

# Planetarium Needs Ingenuity, Dramatic Skill

It takes ingenuity, skill in electronics and a flair for the dramatic, but you "don't have to be an astronomer to run a planetarium" according to the man who is responsible for entertaining thousands of visitors each year at the University of Nebraska's Ralph Mueller Planetarium.

Aided by his staff of four part-time employees, Allan Griesemer plans the six yearly shows at the Planetarium, writes the scripts, handles the complicated visual and audio equipment, narrates lectures and in his spare time designs and builds much of the accessory material needed to conduct the shows.

## New Summer Shows

Each sky show in the planetarium runs approximately two months and may be designed around basic astronomy, current events or mythology. The scripts run approximately 45 minutes and are written by Griesemer and his staff.

A new summer sky show, entitled "Nebraska Nights,"

began last week. The show depicts the night sky of the Great Plains and includes visual experiences of meteor showers and the northern lights (Aurora Borealis). Special emphasis is being given to the recent success of the Surveyor space craft in exploring the moon.

## Daily Shows

Shows are held daily Monday, Tuesday, Friday, at 2:45 p.m. during the summer months; at 2:30 and 3:45 Saturdays, Sundays and holidays; and at 2:45 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday. An innovation in the evening show according to Griesemer, will be a star gazing party following the evening show in the planetarium. The star gazing party will be held only during the summer months and only when the sky is clear he indicated.

Although the number of people seeing the show varies from season to season, the 1964 attendance was 29,000 said Griesemer, and 25,000 people viewed the sky show in 1965. The 1966 season would probably be a record year with 1,800 visitors recorded by May.

## Spring Tours

May and April are usually

the busiest months with the spring tours from surrounding schools boosting the attendance to an average of 2,500 weekly. The 1966 attendance for those two months was higher than in previous years with 6,000 persons, mostly school children, attending the shows each month.

Although the planetarium has a formal arrangement only with the Lincoln Public Schools which arranges tours for approximately 1,000 Lincoln eighth graders each semester, the planetarium is one of the favorite field trip stops for many students in schools surrounding Lincoln. An estimated half of the yearly audience is school children according to Griesemer.

## Projection Machine

The word "planetarium" ac-

tually designates the machine which projects simulated stars onto an inverted cup-shaped ceiling called the dome or sky, although in popular usage the word has also come to designate the viewing room as well as the machine.

## Series Of Lights

"The machine," said Griesemer, "is simple in principle."

It consists of a series of lights produced by a single bulb which projects light through several tubular devices, punctured so that light shining through on the dome will fall in the exact position of the star or constellation desired. A control panel operated by the lecturer controls the different stars and constellations as well as the

audio-visual portions of the show, he said.

The viewing room is a circular room with seating arranged around the centrally located planetarium. Viewers gaze upward as if they were gazing at a night sky.

## Employees

Even with 11 scheduled shows and additional group or private shows Griesemer said only four employees are needed to staff the planetarium. Two of these, including Griesemer, are full-time employees, the other two work part-time.

Surprisingly, none of the staff are astronomers. Griesemer, a part-time graduate student in the College of Arts and Sciences is studying geology; Mrs. Delivee Wright,

the other full time employee, holds a degree in zoology and is currently working part-time toward a doctorate in education.

Part-time employee, Bryan McCarty, is an undergraduate studying pre-law and Ernest Bedell, a graduate student in the music department, also has another job as director of music at a Lincoln church.

## Self-Supporting

The Ralph Mueller Planetarium is named for the late Ralph Mueller who provided funds for the original equipment and viewing room, but Griesemer said that there were no funds allocated to run the planetarium, to buy new equipment or enlarge facilities. The planetarium, he said, was supposed to be self-sup-

ported. A fee of 50 cents is charged for each adult and 25 cents for children.

The 100-seat auditorium is frequently filled to capacity and Griesemer said on occasion they had, by adding chairs, seated up to 150 viewers in the room.

"Fortunately," he said, "it's air-conditioned."

## Enlargement Discussion

He indicated that there had been some discussion of enlarging the planetarium's 31-foot dome to 40 feet in diameter and perhaps the purchase of a larger machine would be possible in the future. Funds for this, he indicated, would not be available unless some provision should be made after the final probating of the will of the late Mr. Mueller.

# Summer Nebraskan

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The Summer Nebraskan

No. 4

## Teachers Probe A Week In Space

Last week could have been termed a week in space for the 55 elementary teachers attending the summer seminar on aerospace education.

At first, the week began as any other week during the summer session class routine. Beginning Thursday the aerospace program began to intensify until by Friday it was nearly 1,000 feet in space.

## Home-made

Rockets decorated with polka dots, stripes, or catching names soared into the sky Friday from home-made launching pads. The rockets, called Astron Sky Hooks, were 15 inch models made by the elementary teachers as a lab assignment.

The Astron Sky Hooks used solid fuel and required a 12 volt charge which was obtained from automobile batteries.

## Concerned With Safety

"We're concerned with safety," R. Bruce Reski, a lecturer with the NASA Spacemobile, said. "Often children want to know how to build rockets, and here they are right along with their parents." Many of the teachers had brought their children to watch the show.

A complete model set-up was designed by the seminar group. Tracing teams and recovery teams followed the flights of the soaring rockets from the launch site at Seacrest Field to a near-by cornfield.

Two prominent aerospace lecturers prompted the successes of the following day's launching. Thursday, Harold P. Pluimer, Regional Director for Aerospace Education with the U.S. Air Force; and Dr. John Furbay, lecturer for Trans World Airlines, empha-

sized that "education is our first line of defense."

Pluimer, in discussing the progress of space said, "Man's flight through life is guided by the power of his knowledge. We are now involved in the second Renaissance of man with a second awakening. We have been teaching our children to learn to remember and now we are teaching them to understand."

He added that what is called the Scientific Revolution is exerting the greatest change on man since the Agricultural Revolution. The explosion of scientific knowledge has been doubling every 15 years for the past 300 years, he said.

"What is far more important is what you as teachers teach these little children to take with them," he concluded. "For every child there is born there is new hope for the universe."

Furbay elaborated upon the "wonderful age in which we live" by saying that teachers must "teach and educate the children to be discriminating."

"People who are afraid of the world have not seen enough of it," he stressed.

## New Countries

Furbay indicated that the "greatest single thing that is happening to our world is the emergence of new countries." He explained that, like the U.S., the emerging nations are going through three stages:

The first stage is an imitation of what civilized man is doing.

The second stage is an assimilation where the emerg-

ing nations begin a selection process in which they screen what they want to borrow from civilized nations.

## Creative Burst

Furbay described the third stage as a creative burst. "Emerging people have their creative bursts in a field which nobody else has entered."

This new field, Furbay predicted, would be the development of human relations.

The lecturer, which was the first of the World News and Views topic series, was preceded by an Aerospace luncheon.

Speaking at the luncheon was Col. William H. Bowers, professor of Aerospace Studies at NU. Special guests were Dr. Stephen Watkins, superintendent of schools, and Mrs. Phil Sorenson.

## Professors Boost Staff

About 85 visiting professors from universities and public schools across the nation bolster the University of Nebraska's summer staff of 386 faculty members, according to Frank E. Sorenson, director of summer sessions.

Besides filling staff vacancies, these professors bring an enrichment to both the student and the department, he said.

## Greater Breadth

"It is the policy of the University to bring to campus each summer the most outstanding teachers from other campuses in order to expose students to a greater breadth of views and information than would be available from our local staff," Sorenson stated.

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Mario C. Meimaroglou

## Visitor Talks On Greece

A visiting professor from Greece is adding an international dimension to courses and seminars in economics at the University of Nebraska this summer.

Dr. Mario C. Meimaroglou, professor of business economics at the Athens graduate School of Economics and Commercial Science in Greece, is serving as a visiting professor of economics under a Fulbright travel grant.

## Public Lectures

In addition to teaching

courses and conducting seminars in the department of economics, he presented the first two public lectures on Greece this month.

## No Stranger

No stranger in America, this is Meimaroglou's second trip to America. He also became well acquainted with Dr. Wallace Peterson, chairman of the University's Economics department, who lectured for one year at the Athens School of Economics.

A firm advocate of international exchange of ideas, Meimaroglou feels that Americans should put more emphasis on studying the economics of various European countries including Russia, to achieve better understanding.

## Aid Communication

He feels that peoples of the world should learn more than their native tongue, not only to aid communication on trips to foreign countries but to gain understanding by reading materials prepared by other countries.

He already has heard of one well-known Nebraskan, former Governor Dwight Griswold, who directed the U.S. Aid program in Greece following World War II. Meimaroglou says that the Greeks today are mindful of the efforts by the U.S. in their behalf and realize that their economic health today had its roots in U.S. programs.

Meimaroglou reports that he and his family have found it easy to adjust to American life and have found people in Lincoln very friendly and helpful. The Meimaroglous have a daughter, Maria, 8, who is enjoying life in Lincoln.

## Educational Views To Be Discussed

National views of educational research will be the topic of the Educational Psychology forum being held tomorrow afternoon.

Leading discussions for the forum which is open to the general public will be Dr. Robert H. Beezer, a research psychologist with the U.S. Office of Education.

## Research Psychologist

As research psychologist, Beezer assists professors of psychology, sociology, and education in colleges and universities throughout the nation in planning research in the behavioral sciences.

Much of Beezer's discussion will involve the views of

the Office of Education in the area of educational research.

Prior to his joining the Office of Education, he conducted research in Europe and the Far East, as well as in the United States, for Columbia University, and the American Institutes for Research.

Beezer has taught psychology at the Ohio State University, George Washington University, and the University of Virginia in Arlington, where he currently teaches.

## Grant Support

Dr. Royce R. Ronning, chairman of the department of Educational Psychology and Measurements, explained that the department encourages all researchers interested in obtaining contract support from the Office of Education to attend the forum.

## Students Bound For Kansas City

Maybe you can please everyone all of the time.

At least everyone who goes on the summer weekend trip to Kansas City, Mo., can enjoy himself the entire time.

The schedule for the July 16-17 venture includes a tour of the Harry S. Truman Library, and attendance of the Broadway play "Bye Bye, Birdie" at the open air Starlite Theatre, and the Kansas City Athletics-Boston Red Sox baseball game Sunday afternoon. Something for everyone.

Mr. Dave Younkin, manager of the East Campus Union and organizer of the excursion, said 1:30 p.m. July 11 is the deadline. Any University student who wishes to go should sign up in the Union Program Office (Room 136).

The cost of the trip is \$21. This covers round trip transportation plus all other expenses except meals, Younkin said. Participants will return to Lincoln after the Sunday afternoon game.



READY TO FIRE. A rocket sets prepared to be fired into flight.



ONE MORE CHECK. Mrs. Doris Rojeski and Richard Racke recheck the launching of an Astron Sky Hook.



KNEE-DEEP IN CORN. A recovery team stands in a near-by cornfield prepare to recover a successful rocket landing.



SUCCESS! A successfully launched rocket rests in landing position with parachute open.