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**Autobiography of Vincent Schaefer to be Published;  
Cloud Seeding Inventor was Key Scientist at early GE Labs and Founder of SUNY's ASRC**

SCHENECTADY, NY -- The autobiography of Schenectady's own Vincent Schaefer, known worldwide for his invention of cloud seeding while at GE, and later as a founder and director of the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center at the University at Albany, is about to be published. *Serendipity in Science: Twenty Years at Langmuir University* covers Schaefer's entire life and career, from his earliest work at the legendary General Electric Research Laboratories, to the local history and environmental projects he was conducting decades after retiring from the ASRC. Schaefer's memoir includes historic and personal photographs from both his personal life and work, and is supplemented by memories and stories about Schaefer submitted by friends, family, and former professional colleagues. The published work was compiled and edited by Schenectady historian Don Rittner, and is scheduled for release in April by Capital Region publisher Square Circle Press. It will retail for \$26.95 and will be available at local bookstores and national chains, through online retailers such as Amazon.com, and on the publisher's web site ([www.SquareCirclePress.com](http://www.SquareCirclePress.com)).

When Vincent Schaefer (1906-1993) left high school in 1922 at the age of 16 to help support his family, little did he know that he was about to embark upon one of the most astounding careers in the world of science. Beginning as an apprentice instrument maker at the legendary General Electric Research Laboratory, Vince was soon called upon by Nobel Prize-winning chemist Dr. Irving Langmuir to be his laboratory assistant. Thus began a 20-year collaboration that led to Vince earning eighteen patents, hundreds of publications, and three honorary doctoral degrees. His independent research, aided by the process of "serendipity," led to his invention of cloud seeding, preservation of ice crystals, advanced television tubes, and other instruments and techniques that advanced several fields of scientific inquiry. When he left the GE Labs in the 1950s, he became Director of Research for the Munitalp Foundation, and later was a co-founder and Director of the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center at the University at Albany (New York).

A naturalist and avid hiker since his youth, Vince was instrumental in studying, conserving and establishing many of upstate New York's natural preserves and trails, and was the visionary who originally conceived of the Long Path, a hiking trail running from New York City to his beloved Adirondack Mountains. He was the founder of both the Mohawk Valley Hiking Club and the Schenectady Wintersports Club, where he established the nation's first Ski Patrol, and made Gore Mountain into a skiing destination. His natural curiosity as a boy led him into archaeological and historical field research later in life, where he focused on such subjects as the old Erie Canal and the preservation of Dutch Barns across the state.

*Serendipity in Science* will be released on April 7, 2013 and is expected to arrive in book stores by April 21st. Any libraries or retailers interested in the book are encouraged to contact Square Circle Press or one of its distributors.

**Serendipity in Science: Twenty Years at Langmuir University**

**An Autobiography by Vincent J. Schaefer, ScD**

(Compiled and Edited by Don Rittner)

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