

Seth B. Nicholson FREE

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OBITUARIES

Seth B. Nicholson, well-known solar astronomer, died in Los Angeles on July 2. He was 72 years old. A native of Springfield, Ill., he received his BS degree from Drake University in 1912 and his PhD in astronomy from the University of California in 1915. He then joined the staff of the Mt. Wilson Observatory, where he remained until his retirement in 1957.

During his 42 years at Mt. Wilson, Dr. Nicholson pursued a continuous program of solar observations and contributed a record of the history of sunspots over several solar cycles. Another of his continuing interests was the satellite system of the planet Jupiter, and he is credited with the discovery of four of the planet's moons: the ninth in 1914, the tenth and eleventh in 1938, and the twelfth in 1951. His record in the discovery of Jovian satellites was equaled only by Galileo.

Early in his career, Dr. Nicholson collaborated with the late Edison Pettit on experiments in the application of the vacuum thermocouple to astronomy. In more than a decade of cooperation, Nicholson and Pettit carried out far-infrared observations of cool red giants, pioneer determinations of planetary surface temperatures, observations of the rapid cooling of the surface of the moon during eclipse, and measurements of the temperature of sunspots.

For his "distinguished and outstanding contributions to astronomical research", Dr. Nicholson was named Catherine Wolfe Bruce Medalist for 1963 by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. The award was presented in absentia on June 13 during the Society's annual meeting at San Diego and was later conveyed to Dr. Nicholson at the Queen of the Angels Hospital in Los Angeles where he was then a patient.

Dr. Nicholson, who served two terms as president of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific and was editor of its publications for many years, was a member of the American Astronomical Society and of the National Academy of Sciences.

Frank W. Weymouth, emeritus professor of physiology at Stanford University, died on March 19 in Berkeley, Calif. He was 78 years old.

A native of Seattle, he received a bachelor's degree in zoology from Stanford University in 1909 and his PhD in 1923 from the same institution. Dr. Weymouth taught general and sensory physiology at Stanford for 38 years. In 1938, he was named chairman of the Department of Physiology. During the Second World War, he worked for the Office of Scientific Research and Development, and in 1944, with funds from the Air Materiel Command and the University, he established the Stanford Vision Laboratory, which he directed until his retirement from Stanford in 1949. He then moved to the Los Angeles College of Optometry, where he



Photo by James McClanahan

Seth B. Nicholson

taught psychophysiological optics and statistics for ten years. In 1960 he went to Berkeley to work on anomalous retinal correspondence and amblyopia and fixation tremor.

Professor Weymouth had been a member of the Optical Society of America since 1922.

William H. Keeble, professor emeritus of physics at Randolph-Macon College, died at Ashland, Va., on June 3. He was 90 years old.

A native of Blount County, Tenn., he graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1903. Later he pursued graduate studies at Columbia University and at the University of Chicago. He received an honorary DSC degree from Maryville College in 1945.

Dr. Keeble began his career as an elementary- and secondary-school teacher. In 1907, he was named professor of physics at the College of William and Mary. Twelve years later he joined the faculty of Randolph-Macon College and taught physics and astronomy there until his retirement in 1952. He also taught summer sessions at New York University and at Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Professor Keeble was a member of the American Physical Society, the American Association of Physics Teachers, and the American Astronomical Society.

Louis A. Pardue, vice president of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, died at his home in Blacksburg, Va., on April 26. A nuclear physicist, Dr. Pardue was associated with the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies for the past fifteen years, and at the time of his death was vice president of ORINS.

He was born on July 21, 1900, in Scottsville, Ky., and studied at the University of Kentucky, where he