

Nicholas E. Wagman **FREE**

George Gatewood



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view that the risks were minimal in comparison with the risk resulting from an inadequate nuclear arsenal.

Libby resigned his position on the Atomic Energy Commission in 1959 to return to the University of California, but this time to the Los Angeles campus. Here his interests turned toward geophysics, space chemistry (particularly that of planetary atmospheres), high-pressure chemistry, chemistry of high vacua and plasma chemistry—again illustrative of his fertile imagination and huge energy. He took special interest in the new field of environmental chemistry, particularly heterogeneous catalysis and applications to automobile exhaust problems. He was also a long-term member of the State of California Air Resources Board, helping to formulate California's air-pollution standards. Libby was particularly proud of his role in establishing an environmental doctorate program at Los Angeles.

Symposia held at UCLA on 17-19 December offered an opportunity for his friends and admirers to honor the memory of this remarkable man.

GLENN T. SEABORG  
*Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory*

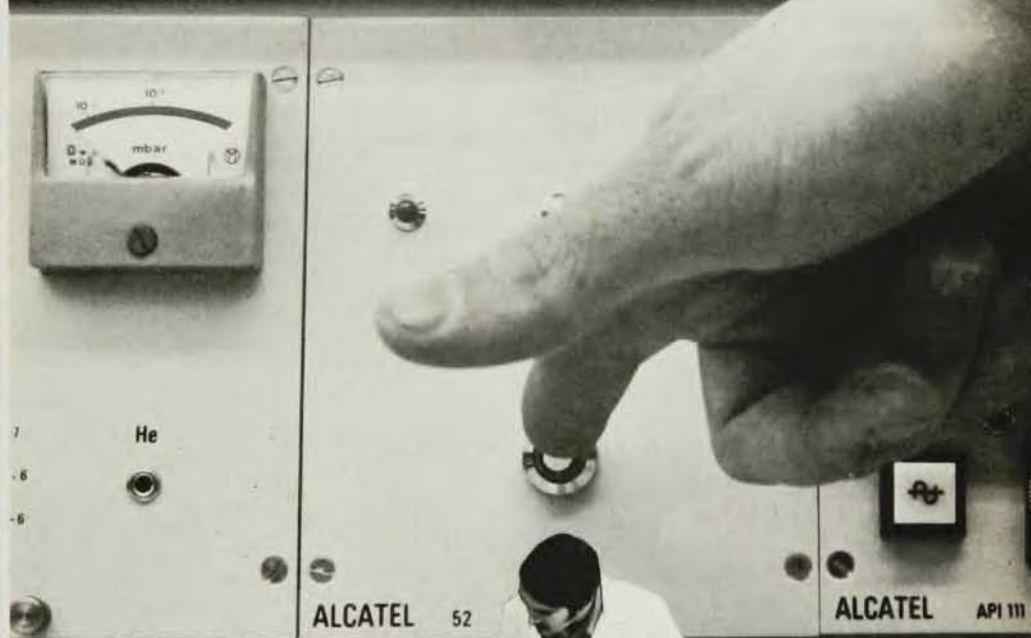
## Nicholas E. Wagman

Nicholas E. Wagman, retired director of the Allegheny Observatory and professor emeritus at the University of Pittsburgh, died in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on 28 August 1980. He will be remembered by many, including amateur and professional astronomers, as the "Dean of Astrometrists." Quiet and soft spoken, Wagman directed the largest study of stellar motion and parallax of his time and was responsible for more than 400 individual determinations of stellar distances.

Wagman was born in Saratoga Springs, New York, in 1905. He studied with Frederick Slocum at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, receiving a BA in astronomy in 1927 and an MA in 1928. In September of that year he moved to the United States Naval Observatory, where he held the position of astronomer until 1930. In that year he joined the staff of Allegheny Observatory. Wagman received his PhD from Pittsburgh in 1937. In 1941 he became the eighth director of the Allegheny Observatory and chairman of Pittsburgh's department of astronomy, a position he held until he retired in 1970.

A modest man, Wagman never lost the feeling of awe that fills youthful eyes as they first look skyward. He participated in a full observing sched-

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ule through his career. His studies of the nearby stellar systems led him to the detection of several unseen stellar companions, including that of Mu Casiopeia.

Wagman was a natural teacher; he always drew large classes to his lectures on the history of astronomy, and he enjoyed lecturing at Pittsburgh's Buhl Planetarium. But perhaps his rarest quality was his willingness to sit and talk with his students or to walk out under a star-filled sky and share his understanding of the stars he said were "like old friends."

GEORGE GATEWOOD  
*University of Pittsburgh*

## Philip R. Bevington

On 19 August 1980, Philip R. Bevington, professor of physics at Case Western Reserve University, died at the age of 47.

He earned his AB degree from Harvard University in 1954 and his PhD degree from Duke University six years later. Bevington remained at Duke until 1963 as a research associate and assistant professor, then joined the Stanford University faculty. There he worked with Stanley Hanna on the tandem nuclear physics program. Bevington's special expertise with computers made for unique data acquisition and analysis for the many varied energy nuclear physics experiments there. It was also during this period that he wrote his widely used book *Data Reduction and Error Analysis for the Physical Sciences*.

Bevington came to Case Western in 1968 and immediately became involved in the time-of-flight research program using the Mobley-bunched Van de Graaff accelerator. At the same time he took part in planning the in-depth investigation of proton-proton interaction at LAMPF. His outstanding knowledge of microprocessors and his development of the encoding circuitry for processing signals from multiwire proportional chambers allowed a small group to compete successfully with much larger programs. The results on differential cross sections, polarization asymmetries and spin correlation parameters are a tribute to his vision, energy and perseverance.

Phil Bevington's talent as a physics teacher was attested to by the popularity of his regular and special courses. His colleagues were greatly enriched by his presence. He will be missed by many.

HARVEY B. WILLARD  
*National Science Foundation  
on leave from Case Western  
Reserve University*