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(AP) -- Anton Burg, a leading expert on the study of boron and longtime...

LOS ANGELES - (AP) -- Anton Burg, a leading expert on the study of boron and longtime chairman of the University of Southern California chemistry department, died Wednesday. He was 99.

Burg was credited with turning the undistinguished department into one of the nation's best, but his true professional passion was studying boron. It was sparked, he said, when he attended a 1927 lecture by chemist Gilbert Newton, who said nobody understood the chemistry of boron hydrides.

Burg went on to synthesize several boron compounds that eventually found wide use in organic chemistry as tools for creating more complex molecules. None of his creations became household names but he was among the first people to see polyethylene and Teflon, both of which appeared as byproducts of his boron reactions. After recording them in his notebooks as interesting molecules, he went on to other studies.

An avid bicyclist who never drove a car, Burg was a track star as a student at the University of Chicago.

HENRY PHACE ROBERTS, 92

TAP DANCER WHO

PERFORMED ON TV

NEW YORK -- (AP) -- Henry Phace Roberts, a tap dancer who performed with the Copasetics, the Five Blazers and the Three Rockets, died Nov. 8. He was 92.

Roberts performed on TV on *The Tonight Show* and *The Ed Sullivan Show* and was in the films *Cabin in the Sky*, *Stormy Weather* and *The Cotton Club*.

Born in Savannah, Ga., he was trained to tap dance on the streets as a child. Roberts began dancing professionally at 14, and performed for the last time at 87 with the Copasetics in Europe.

DAVID DACKO, 76

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