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**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE REELFOOT  
LAKE BIOLOGICAL STATION**

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PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

*Southwestern College, Memphis, Tennessee*

The thirtieth consecutive session of this inland biological station, supported by a grant from the State of Tennessee, was a continuation of the program of the Tennessee Academy of Science of offering research facilities to competent investigators for limited periods during the summer months.

Dr. Robert J. Schoffman of the Spalding Institute, Peoria, Illinois, spent his twenty-third consecutive summer at the Station and continued his extensive investigations on the age and growth rate of the fishes of the lake. He concentrated on the channel catfish and found, by comparing the age and growth rates of this fish for 1953 and 1960, that there has been a definite decrease in both length and weight when compared to age. A major change that might have affected these fish is the restriction for the past five years on the commercial catch of this fish. Previous studies on game fishes show similar results.

Access to the Station continues to be restricted to use of motor boats on the Bayou de Chien due to the fact that a drainage ditch was cut across our private road three years ago. This road and ditch are on the property of the Division of Fish and Game, yet no attempt has been made by those responsible to build a bridge. Until this is done the operation and use of the Station will be greatly handicapped.

Despite this lack of access the Station continues to be used by university and high school classes in biology, members of Summer Institutes for high school teachers, and individuals traveling and collecting materials for their researches.

The venerable Walnut Log Lodge was destroyed by fire in May and in its place is a very modern and well-appointed motel with excellent accommodations for fishermen, hunters and scientists.



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**CARL KEENAN SEYFERT (1911-1960)**  
ROBERT LAGEMANN  
*Vanderbilt University*

Dr Carl K. Seyfert, Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Vanderbilt University, was killed in an automobile accident in Nashville on June 13, 1960. Members of many diverse groups



will mourn his death at the age of 49, but especially will he be remembered by members of the Tennessee Academy of Science, which he served in one capacity or another continuously for ten



years, as president (1951-52), as vice president (1950-51), and as a member of the Executive Committee from 1947 to 1957. In 1960 he addressed the Academy at the annual dinner.

At the time of his death Dr. Seyfert was Director of the Arthur J. Dyer Observatory of Vanderbilt University, a member of the Board of Directors of the Associated Universities Incorporated, which operates the National Radio Observatory at Green Bank, West Va., and a member of the Board of Directors of the Associated Universities for Research in Astronomy, which operates the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Tucson, Arizona.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. Seyfert went to Harvard University intending to prepare for a medical career, but changed his plans after taking only a single course in astronomy, which he "found so fascinating that I couldn't give it up." In succeeding years he continued to find it fascinating and made it so for thousands of others as well. All of his degrees were obtained at Harvard. He graduated *magna cum laude* in 1933, and received his M.A. in 1934 and the Ph.D. in 1936. In 1935 he married Muriel Elizabeth Mussells, who at the time was a research assistant at the Harvard Observatory. From 1936 to 1940 he served as a Research Associate at the McDonald Observatory in Texas. During 1940-42 he was a National Research Council Fellow at the Mt. Wilson Observatory in California, and from 1942 to 1946 he was an Instructor and Assistant Professor at the Case Institute of Technology, Cleveland, Ohio. In 1946 he came to Vanderbilt charged with the task of developing a course program in astronomy and finding a way to utilize at 24-inch, fused-quartz mirror given the University at the close of tests preparatory to the building of the 200 inch telescope at Mt. Palomar. In carrying out this assignment he was extraordinarily successful. The present Dyer Observatory of the University stands as a memorial to his persistence—six years were required to raise the needed funds; to his friendly persuasiveness—over eighty firms and foundations contributed to the building; and to his professional competence—the telescope is admirably adapted for research at a university observatory.

When the telescope went into service in 1953, Dr. Seyfert actively pursued a research program organized around its special capabilities. Principally he continued his earlier research in photoelectric photometry of eclipsing variables and the study of galactic structure. To the Observatory came astronomers from all over the world, to observe for a period, to discuss research problems, or to address the monthly meeting of the Barnard Club, which drew an enthusiastic audience of local amateurs.

Dr. Seyfert was an internationally known figure in the world of astronomy. A member of numerous professional societies, he acted on many important committees and, recently, organized speaking tours for the NSF visiting astronomers program.

If one had to describe him with but one word, it would be

the adjective, enthusiastic. Particularly was this trait revealed in his attitude toward his favorite science. His ardor for astronomy was virtually unbounded. A stranger meeting him would soon learn of his profession. In any conversation with him, astronomy would enter sooner or later. He practiced the arts of astronomy by night and talked of it by day. Astronomy was his vocation and his avocation.

This is not to say he had no other interests; he did. But always his enthusiasm and fervor came to the front. The people of Nashville knew him as an active member of the Rotary Club, a director of the Nashville Children's Museum, a member of the board of the Nashville Symphony, and as a popular weather-man on a Nashville television station, whose listeners felt no reluctance to send him letters about the weather and strange astronomical phenomena or to write their regrets on learning that illness kept him off camera. Students at Vanderbilt knew him for an attractive one-semester course, taught with spirit and assurance, which had to be scheduled twice each year in order to accommodate the demands for it. High-school teachers in the Southeast knew him for his inspiring lectures at NFS institutes. His colleagues knew him for his infectious humor — he once wrote back from Moscow that the astronomers there were rolling out the red carpet for him.

It is probable that no other member of the Academy has influenced so many people of Tennessee to take an interest in science and to become aware of Nature's marvels. He will be sorely missed.

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## NEWS OF TENNESSEE SCIENCE

### DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

### UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Dr. Howard Rock has left to accept a position in the Department of Biology at Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Donald Foard has left to accept a position in the Department of Botany at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Four new members have joined the staff of the Botany Department. Dr. Matti Al-Aish received his Ph.D. at the University of Texas and has come to U T from Duke University. Dr. Sandra L. Bell received her Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. Dr. Alan S. Heilman has come to U T from Ohio State University where he has been engaged in research and teaching. Dr. Edward C. Clebsch has joined the staff as a research assistant; he received his Ph.D. at Duke University and is working on an AEC project with Dr. Royal Shanks.

Dr. L. R. Hesler, Emeritus Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Professor Botany, spent several weeks in September and October in Europe visiting mycologists and mycological herbaria.

Dr. A. J. Sharp, head of the Botany Department, spent last summer at the University of Michigan Biological Station teaching Bryology and Lichenology. In October Dr. Sharp attended the First Botanical Congress in Mexico City where he presented an invited paper on the migration of plants from eastern Asia to North America in the Tertiary era.

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