

Louis Strait **FREE**

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obituaries

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William Birch

William B. Birch, electrical engineer and physicist at the Naval underwater sound laboratory in Newport, Rhode Island, died on 4 May. He was 46.

Birch received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Rhode Island in 1950 and earned his master's in physics there in 1960. He was employed at the Naval laboratory for 14 years and he spent the preceding ten years at URI's marine laboratory.

Louis Strait

Louis A. Strait, professor emeritus of biophysics at the University of California at San Francisco, died on 23 March at the age of 67.

Strait's research interests included spectroscopy and molecular structure and their chemical and biological applications. In 1937 he joined the faculty at San Francisco, where he founded a spectroscopy laboratory and participated actively in the academic senate until his retirement in 1972. Earlier this year he was the first recipient of an award established in his name by the Northern California Spectroscopy Society, which he helped to create.

Anatolii Blagonravov

Anatolii Arkad'evich Blagonravov, a leading figure in the Soviet space program, died on 4 February at the age of 90.

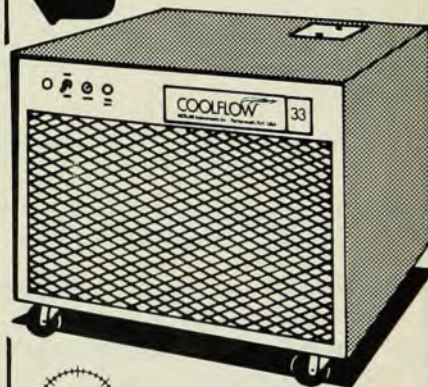
Blagonravov was a Lieutenant-General of Artillery and since 1953 a full member of the USSR Academy of Sciences. He joined the Soviet space program during the 1950's as a rocket designer and after 1960 published numerous works on space research. He was an early member of the Pugwash movement, deputy representative of the USSR at the UN committee for the peaceful use of space and chairman of the commission of the USSR Academy of Sciences on space research and utilization. Blagonravov was a member of the International Academy of Astronautics and held many Soviet medals and awards. □

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