

IN MEMORIAM

EDUARD A. GERBER

Dr. Eduard A. Gerber died peacefully in Bridgton, Maine on August 8, 1986 at age 79. He was born in Fuerth, Bavaria, Germany, on April 3, 1907, and received the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in physics from the Institute of Technology in Munich, Germany, in 1930 and 1934, respectively.

In 1935, he joined the scientific staff of the Carl Zeiss Works, Jena, Germany, and was in charge of research and development in piezoelectric crystals. From the time of his arrival in the United States, in 1947, until 1954, he was crystal research consultant to the Signal Corps Engineering Laboratories at Fort Monmouth, NJ. From 1954 to 1961, he served as Director of the Frequency Control Division, U.S. Army Signal Research and Development Laboratory; from 1961 to 1963, he was Director of the Solid State and Frequency Control Division, U.S. Army Electronics Laboratories; and from March 1963, to 1970, he was Director of the Electronic Components Laboratory, U.S. Army Electronics Command, all at Fort Monmouth. Since his retirement from the federal civil service in 1970, he had been a consultant to the U.S. Army Electronics Command (now U.S. Army LABCOM).

Dr. Gerber was a Life-Fellow of the IEEE, cited for his contributions to piezoelectricity and frequency control. He was also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of Commission I, U.S. National Committee of the International Scientific Radio Union, the American Physical Society, and the New York Academy of Sciences. He holds eight U.S. patents and three German patents and has published 38 professional papers and contributions to books. He was also coeditor of the two-volume monograph Precision Frequency Control.

Dr. Gerber received the Department of the Army Decoration for Meritorious Civilian Service in December 1965 and July 1970 and the C. B. Sawyer Memorial Award in 1981.

The foregoing is a purely one-dimensional scientific sketch of a warm and multi-dimensional human being who will be acutely missed by those fortunate enough to have known and worked with him. His was an enviable combination of optimistic faith, scientific curiosity, philosophic and literary depth, engaging demeanor, and evident good will.

As noted, Ed Gerber came to the U.S. in 1947, the year of the first Frequency Control Symposium. Since then he continually played a key, but largely unheralded, role in its nurturing and growth. He had a distinct preference for scientific and engineering work, but because of his management skills and ability to deal amiably and equitably with people, he rose through the administrative ranks. This diminished his scientific output but not the locus or intensity of his interests, particularly his greatly loved field of frequency control. And from his administrative position he



was able to encourage the development of the AFCS, and ancillary functions; e.g., he had been a member of the C. B. Sawyer Memorial Award committee since its inception in 1966.

On this Fortieth Anniversary year of the AFCS, he organized and chaired the Plenary Session devoted to "Reminiscences of Early Frequency Control Activities"-many of these activities he himself had helped to mold. And whether it was in the description of his own work, for example, showing the influence of crystal plate parallelism on mode spectrum purity (1943-44), or the recounting of stories of Sommerfeld's lectures, or of the Bechmann/Telefunken - Straubel/Zeiss AT-BT cut rivalry of 1933-34, Ed was filled with scientific enthusiasm, an enthusiasm and zest he never lost; but now we have lost him.

Dr. Gerber's last technical paper will appear in the October 1986 IEEE MTT Transactions, and is entitled "Advances in Microwave Acoustic Frequency Sources." This gentle man will not be forgotten; Frequency Control Symposium attendees have only to look about them, and in the Proceedings of each year.