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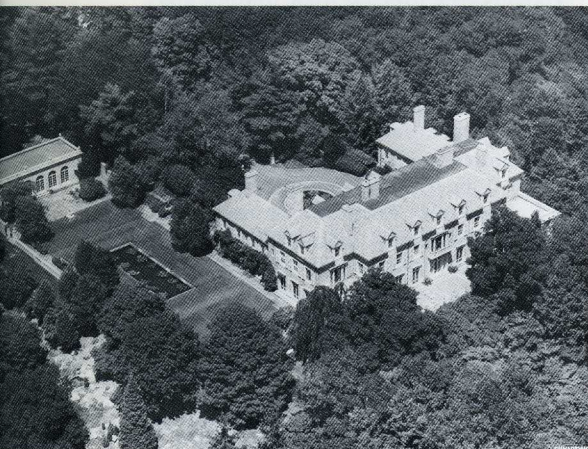
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*Aerial view from the southwest of Meyer House, the main building at Seven Springs Center.*

## SEVEN SPRINGS CENTER ACQUIRED

As this issue of *news and notes* was going to press, the University was nearing completion of an agreement with Seven Springs Center, Inc. to obtain title to the Seven Springs Center, near Mount Kisco, New York, comprising two adjoining estates totaling approximately 200 acres, two houses, and several smaller buildings. In addition, financial assets will be transferred to the University by Seven Springs, Inc., which will then be dissolved.

The principal house at Seven Springs Center was the summer home of the late Eugene and Agnes Meyer. Mr. Meyer was publisher of the Washington Post for many years and then was chairman of the board until his death in 1959. The house, completed in 1917, has 15 guest rooms, a swimming pool, and well-maintained grounds. After the death of Mrs. Meyer in 1970, Seven Springs Center was first operated as an affiliate of Yale University, and then as an independent, not-for-profit corporation.

"It is our expectation," states Vice President David J. Lyons, "that the new acquisition will operate on a break-even basis to provide splendid new quarters for scientific meetings, special conferences, and a wide variety of other University functions." Details about the Center and its schedule of charges are available from Mr. Lyons' office. □

### HENRY KUNKEL DIES AT 67

Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Professor Henry G. Kunkel, one of the world's most revered immunologists, died December 14 as this issue was going to press. A tribute to his career will appear in the next *news and notes*.

## Wiesel Named Astor Professor; Brooke Astor Elected Life Trustee

Torsten N. Wiesel has been appointed Vincent and Brooke Astor Professor, succeeding Professor Carl Pfaffmann, who became emeritus this year.

Dr. Wiesel recently joined the University's faculty to head a new laboratory of neurobiology. Previously Robert Winthrop Professor and chairman of the neurobiology department at Harvard Medical School, he was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1981 for research concerning the way in which visual information is analyzed by the brain. (See *news and notes*, October-November 1983.)

The Vincent and Brooke Astor Professorship was established in 1980 with part of a \$5 million grant from the Vincent Astor Foundation, which is being applied to the development of new programs

in neuroscience at the University. A previous grant of \$2 million from the Astor Foundation, made in 1974, endowed two Vincent Astor Professorships held by Gerald M. Edelman and James E. Darnell, Jr.

In announcing Dr. Wiesel's appointment, President Lederberg reiterated the University's debt of gratitude to Trustee Brooke Astor, whose leadership of the foundation named for her late husband has contributed so significantly to the progress of the University's new initiatives. At its October 4th meeting, the board of trustees amended its bylaws to establish a new category of Life Trustees to honor "exceptionally meritorious service to the University." Mrs. Astor was unanimously elected the first holder of the title. □

## Christmas Lectures: Nottebohm on Brains

Young birds must learn how to sing. By learning how they do it, scientists are gaining new insights into how the brain functions, as Professor Fernando Nottebohm will reveal in the 1983 Alfred E. Mirsky Christmas Lectures on Science entitled "Brains." The series, which will be presented on the afternoons of December 28 and 29 to selected high school students from the Greater New York area, is named for its founder, the late Rockefeller scientist.

Dr. Nottebohm, a member of the University's animal behavior faculty and director of the Field Research Station in Millbrook, New York, has been studying the physiological and biochemical basis of song learning in birds for more than 20 years. He has identified the areas in the brain involved in vocal control and he has discovered major differences in the structure of male and female brains in those areas. Only male birds sing. Dr. Nottebohm has demonstrated the dominance of the left hemisphere in vocal production in male birds. Hemispheric dominance is a phenomenon previously observed only in human brains. Very recent research in his laboratory has shown that, as adult birds learn new songs for a new season, nerve cells in their brains are replaced. It had been previously thought that new nerve cells cannot grow in a mature brain.

Dr. Nottebohm will deliver four lectures, two on each day: Learning to Sing: Birdsong as a Complex Motor Skill; Two Brains in One: Functions of the Two Hemispheres; Sex and the Brain; and Re-

placeable Neurons. They will consider such questions as: Why do the two hemispheres control different functions? Why do the sexes behave differently? What factors limit learning? What are the relations between learning, forgetting, and processes of brain self-repair? Is there hope for new treatment for brain-damaged patients? Is it possible that the brain can be made to stay young forever? What new opportunities are opening up in brain research? □

*In coordination with a symposium on protein chemistry on November 4 honoring Professor Stanford Moore, who died in August 1982, the Rockefeller University Archives presented an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia, here being viewed by Professor Henry Wood. Part of the display, which showed highlights from Dr. Moore's career, is currently on view in the Library.*







*At the retirement party for Sydney Woodd-Cahusac on December 5, the guest of honor, center, holds a stained-glass plaque presented to him by his University friends. With him are his wife, Jef, and their daughter Ann, President Lederberg, and President Emeritus Frederick Seitz. (Not pictured is the Woodd-Cahusac son, Kenneth, a member of the University's maintenance staff who was working his way through the crowd of well-wishers as the photograph was being taken.)*

## Woodd-Cahusac Retires

Treasurer Sydney A. Woodd-Cahusac, a member of the Rockefeller community since 1969, retires on December 31.

Mr. Woodd-Cahusac who came to the University after more than 20 years as a lawyer and corporate officer, has had major responsibility for the "care and feeding," as he puts it, of the University's financial and other assets. At the same time, he has been deeply immersed, on campus and off, in another kind of caring. He has served on the University's Institutional Review Board, which passes on protocols for experiments involving human subjects, on the board of the Children's School for more than a decade, as the University's representative on the board of the East Side Association, and on the Management Committee of Sutton

Terrace, which has seven times elected him chairman.

He has been a member of the Mayor's Committee in the Public Interest and Special Assistant Attorney General of New York State. He has served on the Committee on Medicine and Law of the New York City Association of the Bar and on its Committee on Philanthropic Organizations. As a director of the Cultural Council Foundation he has helped young artists "get their fiscal act together" when applying for grants. He and his wife, Jef, have also been very active in community affairs in his home state of Connecticut.

An important and related aspect of Mr. Woodd-Cahusac's life, which, with his retirement, will come to the fore, has been reflected in his membership on the board of the Union Theological Seminary and as a vestryman of his church in Connecticut. In January, he begins preparation for a new career as an Episcopal priest, a family tradition that goes back to his great, great, great grandfather.

Of his involvements at Rockefeller, Mr. Woodd-Cahusac is particularly proud of having served on occasion as an "unofficial fundraiser," a measure of "my pride in being associated with the mission of this institution." The people of this institution have learned, over 14 years of association, that though the task may be heavy the Woodd-Cahusac touch is light. In President Lederberg's words: "We will miss not only his services but also the wit and eloquence he brought to our campus." □

## Carl Alper Sends Thanks

Carl Alper, who retired as supervisor of shipping and receiving on September 1, has asked *news and notes* to extend his thanks for the party held for him by purchasing on August 31. He writes: "I shall cherish the memory of this party and I wish to express my appreciation to all of those friends who honored me with their presence and the nice gift." □

## Ooops!

The University has the good fortune to have in its ranks people from all over the world. They often have names unfamiliar to American ears. That is no excuse to give them names unfamiliar even to them. In the welcome to the new graduate students in the last issue, Anindya Dutta wound up as Shenyang Anindya Dutta, the Shenyang properly belonging to the China Medical College from which De-Yi Du was graduated. Likewise, we added Vellore to Colin Fletcher's name, Vellore, in fact, being the location of the Christian Medical College from which Anindya Dutta comes. *news and notes* apologizes for the gremlins that got into the printing press while editorial eyes were averted. □

## PERSONALS

Born June 24 to Postdoctoral Fellow **Ann Eisenberg Shinnar**, Biochemistry, and her husband, Dr. Meir Shinnar, a daughter, Michal Rosa, their first child.

## Dioxin Symposium

The chemicals called dioxins are trace contaminants inadvertently generated in a variety of industrial processes or waste-disposal practices. Dioxins in certain kinds of wood preservatives and plant killers, such as the herbicide called 2,4,5-T or Agent Orange, have been involved in sporadic episodes of environmental contamination.

Dioxins are extremely toxic to some animal species. Just how serious the dioxins are as human health threats is unclear. In areas such as Times Beach, Missouri, and Midland, Michigan, dioxin contamination has resulted in intense public concern.

Comments William W. Lowrance, director of the University's Life Sciences and Public Policy Program: "About these hazards we know enough scientifically to worry, but not enough to know how much to worry or how much protective action to take."

On October 19-20 a Symposium on Public Health Risks of the Dioxins was held at Rockefeller, convened by the Life Sciences and Public Policy Program in cooperation with The Sloan-Kettering Institute, the Environmental Sciences Laboratory of the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, and the Division of Environmental Sciences of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Lowrance and attended by over 300 scientific, public health, medical, industrial, environmental, and governmental experts from eight countries who reviewed the current knowledge of dioxin effects in terms of immunotoxicity, cancer and reproductive risks, and general metabolic toxicity. Among the speakers were representatives of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, Dow Chemical Company, the Environmental Defense Fund, the National Resources Defense Council, and the New York State Department of Health.

Professor Attallah Kappas, University vice president and physician-in-chief of the Hospital, served on a panel to discuss biochemical and clinical issues. Glenn Paulson, National Audubon Society vice president for science, who earned his Ph.D. in the environmental biomedicine laboratory of the late René Dubos, served on a panel on research strategy.

"Through vigorous and wide-ranging discussion, substantial progress was made in sorting out what the problems are and in making suggestions for research," stated President Lederberg, who opened the meeting.

Support for the symposium was provided by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Merck & Co., Inc., the Rockefeller Family Fund, Syntex Corporation, and The New York Times Company Foundation. This was the second such symposium presented by the Life Sciences and Public Policy Program. The first, on Assessment of Health Effects at Chemical Disposal Sites, was held in 1981. The proceedings of the recent symposium will be published by William Kaufmann, Inc. □

## BRIEFS

Professor **D. Martin Carter**, Investigative Dermatology, was a member of the panel of a Consensus Development Conference on Precursors to Malignant Melanomas, held October 24-26, at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda. The Consensus Development program was started by NIH in 1977 to bring research scientists, physicians, and members of the public together in an effort to help determine whether various medical procedures or drugs are safe and effective.

**President Lederberg** was one of two keynote speakers at a National Health Constitutional Convention on October 24 in Philadelphia, the first event in that city to mark the bicentennial of the adoption of the U.S. Constitution and the principal event in celebration of the inauguration of Dr. Bertram S. Brown as president of Hahnemann University. His topic was Convergence of Health Science and Health Applications. The other keynote speaker was Elliot L. Richardson, former secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

Dr. Lederberg also was the 1983 Guest Lecturer at the 13th Annual Nelson Rosenthal Convocation for High School Students, presented by the New York University School of Medicine and sponsored by the Greater New York March of Dimes. It was held on November 10 at Lincoln Center. He spoke on Informational Complexity of Biological Systems.

## University Welcomes Theobald Smith Family

"He always claimed he had really wanted to be a musician or a journalist, or maybe a tramp, and that he 'fell into' science," said Philip H. Smith of his father, Theobald Smith.

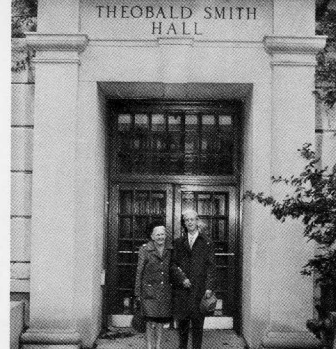
The occasion of the remark was a lunch on October 19 at which the University feted seven members of the Smith family: Philip Smith, Theobald Smith's sole surviving child; Mr. Smith's wife, Jeanne; Margaret Ettinger, the daughter of one of Philip Smith's two sisters; her husband, Thomas; and the Ettinger children, Thomas, Mark, and Elizabeth. Joining with them in tributes to and reminiscences of the renowned Rockefeller scientist were President Lederberg, Executive Vice President Rodney W. Nichols, and Professors Alexander Mauro, Maclyn McCarty, Igor Tamm, and William Trager.

Theobald Smith, born in 1859, was one of those who laid the foundation for the understanding of infectious diseases. He demonstrated that Texas cattle fever was

transmitted by ticks, he introduced the use of killed bacteria in vaccines, and he conducted pioneer studies of tuberculosis. By discovering the cause of blackhead disease in turkeys, he saved an industry from extermination. He was a member of the board of scientific directors of The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research from its founding in 1901 until his death in 1934, and he became director of the Institute's animal pathology laboratories in Princeton, New Jersey, in 1914.

The celebration at the University came about as the result of a conversation between Dr. Mauro and Elizabeth Ettinger, who got acquainted at a meeting of a citizen's group. When Miss Ettinger mentioned that her great-uncle Philip, now in his late 80s, had not been at the University for many years and that she had never been there, Dr. Mauro decided that a family invitation was "long overdue."

Among the University representatives at the lunch, only Dr. Trager, who joined



Mr. and Mrs. Philip Smith

Smith's laboratory in 1933, had known him, but his effect on subsequent science was profound. Dr. Lederberg recalled that in his own early days he had been very much influenced by Smith's work on salmonella and had read many of his papers.

Although his research brought him world acclaim, Theobald Smith "never spoke to us of his work or his triumphs," said his son, who also remembered the time his father misjudged the date and failed to show up for an honorary degree at Yale. The invitation was renewed the following year, an occasion that excited him most, said Mr. Smith, because "he met Paderewski." □

## Toward a Healthy New Year

Are you planning a winter vacation to an exotic isle famous for its beaches and its dysentery? Are you worried about your blood pressure, your waistline, your hearing, your heart? Do you need a physician referral? Has your doctor ordered an X-ray, a lab test? Would you like to quit smoking? Have you been injured on the job? Did you twist your ankle on the squash court? Have you got a stomachache? Do you need an eye test to renew your driver's license? Do you know where to go if the answer to any of the above is yes?

The Employee Health Office provides a variety of services to Rockefeller employees from emergency aid to physician referral to free or nominal-cost procedures such as pre-marital blood tests, pregnancy tests, and vision and hearing examinations.

If you are injured at work, you should report to Employee Health immediately to assure proper emergency treatment, the cost of which is covered through Workers' Compensation.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation courses are given from October through April, blood-pressure screenings in May and June, and flu shots in October and November. Special programs such as physical fitness classes and breast self-examination training are also offered as well as stop-smoking sessions and travel immunization and counseling.

To find out how the Employee Health Office can help you toward a healthy new year, call extension 8414 or go to room 118 in the Hospital. The hours are 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., Monday through Friday. □

## Genetics Symposium Held

The University sponsored an afternoon Mini-Symposium on Developmental Genetics, in cooperation with Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, as part of the Interinstitutional Seminar Program. It was held on November 18 in Caspary Auditorium.

Professor Igor Tamm, the University's committee member for the seminar program, explained that the purpose of the program was to consider recent advances in knowledge of conserved and dynamic aspects of the organization of the genetic material in eukaryotes, which are cells with distinct nuclei such as those in higher animals. □

## PROMOTIONS

**Robert G. Lahita**, Immunology, and **Nadia Nogueira**, Cellular Physiology and Immunology, to associate professor, effective November 1.

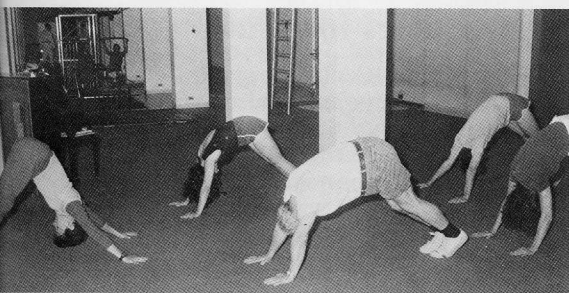
**Matthias Müller**, Cell Biology, to assistant professor, effective October 1.

**Helen V. Vlassara**, Medical Biochemistry, to assistant professor, effective November 1.

## Helen Bronk Dies

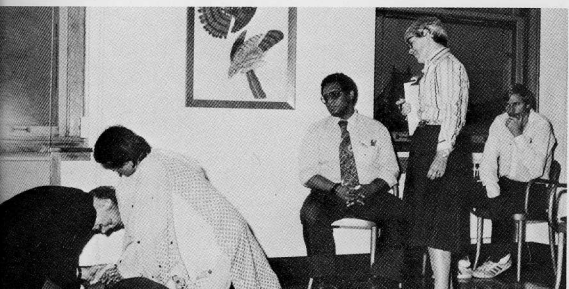
Helen Ramsey Bronk, widow of Detlev W. Bronk, Rockefeller president from 1953 to 1968 and president emeritus until his death in 1975, died in Milton, Massachusetts on October 31 at the age of 85. Among her activities, Mrs. Bronk served on the advisory council of the New York Botanical Garden and on the board of governors of the Cosmopolitan Club.

A family service was held in Woods Hole on November 19 at the cemetery of the Church of the Messiah, where she was buried beside Dr. Bronk. □



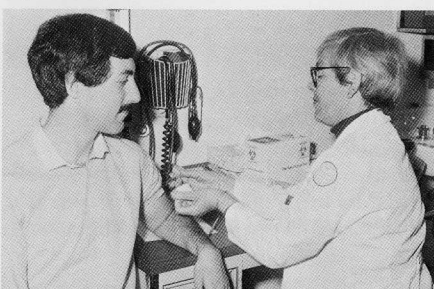
Shaping up in Lynn Edlen's class.

Nurse Marie Poortvliet of Employee Health supervises a cardiopulmonary resuscitation course. Professor Charles Peterson and Bindu Patel rescue "Annie" as Raymond Ford, center, and Paul McOsker observe.

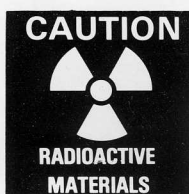


Employee Health Office Supervisor Diane Panzer dispenses information and encouragement during the Great American Smokeout drive in November.

A flu shot for Paul Roossin.







## Radioactive Materials: Practices and Problems

York Avenue passersby have been known to ask, not always in jest, if Caspary dome is "the place where you keep the reactor." While the University does not practice atom smashing, most of its laboratories do use radioactive chemicals. They are essential tools in biological research. Like many other research tools, they can be dangerous if improperly handled.

Radiation—the emission of waves or particles of energy—is all around us in nature: the major source of radiation on earth comes from the sun. Many elements, as they decay, emit radioactivity. The radioactivity released by man-made nuclear fission is of extremely high intensity. The radioactive elements used in biomedical applications, primarily carbon-14 and hydrogen-3, release small amounts of energy slowly over a long period of time. Their steady, low-level activity can be detected and monitored with exquisite precision. For this reason, when combined, for example, with a drug under study, radiochemicals make it possible to precisely monitor the metabolism of the drug, one of the many uses of radioactive tracers in the lab.

The University follows stringent procedures to assure the safety of its workers and of the community at large. Members of the department of laboratory safety, under the direction of Dr. Edward Gershey, inspect every room on campus regularly. They check the handling and storage of chemicals, ventilation, and compliance with fire rules. Under the guidance of Radiation Safety Officer Esmeralda Parity, every room is tested for contamination.

A major problem confronting the Uni-

versity has been the disposal of its radioactive wastes, which is controlled by governmental regulations. New York City is one of only two places in the country that have not accepted the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) deregulation of certain materials containing  $^3\text{H}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  in amounts not to exceed 0.05 microcuries per gram or milliliter. According to the NRC, those materials can be disposed of as non-radioactive, and the recommended method of disposal is incineration. Instead, the University and other biomedical institutions in the city must ship such material across the country for burial.

Two years ago, Rockefeller requested permission from the city to follow national policy and burn these wastes on site. To date, permission has been denied. In a statement issued to the press on October 13, Manhattan Borough President Andrew Stein claimed that incineration is a threat to human health. According to Dr. Gershey, studies by the National Academy of Sciences, confirmed by testimony of environmentalists, show that on-site incineration is safer than burial. The steel drums in which radioactive material is contained rust within a year or two, releasing toxic material into the environment. The amount of radiation released by incineration is smaller than the level of natural background radiation. Incineration also eliminates the possibility of accidents in transit.

"The amount of  $^{14}\text{C}$  and  $^3\text{H}$  that would be released by our incinerator," says Dr. Gershey, "would expose a person standing 50 yards from the stack over a year's time to a dose 10,000 times less than he would receive from the natural background radiation and 50,000 times less than the maximum considered safe by city, state, and federal authorities."

In response to press inquiries, Dr. Gershey has prepared a 13-page fact sheet on low-level radioactive biomedical waste. Members of the University community may obtain it from his office in Founder's Hall A10. □

## HONORS & AWARDS

Professor **Purnell W. Choppin**, Virology, and vice president, Academic Programs, was elected to the Louisiana State University Alumni Hall of Distinction and was honored at an installation banquet presented by the LSU Alumni Federation on October 13.

Adjunct Professor **Robert K. Merton**, Special Service Professor and University Professor Emeritus, Columbia University, received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Brandeis University on May 22. On July 14, he received a MacArthur Prize Fellow award.

## Going the Distance

Rockefeller runners were out in force on Marathon Day, October 23. Those who completed the 26-mile, 385-yard course and their times are:

Brian Chait, 2:53; Jocelyn Chait, 3:31; Nathan Chu, 3:58; Marc Goldstein (Population Council), 3:44; Konstantin Goulianos, 3:16; Samuel Koide (Population Council), 4:54; Kimmo Kontula (Population Council), 3:50; Michel Ledizet, 3:44; Donald Powell, 3:33; Kenneth Renner, 3:04; Daniel Rosenberg, 3:33; Gregory Snow, 2:57; Robert Waters, 3:43. □

## Harry Grundfest Dies

Neurologist Harry Grundfest, who worked at Rockefeller from 1935 to 1945, died on October 10 at the age of 79. He conducted studies on nerve physiology with Herbert Spenser Gasser, director of what was then The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. At the time of his death, Dr. Grundfest was professor emeritus of neurology at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and president of the American Association of Scientific Workers. □

## New Officers for Club

Professor Rodney Cool succeeds Professor Maclyn McCarty as president of the Faculty and Students' Club and Professor E.G.D. Cohen succeeds Vice President David Lyons as a director. The elections were held and a toast was raised to the changing of the guard at the club's annual board of directors meeting on October 19. Dr. McCarty and Mr. Lyons held office for five years.

David Lyons presents a token of thanks from the Faculty and Students Club to outgoing president Maclyn McCarty.



More than 70 friends and colleagues celebrated William Trager's 50 years at Rockefeller at a surprise party on October 7. Flanking Dr. and Mrs. Trager are their daughters Carolyn and Lillian, first row, third and fourth left, and their son, Leslie, second right. Present members of the Trager lab in the photograph are Professor Maria Rudzinska, front row far right; Marika Tershakovec and Dr. Virenda Bhasin, front row second and third left; Professor Norbert Lanners and Frances Davidson, second row second and fourth left; and Erminio Gubert, top left.