

Robert C. Jopson **FREE**



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titled: *A homogeneous universe of constant mass and increasing radiation, taking account of the radial velocities of extragalactic nebulae.*

Lemaître was born in Charleroi. He first came to Louvain to study humanities at the College du Sacre-Coeur and then at the Ecoles speciales. He had achieved the status of first-grade civil mining engineer in 1914 when the first world war began and he joined the Belgian army. While he was serving as an artillery officer, he read Henri Poincaré's *Electricité et optique* and began to waver in his choice of a career. When he returned to Louvain after the armistice he began to study physics and mathematics. His thesis, prepared in 1920 under de la Vallée-Poussin, was on the approximation of functions of several real variables.

In 1923, after receiving his doctorate, and after having studied at a seminary and been ordained a priest, he won fellowships that took him to England and to the United States. He studied with Sir Arthur Eddington for a year and then went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It was during this period that he became familiar with the work of V.M. Slipher, Edwin Hubble, Harlow Shapley and others on the red shifts of the receding galaxies. Models of expanding universes had been conjectured by Willem de Sitter and Alexander Fridman, but Lemaître's is the most widely accepted theory, starting with an initial condensed state and an explosion. In 1934 he was awarded the Prix Francqui. One of his sponsors was Albert Einstein; among his judges were Eddington and Langevin.

Since the early 30's, Lemaître had taught at Louvain, done research, and collaborated with other scientists. His interests included cosmic rays, the three body problem, spinors, and calculating machines. At the time of his death, he was a monsignor and President of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences at Rome.

Robert C. Jopson

Senior physicist Robert C. Jopson, of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory died on 11 July at the age of 42. He had been at LRL since 1954, working on accelerator design and construc-

tion, nuclear spectroscopy and atomic physics.

Jopson was born in San Jose, Calif., and received his undergraduate training at the California Institute of Technology. After wartime Naval service he returned to Cal Tech for graduate studies and received his PhD in 1950.

At Livermore, Jopson worked on the high-current accelerator project, and was a member of the group that used the machine to make high-precision measurements of nuclear energy-level spectra. He contributed to the design of the Astron thermonuclear device and for three years was physicist-in-charge of the laboratory's 90-in cyclotron. His last publication was as co-author of a comprehensive review article on atomic fluorescence yields.

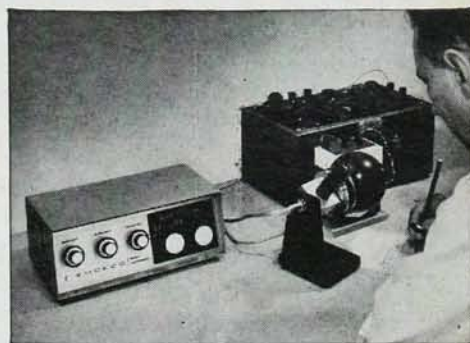
Robert Hamilton Boyer

A man believed to be mentally deranged took the life of Robert Hamilton Boyer, a mathematical physicist, on 1 August, as Boyer was walking across the University of Texas campus. Firing a rifle equipped with a telescopic sight from a high tower on the campus, Boyer's assailant also killed or wounded more than 40 other persons before he was killed by police. Boyer, who was 34, had stopped in Austin on his way to the Center for Research and Advanced Studies in Mexico City.

A native of Johnstown, Pa., Boyer took both his BS and MS at the Carnegie Institute of Technology. In 1953, he became a Rhodes Scholar at the University of Oxford, where he was awarded a PhD in theoretical physics in 1957. When he returned to the United States, he joined the staff of Westinghouse Research Laboratories as a research mathematician, and remained there until 1960, when he went first to McGill University and then to the University of Liverpool. In 1964-65, he spent a year with the Center for Relativity Theory at the University of Texas before returning to Liverpool.

Boyer's special interest was general relativity. At the time of his death he was involved, with Alfred Schild, director of the Texas relativity center, and others, in the search for a solution to Einstein's equations for the gravitational field of a rotating body. □

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