

ly on the staff of the Sperry Research Center.

Martha Krebs in the first Associate Director for Planning and Development at the Lawrence Berkeley Lab. She comes to the Lab from the staff of the House Subcommittee on Energy Development and Applications.

obituaries

Herbert M. Parker

Herbert M. Parker, pioneer medical and health physicist and consultant to Battelle, Pacific Northwest Laboratories, died in Richland, Washington, on 5 March.

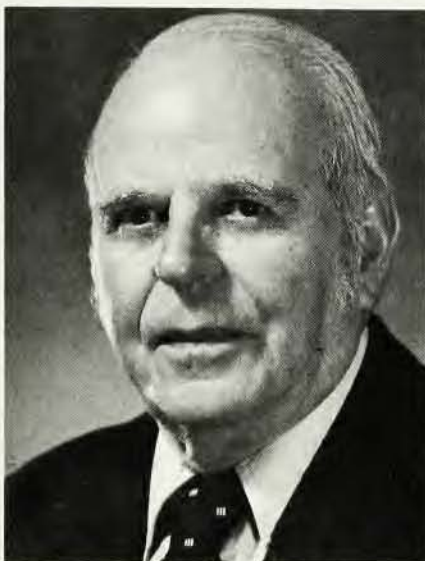
He was born in Accrington, England, 13 April 1910 and acquired a BSc in 1930 and an MSc in 1931, both in physics, at the University of Manchester.

As a young physicist at the Holt Radium Institute in Manchester, Parker performed research to improve the methods and dosimetry of radium therapy. These efforts culminated in the development of a standard method of cancer therapy, still in use today, known as the Paterson-Parker techniques. He coupled his elegant mathematical derivations and calculations with a clarity of writing that make these early papers enjoyable and worthwhile reading for any physicist interested in radiation dosimetry.

In the late 1930s, Parker moved to the Swedish Hospital Tumor Institute in Seattle. There he undertook research on the applications of supervoltage x-ray therapy that led to the widely used text *Supervoltage X-rays*, which he wrote with physicians Franz Buschke and Simeon Cantril.

In 1942, he joined the Metallurgical Laboratories of the University of Chicago, assuming responsibility for radiation protection research and development activities. As one of the original three health physicists (a professional title he deplored) in the Manhattan District, he established and headed the health physics program at Clinton Laboratories. He moved on to the Hanford laboratories in 1944 after he was recommended to General Leslie Groves as the person to take charge of the radiation protection of the many thousands of workers at that site. He developed a well-organized, centralized and rigorous health physics program that has served as a model for radiation protection programs elsewhere. He was the first to calculate a maximum permissible concentration for plutonium (or any radionuclide, for that matter) in 1944. That value, which he obtained four decades ago, is within a factor of 2 of

The American Astronautical Society has presented the John F. Kennedy Astronautics Award to **Carl Sagan**, director of the laboratory for planetary studies at Cornell. The award recognizes Sagan's contributions to public interest in the nation's space programs through his writings and the tv series "Cosmos."



PARKER

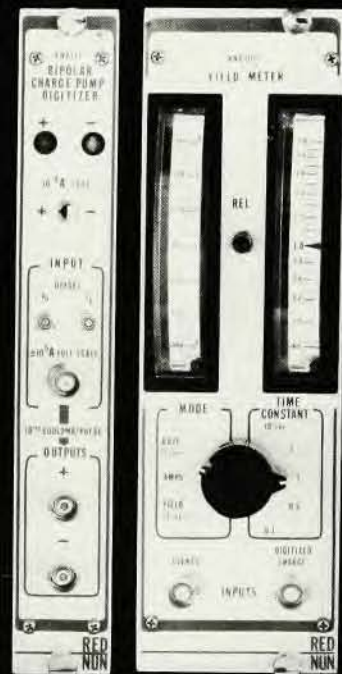
the one used today. He also originated the seminal concepts of the units for physical and biological dose (rep and rem), which are the direct ancestors of the current SI units, the gray and sievert, respectively. Under his guidance, rigid safety measures were instituted at Hanford; despite the largely unknown and unprecedented hazards of plutonium and fission products, the lab enjoyed an exemplary safety record.

Parker eventually became the director of the Laboratories. Under his leadership, the radiological physics and radiation biology programs flourished, making world-famous contributions. Despite heavy management responsibilities, Parker continued to make scientific contributions to radiological physics, largely through service on national and international standards-setting bodies.

Parker's many friends and colleagues will miss his outstanding and highly provocative scientific presentations, made all the more interesting by his dry British humor, classical education, and extraordinary ability to grasp—and solve—complex problems.

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