

New director for Lawrence Berkeley Lab

Andrew M. Sessler, a leading theorist in particle-accelerator design, has been named director of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. He succeeds Edwin M. McMillan, who has retired after holding the position for 15 years.

Working at the Midwest Universities Research Association in the late 1950's, Sessler participated in the conception of the fixed-field-alternating-gradient accelerator. This was the first of his numerous theoretical contributions to particle-accelerator design. At the same time he began his well-known work on the identification and subsequent solution of several types of particle instabilities hampering development of more powerful accelerators—work that proved to be of considerable importance to the creation of storage-ring technology. Sessler has also made important contributions to the theory of the electron-ring accelerator and to the concept of the proton-electron-positron storage-ring device currently under joint investigation by LBL and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center.

At LBL Sessler has applied his experience as a theoretical physicist to the laboratory's expanding energy and environmental programs. In his acceptance statement he stressed the need for the continuation of a strong basic research program, as well as for immediate practical solutions to the problems confronting modern society. "I



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hope to see LBL energetically and wisely employed to capacity in the service of Society," he stated, "both on problems requiring a near-term solution and on fundamental research that will contribute, both in specific ways and, in the longer term, in ways that we cannot now fathom."

Before joining LBL in 1961 Sessler worked at Ohio State University, the Midwestern Universities Research Association and the Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen. He holds a PhD from Columbia University (1953).

Hubbert worked for 20 years with the Shell Oil and Shell Development Companies in Houston before joining the Geological Survey in 1964. He also taught geophysics at Columbia University during 1931-40, receiving his PhD from the University of Chicago in 1937.

Smithsonian's Henry Medal honors Fred L. Whipple

Fred L. Whipple, former director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and Phillips Professor of Astronomy at Harvard University, was recently presented the Henry Medal of the Smithsonian Institution.

Whipple was given the award for his leadership of the Observatory, which he directed from 1955 until his retirement in October, and for his contributions to the understanding of the solar system—contributions that include development of techniques for measuring the speeds and decelerations of meteors and for computing the orbits of comets and asteroids.

After receiving his doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1931, Whipple began a long association with Harvard University that has lasted over forty years. Ostensibly retired, he will continue his own research at the Observatory. In addition, he will function as an adviser on the development of the large, multiple-mirror telescope to be built jointly by the Observatory and the University of Arizona.

Griggs and Hubbert given Geological Society medals

The Geological Society of America has presented awards to two geophysicists—David T. Griggs, a professor of geophysics at the University of California, Los Angeles, and M. King Hubbert, a research geophysicist with the US Geological Survey.

Griggs was awarded the Arthur L. Day Medal for his own research, as well as for promotion of research by others, in earthquake mechanics, earthquake prediction and control, convection beneath the earth's crust and the evolution of crustal plates. He has also published frequently, primarily in the area of earthquake analysis

and the behavior of rocks at high pressure and temperature. His most recent book, published last year, is the Griggs Volume, *Flow and Fracture of Rocks*, Monograph 16 of the American Geophysical Union. He has been at UCLA since 1948.

Hubbert was given the Penrose Medal in recognition of research that has led to increased understanding of complex geological phenomena. He was cited for "work on the physics of underground fluids, including the motion of ground water, entrapment of petroleum under hydrodynamic conditions, and fluid behavior in petroleum reservoir engineering, [that] has been the basis for significant additions to the world's store of available energy."

Paul W. McDaniel, the former director of the US Atomic Energy Commission's division of research, has accepted the presidency of Argonne Universities Association. McDaniel will establish the AUA president's office in the Washington, D.C. area.

At the University of Pittsburgh Leon Lucy, formerly of Columbia University, has been appointed associate professor of physics, and John F. Gunion of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has been named assistant professor.

Frank Loucks Hereford Jr, the Taylor Professor of Physics at the University of Virginia, was recently elected president of the University.

we hear that

The International Academy of Quantum Molecular Sciences, founded in Menton, France, in 1967, has elected three scientists to its membership—**Gerhard Herzberg**, distinguished research scientist with the National Research Council of Canada and winner of the 1971 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, **Klaus Ruedenberg**, a professor of chemistry and physics at Iowa State University and a senior chemist at the Ames Laboratory, and **Roy McWeeny**, a professor of theoretical chemistry at the University of Sheffield, UK. The membership of the Academy is limited to 25 scientists under the age of 70.

Alan Mencher, formerly the scientific attache at the US Embassy in London, has become director for the unit for research on technology and national objectives at the London Graduate School of Business Studies.

The chairman of the physics department at Yale University, **D. Allen Bromley** has been elected to the board of directors of United Illuminating, New Haven, Conn.

Charles H. Townes, a professor of physics at the University of California, Berkeley, and winner of the 1964 Nobel Prize in Physics, has joined the board of directors of the General Motors Corp.

Pierre Raoul Aigrain has become the first Henry R. Luce Professor in Environ-

ment and Public Policy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Aigrain has been the French government's general delegate for research and technology since 1968.

Franklyn K. Levin has been promoted to senior research scientist at the Esso Production Research Co in Houston.

The new chief of the solid-state division, applied physics department, Naval Ordnance Laboratory, Silver Spring, Md., is **Robert S. Allgaier**. Allgaier has been with the Laboratory since 1955.

Allen Rothwarf of the University of Pennsylvania has joined the University of Delaware Institute of Energy Conversion as an associate research professor.

At the General Motors Research Laboratories **Walter A. Albers Jr** has been promoted to head of the societal analysis department.

George O. Zimmerman of Boston University was recently named chairman of the physics department there. The retiring chairman, **Robert S. Cohen**, will continue as a member of the department and as chairman of the University's Center for the Philosophy and History of Science.

Philip Morrison of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has been named an Institute Professor of Physics.

obituaries

Thomas Lauritsen

Thomas Lauritsen, a professor of physics at the California Institute of Technology, died on 16 October at age 57.

Born in Denmark, Lauritsen came to the US as a child and grew up near the Cal Tech campus where his father, Charles C. Lauritsen, also became a professor of physics. After earning his BS and PhD degrees at Cal Tech, he spent the year 1939-40 as a National Research Fellow in Copenhagen where, as Aage Bohr recalls, "he delighted the Danes with his humor and his outrageous attempts to speak their language." While there Lauritsen built a Van de Graaff accelerator that initiated experimental studies of nuclear reactions at the Niels Bohr Institute. This and subsequent visits, reciprocated by Danish visitors to Pasadena, established close ties between the Kellogg Radiation Laboratory and the Bohr Institute.

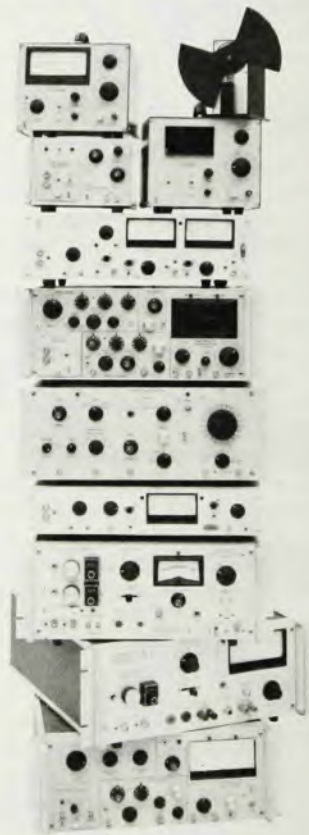
Lauritsen returned to the US just as World War II was breaking out in Europe and rejoined his colleagues at the Kellogg Laboratory in their wartime work: development and pilot production of solid-fuel rockets for the Navy, and later the development of various auxiliary devices for nuclear weapons.

After the war he returned to his nuclear research, notably to the investigation of the weak interaction by cloud-chamber studies of the decay of Li^8 , and beta spectrometer studies of Li^8 and B^{12} decay. Lauritsen built a magnetic-lens spectrometer for internal conversion electrons and with his students—W. F. Hornyak, V. K. Rasmussen and R. G. Thomas—carried out an extensive series of experiments on nuclear pairs and gamma rays from light nuclei. His active interest in beta spectra continued throughout his career.

In nearly all of these experimental investigations Tommy Lauritsen was

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