National Science Teaching Association Sectional Meetings at Montana State University

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FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

"How to do it" sectional meetings will be featured on the Saturday program of the Rocky Mountain Regional Conference of the National Science Teachers Association opening in Missoula Friday, according to Dr. R. A. Diettert of Montana State University, co-chairman.

Dr. B. Roger Ray, professor of chemistry at Washington State University, will be the speaker at the conference luncheon Saturday at 12:15 p. m. in the MSU Lodge, Dr. Diettert said. Dr. Ray's topic will be "Demonstrations in the Field of Colloid and Surface Chemistry as Applied and Emphasized in Oceanography."

Dr. Ray, associate dean of the WSU Division of Natural Sciences, has held regional offices in the American Chemical Society and serves on committees of the National Academy of Sciences and other organizations. He has done research under grants from the National Science Foundation and other groups and has written many technical articles. He took his Ph. D. at the University of Michigan, and before joining the WSU staff in 1957 he taught at the Universities of Illinois and Michigan and at Oregon State College.

Alfred Butler of the WSU Physics Department, past chairman of NSTA, will speak at the physics sectional meeting on "Some Practical Demonstrations for Use in High School Physics Classes." John Stefanoff, chairman of the Great Falls High School Physics Department, will be chairman of the meeting.

The sectional meetings, all in the MSU Liberal Arts building, will open at 10 a. m. with sessions running until noon on primary and intermediate science teaching, seventh grad life sciences and eighth grade physical science.

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James Watkins, Montana science and mathematics supervisor, State Department of Public Instruction, Helena, will be chairman of the session on primary and intermediate teaching. Presentations will be given by Mrs. Barbara Hoheisel, Billings; and Mrs. Ruth Beck, Big Timber; John Ward, Galata, and Art Walker and John Birkholz, both of Great Falls.

Chairman of the seventh grade life sciences group will be Bill Serrette, Helena. Participants will be Clifford Trexler, Victor, and Carrol G. Lorang, Great Falls.

S. J. Knudsen, science curriculum coordinator for the Missoula public schools, will be chairman of the eighth grade physical science session. Taking part will be Robert Quenemoen, Great Falls, and Herman Eggebrecht, Butte.

Sectional meetings will continue Saturday afternoon, opening with one on ninth grade earth sciences, chaired by Howard Nelson, science curriculum coordinator for the Glasgow schools. Marshall Lambert, Ekalaka, will give a presentation on "Teaching Geology on the High School Level."

Paul Buck, chairman of the Great Falls High School Biology Department, will be chairman of the biology section. Topics will be "Teaching Genetic Concepts," by Dr. Jerry Lightner, Great Falls, and "Teaching Radiation Biology," by James Cusker, chairman of the Missoula County High School Biology Department.

The chemistry section meeting will be conducted by C. R. Engebretson of Libby, member of the State Science Curriculum Committee. Participants will be Norman Jacobson, Deer Lodge, and James Cox, chairman of the state committee and superintendent of schools at Ryegate.

The sectional meetings will close with Prof. Butler's presentation at the physics meeting. For 12 years Butler has been commentator on "Science in the News,"
a radio program used by 35 stations in the Northwest and by Voice of America. He is co-author with W. H. Slabaugh of "College Physical Science," published in 1958 by Prentice Hall. He has directed National Science Foundation summer institutes at WSU and is past president of the Washington Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers.

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Dr. Larson has a background in research, having directed the Rocky Mountain Laboratory at Hamilton from January 1950 until November 1960, then he went to Bethesda, MD, as chief of program development for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. He spent one sabbatical leave year in France as a visiting scientist at the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

At MSU, Dr. Larson will direct basic research financed in part as a request by the University from Stella Duncan Johnston, an illness who died in California in 1965. Mrs. Johnston, a victim of bronchial asthma, stipulated that the funds be used for research in asthma, allergy, hypersensitivity and hay fever.

"Only his arrival in Missoula this week. Dr. Larson predicts, the research facilities at the University will be able to meet the high standards of any major research center in the country and are superior to some I have seen at more prestigious institutions."

"Stella's bequest research opportunities at MSU are limited only by the financial resources that will be available to support them," he added.

Dr. Larson began his career with the National Institutes of Health in 1937 as assistant chief of the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, Bethesda. While he was director of the Rocky Mountain Laboratory, he was tapped for an additional appointment as director of the Division of Bacterial Diseases. Nevertheless, he had organized divisions in Bethesda the previous in 1935 while he was at the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

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