



Smatterings...

By Sig

SCIENCE FAIR AT IROQUOIS

Kathy Weisc, an eighth grader, won 'best of show' at the Iroquois Central School Science Fair last week. Her project was an incubator with chicken eggs in various stages of fertility. She had ingeniously placed the eggs in an incubator at different times so that she could exhibit the embryo growth at staggered stages, at the time of the show.

She peeled a small amount of the shell from the large end of several eggs, thereby showing the rate of development. In only two days of incubation, one could see a faint sign of life. In just three days the heart beat, at 140 beats per minute, was visible. She amazed the group of onlookers when she opened this egg which clearly showed the heart pulsating..it was just a tiny pin-head size organ! She had another egg which was in its fourteenth day of growth and with the beat of the heart the egg would quiver from the strong heart motion! She told me she had built her own incubator by insulating cardboard boxes, and devising a clever arrangement of controlling the heat and moisture which was necessary to the incubation of the eggs.

There were literally hundreds of projects and this reporter couldn't begin to see them all... one more fascinating than the next one. Bill Boller also built an incubator and had twelve live chicks on display for which he was awarded a first prize ribbon. He said he first heard the weak peeping of a chick through the shell at midnight and watched the chick peck away at the shell to be 'born' at 2:30 in the morning!

A second prize ribbon went to Elizabeth MacDonald and Laura Larimour for their construction of a space community which was

cleverly built, complete with homes, a shopping plaza, movie theatre, hospital, manufacturing plant, town hall and a moon mine. It was covered with a dome, and an article, written by the girls, explained how such a unit could be maintained in space. This writer was fascinated with this intricate project and the great amount of detail it contained.

There was even a display of wine making by Valerie Haker and Mark Zarpanski. The wine was excellent!

Another first prize was awarded to Larry Hall for his project which was a petroleum oil field, complete with a derrick which worked. The solar system which won an honorable mention was a unique display of the planets, made of clay balls and Christmas tree ornaments. This was created by Lynn Bilski and Karen Peters.

One project which drew the interest of the youngsters was the injection of nicotine into a mouse! The mouse was supposed to go into convulsions within a few moments. They had the mouse on a table where they did the injection and before they could place the mouse back into its cage, the mouse reacted and scurried off the table and ran about the room, causing much screaming and excitement before it was 'captured'. It did, indeed, have convulsive reaction!

There were many other prize-winning displays, for a solar system, human nervous system, the study of fish intelligence, an operating volcano, computing machines of all kinds.

Much credit and praise should go to these students and to the faculty of the school who made it all possible.

See you soon,
Sig