

Science Club News

Fair Competition Intense

► BY NOW, most of the local, regional and state science fairs have been held. Those members of science clubs slated to participate in the International Science Fair in Dallas are wondering just how tough the competition will be. Those who did not win a berth at the ISF are asking just what sorts of projects are necessary to reach the top. Following are project descriptions submitted by some of the fortunate ISF finalists already selected for the Dallas competition.

Bill Wessels, 17, of Davidson H.S. in Mobile, Ala., won at the Mobile Regional Science Fair with "The Correlation of Number Systems." Bill shows the existence of an infinite quantity of number systems, and shows the relationship between different systems, and that corresponding values can be developed. However, Bill says that some systems are inefficient for problem-solving because they may yield several answers which may be correct within that specific system.

Everyone remembers the Alaskan earthquake. Ideas for science projects surround everyone although Paul Hamman of Anchorage read a science magazine and got the idea for his project "Seismology." Paul, 15, demonstrates the principles of the seismograph through a homemade seismometer, and he shows how earthquakes can be distinguished from explosions through a comparative study.

Mary Sonneborn, senior at Lawrence (Kans.) H.S., won her trip to Dallas from the Douglas County Science Fair with a study of the relationship between temperature and trap speed in the Venus' flytrap. Her results suggest the participation of enzyme(s) in internal reaction responsible for the leaf's closing.

In Idaho Falls, George Curtis developed a project concerning the biological effects of laser light. He found there was considerable effect on the sprouts of potato tubers, but very little effect on the germination of bean seeds. His project won in the North-eastern Idaho Science Fair.

Jerry Marquardt studied seed germination, too. Jerry, winner in the Fox Valley Science Fair, Appleton, Wis., used chemicals and different wave lengths of light to hasten or retard seed germination. Jerry, 17, is a ju-

nior at St. John H.S. in Little Chute.

Kenneth Hurst of Ephrata, Pa., found through use of manometers that the oxygen evolved by plants comes from chloroplasts, and that light affects the rate of photosynthesis. Kenneth won in the Lancaster City-County Science Fair. A senior in Ephrata Union H.S., he plans to study dentistry.

Protection against ordinarily lethal radioactivity through the injection of certain chemicals was the subject of Antoinetta Capriglione, junior at Mother Cabrini H.S. in New York City. Antoinetta is a winner from the American Institute's 28th School Science Fair in New York City. Antoinetta first became interested in science at about 13, when she joined her school science club.

Rick Johnson will show through photographs and motion pictures that mice are affected in varying degrees by rapid acceleration induced by centrifuge, rocket sled, and rocket flight. Rick won at the Tri-State Regional Science Fair in Evansville, Ind. A junior at Evansville's North H.S., Rick plans a career of medical research.

What sort of projects are necessary to win? They are varied. But what they seem to have in common is a scientific approach to the same problems facing professional scientists.

What does your science club have to report? Other clubs are anxious to share news and swap views. Send a report of your club activities to Science Clubs of America, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

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