

# Clarence E. Larson Science and Technology Oral History collection

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1983-1993



## Title Statement

Clarence E. Larson Science and Technology Oral History collectionGuide to the Clarence E. Larson Science and Technology Oral History collection C0079

**Subtitle:** Clarence E. Larson Science and Technology Oral History collection

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

C0079

**Unit ID**

/repositories/2/resources/35

**Unit Date**

1983-1993

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

This collection contains 49 VHS videotape cassettes, some of which have been copied to DVD, featuring interviews with famous scientists and historians of twentieth-century technology conducted by Clarence E. Larson.

**Creator**

Larson, Clarence E. (Clarence Edward), 1909-

**Extent**

3 Linear Feet 5 boxes

**Repository**

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

There are no access restrictions.

**Use Restrictions**

The copyright and related rights status of this collection have not been evaluated (See <http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/CNE/1.0/>)

**Acquisition Information**

Collection donated by Clarence Larson in 1993.

**Processing Information**

Processed by Special Collections Research Center staff. EAD markup completed by Eron Ackerman and Jordan Patty in March 2009.

**Preferred Citation**

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## Biographical Information

Chemist Clarence E. Larson (1909-1999) was born in Cloquet, Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Chemistry and completed his Ph.D. work at the University of California at Berkeley. Larson was one of the talented American scientists working on the Manhattan Project during World War II. Later he served as a director at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, a member of the Atomic Energy Commission, and an executive at Union Carbide. Dr Larson was a recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award of the American Society for the Advancement of Science. He was also a member of the American Nuclear Society, the American Institute of Chemists, the American Chemical Society, and the Cosmos Club.

## Scope and Content

This collection contains 49 VHS videotape cassettes, some of which have been copied to DVD, featuring interviews with famous scientists and historians of twentieth-century technology conducted by Clarence E. Larson.

## Related Material

The Special Collections Research Center also holds other science and technology collections, such as the Harold Morowitz papers and the [Carol D. Litchfield Microbiology collection](#).

## Keywords

Technology

Science -- History -- 20th century

Oral histories

Video recordings

## Arrangement

This collection is arranged alphabetically by surname of interviewee.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Clarence E. Larson Collection

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17646

#### **Abelson, Phil (1913-2004)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17647

**Unit Date** 12-20-83

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Co-discoverer of the first transuranic element. Inventor of thermal diffusion for uranium isotope production. Bethesda, MD. 17 minutes.

#### **Agnew, Harold, UCSD (1921- )**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17648

**Unit Date** 12-21-83

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Crew of the first sustaining reactor. Fermi Award winner. La Jolla, CA. 11 minutes.

#### **Alvarez, Luis (1911-1988)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17649

**Unit Date** 3-13-84

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Inventor of ground control radar. Developer of high energy linear accelerators. Nobel Prize winner.

#### **Arnold, William**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17650

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Originator of the word fission, while he worked with Niels Bohr in Copenhagen in 1938.

#### **Atanasoff, John V. (1903-1995)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17651

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

#### **Bacher, Robert (1905-2004)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17652

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Pioneer in nuclear energy research.

#### **Backus, John (1924- )**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17653

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Bechtel, Steve Sr. (1900-1989)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17654

**Unit Date** 7-10-84

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

San Francisco, CA. 30 minutes.

**Blueprint for Space- Science Fiction to Science Fact- Hosted by Astronaut Alan Shepard**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17655

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Brobeck, William (1908-1998)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17656

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Calvin, Melvin (1911-1997)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17657

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Berkeley, CA. 25 minutes.

**Clarke, C. Arthur- "A Failed Recluse" (1917- ) copy**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17658

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Cohen, Karl**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17659

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Delbecco, Rene**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17660

**Unit Date** 3-25-86

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

La Jolla, CA. 25 minutes.

**Djerassi, Dr. Carl (1923- )**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17661

**Unit Date** 7-12-84

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Copies 1, 2

**Edgerton, H.E. (1889-1990)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17662

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Eklund, Dr. Sigurd**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17663

**Unit Date** 4-30-84

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)  
**Scope and Contents note**  
Bethesda, MD. 18 minutes.

**Glennan, Dr. Keith (1905-1995)**  
**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17664  
**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Goldschmidt, Dr. Bertrand (1913-2002)**  
**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17665  
**Unit Date** 12-7-83  
**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)  
**Scope and Contents note**  
Nuclear pioneer starting with work with Madam Curie. Bethesda, MD. 18 minutes.

**Hafstad, Dr. Lawrence (1904-1993)**  
**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17666  
**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)  
**Scope and Contents note**  
Discoverer of delayed Neutrons. 41 minutes.

**Hoff, Dr. Ted (1937- )**  
**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17667  
**Unit Date** 12-22-88  
**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Hollaender, Dr. Alexander (1898-1997)**  
**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17668  
**Unit Date** 12-20-83  
**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)  
**Scope and Contents note**  
Bethesda, MD. 16 minutes.

**Hurd, Cuthbert (1911-1996)**  
**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17669  
**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)  
**Scope and Contents note**  
Pioneer in computer science. Started IBM computer project.

**Jukes, Thomas (1906-1999)**  
**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17670  
**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Kamen, Dr. Martin (1913-2002)**  
**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17671  
**Unit Date** 3-24-86  
**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)  
**Scope and Contents note**  
Santa Barbara, CA. 14 minutes.

**Magoun, Dr. Horace (1907-1991)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17672

**Unit Date** 8-20-84

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Los Angeles, CA.

**McMillan, Dr. Edwin (1907-1991)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17673

**Unit Date** 3-15-84

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Co-discoverer of Neptunium and Plutonium. Nobel prize winner. Inventor of synchrotron.

**Nichols, Kenneth David (1907-2000)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17674

**Unit Date** 11-6-85

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

General manager of the Manhattan Project. General manager of the Atomic Energy Commission. Bethesda, MD. 20 minutes.

**Oliphant, Dr. Mark (1901-2000)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17675

**Unit Date** 11-3-88

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Bethesda, MD. 20 minutes.

**Packard, David (1912-1996)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17676

**Unit Date** 3-15-84

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Co-Founder of Hewlett-Packard Corporation. Deputy Secretary of Defense. Copy 1.

**Pauling, Linus (1901-1994)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17677

**Unit Date** 2-12-93

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Chemical bond theory. Winner of two Nobel Prizes. Copy 1 (Cassette 1 of 2)

**Pauling, Linus**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17678

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Chemical bond theory. Winner of two Nobel Prizes. Cassette 2 of 2.

**Peierls, Rudolph (1907-1995)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17679

**Unit Date** 4-25-89

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Bethesda, MD. 27 minutes.

**Pioneers- Djerassi, Hollifield, Goldschmidt, Bechtel, Packardi, and Pauling**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17680

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Rush, Dr. Kenneth**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17681

**Unit Date** 11-6-85

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Bethesda, MD. 19 minutes.

**Schawlow, Dr. Arthur (1921-1999)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17682

**Unit Date** 10-28-84

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Palo Alto, CA. 28 minutes.

**Seaborg, Dr. Glenn (1927-1999)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17683

**Unit Date** 12-29-93

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Co-discoverer of Plutonium. Nobel Prize winner. Discovery of many transuranic elements. Copy 1.

**Segre, Emilio (1905-1989)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17684

**Unit Date** 3-20-84

**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Discovery of slow Neutrons and anti-proton. Nobel Prize winner. Copy 1.

**Singer, S. Fred (1924- )**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17685

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Pioneer in space research.

**Starr, Dr. Chauncey (1912- )**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17686

**Unit Date** 12-20-85

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Palo Alto, CA. 28 minutes.

**Stehling, Dr. Kurtiz**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17687

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Tape, Dr. Gerald (1915-1905)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17688

**Unit Date** 4-30-84

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Fundamental research on radar and nuclear science. Bethesda, MD. 23 minutes.

**Taylor, Lauriston (1902-2004)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17689

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Pioneer in radiation research.

**Teller, Dr. Edward (1908-2003)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17690

**Unit Date** 12-29-83

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Pioneer in nuclear theory. Fermi Award Winner. Copy 1.

**Townes, Dr. Charles (1915- )**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17691

**Unit Date** 3-21-84

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Inventor of Maser-Laser Principle. Nobel Prize winner. Copy 1.

**Weinberg, Alvin (1915-2006)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17692

**Unit Date** 3-21-84

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Washington, D.C. 12 minutes.

**White, Dr. Robert**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17693

**Unit Date** 4-25-89

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Development of modern weather forecasting. President of National Academy of Engineering. Bethesda, MD. 27 minutes.

**Wigner, E.P. (1902-1995)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17694

**Unit Date** 3-4-86

**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

Instrumental with Szilard in persuading President Roosevelt to start Nuclear Energy Project. Nobel Prize winner in Physics.

**DVD Copies**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/17695

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Scope and Contents note**

DVD copies of many of the interviews.