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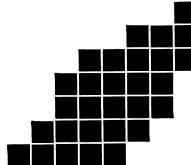


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To the Editor

Credit Adjustment

On page 181 of the August 1967 issue of Science News you carried an item under the headline of "Faster Star Measurements." In the third paragraph, reference is made to "Experiments at International Business Machins Corp's. research center. . . ."

This was a surprising reference to those of us at the Gaertner Scientific Corporation because it was our company and not I.B.M. which conceptually developed and built the two very unique pieces of measuring equipment being used at the Lick Observatory for their "proper motion" program. In May of 1959, the University of California awarded a contract to Gaertner Scientific to design and build two machines—one a "survey" machine and the other a "measuring" machine.

The first of the two units was installed on Mt. Hamilton in 1963. The second which is the measuring machine was installed in late 1966 at the Santa Cruz campus of the University of California at which time the first unit was moved from Mt. Hamilton to the same campus for organizational purposes.

Neither piece of equipment was worked on by I.B.M. The only relationship between this project and I.B.M. lies in the fact that I.B.M. punches and card readers (modified by Gaertner) are employed in conjunction with the overall system.

This very modern measurement system is a "one of a kind," and has been operating perfectly since installation. The program was funded on a fixed price contract let by the University of California under the direction of Dr. S. Vasilevskis. The source of funds was the National Science Foundation. Gaertner Scientific Corporation physicists and engineers deserve the credit (which was erroneously give to I.B.M. in your article), as they did the tremendous job of the multiple problem solving required to provide this most unique equipment.

Robert E. Steinman, President The Gaertner Scientific Corporation Chicago, Ill.

Sperm Banks Debated

The article, Sperm Banks Debated (SN: 8/29) brings up the point that "it is not probable that deformed children would ever be born to women

(see p. 271)