

## TALENT SEARCHES — STATE AND NATIONAL

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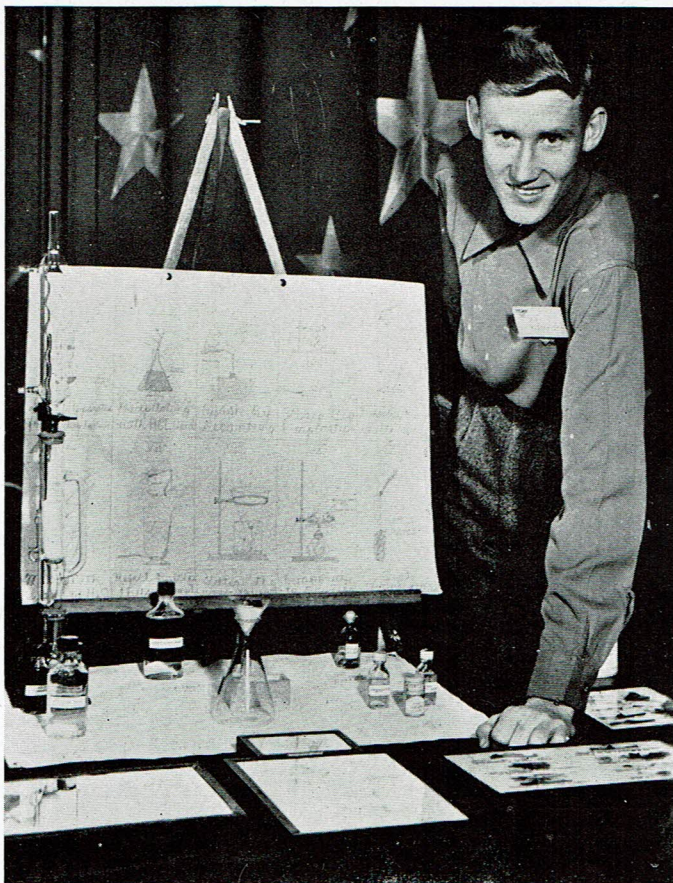
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and

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The Ninth National Science Talent Search, and the Fifth Tennessee Science Talent Search, are now completed. The former, administered by Science Clubs of America, awarded forty scholarships to



Donald Bruce McCormick, of Oak Ridge High School, winner of \$2,000 scholarship, second prize in the Ninth Science Talent Search sponsored by Science Service. He displays his equipment and diagrams his processes in the study of plant cancers, especially of goldenrod galls. *Photo by Science Service.*

high school seniors from fifteen states, assembled in Washington in early March. The latter, administered by a committee of the Tennessee Academy of Science, considered all records of Tennesseans who entered the national competition, and selected twenty-two outstanding young people for recommendation to the State's colleges and universities as worthy of scholarships.

Only one Southerner was among the forty winners attending the banquet as guest of the Westinghouse Educational Foundation and Science Service of Washington. He was *Donald Bruce McCormick*, 17, a student of Mrs. Angie M. Perry, Mr. Norman P. Berdan, and Mr. Amos C. Trotter of the high school science staff in Oak Ridge. As did all the others, Donald took a stiff examination in December—which 11,340 students out of 13,585 failed to pass. He presented details of a personal project in science, which concerned the amount of tannin in goldenrod galls as compared with oak galls, and a study of the gall tissues as types of plant cancers. His record as a leader in the clubs and other activities of his school was scrutinized. He received a scholarship award of \$2,000, which was the second prize in value. The first award of \$2,800 went to Saul H. Sternberg, 16, of the High School of Music and Art, New York City. His project was the photography of tracks made by helium atoms across a plate sensitized with boron.

Four other Tennessee high school seniors received Honorable Mention—limited to 400 in the national competition. They were: *Daniel William Bruce*, student of Father James R. Gresham of Catholic High School, Memphis. His project was on the speed of sound. He would like to become a psychiatrist. *David Lynn Hoover*, student of Mr. Brodie T. Estes of the Whitehaven High School. His project was a study of jet transports. He expects to become an aeronautical engineer. *Thomas W. Scott*, student of Mr. Norman P. Berdan, Oak Ridge High School. His project was a series of photomicrographs. He would like to become an aeronautical engineer. *Thomas H. Traylor*, student of Mr. J. P. Stewart of Maryville High School. His project concerned the geology of Chilhowee and Little Mountains. He plans to become a research worker in physical chemistry.

Thus five talented high school seniors in Tennessee received recognition from the judges of the national Talent Search. The records of all other Tennesseans who had entered the national contest were sent with full evaluations to the chairman of the committee of the Tennessee Academy of Science, charged with the selection of outstanding students in the Fifth Tennessee Science Talent Search. This committee is composed of Calvin A. Buehler of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Howard C. Kirksey of Middle Tennessee State College, Murfreesboro; James L. Major, *Chairman*, High School, Clarksville; Katherine Matthews of West High School, Nashville; Charles S. Shoup of Vanderbilt University, Nashville; Hanor A. Webb of George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville.

From the records and papers of these Tennessee contestants the Committee selected seventeen additional names for Honorable Mention in the Fifth Tennessee Science Talent Search. They are: *Robert W. Beard*, student of Miss Dorothy Green, Central High School, Memphis. His project concerned bridge construction, based on his observation of the new bridge recently completed across the Mississippi River at Memphis. He has ambitions to become a physician. *James L. Blankenship*, student of Miss Lula Shipe of Central High School, Fountain City. He exposed rats to X-ray radiations, and took pictures of them. He would like to become a research worker in biochemistry. *Allen Cleveland*, student of Brother Hugh Matthew of Christian Brothers School, Memphis. His project was the building of a Tesla coil. He plans a career in nuclear physics. *Leon E. Griffin*, student of Father James P. Gresham of Catholic High School, Memphis. He conducted a series of experiments on both plant and animal embryos. He hopes to operate his own private research laboratory in biochemistry. *Thomas R. Henley*, student of Mr. J. C. Lowrey of the High School, Knoxville. He studied the effects of chemicals on micro-organisms. His ambition is to become a professor of biochemistry in a university. *Robert G. Horn*, student of Mr. W. E. Lowe at Central High School, Nashville. His project concerned the habits of black widow spiders, which he believes are feared unduly. His plans are to practice medicine. *M. R. Hunnicutt*, student of Sister Vincent Ferrer at Notre Dame High School, Chattanooga. He constructed electric motors out of simple materials. He would like to become a construction engineer. *Gerald Amos Lee*, student of Miss Maude F. Snyder of Carter High School, Strawberry Plains. His project included photographs from cameras of his own design and construction. His ambition is to become a professional photographer of microscopic subjects. *Robert L. Lowry*, student of Miss Lula Shipe of Central High School, Fountain City. His project concerned mathematical probabilities. He hopes to do precise work in antibiotics and immunology. *William F. McCormick*, student of Mrs. Angie M. Perry. Mr. Norman P. Berdan, and Mr. Amos Trotter, in the High School, Oak Ridge. William is a brother of Donald who won a National Award. His project demonstrated various ways of making microscope slides. He plans to study medicine. *Joseph L. Moore*, student of Mr. J. C. Lowry at Knoxville High School, Knoxville. His project demonstrated undulant radiations. He plans to become a chemical engineer. *John R. Perkins*, student of Mr. J. W. Elliott of Catholic High School, Memphis. He constructed a counter for radioactivity. He expects to become an atomic physicist. *Howell Riggins*, student of Mr. James L. Major of Clarksville High School, Clarksville. His project concerned plant and animal breeding. He intends to become a scientific farmer. *Charles Shires*, student of Mr. B. E. Hobgood of Central High School, Murfreesboro. He prepared an atomic chart showing 96 chemical elements. He wishes to become a chemical engineer. *William H. Turner*, student of Miss Dorothy Green of Central High School, Memphis. He experimented with

hydroponics—plants grown in water. He is undecided between a career as atomic physicist or as a physician. *Joseph E. Walk*, student of Mr. J. D. Reding of Treadwell High School, Memphis. He described the making of an automobile tire from latex to finished product. He plans to become a science teacher. *E. J. Woodfin*, student of Father Joseph M. Julius of Father Ryan High School, Nashville. He constructed a detector of radioactivity. He has plans to become a mining engineer in South America.

#### THE FOURTH TENNESSEE SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH

In the spring of 1949 seventeen high school seniors were placed on the Honorable Mention list of the Fourth Tennessee Science Talent Search. One of these—Thomas C. Barr, Jr., student of Mrs. George R. Mayfield of Hillsboro High School, Nashville—had won a \$1,000 scholarship in the national competition. Each of the others ranked high in their records as furnished by the judges of the Eighth National Science Talent Search.

The Tennessee Academy of Science has no funds of its own to offer talented youth each year, but through its committee it called the attention of the State's colleges and universities to the names and qualifications of these selected high school seniors. Records collected this fall show that each of the seventeen received offers of scholarships, some having several opportunities presented to them. All are in college as freshmen at the present time—save one, who was killed by lightning a few weeks after his graduation from high school. A brief summary of these follows:

*Thomas C. Barr, Jr.*, student of Mrs. George R. Mayfield, Hillsboro High School, Nashville; attending Harvard University on a National Scholarship Award. *Paul D. Bowers, Jr.*, student of Brother Joseph Victor, Christian Brothers School, Memphis; attending University of Illinois. *Ronald Downing*, student of Mrs. Burt Francis, Isaac Litton High School, Nashville; attending Vanderbilt University. *Loyal Durand III*, student of Mr. J. C. Lowry, Knoxville High School, Knoxville; attending Yale University. *Beverly Ann Gerregano*, student of Mrs. Burt Francis, Isaac Litton High School, Nashville; attending Vanderbilt University. *Patrick J. Hawerty*, student of Sister Mary Ellen, Notre Dame School, Chattanooga; attending University of Tennessee. *Richard H. Hogan*, student of Mr. Charles Browning, Knoxville High School, Knoxville; attending University of the South. *Keener H. Jackson*, student of Miss Lucile Hines, West High School, Nashville; attending Vanderbilt University. *James C. Lett*, student of Miss Lula Shipe, Central High School, Fountain City; attending University of Tennessee. *John T. Martin*, student of Mr. L. P. Beene, High School, South Pittsburg; killed by lightning in June. He had planned to attend Vanderbilt University. *Clyde M. Peters, Jr.*, student of Mrs. George R. Mayfield, Hillsboro High School, Nashville; attending Vanderbilt University. *Joe G. Stitt*, student of Mr. James L. Major, Clarksville High School, Clarksville; attending Austin Peay State College. *Antonio J. Venezia, Jr.*, student of Rev. Joseph P. Gresham, Catholic High School, Memphis; attending Memphis State College. *Vernon Wesley Wells, Jr.*, student of Miss Maude F. Snyder, Carter High School, Strawberry Plains; attending Kings College. *Horace Edward Williams*, student of Mrs. George R. Mayfield, Hillsboro High School, Nashville; attending Vanderbilt University. *Mary P. Williamson*, student of Mr. Charles Browning, Knoxville High School, Knoxville; attending University of Tennessee.

The scholarships received by these students from Tennessee colleges and universities vary from tuition fees to \$550 per year. In most instances the alert, industrious student may be assured of a renewal of the scholarship, or of opportunities for service giving both pay and experience. Science continues to interest the talented young students in college. The sixteen have selected these majors: chemistry, 9; biology, 2; engineering, 2; mathematics, physics, psychology, 1 each. The minors planned are physics, 6; biology, 5; mathematics, 2; chemistry, English, and modern language, 1 each. The young people are enjoying their first year in college. In response to inquiry, they admit that they must work harder, and assume more personal responsibility, than has been the case in high school. But all reply, "College life is fun, in spite of the work!"

The interest of the Tennessee Academy of Science in the Talent Search project is greatly appreciated by the young people. In most instances their scholarships are the direct result of the information sent to college presidents and scholarship officers. This is as it should be. If scholarship aid were not available, some of these talented youths would not be in college at all. If clear and practical ways could be seen, the Academy's interest in youth of proved science talent should be expanded.

## NEWS OF TENNESSEE SCIENCE

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### RECENT PUBLICATIONS WITH REFERENCE TO TENNESSEE OR TO TENNESSEE MATERIAL

- Cushman, R. A. 1937. Revision of the North American species of ichneumonflies of the genus *Exetastes* Gravenhorst. *Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus.*, 84 (3017): 243-312. 119 pls. Inc. *E. propinquus*, n. sp., also reported from Nashville. (A previously overlooked reference).
- DeLong, Dwight M., and H. H. Ross. 1950. A new species of *Dikraneura* from the witch-hazel (Homop: Cicadellidae). *Ohio Jour. Sci.*, 50 (2): 86-87. Mar. *D. hamar* from the Gt. Smoky Mts. Natl. Park, Tenn.
- Denning, D. G. 1949. New species of Nearctic caddis flies. *Bull. Brooklyn Ent. Soc.*, 44 (2): 37-48. Includes *Chenematopsyche harwoodi*, from Tenn.
- Savile, D. B. O. 1950. North American species of *Chrysomyxa*. *Canadian Jour. Res.*, Sec. C, 28 (3): 318-330. June. Inc. *C. ilicina*, Shady Valley.
- Van Cleave, H. J. 1949. The acanthocephalen genus *Neoechinorhynchus* in the catostomid fishes of North America, with descriptions of two new species. *Jour. Parasitol.*, 35 (5): 500-512. Inc. *N. strigosus*, from Reelfoot Lake fish.