



*Editorial*

Jack D. Gaskill, Editor

**In Memory of George Reynolds  
(1937-1987)**

I was deeply saddened to learn that George O. Reynolds, a long-time member of SPIE and active participant in its activities, had died suddenly on February 17, 1987, of a pulmonary thrombosis at the age of 49. On behalf of the officers, governors, members, and staff of the Society, I wish to express our heartfelt sympathy to his mother Marjorie Reynolds, his wife Anne, his sons William, Gordon, and Andrew, and the rest of his family and friends. This editorial is dedicated to his memory.

I first met George in 1967, at which time he was Director of Applied Sciences at Technical Operations, Inc. and I was still a graduate student. The occasion was the annual meeting of the Optical Society of America in Detroit, at which I presented a paper on my dissertation research. George was present in the audience, apparently liked what he heard, and offered me a job at Tech Ops. I declined because I had already decided on a career in academia, but I was grateful to George for the offer and we became good friends in the years that followed.

George was a scientist, an engineer, and an educator. He received the B.S. degree from the University of New Hampshire in 1959 and the M.S. degree in physics from the same university in 1961. He was employed at Tech Ops from 1963 to 1975, followed by one year at Aerodyne Research, Inc. and five years as a staff scientist at Arthur D. Little, Inc. Since 1981, George had been a Senior Research Fellow in the Advanced Systems Group at Honeywell Electro-Optics Division, Wilmington, Mass. He served as a lecturer at the Northeastern University Graduate School from 1966 until his death and was appointed a Visiting Industrial Professor at the Tufts University Electro-Optics Center from 1984 to 1986. He also presented numerous short courses and tutorials in various areas of optics and authored or coauthored over 80 scientific papers. He was coauthor (with John DeVelis) of the book *Theory and Applications of Holography* (Addison-Wesley, 1967) and contributed to a number of other books.

George served SPIE in a multitude of ways during his 21 year association with the Society, and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude. In addition to chairing numerous technical seminars, he was a member at various times of the Awards Committee, the Kingslake Medal Committee, the

Education Committee, and the Long Range Planning Committee. George was elected Secretary of the Society in 1984 and 1985 and was serving as an elected member of the Board of Governors and as Chair of the Publications Committee at the time of his death.

George had a great sense of humor, and I think that is why we became such good friends. He always had a joke to tell or a story to recite, and on occasion he even called from Boston to tell me the latest addition to his repertoire. George and I encountered each other frequently at SPIE symposia, Gordon conferences, OSA meetings, etc., and during the early years of our friendship he would always greet me with a warm "Hi, Jack, how are things in Tucson?" However, in later years, he dispensed with the preliminary small talk and got right to the point—"Did you hear the one about...?" I remember many an evening—after the technical activities of the day had concluded—when George, Elsie Heinrick, and I would gather with several others in the Hangar Lounge of the Los Angeles Marriott to exchange stories. These gatherings generally turned into sessions of joke-telling one-upsmanship that lasted late into the night, but they were great fun and I'll always remember George's participation in them. George was also the source of my all-time favorite joke—"The Pretzel Bender"; although I have repeated it dozens of times since 1972, and contrary to his claims, I have always given him credit.

George, it was an honor and a pleasure knowing you, and we're going to miss you—both as a personal friend and professional colleague. But someday, if Elsie and I and the others can get past the security guard at the Pearly Gates, we'll all get together again in the Hangar Lounge of that big Marriott in the sky.

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*The family requests that memorials be donated to the University of New Hampshire One Hundred Club (Durham, NH 03824) in memory of George O. Reynolds.*

See p. 364 for the *Optical Engineering* editorial schedule.