

**THE TENNESSEE SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH**

HANOR A. WEBB

*George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee*  
and

JAMES L. MAJOR

*Clarksville High School, Clarksville, Tennessee*

The interest of the Tennessee Academy of Science in a State Science Talent Search began in 1947. A plan of evaluating all contest material submitted by Tennessee high school seniors in the National Science Talent Search (Science Clubs of America, Washington, D. C.) was tested, and has been used annually up to the present. Tennessee records and project reports are sent from Washington in March, after the national awards have been announced. This is studied by the Talent Search Committee of the Academy.<sup>1</sup>

An evaluation of this material—chiefly through the services of Dr. Buehler—permits the selection of about twenty high school seniors who have demonstrated science talent through participation in the national competition. Their names, records, teacher, and school are given newspaper publicity, and the list is sent to the colleges and universities of Tennessee for consideration in respect to freshman scholarships. Certain of these Tennessee institutions allot annual awards regularly from this list, which is also furnished on request to colleges outside the State.

The correspondence, mimeographing, and other activities necessary to these services is chiefly the work of the Chairman, Mr. Major.

Records show that practically every high school senior on the Tennessee Science Talent Search list receives from one to several offers of scholarships. Rarely does one of these seniors fail to go to college.

What have been the results of the Tennessee Science Talent Searches? Not long ago, letters were sent to those whose names were on the lists from the beginning in 1947. The response was excellent. A brief summary of the past five years (1949-1953 inclusive) tells of the project's influence.

Of the Tennessee List for 1949, all who replied had finished college. Four then went into military service, one to research at Oak Ridge, and all the others into graduate work in science or

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<sup>1</sup>This Committee for 1955 is as follows: Calvin A. Buehler, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Howard C. Kirksey, Middle Tennessee State College, Murfreesboro; James L. Major, *Chairman*, Clarksville High School, Clarksville; Katherine Matthews, West High School, Nashville; Charles S. Shoup, Atomic Energy Commission, Oak Ridge; Hanor A. Webb, George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville.

engineering. Did that particular Talent Search of 1949 discover talent? The answer is obvious.

Of the Tennessee List for 1950, two were in military service, and all the others were college seniors majoring in science or engineering. Of the Tennessee List for 1951, two were in military service, and all others were college juniors majoring in science or engineering.

Of the 1952 list, two were in military service, and all the rest were college sophomores. Of the 1953 list, one was in service, and the rest were college freshmen. Comments in their replies were to the effect that "college is certainly different from high school, but we like it!"

Where do these talented students go? Although most of them find opportunities in Tennessee colleges and universities, their records have impressed major institutions of other States. Among these are Alabama Polytechnic, Colorado, Columbia, Georgia Tech, Harvard, Idaho, Louisiana State, Notre Dame, Yale.

The following high school seniors of June, 1954, were on the list of the Eighth Tennessee Science Talent Search, and were highly recommended as freshman prospects. Data as to their location during this academic year (1954-1955) is not complete, but it is known that practically all of them are in college, and most of them have received scholarships. In this listing the sequence is the name of the student, his teacher, his school, and the research project that won favorable notice for him in the National Science Talent Search.

*Bristol.* William B. Rucker, Eric Herrin, Tennessee High, "Rocket Fuels."

*Clarksville.* Joe B. Trahern, James L. Major, Clarksville High, "Weighing Wheel."

*Knoxville.* Larry A. Hendrix, John T. Johnson, Young High, "Processing Films in Photography."

Michael C. McCord, Lula Shipe, Central High, "Sulfuric Acid."

Jennifer Tipton, Lula Shipe, Central High, "Alpha Tracks in Photographic Emulsions."

Robert E. Trent, John T. Johnson, Young High, "Theories Concerning the Origin of Our Solar System."

*Memphis.* Caius V. Dodd, J. D. Reding, Treadwell High, "The Future of Atomic Energy."

Robert D. Johnson, Brother Edward, Christian Brothers High, "The Gas Turbine."

Henry M. LaBiche, Robert E. Griffin, Catholic High, "Vitamin C."

Joseph F. McDowell, Brother Edward, Christian Brothers High, "Laue Photographs of Rock Salt Crystals."

J. William Richens, Brother Edward, Christian Brothers High, "Determining the Atomic Weight of Copper."

*Nashville.* Robert H. Alford, Mrs. G. R. Mayfield, Hillsboro High, "The Black Widow Spider."

Milner S. Ball, Mrs. G. R. Mayfield, Hillsboro High, "*Phascotur humitir* as Grown on a Farm."

R. Earl Compton, Mrs. Burt Francis, Isaac Litton High, "An Instrument for Computing Impedence of Coaxial Cables."

Fairman Cumming, Mrs. G. R. Mayfield, Hillsboro High, "Distribution of the Wood Thrush and Veery in the Black Mountains of North Carolina."

Donald H. Miller, Katherine Matthews, West High, "Groundwater in the Central Basin of Tennessee."

Elmer L. Pettit, Jr., Katherine Murray, North High, "Electronic Circuits in Radio and Television."

John D. Roberts, Mrs. Burt Francis, Isaac Litton High, "Tannin Ink."

Ronald L. Smith, Mrs. Burt Francis, Isaac Litton High, "Souped-up Tesla Coils."

Beulah M. Woodfin, Sister Mary Bernadette, St. Bernard Academy, "An Amateur's Weather Station."

*Oak Ridge.* Elizabeth I. Arnold, Mrs. A. M. Perry, Oak Ridge High, "Culturing Protozoa."

Jane C. Blankenship, Mrs. A. M. Perry, Oak Ridge High, "Hydroponics."

Robert E. Dewese, Mrs. A. M. Perry, Oak Ridge High, "Examination of Water for Bacteria."

J. Gordon Eversole, Mrs. A. M. Perry, Oak Ridge High, "Crystallography."

John A. Hagan, Mrs. A. M. Perry, Oak Ridge High, "Glass."

Robert C. Holt, Mrs. A. M. Perry, Oak Ridge High, "Refining of Petroleum."

Crawford L. Sachs, Mrs. A. M. Perry, Oak Ridge High, "The Effect of Motor Power on Boat Speed."

## THE ACADEMY'S TALENT SEARCH FOR '55

HANOR A. WEBB

*George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee*  
and

JAMES L. MAJOR

*Clarksville High School, Clarksville, Tennessee*

Thirty-one talented high school science students, graduating this June, have been recommended by the Tennessee Academy of Science for scholarships in the colleges and universities of the State, and in other institutions of higher education that express interest in the annual lists. These have been selected by the Tennessee Science Talent Search Committee of the Academy in a project that began in 1947. The Committee consists of Calvin A. Buehler, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Howard C. Kirksey, Middle Tennessee State College, Murfreesboro; James L. Major, Clarksville High School, *chairman*; Katherine Matthews, West End High School, Nashville; Charles S. Shoup, Atomic Energy Commission, Oak Ridge; Hanor A. Webb, George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville.

The present list completes the Ninth Tennessee Science Search, in which the Committee examined the records and