

Obituaries

Roger Sperry, 80; awarded Nobel for brain research

REUTERS

PASADENA, Calif. — Roger Sperry, 80, a Nobel Prize-winning pioneer in research of the brain's two hemispheres, died Sunday.

Norman Davidson of the California Institute of Technology, where Dr. Sperry worked from 1954 to 1984, said Dr. Sperry died at Huntington Memorial Hospital after suffering from muscular dystrophy for many years.

Dr. Sperry won the Nobel Prize for medicine-physiology in 1981 for his research involving "split-brain" patients — those who had had the connection between the left and right brain hemispheres surgically cut.

His work showed how the two hemispheres function, separately and together, and continues to have important implications for medicine,

education and philosophy.

Dr. Sperry was a professor of psychobiology at the California Institute of Technology. Davidson, a fellow professor, praised his former colleague as "one of the premier experimental neurobiologists of his time."

Dr. Sperry, who was born in Hartford, Conn., also received the National Medal of Science in 1989, as well as the Wolf Prize in Medicine and the California Scientist of the Year Award, both in 1972.

He turned his attention from neurobiology to philosophy later in his career.

Dr. Sperry earned a bachelor's in English literature and a master's in psychology from Oberlin College. He earned a doctorate in zoology from Chicago University.

Pamela Jackson, a 'Mitford girl'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — Pamela Jackson has died at the age of 86 after a life spent in the shadow of her five famous and controversial sisters, the "Mitford Girls."

News reports said she died April 12 in London but gave no cause of death.

The high-spirited sextet, celebrated by poet John Betjeman, included writers Nancy and Jessica; two pro-Hitler fascists, Diana and Unity; and Deborah, duchess of Devonshire. Their only brother, Tom, was heir to the Barony of Redesdale but died before he inherited.

Pamela, second child of Baron Redesdale, was a friend of Betjeman's, who wrote of her in the 1930s as "gentle Pamela, most rural of them all" in his poem "The Mitford Girls."

While her sisters gained fame —

and in some cases notoriety — Pamela lived in the country and managed a farm before her 1936 marriage to Derek Jackson, a physicist, Oxford University professor, amateur jockey and airman. They had no children.

The marriage broke up in 1951, and she lived much of the next decade in Grueningen, Switzerland. She eventually settled in southwest England.

Pamela Jackson led the most private life of all the sisters. A friend, James Lees-Milne, writing about her in the Daily Telegraph, said: "She entirely lacked the creative urge. She was totally uncerebral, unambitious and uncomplicated. Lacking the ability to shine like her sisters in wit and repartee, she nevertheless radiated a nobility of character and an unadulterated goodness."

ral, 9 a.m. Thursday, Robert Iell Memorial Homes of Up- y, 8645 West Chester Pike; Christian Burial, 10 a.m. . St. Laurence Church, 8245 ster Pike, Upper Darby; bur- er and Paul Cemetery, Mar- ship.

alser, 96, formerly of West bia and the Northeast, a glish teacher, died Sunday adelphia Geriatric Center, e lived for the last eight

Russia, Mrs. Walser came a in 1900 and settled in Liberties. She graduated High and studied at Tem- sity and the University of ania. She taught English in high schools in Ham- id Freehold, N.J., and rears ago. Her husband, Nor- years ago.

ist and poet, Mrs. Walser ad and tackled just about hat interested her — in- akesspeare in Yiddish. She Yiddish club.

s: her sister, Rose Moore. noon Thursday, Roose- rial Park, Trevoise.

obel, 94, of Wynnewood, d former owner of Sobel & Co. and American Corru- ainer Co., died Sunday at Hospital.

operated the paper com- years before retiring in

ounded American Corru- ainer Co. in Gloucester, erated that company for ore retiring.

nd a charter member of nds Country Club, a for- r of Har Zion Temple in and a former member of Equity Lodge 509.

his wife of 60 years, Fay l; sons, Allen L. and Mat- daughter, Susan Sobel four grandchildren, and andchildren.

Services: graveside, 1 p.m. tomor- row, Roosevelt Memorial Park, Tre- vose.

William A. Casella, 82, of Walling- ford, a photographer, died Friday at Taylor Hospital in Ridley Park.

Beginning in 1948, Mr. Casella owned and operated Casella Photo- graph & Video in South Philadelphia. He retired in 1974.

The 1929 graduate of Roman Catho- lic High School also graduated from Antonelli School of Photography in 1949.

Mr. Casella was a Mason and an Army veteran of World War II.

He was very active at Epiphany Church and the church's school, and with Little League baseball in South Philadelphia.

Survivors: his wife, Margaret Costa Casella; son, Carl; a sister, and a granddaughter.

Services: viewing, 6 to 8 p.m. today, followed by Mass, Epiphany Roman Catholic Church, 11th and Jackson Streets; burial, SS. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Marple Township.

Robert C. Combs, 70, of Berwyn, a retired vice president of Kraft Dair- ies, died Sunday at Paoli Memorial Hospital.

Born in Kansas City, Mo., Mr. Combs earned a master's degree at Missouri University. He was with Kraft for 44 years. When he retired in 1987, he was vice president of operations for the dairy division.

He was a Marine veteran of World War II and Korea.

He belonged to Trinity Prebyterian Church of Berwyn.

Survivors: his wife, Betty Burke Combs; sons, Robert C. Jr. and Theo- dore B.; daughters, Patricia A. Flores and Nancy C. Vaccaro, and five grandchildren.

Services: viewing, 7 to 9 p.m. today, Mauger/Glvnish Funeral Home, 24 Monument Ave., Malvern; funeral, 10 a.m. tomorrow, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Main and Berwyn Avenues, Berwyn; burial, Washington Memo- rial Chapel Cemetery, Valley Forge.

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