

## PHYSICS MEETING

The 100th meeting of the Oregon Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers was held in Weniger Hall room 151 Saturday, December 13th. The Oregon Section was formed in 1931 and the first meeting was held in Corvallis.

Dr. John M. Ward, Dean of the School of Science, gave a welcome talk and this was followed by Professor R. Deery of Lewis and Clark College, President of the Oregon Section, who gave some interesting statistics about the organization. Dr. R. Geballe, National President of the American Association of Physics Teachers and chairman of the Physics Department at the University of Washington, gave a talk entitled "Is There a Future in Physics Teaching?"

Professor R. T. Birge, former chairman of the Physics Department of the University of California at Berkeley, gave a talk on "Nobel Prize Winners I Have Known". He, more than anyone else, was responsible for bringing together the seven men in his department who became Nobel Prize winners. In his talk he gave special attention to the activities of E. O. Lawrence, inventor of the cyclotron, and R. J. Oppenheimer, who was head of the Los Alamos Laboratory (atom bomb project) during World War II.

After a morning coffee break in which moon rocks of Apollo 11 were on display Dr. James J. Brady, Acting Chairman of the Physics Department of OSU, gave a talk in which he described how Dr. William Anderson who was on the physics faculty at OSU for many years, took what may have been the first X-ray photographs in the United States in 1896. Professor Ray Ellickson of the University of Oregon spoke about the teaching qualities of Dr. A. Knowlton who was head of the Physics Department at Reed College for many years. Knowlton operated on the principle "You'll forget what I tell you but you'll long remember what you tell me."

Professor Walton of Portland State University spoke of his early experiences while at Vanport College which was destroyed in the flood. Professor S. Neddermeyer of the University of Washington spoke of his work with Carl Anderson of the California Institute of Technology who received a Nobel Prize for the discovery of the positron and who a few years later discovered the mu-meson.

Professor Melba Phillips of the University of Chicago and former National President of the American Association of Physics Teachers spoke on the importance of making sure that "the image" of the physicist is that of a benefactor of society and not a person who has brought harmful or injurious conditions into our society. It is true that the atom bomb was developed by physicists but it is also true they made possible useful nuclear reactors and radioisotopes.

The meeting ended with a panel discussion on present problems facing the teaching of physics. Drs. Birge, Geballe, Phillips, and Neddermeyer formed the panel with Dr. Brady as moderator.

The entire meeting was recorded on video tape, copies of which will be turned over to the Pacific Northwest Association for College Physics which includes Physics Departments from five states. The tapes will then be made available to member departments of the Association.

Dr. R. T. Birge presented two pre-publication volumes of his "History of the Physics Department of the University of California" to Dr. Brady as a contribution to the OSU Physics Department library.

Dr. Richard Craig of the Oregon State University Physics Department was responsible for making local arrangements.



Program of the Hundredth Meeting of the Oregon AAPT  
Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, December 13, 1969

- 8:30 Registration and Coffee with Donuts
- 9:00 Dean Ward (OSU) - "Welcome"
- 9:15 Prof. R. Deery (Lewis and Clark) - "The Hundredth Meeting"
- 9:30 Prof. R. Geballe (U. of Washington) - "Is There a Future in Physics Teaching"
- 10:00 Prof. R. T. Birge (U. C. Berkeley) - "Recollections of the 1930-1940 Decades at Berkeley"
- 10:45 Coffee and Moon Rocks
- 11:15 Prof. J. Brady (OSU) - "A Little Bit of History"
- 11:30 Prof. R. Ellickson (U of O) - "A Little More History"
- 11:45 Prof. R. Walton (PSU) - "And Then Came the Flood"
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:15 Business Meeting
- 1:30 Prof. S. Neddermeyer (U. of Washington) - "Happy Days and Nights in the Norman Bridge Laboratory"
- 2:15 Coffee
- 2:45 Prof. M. Phillips (U. of Chicago) - "Some Problems Confronting Physics Teachers"
- 3:30 Panel Discussion