

## NEW AMERICAN MUSEUM OF ATOMIC ENERGY

Early this year the new American Museum of Atomic Energy, in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, opened its doors to the public.

There are exhibits dealing with such diverse subjects as fusion, health, crime detection, and space exploration. Each exhibit has been specially designed and built for the new museum, with opportunities for visitor participation as one of the most important goals.

There are five permanent exhibit halls in the new museum, plus an area set aside for special exhibits. Displays in the "Energy for Electric Power Today" hall trace the history of energy from the turn of the century to today's modern nuclear power plants. "Energy For Tomorrow's Power," the second permanent exhibit hall, explains some of the sources of energy for the future, such as fusion, solar, and geothermal energy.

The exhibits in the "Energy on Special Assignment" area deal with a wide variety of energy applications. Among these are devices for powering remote weather stations and space satellites, as well as displays featuring little-known applications of atomic energy in crime fighting, detecting art forgeries, and industrial packaging.

In the "Energy for Better Health" section, visitors will see how atomic energy has contributed to medical research, nutrition, and agriculture. The museum "menagerie," which has some of the small animals used in medical research, will be featured here.

The last permanent exhibit area, "Energy in the Defense of Freedom," presents materials explaining the nation's defense program. One of the features of this section is a pictorial history of the development of nuclear weapons during World War II. In addition to the weapons displays, copies of the strategic arms limitation treaties can be seen.

The American museum of Atomic Energy will be offering an exciting array of educational programs through its Science Education Resource Center. These programs will include in-service workshops for science teachers, special museum tours and demonstrations for students, and teaching aids and materials for schools throughout the Appalachian region. All of these services will represent an important outreach of the new museum.

The museum also serves as the base of operations for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's extensive traveling exhibits program. This role will continue under the Energy Research and Development Administration. Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) operates the American Museum of Atomic Energy. ORAU, a nonprofit corporation sponsored by 42 colleges and universities throughout the South, has managed the existing museum for the past 25 years.

The new museum will be open every day of the week except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. There is no admission charge. The museum is located in the center of Oak Ridge.