

the Division of Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy. Stone replaces **Rochus E. Vogt**, the R. Stanton Avery Distinguished Service Professor, who was named vice president and provost of Caltech.

**James S. Vinson**, currently dean of the college of arts and sciences at the University of Hartford, has been appointed vice president for academic affairs of Trinity University in San Antonio.

**John Bardeen**, professor emeritus of physics and of electrical engineering at the University of Illinois-Urbana, has been chosen by the representatives of seven national and regional engineering societies to receive the 60th Washington Award. This award, named after George Washington, is given annually to honor an engineer for "devoted, unselfish and preeminent service in advancing human progress."

**Heinz R. Pagels** has been named Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the New York Academy of Sciences. Pagels came to the Academy after sixteen years at Rockefeller University, where he continues to hold an adjunct professorship in physics.

## obituaries

### Henry A. Barton

Henry Barton, the first director of the American Institute of Physics and a key figure in determining its development, died of a heart attack at the age of 85 on 11 October.

Barton, whose father was an industrial engineer, was born in Pittsburgh. He entered the engineering school at the University of Michigan and shortly thereafter transferred to Princeton University, where he took a basic course in mechanical engineering supplemented by many electives in the department of physics.

At graduation he took a position as a planning engineer at American Telephone and Telegraph in New York but soon decided that he needed more basic education in physics if he was to do significant research in the company. As a result, he returned to Princeton for a PhD. He spent the following two years at Harvard as a National Research Council fellow and then decided he would try an academic research career. He joined the Bartol Research Foundation and two years later became an assistant professor of physics at Cornell.

In the meantime, a group of leaders in The American Physical Society including Karl T. Compton, George Pe-

gram, Frank Foote and Floyd Richtmyer noted with some concern that physics, which originally had attracted mainly academic interest in the US, was beginning to receive increasing attention from industrial organizations, with the result that many physics graduates were going into applied work. In the course of this migration, specialized societies were forming and physicists were drifting away from The American Physical Society. As a result, the APS leaders agreed that a new organization, the American Institute of Physics, should be formed. Physics-related societies joining it would benefit from a combination of interconnection and independence. The new Institute, governed by representatives of all its member societies, would foster links between pure and applied physics, take on the responsibility for publishing physics journals and do its best to publicize the work of physicists. Henry Barton was asked to become the first director. His acceptance, in 1931, was encouraged by his opportunity to start a small high-voltage laboratory in Princeton with an experienced graduate student assistant.

At its start, the Institute was provided office space and a small budget by the Chemical Foundation in New York. That support soon dried up; the Institute struggled with its budget during the Depression, moving several times. The collective spirit among members of the physics community was sufficiently high that Barton succeeded in putting the Institute upon a firm foundation. By 1940 it had collected enough contributions (including those of members of its societies) to buy its own home at 57 East 55th Street in New York.

During World War II, Barton founded and was the first director of the Office of Scientific Personnel of the National Research Council, which coordinated information bearing on the nation's scientific manpower, an activity that has continued since.

The tremendous popularity and rapid expansion of physics after World War II considerably changed the role of those who led the Institute. Barton provided splendid leadership during this period. By 1957, when he decided to retire as Director, the Institute had moved into its present, larger, home on East 45th Street, and its staff and activities had become internationally important. During the subsequent years, Barton visited the Institute many times on the call of his successors and served on several national advisory committees. In 1964 he was awarded the Carl Taylor Compton Medal in recognition of his very great contributions to the physics community.

Barton was born just one year before the American Physical Society was founded. In passing, he breaks one of



### Resolution of the AIP Governing Board

On this 23rd day of October at the time of its meeting in Palo Alto, California, the Governing Board of the American Institute of Physics memorializes in its minutes its profound sadness and sense of loss at the death of Henry A. Barton.

The first Director of the Institute, he led its work for 26 years. He constantly held before the physics community the sense of statesmanship that led the founders to establish the Institute in 1931. He made a working force out of the vision of the good that can be accomplished for physics and the nation that can come from cooperative and united efforts of the independent societies working together. His foresight in recognizing issues and problems of significance readied the Institute to meet them successfully. His creativity and wisdom in financial matters established the firm base that characterizes the Institute still.

His sparkle and warmth are fondly remembered by all who knew him.

the few remaining links with the very remarkable group of individuals who felt so strongly about the future evolution of the profession in our country that they developed institutions such as the Society and the Institute that strengthened the unity of the profession.

FREDERICK SEITZ  
*The Rockefeller University*

### Gordon C. Danielson

Gordon C. Danielson, emeritus professor of physics at Iowa State University, died 30 September 1983.

He was born in Dover, Idaho, on 28 October 1912. His family moved to Canada while he was still young, and he received his BA and MA degrees from the University of British Columbia. After obtaining a PhD degree from Purdue University in 1940, he worked briefly at the US Rubber Company and