

'Northern Lights' Gain World-Wide Attention

By R. C. ARNDT
BALTIMORE, Md. (AP)—Scientists will begin using rockets, a jet plane, a satellite and ground stations this week to try to solve the mystery of the "Northern Lights," which have awed men since Biblical times.

The operation, which is sponsored by the National Space Agency, got under way Monday as a team of 250 men began moving to Fort Churchill, Canada, for the first of two expeditions this winter.

WILLIAM G. FASTIE, a prime mover in the project, said the studies at the Hudson Bay site in Manitoba would run from Jan. 18-Feb. 8 and Feb. 21-March 12. Fastie, a physicist and experi-

mental projects planner at Johns Hopkins University, and T. M. Donahue, a University of Pittsburgh physicist, are leading the expeditions.

Experiments will be conducted with optical, spectrographic and electromagnetic instruments.

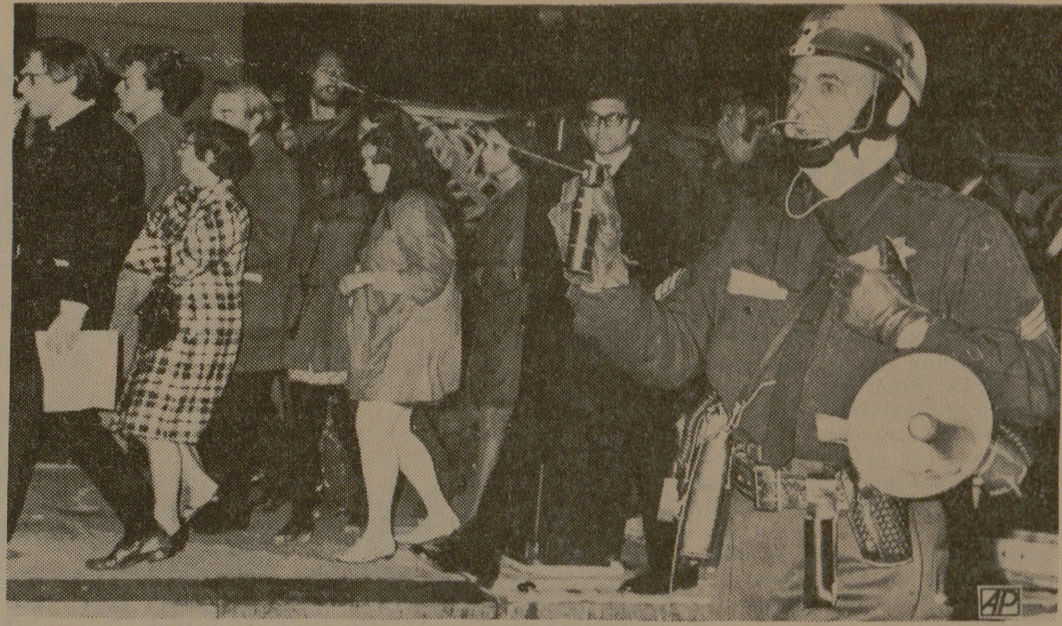
FASTIE, WHO has been going to Fort Churchill annually since 1964, has specialized in spectrographic analysis of the aurora. In 1960, he was the first person to document the existence of ultra-violet radiation in the brilliant nocturnal displays.

He is particularly enthusiastic about having the plane for the first time this year. Fastie said the advantages of having an airborne laboratory became obvious

in 1966, when clouds hid a blazing aurora "that knocked our ground instruments off the scale."

"The plane will give us a chance to observe peak aurora activity for hours as it moves westward," he explained. Midnight is the best time for displays, and about 12 chase flights are planned from Fort Churchill to Fairbanks, Alaska.

The Saturn 5 rocket made its debut Nov. 9 on a flight designed to test the various systems that will be used when the craft makes its first journey to the moon with Americans aboard the Apollo capsule.



POLICE USE MACE TO DISPERSE DEMONSTRATORS
A San Francisco policeman shoots Mace, a so-called harmless but blinding substance, on the crowd of antiwar demonstrators who hurled bottles and bags of red paint at them during a demonstration at the Fairmont Hotel. Secretary of State Dean Rusk was speaking inside. Some 500 demonstrators were dispersed. (AP Wirephoto)

6-Flags Talent Search Begins Next Month

Beginning in mid-February, talent scouts from Six Flags Over Texas and Six Flags Over Georgia will be conducting their annual audition tour and talent search for outstanding collegiate

performers who will be showcased this summer at the two popular multi-million dollar entertainment centers.

The audition tour will cover some 250 colleges and universi-

ties in Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.

Arrangements are currently being made to conduct the auditions in ten centrally located sites within the primary eight-state Southwestern and Southeastern states. As in prior years, student bodies from numerous colleges outside the primary area will be notified of the dates, times, and locations of the auditions so that they may try out at the regional and sectional audition site nearest their schools.

All types of talent are being sought. From singers and dancers to musicians and specialty acts. Last year, more than 1,200 performers auditioned, and about 230 were later selected for one of the many live and lively shows featured at each entertainment center.

Six Flags Over Texas, located midway between Dallas and Fort Worth, opened in 1961 and has been the most popular single tourist attraction in the state since 1964. Over 2,000,000 visitors attended last season.

Six Flags Over Georgia, located in Atlanta, began its first operating season in 1967 and attracted over 1,100,000 visitors.

Graduate College Lectures Include Cattle, Chemistry

Beef cattle and chemistry will be subjects for separate Graduate College lectures Wednesday and Thursday at Texas A&M.

Dr. Jan C. Bonsma, Animal Science Department head at the University of Pretoria, Republic of South Africa, will speak at 4 p.m. Wednesday, discussing "Criteria for Appraising Functional Efficiency of Beef Cattle and Related Matters."

Bonsma, whose talk is set in the Animal Industries Building lecture room, is internationally

renown for original and innovative research with beef cattle.

Dr. Herbert A. Roeller, associate professor of zoology at the University of Wisconsin, will speak at 4 p.m. Thursday on "Chemistry and Biology of the Juvenile Hormone." The address is scheduled in Room 107 of the old Biology Building.

Roeller concentrated attention on insect development physiology in his doctoral research at Göttingen University. Since joining Wisconsin in 1962, his research has centered on the role of juvenile hormones in mating behavior of insects.

Bonsma, a visiting professor at A&M in 1964-65, developed the principles for breeding livestock adaptable to tropical and subtropical environments. A new breed of beef cattle developed through his efforts is called "Bonsmara" in his honor.

Timm To Attend Mexican Seminar

Dr. Tyrus R. Timm, head of the Texas A&M University Agricultural Economics and Sociology Department, has been invited to speak during the International Seminar on Agriculture Feb. 24-March 2 in Mexico City.

The economist will present two papers, "The Basis for Agricultural Policy Formulation" and "Increasing Rural Credit in Rural Areas."

Timm is one of three delegates from the United States to be invited to the seminar. The others are Dr. Karl Brandt, emeritus of the Food Research Institute at Stanford University, and Dr. Norman Efferson, dean of the Louisiana State University College of Agriculture.

Among economists from other countries to speak at the conference are Dr. Rene Dumont of the National Agronomical Institute in Paris, France, and Dr. Max Myers, advisor to the Brazilian Government on economic development.

'61 Grad Solymosy Given Air Medal

The Air Medal has been presented to Army Capt. Edmond S. Solymosy, instructor in the Military Science Department at Texas A&M.

The presentation was made by Col. Jim H. McCoy, commandant. Captain Solymosy participated in more than 25 aerial flights over hostile Vietnam territory while assigned as an artillery battery commander and liaison officer.

A 1961 A&M graduate, the officer also wears the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster. He is a 1956 graduate of Lamar High School in Houston and son of Dr. and Mrs. S. L. Solymosy, Lafayette, La. He is married and has two children.

1967 - 68

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Students Give Batteries Life

Students in applied industrial electricity get a charge out of a laboratory project at Texas A&M.

They make battery chargers. "This project captures their interest," commented Dr. James L. Boone, associate professor of industrial education. "Students are interested in finishing it quickly so they can put the battery charger to use."

NOT ONLY is the project interesting to students, he added, "but it has a lot of learning value including principles of rectifiers, transformers, circuit-breaker operation and switching."

The bread-loaf sized trickle charger is assembled by students in about nine hours as the individually wind transformers usually salvaged from old television sets.

"We developed a chassis for the unit about ten years ago when the project was instituted," Boone explained. "And we have changed the design slightly for better radios or other equipment."

BOONE SAID the chargers work for either six or 12-cell batteries. A flick of a switch channels the proper power to failing batteries.

"Many students leave their setting up most of the week which weakens batteries," Boone explained. "An overnight charge puts batteries back in good condition."

"OLD BATTERIES and 'dead' batteries can be rejuvenated in up to a year," he continued. "It just has to keep them connected to the charger for a week or two."

Boone said students can build the two-pound chargers for about \$6.50 each, slightly less than models offered by discount houses.

"Some of the students make chargers for their roommates," Boone commented. "But the department has none to sell. We are interested in challenging and motivating students. Experiments often get dull, but this project gives them something useful to take home."

Boone estimated students have built 700 of the battery chargers since the project started in 1967.

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