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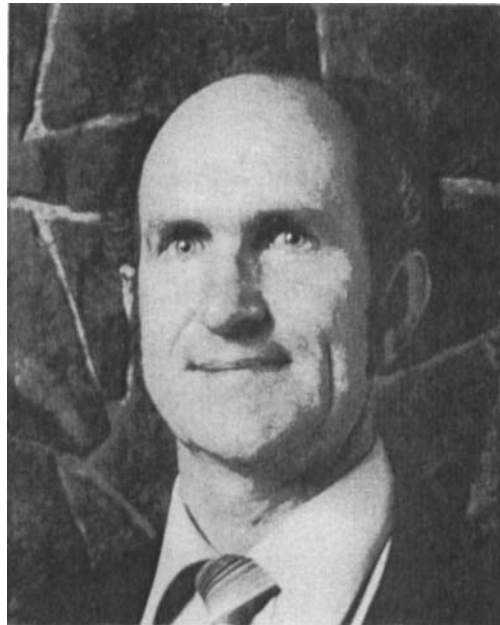
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In Memoriam

Garron P.
Anderson, PhD
1935–1988



Garron Perry Anderson died of a heart attack the night of November 1, 1988, in the hills near his home in Brigham City, Utah. Garron was born on July 30, 1935, in Rigby, Idaho, where he spent most of his youth.

His educational background included BS and MS degrees in Mathematics from Brigham Young University in 1957 and 1961 respectively, and a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Utah in 1973.

For the last 22 years, he had been an employee of Morton Thiokol, Inc. Aerospace Operations (and its predecessor Thiokol Corporation). For the two years prior to his death, he was manager of its Applied Mechanics Department. This department contained 105 engineers, plus support staff, who were responsible for the structural analysis of all components in the redesigned solid rocket motors for the Space Shuttle. This group also included the design engineers for the motor case, seals, ground support equipment and composite components for this and future rockets, with the exception of nozzle design.

In addition to his position at Morton Thiokol, he had held various other positions (prior to or while on leave from Thiokol): (1) two years as an engineer for General Dynamics/Astronautics in San Diego, California; (2) visiting Associate Professor at the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; (3) Research Associate and Instructor, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah;

(4) Instructor, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah; and, (5) consultant to such companies as Dentsphy International, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, ARAMCO Inc. and Norton Company.

He had numerous publications in various scientific and technical areas but most notably in solid rocket propellant mechanics and adhesive mechanics and failure. He was a pioneer in the use of Finite Element Analysis of Adhesive Joints. He devoted a large part of his professional career to three closely-related topics in adhesion: (1) how might the computer be used to understand better the stress distribution in adhesive joints; (2) how can one better interpret the results of experimental tests and thereby better design and perform experiments; and (3) how can the results from experiments be used to predict reliably the strength, durability and integrity of practical adhesive joints?

Dr. Anderson had lectured at the Gordon Conference on Science of Adhesion, as well as at ACS, ASME, ASTM and Adhesion Society meetings. He had helped teach short courses in adhesion for the Adhesion Society and for the American Chemical Society. At the time of his death, he was Vice President of the Adhesion Society. With two of his associates he authored a book on adhesion and most recently co-guest-edited Volume 6 of "Treatise on Adhesives and Adhesion", edited by Robert L. Patrick (posthumously). This book became available the month after Dr. Anderson's passing.

On the more personal side, Garron was a devoted husband and father to his wife, Carmen, who teaches school and still lives in their home at 841 So 858 W., Brigham City, Utah 84302; a son, Bryan, who, following his father's lead, works for Morton Thiokol, in Brigham City, Utah; and a son, Gregory, who is a PhD candidate at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He was an adoring grandfather to his four grandchildren.

True to his Idaho roots, Garron loved the out-of-doors. As busy as he was professionally, he found time to accompany his family and friends on skiing, rafting, fishing, hiking, hunting, and other outings. Almost every year for nearly two decades he lead tours for fellow workers and friends to the Great Slave Park in the Northwest Territories or to the Mexican coast. It is some comfort to those of us who were so fond of Garron, that he passed away quickly, apparently with little pain, and in the out-of-doors he loved so much.

K. L. DEVRIES