

Obituaries

Local, national and international

Maria Telkes, Hungarian-American solar-energy advocate and pioneer

By Wolfgang Saxon

The New York Times

Maria Telkes, an advocate of putting the sun's energy to use and one of the first researchers to do so in an experimental residence, died Dec. 2 in Budapest on her first visit to her native Hungary in 70 years. She was 95 and lived in North Miami, Fla.

News of her death was relayed by Hungarian-Americans last week.

Ms. Telkes also developed a solar saltwater still for the Navy in World War II, which saved the lives of torpedoed sailors and downed airmen. She spent many years experimenting with solar-powered stoves that were simple and cheap enough for use by vil-

lagers in poor regions.

She also worked on an air-conditioning system in the 1970s that stored "coolness" at night for use the next day. The idea was to reduce power demand during hot spells and lower the risk of electrical brownouts and blackouts.

Born in Budapest, Ms. Telkes received a doctorate in physical chemistry at the University of Budapest, where she started her ca-

reer as an instructor. She came to the United States in 1925 to visit a cousin, who was then the Hungarian consul in Cleveland, and stayed when the Cleveland Clinic Foundation hired her as a biophysicist.

She worked there for 12 years under George Crile. In a series of experiments, they invented a photoelectric mechanism capable of recording brain waves.

Later, she carried out research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, New York University, the University of Pennsylvania and other schools. She retired in 1977 as a senior scientist at University of Delaware but remained active as a consultant until about three years ago.

In the 1940s, she and architect Eleanor Raymond built the first solar-heated home.

■ **CHARLES LEROY BANNON**, 29, of Wheat Ridge died Aug. 8 in Denver. Services were Aug. 12, with burial at Quail Mountain Ranch, Twin Lakes. Mr. Bannon was born in Leadville on Oct. 12, 1966. He was a corporal in the Marine Corps. He earned several certificates and honors including the Meritorious Defense Service Medal. He worked for Systems Contractors as an ironworker. He was a wrestling referee and a member of the U.S. Wrestling Federation. Survivors include his mother and stepfather, Reva and Robert Wood of Wheat Ridge; father Ebben of Wheat Ridge; sisters Pamela Kline of Arizona, Peggy Micklich of Alamosa, Patricia Risener of Michigan; grandmother Dorothy Reininger of Denver; stepbrothers and step-sisters.

Colorado Springs Water Department. Survivors include his wife; daughter Margaret Duft of Missouri; sons Eddie of Canon City, Steve Arbuckle of Littleton; sisters Geraldine and Marian, both of Kansas, Glenyce of Idaho; two grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

■ **THOMAS E. DONAHOE**, 75, of Denver died July 19. Services were July 24, with burial in Sioux Falls, S.D. Mr. Donahoe was born in Sioux Falls on Sept. 4, 1920. He served in the Army for four years. He worked in car sales until retirement, when he moved to Denver to be near his son. Survivors include son Dan of Denver; brother Dennis of Nebraska; sisters Dorothy Daugherty of Sioux Falls, Mary Bott of Washington.

Denver. Mother of God Catholic Church and Denver Country Club. She was a board member of Sands House Association and Mount Airy Auxiliary. She was vice president of Dental Foundation of Colorado, Central City Opera House Association and Ladies Auxiliary of the Denver Medical Association. Survivors include her son John Hyer III of Washington; daughter Margaret Ann Hyer of Denver; two grandchildren.

■ **JOSEPH P. ERHART**, 66, of Denver died Aug. 8. Services were Aug. 10, with burial at Mount Olivet Cemetery. Mr. Erhart was born in Denver on Oct. 20, 1929. He married Marilyn L. Winter, 1950. He joined the police force in 1961, was an original member of the arson squad of the

AWAY, 84, of Ciudad Acuna, Mexico, died Aug. 4 in Denver. Services were Aug. 5. Mr. Gannaway was born in Hermleigh, Texas, on Aug. 22, 1911. He was an agriculturist. Survivors include his wife Yolisma; daughters Emily Willecke of Minnesota, Janet Gibas of Englewood, Berta of Mexico; sons Tom of Oregon, Ken of California; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

■ **LUCILLE A. GERBER**, 77, of Englewood died Aug. 14. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16, at St. Louis Church, 3310 S. Sherman St., with burial at Mount Olivet Cemetery. Mrs. Gerber was born in Chicago on Jan. 6, 1919. Survivors include her daughters Charene Woody and Jo Denny, both of Littleton, Maureen Gerard of Morrison; son

Schools and was a gandy dancer on the railroad. Survivors include his wife; daughters Jeanne Thompson of Arvada, Jill Nauman of Michigan; son Glen; sister Thelma Fomer of Monument; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

■ **AARON M. RIDGEWAY**, 79, of Pulaski, N.Y., formerly of Denver, died Aug. 7. Burial was at Fort Logan National Cemetery. Mr. Ridgeway was born on June 27, 1917. He served in the 82nd Airborne Division during World War II. He was a member of the Masons. Survivors include daughters Evelyn Secrest of Denver, Suzanna Lightenfield of New York, Billie Hyland of Washington; sons Richard, Matthew, Gilbert and James, all of New York.

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Maria Telkes, 95, an Innovator Of Varied Uses for Solar Power

By WOLFGANG SAXON

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News of her death was relayed by members of the Hungarian community in this country last week.

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istry at the University of Budapest, where she started her career as an instructor. She came to the United States in 1925 to visit a cousin, who was then the Hungarian consul in Cleveland, and stayed when the Cleveland Clinic Foundation hired her as a biophysicist.

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Later, she carried out research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, New York University and the University of Pennsylvania, among others. She retired in 1977 as a senior scientist at the University of Delaware but remained active as a consultant until about three years ago.

In the 1940's she teamed up with an architect, Eleanor Raymond, to build the first solar-heated home.

Using a chemical that crystalized and retained the heat and then radiated it to keep a constant temperature. The plant used no auxiliary power source but still kept the five-room home in Dover, Mass., cozy through the winter.