

## Günther Plass retires

Günther Plass - planning for 'the tomorrow after tomorrow'

After a 39-year career, Günther Plass retired from CERN at the end of May. He arrived at the new Laboratory in 1956 while the PS was under construction and preparations for its magnet ring were in full swing. With the PS in operation, attention turned to physics requirements. With Berend Kuiper, Plass developed a fast ejection system for protons to bombard an external target and manufacture secondary beams. In 1965 he went on to lead the construction of a PS neutrino area which was to become the scene of CERN's first major physics achievement, the discovery of neutral currents in 1973. He then turned to the construction of the Linac 2 injector which ensured a plentiful supply of particles and prepared the ground for new projects. At the same time he was influential in ensuring that CERN's next machine, the SPS, would be built on the CERN site rather than somewhere else in Europe. During SPS construction he was PS representative on John Adams' SPS design committee. Later in the 1970s, with the advent of CERN's antiproton scheme, he pushed plans for the LEAR low energy ring. Turning from LEAR to a much larger machine, LEP, he played a vital role in deciding its definitive configuration, reducing its planned circumference from 30 to 27 kilometres and building it on a slant to minimize tunneling under the Jura mountains. This smoothed the way for LEP approval by Council in 1981, when he was appointed deputy to LEP Project Leader Emilio Picasso. In 1983 he became leader of the new LEP division. With the 27-kilometre ring which assured CERN's future complete, in 1990 he became Director of Accelerators. At a special retirement event on 24 May, Emilio Picasso paid tribute to Plass' contributions to LEP, from initial planning through construction and installation to final arbitration with contractors. Acknowledging his colleagues' tributes, Plass characteristically looked to the future, underlining the importance of planning for 'the tomorrow after tomorrow'.

