Some Information about the Lehmer-Family

The professional careers of the Lehmer Family have been intimately tied to the University of California at Berkeley for a century. Derrick Norman Lehmer joined the mathematics faculty at Berkeley in 1900, and later served as Chair of the Department. Son Derrick Henry (Dick, as he was known to friends and family) received a bachelor's degree in Physics at Berkeley, and later continued the Berkeley tradition of the family as professor and Chair of the Mathematics Department. Emma Trotskaia received her B.A. degree in Mathematics from Berkeley with honors in 1928, and met her future husband through his father, her employer in the Mathematics Department.

Emma

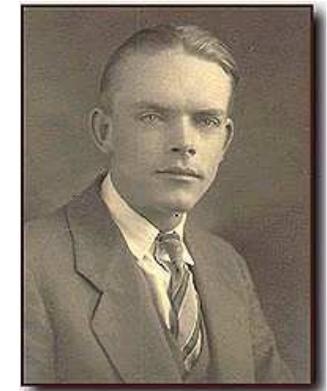**Derrick Norman**

Derrick Henry

Through the years, the Lehmers individually made fundamental contributions in many areas of mathematics. In addition many of their contributions, for instance in the areas of number theory, computational mathematics, and Fermat's Last Theorem, were the result of close, collaborative efforts among the them. The Lehmers helped to bring mathematics from pen on paper into the computer era through a series of machines they designed to automatically compute prime numbers. The mechanisms ranged from an early version utilizing a bicycle chain, then electricity, and they later harnessed a computer discarded by the University. Automation enabled calculations far beyond what had been possible before.

Derrick Norman was a creative man of wide interests. He did not limit himself to mathematics, but led his family in an active exploration of music, poetry, and theater. The Lehmers traveled extensively throughout the Southwest as Derrick Norman pursued a personal interest in Native American music and culture.

Derrick Henry and Emma Lehmer worked together as a team for sixty years, influencing many through their broad knowledge and expertise in mathematics, as well as their sociability. They founded the West Coast Number Theory Meeting in 1969, an annual meeting which still continues, and which has been as popular a forum on research as a friendly, informal get-together of like minds.