

we hear that

the ASP Amateur Achievement Award will go to Frank Bateson of New Zealand. The award ceremonies will take place in Tucson at the Society's annual scientific meeting.

George Herbig, professor of astronomy at the University of California, Santa Cruz, won the 82nd edition of the Bruce Medal in recognition of his work on T-Tauri stars (stars formed a relatively short time ago, less than about 4×10^8 years) and on the nebulous "knots" found in star-forming regions now called Herbig-Haro objects (after their co-discoverers). Herbig earned his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1948; he has been associated with Lick Observatory since 1944. The American Astronomical Society awarded Herbig its 1955 Warner Prize.

The Klumpke-Roberts Award will be given to Walter Sullivan, science editor for *The New York Times*. The award is presented each year for outstanding contributions to public understanding and appreciation of astronomy. Sullivan is author of two books on astronomy, *We Are Not Alone* and *Black Holes*. He was recently honored by the National Academy of Science (see preceding story).

The Trumpler Prize is awarded to recognize outstanding doctoral theses in astronomy. For the first time in the history of the prize, two astronomers have been selected in the same year: James Liebert, for his dissertation on white dwarfs and Luis Rodriguez for his study of the nature of various gas complexes found at the center of our Galaxy.

Frank Bateson, a retired New Zealand accountant and company manager, was recognized for his activities over a long career in amateur astronomy. In 1927 he founded the Variable Star Section of the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand and he has since made over 100 000 observations of variable stars.

Six physicists among IEEE award winners

Physicists William Shockley, Robert Adler, Simon Ramo, Aldert van der Ziel, William M. Webster and Raymond W. Sears were among those honored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers at a conference held in Boston last May.

The 1980 IEEE Medal of Honor was awarded to William Shockley for his invention, with John Bardeen and Walter H. Brattain, of the transistor. In 1956 the trio shared the Nobel Prize for this work. Shockley holds an appointment as emeritus professor of electrical

engineering at Stanford University.

Robert Adler, director of research at Extel Corp, Northbrook, Illinois, won the Edison Medal "for many inventions in the fields of electronic beam tubes and ultrasonic devices, and for leadership in innovative research and development."

Vice-chairman of the board at TRW, Inc, Simon Ramo was given the Founder's Medal in recognition of his leadership in the application of systems engineering to electronics.

Aldert van der Ziel was presented the Education Medal "for leadership in engineering education and for contributions to noise theory in electronic devices." Van der Ziel is a professor of electrical engineering at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

William M. Webster was cited for his "sustained leadership in the management of research and development" in winning the Frederick Philips Award. He is vice president of RCA Laboratories.

Raymond W. Sears, retired member of Bell Laboratories, won the Haraden Pratt Award for his long-term service to the IEEE.

Two United Technologies Research Center scientists have received awards from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. **Anthony J. DeMaria**, head of the Center's electromagnetics and physics laboratories, was presented the 1980 Morris N. Liebmman Award and **Elias Snitzer**, head of

the applied physics laboratory, was given the 1979 Quantum Electronics Award.

William David Wright, formerly professor of physics at Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, now retired, has won the Inter-Society Color Council's Macbeth Award.

Rafael Tsu has become a senior scientist at Energy Conversion Devices, Inc. Before his move Tsu worked at the IBM Watson Research Center.

Uday K. Sengupta has joined Tachisto Inc as senior research and development scientist. He was previously with the Honeywell Inc Electro-Optics Center.

Simon D. White, formerly of the Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge University, has been appointed a senior fellow at the University of California, Berkeley Space Sciences Laboratory.

James Hillier, retired executive vice president and chief scientist of RCA, and **Major Edwin Armstrong** (deceased) have been elected to the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Hillier is credited with the invention of the electron microscope; Armstrong with the superheterodyne radio receiver.

The Institute for Physical Science and Technology of the University of Maryland has named **Robert W. Zwanzig** Distinguished Professor of Science and Technology.

obituaries

Vladimir Čermák

Vladimir Čermák, senior scientist of the J. Heyrovský Institute of Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague, died on 4 January 1980.

Čermák was born in České Budějovice, Czechoslovakia in 1920 and received his early schooling in Prague. World War II delayed his university studies; during those years he was employed in the chemical industry. In 1945 he entered the School of Natural Sciences, Charles University, in Prague. He studied under Miroslav Brdička and Jaroslav Heyrovský and received his degree in 1949 for work in polarography. Čermák then helped found the Laboratory of Physical Chemistry, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. The laboratory later developed into the institute to which he was to be attached for all of his life. At the new laboratory his interests shifted



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