

GENERAL SCIENCE

Science Fair in Sweden

Newest foreign fair has five sections, with technical societies and industry cooperating, and is sending its first finalist to the National Science Fair-International.

► SWEDEN'S first youth science fair has selected a mathematician as its top winner, Anders Brahme, a third-year student in Stockholm's Bromma High School.

He took to the National Science Fair-International at Albuquerque, N. Mex., a differential analyzer with two integrators that he built himself. There it competed with some 400 other winning exhibits from 46 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

The Swedish fair was held in five sections in the regions of Gothenburg, Linköping, Malmö, Stockholm and Sundsvall, and the best entries, totaling 26 from the various regions, were brought to Stockholm for national judging at Sweden's Museum of Science and Industry (Tekniska Museet).

The Swedish competition for youth in secondary and technical schools is sponsored by the Technical Museum and the Technical Journal *Industria* to stimulate interest and participation in science activities, supplementing the regular class work in science which forms an important part of Swedish education.

"Swedish young people have every possibility of competing with the rest of the world in their scientific and technical abilities," Dr. Sigvard Strandh, director of the Technical Museum, declared at the judging of the winning exhibits. Dr. Strandh, who was formerly science attaché of the Swedish Embassy in Washington, directed the new Swedish fair. Its activities have many of the features of the extensive structure of science youth fairs that in the past two decades have spread all over the United States under the sponsorship of SCIENCE SERVICE.

The Swedish science fair is called "Unga Forskare," which means "young researchers."

So far boys only have entered the fair but in the future years it is expected that girls too will participate.

Technical societies and industries, and in the cases of the fairs outside Stockholm, newspapers, are sponsoring the science fairs.

The Swedish youth interest today in science and technology recalls the long history of science and technological development in Sweden over the past centuries. The Swedish Museum of Science and Industry has important collections showing the development of many ideas and inventions that have spread all over the world and are basic to many Swedish manufactured products.

The Swedish science fair is the first fair organized by and in a European country that has affiliated with the National Science Fair-International.

Dr. Watson Davis as director of the National Science Fair-International visited Sweden to inaugurate its first science fair.

Other Foreign Participation

Foreign participation in the NSF-I in addition to the new Swedish fair is as follows:

The American Schools in Europe were represented by Jolynne Strang, Paris American H.S., Garches, France; and Alfred Toberer of Kaiserslautern, Germany. Canada was represented by Murray Aspdin and William Richardson of Nelson H.S., Burlington, Ontario; and Paul Toth, Welland High and Vocational School, Welland, Ontario. Japan finalists were Takashi Matsuda of Funabashi Prefectural H.S., Funabashi City; and Satoko Sumi of Marugame H.S., Marugame.

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Science Fairs Continue Rapid Expansion

► MORE THAN a million young science students in secondary schools made science projects and showed them in science fairs that have culminated in this year's National Science Fair-International held in Albuquerque, N. Mex.

The National Science Fair-International originated in 1950 with 13 affiliated fairs sending 30 finalists. It has grown to this year's 219 affiliated regional, state and national science fairs with 411 finalists. From its inception, the NSF-I has been administered by SCIENCE SERVICE, Washington, D. C.

A projection of reports from 68% of the affiliated fairs indicates that more than 1,100,000 student projects exhibited in fairs leading to the NSF-I were viewed by a public of over four million. The affiliated fairs, which serve as semi-finals, showed 64,240 projects to nearly two million visitors. In the United States alone, more than 15,000 schools held science fairs this spring.

Finalists at this year's NSF-I came from 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American schools in Germany and France, Canada, Japan, and Sweden.

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94% of NSF-I Exhibitors Plan Science Careers

► OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE who exhibited their outstanding science projects at the 14th National Science Fair-International at Albuquerque, N. Mex., 94% have planned future careers in science. Less than 3% look forward to careers in fields out-

side the sciences, while the remainder have made no choice at all.

Medical sciences attract the largest number for the second consecutive year, with 25%. This figure includes three future dentists, five aspiring nurses and veterinarians.

Engineering and physics tie for second choice, with 16% of the teen-aged finalists planning to enter each of these scientific fields. Biology claims 11%, while 10% plan to teach.

All of the future teachers in the group have specified science teaching except for three girls who will do elementary school teaching.

Other fields chosen are chemistry with 8% and mathematics with 4%. Psychology, archaeology, geology, astronomy, mineralogy and paleontology have a total of 4%.

The choices reported are those of the first 320 of over 400 entries.

Non-scientific careers mentioned included becoming a nun, writing, industrial management, orchestra conducting, composing and social work.

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Animals Have Medical Service at Science Fair

► VETERINARIANS provided around-the-clock medical service to all animals exhibited in the 14th National Science Fair-International held at Albuquerque, N. Mex.

This cooperation was arranged by the New Mexico Veterinary Medicine Association and Bernalillo County veterinarians.

The student exhibitors displaying projects involving animals each filed a certification that research was carried on under qualified adult supervision and in keeping with the requirements set forth by the National Society for Medical Research. Biological scientists supervised the research in each case.

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Science Fair Visitors Experiment With Food

► VISITORS to the science fairs at Archbold, Ohio, performed their own experiment—a gastronomic one.

Traditionally, an exotic food is served to all comers as a snack. This year the test food was Limfjord Mussels, a product of Denmark.

The first hurdle in the test was to persuade the visitors to sample the delicacy. Most of the adults liked the taste of the mussels and so did the young scientists whose exhibits competed for the Quadri-County Science Fair and the Greater Ohio Science Fair representation in the National Science Fair-International held in Albuquerque, N. Mex.

In past years rattlesnake meat, agave, blue whale, sea urchin paste, octopus and fried grasshoppers have been on the menu. More ate and liked the mussels than some of the food of previous years.

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