family, church, science and community of scientific colleagues. He is deeply missed by all who knew him.

Richard W. McEntire
Lawrence J. Zanetti
Stamatios M. Krimigis
Johns Hopkins University
Applied Physics Laboratory
Laurel, Maryland

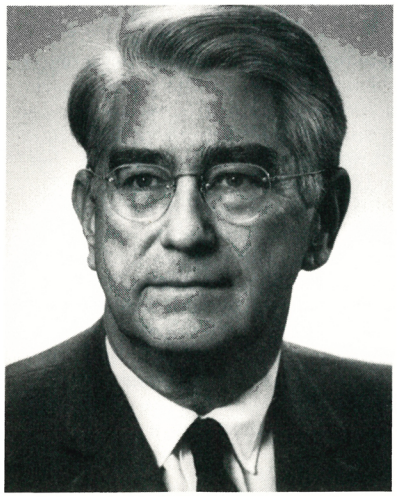
Ragnar Oswald Rollefson

Ragnar Oswald Rollefson, an emeritus professor of physics at the University of Wisconsin—Madison, died in Madison on 5 May, after a long illness.

Born on 23 August 1906 in Chicago, Rollefson grew up in Superior, Wisconsin, where his father was a physician. After attending Superior Teacher's College in 1924, he obtained the rest of his formal education at Wisconsin, where he earned a BA and MA in physics in 1926 and 1927, respectively. It was there, too, when he was only 23 years old, that he received his PhD, having done a thesis on experimental molecular spectroscopy under Charles Mendenhall.

Rollefson's subsequent academic career was spent entirely at Wisconsin. In 1947–51, 1952–56 and 1957–61, he also served as department chairman, in which post he made it a point to know personally every one of the department's almost 100 graduate students.

Rollefson was famous in the department for the quality of his instruction—especially in elementary physics and in the heat and light labs. He rejuvenated the elementary labs and wrote a challenging "no cook book" type of lab manual that was used there for several decades. The university honored him with a distinguished teaching award in 1972. He retired as an emeritus professor in 1976.



Ragnar Oswald Rollefson

Rollefson interrupted his long career at Wisconsin several times to serve his country in both war and peace. During World War II, he took the first of his many leaves of absence from Wisconsin to work on radar at MIT from 1942 to 1945. In 1946, he was chief scientist at Naval Research Laboratory field station in Boston, and, in 1951–52, he was associate director of Project Charles at MIT's Lincoln Lab. In 1956–57, he served as chief scientist of the US Army in Washington, DC, and was awarded the Presidential Certificate of Merit.

From 1957 to 1960, Rollefson served as acting director of the Midwest Universities Research Association (MURA), which had been formed to design and promote a high-energy particle accelerator for the Midwest. MURA made many contributions to accelerator design, but it influenced the choice of a Midwest location for Fermilab only indirectly.

In 1963, he directed the US State Department's office of international scientific affairs. He wrote many reports and articles on the military applications of science, including major parts of the Overhage committee report for SHAPE and the 1957 article "Why so Many Missiles?" in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*.

At the University of Wisconsin, by law and tradition, faculty duties are threefold: teaching, research and public service. Rollefson made important contributions in all three categories. His success as a teacher and his substantial public service are outlined above; as a researcher, he published many articles on molecular structure and trained six PhD students in experimental molecular spectroscopy.

The essence of Rollefson's success as teacher and administrator lay in his superb judgment, quickness to grasp and thoroughly understand a problem and his ability to explain complicated matters in simple terms. But his warmth and compassion were also important. His door was always open; students and others felt welcome to discuss even personal problems with him. His honesty and integrity were always evident. As one of his colleagues put it, "For Rollie not to be reasonable was simply not feasible."

When he learned of his good friend Rollefson's appointment as science adviser to the US State Department, Eugene Wigner told me, "Now I can sleep better at night."

Hugh T. Richards
University of Wisconsin—Madison ■