

we hear that

Julius P. Molnar

Julius P. Molnar, executive vice-president of Bell Laboratories and a member of the Board of Directors of Bell Labs and the Sandia Corporation, died on 11 January in Summit, New Jersey. He was 56.

A native of Detroit, Molnar received his doctorate in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1940. In 1945 he joined the technical staff at Bell Labs where he did research in physical electronics and the development of microwave tubes. He was made director of electron-tube development in 1955 and in 1957 he became director of military systems development. Molnar left Bell Labs in 1958 to become president of Sandia Corporation and a vice-president of the Western Electric Company. He returned to Bell Labs as executive vice-president in 1960.

S. Smith Stevens

S. Smith Stevens, an expert on the physics of sensory perception, died during his sleep on the night of 18-19 January in Vail, Colorado.

Born in 1906 at Ogden, Utah, Stevens completed his doctorate at Harvard University in 1933. He did research at the Harvard Medical School and in Harvard's department of physics prior to joining the staff as an instructor in psychology (1936). He was promoted to associate professor in 1944 and professor in 1946. During 1949-62 Stevens served as director of Harvard's Psychological Laboratory. He was professor of psychophysics and director of the Laboratory of Psychophysics at Harvard from 1962 until his death.

Harald Herborg Nielsen

Harald Herborg Nielsen, professor emeritus in the department of physics at Ohio State University, died on 8 January at the age of 69.

Nielsen, who was born in Menominee, Michigan in 1903, attended St Olaf College and the University of Michigan, where he completed his PhD in 1929. After a year as an American-Scandinavian fellow in Copenhagen, Denmark, he joined Ohio State University as an instructor in the department of physics. He was subsequently promoted to assistant professor (1933), associate professor (1936) and professor (1943). From 1946 until 1967 Nielsen served as chairman of the department.

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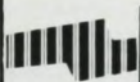
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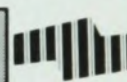
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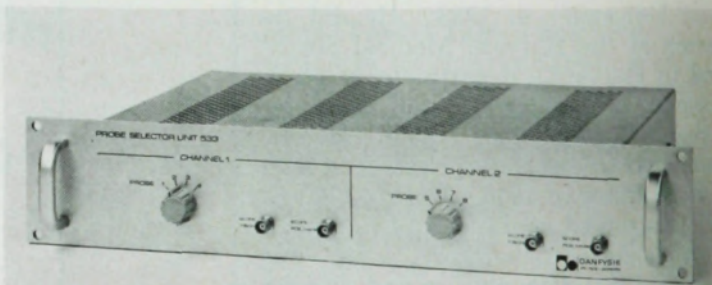
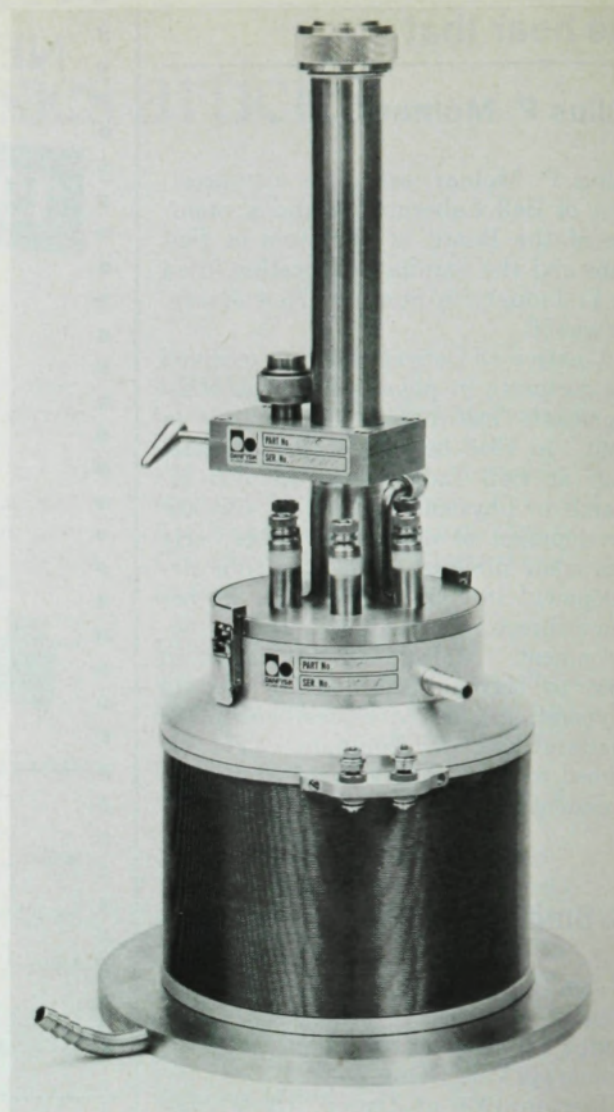
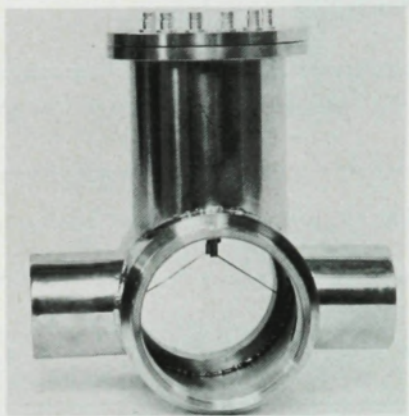
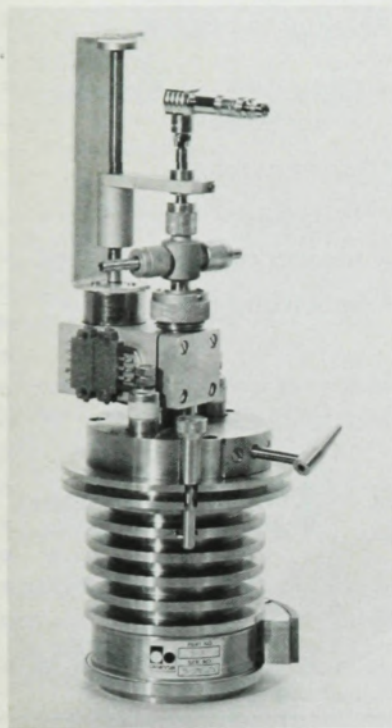
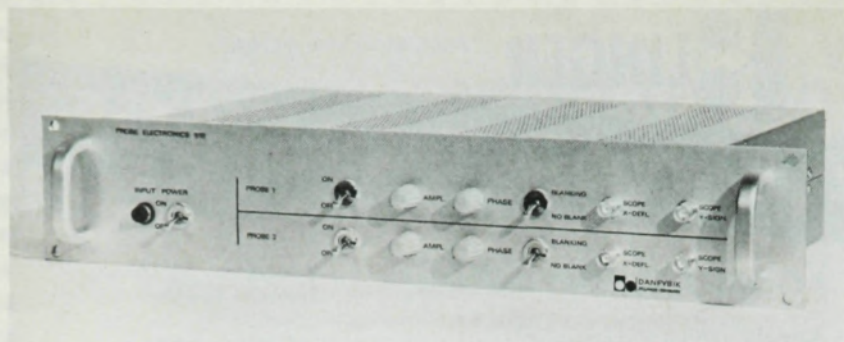
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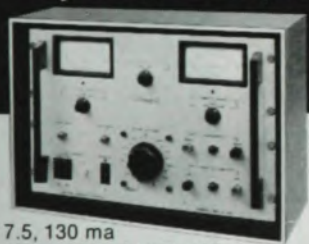


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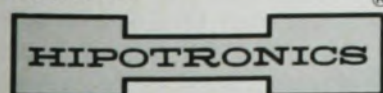
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He was named professor emeritus in 1970.

Nielsen was a past vice-president of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics; he was associate editor of both the *Physical Review* (1945-48) and the *Journal of Chemical Physics* (1952-55), and in 1956 he became editor of *The Journal of Molecular Spectroscopy*. His field of specialization was infrared spectroscopy.

Adam H. Spees

Adam H. Spees, a professor of physics at Smith College, died on 29 May 1972, while vacationing in Ireland. He was 58 years old.

Born in Akron, Ohio in 1914, Spees attended the University of Michigan, where he received his PhD in 1940. He worked as an instructor in physics at the Detroit Institute of Technology (1939-41) and at Union College in Schenectady, New York (1941-44), and as an assistant professor at Wesleyan University (1944-46) and the University of Connecticut (1946-59). In 1959 he joined the faculty of Smith College. He was named professor in 1965. Spees was best known for his demonstration that the positronic charge is equal to the electronic charge. He was more recently concerned with low-temperature physics and thermal conductivity.

Mitchell Wilson

Mitchell Wilson, the novelist and science writer, died on 26 February in New York. He was 59 years old.

Wilson was born in New York in 1913. It was during his senior year as an undergraduate at New York University that he first became interested in physics. He then went on to earn a graduate degree in physics at Columbia University, where he studied under I. I. Rabi, the Nobel Laureate. For a short time in 1939 Wilson was an assistant to Enrico Fermi, who was doing research at Columbia at the time.

Wilson's most important science books are *American Science and Invention* (1954), which has become a standard reference work, and *Passion to Know* (1972), which inquires into how scientists go about their work in various societies. For the latter book Wilson, who spoke Russian, was allowed to interview a number of specialists in the Soviet Union. His novels and books on science were very popular in the USSR.

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