

sponsible for introducing the gadgetry that in those days coordinated invited sessions among the three large lecture rooms in the Pupin Physics Laboratory.

Quimby was known as an accomplished amateur magician, and he served as president of the parent organization of the Society of American Magicians. He was extremely proud of being the commodore of the New York Yacht Club. He and Harold W. Webb, then also a professor of physics at Columbia, were responsible for measuring the yachts that engaged in the New York Yacht Club races; Quimby invented the gadgets and the pantographs used for the task. Also, after his retirement from Columbia, he developed an interest in unraveling the complex calendar of the Maya Indian civilization and wrote an extensive tract on that subject.

Quimby's wife, the late Edith Hinkley Quimby, was an eminent radiologist and professor at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons (PHYSICS TODAY, December 1982, page 71).

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Harry H. Hall

Harry H. Hall, Professor Emeritus of Physics and former department chairman at the University of New Hampshire, died suddenly on 23 October 1985. He joined New Hampshire in 1940 as an assistant professor after having taught at Harvard and Radcliffe. He worked vigorously to strengthen the graduate physics program and received the university's first Federally sponsored physics research grant in 1946. After retiring in 1969 he was active in his laboratory and provided generous and wise counsel to younger faculty and students alike until the day before his death.

Hall was born in Beirut, Lebanon. His father, William H. Hall, was the president of the Preparatory School and chaplain of the American University. Harry Hall attended the Preparatory School in Beirut, received a BS from Union College in 1926 and returned to Beirut to serve as an instructor of physics for 3 years. He then attended graduate school at Harvard, where he received his PhD in 1934. While there he lived with his older cousin Edwin H. Hall, who in 1879 had discovered the famous Hall effect in semiconductors. From 1937 to 1940 he worked for Western Electric as an engineer.

From 1941 to 1946 he served in the

US Navy Reserve at the Navy Ordnance Laboratory, and was discharged with the rank of lieutenant commander. He received the prestigious Civilian Meritorious Service Award from the Navy in 1946 for his co-invention of a depth-charge detonator that was instrumental in the defeat of the German submarine forces in World War II.

He returned to the University of New Hampshire in 1946, rose to full professor in 1953 and served as chairman from 1956 to 1963. Under his leadership the department prospered and expanded to include a PhD program in 1961.

Hall's research in underwater sound included the construction of an impedance-matching device for a piezoelectric pressure transducer and the development of zone refining techniques for purifying tellurium. He made pressure transducers approximately $\frac{1}{16}$ inch in diameter with a frequency response up to 500 kHz. The older, larger transducers required several pounds of TNT to produce useful data in outdoor saltwater ponds but Hall's new small transducer could be safely used with extremely small charges in his 1500-gallon laboratory saltwater tank in the basement of the university's building.

Hall was also somewhat of a Renaissance man. He enjoyed music enormously, and sang in several amateur and semiprofessional choruses. He also enjoyed sailing in nearby Great Bay in his sturdy 13-foot "Merrimack," and he was commodore of the Great Bay Yacht Club. Finally, he was instrumental in organizing a group to help the Durham Day Care Center.

RICHARD L. KAUFMANN
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University of New Hampshire
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Donald E. Olson

Donald E. Olson, professor of physics at the University of Minnesota in Duluth, died on 25 June 1985. He was 62 years old. Olson received his BS from the University of Wisconsin in Superior and his MS in physics at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He taught at Superior and at local schools in Ironwood, Michigan, before joining the physics faculty of the University of Minnesota in 1954. Olson was renowned for developing "electric field mills" for measuring the electric field at the Earth's surface. These mills were in demand worldwide, and he spent much of his time installing them in remote parts of the globe. Olson was named a full professor at Minnesota in 1973; he served both as president and as vice-president of the Minnesota Area Association of Physics Teachers. □

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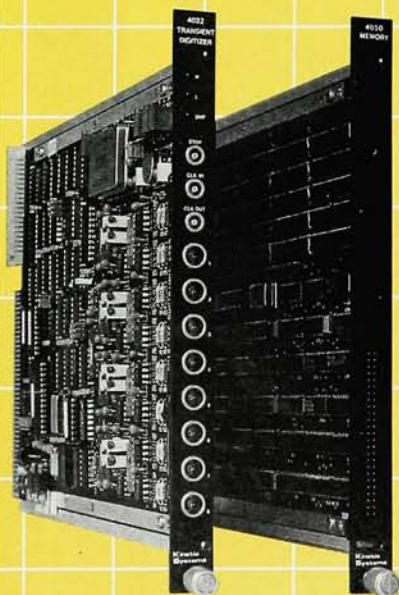
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