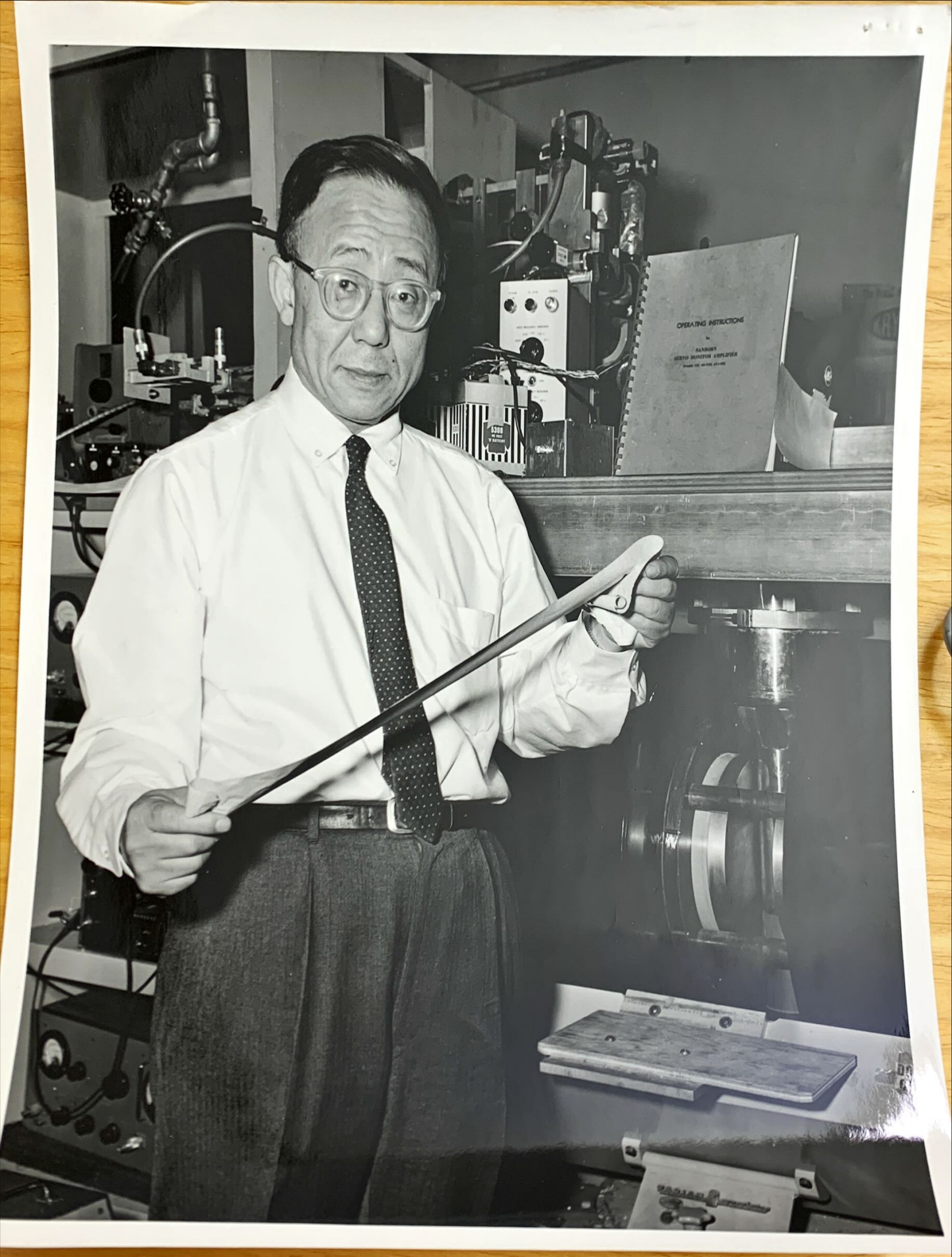




PRESS COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
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Date	Description	No.
4/64	DR. C. K. JEN	1143



PRESS COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
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Date	Description	No.
2/6/02	Dr. C. K. Jern	1143

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THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
APPLIED PHYSICS LABORATORY

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Dr. Chih Kung Jen, Montgomery County scientist, who once helped guide the exodus of a national university and its students across much of China to escape the Japanese, has been elected to membership in China's Academia Sinica, internationally esteemed research institute.

Dr. Jen who is vice chairman of the research center of the Applied Physics Laboratory of The Johns Hopkins University, Silver Spring and Howard County, Maryland, was informed of his election last week in a cablegram from Formosa. It was signed by Dr. Hu Shih, 70-year-old philosopher-scientist and head of the Academy who died February 24. A letter from a personal friend in Formosa to Dr. Jen explained that Dr. Hu had been stricken during a reception in honor of the new academy members. In the pocket of the internationally-known humanist and scholar was found the message of congratulations to the elected scientists with their names, but still un sent. The message was forwarded under Dr. Hu's name.

The other scientists in the United States who were named are: Professor Chih I. Pai, University of Maryland physicist; Professor Ching Chun Li, University of Pittsburgh biologist; Professor Franklin L. Ho, economist of the Columbia University, and Professor Wu Why Chen, mathematician, Wayne University, Detroit.

Dr. Jen was among the first scientists (1929) to publish work on the nature and composition of the ionosphere. His work also related to the influence of the atmospheric strata on radio transmission. Dr. Jen's theory on "Continuous Electron Affinity Spectrum of Hydrogen" provided the first exposition of the continuous spectrum of negative ions of hydrogen, since found to populate interstellar space. His work proved a pioneer inquiry in this aspect of modern astrophysical research. The Applied Physics Laboratory scientist is also internationally-known for his work on the Zeeman effect in microwave molecular spectroscopy and his research has led to a better understanding of the magnetic structure of atoms, molecules and nuclei.

At the research center of the Applied Physics Laboratory in Howard County, Dr. Jen today heads a research project in microwave physics, a field in which he is

among the international leaders. Microwave physics involves the interactions between microwaves and various forms of matter. In 1954, Dr. Jen with Dr. S. N. Foner of the Laboratory identified and isolated hydrogen and other atoms in a trapped state at extremely low temperatures.

Dr. Jen came to the Applied Physics Laboratory at 8621 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring in 1950, from the Harvard University where he was a research lecturer in physics. A native of China, he had attended Tsinghua University in Peiping but received his B.S. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He received his Ph.D. in physics from Harvard in 1931.

As a young scientist he returned to his native country in 1933 to teach and continue research in electronics, a field in which he had done some pioneer work. He and other faculty members by word and mouth arranged a great exodus of students and faculty to Changsa in Hunan Province, some 800 miles away. Dr. Jen joined the exodus and helped regroup the students and faculty nearly three months later at Changsa.

In months the Japanese were near the gates of Changsa and the new Tsinghua University. Dr. Jen and other faculty members this time advised resettlement of the university in Kunming 1000 miles away in Hunan Province in far southwest China bordering Burma.

Dr. Jen packed scant academic supplies, and research equipment rugged enough for the journey, distributed it among students and joined them in the second exodus. Some went around by way of Viet Nam, others went by sea, and many took the rugged short-cut across mountain ranges into extremely high altitudes. A number died in the attempt.

In Kunming, Tsinghua University faculty members who survived met with the remnants of the Peking, and Nankai universities and founded the new National South-West Associated University. Despite the gruelling test for admission, the new university soon was housing 3000 students -- distributed in private and public buildings around Kunming as safety from continued Japanese air attacks.

Dr. Jen remembers the scant supply of text books, the classes in English and Chinese. Although the students would have preferred instructions in their native tongue, the only books available were in English.

"Much more difficult than the book supply," Dr. Jen remembers, "was the problem of providing technical and scientific equipment. It appears almost insurmountable. Even the manufacture of crude equipment was difficult because we lacked the tools."

Students scoured markets for odds and ends and managed to assemble them into improvised research and teaching equipment. Dr. Jen managed to write four major papers on scientific research while in China, but he is proudest of the students and associates whose careers began in the war and make-shift environment. Today, a number of them are in the United States. Among them are: C. N. Yang, nuclear physicist, Nobel prize winner, professor, Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton, N.J.; C. C. Lin, applied mathematician, fluid dynamicist, professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, N.Y.; H. Y. Fan, solid state physicist, professor, Purdue University, Indiana; K. Yeh, physicist, University of Michigan; S. H. Chang, radio engineering professor, Northeastern University, Boston, Mass.; C. T. Tai, antenna theorist, professor, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; Y. T. Loh, radio engineer, research staff, University of Illinois; F. H. Yang, radio engineer, research director, Andrew Radio Laboratory, West Lafayette, Indiana.

At home, Dr. Jen has every reason to be proud of his own youngsters -- all girls. May, 23, MIT graduate is now studying for her Master's Degree in physical chemistry. A scholarship student at Bryn Mawr, she won most of the honors at graduation. She was one of the most outstanding students in her class at Montgomery Blair High School. Linda, 21, a top honor student at Montgomery Blair, is now at Radcliffe where she is an honor student. Phyllis, 13, is attending Springbrook High School and is on the honor roll. Erica, 9, at Hillendale Elementary School, looks ahead to an exciting scholastic pace set for her by her three sisters. The Jen's reside at 10203 Lariston Lane, Silver Spring, Maryland.