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Cover: The Hubble Space Telescope spends most of its time observing the distant reaches of the universe, but it is also shedding new light on the solar system. This image of Mars, taken by Hubble in February, represents the sharpest picture of the Red Planet ever taken from Earth's vicinity. The abundance of wispy white clouds indicates that the atmosphere is cooler than it was in the 1970s, when it was seen by the Viking craft. The volcano Ascraeus Mons pokes above the cloud deck near the western limb. (Image: Philip James, U. of Toledo; Steven Lee, U. of Colo./NASA)



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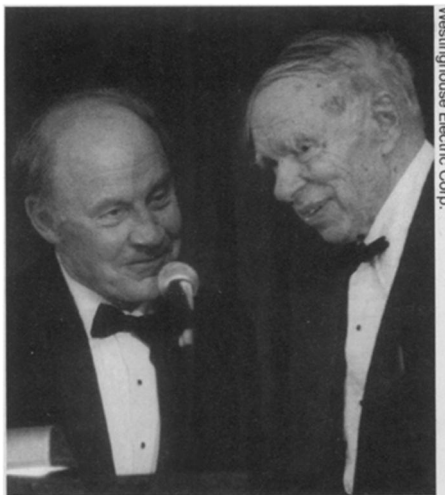
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Science Service, which publishes SCIENCE NEWS, is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1921. It gratefully accepts tax-deductible contributions and bequests to assist its efforts to increase the public understanding of science, with special emphasis on young people. More recently, it has included in its mission increasing scientific literacy among members of underrepresented groups. Through its Youth Programs it administers the International Science and Engineering Fair, the Science Talent Search for the Westinghouse Science Scholarships, and publishes and distributes the *Directory of Student Science Training Programs for Precollege Students*.

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Publisher's Letter



Drs. Herschbach (left) and Seaborg.

After 30 years on the Science Service Board of Trustees, 29 of them as chairman, Glenn T. Seaborg has retired to become chairman emeritus. Dudley R. Herschbach of Harvard University steps in as chairman.

It's nearly impossible to sum up Dr. Seaborg's lifelong accomplishments. Many know him as the winner of the 1951 Nobel Prize for Chemistry for his pioneering studies of transuranium elements, as chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission from 1961 to 1971, and as teacher, chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, and science education advocate.

But at Science Service, we know Dr. Seaborg best as a leader and source of inspiration. His association with the organization dates back to 1946, when he spoke at the Westinghouse Science Talent Search (STS). He first served as an STS judge in 1963 and joined the Science Service board in 1965, becoming chairman a year later.

During the Seaborg years, Science Service has prospered enormously. SCIENCE NEWS' circulation has risen to around 235,000, and its weekly readership now totals more than 600,000. The STS and the International Science and Engineering Fair, which includes students from more than 30 nations, attract some of the world's brightest young scientists. For his many contributions of time, effort, and leadership, we thank Dr. Seaborg. We expect to benefit further from his wisdom and insights in his emeritus role.

Clearly, Dr. Herschbach will find following in Dr. Seaborg's steps a challenge. But he is used to meeting challenges. He won the Noble Prize for Chemistry in 1986 for his part in developing cross-molecular-beam technology and for using it to define the dynamics of basic types of chemical reactions.

We look to Dr. Herschbach for leadership and inspiration in the years to come.

— Alfred Scott McLaren

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