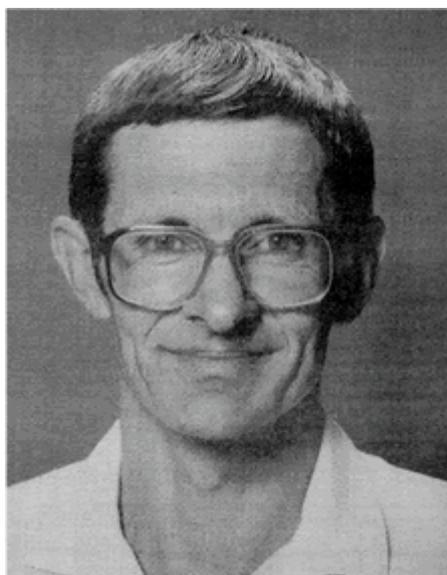


## ***CENTREFOLD***

### **Professor George Seber**



George is accomplished in many areas. He has published papers in mathematical and statistical areas as diverse as Linear Algebra and Blood Genetics. Indeed, he also writes popular articles on theology and the nature of science. His papers on the estimation of animal numbers have made a very significant contribution to the research literature in this area. In particular, his "Estimation of Animal Abundance", now in its second edition, is the standard work in the field. He is perhaps best known to the broad spectrum of statisticians around the world for his series of important graduate and research level texts, from his 1966 monograph on the Linear Hypothesis, through "Linear Regression Analysis" in 1976 and "Multivariate Observations" in 1984, to "Nonlinear Regression" (with Chris Wild) in 1989.

Yet another research monograph on Adaptive Sampling (with Steve Thompson) is nearing completion. George has always been interested in other fields of Mathematics as well. With his background in Linear Models he has become an authority on Linear Algebra. He has published theoretical papers in this area and has begun work on a new book which will be a compendium of results in Matrix Theory, conceived as a tool for helping research workers in other disciplines.

When George first arrived in Auckland in 1965 he was the only full-time statistician at the university. From the beginning he threw himself into building up Statistics, his efforts culminating in the founding of the Statistics Unit which he heads and which now has a full-time academic staff of twelve. Although teaching extremely heavy loads, and initially carrying virtually all statistics teaching himself, he became involved in many outside activities as representative and missionary for Mathematics and Statistics. He was involved, for instance, in University Extension Courses, syllabus committees and teacher refresher courses for Mathematics and Statistics in secondary schools, a committee of the New Zealand Institute of Architects and the Research Advisory Committee of the Cancer Society. In addition he has been an active statistical consultant both inside the University and for

outside organizations. All of this went hand in hand with his writing and the increasingly heavy burden of nursing his late wife Pat, who died in 1985.

As well as being a first-rate teacher, George has been an active mathematical administrator. He was a very efficient Head of the Mathematics Department for six years from 1975 to 1981. During this time he greatly streamlined administrative procedures, built unity in a department made up of disparate natural groupings, and acted as midwife to the birth of the Computer Science Department.

This year has been a good one for George, with his recent marriage to Jean McDermott and the start of new interests in Sampling and Financial Mathematics. We look forward to reading his definitive treatments of both subjects shortly.

*Alastair Scott and Chris Wild*