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The Rockefeller University

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## Peyton Rous, Scientist 1879-1970

At 2 a.m. on February 16, Dr. Peyton Rous died in the Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases. The 90-year-old Nobel Laureate had been ill for a short period. Dr. Rous, who was affiliated with the University for over 60 years and had been Member Emeritus since 1945, was active up to a few weeks before his death. He is survived by his wife, the former Marion Eckford de Kay, and three daughters: Marion (Mrs. Alan Hodgkin) of Cambridge, England; Ellen de Kay of New York City; and Phoebe (Mrs. Thomas J. Wilson) of Cambridge, Mass. There are six grandchildren.

The following memoir was written by James Stuart Henderson, a close associate of Dr. Rous.

\* \* \*

Peyton Rous loved life. All who share the Rockefeller campus could have seen, until a few weeks before

his death, how he delighted in the beauty of plants, the behavior of animals, the artifacts of man and the exquisite usage of the written word. He had an untiring enthusiasm for natural events and an inexhaustible capacity for communicating his pleasure in them.

Fortunate it is that this was so, for what an astounding phenomenon he had to report in 1911 and what a barrier of excommunication all but blocked wider knowledge of it. His paper, "A sarcoma of the fowl transmissible by an agent separable from the tumor cells," told the story of a tumor caused by a virus. But the fowl was not a fashionable animal for cancer research, New York was then far from the center of the scientific world, and the fact that has since sent fancies reeling could not depose the orthodoxy of the day. A few years later a leading biolo-

gist from the Old World was still to take our young American by the arm to explain that since he had found the cause of the chicken tumor it could not be a true tumor.

Unbittered by the nightmare of apathy in those who should have rejoiced in the wonder of this discovery, Rous repaid humanity with other discoveries. Pioneer solutions for the storage of blood cells have hardly been bettered in half a century of blood banking. A method of disengaging cells with trypsin is now widely applied in tissue culture. Studies of bile and of small blood vessels presaged new understanding of keystones in physiology. Use of a magnet to select certain cells that had been made to engulf



## Announce Scholarship Winners

Holiday cheer has been spread throughout the year for two students, a daughter and a son of two University employees, who are recipients of scholarships funded by proceeds from the Christmas Ball.

Cheryl Taitt, daughter of Harold Taitt, a University guard, will apply her \$1000 scholarship toward completing her nursing studies at Brooklyn Community College. Miss Taitt currently works full-time for an insurance company and attends night school Monday through Thursday. She is in her second year. The scholarship funds will cover the remainder of her tuition fees, enabling her to enroll in school on a full-time basis in September and to earn her degree in another year and a half rather than in three years. She is interested in working with children.

Leonard Timpone, son of Ignazio Timpone, a porter at Sophie Fricke Hall, plans to use his \$250 scholarship to purchase books when he enters Brooklyn College next fall. In addition,

the scholarship will help him meet fee and transportation expenses. Mr. Timpone will graduate in June from Brooklyn's Bishop Loughlin High School. He plans to major in biology in preparation for a career in medicine.

This year, for the first time, there was a charge for admission to the Ball in order to raise a scholarship fund. The ball committee included Jules Coleman (Chairman), Edward Hendrick (Treasurer), Janet MacIver, Jeff Powell, Richard Reiss, and Allison Ryan. The committee received 18 applications. After careful screening, seven applicants were interviewed in depth before the final choices were made.

The criterion for the \$1000 award was that it should fill an immediate need and make a major contribution to the recipient's education, as it is not a continuing scholarship.

The committee decided to award the second one-year scholarship, of \$250, as an incentive to a student just starting his college career.

iron filings is often recounted as one of the highest peaks of laboratory virtuosity.

The virus-tumor phenomenon itself, this time in the form of the rabbit wart, from which Richard Shope, a Rockefeller colleague, had isolated a causative virus, invited a return to cancer research. Rous obtained by this ample confirmation of what had been shown before. But he extracted much

*Continued overleaf*



more besides, concerning the relationships between the virus, the tumor, the more malignant derivatives of the tumor and the chemical carcinogens. These last are lifeless substances then widely thought of as providing an alternative and much more acceptable hypothesis of tumor causation. Consideration of these again led him away from virology towards study of the tumor cell itself. Investigation of this continued until his death.

Although having quit, for a second time, the field of experimental virology, Rous maintained an intellectual dominance over it. His unique mastery of the awesome volume of facts was unchallengeable and his skill in predicting and depicting order in it was unerring. In the last decade, research on virus-tumors and tumor-viruses has fairly boiled. In his last decade Peyton Rous, who gave medical science so much, received the Nobel Prize and other honors of which he was many times worthy. He will be sadly missed on the campus and in the world.

## Centrifugal Spin

When the International Equipment Company recently announced a search for old centrifuges to add to its collection of scientific "antiques," Anthony J. Campo, Superintendent of Purchases, set his staff to combing the files containing records of all capital equipment purchased since the University's founding. They discovered that a centrifuge purchased in 1916-17 (for \$254) was still in use. Bought originally for the laboratory of Dr. Moses Kunitz, now Member Emeritus, the instrument later was put to work in Professor Christian R. de Duve's biochemistry laboratory. The manufacturer decided the instrument was not ready for retirement but gave one of its current models to the University anyway as a replacement. The new centrifuge (priced at \$1,225) is now being used in Professor William Trager's parasitology laboratory.

## Convocation Date

The 1970 Convocation for conferring degrees will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, June 12. Following the ceremony, there will be a reception in honor of the graduates. The Convocation Ball will be held that evening.

## IN PRINT

**Dr. Lee R. Ehrman**, Population Genetics, is the author of a report in the February 6 issue of *Science* on "Simulation of the Mating Advantage in Mating of Rare *Drosophila* Males." In several species of *Drosophila*, certain males mate more frequently when they are less abundant than they do when they are in the majority. Dr. Ehrman describes experiments in which the mating advantage was artificially induced by the use of a "double chamber" technique, even when there was no difference in the actual frequencies of the competing males. The study indicates that the frequencies of different competing genotypes may have interesting evolutionary consequences.

**Dr. Fernando Nottebohm**, Animal Behavior, is the author of an article on "Ontogeny of Bird Song" in the February 13 issue of *Science*. The article describes studies by Dr. Nottebohm, Professor Peter Marler and other behavioral scientists of the evolution of bird songs in an effort to understand "the various strategies followed by birds in their development of complex vocal patterns."

As an intriguing possibility, Dr. Nottebohm's work indicates that control of vocal behavior in some birds may be lateralized in their central nervous system, suggesting some parallels with speech control in humans.

## To Study Data Banks

Professor George A. Miller, Experimental Psychology, is a member of a panel of scientists, lawyers, government officials, educators, and businessmen making a nationwide investigation into the growing use of computers and their possible effect on civil liberties. The study, sponsored by the National Academy of Science and funded by a grant of \$149,500 from the Russell Sage Foundation, was prompted by the controversy over whether or not electronic data banks pose a threat to people's privacy. The 23 panel members will spend two and a half years on the study. Though it has no official power, the committee hopes to investigate hundreds of public and private data banks throughout the country.

## Four New Faculty Members Named

Four faculty appointments—one in physics, another in chemistry, and two in philosophy—have been announced.

Dr. Donald H. Davidson and Dr. John R. Wallace will both join the philosophy faculty in July, as Professor and Associate Professor respectively.

Dr. Davidson has been a professor at Princeton University since 1967. Before that he had taught at Stanford University about 16 years, including several years as Department Chairman. Dr. Davidson did his undergraduate work at Harvard and also received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees there. He is at present a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. His chief interests are in the philosophy of language and the analysis of intentional action.

Dr. Wallace is Bicentennial Preceptor at Princeton, where he has taught since 1966. Before that he was an assistant professor at Case Institute of Technology. Dr. Wallace is a graduate of Yale University and received his Ph.D. degree from Stanford. His thesis advisor was Dr. Davidson. Dr. Wallace is primarily interested in the philosophies of language and science, metaphysics, and theory of action.

Dr. Rodney Cool, currently Visiting Professor of Physics, is Associate Director for High Energy Physics at the Brookhaven National Laboratory. Formerly an adjunct professor at Columbia University, he went to Brookhaven in 1949 as a research physicist and was appointed Assistant Director for High Energy Liaison in 1964. He holds a B.S. degree from the University of South Dakota and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University.

Dr. Jerrold Meinwald will come to the campus in the fall as Visiting Professor of Chemistry. A member of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Meinwald is a professor at Cornell University. He and his wife, Dr. Yvonne Chu, have collaborated on studies of highly strained, small ring compounds and on the chemistry of pheromones and defensive secretions produced by insects and other arthropods. Dr. Meinwald is a graduate of the University of Chicago and received his A.M. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard.



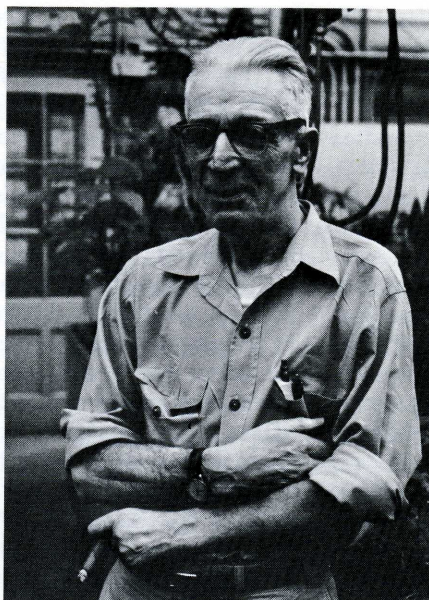
## Head Greenhouseman Retires

Cecil Pybus was only 15 when he went to work as a garden boy on the estate of a British naval commander. On March 1, fifty-six years later, the University's Head Greenhouseman retired from the world of gardens and greenhouses where he had spent his entire career, except for the interruptions of war. Before retiring, the man from Gilling East supervised the moving of the plants and greenhouse equipment to the third floor of Flexner Hall. The ground-level greenhouses are being razed to clear the way to the new Tower Building. When Mr. Pybus reported for work in 1950, the greenhouses were barely two years old and the plant pathology laboratories, which they served, had only recently been moved from Princeton, New Jersey. The lean, soft-spoken gardener nearly didn't get the job. The personnel manager told him there was no opening. Ten days later Mr. Pybus was called back and stayed for almost 20 years.

Adjusting from domestic gardening to gardening for science was not easy for a member of the Royal Horticultural Society who had worked on two large estates after his return to England in 1921 from front-line combat and a succession of prisoner-of-war camps. As a journeyman on the Duke of Northumberland's estate, he tended pears, peaches, and other fruits, all grown under glass. Then he advanced to the position of garden foreman on the estate of Lady Chesterfield. Mr. Pybus remembers Lady Chesterfield as "a demon, but fair." By the time he left to become a greenskeeper at a private golf club, he was a professional in a country where "every gardener knows every other gardener and the head gardener writes your reference."

Mr. Pybus and his wife, Kathleen, now deceased, came to this country in 1948 at the urging of their daughter, Marjorie, who had married an American pilot, Roger Knapp, during World War II. He later was killed in action in Korea.

In the Rockefeller greenhouses, the gardener who had been used to plucking a dead leaf the moment he spotted it or ordering a diseased plant uprooted had to await the instructions of a scientist to whom the plant might be a clue to the nature of a virus or a tumor. But as he watched the progress of the



experiments, Mr. Pybus became deeply interested in his new job. Fortunately, he recalls, both the late Dr. Louis O. Kunkel, who played a major role in setting up the laboratories, and Dr. Armin C. Braun would always answer his questions "from the beginning."

Will Mr. Pybus keep his thumb green in retirement? Not likely. About the only gardening ever done at his home in Jackson Heights was a small tulip bed started by his granddaughter, Stephanie, with bulbs from Woolworth's. Stephanie used to visit the greenhouses and watch Dr. Braun. His advice helped her to win several awards at science fairs. Today she is a technician in Dr. Edward Ahrens's laboratory.

### Requiescat Rhesus?

The search for Rhesus 135 is over. No one at the Population Council's primate center expects to see the light brown female macaque again. On the loose since Labor Day, when she escaped from her cage in the Cystoscope Building (*October news and notes*) Rhesus 135 has not been sighted on campus for several months. Veterinarian Ashley O. Brinson thinks the chances are good that the monkey may have been picked up by someone who was unaware she would not take kindly to being a pet. Or the freedom-loving import from subtropical northern India may have succumbed early to an unusually harsh winter in the city.

## PERSONAL MENTION

Born, January 19 at Woman's Hospital, to **Seymour Blank**, Electronic Engineer, and his wife, Ruth, their first child, Daryl.

Born, February 3 at New York Hospital, to **Arthur Pittenger**, Research Associate, and his wife, Judy, their first child, Laurence Arthur.

Born, February 6 at New York Hospital, to **Arthur P. Arnold**, Graduate Fellow, and his wife, Carolyn, their first child, Jennifer Elizabeth.

Born, February 23 at New York Hospital, to **Chang Chen**, Graduate Fellow, and his wife, Amy, their first child, Andrew.

Married, December 27 in Birmingham, Alabama, **Paul D. Gottlieb**, Graduate Fellow, to Nell W. Harrell.

Married, January 24 in Washington, D.C., **Dr. Mary Jeanne Kreek**, Hepatology and Endocrinology, to Dr. Robert A. Schaefer.

### Dr. Luck on Tour

Professor David J. L. Luck, Cell Biology, will participate in the Sigma Xi-Scientific Research Society of America National Lectureship Program in April. During his Pacific tour between April 6 and 10, he will lecture on "How Growing Cells Make Mitochondria" to Sigma Xi clubs and chapters at the University of Washington, the University of Santa Clara, California State College, Loma Linda University, the University of Redlands, and the University of Hawaii. He will also speak on April 9 to the Lockheed Branch of the Research Society in Redlands, California.

### Symphonic Whales

Whale "songs" recorded by Dr. Roger S. Payne will be heard on June 11 at Lincoln Center when the New York Philharmonic gives the world premiere performance of a score by Alan Hovhaness called "And God Created Great Whales." The songs—taken by the composer from tapes made by Dr. Payne in the Atlantic Ocean—are sequences of sounds that are repeated many times without a break. (See February *news and notes*.)



## Rockefeller Alumni Make News

The latest issue of the University Directory of Graduates, off the press this month, reflects the progress of alumni in teaching and research careers. Among the recent changes compiled by Miss Marian E. Lucius, Registrar, from questionnaires returned by the graduates were the following appointments:

Malcolm L. Peterson (Ph.D. 1960) is now Director of Health Services Research and Development Center, The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, and Associate Professor of Medicine and Medical Care and Hospitals at The Johns Hopkins University. He was formerly an associate professor at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

Peter J. Gomatos (Ph.D. 1963) has been appointed a professor on the Cornell University Medical College faculty and continues as Member and Chief of the Division of Virology at the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research.

Guido Guidotti (Ph.D. 1963) has been advanced from Associate Professor to Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of Harvard University.

Johns W. Hopkins, III (Ph.D. 1960) is now Professor and Chairman of the Department of Biology at Washington University.

Garland R. Marshall (Ph.D. 1966), an assistant professor in the Departments of Physiology and Biophysics and of Biological Chemistry at Washington University, has been appointed Established Investigator of the American Heart Association.

Stephen I. Morse (Ph.D. 1960) is Chairman of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. He had been an associate professor and physician on The Rockefeller University faculty.

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Announced this month was the appointment of John J. Cebra (Ph.D. 1960) as Professor of Biology at The Johns Hopkins University. He is the first alumnus of Rockefeller University to be appointed to a professorship at Johns Hopkins.

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In surveying the careers of gradu-

ates since the first Convocation was held in June, 1959, Dean Frank Brink, Jr., has noted that, "As of September, 1969, within a span of ten years, twelve of our graduates have become professors, twenty-five are associate professors, and fifty-four are assistant professors. These are on the faculties of forty-five different universities, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, MIT, Columbia, University of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Brandeis, Johns Hopkins, Berkeley, and several other divisions of the University of California. Most of the recent graduates are in universities as post-doctoral fellows. One is the head of the Human Reproduction Unit of the World Health Organization, two work for the Public Health Research Institute of the City of New York, and several others are associates in national laboratories at Oak Ridge, Brookhaven, Argonne, and National Institutes of Health."

## EXTRACURRICULAR

**Christine Sheppard**, Journals Office, spends her Saturday afternoons as a volunteer worker for the Association for the Help of Retarded Children. The AHRC was founded 21 years ago to aid and advise families in the care of mentally retarded children. It now has 4,600 members in the metropolitan area. For the past two and one-half years, Miss Sheppard has helped several children to participate in recreational activities, such as bowling.

## State—Federal Conference

The University played host March 5 to the New York State-Federal Science and Technology Conference attended by Dr. Lee A. DuBridge, Science Advisor to President Nixon, and officials from various departments of the state government. The main theme was "The Environment—Its Protection and Management." The luncheon speaker was Alton G. Marshall, Secretary to Governor Nelson Rockefeller. Dr. Richard G. Folsom, President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, was chairman of the all-day meeting. Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, University President Emeritus, was honorary chairman.

## University Lectures

Varying viewpoints on Communist China's Cultural Revolution are being presented in a series which is a part of the Rockefeller University Lectures.

The series was opened March 3 by Mr. William Hinton, whose topic was "China's Continuing Revolution." Mr. Hinton is the author of *Fanshen*, an account of the changes wrought by the revolution in a small farming village. A graduate of the Cornell Agricultural School, he worked in China from 1947 to 1953 as a tractor technician with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

On May 5, Dr. C. H. G. Oldham, a member of the Science Policy Research Unit at The University of Sussex, will speak on "Science and Society in China since the Cultural Revolution." Dr. Oldham, a geophysicist, knows the Chinese language and lived in Hong Kong for four years, during which he visited Communist China twice, the last time in 1965. He has specialized in the study of the organization and practice of science in China and other Asian countries.

Still to be fixed is a date in mid-May for a third lecture by Mr. Jean Vincent, Vienna correspondent of Agence France Presse. Mr. Vincent saw the unfolding of the revolution at first hand during a two-year stay in China. He was expelled after warnings from the government about several of his reports. A young assistant who could read and write Chinese was expelled with him.

The committee has also arranged a lecture for April 2 on problems in urban planning in this country. The speaker will be Mr. Ian McHarg of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania.

All the lectures are scheduled for 8 p. m. in Caspary Auditorium.

## Seitz on SUNY Panel

President Seitz has been named to a panel of civic, government, labor and educational leaders who will make a broad study of the State University of New York and formulate "statements of purpose" for action by the Trustees. The names of the 45 members were announced by Dr. Samuel B. Gould, Chancellor of the University, which has 67 campuses.