

## Olson receives first ASA Silver Medal

Harry F. Olson will receive the first Silver Medal of the Acoustical Society of America on 6 November during its St. Louis, Mo. meeting.

The award, established in 1972, recognizes "contributions to the advancement of science, engineering or human welfare through the application of acoustic principles, or through research accomplishment in acoustics." Olson was selected for his productivity in both research and publishing. He has made significant contributions with microphones, loudspeakers, sound reproduction and electronic music, has written 130 scientific papers plus several books and has served the ASA as associate editor for 30 years.

After earning his doctorate at the University of Iowa in 1928 he joined RCA Laboratories, where he remained until his retirement in 1967. In 1940, under Olson's direction, the RCA acoustics laboratory studied underwater sound and antisubmarine warfare. They built underwater transducers operating at frequencies as high as 60 MHz and an effective electroacoustic proximity fuse for depth charges.

Olson holds more than 100 US patents on acoustical devices and systems.



OLSON

He developed the velocity microphone, the cardioid unidirectional microphone, multicone and multicoil direct radiator loudspeakers, the air suspension loudspeaker, the functional sound absorber and, with Herbert Belar, the RCA Electronic Music Synthesizer.

## Civil Service League honors Naugle

The National Civil Service League's Career Service Award for Sustained Excellence will go to John E. Naugle, deputy associate administrator for NASA.

The award honors high federal officials with at least ten years of outstanding public service.

Naugle joined NASA in 1959 as head of the nuclear emulsion section at the Goddard Space Flight Center. During 1961 he was chief of physics in the office of space science, NASA headquarters. He was director of physics and astronomy programs, and then deputy associate administrator for the office of space science and applications during 1962-67, becoming associate administrator for space science in 1967 and remaining in that role until assuming his present position earlier this year.

Naugle earned his doctorate in 1953 at the University of Minnesota. His re-

search has included cosmic rays, high-energy physics and trapped radiation. Prior to joining NASA, he was senior staff scientist at the Convair Science Research Laboratory.

## Bird wins Bingham Medal in Rheology

The Society of Rheology has selected Robert Byron Bird as its 1974 Bingham Medalist. The award is to be presented on 22 October at the University of Massachusetts during the society's 45th annual meeting.

Bird is cited for his distinguished career as an educator and for his research achievements in rheology. He has on several occasions been a Fulbright Lecturer, and during 1958 he was a Guggenheim Fellow. He is currently Vilas Research Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Wisconsin, where he earned his doctorate in

chemistry in 1950. During 1964-68 he was chairman of its department of chemical engineering.

Development and testing of constitutive models has been Bird's most widely known work. He is currently studying various kinds of dumbbell models as prototypes for dilute polymer solutions.

## Chien-Shiung Wu is scientist of year

Chien-Shiung Wu, Pupin Professor of Physics at Columbia University and American Physical Society president for 1975, has been named Scientist of the Year by *Industrial Research*.

A nuclear physicist, she is best known for leading the group that performed the 1956 experiment proving that parity is not conserved in weak interactions.

Wu was born in Liu Ho, China and emigrated to the US in 1939. She earned her doctorate in 1940 at the University of California, Berkeley and taught there for four years before joining the Columbia faculty, where she has remained for 29 years.

Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Rutgers are among the universities that have presented honorary degrees to Wu, who is also an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

## Gordon Award to Courtney-Pratt

Jeofry A. Courtney-Pratt, head of the applied physics and exploratory systems department at Bell Laboratories, has been presented with the Alan Gordon Memorial Award by the Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers.

The society cited Courtney-Pratt, a high-speed photography expert, for "advancement of photographic instrumentation as a science of observation, recording and measurement." The Smithsonian Institution has selected his high-speed cameras for display as important devices in the field of high-speed photography.

Courtney-Pratt was born in Australia, studied at the University of Tasmania and earned PhD and DSc degrees from Cambridge University. Optics, acoustics, ballistics and adhesion are among his research interests. He has been with Bell Laboratories since 1958.