

GENERAL SCIENCE

Scientists of the Future

Eight girls and 32 boys are selected as winners in annual national Science Talent Search. They will meet in Washington to compete for \$11,000 in scholarships.

► THE 40 MOST PROMISING young scientists in America's high schools have just been selected in the Fifteenth Annual Science Talent Search.

The winners, eight girls and 32 boys, have been invited to Washington for a five-day all-expenses-paid Science Talent Search visit March 1 through March 5.

They will participate in the Science Talent Institute and compete for \$11,000 in Westinghouse Science Scholarships in the finals of the Science Talent Search conducted by Science Clubs of America, administered by SCIENCE SERVICE.

Nation-Wide Competition

The 40 tripwinners, 15 to 19 years of age, were chosen by a panel of judges after a nation-wide competition in which top-ranking seniors in all the public, parochial and private schools in the continental United States were invited to participate.

Contestants, representing every state in the Union and the District of Columbia, totaled 20,828, of whom 3,375 completed the stiff science aptitude examination, submitted recommendations and scholarship records, and wrote a report on "My Scientific Project."

On March 5, at the end of the Science Talent Institute, judges will award the scholarships. One boy or girl will receive the \$2,800 Westinghouse Grand Science Scholarship (\$700 per year for four years). Runner-up will receive a \$2,000 Westinghouse Science Scholarship.

Westinghouse Science Scholarships, ranging in size from \$100 to \$400 and bringing the total to \$11,000, will be awarded at the discretion of the judges to the rest of the winners.

Many Areas Represented

Chosen without regard to geographic distribution, the 40 tripwinners come from 36 cities in 21 states and District of Columbia. States represented by winners since 1942 now total 43.

All but one of the winners live at home and attend their local or nearby public, parochial or private secondary schools.

Of the Science Talent Search tripwinners, 55% rank first, second or third in their graduating classes, which range in size from 23 to 1,200 students.

Exactly 72.5% of the winners' fathers and 60% of their mothers attended college. A number have parents who were born or educated abroad. Of the winners, 21 claim no scientists among their relatives; the oth-

ers have one or more scientists among their close or distant relatives.

Contrary to a frequent conception about scientists, the winners are not interested in science only. While most of them spend much of their spare time in science pursuits such as science clubs and individual hobbies of a scientific nature, all of them have participated in varied extracurricular interests such as music, athletics, journalism and dramatics, and all belong to social and educational organizations outside their school work.

All of the top 40 already have chosen the lines of study they wish to pursue. Fourteen plan to become physicists, with half in nuclear physics; eight want to be engineers, and five aspire to careers in biology. Three want to be mathematicians and two each are headed for majors in psychiatry and biochemistry.

One each plans to be a chemist, astrophysicist, pathologist, physician, paleontologist, and archaeologist. All expect to do research in their respective fields.

New Schools Represented

Twenty-four of the winners this year come from schools that have never before placed a winner in the annual Science Talent Search. The other 16 added new laurels to schools already honored in the past by having produced winners. Each school having a winner receives a bronze and walnut plaque to add to the school's trophy collection.

Only one high school in the United States has produced more than one winner this year. Midwood High School, Brooklyn, N. Y., will send one boy and one girl to bring their 15-year winner total to 11.

The honor of being all-time top-producer of winners goes to Forest Hills (N.Y.) High School. Their 15-year total is 20 winners. Only the Bronx High School of Science and Stuyvesant High School in New York come near this record and neither placed a winner this year.

Two schools have upped their total of winners to a total of six, Eugene (Ore.) High School and the Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N. H.

University High School, Urbana, Ill., Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, D. C., and Kenmore (N.Y.) High School have brought their total to four for the 15 years, Tucson (Ariz.) High School, Newton High School, Newtonville, Mass., and Central High School, Tulsa, Okla., have produced three each for the same period.

The following schools have been able to



SUPERCHARGED TURBOPROP—
The Bristol BE 25 supercharged turboprop, power unit for later versions of the 100-passenger Bristol Britannia airliner, is shown on the test bed. Its manufacturers state it will give a constant power of 4,000 horsepower from sea level up to 20,000 feet.

place two winners each since the Search began in 1942: Northside High School, Atlanta, Ga., Central Jr.-Sr. High School, South Bend, Ind., James Madison High School, Brooklyn, N. Y., Appleton (Wis.) High School and Columbus High School, Marshfield, Wis.

Honorable Mentions

In addition to the 40 tripwinners, who will attend the Science Talent Institute in Washington, an Honorable Mentions list of 260 in the Fifteenth Annual Science Talent Search will be announced later.

These high ranking contestants will be recommended to colleges and universities for their aptitude in science. They will receive offers of scholarships from many institutions of higher education seeking students with talent in science.

State Science Talent Searches

Through an arrangement with Science Clubs of America, 29 states and the District of Columbia are conducting state Science Talent Searches concurrently with the national competition. Fifteen of them have produced winners this year.

In these 30 areas, all entries in the national Science Talent Search will be turned over to state judging committees. From their entries they will choose state winners and award scholarships to various colleges and universities within the state.

Cooperating states are: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire,

New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Sponsorship of Search

Scholarships are provided and the Science Talent Search made financially possible by the Westinghouse Educational Foundation, an organization endowed by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, for the purpose of promoting education and science.

The scholarships can be used at any accredited college or university.

This year 20 winners had previous experience in science fairs compared to only 11 out of the 40 last year. The 82% increase shows the influence science fairs exert in providing stimulation and direction for future research scientists.

The National Science Fair is another annual science competition sponsored by Science Clubs of America.

Science Clubs of America, administered by SCIENCE SERVICE, is the international organization for science groups in schools and out. Today more than 15,000 clubs here and abroad are affiliated with it.

The 40 winners were chosen by Dr. Harold A. Edgerton, New York psychologist; Dr. Steuart Hendersen Britt, Chicago psychologist; and Dr. Rex A. Buxton, Washington psychiatrist.

Science News Letter, February 4, 1956

PSYCHOLOGY

Wishing No Help In Rolling a Seven

► DO NOT COUNT ON wishing for winning at dice; it is not dependable.

A total of 170,000 throws of dice were made by 393 volunteer subjects in a serious effort to find out whether wishing, say for a seven, would help to cause that particular number to result.

Although the wishing did not have any statistically significant effect on the total number of wished-for faces turning up, it was observed to be related to a decline in the rate at which that face resulted.

The study, made at the department of physics of the University of Pittsburgh, is reported in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology* (Oct., 1955) by Dr. R. A. McConnell, R. J. Snowdon and K. F. Powell.

In the past decade, they state, a number of experimental papers have reported an effect called "psychokinesis" by which the fall of dice was affected significantly by the desires of the person throwing them.

Two statistical effects were reported as constituting "psychokinesis." The first is the causing of the wished-for face to turn up more times in the whole experiment than would be expected by chance. The second is a decline in average rate over each page of records.

It was this second effect that was observed in the Pittsburgh experiment.

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Washington Trip Winners

Phoenix Tucson

*Fisher, Hersha Sue 17 West Phoenix H.S. 1530 West Earll Dr.
Halpern, Martin Brent 16 Tucson H.S. 25 Camino Espanol

Inglewood

Nearing, James Carr 17 Inglewood H.S. 5007 W. 118th St., Hawthorne

Los Angeles Truckee

Rony, Peter Roland 16 Los Angeles H.S. 500 N. Wilcox Ave. 4
Anderson, Gary Bertel 17 Box 311, Tahoe City

Washington

Gray, Charles Augustus 17 Woodrow Wilson H.S. 4917 Rodman St., N. W., 15

Atlanta

Venable, John Heinz, Jr. 17 Northside H.S. 2418 Howell Mill Rd., N. W.

Hinsdale Sycamore Urbana

*Matchett, Mary-Dell 17 Hinsdale Township H.S. 112 East The Lane
Clark, John Bell 18 Sycamore H.S. 108 Lincoln St.
Bardeen, James Maxwell 16 University H.S. 55 Greencroft St., Champaign

Indianapolis

Yost, James Whitney 16 Arsenal Technical H.S. 1505 Pleasant St. 3
Nading, Lewis Karl 18 Shortridge H.S. 3840 Central Ave. 5
Diamondis, Pete John 19 Central Jr.-Sr. H.S. 715 South Bend Ave. 17

South Bend

Floyd

*Thorson, Margaret Ann 17 Floyd Consolidated H.S. RFD No. 1, Charles City

Augusta

Brower, Edmond Dehm 17 Cony H.S. 5 Hospital St.

Silver Spring

Moore, Robert Thorpe 17 Montgomery Blair H.S. 810 Langley Dr.
Gorn, Robert Aaron 17 Newton H.S. 34 Laudholm Rd., Newton 58

Newtonville

Mason

Carroll, Robert Lynn 17 Mason H.S. 403 W. South St.

Minneapolis Mound

Campbell, John Howland 17 University H.S. 153 Orin Ave., S.E. 14
Hoxie, Dwight Thomas 18 Mound Consolidated H.S. Navarre Rural Station, Wayzata

Rochester

O'Brien, Thomas William 17 Lourdes H.S. 25 Thirteenth Ave., S.E.

Shelby

Hood, Leroy Edward 17 Shelby H.S. Box 784

Exeter

Johnson, Dennis Lee 17 The Phillips Exeter Academy
20122 Leadwell St., Canoga Park, Calif.

Lakewood Madison

Kayser, Boris Jules 17 Lakewood H.S. 640 Cross St.
*Och, Rosemary Patricia 16 Bayley Ellard H.S. 28 Albright Circle

Brooklyn

Lichtenbaum, Stephen 16 James Madison H.S. 1817 Stuart St. 29
Solovay, Robert Martin 17 Midwood H.S. 3004 Bedford Ave. 10
*Zimet, Susan Elizabeth 15 Midwood H.S. 953 E. 31 St. 10
Zwillenberg, Melvin Leslie 17 Yeshiva University H.S. 836 Crown St., 13

Forest Hills Kenmore Lockport

Groder, Martin Gary 16 Forest Hills H.S. 65-73 162 St. 65
*Hansen, Carolyn Marjorie 17 Kenmore Sr. H.S. 40 Danbury Lane 17
Miller, John Charles 17 Lockport Sr. H.S. 80 Grasmere Rd.

Tulsa

Runnels, Lynn Kelly 17 Central H.S. 103 N. Columbia Pl. 10

Eugene

Ch'en, Daniel 18 Eugene H.S. 2043 Onyx St.

Braddock

Egnitz, Ronald Michael 16 St. Thomas H.S. 1125 Kirkpatrick Ave., North Braddock

Arlington Newport News

Ford, Edwin Foster 17 Wakefield H.S. 3071 S. Woodrow St.
Edmunds, Leland Nicholas, Jr. 16 Newport News H.S. 1344 23rd St.

Seattle

Goodman, John Mott 16 Lincoln H.S. 4716 Fremont Ave. 3

Appleton Marshfield

*Joyce, Carol Ann 17 Appleton Sr. H.S. 503 W. Spring St.
*Riendl, Ida Louise 17 Columbus H.S. 1009 S. Vine Ave.