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obituaries

of physics at the University of Wilno but he was forced to leave because of the Second World War. During 1943-45 he was a lecturer in physics at the Polish Medical School in Edinburgh, Scotland and in 1945 was appointed to the chair of physics at the newly-constituted Copernicus University in Toruń, where he founded the Institute of Physics and the Institute of Optics of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He formally retired from the directorship some ten years ago and continued his research as professor emeritus until 1979. Jabłoński was member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, president of the Polish Physical Society and recipient of numerous distinctions from the Polish Government and from various scientific societies. In the areas of fluorescence of atomic vapors and of organic molecules, and spectral line broadening, he had made important fundamental contributions and acquired wide international recognition, having provided the first modern theoretical framework for the understanding and interpretation of these phenomena.

During his tenure as director of the Institute of Physics in Toruń Jabłoński developed it into an international center of atomic physics. He encouraged and enabled many of his young research students to acquire further experience on postdoctoral fellowships abroad and to bring back and pursue their newly acquired research interests.

Those of us who have had the good fortune to know Jabłoński personally, will remember him as a man of generous spirit and wide cultural interests—until quite recently he continued to play in a string quartet. His high principles of honor and integrity outlasted the vicissitudes of war and politics.

LUCJAN KRAUSE
University of Windsor

George Wesley Spangler

George W. Spangler, professor of physics at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, died of 4 February 1980 at the age of 51. He was born in Roanoke, Virginia and lived there until he entered the US Navy in 1948.

Following the completion of military service and a period of industrial experience relating to the chlorination of flour and water for human use, Spangler enrolled at the University of Chattanooga in 1954, majoring in psychology. A chance suggestion of some of his classmates led to his selection of basic physics as an elective study in the summer of 1955. His interest in the

challenging concepts and relationships of physics was kindled by that introductory course, and lead him to an exciting program of research, teaching and consulting in the next quarter century.

As a recipient of one of the coveted Atomic Energy Commission Fellowships in Health Physics, Spangler elected to enter the program at the University of Washington in 1957. During his period of graduate study at Seattle he served as a member of the research staff of the AEC Hanford Works, utilizing the 2-MeV Van de Graaff accelerator for study of the p - τ resonances in metals and the proton stopping power of gases.

Immediately after accepting research and development duties with Atomics International, Canoga Park, California in 1959, Spangler developed and began teaching a new group of courses in the University of California,



SPANGLER

Los Angeles Evening School, devoted to such diverse topics as radiological physics, hazards analysis, emergency planning, nuclear engineering and nuclear plant siting methods. During a leave-of-absence from Atomics International, in 1963-65, Spangler served as a member of the staff of the biophysics department in the School of Medicine at UCLA. At that time he completed requirements for his doctorate, which was awarded in 1965. His dissertation, prepared under the guidance of Benedict Cassen, detailed the success of their development of a system "capable of electrophoretically separating cells while maintaining cell viability."

During another leave from Atomics International duties Spangler served as research director for Radiation Dosimetry programs at the R. S. Landauer Co., in Chicago. Throughout his eight-year association with Atomics International Spangler offered lectures in the UCLA Continuing Education program



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obituaries

and at the US Department of Defense Centers in Los Angeles and San Diego. His areas of specialization include planning and development of research in biophysics, analysis of radiation hazards, disposal or radioactive materials, and protection against environmental pollution.

Returning to Chattanooga in 1966 Spangler became an enthusiastic participant in a number of campus and community programs. With a full-time teaching appointment his interest in teaching and advising students became his first priority. As a consultant to the Baroness Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga he developed methods and programs in nuclear medicine, radiation shielding and medical technology which continue to serve as models for many hospitals in this region.

Spangler's abiding interest in public relations and media communications prompted his promotion of a session devoted to "Communication-Physics and the Media" at the November 1979 annual meeting of the Southeastern Section of The American Physical Society. As Chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee he organized a panel of media specialists for that meeting, headed by the network newscaster, Jeffery St. John. Always an effective participant in TV current-events programs Spangler introduced this new feature of the annual SESAPS program as a means of providing "more effective discussion of significant current issues," such as nuclear power and radiation hazards. As a participant in numerous public discussions of this nature he exhibited the talent described by his UCLA advisor, Cassen, as follows: "Spangler has the ability to select the right words to describe a phenomenon, or clarify a concept, in clear succinct terms."

Teaching in an institution primarily dedicated to undergraduate instruction Spangler was unwilling to discontinue his experimental research. In cooperation with student collaborators and a colleague in chemistry he made extensive measurements of non-Poisson behavior during radioactive decay. At the time of his fatal heart attack, Spangler was busily investigating a promising new approach to the modification of radioactive decay patterns.

A dedicated teacher, an encouraging colleague and an enthusiastic participant in campus and community programs, George Spangler will be sorely missed by his faculty colleagues, his numerous student friends, and by his many professional and community associates.

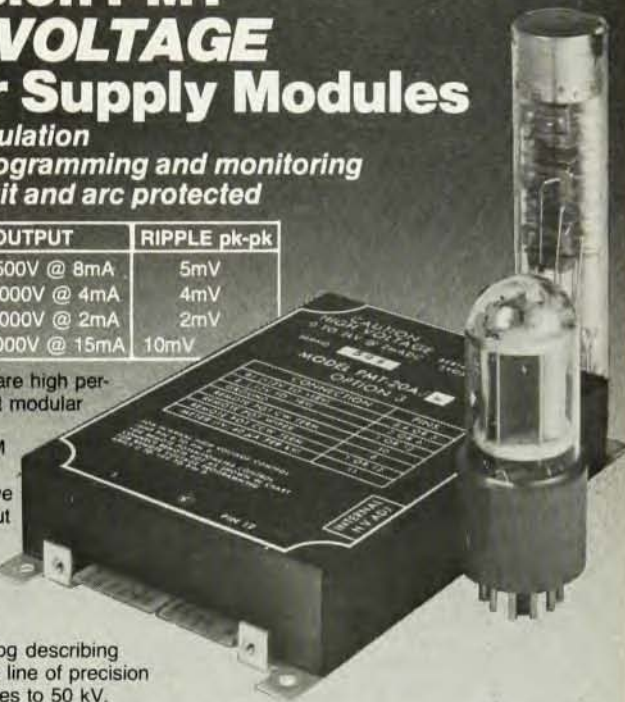
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