

nuclear reactor will be stopped.

The design of the observation towers was supervised by the Brookhaven Meteorology Group, headed by Norman R. Beers. Working with the group is a special station of the U. S. Weather Bureau, headed by Raymond C. Wanta.

The taller of the two towers, which is to be 420 feet high or as tall as a 35- or 40-story building, will be the tallest structure on Long Island, laboratory officials believe. It is to be completed soon. The second tower, 160 feet high, is already complete. There will be platforms, five on the small tower and eight on the large one, where observers can take readings from weather-recording instruments.

Weather instruments on the towers will be mounted on beams which can be swung away from the towers and then pulled in

for observation. In addition, weather observations will be recorded electrically on an instrument panel in a building 900 feet away from the towers. The building has to be this far away from the towers so that eddies created by winds passing over the building will not disturb observations made by instruments on the towers. Two electrified cables between the towers will carry instruments to record temperature and wind differences between them.

Another feature of the tall weather tower will be a smoke stack which will carry only smoke created for the purpose of studying wind and weather. This is a 20-inch steel pipe running the height of the stack, and it will give off smoke produced by a surplus Army M-1 smoke generator, similar to those used in spreading smoke screens.

Science News Letter, July 31, 1948

## Letters To The Editor

### Up-To-Date Matter

My appreciation for "Laws of Matter" (SNL, June 19). Many of us needed this to bring us up-to-date.—Ralph C. Max, D.D.S., Hartville, Mo. *We're planning to do this for other fields, thanks.*

### Gained Inspiration

I have read "Nature Ramblings" pretty regularly for about five years and have enjoyed them all, but the one on "Force-of-Habit Farming" (SNL, July 10) really stirs me up to want to do something about it.

I am not a farmer. I am a retired physician with gardening as a hobby, but I have a hunch that you have given me the idea I have been needing.—Walter Rittenhouse, San Diego, Calif.

*We are glad that it stirred you to thoughts of trying to make your San Diego*

*County hillsides pay for their keep. If they can be induced to yield something good for food, either directly or via the medium of some food animal, there surely will be hope for more fertile, better watered hillsides elsewhere!*

### Why The Patient?

I can't refrain from commenting on the article entitled "X-Ray Photos by Wire" (SNL, July 3). Would it have taken a master mind to think of transporting the pictures in question to the nearby large city instead of the patient? I assume that the small town hospital had at least a telephone so that the large city radiologist could have phoned back his findings on receipt of the pictures.—Joseph G. Landauer, Hollywood, Fla.

*The method was developed to do just that—transport the pictures rather than the patient, and in a minimum of time.*

## Question Box

### ARCHAEOLOGY

What ancient inscription is to be completely copied for the first time? p. 76

What signs of violence have been found in ancient Sinai? p. 78

### GENERAL SCIENCE

What election forecasts have been made by a veteran predictor? p. 78

### MEDICINE

Against what germs is the new antibiotic effective? p. 69

What new drug may herald the conquest of virus diseases? p. 67

**Photographs:** Cover, U. S. Air Force; p. 67, p. 69, Lederle Laboratories; p. 70, Post Office Department; p. 74, National Retail Lumber Dealers Assoc.; p. 75, Ingersoll Steel Div. Borg-Warner Corp.

### MEDICINE-PHYSICS

What weapon will be used in the new attack on cancer? p. 79

### METALLURGY

How will ceramic coatings make more dependable jet and rocket engines? p. 70

### METEOROLOGY

How will the spread of radioactive gas be prevented? p. 67

### PHYSICS-ASTRONOMY

What is the latest theory on the evolution of the universe? p. 71

## Science Service Radio

► LISTEN in to a discussion on thunder and lightning flying on "Adventures in Science" over the Columbia Broadcasting System at 3:15 p.m. EDST Saturday, Aug. 7. Maj. Gen. H. M. McClelland of the Military Air Transport Service, Gravelly Point, Va., as the guest of Mr. Watson Davis, director of Science Service, will tell the hazards of flying in thunderstorms and of the project the Air Force and Weather Bureau were working on together.

Science News Letter, July 31, 1948

## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. 54

JULY 31, 1948

No. 5

58,450 copies of this issue printed.

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N. St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C., North 2235. Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscription rates: 1 yr., \$5.50; 2 yrs., \$10.00; 3 yrs., \$14.50; single copy, 15 cents, more than six months old, 25 cents. No charge for foreign postage.

Change of address: Three weeks notice is required. When ordering a change, please state exactly how magazine is now addressed. Your new address should include postal zone number if you have one.

Copyright, 1948 by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service. Science Service also publishes CHEMISTRY (monthly) and THINGS OF Science (monthly).

Printed in U. S. A. Entered as second class matter at the post office at Washington, D. C., under the act of March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide, and the Engineering Index.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulation. Advertising Representatives: Howland and Howland, Inc., 393 7th Ave., N.Y.C., Pennsylvania 6-5566 and 360 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, STAte 4439.

### SCIENCE SERVICE

The Institution for the Popularization of Science organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation.

Board of Trustees—Nominated by the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Edwin G. Conklin, Princeton University; Karl Lark-Horowitz, Purdue University; Kirtley F. Mather, Harvard University. Nominated by the National Academy of Sciences: Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observatory; Warren H. Lewis, Wistar Institute; R. A. Millikan, California Institute of Technology. Nominated by the National Research Council: Hugh S. Taylor, Princeton University; Ross G. Harrison, Yale University; Alexander Wetmore, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution. Nominated by the Journalistic Profession: A. H. Kirchhafer, Buffalo Evening News; Neil H. Swanson, Baltimore Sun Papers; O. W. Riegel, Washington and Lee School of Journalism. Nominated by the E. W. Scripps Estate; H. L. Smithton, E. W. Scripps Trust; Frank R. Ford, Evansville Press; Charles E. Scripps, Scripps Howard Newspapers.

Officers—President: Harlow Shapley, Vice President and Chairman of Executive Committee: Alexander Wetmore, Treasurer: O. W. Riegel, Secretary: Watson Davis.

Staff—Director: Watson Davis. Writers: Frank Thone, Jane Stafford, A. C. Monahan, Marjorie Van de Water, Martha G. Morrow, Ron Ross. Science Clubs of America: Joseph H. Kraus, Margaret E. Patterson. Photography: Fremont Davis. Sales and Advertising: Hallie Jenkins. Production: Priscilla Howe.