



LOUIS AGASSIZ: Pied Piper of Science

By Aylesa Forsee

Illustrated by Winifred Lubell

Louis Agassiz was born in 1807, son of the Protestant pastor of a small Swiss town. By the time he was fifteen years old his heart and mind were fixed on a career as naturalist and writer, but the family income was too limited to provide the necessary training. The unflagging ardor and firmness of purpose with which he surmounted this difficulty was to bring him to brilliant success not only in fulfilling his original ambition, but in becoming as well physician, geologist, lecturer, museum curator, and—perhaps most important—teacher. \$4.00

SATELLITE OF THE SUN

By Athelstan Spilhaus

Illustrated with Photographs

This introduction to the physics of the earth, by the Dean of the Institute of Technology at the University of Minnesota, deals with "the bulk of the earth, from the rocky substance on the surface right down to the hot liquid metal center," with the water on our planet's surface, and the atmosphere beyond. It includes such subjects as meteors and meteorites; airglow; cosmic rays; the earth's origin, size, and shape; the landscape at the bottom of the ocean; how the two ends of the earth differ; and why the poles are important. \$3.50

AN ADVENTURE IN ASTRONOMY

By Kenneth Heuer

Illustrated with Photographs

Written by a former lecturer in astronomy at the American Museum-Hayden Planetarium, this book describes the heavens as they appear from strategic places around the world—New York City; Helsinki, Finland; Longyear City, West Spitsbergen; the North Pole; the South Pole; Wellington, New Zealand; and Quito, Ecuador. Constellations unfamiliar to us—Crux, the Southern Cross, for example, and Musca the Fly—are clearly defined, and excellent photographs supplement the accounts of such wonders as the zodiacal light, the aurora borealis, and the midnight sun. \$3.50

THE VIKING PRESS

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GENERAL SCIENCE

Destination: 1975

Trips to scientific centers and meetings are arranged and financed by national groups for outstanding students whose scientific potential is recognized through science fairs.

► THE JOURNEY of today's student-scientists toward their future involves a good deal of traveling around, which suggests that the most direct route to their destination as full-fledged scientists is via side trips with stop-overs to look around.

In a very real sense these young travelers are exploring new territory. The new land they see is not unexplored wilderness frontier, but an even more exciting domain where revolutionary truths are discovered and working scientists experiment with highly original ideas.

For 17 years high school seniors, judged the 40 annual winners in the Science Talent Search for the Westinghouse Science Scholarships and Awards, have been converging on Washington, D. C., in early spring. They come for the Science Talent Institute's unique experience of talking with eminent scientists, observing science in action in some of the nation's finest laboratories, and discovering the intensely satisfying stimulation of sharing ideas with each other.

Teen-Age Travelers

For nine years hundreds of promising teen-aged scientists have been traveling by plane, train, boat, bus and car to the National Science Fair, held in a different section of the country each May. More than 1,000 have made the trip to date. Of the ones now in college, more than 90% of those reporting their present status are majoring in science, engineering or education. Of those reporting that they are now employed, 92% are working in various scientific specialties. A dozen or more of them have published scientific papers.

Both the Science Talent Search and the National Science Fair are conducted by Science Clubs of America, an activity of SCIENCE SERVICE.

It may very well be 1975 before the American Medical Association and the U. S. Army, Navy and Air Force will know how many Nobelists they have helped to stimulate among 1958's teen-aged scientists. Nevertheless, they are already preparing their 1959 cooperative activities with the National Science Fair to help still another group of students.

The American Medical Association pioneered such professional cooperation with the National Science Fair when it chose two winners and two honorable mentions at the Fair in 1956. Each June the two winners are guests of the AMA at its annual meeting where they are introduced to the nation's doctors and are featured exhibitors among the hundreds of medical specialists who are also presenting the results of their research.

This year Clare L. Chatland, 16, of Missoula, Mont., and David R. Brown, 15, of St. Louis Park, Minn., were the AMA winners. Clare's description of the trip to San Francisco for the annual meeting includes such phrases as: "These people were absolutely wonderful . . . helped me decide for or against those things I had taken for granted . . . offered many chances for scholarships . . . decided to go into medicine, while before I was wavering between medicine and mathematics . . . met truly great and successful men . . . Someday, through work, maybe I will be that way."

David's enthusiasm matched Clare's. He reports: "I saw inside the medical profession and observed just how scientific it can become . . . introduced me to many people who will play an important part in my future . . . brought me self-confidence, which is something I needed very much . . . Exhibits in the scientific assembly and the reprints given out by the exhibitors provide a great source of ideas for future experimentation."

Barbara Ann Conway, 16, of Chattanooga, Tenn., who received the girl's AMA Honorable Mention Citation this year for her research in experimental teratology, had a very special trip. At the invitation of Dr. Hans Selye, world-famed for his work on stress as a basic cause of disease, Barbara worked in Dr. Selye's laboratories at the Institute of Experimental Medicine and Surgery at the University of Montreal. She was permitted to perform surgery herself while at Montreal.

September "Cruisers"

This September, 128 high school boys, designated as Navy Science Cruisers at regional science fairs and the National Science Fair, sailed from east and west coast naval bases for several days of firsthand study of modern science on U. S. Navy vessels. Ichiro Matsubara, finalist at the National Science Fair from the Japanese science fair, was given a ten-day cruise from Tokyo on the U.S.S. Princeton, as winner of the Navy's Special Category Award at the national fair.

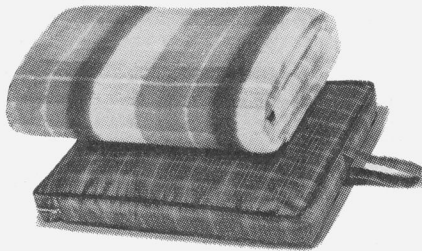
The American Cruisers returned "filled with fresh knowledge" as Ichiro is reported to have been.

In June two winners and two alternates chosen by the Air Force at the national fair were the guests of Maj. Gen. Stanley T. Wray, Commander of Wright Air Development Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Arrangements also were made for them to visit the Air Research and Development Command's Air Force Arma-

(Continued on page 366)

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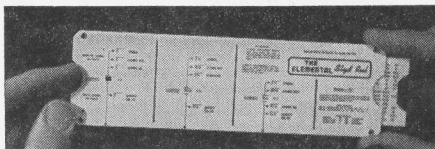
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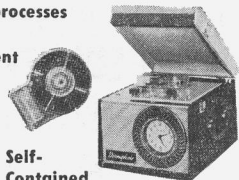
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Destination: 1975

(Continued from page 358)

ment Center at Elgin Air Force Base, Florida, to see a demonstration of new weapon systems. This fall, one of the alternates, William E. Kirchmeier, Jr., of Bismarck, N. D., represented the other three honorees at the annual meeting of the Air Force Association.

The Army took its three winners and three alternates on Army science trips to installations particularly relevant to their individual interests. The boys who visited the Army Ballistic Missile Agency at Huntsville, Ala., were impressed by their discussions with Dr. Werner Von Braun and their reports included: "I have a standing invitation to work here summers and then full time . . . received ideas on how to design and test a large scale scientific project . . . strengthened my ideas about a scientific career."

Inspiration for Medical Research

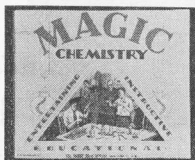
The trip to the Army Medical Center in Washington, D. C., inspired: "I hope to be able to work here at Walter Reed where so many experts in every medical field 'walk with kings and keep the common touch' . . . reinforced my decision to enter medical or zoological research . . . learned many new concepts and new methods . . . a dream come true in its opportunities to evaluate medical research as a career." (One of these boys was accepted for early admission to Yale University.)

The Jet Propulsion Laboratories at Pasadena, Calif., were described in terms of: "Really great . . . such things as an actual static test of a rocket, the instrumentation used in rockets, and the wind tunnels impressed me the most . . . not only knowledge about the operation of a certain rocket but, perhaps more important, the knowledge that men engaged in work that I someday hope to do, have faith and hope in me and the work that I have done and hope to do in the future."

To that statement there is really nothing to be added in summing up the effects of science side trips on the journey toward Destination: 1975!

Science News Letter, December 6, 1958

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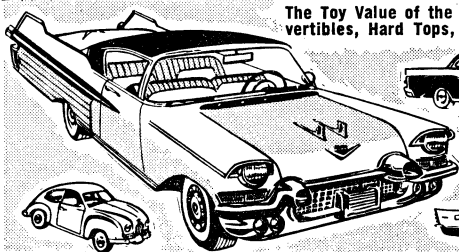
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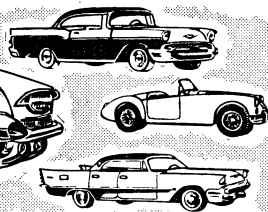
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