

GENERAL SCIENCE

Truman Sees STS Group

President tells winners that they face a peaceful world over the next century and that it will be their turn some day to make that peaceful world operate.

See Front Cover

► PRESIDENT TRUMAN predicted peace in the world during the next 100 years when he received the winners of the Eleventh Annual Science Talent Search.

Text of Remarks

Following is the text of Mr. Truman's remarks to the high school seniors during their visit with him in the Rose Garden of the White House:

I want to congratulate these young people on being the prizewinners in this great undertaking they are going through. The country needs them, and it is going to need them worse in the coming generation than

it needs them now. And the more important science becomes, the more necessary it is to have people who know how to take advantage of the opportunity.

I think you young people are faced with the greatest age in history. I am an optimist, and I rather think we are going to have a peaceful world over the next century, and it will be your turn some day to make that world operate. And I am more than happy to see that you are preparing yourselves for that purpose.

I am glad you are here. I hope you will enjoy your visit and that you will learn a lot about the United States and its govern-

ment and its relations with the other countries in the world, which is most important for you to know.

Science News Letter, March 8, 1952

METEOROLOGY

Weather Bureau Service Not Adequate for Jets

► THE U. S. Weather Bureau is not now equipped to give adequate service to pilots flying in a jet age.

Out-of-date and insufficient equipment handicaps the Bureau in performing the job of telling jet pilots about weather conditions at the 40,000-foot levels where they travel. Funds have not been forthcoming from Congress to replace the old equipment.

The U. S. Air Force's Air Weather Service is farther along in the job, but only because it has an easier time getting the appropriations from Congress.

Commercial jet transports are not expected to start operating in the United for another four or five years. If more and better equipment is not provided so the Weather Bureau can find out what is going on at 40,000 feet and up, the Bureau may not be ready when the airlines are.

"On clear days," one Weather Bureau official told SCIENCE SERVICE, "we can do a good job. But the minute clouds cover the skies, we are handicapped."

He explained that the speed of winds at 40,000 feet, a piece of information vital to jet pilots, is now usually estimated by watching a balloon with the naked eye. When clouds roll by, he went on, the observers now have to depend on a few out-dated radar sets, left over from World War II.

If the wind is going too fast, these are not adequate because the balloons on which the radar sets are trained blow out of range before they can get up high enough.

Science News Letter, March 8, 1952

INVENTION

Fire Protection System Draws off Dangerous Fumes

► DANGEROUS FUMES from a fire sometimes kill more people than the fire itself. This is the basis for the invention of a new method to draw off the fumes, thus preventing them from spreading from the fire through all parts of large buildings.

The inventors, James Dunlop, Camp Gaw, N. J., and Edwin F. Durang, West Orange, N. J. received patent 2,586,797 for their invention. Half rights have been assigned to the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, East Pittsburgh, Pa., and the other half to the Otis Elevator Company, New York.

The invention consists of a series of ducts, placed so they will catch fumes traveling through openings, such as doorways, stairwells, or elevator shafts. Exhaust fans eject the fumes into the open air.

Science News Letter, March 8, 1952

BIOLOGY

Better Lake Swimming

► SMALL LAKES may soon be made more pleasant for summer swimming through the use of a chemical that controls the bloom of blue-green algae. These algae are responsible for many of the unpleasant effects of heavy summer growth in lakes.

Extremely small doses of the chemical, which is 2,3-dichloronaphtho-quinone, will kill the bloom-producing algae, but leave other plant growth in the lake untouched. The compound was found by University of Wisconsin botanists Dr. Folke Skoog, George Fitzgerald and Gerald C. Gerloff when they tested more than 300 substances looking for a substitute for copper sulfate, now commonly used as a lake algicide. They will report their results next July in the journal, SEWAGE AND INDUSTRIAL WASTES.

The chemical is apparently harmless to fish and other organisms in the water. Additional tests, however, must be made to determine its effect on fish and aquatic plants after long exposure. Unlike copper sulfate, the quinone chemical will not form a permanent toxic deposit in the bottom mud of a lake.

The search for a selective algae killer became possible after methods for culturing blue-green algae species in the laboratory had been worked out.

To learn the algae-killing qualities of the chemical under field conditions, the scientists carried out several initial experiments in lakes near Madison.

Further tests will also be made to find the dosage, time, frequency and manner for the most effective treatment of lakes. The research was financed by the Wiscon-

sin Alumni Research Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

Science News Letter, March 8, 1952



ALGAE-FREE WATER — Gerald Gerloff (left) and George Fitzgerald of the University of Wisconsin botany department inspect water samples from two lagoons of Lake Waubesa, near Madison, Wis., the first of which was treated with the new algicide for 48 hours and the second of which remained untreated.