

Oak Ridge Lab renamed for Holifield

Former Congressman Chet Holifield's achievements in science legislation have won him the acclaim of both the US government and the scientific community. Oak Ridge National Laboratory has been renamed "Holifield National Laboratory" in his honor, and he has received the Henry de Wolf Smyth Nuclear Statesman Award of the American Nuclear Society and the Atomic Industrial Forum.

Located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, the laboratory was founded in 1943 and since 1948 has been operated by the Union Carbide Corporation for the Atomic Energy Commission. The bill that called for its renaming was signed into law by President Ford on 3 January.

Holifield is the second recipient of the Nuclear Statesman Award, which was established in 1972 to recognize "outstanding services in developing and guiding the uses of atomic energy in constructive channels." The award carries the name of the former US AEC Commissioner and ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency who was the first to earn it.

Elected in 1942 to the 78th Congress, Holifield has served 16 consecutive terms. He has been a member of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy since its formation in 1946, including ten years in the positions of vice-chairman and chairman. He was selected to be congressional adviser to the US delegation to the international conferences on peaceful uses of atomic energy and has been US delegate to several IAEA general conferences and to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks.

Holifield has handled more than 45 of



HOLIFIELD

the federal government's reorganization plans, including those for the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. As chairman of the Committee on Government Operations he directed the development and enactment of legislation creating the Federal Energy Administration, the Energy Research and Development Administration, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Energy Resources Council. Choosing to retire after a 32-year career in the House of Representatives, the California Democrat did not seek reelection in November.

Apel honored for satellite work

John R. Apel of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has received a US Department of Commerce gold medal for his administrative, scientific and technical contributions to the NASA satellite SEASAT-A. Planned for launch in 1978, SEASAT-A is designed to collect information from the ocean surface that will facilitate basic oceanographic research and prediction of weather conditions at sea.

Apel earned his doctorate in physics from Johns Hopkins University in 1970. He is director of the ocean remote-sensing laboratory at NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories in Miami, Florida.

Earth science awards to Ringwood and Ewing

The Geological Society of America has presented its most prestigious awards for achievement in the earth sciences to

Alfred E. Ringwood and posthumously to Maurice Ewing. Ringwood is a professor of geochemistry at the Australian National University in Canberra and Ewing, who died in May, was chief of earth and planetary sciences at the Marine Biomedical Institute, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston. During 1949-72 Ewing directed Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory.

Ringwood received the Day Medal for achievements made through the application of physics and chemistry to geological problems. He has concentrated on high-pressure phase transformations and their effect on the inner structure of the earth, and helped to establish and operate the ANU laboratory that has made vital discoveries in this field. The American Geophysical Union recently awarded him its William Bowie Medal for his development of detailed models of the Moon and the Earth's mantle. Ringwood earned his doctorate at Melbourne University in 1956 and has been with ANU since 1959.

The society awarded the Penrose Medal to Ewing in appreciation of his outstanding lifelong career and wide-ranging accomplishments in geophysics. Ewing helped to build the foundations for the theory of plate tectonics, developed the seismograph and devised techniques for mapping the ocean floor. His previous honors include GSA's Day Medal, The Vetlesen Prize and AGU's Bucher and Bowie Medals.

Bulkin receives Coblenz award

Bernard J. Bulkin has received the Coblenz award for outstanding research in molecular spectroscopy. At age 32 he is full professor and chairman of the chemistry department at Hunter College of the City University of New York.

Bulkin has earned the award for molecular-spectroscopy research in two areas: chemical liquid crystals and biological cellular membranes. The American Cancer Society has funded his biological research continuously since 1968 and he has received two grants from the National Science Foundation. He has a strong interest in teaching, particularly freshmen and disadvantaged students who are involved in remedial science courses.

After receiving his PhD in physical chemistry from Purdue University in

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we hear that

1966, Bulkin spent a postdoctoral year at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. He joined Hunter College in 1967 as an assistant professor of chemistry.

New assistant professors in the department of physics and astronomy at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge are **L. H. Chan**, **Raymond L. Wagner** and **Peter D. Zimmerman**.

Paul K. Predecki has become professor and **Richard J. Gaylord**, assistant professor in the polymer science and engineering program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

John R. Lamarsh, head of the nuclear engineering department at the Polytechnic Institute of New York, has been appointed to New York City Mayor Beame's Technical Advisory Committee on Radiation. The committee will advise the city's Office for Radiation Control, which is responsible for protecting the public against radiation exposure.

Lamarsh, who earned his PhD in 1952 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has acted as a consultant to many government and industrial groups on nuclear-reactor safety questions.

James H. Schulman, formerly associate director of research for materials and general sciences, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C., has become chief scientist of the Office of Naval Research branch office in London, England.

Jose D'Arruda has become associate professor of physics at Pembroke State University.

Roy Weinstein has become chairman of the physics department at Northeastern University. New assistant professors in that department include **Robert R. Hayes**, Max Planck Institute; **John J. Polick**, University of Maryland; **Yaun-Kong Wang**, University of Rochester and **James R. Johnson**, National Accelerator Laboratory. **Richard H. Thompson**, Los Alamos, **Harald Johnstad**, CERN and **Michael L. Mallory**, Rutherford High Energy Laboratory, joined the department as research associates.

obituaries

Walther Meissner

Walther Meissner, an internationally recognized low-temperature physicist, died in Munich on 16 November, one month before his 92nd birthday. Meissner was born in Königsberg, Germany and studied in Berlin at the Institute of Technology and then at the technical university, where he did his thesis research under the direction of Max Planck, receiving his PhD in physics in 1907. He then joined the Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt (the German National Bureau of Standards) in Berlin.

After World War I he established a cryogenics laboratory in Berlin somewhat similar to that of Kammerlingh Onnes in Leiden. During 1923-33 this laboratory was tremendously productive, with Meissner discovering many superconducting alloys and compounds. The work culminated in the discovery of the Meissner-Ochsenfeld Effect in superconductivity, which proved that for pure single crystals the transition into the superconducting state was a reversible thermodynamic transition always with $B = 0$ inside the superconductor. At about the same time, he wrote Volume XI, Part 2 of the *Hand-*



MEISSNER

buch der Experimental Physik on electronic conduction, galvanomagnetic, thermoelectric and allied effects, which is still a standard in its field.

When in 1933 Johann Stark became director of the Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt, Meissner found himself in disagreement with Stark on ques-