

# The Village Courier



fermi national accelerator laboratory

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## FALL PRAIRIE ACTIVITIES ANNOUNCED

Fermilab will participate in observance of "Illinois Prairie Day" on Saturday, September 25. This day has been set aside by Illinois Governor Walker to honor the remaining prairies and prairie restoration projects in the state, and a number of these sites will be open to the public on Prairie Day. Special tours and programs will be offered under the sponsorship of the Illinois Department of Conservation.

At Fermilab Robert F. Betz, a prairie expert who heads the Advisory Committee for Fermilab's prairie restoration project, and Anthony R. Donaldson, chairman of the Fermilab Prairie Restoration Committee, will present a special program, "Prairie Panorama," at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium. Admission is free and the public is invited.

An exhibit of prairie photographs by Donaldson, prints by Bobbie Lively, Roberta Simonds, and Henrietta Tweedie, and ceramics by Ruth Duckworth will be on display in the Central Laboratory Building, second floor lounge area, through October 25.

Betz brings to Fermilab a vast reservoir of knowledge about the prairie. A professor of biology at Northeastern Illinois University, he is the author of several well-known prairie-related references. He travels throughout the state identifying and organizing the preservation of the few remaining prairie remnants in Illinois. His enthusiasm and respect for the real prairie as an important ecological system are reflected in his dynamic lectures.

Donaldson, an engineer in the Accelerator Division, and his wife, Rene, of Technical Information, have been the leaders of the prairie restoration committee's work at Fermilab for nearly three years. Under Betz's guidance they have organized the seed harvesting, the planting preparations, and the weeding and maintenance vital to the success of the project.

Fermilab's prairie restoration project is on its way to becoming the largest prairie restoration in the United States. Sixteen of the 660 acres in the center of the Laboratory's Main Accelerator have now been planted with seeds from two of the area's outstanding prairies -- the 10-acre restoration at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle and at the Gensberg-Markham Prairie in Markham, Illinois, as well as at scattered prairie remnants.

Since the prairie planting in the Main Ring is for the time being inaccessible for viewing, a small sample patch --



*...R. Betz examines seeds before planting in center of main accelerator...*



*...Tony Donaldson describes prairie demonstration plot...*



*...Demonstration plot provides close up look at prairie restoration...*

(Continued on Page 2)

## PRAIRIE ACTIVITIES (Continued)

a demonstration plot -- has been planted alongside Road D, opposite the buffalo pasture. The demonstration plot, surrounded by a rail fence clearly visible from the road, is a mini version of the prairie that will eventually emerge inside the Main Ring. The small plot can be kept weed-free and the plants there thrive more generously than the large tracts in the Main Ring where the emerging prairie species must battle the Eurasian weeds that have taken over since the land was put under cultivation in the 1800's.

Once the prairie inside the Main Ring is established, the only measure necessary to insure survival of the long-lived prairie grasses in a supervised "burn" every other spring. Prairie plants, which are perennials with long, well-developed root systems, can withstand recurrent fires which the Eurasian weeds cannot. It requires at least two years after planting a restoration before there is enough vegetation to sustain a good fire.

Volunteers will be needed again this Fall to harvest seeds for next year's planting. Under the Donaldsons' leadership, these people will go out on October 2, 9 and 16 with pails and grocery bags, trying to bring back several hundred pounds of the precious seeds. "We can plant as much seed as we can collect," Donaldson says. "and we would like next year to double the acreage already planted." Eventually, the prairie planting at Fermilab will furnish its own seeds to complete the project, and a modified agricultural combine can be used for the harvesting.

Several hundred volunteers have been associated with the seed harvest in the past two autumns. Their vision of returning the land to the unique and beautiful ecosystem which the true prairie represents clearly motivates all of the hard work it involves.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for the seed harvest should contact the Donaldsons at Ext. 3278.

To many people the word "prairie" brings to mind visions of flat or slightly-rolling farm land dotted with houses and trees, and covered by neat rows of corn, wheat, and soybeans. Many are unaware that "prairie" actually refers to a vegetation type which covered much of the United States for thousands of years, and which has nearly disappeared since the time of European settlement. The true prairie was called a "sea of grass" in early accounts, and it extended from western Indiana to the Rocky Mountains with little interruption. Lewis and Clark described it as "good land, covered with grass...void of timber."

While dominance by grasses is one of the most distinctive features of prairie, it also contains many wildflowers and broad-leaved plants which add to its beauty and diversity. The "summer prairie" has a different look than the "autumn prairie." Both evoke the praise and admiration of those who study the unusual ecosystem. In Illinois there are three main types of prairie: tall grass prairie, which is characterized by grasses such as big bluestem and Indian grass that reach heights of seven feet or more; sand prairie, which contains grasses and broad-leaved species that are adapted to dry conditions, and hill prairies, containing mid-height grasses such as little bluestem and side oats gramma which reach heights to 2 to 3 feet. The tall grass was once one of the most remarkable features of Illinois. It extended across most of the central part of the state and created the rich, dark soils that make some of the best cropland in the world. The sand prairies are restricted primarily to the large sand deposits along the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, and hill prairies occupy the south and west facing bluffs along most major streams in the state.



...Nancy Tweedie (R) (Guest Office) and other volunteers clean seeds for storage...



...Bagged seeds prepared for storage...

FIRST CONCERT SOLOIST AT FERMILAB OCTOBER 8

Simon Estes, international opera and concert star, will appear in concert in the Fermilab Auditorium Friday, October 8, 1976, at 8:30 p.m.

Since winning the silver medal in the Moscow First International Tchaikovsky Vocal Competition in 1966, Mr. Estes has sung more than sixty-seven leading roles with nearly all the great opera companies of the world. His voice, musicianship and personality bring forth superlatives in the European, as well as the United States', press.

Mr. Estes was the soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra on the opening night of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts concert hall. He will return to the Kennedy Center's Celebrity Series in October. He participated as soloist in the United States' premiere of Shostakovich's 14th Symphony in Philadelphia, the New York premiere in Lincoln Center, and in the first American-recorded performance of the symphony on the RCA label, which was nominated for a Grammy Award.



...Simon Estes...

Critics in Germany feel that Estes performs and sings in the highest Wagner tradition, with a beautiful full voice. He receives similar recognition for his Boris Goudenov and his Porgy and Bess. He is equally at home in modern works and sang in the world premiere of Gunther Schuller's, "The Visitation," with the Hamburg Opera; later he took the lead role in the Schuller work on England's BBC-TV.

Mr. Estes was born in Iowa, of musical parents. He attended the University in Iowa City as a pre-med student and was singled out for solos when he sang with the University's "Old Gold Singers." After receiving a scholarship to the Juilliard School of Music in New York City, a methodical but steady climb into the world of opera followed. Winning several competitions in Europe, he returned to City Hall receptions in New York and Des Moines. Since then he's been one of the busiest and most successful singers on four continents.

Tickets for the Estes concert are now on sale in the Guest Office, CL 1 West, at \$3.00 each. All seats are reserved.

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EXHIBIT CONTINUES HERE

"100 Years of Chicago Architecture," the exhibit that created interest, excitement and controversy when it was shown at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, during May and June of this year, is now being shown in the second floor lounge of the Central Laboratory building. It is open to the public Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In the Chicago area, there is an unequaled wealth of modern architecture. From the time of rebuilding, after the Chicago fire in 1871, until the present day, a great many architects and engineers have been contributors to the making of the great Chicago tradition of innovative building. There has been controversy and debate relative to this exhibit, but not because of what is in it but rather to what is left out. It is a stunning show even without the buildings that never quite made it into the history books.

Originally organized in 1973 by Oswald Grube, architect and planning counselor with the government of Bavaria, in West Germany, it is a tribute to Chicago architecture and the men who created it. Received enthusiastically by the art and architectural press throughout Europe, the decision to bring this major show to Chicago was made shortly after its Munich opening. This was implemented with the help of the Graham Foundation for Advancement in the Fine Arts, The Illinois Arts Council, The Illinois Bicentennial Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, all of whom made the show possible.

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3rd ANNUAL MAIN RING CANOE RACE  
Saturday, October 2  
11:00 a.m.

All employees, visiting experimenters and family members  
are welcome to enter.

Sign up with Larry Allen, Ext. 3721 or  
Helen Ecker, Ext. 3126.

SOME INSIDE NEWS

Notice to Pageboy Holders: Effective immediately, the emergency operator will override any page-in-process during a Laboratory emergency. An attempted page during an emergency will not give a signal to the caller that the call is not being transmitted. If no answer is received to a page within a reasonable time, try again.

...1976 Commercial telephone books have been received and they will be delivered by the Mailroom on the following schedule:

Central Lab Building: Tuesday, September 21  
Remaining Site: Wednesday, September 22

Your outdated phone books will be picked up at the same time. Fermilab will arrange for recycling at P.R.I.D.E., a not-for-profit organization in St. Charles. Your cooperation in recycling these books will be appreciated. Old phone books serve little use other than being a fire hazard.

...All personal mail should be stamped prior to deposit in the Fermilab mail system. The Mailroom sells stamps. (Basement CL-NE.)

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR...Oktoberfest coming...Saturday, October 9, 5 p.m. til midnight.

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LAST CHANCE...Sign up for the annual tennis tournament before Friday, September 15. Call Helen Ecker - Ext. 3126.

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PLEASE NOTE: The Central Laboratory Building will be closed to visitors until 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 25, while electrical maintenance work is in progress.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE - 1973 Honda 4 piston Army green; was \$700, now \$400. Call Ernie, Ext. 3210.

FOR SALE - Sears dbl. oven stove (con. clean) \$200; 1 round din. table, \$15; two b/w TV's (Zen/19", GE/10") both need repair, pr. \$40; 2 juvl. chest of dwr., \$25. Call C. Slater, Ext. 3090 or 859-3049 after 6 p.m.

FOR SALE - 1 formica chest of drawers, \$20; 1 old, wooden chest of drawers, \$30. 231-8038.

FOR SALE - 1971 Ford Maverick, 4 doors, 47,000 miles, standard shift, good tires, exc. cond., best offer. Please call Yannis, 231-8572 evenings before midnight.

LAST CALL - for duplicate bridge players. Contact Marv Warner at Ext. 4430 before Sept. 20 if you want to be included.

MISPLACED - Man's raincoat, tan, label says Bond's & has inked initials A.W., A. Wehmann, 4133.

FOR SALE - 1974 Cutlass Supreme, auto. trans., P/S/B, AC, AM-FM stereo, rear defroster, clock, 39,000 miles. Asking \$3400. Call Clarence Rodgers, X3370 or 898-7952 after 5 p.m.

FOR SALE - 1970 Pontiac wagon, exc. cond., runs well, call Jim, Ext. 4293 or 815-725-1258.

MEETING OF CANDIDATES - Democratic Party. Mon., Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m. at Community of Christ the Servant Church, 477 Butterfield Rd. Penny Horak, Ext. 3393.