

we hear that

pointed chairman of the atomic physics research committee and **James P. Reilly** has been appointed chairman of the aero-physics research committee.

Myer M. Kessler, associate director of libraries at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been appointed coordinator of technical data systems in the MIT Information Processing Services office.

obituaries

Robert L. Platzman

Robert L. Platzman, a professor in the departments of physics and chemistry at the University of Chicago, died on 2 July. He was 54 years old.

While serving as senior scientist at the Argonne National Laboratory (1958-65), Platzman was involved in research on the mechanism of action of ionizing radiation, and he made fundamental contributions to the understanding of the concept and properties of the hydrated electron.

Platzman was a member of the faculty of Purdue University from 1949 to 1958, and from 1959 to 1961 he was a Fulbright Professor at the University of Paris. In 1966 he joined the University of Chicago. He was frequently a consultant to government laboratories and in 1958 served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Effects of Ionizing Radiation of the National Research Council.

Irvine C. Gardner

Irvine C. Gardner, a past president of the Optical Society of America, died on 29 December 1972 at the age of 83. He made many contributions toward the growth of optics in the US after the first world war.

A 1915 PhD graduate from Harvard, Gardner joined the National Bureau of Standards in 1921, where he remained until 1959 when he retired as chief of the Optics and Metrology Division. At NBS Gardner concentrated on the design and testing of optical systems and their component parts; he encouraged the formation of the Optical Instruments Section, and he initiated optical image evaluation, a topic that continues to be of great interest to scientists and engineers. He also made important instrumental contributions to photographic mapping. Gardner's ac-

New appointments to the physics department at California State University, Fullerton, include **Dorothy S. Woolum**, a former research fellow at California Institute of Technology, to assistant professor, and **Louis N. Y. Shen**, of Connecticut Wesleyan University, to associate professor. **Mark H. Shapiro** has been promoted to associate professor. The former department chairman, **Fred M. Johnson** has resigned to return to full-time teaching. He is replaced by **Edward L. Cooperman**, who has been appointed acting chairman.

tive participation in many of these fields continued long after his official retirement.

As vice-president and then president of the Optical Society, Gardner was in charge at the time when the Society began to outgrow its organizational structure. After assuming the presidency in 1958, he appointed the Committee on Future Policies of the Optical Society of America, which recommended that the Society set up an executive office, hire an executive secretary and expand its programs. The



GARDNER

board accepted this report and approved the implementation of this radical change in 1959.

The Society has grown and prospered since this time, and Gardner deserves credit for initiating and implementing the necessary organizational changes. He was an effective administrator as well as a distinguished and outstandingly competent optical scientist.

MARY E. WARGA
Executive Secretary Emeritus
Optical Society of America □

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