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Retirement and Anniversary Dinner Is Tribute to 326 Years of Service



Standing, left to right: Robert F. Channell, Anne N. Clune, President Seitz, Jean P. Seibert, David Rockefeller, Bertha M. Gardner, Merrill W. Chase, Alois Mazanec. Seated: Katherine J. Clausen, Rebecca C. Lancefield.

Each spring the University pays tribute to those who are retiring after 15 years or more of service and those who are celebrating a special anniversary. This year, the retirement and anniversary dinner was held on April 5 in Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall. Before an audience of friends and colleagues, most of whom have been associated with the University for more than 25 years, the honorees received gifts and certificates of recognition presented by David Rockefeller, chairman of the board of trustees.

Those retiring, and their years of service, are:

Georgina M. Drew, supervisor, Hospital, 41 years
Katherine J. Clausen, secretary to the hospital supervisor, 27 years
Alois Mazanec, plumber, Machine Shop, 24 years

Bertha M. Gardner, clinic nurse, Hospital, 21 years
Catherine McConnon, laboratory helper, Biochemistry, 20 years
Anne N. Clune, supervisor, Social Service, 17 years

Those marking special anniversaries are:

Rebecca C. Lancefield, professor, Microbiology, 50 years
Merrill W. Chase, professor, Immunology and Microbiology, 40 years
Robert F. Channell, foreman, Cabinet-makers' Shop, 25 years
Jean P. Seibert, secretary, Cell Biology, 25 years

Dr. Rafael Lorente de Nó, Physiology, became professor emeritus. He has been at the University 36 years.

Miss Drew, Mrs. McConnon, and Professor Lorente de Nó were honored *in absentia*.

"Cautious Optimism"

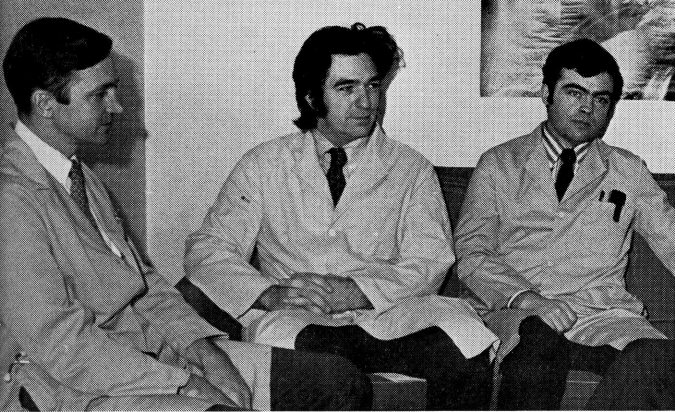
On April 10 Professor Anthony Cerami, Biochemistry, presented an interim report on the pharmacological properties of the chemical cyanate at the annual meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, held in Atlantic City. At a press conference following the presentation, he and his colleagues, Professors Peter N. Gillette, resident associate physician, and James M. Manning, expressed "cautious optimism" concerning their use of cyanate with patients suffering from sickle-cell anemia, a debilitating and often fatal hereditary disease found almost exclusively among black people.

When cyanate studies were first reported a year ago (see *news and notes*, June 1971) no tests had yet been attempted with human subjects, only with experimental animals. "Present indications," Dr. Cerami reported, "support our initial findings that cyanate in the amount sufficient to produce clinically measurable effects is well tolerated by man, and animal studies have so far revealed no irreversibly toxic effects."

Sickle-cell anemia is caused by a
(continued on page 2)

Blood Bank Drive

Mark your calendar. June 8 is the date set aside by the University this Spring for its annual blood bank drive. Any member of the campus community wishing to donate blood should sign up in advance at the Personnel Office, Founder's Hall, Room 103. He or she will be assigned a specific time, on the scheduled date, to report to the Blood Center, which is located at 310 East 67th Street, between First and Second Avenues. Those who apply, even if later disqualified for medical reasons, are entitled to draw upon the University's blood bank in case of an emergency affecting themselves, their spouses, dependent children, or dependent parents.



Gillette (left), Cerami, Manning.

genetic abnormality of hemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying protein in the red blood cells. When this hemoglobin unloads its cargo of oxygen, it tends to aggregate into long rod-shaped filaments that distort the shape of the red cell. The sickle-shaped, less resilient cells are presumed to plug up small blood vessels and cause tissue destruction and pain. Preliminary clinical trials, reported on May 1 by Dr. Gillette at the American Society for Clinical Investigation meetings, have shown definite hematological improvement of patients receiving oral cyanate therapy. The cyanate inhibits sickling, thus giving the cells a longer survival time with

a resultant increase in the number of circulating red blood cells. Although hematological improvement is clinically apparent, it is too early for the researchers to say that this will lead to a relief of symptoms and enable patients to lead more normal lives.

Whatever the future role of cyanate in sickle-cell anemia treatment, this research has uncovered the possibility of molecular engineering for genetic diseases. In Dr. Cerami's words, "by a specific chemical modification of an abnormal protein it can be made to function almost normally." Dr. Manning is exploring the possibility that other chemicals might react with the sickle-cell hemoglobin and inhibit sickling.

Also participating in the sickle-cell studies are Associate Physician Frank G. de Furia, Research Associates Joseph H. Graziano and Choong Kil Lee, and Dr. Denis Miller, associate professor of pediatric hematology at Cornell University Medical College.



More About Birds

As promised in March, *news and notes* has flushed out some more bird watchers. In late March, Virginia V. Sides, executive director of the Center for Prevention of Premature Arteriosclerosis, spotted the nesting mourning dove pictured above in a fir tree just east of the Hospital steps, and purple finches in front of Caspary. Although a relative newcomer to the University, Miss Sides is an old hand at birding, which she's done as far away as Alaska and Trinidad. She keeps her field glasses always handy in her desk. So does Christian Gillespie, secretary to Dr. Fritz Lipmann. It was she who first sighted the rare yellow throat in 1970. She put *news and notes* in touch with Mabel H. Bright, assistant to Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, who remembers having seen a Blackburnian warbler several autumns ago. This past autumn, Ruth Snyder, Dr. Rodney L. Cool's secretary, sighted a wood thrush in front of Caspary and a white-crowned sparrow in front of the Graduate Students Residence. To her goes the honor of being first to report a robin this spring: Friday, March 24, 5 P.M. on the lawn near the 66th Street gate. To quote Mrs. Snyder, echoing birders the world over, "What joy!"

From Amenophes III to Electron Spin

"For as long as I can remember, I have wanted to solve mysteries, three kinds, in particular—the mysteries of science, police mysteries, and the mystery of old things. And I have done all three."

Samuel A. Goudsmit, who currently directs a staff of 50 as editor-in-chief of the American Physical Society, has been probing the "mysteries of science" since his student days in the Netherlands and later at the University of Michigan, Brookhaven National Laboratory, and Rockefeller University, where he has been a visiting professor since 1957. In 1925, when he and Professor George E. Uhlenbeck were students, they discovered the "spin of the electron," a cornerstone of atomic theory.

During World War II, while working on radar research at MIT, Dr. Goudsmit got his chance to be a real-life sleuth as the scientific head of an intelligence mission which moved in advance of the army in 1944 and ascertained that German scientists had failed to make significant progress in atomic explosives.

As for the "mystery of old things," that has taken the form of a lifelong interest in Egyptology. As those on campus know who have attended his "standing room only" lectures on hieroglyphics—most recently in March

—Dr. Goudsmit brings both knowledge and wit to a subject which has afforded him many opportunities for applying his insatiable curiosity. It has also provoked frustration. In the old days in Amsterdam, he recalls, when the great art dealer Duveen declared that what is dug up is not good for the trade, Dr. Goudsmit's problem was trying to find Egyptian objects. Now, since collectors have decided that archeology is "art," prices have soared, leaving him "disgruntled." His frustrations, however, don't dampen his enthusiasm. Currently he's working on a paper which will reveal some curious sidelights he's discovered about the literacy levels of the later papyrus writers.

Dr. Goudsmit finds nothing inconsistent about the marriage of physics and Egyptology. In fact, it's a passion which appears to have a long and fruitful history. As he disclosed in his lectures, physicists have made several important contributions to Egyptology. Thomas Young, an early 19th century pioneer in optics and mechanics who conducted decisive experiments on the nature of light, was the first to determine that hieroglyphics were alphabetical, not pictographic, symbols. Another physicist, Jean Baptiste Fourier, was a member of the Napoleonic expedition that unearthed the Rosetta

stone. It was Fourier's experience and influence that inspired Jean François Champollion, the man who broke the hieroglyphic code.

Dr. Goudsmit owns a small collection of ancient artifacts—papyrus fragments, scarabs, and a tomb panel—acquired on his travels in Egypt, in Europe, and here. Once his wife bought a surplus discard from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York for \$3.50, an amulet mold on which, after he cleaned it up, he discovered the name of King Amenophes III—a well-earned prize for a discerning detective.



Glassblower Elco Machek at work.

A Master Craftsman "Loves the Challenge"

When Elco Machek got out of the army after World War II, he took a job with the post office. It wasn't for him. He'd wanted to be a machinist but there was no work for an inexperienced hand. His brother, who had worked some as a glassblower, suggested he try it. Mr. Machek apprenticed himself to a small shop in the Bronx specializing in glassware for scientific usage. Now, after 25 years in the field, the last 5 at Rockefeller, he is a master craftsman and he "loves the challenge." Before coming to the University, he had worked for 3 years with Fisher Scientific Company and then for 11 years in the electronics division of Lionel Corporation.

Twenty-five labs in the University, as well as the Population Council and the Media and Glassware Service, have standing orders with Mr. Machek. Many others, of course, call on him as the need arises. About half his work is repairing what would otherwise be costly to replace. The other half entails working directly with scientists to create pieces for specific needs. Although most standard lab equipment can be obtained directly from commercial distributors, there comes a time when nothing in the catalog is exactly "what the doctor ordered." Recently, for example, he worked on modifications for a three liter soxhlet, an ex-

traction apparatus used by Dr. Tapio Nikkari in his lipid studies. Dr. John R. Crouse wanted to fit funnel houses for sucking powder into a vacuum tube with a filter paper, so that the funnel could be used over again. The material it filters is radioactive. Mr. Machek came up with a means for fitting the two halves of the glass apparatus together tightly by adding glass hooks and attaching metal springs. A little ingenuity created a safety-tight but openable joint. In an emergency, he can also prepare in a day what a scientist might have to wait a month for from the outside.

The walls of Mr. Machek's small shop on the A floor of the Nurses' Residence are lined with cartons filled with Pyrex tubing and rods. Depending on the size and ease of handling of the piece in progress, he works at a bench lathe, at a table, or with a hand torch. Although he's long had yearnings to try a very different kind of glassblowing—miniature art pieces—he's never found the time. He has contented himself, instead, with vacation visits to see glass craftsmen at work in Mexico and at Expo in Montreal. Vacations are also the time when he indulges his love for deep-sea fishing. Last year's prize catch, he claims proudly, was a 20 pound grouper caught in the waters off Miami.

New Purchasing Manual

A new Purchasing Manual was published this month which explains in detail the policies that the Purchase and Supply Service follows in order to assure that materials and services are secured "at the lowest price consistent with quality, maintenance, and delivery requirements." Among the questions covered in the manual are what can be purchased and by whom, how to prepare purchase orders and requisitions, how to time orders, and how to ascertain what is obtainable from University stores or from outside agencies. The manual, prepared by the Purchase and Supply Service, is being distributed to all offices, laboratories, and services on campus.

BRIEFS

Professor **Rollin D. Hotchkiss**, Cellular Physiology, served in December and January as Fogarty Scholar in Residence at the National Institutes of Health.

President **Seitz** is one of 18 leaders in science, industry, and public affairs appointed by President Nixon to a new National Cancer Advisory Board. Dr. Seitz will serve for two years.

Professor **James A. Shannon**, Biomedical Sciences and special assistant to the President, was awarded the annual New York Academy of Medicine Medal and Plaque for scientific achievement at a dinner meeting held April 20.

Professors **Paul F. Cranefield** and **Brian F. Hoffman**, Cardiac Physiology, were participating lecturers at a Symposium on Recent Advances in Cardiac Arrhythmias held March 23 at the University of Amsterdam to dedicate the new department of cardiology under the direction of Dirk Durrer.

DR. AHRENS ON TV

On April 9 Dr. Edward H. Ahrens, Jr. appeared on the David Susskind television program to discuss the work of the Center for Prevention of Premature Arteriosclerosis at the University. A special telephone was set up at the center following the program to answer inquiries and to make appropriate referrals. A detailed story on the work of the CPPA will appear next month in *news and notes*.



From the photo files: undated view of children's gardens.

Where String Beans and Carrots Once Grew

Old-timers and not so old-timers will remember the children's gardens. For more than half a century, beginning in 1912, large unused areas of the campus, mainly along York Avenue, were reserved during the good weather months for vegetable gardens cultivated and harvested by neighborhood children, several hundred each season. The program was run, for most of those years, by the National Plant, Flower and Fruit Guild. By the 1920s the young farmers' ranks included classes from the local public schools, young cardiac patients from the Lenox Hill Hospital Clinic, and children "suffering the effects of malnutrition," sent by the Department of Health's 38th Street clinic.

The Rockefeller Institute's Business Manager's report for 1928-29 boasts that, in October, the gardens won first prize of \$100 at a Children's Fair sponsored by The American Museum of Natural History, "which reflects creditably upon the guidance and energy of the garden supervisor." Barney Lupinek, former superintendent of buildings and grounds, also "reflects creditably" upon the garden supervisor, one Miss Munckowitz, under whose guidance he too learned how to raise prize-winning string beans, carrots, radishes, and lettuce. Each plot was about 10-by-6 feet, and the child who tilled it got to keep its harvest. The Institute provided a shed, exhibition area, and sponsored congratulatory ceremonies yearly.

In later years Florence Miller took charge, with the assistance of Anna Monahan, who became supervisor af-

ter Mrs. Miller's death. When the guild felt it could no longer support the program, Mabel Bright recalls seeing small faces peering questioningly through the York Avenue gates, which prompted her to say to then President Detlev W. Bronk, "I hope you're planning to keep the gardens going. If not, you'll have to be the one to tell those kids." The gardens did continue, supported by the University, until 1967 when the land had to be taken over for necessary expansion of campus facilities.

In and Out at X-Ray

Nine years ago Ann Scaparro, a technologist in X-Ray Service, left the University to have a child, a son born on February 28, 1963. She was replaced by Barbara Rzempoluch Gordon. Mrs. Gordon left the University last December to have *her* son, Steven, also born on February 28. Now, Ann Scaparro has returned to take over her former job. Frances Kralick, X-ray supervisor, also reports that Arlene June Reiner, after more than nine years, left last September to make her home in Chicago where her husband has been transferred.

ERC DANCE

The Employees' Representative Committee will sponsor an all-University dance on Friday evening, June 2. There'll be live music and everyone's invited. Complete information will be posted around campus.

National Academy Elects

Four Rockefeller faculty members and one University trustee were among 75 scientists elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences on April 25. They are:

Professor Rodney L. Cool, Experimental High Energy Physics.

Dr. Vincent P. Dole, Medicine, professor and senior physician.

Dr. James G. Hirsch, Cellular Physiology and Immunology, professor and senior physician.

Professor Bruce Merrifield, Biochemistry.

Dr. Alexander G. Bearn, University trustee, adjunct professor and visiting physician, who is chairman of the Department of Medicine of Cornell University Medical College and physician-in-chief at The New York Hospital.

Election to the Academy, which was founded in 1863, is considered one of the highest honors an American scientist can achieve.

Dance Film Delights

On March 14 the University played host to a group of delighted children and to a good number of notables in the dance world. The occasion was the American premier of a new film, *Die Puppenfee*, shown here under the sponsorship of Dance Films Association. The original ballet, choreographed by Josef Hassreiter, to which the film adheres closely, was commissioned by Princess Pauline Metternich as a children's entertainment. It proved so popular that it entered the repertory of the Vienna Opera in 1888 and, since that time, has been performed there more often than the most popular opera and is one of the oldest continually performed ballets. Among those at the University's showing were dancers and dance teachers Andre Eglevsky and his wife, Leda Anchutina, Michael Maule, Georgia Hiden, and Senta Driver.

DR. VICTOR HEISER DIES

Dr. Victor Heiser, a frequent visitor and well known to many on this campus, died February 27 at the age of 99. The author of the best-selling autobiography, *An American Doctor's Odyssey*, he served for many years in the international health division of The Rockefeller Foundation and circled the earth 17 times in his lifelong battle against malaria, dysentery, yellow fever, cholera, typhus, yaws, leprosy, and other diseases.