

BOON TO SCIENTISTS

UA Hails News Of Observatory

Announcement today that Kitt Peak near Tucson will be the site of the National Astronomical Observatory was greeted with great enthusiasm at the University of Arizona.

President Richard A. Harvill said:



DR. A. B. MEINEL

Dr. Meinel Expert On Instruments

Dr. Aden B. Meinel, director of the National Astronomical Observatory, is considered an expert on instruments which is reasonable since this will be the major problem of the observatory for the next few decades.

Since the beginning of the project, Meinel has been closely involved.

He was executive secretary to a panel of astronomers named by the National Science Foundation to consider the needs of astronomy. It was this group that recommended the National Observatory.

Early in the spring of 1955, Meinel took over the field work to find the best possible site for the observatory.

He flew thousands of miles and traveled hundreds more by car through the Southwest looking at dozens of sites.

In 1954, Meinel received the Helen Warner award of the American Astronomical Society as the outstanding young (under 35) American astronomer.

He won a doctor of philosophy degree in astronomy from the University of California in 1949 and joined the department of astronomy at the University of Chicago the next year.

In 1953, he was made associate director of the Yerkes and McDonald observatories which gave him a leave of absence for the National Observatory project.

"The selection of the National Observatory site is of great importance to the entire state of Arizona. The impact of research by the Assn. of Universities for Research in Astronomy will give tremendous impetus to further development of research throughout the Southwest.

"The University of Arizona is already making giant strides in the rate of increase of research in virtually all fields. Of course, we are pleased to have the prospect of the greatly augmented community of scholars that this new installation will bring.

"The added research potential and the range of increased activity by scientists in this area will benefit the university, particularly in the physical sciences.

"Moreover, the location of the University of Arizona with its splendid faculty and other resources in proximity to Kitt Peak will offer distinct advantages to the National Observatory."

Most enthusiastic of all, perhaps, was Dr. Edwin F. Carpenter, director of the university's Steward Observatory since 1938.

Carpenter, who came to the university in 1923, has been a part of the astronomical age that discovered the existence of billions of galaxies and the nuclear process that causes suns to "shine."

He thinks the time is appropriate for the establishment of a national observatory where scientists can come to work.

"The National Observatory will stimulate astronomy nationally," he said today of the announcement. "It will provide facilities for dozens of astronomers who have none."

"Since the National Observatory will be staffed in part by guest astronomers from colleges and universities in all parts of the country, the community will enjoy a continuous flow of distinguished investigators in most all of the fields of optical astronomy," Carpenter said.

"The resulting stimulus will react extraordinarily favorably not only upon the work in astronomy, but also upon work in physics, electronics, mathematics and the sciences in general."

Also particularly interested in the announcement was the Institute of Atmospheric Physics.

It helped in the selection of the site by giving the committee in charge reports on the comparative cloudiness of the sites involved. These were done by Dr. James McDonald, senior physicist, and Dr. William Sellers, institute climatologist.

"We are enthusiastic about any such development which increases facility in this area as a scientific community," Dr. A. Richard Kassander, institute director, said today.

It is understood that a solar telescope will be placed on Kitt Peak and the institute will be interested in the result of this work in line with its own study of solar radiation.

Also, Kassander anticipates that there will be men working at Kitt Peak on the weather of the planets and this will interest the institute.

Sober Or Not, Walks Satisfy Legislator

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — One member of the House of Delegates was pretty frank in telling why he opposed a \$40,000 outlay for state-house grounds improvements, including new walks.

He told the House he had walked about the statehouse grounds at all hours of the day and night.