

One of the main contributions of the Jesuit observatory in Baguio to the International Geophysical Year program is the unraveling of the mystery of—

THE FAR EAST ANOMALY

By PAUL B. HUGENDOBLE, S.J.

THE INTERNATIONAL Geophysical Year (I.G.Y.) was undoubtedly Science's most pretentious attempt to organize, direct and successfully complete a vast program of research, international in scale, in modern times. The details of this comprehensive plan kept the eyes, ears, hands and brains of 30,000 scientists and assistants working at their best. Add to this, the equal number of volunteer helpers who flocked in enthusiastically with their own trained abilities, and you can get an idea of the vast manpower at work over that period of 18 months.

The official start was July, 1957. Groups of scientists from 66 nations set out on their wandering searches, leaving few likely spots untouched which gave promise of profitable investigation. Over 11 fields of geophysical interest they spread their talented energies, embraced in three general categories. The first was the EARTH itself—on which the

seismologist, gravity expert and longitude determinist directed their attention. The second, included the earth's surface and lower atmosphere, where information about the weather, oceans and glaciers were to be found. The third reached into the earth's outer environment to touch the sun, cosmic rays, earth magnetism and the ionosphere.

Three World Centers were set up according to this plan, to receive the tons of information that poured in during those busy months. These Centers now hold all the information that will be used to clarify our comprehensive picture of the world.

It made no difference whether a man spent his time on the ice-cap in the Antarctic region or lived in the safety of a warm ionosphere station on a mountain top; whether he was one of a crew in a nuclear submarine breaking through the ice at the North Pole or one of a crew of electronic computers at a World Center. Doing big things or small, a man found himself a very important member of the team contributing his own part to the grand achievement.



MANILA OBSERVATORY STAFF. Shown above are the staff of the ionosphere division. From left: Father Francis Glover, S.J., a visiting scientist from the National Bureau of Standards who is expected to join the Baguio observatory permanently after a year; Perfecto Asperin, data accountant; Pedro Aguinaldo, engineer and technician; Father James J. Hennessey, S.J., Director of the observatory and chief of the ionosphere division; Regino Barameda, assistant and photographer; Father Vicente Marasigan, S.J., ionospheric researcher. The ionosonde is in the background.