

white men for the first time. Except for two diamond prospectors who briefly visited the Kalahari Desert some years ago, the Bushmen have not seen any other white people in their territory. However, the Bushmen have recently had increasing contact with Bantus, and it is feared that the distinctiveness of Bushman culture will soon be lost. The current expedition is headed by Laurence K. Marshall of Cambridge, Mass., who led the previous five visits to the Kalahari Desert.

Harvard-Guggenheim Center for Aviation Health and Safety

Thirteen military and civilian doctors and engineers are registered in the first postgraduate study program in the Harvard-Guggenheim Center for Aviation Health and Safety now underway at Harvard University's School of Public Health in Boston. The center, the fifth and newest aviation research center established in the United States by the Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Foundation, is under the technical direction of Ross A. McFarland, associate professor of industrial hygiene at Harvard. This is the first center set up by the foundation to deal directly with aviation health and safety. Support of the program is through a \$250,000 grant, extending over a 5-year period.

At the new center, attention is focused on the unification of basic research involving studies of human problems in the era of jet aircraft; advanced training for physicians, biological scientists, and aeronautical engineers in problems involving aviation health and safety; and establishing a clearing house for technical information on aviation health and safety. The center is utilizing the interdisciplinary or team approach in its instruction program. This effectively coordinates the work of such diverse specialists as engineers, physicians, psychologists, physiologists, and anthropologists. Most of the departments in the School of Public Health, and specialists elsewhere in Harvard University, are participating in the instruction.

News Briefs

The new headquarters building of the Atomic Energy Commission near Germantown, Md., was dedicated on 8 November. The commission's Washington staff is expected to move to the new location in the first half of January.

Heini Hediger, European animal behaviorist and director of the zoo in Zurich, Switzerland, has opened what he calls a "museum of human imbecil-

ity" in relation to caged animals. It consists of a collection of objects, including many sharp weapons, found in cages or taken from zoo visitors.

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On 4 December, in the second trans-Atlantic medical conference in history, scientists in the United States and Great Britain will exchange research information on cancer chemotherapy over the new undersea cable. The conference will last 1¼ hours. Three world medical centers will be linked: Philadelphia, where the American Medical Association will be convened in its 11th annual Clinical Meeting; London, where a special panel will meet in Barnes Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine; and Bethesda, Md., where the program will be heard at the National Institutes of Health. The conference will be sponsored by the AMA and the Royal Society of Medicine in cooperation with Smith, Kline & French Laboratories.

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A building housing pharmacy research and development laboratories was dedicated by CIBA Pharmaceutical Products, Inc., at Summit, N.J., on 21 November. The new structure contains 18 research laboratories and 27 additional special-purpose rooms. The laboratories are headed by Jack Cooper, director of the Pharmacy Research and Development Division.

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On 4 November President James B. Killian of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and President Nathan M. Pusey of Harvard University broke ground for the Cambridge Electron Accelerator. The two institutions are co-operating in the design and operation of the new \$6-million machine, which is expected to go into operation in January 1960.

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Former President Herbert C. Hoover and Detlev W. Bronk, president of the National Academy of Sciences, will be the principal speakers on 1 December when bronze busts of George Westinghouse and Josiah Willard Gibbs are unveiled at the Hall of Fame for Great Americans at New York University. Westinghouse invented the air brake and many electrical devices. Gibbs, a mathematical physicist and professor at Yale University, formulated the theory of thermodynamics, the basis for much of modern physical chemistry and chemical engineering.

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The Council of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies announced at its 13th annual meeting that West Virginia University had joined the institute as a sponsoring university. The admission of West Virginia brings the total of ORINS sponsors to 36.

Scientists in the News

J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER, internationally known nuclear physicist and director of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N.J., has been awarded the French Legion of Honor, France's highest civilian award.

BURTON W. ADKINSON, director of the Reference Department of the Library of Congress, has succeeded the late Alberto F. Thomson as head of the Office of Scientific Information at the National Science Foundation.

WILLIAM K. LIVINGSTON, head of the department of surgery at the University of Oregon Medical School, will retire on 1 January. He will remain on the surgery staff on a part-time basis with the rank of professor, and he will continue his research on the causes of pain. Livingston received his medical degree from Harvard University in 1920. He practiced in Eugene and Portland, Ore., and served in both world wars—attaining the rank of captain in the U.S. Navy medical corps reserve at the time of his discharge in 1946. A year later, he assumed the Kenneth A. J. Mackenzie chair of surgery at the Oregon Medical School. In that same year he was chosen to give the Lord Moynihan Lecture at the Royal College of Surgeons, London. Livingston is the author of two medical books, *The Clinical Aspects of Visceral Neurology*, published in 1937, and *Pain Mechanisms*, published in 1947.

THOMAS K. PAVLYCHENKO, formerly research professor and head of the department of plant ecology at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada, and at present director of agricultural research for the American Chemical Paint Company, Ambler, Pa., was honored for his research achievements on the occasion of his 65th birthday, 20 October, in Saskatoon. Pavlychenko developed a method for quantitative studies of the root systems of plants grown under natural field conditions. He found that a single grass plant (*Agropyron cristatum*) grown for two seasons without competition, produced 319.5 miles of root fibres, thus binding the loose soil to resist erosion forces and to compete with weeds.

WARREN K. LEWIS, professor emeritus of chemical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, received the American Petroleum Institute's Gold Medal for Distinguished Achievement during the institute's recent annual meeting in Chicago. Lewis is known for his work in fractionation in refining, in solvent recovery systems, and in vacuum distillation of lubricating oils.