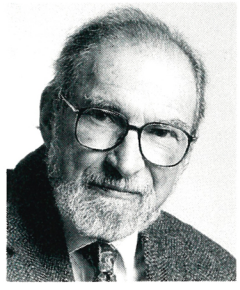
WE HEAR THAT

ASA Honors Dyer and Sparrow in Indiana

At last month's meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in Indianapolis, two individuals received recognition for their accomplishments.



IRA DYER

The Gold Medal, ASA's highest honor, was presented to **Ira Dyer**, who was cited for his "contributions to ocean acoustics, structural acoustics and aeroacoustics and for dedicated service to the Society." The medal citation also praised Dyer's efforts as a mentor and leader in acoustics education, as well as his research on Arctic acoustics and, more recently, structural acoustics. Dyer is the Weber-Shaughness Professor in the ocean engineering department at MIT.

Victor W. Sparrow, an assistant professor of acoustics at Pennsylvania State University, received the R. Bruce Lindsay Award. He was chosen for his "contributions to nonlinear acoustics, outdoor sound propagation and structural acoustics." The award citation noted in particular Sparrow's work in computational acoustics.

Lightman Garners Gemant Award from AIP

The Andrew Gemant Award, given by the American Institute of Physics to individuals who have linked physics to the arts and humanities, goes this year to **Alan P. Lightman**, a professor of science and writing at MIT. "Not satisfied with a distinguished career in theoretical astrophysics, [Lightman] went into science writing, history of science and the writing of fiction based on his thorough understanding and love of theoretical physics," the award citation stated. Particular note was made of Lightman's two works of fiction, *Einstein's Dreams* and *Good Benito*. His collection of essays, *Dance for Two*, was recently published by Pantheon.

IN BRIEF

Paul A. Fleury is now dean of the school of engineering at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Until February, Fleury had been the director of the materials and processing research laboratory at AT&T Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey.

The John Scott Award of the American Philosophical Society was presented last November to **John C. Mather**, a scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. Mather was the scientific leader of the Cosmic Background Explorer Project. The citation said "his measures of the spectrum of the cosmic microwave background radiation and the detection of minute temperature fluctuations in this radiation have confirmed predictions of the Big Bang model of the early universe."

At the International Conference on the Structure of Surfaces to be held this July in Aix-en-Provence, France, **John B. Pendry** will receive the first Surface Structure Prize. The award recognizes Pendry's "far-reaching, diverse, fundamental and practical contributions to the field of quantitative surface structure determination." Pendry is a professor of theoretical solid-state physics, head of the solid-state theory group and dean of the Royal College of Science at the University of London's Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine.

Edward Hinds became a professor of physics at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England, in January. Hinds, who had been on the physics faculty at Yale University, is also director of the new Sussex Centre for Optical and Atomic Physics.

The Indian Academy of Sciences has elected **André Martin** to be a foreign fellow. Martin is a senior staff member emeritus in the theory division of CERN.

The National Organization of Test, Research and Training Reactors has established an award in the name of **Robert E. Carter**, who is a senior member of the technical staff at the Rockville, Maryland, office of the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. Carter is the first recipient of the award, which has been created to recognize significant accomplishments and dedicated service to the research reactor community.

Keshav N. Shrivastava, a professor in the school of physics at the University of Hyderabad in India, has been named the university's dean of faculty.

OBITUARIES

Samuel L. McCall

Samuel L. McCall, a distinguished member of the technical staff at AT&T Bell Laboratories, died of cancer on 18 October 1995 at the age of 55. Born in Panama City, Florida, he received his BS from Florida State University in 1962 and his PhD in physics from the University of California, Berkeley in 1966. He was still a doctoral candidate when, in the mid-1960s, he codiscovered self-induced transparency with his thesis adviser, Erwin Hahn. The two showed that optical pulses can travel unattenuated through linearly absorbing systems if the intensities of the pulses are high enough to "self-induce" transparency by nonlinear interaction with the absorber.

Sam spent the major portion of his research career at Bell Labs in the physical research laboratory. He was especially gifted with deep physical insight, which resulted in his making many pioneering contributions in the fields of nonlinear optics and lasers, including optical bistability, distributed feedback lasers, vertical-cavity semiconductor lasers, quantum state interferometers, microdisk lasers, photonic bandgap systems and quantum-wire lasers. He also pioneered demonstrations of adaptive telescope mirrors and contributed to the understanding of supernovae phenomena.

Examples of his more applied work include an analysis of distributed Bragg reflectors of great interest for