

## GENERAL SCIENCE

# Winners of Scholarships

## GRAND SCHOLARSHIP OF \$2,800

Greenleaf, Frederick Paul, Allentown, Pa.

## \$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP AND ALTERNATE FOR \$2,800

Hable, Kathleen Anne, Marshfield, Wis.

## ALTERNATE TO THE \$2,000

Aandahl, Vaughan Allan, Denver, Colo.

## SCHOLARSHIPS OF \$400

Aandahl, Vaughan Allan, Denver, Colo.  
Briggs, Thomas Stafford, San Francisco, Calif.  
Eichman, Charles Jetter, Audubon, N. J.  
Hoffmann, Roald, New York, N. Y.  
Marshall, Winston Stanley, Nashville, Tenn.  
Nergaard, David Karl, Princeton, N. J.  
Potter, James Emerson, Rockford, Ill.  
Wilson, Daniel Hughes, Kansas City, Kans.

## ALTERNATES

1st alt. Barth, Rolf Frederick, New York, N. Y.  
2nd alt. Shilling, A. Gary, Fremont, Ohio

## SCHOLARSHIPS OF \$100

Bachrach, David, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Barth, Rolf Frederick, New York, N. Y.  
Buccino, Robert Anthony, Fairfield, Conn.  
Fassnacht, Robert Earl, South Bend, Ind.

## AGRICULTURE

# Vampire Bats Pose Menace

► THE BLOOD-SUCKING vampire bats of eastern Mexico are becoming more and more a menace to humans and livestock each year. An effective method of controlling these frightening and hairy creatures may be all but impossible.

This is the conclusion of Walter W. Dalquest of Midwestern University, Wichita Falls, Texas, who has studied more than 10,000 vampires in their natural habitat.

Any control must be cheap and simple, Mr. Dalquest states. Fumigating, shooting, smoking or sealing up the mouths of caves are either too laborious or too expensive.

One possible control, which Mr. Dalquest says should be investigated, is painting crude oil or creosote on the necks and cheeks of horses and cattle.

The investigator makes this suggestion because the vampire bats of eastern Mexico usually bite burros, horses and cattle on the cheeks and necks, at the base of the ears or slightly below. Oxen are usually bitten on the cheeks, and chickens and turkeys on the legs just above the place where the feathers begin.

Human beings in Mexico, he adds, are usually bitten on the cheeks. Children are bitten far more often than adults, and women more often than men.

When the vampire bat attacks, it is a quick razor-like bite with no attempt to hold or chew. The food of the bats consists entirely of the blood of mammals and birds.

Fishman, Roberta Jane, Forest Hills, N. Y.  
Fleishhacker, David, Claremont, Calif.  
Foster, Edward John, Fairfield, Conn.  
Fried, Michael Martin, Forest Hills, N. Y.  
Harman, Mary Ella, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Harriman, John Edward, Appleton, Wis.  
Hartley, Alice Katherine, Bridgeport, Conn.  
Havey, James Halbert Jr., Del Paso Heights, Calif.

Hawkins, Carol Irene, So. Charleston, W. Va.  
Kalnajs, Agris Janis, Newtonville, Mass.  
Kripke, Bernard Robert, New Rochelle, N. Y.  
Levine, Stephen Samuel, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
MacDonald, John Lauchlin, University, Miss.  
Myers, Carol Elnora, Canastota, N. Y.  
Penney, David Emory, Jackson, Miss.  
Reed, Jack Donald, Evanston, Ill.  
Rosen, Michael Ira, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Shilling, A. Gary, Fremont, Ohio  
Sommerfeld, Martin David, Evanston, Ill.  
Stone, John William, Charleston, W. Va.  
Tate, Patricia Ann, Greenville, Ill.  
Tollman, Janet, Omaha, Nebr.  
Vaughan, Maurice Hamilton Jr., Wilmington, N. C.

Webb, Stephen Richard, Urbana, Ill.  
Webster, Norman Adelbert III, Trenton, N. J.  
Williams, Lawrence Ernest, Youngstown, Ohio  
Addresses are locations of the schools from which entries were made.

Science News Letter, March 12, 1955

They are a menace to man and animal because they are thought to spread disease, cause a loss of blood which may result in death and, in some cases, a running bat wound will be infected by bacteria or parasitic insect larvae. It is thought that in Trinidad, Panama and South America, they carry rabies and such cattle diseases as foot and mouth.

Crude oil or creosote might provide a control, because "vampires are so adapted to feeding on domestic animals at the present time that actual protection of livestock might result in wholesale starvation of the bats."

Mr. Dalquest reported the results of his study of vampire bats to *The American Midland Naturalist* (Jan.).

Science News Letter, March 12, 1955

## PHYSIOLOGY

## One Puff on Cigarette Starts Postnasal Drip

► A SINGLE puff on the average cigarette starts globules of mucus forming at the back of the nose and throat, Dr. Mervin C. Myerson, throat specialist, reported in *California Medicine* (Feb.).

This can be seen by an instrument, called a pharyngoscope, that lets the doctor look into this part of the throat. And it explains why "all smokers have postnasal drip."

Science News Letter, March 12, 1955

## ● RADIO

Saturday, March 19, 1955, 5:00-5:15 p.m. EST  
"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the CBS Radio Network. Check your local CBS station.

Dr. Otto Struve, professor of astronomy, University of California, Berkeley, Calif., and director of Leuschner Observatory, will discuss "News of the Universe."

## MEDICINE

## Test Detects Measles Five Days Before Rash

► A SIMPLE test that will detect measles as early as five days before the rash appears is announced by Drs. Victor Tompkins and John C. Macaulay of the New York State Health Department and Albany Medical College, Albany, N. Y., in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Feb. 26).

The test is made on mucus taken from the back of the nose. During the pre-rash, "catching" stage of measles a special type of cell can be found in this nasal mucus and in sputum when examined under the microscope.

The cells were not found in patients with colds, hay fever or other allergy, German measles and other rashes.

The test has not been used enough to be sure of its reliability but the Albany doctors think it encouraging enough to warrant trial by other physicians.

Science News Letter, March 12, 1955

SCIENCE TALENT INSTITUTE SCENES — *Left side, beginning at top: Four of the top 40 competitors for Westinghouse Scholarships share a joke with President Eisenhower; Congresswoman Marguerite Stitt Church (R-Ill.) at banquet with two competitors; 12 top winners with Donald A. Quarles, assistant secretary of defense; Dr. S. W. Herwald of Westinghouse Electric Corp., and Dr. Leonard Carmichael, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, show young scientists a radar device.*

*Right side, beginning at top: Dr. I. I. Rabi of Columbia University, Sir Hugh S. Taylor of Princeton University and Dr. William H. Sebrell, director of the National Institutes of Health talk to some of the competitors; Watson Davis, director of Science Service and Mr. Quarles congratulate the top three winners; young scientists see electron microscope at Bureau of Standards demonstrated by Dr. R. S. Roth; and three former STS winners, Armand Brummer, Ray Schiff and Dr. Bernard Strebler, sitting at the right of the table, meet this year's group.*

