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77TH YEARS AGO IN THE SOUTHWEST RETORT

The ACS tour speaker for this area this month is **Dr. Gilbert H. Ayres** of the University of Texas (now *UT-Austin*). His topic is "Fundamentals of Spectrophotometric Analysis."

Dr. Fred A. Jensen, Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at Texas A&M University, passed away after a long illness. He was 66 years of age. He was very active in research and developed the unique Sargent-Jensen Titrator, a patented device that pioneered an analytical method using high-frequency oscillations. He served as Head of the chemistry department from 1947 to 1957.

In the Dallas-Fort Worth section, **Dr. Robert W. Higgins** of Texas Woman's University attended an NSF sponsored meeting Feb. 23-24 in Salt Lake City for Directors of Summer Institutes in Science for High School Students. **Mr. H. D. McAfee** of Arlington State College attended the Fourth Conference on College and University Safety for Texas Feb. 22-23 at College Station. Texas Instruments conducted a Science Seminar for 66 outstanding local science students. Speakers to the group included **Dr. Gordon Teal**, Assistant Vice President and Director of Research, and **R. W. Olson**, Vice President of Research and Engineering.

Drs. John S. Belew, **Virgil L. Tweedie**, and **A. G. Pinkus** of Baylor attended the Symposium on Hydrocarbon Chemistry held Jan. 26-

27 in Houston. At Texas A&M a two-year Welch grant went to **Dr. Ralph A. Zingaro** and Welch grants were renewed for **Drs. A. W. Jache** and **H. K. Zimmerman, Jr.** Dr. Zimmerman also received a \$15,000 extension of his NSF grant.

A total of eight graduate degrees in chemistry, six M.S. and two Ph.D., were granted during mid-year graduation exercises at the University of Arkansas. **Dr. Arthur Fry** directed the research of the two Ph.D. students.

At the University of Texas new \$36,000 Welch grants were given to **Drs. Allen J. Bard** and **Joseph J. Lagowski**. Welch grant renewals were given to **Drs. Stanley H. Simonsen**, **Norman Hackerman**, **Rowland Pettit**, and **George W. Watt**. NSF grants were awarded to **J. J. Lagowski**, **Phillip S. Bailey**, and **Matthew Van Winkle**. Bailey and **H. L. Lochte** were also given PRF grants. **Dr. F. A. Matsen** has received an NSF Senior Postdoctoral Fellowship for 1961. He will travel to the Poincare Institute and the University of London for further research on group theory, quantum mechanics, and gaseous electronics. In February **Dr. Norman Hackerman** spoke on Fuel Cells at the Jersey Production Research Laboratory in Tulsa. He also spoke on corrosion inhibition at a meeting of the New Haven, Connecticut RESA chapter. On Jan. 21 he also lectured at the University of Tulsa.



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REFLECTIONS ON BEING A BOOK EDITOR

by E. Thomas Strom

I imagine at one time or another everyone of us has thought about writing a book. I understand that self-help and cooking books tend to do well. If you want to make the really big bucks, there are the thrillers. Authors like Tom Clancy, John Gresham, Mary Higgins Clark, and David Baldacci keep the excitement going non-stop, and they are paid well for doing so.

Like everyone else, I, too, have thought about writing a book, but the fiction gene doesn't seem to be in my makeup. Consequently, for me it has to be non-fiction. My friend Ed Janzen and I once signed a contract with a well-known publisher to provide a book on electron spin resonance. The book never happened. Ed had to concentrate on making tenure at Georgia, and I concentrated on having a life. The book on electron spin resonance we thought of writing was written by Wertz and Bolton, and it was better than anything Ed and I could have done.

What about writing an organic chemistry textbook? No way! I have the utmost respect for those authors who can bring clarity to the jungle that is organic chemistry. I take my hat off to Morrison and Boyd, McMurry, Frank Carey, Andy Ternay---you name them. I could never do that. However, I do wish textbook authors would quit with the fourth edition. After the fourth edition, it is downhill all the way.

I'm a chemist, so why not write a chemical monograph? With my recent interest in history of chemistry, I thought of two possible topics. One is the first 50 years of free radical chemistry. That would have clear starting and ending points---1900 with the discovery of triphenyl methyl by Moses Gomberg and 1950 when electron spin resonance started to come into prominence. The problem there is that I would have to bring back my knowledge of German somehow to read the early literature, and I would truncate the history just at the time

when my knowledge base is greatest. My freshman chemistry teacher was R. T. Sanderson who developed an interesting electronegativity scale based on covalent radii. I could do a monograph on the history of the various electronegativity scales. I have a tremendous title ready, "Electronegativity: A Concept in Search of a Measurement." Still, such a book would be a lot of work. Thus it was that the year 2010 came around, and I still wasn't an author.

My big activity in 2010 was the symposium I had arranged for the spring ACS meeting on "Leo Baekeland and Beyond: 100+ Years of Plastics." Then the HIST program chair Seth Rasmussen said to me, "This symposium would make a great book. If you want to approach ACS Books about this, I will be your co-editor." I looked into this some more; and I found out Seth's and my name go on the book cover, while the other guys do all the writing. So, I'm an editor rather than author. The general public won't know the difference. How long has this racket been going on? Let me in on it!

Things progressed rather easily at first. All my presenters at the symposium were willing to contribute chapters, and they signed contracts with ACS Books. Seth and I would share the royalties with HIST with the chapter authors only getting some free books, but I had no illusions that there would be any significant royalties. The key thing is that I would get my name on a book! The due date for chapters was to be Sept. 30 with a "drop dead" date of Nov. 30. All I had to do was wait for

the chapters to roll in, proofread them, and wait for the chapter reviewers' comments. After all, the only thing the presenters had to do was to change their PowerPoint presentations to a written chapter. Two chapters came in rather early. Then Sept. 30 came around, and only a third chapter was in; and that was written by my co-editor. Only 25% of the chapters were in. Then it hit me. I had absolutely no levers over the chapter authors. They were doing their regular research or teaching jobs, and the chapter for our book was an unpaid extra. I could not threaten to freeze their salaries, give them a bad performance appraisal, or deny them tenure. All I had was the ability to nag or whine at them via e-mail or phone calls, and that is not a very effective lever.

By the time of the "drop dead" date, 75% of the chapters were in, which meant that 25% of them weren't. Of the three remaining authors, one said his chapter would come in just a few days late, while the other two said they needed two more months. My contact at ACS Books agreed to change the "drop dead" date to a "drop dead and cremate" date of Feb. 1. My author who said his chapter would be just a few days late was good to his word. Of the two remaining authors, one missed the Feb. 1 date; but his chapter came in just a few days later. The twelfth author worked in industry and was plagued with a huge workload and tight deadlines which prevented him from completing the assignment. As I had worked in industry for 32 years, I

knew that these things can happen; and so I had sympathy for his plight.

So, eleven of the hoped-for twelve chapters are in, and all but a couple are ready to print. The book ought to come out sometime this year. I titled this piece "Reflections —," so what are my reflections? First, I definitely think this particular symposium deserved to be a book. 2010 marked the 100th anniversary of National Bakelite Corp., and this was significant because Bakelite, the first completely synthetic polymer, started the whole plastics industry off. Second, editing a book is definitely easier than writing a book, but editing is NOT the piece of cake I thought it was. I noted two pages of typos from one book chapter; and I haven't gone into the problems involved when my reviewer thinks a chapter needs big revisions, and the authors don't agree. Would I do it again? Well, I think that Angela Wilson and I are going to co-edit a symposium book from the Anaheim symposium we arranged on "Pioneers of Quantum Chemistry," so the answer must be yes. The important matter is not that Angela and I get our names on another book, but that interested chemists can access a variety of material on polymer chemistry history or quantum chemistry history in one convenient volume. However, I still think it will be neat to have my name on a book.

CHEM GEMS & JOULES

The national exam for the Chemistry Olympiad took place at UT-Arlington on April 16. The organizers were **Kathleen Holley** of Texas Wesleyan

University and **Brad Pierce** of UT-Arlington. Following is a list of the 12 students who scored high enough on the local exam to qualify for the national exam, their schools, and their mentors: **Alan Zhao** and **Adam Su**, Texas Academy of Math and Science, *Dr. Martin Schwartz*; **David Hao** and **Michael Hwang**, Jasper High School (Plano), *Ms. Pamela Grow*; **Sagar Parikh**, Plano Sr. High School, *Mrs. Robyn Shipley-Gerko*; **Benjamin Renard**, TAG Magnet (Dallas), *Ms. Deborah Maner*; **Raghuv eer Achukola**, Coppell High School, *Mrs. Sally Urquhard*; **Erik Nguyen**, Paschal High School (Fort Worth), *Mr. Andrew Brinker*; **Stephany Liu**, Plano West Sr. High School, *Ms. Nicole Lyssy*; **Andy Cindy Chyao**, Plano East Sr. High School, *Dr. Jane Carr*; **Alex Tran**, Trinity Valley School (Fort Worth), *Mr. Paul Price*; **Corey Leung**, Trinity High School (Euless), *Mr. Lance Dewey*.

FINALLY—RETORT SECTION ADDRESSES ARE UPDATED

We are pleased to say that with this issue all addresses for the six sections taking *The Southwest Retort* have been updated. Please let us know if there are any further errors, and we can have our mailing service make corrections. The delay in updating stemmed from the problems in getting permissions from the sections to ACS and the rosters from ACS to us.

We originally thought the roster updates could be done quickly, so we fell behind an issue waiting for the

updates to reach us in a timely fashion. As a consequence, our issues are out of phase. You will be getting this March issue either at the tag end of April or the first part of May. However, this issue does cover April news and describes upcoming May events.

You might wonder why we don't call this issue March/April and label the ninth issue as the June issue. Well, we did that a few years ago. The consequence was that the post office wrote us a very pointed letter telling us not to do that again, so we won't. Therefore, your April issue should reach you sometime in May and your May issue in June. The next academic year things will be different.

In Memorium:
***Gordon Stone, Retired
Baylor Welch Professor***

The chemistry profession suffered a great loss with the death of **Dr. F. Gordon A. Stone**, Emeritus Welch Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, on April 6 at age 85. Stone's wife Judith had died a few years earlier. He is survived by sons James, Peter, and Derek.

Gordon Stone gave me a personal interview on Aug. 5, 2004, from which I wrote a long profile, published in the January, 2005, issue of *The Southwest Retort*, pp. 5,7, 9. He also published his autobiography *Leaving No Stone Unturned: Pathways in Organometallic Chemistry* in 1993 as part of the ACS Series "Profiles, Pathways, and Dreams: Autobiographies of Eminent Chemists." Readers wanting more details of his

immensely productive career are directed to those two publications. However, let me give a brief overview of his accomplishments.

Stone received his undergraduate and graduate training at Cambridge University. He did postdocs at Southern California and at Harvard. He then spent eight years at Harvard. He returned to England to the University of London, followed by an appointment to the new chair in inorganic chemistry at the University of Bristol. He was at Bristol for 27 years, but during this time he also had appointments as visiting professor at Princeton, Carnegie-Mellon, and Arizona. He would travel to the US at least twice a year.

When Stone reached the mandatory retirement age of 65, he was approached about taking the Welch Chair at Baylor. He came to Baylor in 1990. He was the author of more than 900 publications. He told me that among his most important discoveries were the synthesis of tris(ethylene) platinum and tris-(pentafluorophenyl) boron. The latter compound provided an ultra-strong Lewis acid, now found to be an important co-catalyst. His group also made a three-membered ring containing a carbon-tungsten double bond bridged by a platinum, with all three atoms substituted by ligands, essentially a "dimetallacyclopentene."

It was fortunate that those mandatory retirement rules brought Gordon Stone to the US, because he was able to continue that creative career for nearly 20 years more. We in the Southwest were also fortunate to get to know this fine English gentleman. He will be greatly missed.

Around-the-Area

University of Arkansas

Distinguished Professor **Frank Millet** was appointed as the inaugural holder of the Bruker Analytical Science Professorship. Millet can use proceeds from the Bruker endowment to advance his research, support graduate students, and recruit outstanding faculty to the department.

Senior chemistry major **Jonathan Schmidt** received one of five best speaker awards at the University of Memphis Chemistry Department's 31st Annual Undergraduate Research Conference Feb. 26. His research mentor is **Julie Stenken**. Fifty-one students from seven states presented oral presentations.

Matt McIntosh gave a talk at Pittsburgh State University on Mar. 11. **Charles Wilkins** and **Ingrid Fritsch** attended PITCON in Atlanta Mar. 13-18. **Roger Koeppe** chaired a session at the Biophysical Society meeting in Baltimore Mar. 5-9 and was a co-author of two presentations. Faculty **Colin D. Heyes** and **Denise Greathouse** gave posters at this meeting. There were also two post-doc posters and 12 graduate student posters at this meeting coming out of the U of A. **Derek Sears** attended the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in The Woodlands, TX, Mar. 1-8 and co-authored five presented papers. Grad students **Jacqueline Greer** and **Scott Morris** attended the Anaheim ACS meeting.

Wichita Falls-Duncan

Halliburton. Drs. Gary Funk-

houser and **Larry Eoff** attended the SPE International Oil Field Chemistry Symposium April 11-13 in The Woodlands, TX. Dr. Eoff presented a paper. Dr. Funkhouser was co-chair of the session on New Chemical Technologies and also was the co-author of a paper presented at the meeting.

Mr. Tom Dealy attended the celebratory banquet in Denton April 16 marking the completion of the **Jim and Jenny Marshall** project on "Rediscovery of the Elements."

East Texas

The March meeting of the section was held on Mar. 23 at Kilgore College. The speaker was **Earnest Simpson** on "The Chemistry of Wine."

The final meeting of the section for the academic year was held at Stephen F. Austin State University on April 14. The meeting featured reports on student research from Stephen F. Austin. Congratulations to two East Texas Section student member clubs for receiving awards at the Anaheim ACS meeting. The Texarkana College Chemistry Club received an Outstanding Chapter award, along with a Green Chemistry award. The UT-Tyler students received an Honorable Mention chapter award.

Here is a listing of the fall meetings. In Sept. the meeting will be at LeTourneau University with the date and topic to be determined. On Wed, Oct. 5, the meeting will be at Texarkana College and will feature

Al Hazari on “Periodic Fun.” On Wed., Nov. 9, the meeting will be at East Texas Baptist University. The speaker is **Michael Tunick**, and his topic is “Molecules to Mozzarella: The Chemistry of Cheese.”

Dallas-Fort Worth

Fifty and Sixty Year Members.

The section has been notified of our members who have reached the 50 and 60 member-ship milestones. The fifty-year members are: **Dr. Robert J. Adamski, Mrs. Eunice F. Bonar, Dr. Richard A. Caldwell, Dr. Scotty J. Norton, Dr. James L. Seago, and Dr. Ide P. Tretter, Jr.** Sixty year members are: **Dr. A. Bernard Hoefelmeyer, Mr. Michael A. Jordan, Dr. John E. Spessard, Dr. Jack C. Towne, and Mr. Earl W. Whittington.** They will be honored at a fall meeting of the section.

TCU. **Dr. Tracy Hanna** gave a 5-week series of chemistry lessons/demonstrations to the 1st-3rd grades at Montessori Children’s House in Fort Worth over January and February. In February she visited Lake Charles, LA, to present a talk titled “Building Bifunctionality on the Calixarene Lower Rim” at McNeese University and where she also gave a talk at the local ACS meeting on “Bismuth and Molybdenum Aryloxides: Polymerization and Oxidation Catalyst Models.” She also presented a talk at the Structural Inorganic Chemistry Symposium at the Anaheim ACS meeting in honor of UCSD Professor **Arnold Rheingold.**

SMU. **Brent Summerlin** presented seminars at Tulane and at

the University of Minnesota. **John Buynak** gave a seminar at Thera-vance, Inc. in San Francisco. Grad student **Beatriz Rios** was appointed by the ACS Younger Chemists Committee in Mar., 2010 to serve a three-year term as the graduate student member of the Graduate Education Advisory Board. She attended the Anaheim ACS meeting. Six grad students from the SMU Chemistry Department have been selected to organize a symposium for the Denver ACS meeting in August. Only one group of grad students is chosen to organize a symposium for each national meeting of the ACS. Their title is Graduate Student Symposium Planning Committee (GSSPC).

UT-Dallas. Professors **Rocky Draper** and **Paul Pantano** were awarded a \$91,000 Phase I NIH STTR award with **Dr. Gareth Hughes** and Medical Nanotechnologies, Inc. for “Measuring and Monitoring Carbon Nanotubes and their Potential Toxicity.”

University of North Texas. A number of faculty participated in the Anaheim ACS Meeting. Welch Professor **Wes Borden** gave a talk at a symposium in honor of his winning the James Flack Norris Award in Physical Organic Chemistry, and he also gave a talk at the symposium on “Pioneers of Quantum Chemistry.” **Dr. Angela Wilson** was a co-organizer of a symposium honoring **Thom Dunning** as winner of the ACS Computers in Chemical and Pharmaceutical Chemistry Award.

****Continued on Page 12****

May DFW ACS Meeting

Honoring

Dr. E. Thomas Strom

Editor, *The Southwest Retort*

Thursday, May 19, 2011, 6:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Carlisle Suite in the E. H. Hereford University Center

The University of Texas at Arlington

200 W. First Street, Arlington Texas 76010

"Sixty-Three Years and Still Going. The Story of *The Southwest Retort*"

About the talk: In October, 1944, the DFW ACS section published its first magazine, *The Activator*. This magazine only went to section members. In 1948 the section decided to expand the reach of the magazine to the entire Southwest and changed its name to *The Southwest Retort*. Tom Strom has officially been Editor since January, 1984, although he functioned in this post a few months earlier. His last issue as Editor will be this May, which will also mark the last print issue of the magazine although it will continue online. Tom will share the high points of *The Southwest Retort's* 63+ year history and discuss the difficulties print media have in this age of increased electronic communication.

Social Hour: 6:00 - 7:00 P.M. (hosted by VWR)

Dinner: 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Lecture: 8:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Reservations: dcooke@uta.edu or 817-272-0378 by **Thursday, May 12, 2011**. Dinner is \$15. Specify **Pecan Crusted Chicken** or **Lasagna (vegetarian)** when making your reservation. **Note** the early notification deadline required by the caterer! Dinner will include salad, entree and vegetable, rolls, dessert, and tea/water/coffee.

- Payment by cash or check will be accepted at the meeting. Please note that you are financially responsible for reservations made but not used.
- It is **not** necessary to attend the dinner in order to attend the lecture.

Directions and Parking: **From I-30:** Take Cooper Street Exit. Go South on Cooper; drive approximately 2 miles. Turn Left on UTA Blvd (just past the Social Work Complex). Turn Right on S. West Street. Take a Right into the Faculty Staff Parking Lot (F12). Alternate Parking in Lot 38 off West Street. **From I-20:** Take the Cooper Street Exit; go North on Cooper Street. Go approximately 4+ miles. Pass through the main part of campus and the bridges. Turn Right on UTA Blvd. Turn Right on S. West Street. Take a Right into the Faculty Staff Parking Lot (F12). Alternate Parking in Lot 38 off West Street. **The University Center** is located just south of the parking lot.

****Continued from Page 10****

She gave a talk at that symposium. She also was co-organizer of the symposium on "Pioneers of Quantum Chemistry." Other faculty who gave presentations at that meeting were **Drs. Tom Cundari, Mohammed Omary, Diana Mason, and Jim Marshall.**

UT-Arlington. **Dr. Kevin Schug** gave two invited lectures about his research, one at the Baltimore-Washington Mass Spectrometry Discussion Group on Mar. 21 and one at the Chromatography Forum of Delaware Valley on Mar. 22. Grad student **Sam Yang** from the Schug group presented a poster and an oral presentation at Pittcon in Atlanta on Mar. 15. **Dr. Krishnan (Raj) Rajeshwar** attended the Anaheim ACS meeting where he presented an invited talk at a Fuel Chemistry Symposium. His title was

"Energy- and Time-Efficient Synthesis of Oxide Semiconductors for Solar Photovoltaic and Photocatalytic Applications." **Dr. Claudia Longo** from the University of Campinas, Brazil spent a sabbatical leave as a Fulbright Scholar in Raj's lab Jan.-Mar., 2011. **Dr. E. Thomas Strom** also attended the Anaheim ACS meeting, where he co-organized the symposium "Pioneers of Quantum Chemistry" and gave the paper "George W. Wheland: Forgotten Pioneer of Resonance Theory." Tom attended the SPE International Oil Field Symposium April 11-13 at The Woodlands, TX, where he co-chaired the session on "New Chemical Technologies." **Professor Kalobaran Maiti**, Tata Institute, India gave a special seminar on Mar. 24 on "Magnetism in Non-Magnets and Non-Magnetism in Magnets."