

GENERAL SCIENCE

Mexican Science Fair

➤ ONE HUNDRED and twenty-five young scientists from Mexico's secondary schools entered exhibits in the first Mexican National Science Fair.

The student science fair culminated Saturday, March 31, in the auditorium of the Superior School of Physics and Mathematics, National Polytechnic Institute, when the Board of Judges selected six winners.

Winners, all from Mexico City public schools, and their projects were:

First Award: Mariano Velez Ortiz, School No. 9, "Atomic Structure of Carbon."

Second Award: Hector Gama Lira, School No. 46, "Respiratory System."

Third Award: Luis Marin Carapia, School No. 46, "Electric Motor."

Fourth Award: Javier Flores Maldonado, Vocational School No. 2, "Electrolytic Process for Obtaining Metallic Sodium."

Fifth Award: Gustavo Barrientos and Victor Manuel Santillan, School No. 21, "Irradiation of Bacteria."

Sixth Award: Cosme Urdaibay Zudillaga, School No. 21, "Temperature Effects on Measurement of Viscosity."

The six exhibits are being shown, and the award winners will participate, in the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's "Atoms at Work" exhibit which is on view in Chapultepec Park this month.

Awards made to the winners and presented on behalf of the Mexican National Nuclear Energy Commission were about 500 pesos (\$40), 400 pesos (\$32), and 300 pesos (\$24), to the first three winners respectively, and a book to all winners.

Each of the winners as well as their teachers and schools will receive a certificate of award. All entrants in the fair have been awarded Science Clubs of America pins by SCIENCE SERVICE.

The Board of Judges of the Mexican National Science Fair were: Ing. Eugenio Mendez, Director General, Instituto Politecnico Nacional; Prof. Justo A. Zamudio, Director of Secondary Schools; Prof. Luis Guevara Ramirez, Subdirector of Secondary Schools; Ing. Manuel Diego, Mexican National Nuclear Energy Commission; Ing. Antonio Camarena, Chief of Coordination

and Supervision, Instituto Politecnico Nacional; and M. C. Roberto Mendiola, Subdirector, Superior School of Physics and Mathematics, Instituto Politecnico Nacional.

The Mexican National Science Fair was launched by a committee of leading scientists and educators named by Dr. Jaime Torres Bodet, Mexico's Secretary of Education, with the assistance of SCIENCE SERVICE on behalf of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

SCIENCE SERVICE conducts the National Science Youth Program in the United States, which consists of Science Clubs of America, National Science Fair-International and the Science Talent Search, and involves about a million American students.

Students in the Mexican National Science Fair entered exhibits not only in atomic energy, but in physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics as well.

Mexican educational authorities were pleased at the response of students in this activity and plan to make this an annual event.

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Sea Urchin Paste Served at Science Fair

➤ SEA URCHIN paste on crackers constituted the hors d'oeuvre and the science projects of high school students were the filet mignon at the 12th annual Quadri-County Science Fair and the First Greater Ohio Science Fair at the Archbold High School, Archbold, Ohio.

For the northwestern Ohio community, there were two firsts. It was the first time that a regional and a state science fair were held simultaneously and the first time that sea urchin paste on crackers teased the palates of those having exotic taste buds.

Visitors who partook of the sea urchin paste got a badge proclaiming their feat. If they had been to previous science fairs held at Archbold, they may also have had badges proclaiming they had eaten iguana meat in mole sauce, fried bumble bees, blue whale, bay eel, rattlesnake meat and fried grasshoppers because these delicacies were offered at past science fairs.

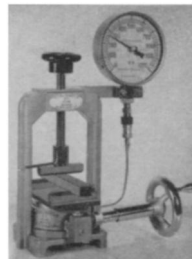
Many of the projects which the science students entered in the two fairs were just as strange to visitors as the sea urchin paste.

George Clark, science teacher at Archbold High School and director of both science fairs, said the projects were more than pleasing to science teachers and those visitors with some scientific knowledge.

Winners from both the Quadri-County Science Fair and the Greater Ohio Science Fair will be competing in the National Science Fair-International to be held May 2 to 5 at Seattle, Wash., in connection with the Seattle World's Fair. The National Science Fair-International is administered by SCIENCE SERVICE, Washington, D. C.

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Questions

ASTRONOMY—How far from earth is Barnard's star? p. 249.

ECOLOGY—Which five requirements must possible life on Mars meet? p. 243.

GERONTOLOGY—How many new hospital beds were made available in 1961? p. 248.

Photographs: Cover, Rutgers University; p. 242, U. S. Air Force; p. 243, 245 and 247, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; p. 244, United States Rubber Company; p. 246, Sam Silverman of U. S. National Institutes of Health; p. 250, University of Wisconsin; p. 256, Department of Defense.