

passenger plane near Laramie, Wyoming, on October 6th. He was forty-five years of age. A resident of Towanda, Pennsylvania, his headquarters were there and in New York City. His wife, the former Ann Tomkins of Towanda, also died in the crash. Mr. Merrill was a native of Cumberland Center, Maine, graduated from Bowdoin College in 1933, and obtained his master's degree in physics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1936. For a time he was engaged at MIT in research on crystals before joining Patterson Screen Company in 1936 as a research physicist. He was superintendent of Patterson's fluorescent powder plant when Sylvania purchased that operation in 1941. Upon completion of Sylvania's new plant in Towanda in 1943, Mr. Merrill became plant manager, and by 1953 he had risen to the position of vice president—operations with over-all responsibility for several of the company's divisions, including those of atomic energy and electronics. He was a member of the American Physical Society and the Optical Society of America.

Richard A. Rubenstein, physicist at Shell Development Company's Exploration and Production Research Division in Houston, Texas, died on December 12, 1955, of cancer of the lung. His age was twenty-seven. Born in De Kalb, Illinois, Dr. Rubenstein entered Ohio State University in 1946 and received a bachelor of science degree in physics in 1950. He pursued his graduate studies at the University of Illinois where he was a teaching assistant in physics for the academic years 1950-52, was awarded a National Science Foundation fellowship for 1952-53, and was employed as a research assistant until he completed the academic work for his PhD degree in physics and joined the Shell organization in December 1954. Dr. Rubenstein was a member of the American Physical Society.

Gerald W. Willard, retired physicist at Bell Telephone Laboratories, died November 18 at the Brook Lodge Nursing Home, Cranford, N. J., after a long illness. His age was 54. A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Mr. Willard received the master's degree there in 1928. He was a member of the Bell Labs technical staff from 1930 until his retirement in August 1955. During the early part of his career he specialized in studies of piezoelectric materials and their applications, especially those related to quartz crystal oscillators. His studies resulted in the development of a number of improved quartz crystal oscillators which now find wide application in both commercial and military radio communication. During World War II he devised many production methods and test instruments to speed the production of quartz oscillators for the armed forces. Since the war he had specialized in ultrasonic investigations and had developed improved ultrasonic generators, propagation media, light-valves, and test methods, as well as an improved concept of "cavitation"—the breaking of liquids under strain. He was a member of the American Physical Society and the Acoustical Society of America.

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