

In Memoriam
George F. Nordblom
 (1913-2008)

GEORGE F. NORDBLOM, retired Senior Research Chemist, husband, grandfather, and church member, died at Rydal Park Retirement Community on Thursday, May 22, 2008, following a courageous battle with cancer. He was 94.

He was born November 19, 1913 in Toronto, Canada, of American parents, the late Emil Nordblom and Bertha Figie Nordblom. He graduated

from Niagra Falls High School in 1932, and pursued an academic career in chemical research in the footsteps of his father, a master electroplater. In 1944 he was married to Margaret Delong of Reading, PA.

He graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Pittsburgh in 1936 with a BS in chemical engineering. In 1937, he received his MS from the University of Idaho while on a Potlatch Fellowship. In 1941, he earned his PhD in electro-physical chemistry from the University of Cincinnati. He holds at least nine patents for improving electroplating and battery function.

From 1942 to 1956, Dr. Nordblom worked at the Frankfurt Arsenal, Philadelphia, PA, in ammunition development as the Section Head of Inorganic Finishes where he developed a purification process for red phosphorous. From 1956 to 1961 he worked at the Foote Mineral Company, Exton, PA, conducting electrolytic manganese research for strengthening steel. His last position, 1962 to 1978, prior to retirement, was with the Electric Storage Battery Company at their research laboratory in Yardley, PA. He expanded upon Edison's original research on nickel flake for alkaline storage batteries, and worked with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to develop batteries that could withstand the sterilization process required to send equipment into outer space.

Dr. Nordblom was active in ECS, serving as Vice-Chair of the Philadelphia Section from 1965 to 1967 and was the Battery Division Editor for the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* for 18 years, and a member in good standing for nearly 51 years.

Dr. Nordblom and his family lived in Cheltenham in the '50s and in Downingtown the early '60s. From 1964 to 1991, he lived in Yardley, PA, where he was active in the Woodside United Presbyterian Church, serving as Clerk of Session for 27 years. Since 1991 he had been a resident of Rydal Park Community and Grace Presbyterian Church.

During his retirement, George was a fervent walker (a founding member of the "Over the Hill Gang" walking club), a gardener, and tinkerer who supported Rydal Park residents with general electrical repairs out of the community's "A to Z Shop." He was known for his subtle sense of humor and caring support for all those in need of assistance.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Margaret Delong Nordblom of Rydal Park; two children, Berton Nordblom of Karlsruhe, Germany, and Jane Miller of Bowie, MD; and four grandchildren: Jennine Miller and Dana (Miller) Zak, Naomi and Noah Nordblom; and one great grandchild: Aria Zak.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made in George's honor to the American Diabetic Association (www.diabetes.org) or the Grace Presbyterian Church (www.gracejenkintown.org), 444 Old York Road Jenkintown, PA 19046.

James P. Hoare
 (1921-2008)

JAMES PATRICK HOARE was born in Denver, Colorado on January 9, 1921. He received his BS degree from Regis University in Denver. After serving in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific during World War II, Dr. Hoare enrolled in graduate school and received his PhD in physical chemistry from the Catholic University of America in 1949. He joined the faculty of Trinity College, Washington, DC, as an associate professor, and taught there from 1949 to 1953. He then joined the Naval Research Laboratory where he began working in the field of electrochemistry. In 1957, he joined the staff of For Motor Company's Scientific Lab. In 1960, he began a long and productive career at General Motors Research Labs in Warren, Michigan.

Throughout his career, Dr. Hoare was recognized for making outstanding scientific contributions to the fields of electrochemistry and electrodeposition. He was awarded the AESF Scientific Achievement Award in 1988 and the ECS Electrodeposition Division's Outstanding Research Award in 1987. Dr. Hoare was also a two-time recipient of the General Motors Campbell Award, the only person to receive that award twice, in 1981 and again in 1985. He has published more than 125 technical papers, including book chapters, and also authored a book, *The Electrochemistry of Oxygen*. In 1984, Dr. Hoare was honored with an Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award in Research from his alma mater, the Catholic University of America.

Dr. Hoare had been a member of ECS since 1955. He was also a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Society of Surface Finishers, the International Society of Electrochemistry, the New York Academy of Science, and Sigma Xi.

Dr. Hoare's life ended on March 17, 2008, due to respiratory failure. ■

In Memoriam

Howard J. Strauss (1920-2008),
 member since 1947, Battery.