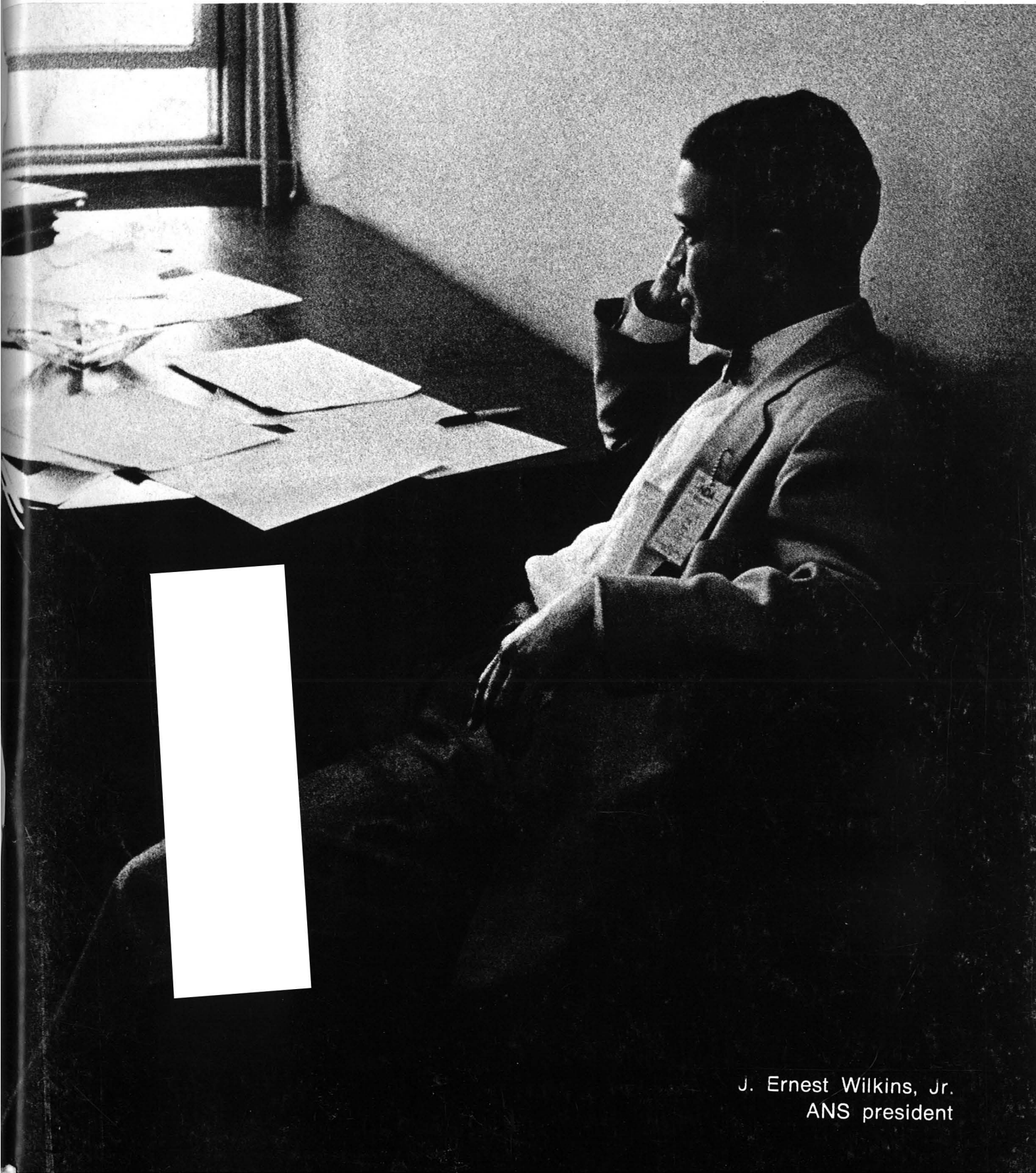


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J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr.
ANS president



WILKINS: Portrait of a mathematician

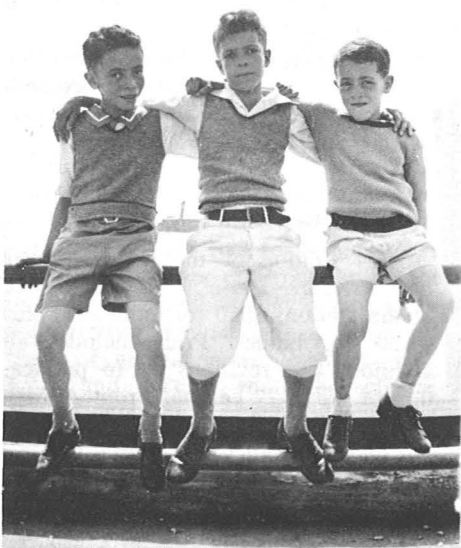
Too soon ve grow oldt, too late ve grow schmart. This motto familiar to anyone who fancies German taverns or beer gardens applies in reverse to J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr., who last month took office as the 20th president of the American Nuclear Society. Wilkins was very smart very soon. He graduated from grade school at the age of 10, from high school at 13, had his bachelor's degree at 16, master's degree at 17, and a PhD at 19. As will be explained, his being so smart so early had

much to do with changing the direction of his career—to the distinct benefit of the nuclear community.

As for growing old early or late, Wilkins, at 50, seems perpetually youthful not only in appearance, but also in temperament and attitude. This and other characteristics—his quick intelligence, his ability to articulate his ideas with precision, his directness, and good nature—are expected to make him a strong president of the Society.

A charter member of ANS, Ernest

(although many in the Society know him as "Ernie," he prefers to be called Ernest, and to his closest friends he is "J. Ernest") has been extremely active since joining the organization in 1955. His professional career in the nuclear field began with a two-year stint (March '44 to June '46) with the University of Chicago's Metallurgical Laboratory, after which he worked for some three and a half years in the optical field and then returned to nuclear work with two 10-year periods of employment—



Wilkins brothers as youngsters (l.-r., John, Ernest, Julian) and as young men (Ernest, John, Julian) with their father



first with Nuclear Development Corporation (later to become United Nuclear Corporation) and then with General Atomic. He is presently Distinguished Professor of Applied Mathematical Physics with Howard University, Washington, D.C., a position he has held since March 1970.

The early years

Ernest Wilkins grew up in the Woodlawn area on the South Side of Chicago. He was born in that city on November 27, 1923, the first of three children, all sons, born to J. Ernest and Lucille B. (née Robinson) Wilkins, both alumni of the University of Chicago. His parents also had in common the fact that their fathers, Henry D. Wilkins and John W. Robinson, were both Methodist ministers.

Ernie's father practiced law independently, mostly in the area of civil law and probate, but shared offices in a loose association with a number of other attorneys. Among those in this group who grew to prominence were the late William Dawson, powerful Democratic U.S. Congressman from Illinois; Herman Moore, retired, former U.S. District Court judge in the Virgin Islands; and Irvin Mollison, U.S. Customs judge in New York. Unlike most of his associates, the senior J. Ernest Wilkins was a Republican, something of an oddity among those who seek political office in Chicago. He ran on the Republican ticket a couple of times for municipal court judge, but without success. Among the Republicans, however, he made a good showing, and this led to his appointment as assistant Secretary of Labor in the Eisenhower administration. He served from 1954 to 1958 under Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell as assistant secretary for international affairs. One year later, in 1959, he died.

Wilkins remembers his father as a very hard worker. He set a strong example for his three sons, J. Ernest, John, and Julian. He was a man of his word, says Ernest. When he said he would do something, you could count on it. He was a strict man and more puritan than his contemporaries. He neither drank, smoked, nor gambled. (Ernest has followed his example except for the third of these vices, and he is able to argue with himself that he isn't really gambling but only applying mathematics in games where skill is an issue, like poker, bridge, or blackjack.)

As strict as his father was—and Ernest can remember often getting the tar whaled out of him—Ernest learned by his early teens that he could disarm his father by appealing to his reason. He doesn't remember what touched off his

father's anger one day, but he recalls his father chasing him around the house and their winding up on opposite sides of a bed with young Ernest stating, "You know, if your position were correct, you could convince me of it rationally, and you wouldn't have to spank me." The tactic worked. Ernest discovered that he, too, had the instincts of a lawyer, and he never got another spanking after that.

His mother, while somewhat more lenient, saw eye to eye with her husband on the matters of drinking, smoking, staying up late, and getting one's work done. A well-educated woman, she received her bachelor's degree (majoring in history) from the University of Chicago in 1921, the same year her husband-to-be got his law degree. She went on to get a master's degree in education from the University. After seeing her three sons through their early years, she taught in the Chicago public school system until the mid-1940's.

Both parents were very active in the Methodist church. His father moved through the local, regional, and national circles of the church. While he was in Washington, he was a member of the Judicial Council, the body that resolves disputes between bishops and serves as a sort of Supreme Court of the Methodist church. Similarly, Wilkins' mother went through the hierarchy of women's organizations in the church and until just prior to the time she died (in 1964) she served as secretary of the Women's Division of the Methodist church, this being the women's component of the national organization of the church.

In the early stages of their life, then, Ernest, John, and Julian Wilkins were well supervised and sheltered. Ernest did the usual things that kids do, going to school, playing sandlot softball, and later table tennis, a sport in which he would excel while at the University of Chicago, winning the championship three of the five years he was there. He and his brothers were quite close in age and in their activities, John being 20 months younger than Ernest, and Julian 14 months younger than John. "When we stood together," Julian told this writer, "we were like stair steps—only it was the reverse of what you would expect"—since Ernest, the oldest, was the shortest (he now stands five foot three and a half and weighs about 140 pounds), and Julian was the tallest, with John in the middle.

Getting an education

Wilkins attended Willard Elementary School and Parker High School, sweeping through both institutions well ahead of his peers both in terms of achievement and age (as mentioned earlier,

he was 10 when graduated from grade school and 13 when graduated from high school). It was a foregone conclusion that he would go to the University of Chicago for three reasons: his parents were both graduates of that institution, the University was only a mile and a half away from his home, and he was too young to live away from home.

Wilkins entered the University with the idea that eventually he would get a law degree. Since you couldn't take the bar examination in Illinois until you were 21, however, he had considerable time to engage in other pursuits, the most immediate of which was academic: mathematics. By 1940, three years after he had entered the college, he had completed all the requirements for a bachelor's degree. He could have gone to law school then but still was too young with respect to timing his studies with the opportunity to take the bar exam. Besides, he already had eight of the nine courses he needed for a master's degree in mathematics. Thereupon, he decided to write a thesis



PhD at 19



June (1947) wedding for Gloria and Ernest (with brother John as best man and Julian behind and to the right of John)

and get his master's degree. This he did in 1941, and at this point he found that he had almost all the course requirements for a PhD. And so, supported by some fellowship money (Alvia K. Brown Fellowship), he got his thesis topic and started working on a PhD during the summer of 1941.

He had other pursuits beside mathematics while he was at the University: table tennis, chess, bridge, and girls. None of these pursuits seems to have interfered with his academic progress—with the exception of the last. Wilkins warmly remembers an old flame who delayed his receiving his PhD as expected in August 1942, when he was 18, until December 1942, by which time he was 19, practically an old man!

Being as young as he was when entering the University, Wilkins led essentially two different social lives. On the one hand, while he was only 14, he was going to fraternity parties with fellows who were 18 to 21; during the same period he attended parties with boys and girls that were in the eighth and ninth grades, his contemporaries. He enjoyed both social lives and feels that the combination kept him from getting too cocky. In retrospect, he looks back on some of the fraternity parties and realizes that the older fellows were looking out for him and kept him from getting into trouble.

As he grew older, his two social lives tended to merge. Among those of his younger friends who carried over into his university life was one Gloria Louise Stewart, a girl from the Hyde Park area of Chicago whom he had met at a party when he was 13 and she was 11. It is

unlikely that she accompanied Ernest to any of the fraternity parties for some time, since Gloria's mother insisted on chaperoning her daughter on her dates until she made her debut. Moreover, her mother approved of few who were attracted to Gloria, but Ernest was definitely a favored beau. Wilkins' comment: "Any woman who showed herself to be that astute had to have a daughter worthy of my attention!"

As time passed, Wilkins devoted less attention to things like table tennis (he was ranked tenth in the state of Illinois at his peak at the age of 18) and more attention to young ladies. At the same time, when he was about 18 or 19, he took up the game of bridge, and this was to mesh nicely with his other blossoming pursuit. He remembers with pleasure one episode involving Gloria and bridge. They had been courting fairly seriously, and there was an understanding that sooner or later that he would be asking her to get married. But she was still at the University (history major, education minor), and he wasn't ready to support a wife. One evening they attended a party together, but not as dates. He was a little annoyed with himself because he hadn't gotten around to asking her in time, and someone else beat him to it. As Wilkins tells it, someone at the party challenged him to a game of bridge. Ernest saw this as an opportunity and made an announcement at the top of his voice, "I'll take anybody in the room for my partner and play you for a 20th of a cent per point, but if Gloria will play with me, we'll make it a tenth of a cent per point." Gloria agreed to

be his partner, and in a half hour they were up on their opponents by 3,300 points at which time the opposition gave up. Gloria's date meanwhile had become a little annoyed over Ernest's and Gloria's mutual triumph and their obvious enjoyment of each other's company. They have been playing bridge ever since.

Introduction to nuclear

Picking up again on Wilkins' academic pursuits, we left him beginning to work toward a PhD in the summer of 1941. With the expectation that he would obtain his degree in the summer of 1942, he applied in the spring of 1942 for a Rosenwald Fellowship that would start at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton in the fall of that year. He obtained the fellowship, was admitted to the Institute, but then didn't get the PhD that August. After talking to the people at the Institute, however, they said they didn't care about that since he had fulfilled all the requirements, and it was just a question of waiting until the University of Chicago had its next commencement. So he went to Princeton in the fall of 1942.

At this time, of course, the United States was in full mobilization for World War II, the attack on Pearl Harbor having come in December of the previous year. During the fall of 1942 Congress lowered the draft age from 21 to 19, just in time for Wilkins to celebrate his nineteenth birthday. He was compelled to give up the fellowship and left Princeton after Christmas. His ambition to go to law school also had to be deferred. While awaiting possi-

ble induction into military service, Wilkins obtained a job teaching mathematics at Tuskegee Institute and received a temporary deferment. He taught at Tuskegee for a little over a year, and then, through some people at the University of Chicago, he obtained a position at the Metallurgical Laboratory, of whose existence Wilkins had not been aware. During his job at the Met Lab Wilkins was inducted into the Army but because of the importance of his work, his term of service (February 1945 to March 1946) was spent almost entirely at the Lab.

It was quite a baptism for Wilkins to work in the Met Lab as part of the Manhattan District. Security was very tight so that he didn't know exactly what they were doing at the Lab. He worked in Eugene P. Wigner's theoretical physics group there, and was the youngest in the group, which also included Alvin Weinberg, Gale Young, and Sid Dancoff. Wilkins worked for one or the other of these men during the years that he was with the Lab. He learned during that time how to compute with table-model machines and gained an appreciation for numerical mathematics as distinct from theoretical mathematics in that environment. He didn't pretend in those days to understand the physics, but learned as he went along.

One area of his work that has survived to the present day was that done on neutron thermalization, the coming into equilibrium of the neutron spectrum with the moderator spectrum. The basic elementary work on neutron thermalization was done in 1944 and '45 at the Met Lab. Wilkins explains, "The ideas were mostly Wigner's, and I did a lot of the dirty work, but he is one of those guys who delights in giving credit to people, so I got my name on it"—i.e., the Wigner-Wilkins and Wilkins spectra.

When the end of the war came, it wasn't clear what was going to happen to the Manhattan District. Many of the people who had been donated by Du Pont, General Electric, and others wanted to go back to their regular jobs. Several of Wilkins' associates in the theoretical physics group, however, went to Oak Ridge with Wigner and Weinberg, but Wilkins left the nuclear business altogether.

Entering industry—and marriage

With the end of the war and the end of his job with the Met Lab, Wilkins was faced with the old recurring question, Am I going to study law? And at that time he made the deliberate decision. No. This was in 1946. He was 22 years old and wanted to get married and to settle down. And so he started

looking around for a job either with a university or in private industry.

As a sidelight, it should be mentioned that both of Ernest's brothers, John and Julian, did go on to study law at Harvard (after undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin). They joined their father's practice, which became known as Wilkins, Wilkins, & Wilkins. Later, John became general counsel for the federal government's Agency for International Development, a position he left in the middle '60's to join the law faculty at the University of California at Berkeley. Julian is presently a partner in the Chicago law firm Jenner & Block.* He organized and served as chairman of the Health and Hospitals Governing Commission of Cook County (Chicago) in 1969-71. He is also a vice president and trustee of Chicago's famed Field Museum, and is a director of Children's Memorial Hospital, also in Chicago.

After receiving some job offers from universities, Wilkins got an offer from the American Optical Company that was about \$1,000 a year more than the best university job, and so he left for Buffalo, N.Y., to start working for the company. This was in July of 1946. About a year later, on June 22, 1947, Ernest and Gloria were married at Rockefeller Chapel on the campus of the University of Chicago.

The years in Buffalo, 1946 to 1950, were eventful ones. Two children, Sharon and J. Ernest, III, were born to the young couple in Buffalo. At work in American Optical's Scientific Instrument Division, Wilkins designed lenses for microscopes, ophthalmoscopes, projection instruments, and other devices. In addition, he was allowed to spend some of his time as a mathematical consultant to people in the company's research division.

Return to nuclear

Wilkins was not to stay long out of the nuclear field, however. In 1950 he got an offer from John Menke, who with Gale Young had set up a small consulting company in White Plains, N.Y., and was looking for some of the people they had known from the Met Lab. The company was known at that time as Nuclear Development Associates of America, later to become United Nuclear Corporation.

The offer from Menke came at an awkward time, in one respect, since Gloria was in an advanced stage of

pregnancy with their second child at the time and didn't want to move or to change doctors. The career opportunity, however, couldn't have come at a better time, and Wilkins took the job. He did a lot of commuting in the ensuing months between White Plains and Buffalo and was on hand when Gloria's hour (and son J. Ernest, III) arrived.

Wilkins was one of the first employees of NDA and watched it grow from five or ten employees to several hundred employees. And he grew with it, maturing and taking on administrative and supervisory responsibilities. Menke was president, and Young was vice president, but in the early years of the company titles weren't too important. The operation was small enough so that an enterprising person was able to get into just about everything. Wilkins did ultimately become manager of research and development, reporting to the president and thus on the second level of management.

The company did a lot of contract work for the AEC and for contractors for the AEC and the Defense Department. They did a fair amount of work in those days on the ANP (aircraft nuclear propulsion) program. Included in the technical work that Wilkins did at that time was his work in gamma ray and neutron shielding; a paper authored by himself and Goldstein on gamma ray build-up factors is still used.

It was during his work at NDA that Wilkins decided he had better learn some engineering, or as he explains, "not just learn some engineering, but



J. Ernest, III, and Sharon

*One of the partners is Albert E. Jenner, Jr., minority counsel of the House Judiciary Committee, currently holding hearings on the possible impeachment of President Nixon. Also well known to the nuclear community is an associate member of the firm, Myron Cherry.

obtain the evidence that I had learned engineering." The problem was that as a mathematician he was being called in on problems too late in the game. The engineers would set up problems and then go ahead and try to work them. If later they had trouble with mathematics, then they would come to him, but that was a little late. He wanted to understand what was going on, why they were doing certain things and what they were going to do with the answers. The engineers didn't think it was any of his business because he was not an engineer. So Wilkins decided to get an engineering degree. He enrolled at New York University and after four years of going to school at night got his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, and then went ahead and got a master's degree in three more years. This process took between 1953 and 1960. Wilkins figures the experience was worth it, since he learned a great deal about engineering and learned as a consequence to apply his mathematics much more constructively than he otherwise would have been able to do.

In 1960 General Atomic, then a division of General Dynamics, was in the midst of an expansion program, and it was then that Lothar W. Nordheim approached Wilkins with a job offer. The offer was an attractive one, and Wilkins accepted. Parting friends with Menke and Young, he went off to California in September 1960 to begin work for GA and to find a home in La Jolla for his family.

Wilkins began work at GA as assistant chairman of the Theoretical Physics Department. Nordheim was chairman of the department, and Ed Creutz was vice president of research and development. Wilkins essentially reported to both of these men. (Creutz was also director of the John J. Hopkins Laboratory of Pure and Applied Science.)

Wilkins' first duties at GA were varied. He got involved in administering the Theoretical Physics Department, which was a heterogeneous group of people doing a great many things. Ultimately the work done by this department was reorganized so that the reactor physics work was split off in one direction and another group of people working on weapons-oriented physics went in still another direction. The Theoretical Physics Department as such became quite small, and eventually Wilkins found himself doing more or less engineering work; although he kept the same title of assistant chairman of the Theoretical Physics Department. At one point he was project director of the program to develop HTGR concepts for Empire State Atomic Development Associates (ESADA), a program funded

by that organization and carried out by GA.

In 1964 Creutz promoted Wilkins to assistant director of the John J. Hopkins Laboratory, a position he kept for several years. His responsibilities were varied, and in the loosely organized fashion of those days Wilkins was concerned with such widely assorted operations as the Accelerator Physics Department, the thermionic and thermoelectric program, which was financed primarily by the AEC and NASA, and the Magneform operation, a small manufacturing operation based on using very short, but large electromagnetic pulses to deform metal. (When Gulf came into the picture a few years later, it was to sell this operation to another company.)

In 1967 Wilkins was asked to head up GA's Defense Science and Engineering Center after a number of key personnel left the Center to form their own company. As director of the Center, he had first to recommend a reorganization and then to take the necessary steps to effect it. When this process, "essentially a holding action," says Wilkins, was completed, he returned to his job as assistant director of the Hopkins Laboratory.

After Gulf bought General Atomic, renaming it Gulf General Atomic, Inc., and after Zane Johnson succeeded Frederic de Hoffman as president of GGA, the company was reorganized to concentrate its efforts on the reactor business and to cut back on a number of the other unrelated activities. In the reorganization research and development were deemphasized, and the Hopkins Laboratory dwindled, a large piece of it being transferred into the HTGR program.

When the smoke cleared, Wilkins was assigned as director of computational research to the staff of Mason Foster, who was vice president of administration. Wilkins was very helpful to Foster in areas where money questions and technical matters overlapped. This was especially true in the use of the computer, which, by the way, was shifted from research to administration when Gulf took over.

A return to university life

In 1969 Howard University put out a feeler to Wilkins in the form of a "distinguished professorship." The initial contact was made by Warren Henry, a PhD in physical chemistry, whom he had known as a student at the University of Chicago back in the '40's. Henry broached the idea of the distinguished professorship with Wilkins, saying that it was something that they were thinking of initiating at Howard, and would he be interested? Wilkins certainly was

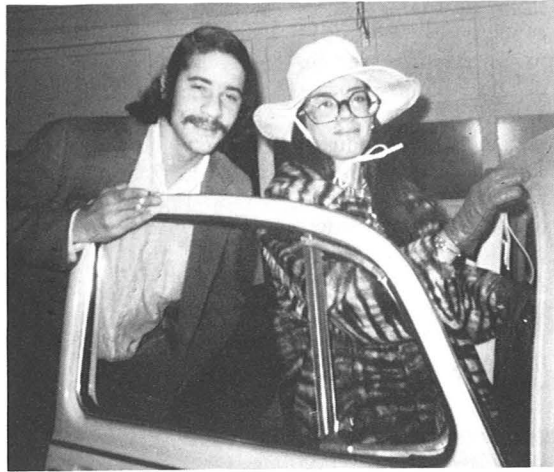
interested in the idea, and one thing led to another and he eventually went out to talk to the president of the University. He obviously liked what he heard, for in March 1970 he accepted a position with the University.

The attractions of the position were strong ones indeed, for Wilkins enjoys teaching, and in the position of Distinguished Professor of Applied Mathematical Physics he has a great deal of freedom to roam from department to department. His position is actually within the Graduate School rather than with any particular department. He has graduate students in mechanical engineering, in mathematics, and in physics. Within the Mechanical Engineering Department his graduate students are in the nuclear engineering option (George Ferguson, who is a member of the ANS Board of Directors and who is technical program chairman for the upcoming Winter Meeting in Washington D.C., is head of that option). In his supra-departmental status, Wilkins has obtained the full cooperation of the deans and members of the faculty.

Another benefit of his position that Wilkins appreciates very much is the exposure to students. "It's one way to keep yourself mentally alert," says Ernest, who, as mentioned before, has always seemed exempt from the process of growing old.

Wilkins also appreciates keenly his role within what he perceives as the role of the predominantly black university (Howard is about 85 percent black). Wilkins says that Howard regards its role as providing a first-class education for black students who otherwise would be unable to get an education in the predominantly white schools. The majority of black students, he says, are not being educated in white schools; and he feels that if black schools were to disappear, the large mass of black students would not obtain higher education. Wilkins confesses to a certain cynicism in this regard and goes so far as to say, "If the black schools disappeared, there would be fewer black kids going to white schools." He considers this appalling.

He also believes that the existence of the predominantly black schools serves to prick the conscience of white educators. He elaborated on this as follows: "If you are on the faculty or the admissions committee or the administration of a white school, and you go around mouthing these platitudes that education is the way to improve democratic society, and we are in the business to give the best education we can to the student that we select and then you go and visit the black campus, and you see some extremely bright kids get-



Parents and children: Recent photos of Gloria, Ernest, "J." and Sharon

ting what you think is a poorer education, you say, 'My God, we're not doing our job.' Now, without that example, without the fact that black schools are doing some kind of job which nobody else is doing, the white schools would not have their noses rubbed in their own inadequacies. The black school stands as a constant reminder of that fact. In the absence of the black schools, they are not going to be reminded as often. Black schools turn out graduates who occasionally go to a white school as graduate students, and some of these people do very well. So that the white schools can't say, 'We don't have to worry about these people because they are just hewers of wood and carriers of water anyway. They are not capable of learning.' Because this is demonstrably not true. It's a question of conscience in the final analysis, and educators have displayed in the last 10 to 20 years a significantly tender conscience."

Other than indirectly, he is not now presently active in civil rights activities, but he has been an officer in the past of Urban League branches in White Plains and in San Diego. During the years 1953-60 he served as a member of the Regents Council of the Education Practices Act, appointed by the Board of Regents of New York State to advise on the administration of the New York law prohibiting discrimination in higher education.

Other activities

Through the years, from 1943 to the present, Wilkins has contributed 57 papers, mostly in the disparate fields of reactor physics, optics, and heat transfer, reflecting the various employments he has had. (Also, reflecting his interest in gambling is a paper entitled "The Bold Strategy in Presence of House Limit," which he gave at a meeting of the American Mathematical Society in Las Vegas in 1972).

Wilkins' membership in professional societies is legion.* In the American Nuclear Society, he has been especially active, serving in the following roles: chairman, San Diego Section, 1962-63; member, National Program Committee, 1964-67; technical program chairman, 1967 Annual Meeting; member, National Finance Committee, 1967-73; member, National Board of Directors, 1967- ; chairman, National Finance Committee, 1969-71; member, National Executive Committee, 1969- ; national treasurer, 1971-73; national vice president (president-elect), 1973-74; and now, president of the Society. He was elected a Fellow of ANS in 1964.

Wilkins has also served in a number of professional and civic activities, the most recent of which are the following: member of the USAEC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Materials Safeguards, 1967-72; member of the University of Chicago Alumni Association Cabinet, 1967-70; representative of the ANS to the Engineering Division of the National Research Council, 1970-73; member of the College Entrance Examination Board Advisory Committee on Mathematics Achievement Tests, 1972- ; member of the Board of Trustees of the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences, 1973- ; and member of the National Science Foundation Advisory Committee for Planning and Institutional Affairs, 1973-74.

Among the fraternities, honorary and

*American Mathematical Society, 1941- ; Mathematical Association of America, 1946- ; visiting lecturer for MAA, 1963-67; Institute of Mathematical Statistics, 1946- ; Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, 1954- ; Optical Society of America, 1948- ; American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1943- ; elected Fellow of AAAS, 1956; Association for Computing Machinery, 1957- ; American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 1960- ; Institute of Nuclear Materials Management, 1968- ; National Institute of Science, 1972-

otherwise, to which Wilkins belongs are Phi Beta Kappa (1940), Sigma Xi (1942), Pi Tau Sigma (1956), and Tau Beta Pi (1956).

At home with the Wilkins

Ernest and Gloria Wilkins miss the beautiful weather and surroundings of La Jolla, but live comfortably in an attractive home in McLean, Va. The newness of the house is softened by the use of old brick in its construction, and while the house is larger than their own personal needs (four bedrooms), it also serves as home for Gloria's mother, Mrs. Effie Madden, and offers plenty of room for the occasional visits of relatives, including the Wilkins children, who have remained on the West Coast. Sharon, now 26, is married (Mrs. Thomas Hill) and is a candidate for a PhD in immunology at UCLA. J. Ernest, III, 24, is employed as assistant purchasing manager for a pump manufacturer in southern California.

For relaxation, Wilkins plays bridge with a group of men at the University fairly regularly. He also enjoys playing socially with his wife and with friends. He is an avid reader of science-fiction (a favorite author is Isaac Asimov) and mysteries (Agatha Christie, S. S. Van Dyne).

Gloria is active in a number of community and charitable organizations in and around McLean. She also enjoys gardening to some extent, but her mother is actually the recognized green thumb in the family.

Prospects for ANS

Like so many of his predecessors as president of ANS, Wilkins sees as the areas for greatest effort standards development, public information, and the preservation of the independent, professional status of the Society. On the latter point, he favors the drift toward what is called "professionalism" only in some respects—e.g., pension funds, insurance, and other such benefits—but would go slow in such areas as rating employers and lobbying. As for public information, he believes that it is of the utmost importance to preserve the credibility of the Society and not to take monolithic positions in dealing with the public. He would favor a local, rather than national, approach in public information work. Like so many others, he admires the work done by the San Diego Section in this regard.

It will be a busy year for J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr., his year as president of the American Nuclear Society, and from all indications, judging by his past enthusiasm and qualities of leadership, it should be a very good year indeed for the Society.—C.F.