

we hear that

versity; **Richard Kristal**, of Holobeam, Inc, Paramus, New Jersey, and **Martin E. Banton**, of Yale University. New staff members in the theoretical division include **Michael M. Nieto**, of Purdue University; **Brendan B. Godfrey**, previously with the US Air Force at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico; **Gerard J. Stephenson, Jr.**, from the University of Maryland, College Park; **Eldon J. Linnebur**, of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and **O'Dean P. Judd**, of Hughes Research Laboratory, Malibu, California.

Among other newcomers to Los Alamos are **James S. Frank**, of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, **Mikkel B. Johnson**, of Cornell University, and **Melvin Leon**, of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, who have joined the medium-energy physics division; **Galen K. Straub**, of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, and **James S. Cohen**, of Rice University, who have joined the theoretical design division; **Robert C. Reedy**, from the University of California, San Diego, and **Stev-**

en W. Depp, from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, who have joined the chemistry-nuclear-chemistry division, and **Jerry L. Evans**, of Auburn University, who has joined the assay and accountability division.

Spencer L. Williams, formerly with Environmental Research in Las Vegas, Nevada and Alexandria, Virginia, has joined McDonnell Douglas Astronautics Co in Huntington Beach, California.

Alexander Zucker, a nuclear physicist at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, has been appointed associate laboratory director for basic physical sciences.

Recent promotions in the department of physics at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, include **Kam-Ching Leung**, to associate professor and director of the Behlen Observatory; **David Golden**, to professor; and **Thomas A. Morgan** and **Donal J. Burns**, to associate professor. New appointments in the department include **David J. Sellmyer**, formerly of MIT, to associate professor, and **Anthony Starace**, formerly of Imperial College, London, to assistant professor.

obituaries

Henri S. Sack

Henri S. Sack, 68, the Walter S. Carpenter, Jr Professor of Engineering, and professor of applied physics at Cornell University, died during the past year.



SACK

Born in Davos, Switzerland in 1903, Sack was educated at the Eidgenossische Technische Hochschule in Zur-

ich, receiving a diploma in mathematics and physics in 1925 and a doctorate in physics in 1927. For six years he was head assistant in the department of physics at the University of Leipzig, Germany, and then for seven years, until 1940, he was *chef de travaux* in the department of physical chemistry at the University of Brussels. While in Leipzig he was a research associate of Peter J. W. Debye, Nobel laureate in Chemistry, who later became professor and head of the chemistry department at Cornell. Sack came to Cornell in 1940 as a research associate in the College of Engineering. He became an associate professor in 1946 and a full professor in 1949. He was named to the Walter S. Carpenter, Jr Professorship in 1963 and held that post until his death on 17 March of last year.

Throughout his career, he had three principal interests: an intense interest in physics as it developed through the years, a love for helping students gain such knowledge and acquire standards of excellence and diligence, and an unswerving loyalty to Cornell.

His scientific career spanned a long dynamic era in the evolution of modern physics and to his last day, spent in the research laboratory, he was actively in contact with the forefront of his subject. His earliest contributions

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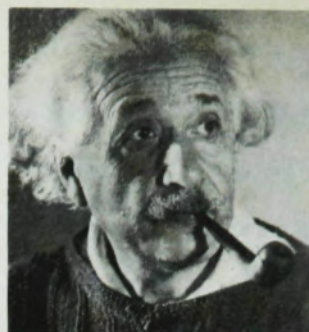
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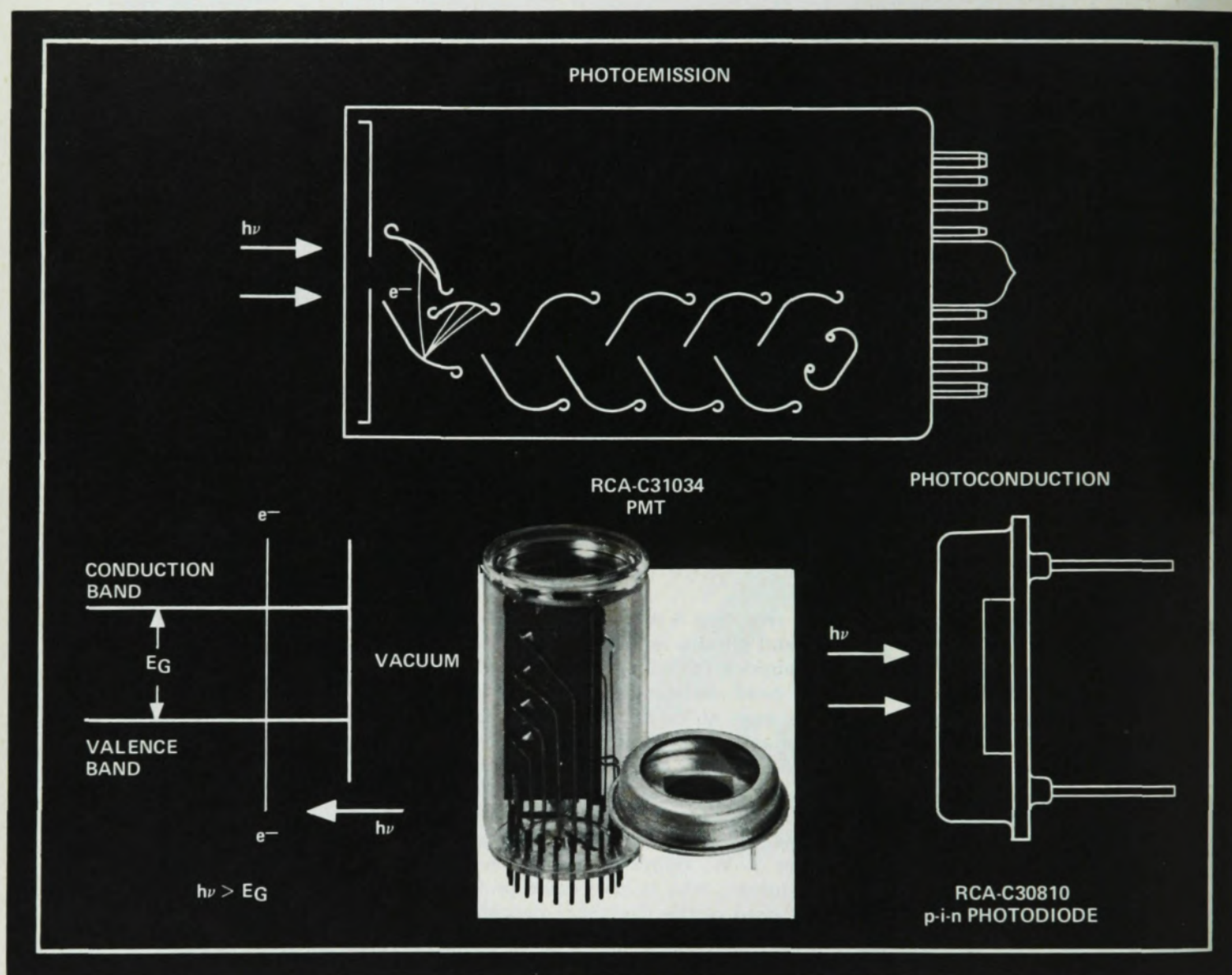
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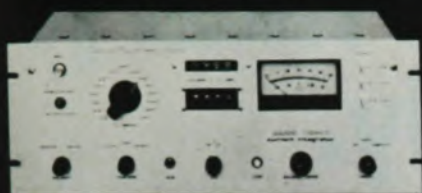
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were on the physics of dielectric relaxation, and he also was one of the first investigators to use ultrasonic techniques to study related molecular mechanisms. During World War II he turned his inventive experimental talents to a variety of applied problems. From then until the present he was a leader in the use of ultrasonics and dielectric techniques to study the solid state. Over all this time he constantly incorporated the latest theoretical and experimental methods into his programs. The breadth of his early experience resulted in a depth of understanding of the basics of the physical world that allowed him to rise above the details of a current approach and take a leadership role in developing "new" areas of physics and applied science. He played a major role in the formation of the Cornell Materials Science Center, a highly successful venture in cooperation in research by five autonomous departments. During his tenure as second director of this Center, he solidified the spirit of cooperation that continues to this day.

Sack was equally dedicated to improving the quality of education in his college and field at Cornell. He worked tirelessly on committees and projects for curriculum revision and, in particular, was a major force in forging the engineering-physics degree program, which rapidly attained national recognition as a major step forward in bringing engineering education into tune with the national needs of the profession.

A man of great modesty and total selflessness, Henri Sack was admired and beloved by the many students who knew him; there were about 75 who completed masters or doctoral theses under his direction. Above all, he was dedicated to excellence; this dedication demanded much of his students and sought to instill in them the code of excellence that guided his life. In the words of one student, "He has given us a gift of lasting value."

His colleagues respected Henri for his complete personal integrity in difficult negotiations and the compromises inherent in administrative activity. He was very human, quick to make a joke to relieve tensions, and, when things looked darkest, would express an optimistic and patient attitude. The Henri Sack Memorial Fund, initiated by his former students, will be used to further the endeavors which he himself long served so well at Cornell.

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