

Black History - American History

Modern Communication - The Cell Phone

Dr. Henry T. Sampson, Jr., a living legacy will be remembered during a memorial service planned at Rolling Hills Covenant Church (North Campus) in Rolling Hills Estates, CA on July 11, 2015. Sampson remembers a career day at Morehouse College that changed his life and, “Contrary to what you read on the Internet, I did not invent the cell phone,” but was a pioneer in the technology now used in cell phones.



Sampson's journey from Jackson, Mississippi to West Lafayette occurred thanks to the intervention of an unknown Purdue graduate. “I was attending Morehouse in Atlanta. I went to Senior Career Day even though I was a sophomore. I spoke to a Pfizer rep, a Purdue grad who bragged about Purdue. I worked in Chicago that summer and took a bus to West Lafayette to check out Purdue. It was love at first sight,” recalled Sampson.

Purdue prepared Sampson, “Excellent. Everything I know about chemical engineering I learned at Purdue.” While a Purdue student, Sampson was instrumental in establishing the Omega Psi Phi fraternity chapter at the university earning his Bachelor's Degree.

From 1956-61, Sampson worked as a research chemical engineer at the U.S. Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, Calif., in high-energy solid propellants and case-bonding materials for solid-rocket motors.

“The U.S. Naval Ordnance Test Station was a godsend. When I graduated from Purdue, I found many companies would not hire an African American engineer,” stated Sampson.

Background from Wikipedia

Early Life

Henry Thomas Sampson was born on April 22, 1934, in Jackson, Mississippi, to Henry T. Sampson Sr. and Esther B. (Ellis) Sampson.[2][3] He graduated from Jackson's Lanier High School in 1951. He then attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, before transferring to Purdue University, where he became a member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. He received a Bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Purdue University in 1956.[4] He graduated with an MS degree in engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1961. Sampson also received an MS in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 1965, and his PhD in 1967. He was the first African American to earn a PhD. in nuclear engineering in the United States.[5]

(Overview)

Henry Thomas Sampson Jr. (April 22, 1934 – June 4, 2015) was an American engineer, inventor and film historian[1] who created the gamma-electric cell in 1971 — a device with the main goal of generating auxiliary power from the shielding of a nuclear reactor. He wrote books *Blacks in Black and White: A Source Book on Black Films*, *The Ghost Walks: A Chronological History of Blacks in Show Business, 1865-1910*, and the two volume *Singin' on the Ether Waves: a Chronological History of African Americans in Radio and Television Programming, 1925–1955*. Henry T. Sampson Born Henry Thomas Sampson Jr. April 22, 1934 Jackson, Mississippi Died June 4, 2015(aged 81) Stockton, California Known for Creating the gamma-electric cell

Early Career

He was a member of the United States Navy from 1962 until 1964. Sampson was employed as a chemical at the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake U.S. Naval Weapons Center, China Lake California, in the area of high energy solid propellants and case bonding materials for solid rocket motors. Sampson also served as the Director of Mission Development or Operations of the Space Test Program at the Aerospace Corporation in El Segundo, California. During his time with the Aerospace Corporation, Sampson led an engineering staff in the development and operation of several space satellites.[6]

Career

As the director of Aerospace Corporation, he worked extensively in the evaluation of various power sources for creating high-power satellite programs including nuclear, photovoltaic, and magnetohydrodynamic. He developed a simulation program performance metric for hybrid automobiles and city buses. The Air Force needed technical

support from Sampson and his group to launch 13 low Earth-orbit satellites. Sampson was part of the launch readiness review team for Milstar in its first launch, which serves to provide secure communications worldwide for the U.S. military during wartime.[7]

Patents

His patents included a binder system for propellants and explosives and a case bonding system for cast composite propellants. Both inventions are related to solid rocket motors. On July 6, 1963, he was awarded a patent, with George H. Miley, for a variation of the gamma-electrical cell, a device that produces a high voltage from radiation sources, primarily gamma radiation, with proposed goals of generating auxiliary power from the shielding of a nuclear reactor. Additionally, the patent cites the cell's function as a detector with self-power and construction cost advantages over previous detectors.[8][9]

Film Historian

In addition to his career as an inventor, Sampson was a noted film historian.[10] He wrote the book *Blacks in Black and White: A Source Book on Black Films*, which examines often overlooked African-American film makers from the first half of the 20th century.[11] In addition, he authored *The Ghost Walks: A Chronological History of Blacks in Show Business, 1865-1910*. Sampson produced documentary films on African-American film makers. In 2005, he published *Singin' on the Ether Waves: a Chronological History of African Americans in Radio and Television Programming, 1925–1955* (two vols, 1270 pages), Lanham, Maryland, and Oxford, UK: Scarecrow Press, 2005. In 2011 Sampson donated his considerable collection of historical film memorabilia to Jackson State University. The collection is housed in the H.T. Sampson Library, named for his father, H. T. Sampson Sr., former executive dean of Jackson State University.

Awards and Honors

From 1964 to 1967, Sampson was the recipient of a United States Atomic Energy Commission Award for excellent service at the U.S. Naval Weapons Center.[13] Sampson was also the recipient of these awards: • "Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Engineering" by the LA Council of Black Professional Engineers (1983) • "Robert H. Herndon Black Image Award" by Aerospace Corporation (1983) • "George Washington Carver Renaissance Inventors Award" (2008) • "Alumni Award for Distinguished Service" by University of Illinois College of Engineering(2009)[14]

For More details see Henry T. Sampson Wikipedia page