

GENERAL SCIENCE

Million Science Projects

It's science fair time throughout the land and a million boys and girls are showing their science projects. Baltimore will be the scene of the NSF-I May 5 to 9.

► IF THE LOCAL SCIENCE FAIR seemed bigger this year, if more of the neighborhood teen-agers were slaving over hot bunsen burners or tinkering with rockets, your community is typical.

Reports from science fairs affiliated with the National Science Fair-International indicate that one and a sixth million science projects were shown at local science fairs held preliminary to the regional and state science fairs. The proud parents, relatives, neighbors, the scientists and interested laymen, and the curious and the concerned visitors to these fairs numbered nearly four million.

For each 2,741 of these projects at the preliminary fairs, there will be a finalist at the National Science Fair-International in Baltimore May 5-9 hoping to be named best among the best, by the nearly 400 top scientists who will split hairs and make agonizing decisions before announcing the results of their judging.

The 222 regional and state science fairs affiliated with the NSF-I are cooperative efforts, backed by schools, colleges, professional societies, business and industry, and even in one area by the United Fund drive. Nationally, the NSF-I is conducted by SCIENCE SERVICE, with host city sponsors this year being the Kiwanis Club of North Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University and The Martin Company.

The NSF-I rotates each year, and is slated for St. Louis, Dallas, San Francisco, and Detroit from 1965 through 1968 respectively. The 1969 site will be determined by the National Science Fair Advisory Council during this year's event.

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Began at Age Six Months

► MOST of the finalists at the 15th National Science Fair-International report having become interested in science quite early in life, but Kenneth A. Smith, 16, of Waco, Texas, tops them all.

At the age of six months, Kenneth says, he "used" a soldering iron. Furthermore, he can prove it. He still bears the scars from that significant event on his left leg. So, for source of his first science interest he either blames or credits his "parents and home atmosphere."

The mark of that first scientific experience was indelible. Kenneth has continued his science interest through the years and now has won his way through the Central Texas Regional Science Fair to the national level with a radio frequency amplifier designed for operation throughout a very wide frequency range without tuning.

Now a sophomore at University High School in Waco, Kenneth plans a career as

a mathematician. His interests include amateur radio, judo, drama and speech.

His father, Logan D. Smith, is a retired biology professor. His mother also is a teacher.

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Studies Dreaming Habits

► A GIRL from Sleepy Eye, Minn., will show her study of the dreaming habits of high school students at the 15th National Science Fair-International.

Nancy Fering, 16, a junior at Sleepy Eye High School, surveyed the dreams of 350 fellow students in grades 7-12 and then compared her results with those of professional research in the field.

Naturally enough, she plans a career in psychology. Nancy is active in her science club, in drama, journalism, music, church groups and is an assistant hospital librarian and still finds time for water sports in the Land of Sky Blue Waters.

Her father, C. H. Fering, is an automobile dealer while her mother works as school librarian.

Nancy is a finalist from the Southwestern Minnesota Regional Science Fair which was held in Mankato.

She first became interested in science when she was 12, as a result of her school studies.

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Radiation Projects

► A GEORGIA GIRL and a Kentucky boy have won trips to Baltimore where they will enter their projects on radiation effects.

June Moore, 16, of Americus, Ga., found in her experimentation that even limited exposure of luna moths to cobalt-60 caused mutations in their offspring. Michael Ferguson, on the other hand, studied the radioactivity absorbed by plants. Michael, 16, of Morehead, Ky., measured the ferns on a hill for radiation and found that radioactivity increased with altitude.

June, a junior at Sumter High School, is the daughter of Mrs. Ernestine Moore. She first became interested in science when she was 10 as a result of working on mechanical puzzles. June plans a career as a lab technician.

Michael's father, who works for a telephone company, was responsible for his son's first science interest at age four. He plans to devote his life to teaching at college level. He now is a junior at Breckinridge Training School in Morehead.

June and Michael will be among 419 students from Canada, Japan, Puerto Rico, Sweden and the United States competing for international laurels in Baltimore.

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NSF-I Tours

► THE BALTIMORE HOSTS have planned interesting tours of the many scientific facilities in the area, a tour of historic Baltimore and Baltimore Harbor, as well as trips to nearby Gettysburg, Annapolis, and Washington.

In addition, many affiliated fairs plan to include a visit to the New York World's Fair before or after the NSF-I.

The 419 Finalists to the 15th NSF-I will have a truly memorable week.

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Science Service

YOUNG SCIENTISTS—Snails were studied in the project of these two high school students in the First Spanish National Science Fair. Left to right: Jesus Angel and Jose Luis Bardasano of the Colegio S. Miguel, Madrid.