

Thinking Man's Narrator New To Planetarium Staff

By RUFUS RUSSELL

The house lights up at the Morehead Planetarium and the masterful narrator of the evening's program, R. S. Dodson, begins chatting informally with members of the awed audience that he has just taken on a "rocket trip" to outer space.

"Pardon me, sir," you're prompted to ask, "are you a professional astronomer?"

"Oh no," he answers, "I'm just an over-age editor, now retired and living in Chapel Hill."

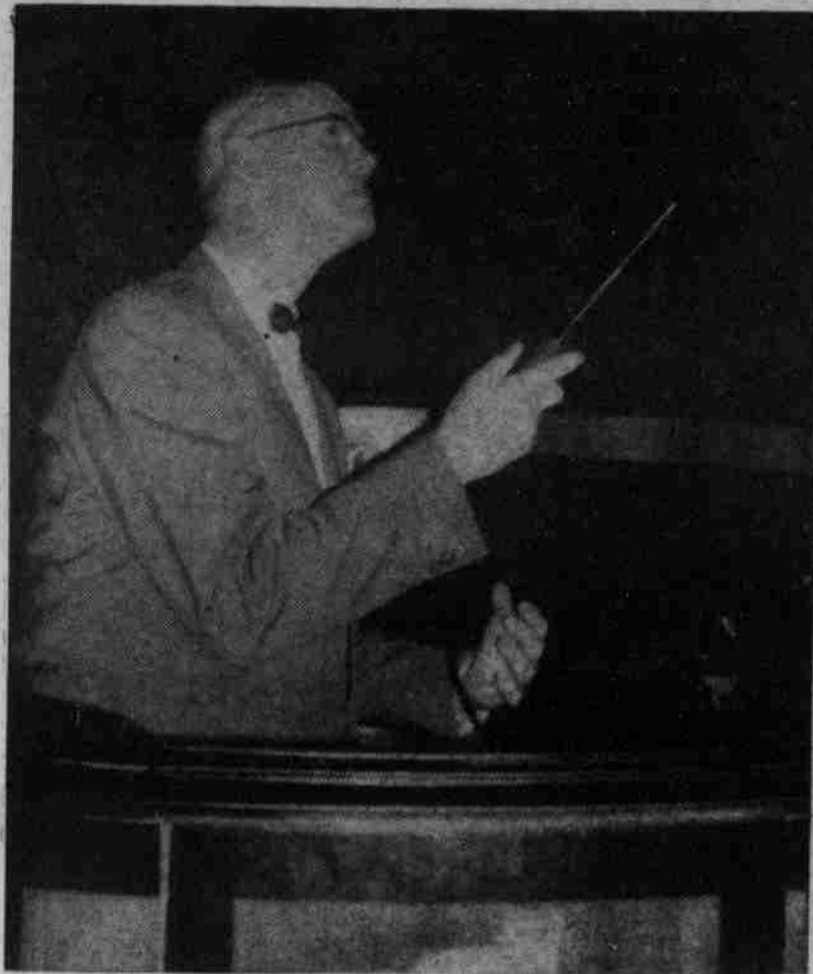
Another man who thinks for himself. You have to think for yourself to be a narrator at the Morehead Planetarium. The control console (which the narrator has to operate in the dark while lecturing constantly) has over 70 knobs, buttons and switches to direct the approximately 9,000 stars, planets and other stellar bodies which traverse the stainless-steel sky of the heavenly theater.

EDITOR OF "THIS WEEK"

Dodson has led and is leading a full life. Amateur astronomy has been his avocation for many years. His real life work has been as an editor of a national magazine, the Sunday newspaper supplement, "This Week." Astronomy is his hobby.

"The study of things in the sky," says Dodson, "has fascinated me since childhood, when I saw Halley's Comet during its 1910 appearance. However, it was not until the middle 1930's that I seriously took up astronomy as a hobby. At that time I was just beginning to reach the ulcer-begetting stage of responsibility in the publication business, which has been my life work."

Since the 1930's he has been a participant in many astronomical societies, and at one time



NARRATING STORY OF STARS—Richard S. Dodson, a narrator at the Morehead Planetarium at the University of North Carolina, points to stars in the process of current show. Dodson is former magazine editor of "This Week" magazine, Sunday newspaper supplement and lives in retirement on a 40-acre farm near Chapel Hill. (UNC Photo by R. R. Russell)

helped construct a 12-inch reflecting telescope.

Developing simultaneously with his avocational astronomical interests, was his vocational ability as an ace newsman. In 1926 Dodson left his home state of Maryland to assume a position in New York. In 1927 he became associated with the Sunday "Herald Tribune," the publication on which was built one of America's most popular Sunday sections, "This Week," which has astronomical circulation.

Concerning the hectic pace of the publication business, Dodson says, "Helping to make a magazine of national importance in New York City is an interesting and stimulating business, goodness knows. If it had not been a grand way to earn a living I could never have spent most of my adult life in the field. But being managing editor of such a publication, as I was for 13 years, can bring tensions that will drive you crazy if you don't look out, too. I learned that a night under the stars, after a day in the office, could bring surcease from worry and help build up a philosophy—you might even say a religion—that would do much to calm me down and prepare me for the next day's battle."

Dodson also served as special projects director for the magazine and became the publication's first "space editor" upon the launching of the Russian Sputnik.

When retirement from "This Week" approached, Mr. and Mrs. Dodson began casting around for a locale in which to live. Although they were certain that they would move south to escape the severe northern winters, they were undecided about the exact location until visiting Chapel Hill, "the southern part of heaven." In 1956 they began to search for suitable real estate in the area and in 1958 they purchased a 47-acre farm 12 miles southwest of the village. Appropriate to his interest in the skies, Dodson dubbed the farm house "Star-look."

One of the most recent additions to the Morehead Planetarium narrator's staff, Dodson delivered his first narration in the 1959 Christmas spectacular, "Star of Bethlehem," presented annually at the Planetarium. He is currently narrating a show entitled "Life on Other Worlds" for which he wrote the script.

UNC School of Pharmacy, was named for the first dean of the present school, Edward Vernon Howell.

Computation Center Group Attends National Meets

Five members of the staff of the UNC Computation Center will attend the "USE" meeting in Syracuse, New York from August 16 through 19. This is a conference made up of the users of Remington-Rand's 1105 and 1103 automatic electronic digital computing systems, and is known as the Univac Scientific Exchange.

Persons attending from here will include Webb Evans, associate director of the Computation Center; J. W. Hansen, chief of the programming staff; Tom Saboski, also a programmer; Fred Palmdahl, chief of maintenance; and Harold Jackson, research engineer for Computer Improvement and Modernization. Sessions will be held in the Hotel Syracuse.

Later in the month a number of persons from Chapel Hill will participate in the fifteenth annual national conference of the Association for Computing Machinery meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from August 23 through August 26. At the opening session Dr. John W. Carr III and Arthur E. Oldehoeft, recent member of the staff of the Computation Center, will present a paper entitled "Results of a Survey of Computer-Oriented Mathematics in the Soviet Union."

Dr. Carr will also present a paper on "Applications of Experience in Computer Programming to Possible Mistakes in the Proofs of Undecidability." Statements from the abstract of this work include these assertions: "The key proofs in undecidability theory involve a proof by contradiction, intuitively leaving much to be desired... Under this interpretation, the contradiction proof appears itself to contain contradictions."

In that section of the program called "Logic and Circuit Design," which includes the preceding paper, Dr. Carr and Shimon Sven, a graduate student from Israel, will also present "An Analysis of Logical Design Using the Filde of Integers Modulo 2."

The staff of the Computation Center at Chapel Hill will also contribute to the discussion on "Extension of Popular Compilers." "The Expansion of an Algebraic Compiler to Facilitate Symbol Manipulation," prepared by Robert

ert Coe, Sylvia Hubbard, and C. L. McCarthy, all members of the staff here during the last year, will be given to this section. Programming Chief J. W. Hanson will discuss "An Experiment in Writing an Algebraic Language Compiler."

In addition to these persons presenting papers the Center here will also be represented by Roger Hansen, editorial assistant for the new journal, "Computing Reviews," which is edited and distributed from Chapel Hill. Other persons attending include Robert Wonderly and Fred Blackwell of the Programming Staff and Harold Jackson, Research Engineer.

Kerr Lake Area Now Off Limits

The University has been notified that the recreation area allocated to the use of the University at Kerr Lake has been restricted. No swimming or water skiing may be carried on due to the pollution of this "Nutbush" area by sewage.

This "Nutbush" area has been restricted by the State Board of Health and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers until further notice. It is understood that other areas are still available for water sports.

All students and University staff members are requested to observe the restrictions.

This recreation area was licensed to the University by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1955 and comprises some 230 acres of land adjacent to Kerr Lake. The area is near Townville, Vance County.

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