been approved by AIP's Executive Committee, and editors and authors may now work out plans for implementing it.

As a secondary publication technique, all of the AIP and Member Society journals and the AIP *Conference Proceedings* series are currently being reproduced in the monthly reels of CPM, and information about the reel and frame numbers is included in *Current Physics Titles* (CPT) and in the magnetic tape of *Searchable Physics Information Notices* (SPIN).

According to AIP Director H. William Koch, the relative cheapness of microfilm makes it possible to publish in CPM some of the data compilations, appendixes to articles, and technical reports that cannot be accommodated in journals. Brief abstracts, with reference to the CPM reel and frame numbers, would be published in the appropriate journal, in addition to the standard citations in CPT and SPIN, to bring these items to the attention of physicists and others.

The other problem is the backlog in physics journal publication resulting from the inability of about 18% of the authors to find money for page charges. Koch suggests that much of the difficulty for such authors could be overcome by publication of condensed versions of their papers in the journals and of the full papers in CPM, with a reduction of the average page charge from $420.00 to $190.00. Normal page charges would be required for the condensed paper, which might be about one-quarter of the length of the full paper. The full paper would be prepared for direct photographic reproduction in CPM by the authors, using the format of the AIP *Conference Proceedings*, and the page charges might be only one-fifth of those for journal publication. Devoting only 25% of the journal pages to condensed papers would provide for a 75% increase in the number of papers published and should quickly cut down the backlog of unpublished material, according to Koch.

Lingafelter elected ACA vice-president

Edward C. Lingafelter has been elected vice-president of the American Crystallographic Association for 1973. He succeeds R. A. Young of Georgia Institute of Technology, who becomes president of the society.

Lingafelter is a professor in the department of chemistry at the Universi-

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ty of Washington. After receiving his PhD in chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley in 1939, he joined the faculty at Washington, where he has remained for the entirety of his professional career. Lingafelter was named professor in 1952, and he served as associate dean of the Graduate School from 1960 to 1968. He was a member of the US National Committee for Crystallography during 1970–72.

Stars on TV this month

A new film on stellar evolution titled "Birth and Death of a Star" will be shown on Public Broadcasting television on 29 January at 9:00 PM EST. Some Public Broadcasting stations will carry the film at a later date.

Produced by the American Institute of Physics in association with Los Angeles television station KETC, the half-hour color film was made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

To explain how stars are born, grow and die, the film employs special-effects photography and commentary by six physicists and astronomers. John A. Wheeler, professor of physics at Princeton University, serves as host commentator. Also appearing in the film are Don Hall and Beverly Lynds of Kitt Peak Solar Observatory, Jesse L. Greenstein of Cal Tech, Frank Drake of Cornell and John T. Ball of Harvard.

"Birth and Death of a Star" is the first of two films to be produced by AIP. The second, expected to be completed early this year, will cover biophysics. Both films are funded as part of the National Science Foundation's public understanding of science program.

Bert Shapiro is the writer and producer of both films. Following their premier on Public Broadcasting, they will be available for showing at schools and various civic and service organizations.

Postdoc information service reopens

The Physics Post-Doctoral Information Pool is now accepting applications from individuals and institutions. PPIP, which is run for the American Physical Society by AIP, informs individuals of openings at participating institutions and supplies the institutions with the resumes of participants. In April, when the initial placement activities are slowing down, PPIP offers an optional matching service. The matching service is set up so that no institution will receive the name of an unacceptable candidate and candidates' names will be sent only to schools in which they have expressed an interest.

This year foreign institutions and industrial research laboratories are being invited to enroll. The pool will also list junior faculty positions for institutions that submit them. Charges for participation are $15 for an individual and $125 for an institution.

Individuals and institutional representatives are invited to write for complete details and enrollment materials to: PPIP, 335 East 45th St., New York, N.Y. 10017.