TECH TALK

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY May 12, 1959

MIT's ranch

HOME ON THE RANGE

Amidst the sagebrush of New Mexico, MIT's Volcano Ranch is in full swing. More formally known as the Cosmic Ray Research Station (project of the Lab for Nuclear Science), it covers about four square miles of desert, well-fenced to keep roaming cattle out of MIT equipment. Squatting on this property are lizards galore, and some seven or eight small foxes who thrive on dog biscuit, thoughtfully provided by the researchers. In June 1958, Drs. John Linsley and Livio Scarsi arrived on the spot, about twenty miles from Albuquerque, equipped with quonset huts and electronic apparatus. To lighten their burden: a surplus weapons carrier known as the Desert Queen.

Installation was no small task, involving eighteen cosmic ray detectors spread around the area and hitched by cable to a central building, like the spokes of a wheel. Each detector contains four plastic discs (200-lb. MIT products) which give off splashes of light when cosmic particles pass through them. Quonset-housed equipment can translate these fireworks to give valuable information about the number, intensity and duration of high-speed particles whizzing in from space. Results are sent back to be analyzed by the IBM-704.

Daily chores of the team once involved treatment of a coy generator (long-since replaced) which stopped at any provocation. This, according to expert Linsley, could be cured by fantastic fiddlings and twistings, topped off by the swat of a two-by-four. Said he, commenting on the arrangement, "Then the lights go on, the heater starts putting out, the coffee starts to get warm, the radio gives with the Mexican music and the clock begins to work."

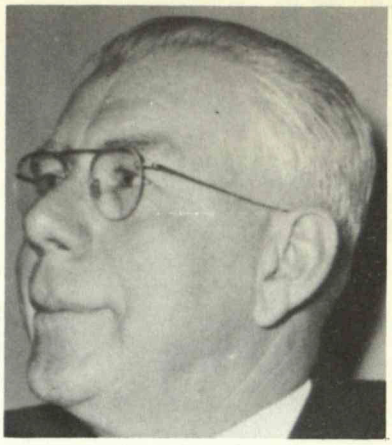
This experiment is one of four now being conducted in conjunction with LNS. On a mesa 6,000 feet above sea level, it is topped by the others -- two in Bolivia at about 13,000 feet and an Indian project near the equator at approximately 8,000 feet -- but is much the biggest of them all.

Livio and the Queen

Dr. Brown

THE CHANGING SCENE

The School of Engineering, biggest by far of MIT's five divisions, will have a new skipper, starting July 1. After his twenty-first year at the Institute, Dean C. Richard Soderberg has decided to leave administrative duties for the pleasures of teaching and devoting himself to the advancement of engineering education.



Dean Soderberg

Citing his "love of teaching, interest in students . . . and insight into the evolving needs of his profession," President Stratton announced last week that Dean Soderberg had been chosen to fill the honored position of Institute Professor. Dr. Soderberg, Dean since 1954, came to the United States from Sweden as a fellow of the American Scandinavian Foundation. An authority on the dynamics and design of turbine generators, he was chief turbine engineer at Westinghouse Electric Corp.; has passed on a wealth of industrial knowledge to countless Tech men.

New hand at the helm of engineering will belong to Dr. Gordon Brown, seven year's head of the Department of Electrical Engineering. This, in itself no small organization (enrolling 1/5 of MIT students), has influenced schools throughout the country under Dr. Brown's leadership. Once director of the Servomechanisms Lab., he revised traditional electrical engineering curriculum and methods, and planned a stimulating study of science to produce more creative, flexible engineers. Considering "the privilege of being allowed to follow in Dean Soderberg's footsteps," Dr. Brown is looking forward to . . ."the task of working with our outstanding group of engineering students and their professors in . . . fulfillment of the School's mission for the next era."

IN MEMORIAM

R. Colin Maclaurin, son of former President Richard C. Maclaurin, was on the Institute staff for thirteen years; joined us after service as an engineer with the Bethlehem Steel and J.P. Squire Companies. In 1954 he became Director of General Services (responsible for Institute housing and dining organizations) and was appointed Assistant to the Chancellor in 1958. His integrity and humanity earned the respect of all who knew him. With his passing, on May 4, the Institute loses a fine man.

PRODIGIOUS

In the halls or in the drugstore, mathematician Norbert Wiener, and cigar, has been a fascinating figure at MIT for the past forty years. Last week the distinguished gentleman was appointed to the academic post of Institute Professor for advanced teaching and research without departmental boundaries, in recognition of his "fertile imagination, breadth of scholarship, integrity and warmth of personal relationships with his colleagues." His comment: "I am deeply grateful for the official recognition that it is my function to do what I always have done -- follow my own work at will."

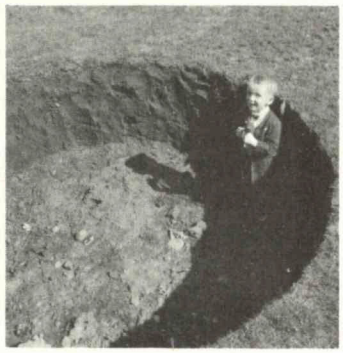
Following his work has led Dr. Wiener a merry chase, since the day he graduated from Tufts at the age of 15. An early Cantabrigian -- his father was first professor of slavic languages at Harvard -- he remembers back to the days when Mass. Avenue was lined with mansions and tots hitched their sleds to delivery sleighs called "pungs." At 18, he received his

Ph. D. in philosophy from Harvard and set off to study at Cambridge, England,with Bertrand Russell.

Perhaps his most famous addition to science is cybernetics (Wienerism from the Greek "kybernetes" or steersman). This is the study of the human nervous system and its likeness to machines. Between teaching, research and travel, Dr. Wiener has authored science fiction stories, five books, and his first novel, "The Tempter," to be published this fall. Looking back on his amazing career, he chuckles, "A dear old lady once said to me, 'Don't you find the life of a college professor monotonous?'"

Dr. Wiener was pleased with his new appointment, but even more excited by a clipping from the "Boston Herald." This quoted an article by Russian essayist Marietta Shaginya in the magazine "Ogonyok" (Red equivalent to "The Saturday Evening Post"). She apologized to Dr. Wiener for Soviet criticism of his work in automation; slammed her countrymen for backwardness in the science. Prof. Wiener recalls that he was not only branded a capitalist warmonger, but worse, a cigar-smoking capitalist warmonger. Now he is considering an excursion to Russia next summer, says happily, "Boy, it's a small world."

FLORA ARE FINER



Hole for a tree

Out in the Great Court last week, things were on the move. Two flowering trees were snatched from the ground and readied to be plunked down in holes alongside the pin oaks. The young visitor above came to see Open House festivities, and found just plain dirt more fascinating than the frontiers of science. Results of the tree-switch: space for an Inauguration stage, and the following poetic comment from Dr. Paul Chalmers, Adviser to Foreign Students.

Trees, 1959

(On learning that a committee has decided that at a function in the Great Court, serried ranks of the faculty take priority over two flowering trees.)

I think that I shall never see
A teacher lovely as a tree.

The tree has robins in its hair
The prof. is likely to be bare.

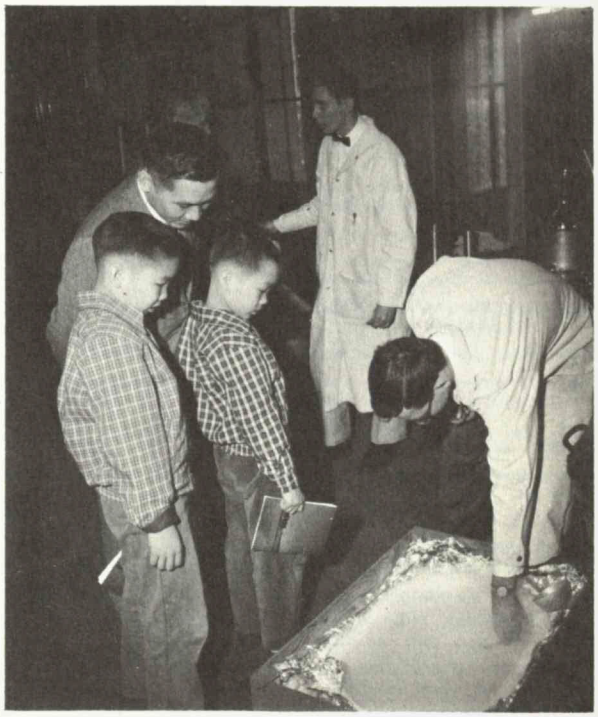
Which shall we have on a bright June day?
Branches green, or noggins gray?

Who shall determine, professor or tree,
Which is the greater and which the lesser?
For trees are moved by the B. and P.
But only God can make a professor.

CLOSED

The welcome mat has been stashed away for another two years, and countless orange, green and blue arrows consigned to flame. But all signs show that Open House was enjoyed by thousands of parents, Explorer Scouts and science students who streamed through the Institute with nary a casualty.

Now that it's over, students and staff alike can get back to normal, be proud of a huge success.



Future Tech men stare at student (Cryogenic Lab), helium bath

HERE AND THERE

The Matrons are planning their annual housing-hunt for married foreign students (August 15 to October 15). Wanted are chauffeurs to take the newcomers to prospective houses and apartments, and temporary accomodations for them until they are settled. Anyone who would like to join this project, please contact Mrs. J. F. Reintjes, 177 Orchard Street, Belmont, IV4-3595.

Missing from our list of 1959 Guggenheim Award Winners (issue of April 28) was Francis M. Bator of the Center for International Studies, who plans a study on investment allocation in low-income countries.

FOR SALE ETC.

Excellent furn, imported, hand carved in mahog, for family who enjoys fine decor. Give away prices. Mrs. Xavier, AL4-6571.

Europe: plane ticket, Boston to London, June 17, for sale. Only $140. Sue Mayr, Ext.4406.

Grand Banks dory in fine cond. Fiberglas bottom, sturdy well for outboard motor, 4 to 25hp, $125. EI6-4994.

Misc tools, stock and parts left after closing of machine shop. Will sell individ items or whole lot. VO2-4246.

AKC German shepherd pups. Top blood lines, very reasonable. Ext. 349 (Lincoln) or WE3-4011.

Phillips boy's bicycle. Headlight, pump, saddle bag. $30. Ray, Ext. 2100.

RCA Victor 3-spd hi-fi portable phono. Brand new diamond needle. $60. Helyn Levine, TW9-8100 (days) or AS7-9563 (evgs).

3 pc maple LR set, practically new. Also 3 pc maple BR set, 9 x 13 fibre rug, misc household item. EL4-2488 (after 5 p.m.)

Hi-freq receiver NC-46. $60 or best offer. Harry Bluestein, CI7-8574.

New fence posts. "H" type, steel, 64" long. Frank Keefe, Ext. 2623.

This season's wedding gown (only used once). Formal length with chapel train, beautiful appliqued lace and net over taffeta, size 10, reasonably priced. Kean Yue Ho, Ext. 727.

Run dictating machine, tape recorder, phono in car: inverter changing 6 volts to 110AC. Your price, Ext. 2640.

Boxer puppies, champion stock for pets, breeding or show. Mr. Kane, FA3-5561 (after 4pm).

Large sofa, chippendale style, feather couchions, good cond but cover worn in spots. $25. Also Bozak spkr system. Tom Harrison, CR9-2514J,

Antique English silver and pewter tankards. EL4-6755 (evgs).

Used furn: double bed, bureaus, desks, lamps, chairs. KE6-8468 (evgs).

Hi-fi console model "ultratone," blond, 20" x 16", 30" high, 3 spkrs, diamond needle, $90 or best offer. Ingrid Lau, Ext. 2787,

7½ cu ft Coldspot refrig, exc cond, $50. VO2-5361.

'37 Packard Super 8-A classic auto. New roof, paint, motor excellent, $500. DA6-9122 (after 6:30 pm).

'49 Dodge. Excellent summer trans. $100 or best offer. VO2-5361.

'50 Morris Minor conv. New battery, wristpins, valves, clutch, pressure plate, throwout bearing, htr pump, brake linings, tie rod end. Needs top, rings, paint. Best offer over $65. Don Holladay, Ext. 3171.

'51 Chevrolet Bel Air coupe. Low mileage, very good. Avail June 15. HI4-0975.

'51 Studebaker Champion. Recently rebuilt '52 motor, good running cond, no reasonable offer over $100 refused. EL6-4994.

'54 Olds 88 hardtop. Power brakes, hydromatic, practically new nylon cord ww's. Good cond, forced to sell. $950 or best offer. Joel DeFilippi, 523B, Grad House, UN4-8519.

'54 Ford, 4-dr Customline, good cond. One owner, best offer. Ext. 2143 or CE5-2447.

'55 Chevy station wagon, 2-tone green. 4-dr, 6-pass, standard shift, 6cyl, R&H, exc cond, best offer. L. Clark, Jr., Ext. 4201.

'55 Pontiac 4-dr. Exc cond, 8-cyl, R&H, hydromatic, power brakes, windshield washers, new seat covers. Must sell in two wks. Jerry, Ext. 311 (Lincoln).

'55 Pontiac sedan. R&H, hydromatic, exc cond. $995. Ext. 7117 (Lincoln).

'55 Studebaker Commander V-8, 2-dr sedan, very good cond. Must sacrifice for best offer, will consider older car in trade. SO6-0441 (after 6 pm).

'56 Buick Special. Perf shape, 34,000 mi, power steering, brakes, auto trans. $1,690. Dr. Hollister, KE6-8600, Ext. 778 or BI4-7491.

'56 Chevy convert. Reg check-ups, top cond. Power glide, 8-cyl, ww's, R&H, $1,490. LA3-4956.

'56 MGA. Wire wheels, R&H, best offer, exc cond. RI2-1982.

'57 Ford Fairlane 500, 4-dr sedan. Power steering and brakes, Fordomatic, ww's, R&H, defroster, good cond. Best offer, Ext. 5393 (Lincoln).

'57 Kharman-Ghia. Red and black, R&H, Am. specifications, $1,995. PA9-3876.

'57 Ford V-8 custom 300. 2-dr, Fordomatic, R&H, 2-tone grey, padded dash, window washers, extras, clean, good cond. $1,595. O'Brien, Ext. 138 (Lincoln).

'57 Lambretta 150 cc scooter, 2 seats. Ww's, new windshield, tool kit, spare tire with chrome hub cap, very clean. TR6-9100.

'57 MGA roadmaster. White, black lthr interior. Exc cond. $1,700. IV4-6306.

'57 Ford Fairlane 500 4-dr sedan. White, grey interior, ww's, power steering, brakes. Padded dash, visors, clean, 1 owner. $1,850 or best offer. J. Shenian, Ext. 5393 (Lincoln).

'58 Renault 4-dr Dauphine. 16,200 mi, R&H, $1,325. June Prendergast, WA4-3336 (after 6).

'58 Volkswagen sedan. Lt blue, leatherette interior, $1,400. Ext. 878 (Lincoln), or VO2-2807 (evgs).

Jaguar roadster convert. White, XK 140 MC, overdrive. Asking $2,250 or best offer. Warren Strauss, Ext. 7159 (Lincoln) or CO7-5661 (after 6 pm).

Unfurn apt, Brookline near Beacon St. carline. 7 rms, 1½B, ready July 15. $115/mo. AS7-8126.

Furn apt for summer sublet. 1 BR. Avail May 28-Sept 24. $85/mo. UN4-9176.

Mod apt to sublease, June 8-Sept. 3½ rms, new furn, washing machine. 15 min to MIT. $110/mo. ST2-6295.

Attrac furn 4-rm apt, top of elevator bldg, Hvd Sq. Will rent for year or more. Avail June. No children. $125/mo. IV4-1480.

Hvd Sq apt. 3 rms, K, B, foyer. Refinished, lg closets, avail now, sublet to Sept, lease then. $100. Herb Feldman, KI7-1863.

Furn apt, private home, East Arlington. 1st floor, 5 min from schools, stores, MTA. LR, DR, 2 BRs, K, B, porches, hall. $125/mo without utils. MI3-4644.

Furn apt to sublet, Brighton Ctr. 4 rms, 2 BRs, new personal furn, washing facilities, K ware, near MTA, parking, 20 min to MIT. June-Sept, $100/mo, cost more. AL4-7921.

Furn apt on Beacon Hill. 2nd flr front, LR, lg K, BR, B, newly painted. Avail June 1. $75/mo. Mrs. Silver, Ext. 511 or LA3-5912.

Comp furn apt across river, Beacon St, for summer sublet. $90/mo. KE6-3571 (evgs).

Furn apt on Fenway, summer sublet, lease later. Lg LR, Murphy bed, K, D'ette, B. Avail June 8. $90/mo. Ingrid Lau, Ext. 2787.

Apt on Beacon St by Mass Ave. 2 rms, partially furn, elec K, tile shower, recently remodeled. $120/mo KE6-1353.

Lakeside cottage, 40 mi, 1 hr from MIT, 25 mi, 30 min from Lincoln Lab. 2 BRs, B, hot wtr, screned porch. Sleeps 8. Avail wk, mo, season. Quiet. R. Brogle, Ext. 3109.

Lg new house on pond and busline to Hvd Sq, summer rental. Furn, washer, drier, dishwasher. $200/mo. June 18-Sept 1. Mrs. Smith, IV4-0471.

On Lake Memphremagog, 6 mi from Newport, Vt., July or Aug. 3 BRs, sleeps 7. 20'x30' LR, fp, K, ht wtr, elec stove, refrig, washing machine. Lav downstairs, B upstairs, Swimming, fishing, golf. $300/mo. Mrs. Hubbard, Ext. 2166 or IV4-9476 (evgs).

2-fam house, best pt of Somerville, handy to everything. Must sell to settle estate, buy direct from executor. Good rent either apt. Carl Drevitson, Ext. 3537.

6-rm ranch, Concord. ½ acre wooded lot, full basement, comb windows, 5 mi from Lincoln Lab. $16,300. Owner, EM9-5549.

Needham house for rent, June 8-Sept 3. LR, K, 3 BRs, garden, ½ hr from MIT, $150/mo, utils incl. Mrs. Moser, HI4-6784.

Furn N.H. lodge, lake near Conway. 3-acre wooded lot, mt view, 300' shore front, 2 BRs, B, K, lg LR, fp, spring water, garage. $10,000. Donald Heath, 16 Marshall Rd, Winchester.

Custom built house, Lexington Manor. 3 BRs, 8 lg closets, lg K, breakfast bar, lg fp'd LR, dining area, heated basement play rm, sewing rm, garage. Ext. 2134 or VO2-5077.

Furn house, Belmont for rent July & Aug. 3 BRs, lg LR, K-D'ette, lg fp'd patio, yrd, back of house rented. $150/mo plus utils. Ext. 774, 2595 or IV4-3017 (evgs).

Mt-side lodge, Lake Sunapee, N.H. Yr-round, 4 BRs, 2 Bs, bunk rm, fp, porch. Furn, oil ht, priv beach near ski area. Dr. Udin, BI4-5128.

3-BR ranch, Lexington. Fp, garage, 11,632 sq ft wooded lot, exc location. Ht water heat, wall-to-wall carpet. $18,900. VO2-5041.

Apt for rent, Belmont. 5-rm, furn, garage, exc location. Avail May 15. $120/mo, incl ht, ht water. IV4-0909.

Wanted: Jan 4 & Feb 8, '58 issues of "The Economist". Beth Davis, Ext. 3137.

Wanted: Boy's bike, size 26", good cond. J. Robishaud, Ext. 7125 (Lincoln).

Wanted: Used motor bike, good cond. Gene PR6-4505 (after 6 pm).

Wanted: Unfurn 2 BR apt near Tech, sublet to Sept 15. R. Monchamp, Ext. 512.

Wanted: Mod furn in good cond. Tom Dupree, Ext. 4112.

Apt wanted by ass't prof & family with 2 sm children. 1st flr with yd preferred. June 1 or July 1. Chato, Ext. 2245 or KI7-2940.

Wanted: '32-'40 Ford in running, insurable cond, reasonable price. DA2-6893 (after 4 pm).

MIT instructor & family with 2 sm children want unfurn apt with yrd in Cambridge or vicinity for summer & next yr. UN4-7516.

Wanted: Tennis lessons for 2 beginners. Betsy & Judy, CA7-4283 (after 6 pm).

Wanted: Camping equip: 4 man tent, 3 burner Coleman stove, sleeping bags, Coleman lantern, etc. D. Shaw, Ext. 2678 or MI3-3190 (evgs).

Wanted: Franklin stove in good cond. Herb, Ext. 2842.

Tech Talk is published every two weeks. Send news and ads to Miss Agnalt, Room 3-339, Ext. 2709. Next Deadline: May 20.