

## **RADIOCARBON UPDATES**

We regret to announce the passing of an important member of the radiocarbon family, John Head. *Radiocarbon* will publish an obituary in the next issue, Vol 45, Nr 2, 2003.

### **Next Radiocarbon issue**

Our next issue is devoted to the much-anticipated results from the Fourth International Radiocarbon Intercomparison (FIRI), guest edited by E Marian Scott.

### **Closing of Radiocarbon Laboratory at University of California, Riverside**

After 30 years of operating in the Department of Anthropology and Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics at the University of California, Riverside (UCR), and anticipating retirement, Emeritus Professor, R E (Erv) Taylor has terminated the decay counting operations of the UCR Radiocarbon Laboratory and will be moving other components to two other University of California campuses.

Instrumentation involved in the preparation of graphitic carbon for AMS-based  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating and an HPLC system for biochemical characterization of skeletal materials will become part of the laboratory of David Glen Smith at the University of California, Davis (UCD). Professor Smith will also collaborate in a future project involving mitochondrial DNA studies of human bone and teeth. Professor Taylor's last graduate student, who is currently undertaking her dissertation research, has moved to UCD to continue the operation of this instrumentation and be associated with Professor Smith's laboratory.

One of the UCR graphite processing lines will be moved to the Keck Carbon Cycle Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Laboratory in the Department of Earth System Science at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) under the direction of Ellen Druffel, John Southon, and Susan Trumbore. It is anticipated that the last UCR Radiocarbon Laboratory supervisor will join the staff of the Keck AMS laboratory at UCI in the summer of 2003. The UCI Keck AMS Laboratory is continuing the seventy year tradition of University of California involvement in the  $^{14}\text{C}$  field dating back to the work of Libby and other researchers at University of California, Berkeley in the 1930s and subsequently carried out at the Los Angeles, San Diego, Riverside, and Irvine campuses.

Professor Taylor is now associated with the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology (CIOA) at UCLA and will continue several research projects under CIOA auspices. His other responsibilities will include spoiling his grandchildren, waiting for his first great-grandchild, and attempting to complete a long-overdue book and start on another long-delayed one. In addition to the files and record of his former lab, he also will be curating the records, files, samples, and other materials from the first  $^{14}\text{C}$  laboratory of Willard F Libby at the University of Chicago and from Libby's Isotope Laboratory in the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), including the professional papers and files of the late Rainer Berger, as well as samples and other materials from the Mt. Soladad laboratory of Hans Suess at the University of California, San Diego.