

America. In 1985, Mr. Dietz was invited to return to Costa Rica to present a series of master classes at the Programa Juvenil of Costa Rica. In addition to his duties as professor of bassoon and chamber music at the University of Arizona, Mr. Dietz performs with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, and is principal bassoon of the Arizona Opera Orchestra, and the Flagstaff Festival of the Arts Orchestra. In 1986, Mr. Dietz presented a recital of contemporary works by American composers at the MTNA National Convention in Portland, Oregon, and appeared with the Arizona Wind Quintet at the MENC National Convention in Anaheim, California.

The reader is also referred to the articles: "Happy Birthday, Sol!" (*The Double Reed*, Vol. 13, No. 3, Winter, 1991, pp. 21-22), and "My Uncle Had a Radio: the Life Story of Sol Schoenbach as Told to the Students at Domaine Forget, June 21, 1995," transcribed from the video tape by Nadina Mackie Jackson (*The Double Reed*, Vol. 19, No. 1, Spring, 1996, pp. 13-20).

Honorary Members number fifteen and sixteen were elected to this position at the Conference in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in August, 1986. They were the distinguished American oboist **Robert Sprenkle** (1914-1988), and the venerable German bassoonist/composer **Victor Bruns** (1903-1996). Then Chair of the Honorary Membership Committee, Ed Lacy, and William Waterhouse, who had nominated Victor Bruns, filed the following reports in the Fall, 1986 (Vol. 9, No. 2, pp. 17-19) issue of *The Double Reed*:

#### New Honorary Members of the IDRS

*Ed Lacy, Evansville, Indiana*

At the 1986 Annual Meeting in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the IDRS conferred honorary membership upon oboist and teacher **Robert Sprenkle** and bassoonist and composer **Victor Bruns**.

Robert Sprenkle was born October 27, 1914. Upon graduation from high school, he received two college scholarship offers: from Carnegie-Mellon in engineering, and from the Eastman School of Music in oboe. Howard Hanson convinced him to enter Eastman, which he did in 1932. In 1936 he graduated with a Bachelor's degree and the Performer's Certificate. At Eastman, his teachers included Arthur Foreman and Robert Bloom, who was elected to honorary membership in IDRS in 1985.

Sprenkle joined the Eastman-Rochester Orchestra, now the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, in 1936 as 2nd oboist and English hornist.

The following year he became principal oboist, a position he held until 1985, for a total tenure in the orchestra of 49 years.

He also was professor of oboe at the Eastman School of Music from 1937-1982. Many of his former students now hold positions in major orchestras in the U.S. and abroad.

He co-authored with David Ledet *The Art of Oboe Playing*, one of the most widely-used books of its type.

Mr. Sprenkle's solo recordings have been issued by RCA, Columbia and Mercury records.

Bob has not quite retired, as he will be teaching at Ithaca College on a sabbatical replacement in 1986-87.

For biographical information on Victor Bruns, see the following article by William Waterhouse.

(William Waterhouse provided a nice article entitled "Victor Bruns", which appeared in the Fall, 1986 (Vol. 9, No. 2, pp. 18-19) issue of *The Double Reed*. It is reprinted below.)

#### Victor Bruns

*William Waterhouse*

On a recent visit to East Berlin I had the pleasure of meeting the composer and bassoonist Victor Bruns, at 81 one of the distinguished "elder statesmen" of our fraternity.



*Unter den Linden, Berlin (East), 30th September, 1985. The author with Victor Bruns and four colleagues from the Staatskapelle. L to R: Herbert Heilmann (principal), Holger Straube (asst. principal [prize-winner at Munich in 1984 and 1985]), William Waterhouse, Victor Bruns, Ottfried Bienert (contra) and Herr Erkens (bassoon, retired).*

While there have been a number of bassoonists who have composed a solo repertory for themselves (Ozi, Jacobi, Jancourt for example), Bruns' achievement in having combined a busy career of professional playing with the composition of a large number of major works of all kinds, as well as an impressive number of works for his own instrument, is surely