

In Memoriam



Ernst Michael Gyorgy
(1926-1995)

MIKE GYORGY, a pioneer in understanding the behavior of magnetic materials, died on 20 May 1995 after a long battle with cancer. It was typical of Mike's devotion to experimental science that he worked in the laboratory until two weeks before his death, and it was a measure of his undiminished creativity and innovation that his last patent application had been filed only two months earlier. He was an interesting and colorful character with a wonderful sense of humor, who was proud but completely unpretentious, and who was invested with a great sense of humanity.

Mike was born on 26 February 1926 in Heidelberg, Germany, and emigrated with his family to the United States in 1935. He served in the infantry in World War II; this experience left him with a lifelong abhorrence of violence. After the war he completed the B.S. and Ph.D. degrees at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where his thesis advisor was E. R. Priore. In 1953, Mike came to work at Bell Laboratories, where his earliest efforts were on the microwave properties of magnetic ferrites, the starting point for a remarkably coherent body of work on the properties of magnetic materials, and later on high-temperature superconductors. He made many contributions to the fundamental physics of magnetism, working with a large number of collaborators. But he was always in close touch with the world of applied science and was often able to make important contributions to technology. Early in his career he provided a detailed understanding of flux reversal in ferrite memory cores. Toward the end of his career he pioneered studies in magnetic multilayers, which are now beginning to see applications in magnetic disk drives.

In recent years, Mike was a member of many multidisciplinary teams that accomplished significant scientific or technological advances. Mike was a virtuoso at stimulating collaborations across organizational lines and among theorists, experimentalists,

and engineers. He was himself a superb experimental physicist. His publication list approaches 200 papers, and he was inventor or co-inventor on 23 patents. As his career matured, Mike came to the specific realization that he wanted to continue working at Bell Labs as long as he was able to do so. He decided that the best way for him to remain active was to collaborate with his younger colleagues, which he was able to do very successfully. Mike was wonderfully enthusiastic about ideas, but never blindly so. He was tough on ideas and was eager to explore them in detail. Throughout, Mike demonstrated a strong sense of personal and scientific integrity. He served the greater magnetism community in many roles, including as an organizer of major meetings.

Many friends and colleagues will remember Mike for his interest in the world around him, which included a passion for sports such as skiing, scuba, hiking, tennis and an involvement in the events of the world, great and small. Mike was always able to add insight and perspective to discussions of any item that had been published in the *The New York Times*, of which he was an avid reader. His friends and colleagues mourn his passing. He enriched us all.

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