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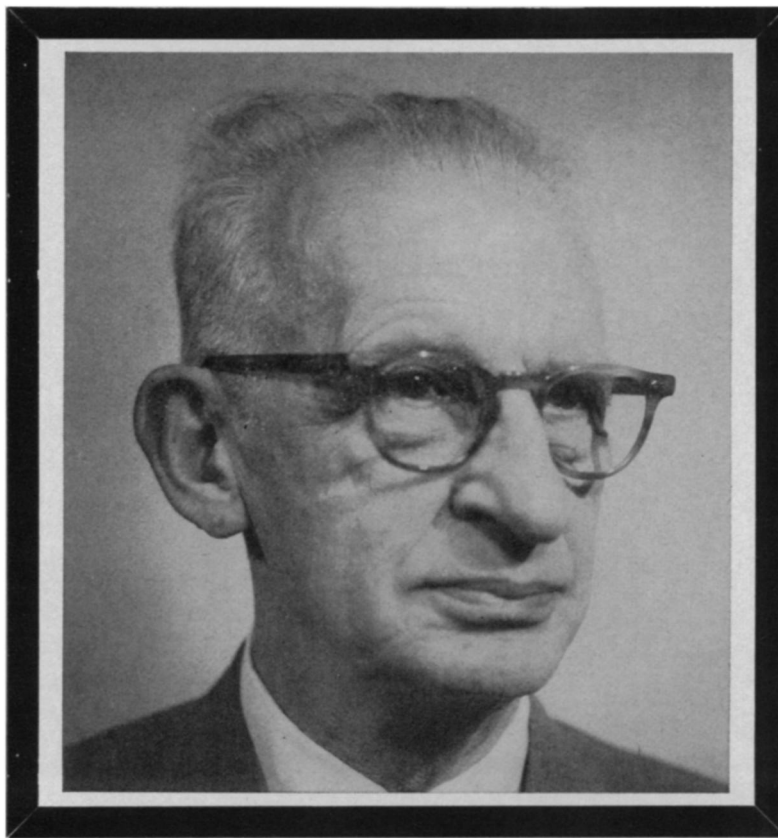
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## Science Youth Activities Pioneer



Joseph H. Kraus  
1898-1967

For a quarter century, the name of Joseph H. Kraus and the annual International Science Fair were inseparable. When he died in New York, Aug. 2, following a heart attack, he ended a career that brought him into contact with millions of young people, many of whom he helped launch on science careers of their own.

Without Mr. Kraus, the idea of a student science fair would probably have died years ago. Started in the 20s as a local event by the American Institute of the City of New York, student fairs started to fade in 1941 from lack of finances. Institute trustees asked Mr. Kraus to find a new backer, and he encouraged Science Service in Washington to take over the sponsorship. For 26 years until his death, Mr. Kraus commuted weekly between Washington and New York, unwilling to give up either his fair work or his home at 43-24 160th Street, Flushing.

In 1950, Science Service launched the first national fair. Mr. Kraus drew in schools throughout the United States and then fed materials and information to foreign nations, until the fair became international in 1957.

A native New Yorker, he intended originally to enter medicine, but in 1919, after a few years of medical

school, he decided scientific journalism was more to his liking. At one time in the 1930's, he juggled the editorship of three magazines. "Science and Invention," "Science and Mechanics" and "Mechanics and Handicraft." He was at other times editor of "Practical Microscopy," "Photo-Craft" and "Science Observer."

In the late 1920's, Mr. Kraus put on a weekly radio show about science on station WRNY, conducting a 29-piece orchestra for half an hour before and after his talk.

Such drive was backed by a seemingly endless fund of knowledge and enthusiasm. With the slightest prompting, Mr. Kraus would launch into descriptions of electrical circuits, the ability of eels to withstand freezing, or the breeding characteristics of moths—all with journalistic verve.

In addition to his other activities, he conducted adult education classes at New York University in 1940 and 1941.

But his major work was the chance he gave countless young people to glimpse the pleasures of science. Last year more than a million U.S. students entered projects in local science fair programs. Mr. Kraus had a commitment to them all.