

**Norman Bauer** FREE



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# OBITUARIES

**Erwin Schrödinger**, Nobel laureate and professor of physics at the University of Vienna, died in Vienna on January 4 at the age of 73. A native of that city, he received his PhD in 1910 from the University of Vienna and became a lecturer there in 1914. During the next decade, he also lectured at Jena, Breslau, and Zurich. In 1920 he was made professor extraordinarius of the Technische Hochschule at Stuttgart, and seven years later he took charge of the Department of Technical Physics at the University of Berlin, succeeding Max Planck, who had retired.

In 1933, because of the rise of Nazism, Schrödinger accepted an invitation to be guest professor at Magdalen College, Oxford. In the same year he received the Nobel Prize in physics, which he shared with P. A. M. Dirac, for his formulation of wave mechanics. In 1936 he returned to Austria as professor at the University of Graz. After the Nazis annexed that country, he was again obliged to move abroad, coming temporarily to the United States, and finally settling in Ireland, where he became professor at the Royal Irish Academy in 1940 and senior professor at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. In 1956 he returned to the University of Vienna. For a time he represented Austria in the International Atomic Energy Agency.

He was a member of the Academies of Sciences of Berlin, Brussels, Lima, Madrid, Rome, the USSR, and Vatican City. He was a foreign member of the Royal Society and an honorary member of the Royal Irish Academy, and for a number of years was a member of the American Physical Society. He received honorary

doctoral degrees from the University of Ghent and from Trinity College, Dublin, and the National University of Ireland.

Prof. Schrödinger is best remembered for his formulation of wave mechanics, which reconciled the corpuscular and undulatory phenomena observed in the behavior of light and subatomic particles. In addition to his papers on wave mechanics, published during the 1920's, he was also the author of works on space and time, statistical thermodynamics, and science and the human temperament, as well as of a collection of poems and a treatise on the physical aspects of the living cell.

**John B. Gibson**, 33-year-old associate physicist at the Brookhaven National Laboratory at Upton, Long Island, was killed on November 15 when a truck (carrying used atomic reactor fuel from Brookhaven to Oak Ridge, Tenn., for chemical separation) skidded on wet pavement and struck his car three miles from the entrance road to the laboratory.

Dr. Gibson was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and graduated from Case Institute of Technology in 1949. During the period from 1951 to 1953 he was an Atomic Energy Commission fellow at Iowa State University, and for the following two years he was an assistant in solid-state physics at Iowa State, receiving his PhD there in 1955. In the same year he became an associate physicist at Brookhaven, where he was concerned primarily with the study of crystal structure and the mechanical properties of solids. He was a member of the American Physical Society.

The following comments are those of one of his colleagues at Brookhaven:

"Gibson worked in theoretical solid-state physics. He made important contributions to the theoretical understanding of electrical conduction in metals and alloys. Recently his research had centered around the dynamics of radiation damage and the use of high-speed computers in solid-state physics. His physical intuition and his ability to uncover quickly the important elements of a problem were outstanding. In addition, his interests outside of physics were many and refined.

"He is survived by his wife, Emily, a son, William, and a daughter, Susan. The tragic accident which claimed his life occurred through no fault of his. His many colleagues and acquaintances have lost a valued friend, and the world of physics has lost one of its most talented younger members."

**Norman Bauer**, professor of chemistry at Utah State University, died on September 9 at the age of 45. Born in Alta Vista, Calif., Dr. Bauer graduated from the University of California in 1937 and received his PhD from the University of Michigan in 1941. After a year spent at Michigan as a university research associate fellow, he went to the University of New



Erwin Schrödinger (Meitner-Graf photo)



Hampshire as an assistant professor. During the following eight years Dr. Bauer worked first as a research chemist with the California Research Corporation and later as codirector of Physical Science Associates. In 1953 he returned to teaching as an associate professor of chemistry at Utah State Agricultural College (now State University).

Dr. Bauer, whose research interests included refractometry and chemical forces, mass spectrometry, and x-ray spectroscopy and diffraction, was particularly involved in carrying out physical-chemical studies of the process of nitrogen fixation. He was a member of the American Physical Society.

**Frank E. Ross**, professor emeritus of astronomy at Yerkes Observatory, died September 21 at the age of 86. A native of San Francisco, he graduated from the University of California and received his PhD from that institution in 1901. He spent the next four years in Washington, D. C., first as an assistant at the *Nautical Almanac* Office, where he engaged in work on orbital determinations that are still in use, and later at the Carnegie Institution. He served as director of the International Latitude Observatory from 1905 until 1915, and in the latter year he joined the Eastman Kodak Company as a physicist.

In 1924 he left Kodak to accept an appointment as associate professor of astronomy at the University of Chicago and in 1928 was named professor. During the period from 1924 until his retirement in 1942, Prof. Ross was associated with the University's Yerkes Observatory at Williams Bay, Wisc., where he collaborated (with Mary Calvert) in the preparation of a photographic atlas of the Milky Way. During the last three decades he was also associated with the Mt. Wilson and Palomar Observatories, and he aided in designing Mt. Palomar's 200-inch telescope. He is remembered in particular for his development of improved lenses for astronomical systems and for the invention of the Ross microphotometer. Prof. Ross was a member of the American Astronomical Society, serving as vice president for the year 1937, and was an associate of the Royal Astronomical Society.

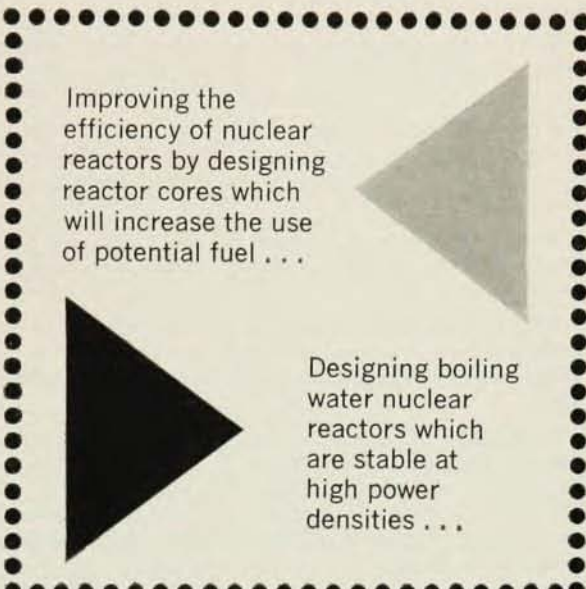
**Mark Balderston**, professor emeritus of physics at Lafayette College, died of a heart attack on December 19 at his home in Easton, Pa. He was 71 years old.

A graduate of Haverford College, he studied at Harvard from 1912 to 1913 and in the latter year became assistant in physics at Lafayette College. In 1915 he joined the faculty of Guilford College as a professor, and two years later he also accepted an appointment as dean at Guilford. In 1924 he returned to Lafayette as instructor in physics. Having received his PhD from Columbia in 1925, he was successively appointed assistant professor at Lafayette in 1926, associate professor in 1930, and professor in 1938.


Prof. Balderston, who retired last year, was a member of both the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers.

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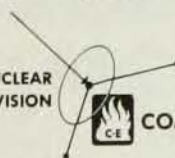
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