

CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEMORY OF ROSS GUNN

FOREWORD

On October 15, 1966, Dr. Ross Gunn died in Washington, D.C. Almost immediately the suggestion was made that a memorial issue of the *Monthly Weather Review* be devoted to contributions in his honor. This received warm and enthusiastic support from the many colleagues within the scientific community and led to the present *Ross Gunn Memorial Issue*.

It is altogether fitting to so dedicate an issue of the *Monthly Weather Review* to the memory of this able scientist. Dr. Gunn was head of the Physical Research Division of the U.S. Weather Bureau from 1947 until 1958; in 1955 he was made Assistant Chief of the Bureau. For a much longer period Dr. Gunn had eminent stature in the scientific endeavor of his time in problems of thunderstorm electricity, of aircraft electrification, of cloud physics (the giant Texas cloud chamber was his creation), and of precipitation physics and weather modification. His publications in these fields of atmospheric physics are contributions of lasting significance. His work and his leadership were recognized by fellow scientists and he was elected to the National Academy of Science.

The lead article of this issue, "Ross Gunn—the Scientist and the Individual," by Dr. Reichelderfer, very well conveys the warmth and sincerity of the individual and records Gunn's considerable contribution to fields other than the atmospheric sciences. It is perhaps proper to say his contributions to aircraft and scientific instrumentation; his theories on the origin of terrestrial and solar magnetism, the earth and the solar system, the source of the sun's heat, the formation of mountains, and isostasy; and his work toward the utilization of atomic energy outweigh in importance his work in the atmospheric sciences. Nonetheless, in this issue it was necessary to limit the invitations to articles germane to the *Monthly Weather Review*. The response to invitations for scientific articles was extensive. Authors of the papers included herein feel honored to dedicate this work to the memory of Ross Gunn and to his vigorous role in advancing the geophysical sciences.

It is left to us to build upon the ever-enlarging foundations of our knowledge. Here Dr. Gunn's "philosophy of research" which one of us has heard oft-expressed can be given—Gunn gave the five F's of science as: Facts, Filter, Focus, Formulate, and Follow. These guidelines should be remembered along with his scientific contributions.

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