

Science Club News



El Paso Summer Institute

► THE NATIONAL Science Foundation reduced its support of summer science training programs for high school students from 194 in 1965 to 129 in 1966, with participation being reduced from about 8,000 to some 5,000 students.

The NSF brochure states that "... the Foundation expects to stimulate . . . and to encourage the further development of similar programs with other sources of support." It appears that the NSF hopes that school districts will sponsor such programs without Federal assistance.

One example of what the National Science Foundation is hoping for is the El Paso Summer Institute for academically able and ambitious students sponsored by the El Paso Public Schools and the El Paso Rotary Club in cooperation with Texas Western College and New Mexico State University and numerous scientists working at area industrial and military establishments.

The Institute is now under way, running from June 7 through July 16 with approximately 230 student participants.

Eighteen to 29 students enrolled in the senior division will take a 12-day field trip to scientific facilities as far as Chicago at the conclusion of the Institute.

There is a charge of \$20 for one course, or \$35 for two courses, plus \$175 for those students taking the 12-day field trip.

The El Paso Rotary Club and several PTA groups have made some scholarships available to defray the cost for qualified students on the basis of financial need.

Each course will be taught by a qualified college-level instructor. Students who are enrolled in the senior division should be better prepared to take advanced standing or college placement tests and find adjustment to college work easier. Each course is

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comparable to a semester's work in college.

El Paso hopes other school districts also will organize such local programs.

Observation Week

The Astronomy Club of Goshen, N.Y., plans an August trip to a member's cabin in Vermont, where they will view and chart various star clusters and constellations, and view a scheduled meteor shower and satellite appearances.

Does your club have special plans for summer? Are you planning outstanding projects for the coming school year? Share you plans and experiences by writing to Science Clubs of America, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Remember, those who will win next year's science competitions are at work on their science projects now. Last minute attempts are not likely to be successful.

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Three-D TV

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aerodynamics, fluid dynamics, plasma and explosion research, material strain and vibration, erosion, optical testing and quality control.

Holographic interferograms have been used to trap successive instants in the lifetimes of such lightning-fast events as the flight of a rifle bullet and the warming of a light bulb.

The successful mating of interferometry with laser holography was recently achieved independently by scientists at several laboratories. The double-exposure technique has been dubbed "good physics but bad photography."

The method was developed by scientists at TRW Systems, Redondo Beach, Calif., the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, England, the University of Michigan, and Bell Telephone Laboratories, among others.

Such wide and active interest in holographic techniques points to an even wider range of applications in the future.

Although some scientists charge that predictions of 3-D television pictures in color on a home screen several years from now are visionary if not downright unrealistic, the advances made recently in developing holography could easily prove the skeptics wrong.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

Knowing Weather Can Save Industry Fortune

► THE CONSTRUCTION industry in the United States could save up to one billion dollars each year by using weather information now available to avoid losses caused by the elements.

This conclusion, resulting from a continuing study to determine how weather affects differing segments of the economy, was reported to the Weather Bureau in Washington, D.C., by the Travelers Research Center, Inc., Hartford, Conn.

The construction industry accounts for more than 10% of the gross national product.

Weather affects nearly all construction operations, from planning and surveying through paving, landscaping and painting. Nearly half the annual construction cost is especially sensitive to weather factors since it involves outdoor work or perishable materials.

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TECHNOLOGY

Gyro-Stabilized Sight Operates From Air

► A GYRO-STABILIZED gunsight designed to aim the U.S. Army's supersonic TOW antitank missile from helicopters, will keep a fixed bead on a target despite the 'copter's vibrating and maneuvering.

Hughes Aircraft Company, Culver City, Calif., developer of both missile and sight, explained it will enable gunners to hold the aiming crosshairs on moving or stationary targets such as tanks, armored vehicles or ground emplacements even while the helicopter pilot is taking evasive action to avoid ground fire.

TOW, which stands for Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided missile, will follow the gunner's line of sight to the target, steered by electronic signals that are jam-proof because they are sent over hair-thin wires that unreel during flight.

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