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By Mary Hornaday Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

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pg. 7

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New York

Recently a winsome youngster named Susan Stratton threw a switch that fired the first public preview of nuclear fusion, a major natural science exhibit at the New York World's Fair.

Though the hall was dark before the flash, there was nothing of the "sorcerer's apprentice" in the air. Indeed, no. Susan was hailed as symbolic of a bright new age. General Electric geniuses who devised the exhibit said they hope during her lifetime fusion will become a practical power source for mankind.

Tremendous Energies

The huge fusion apparatus, a symbol of the world's expectation for a fallout-free unlimited source of nuclear energy, will be fired every six minutes during the fair and will be

seen by an estimated 14 million visitors.

Located in the center well of GE's "Progressland" pavilion and creating energies equivalent to 100 million degrees F., the fusion demonstration is just one of a vast array of scientific exhibits that will give fairgoers a new concept of the wondrous nature of man's universe.

Many of these exhibits will be housed in the \$6 million Hall of Science which will not be completed until midsummer, but there are also a number beside GE's exhibit in the huge industrial area, one of the five major sections of the fair.

Other features at GE's "Progressland" well worth seeing are Walt Disney's "Skydome Spectacular" in which the "characters" are fierce electric storms, leaping flames, and thousands of spinning atoms and his electronically controlled animated figures that are so lifelike their lips

even form words. The latter figures are expected to prove one of the highlights of the fair. Disney calls them "audio-animatronic."

Rainbow of Light

At night you can spot the \$15 million GE pavilion by its kaleidoscope dome of colored lights.

To really appreciate the whole tremendous show, visitors will have to see it at night as well as by daytime.

Nearby the GE exhibit, "the brightest welcome light of all time," consisting of 12 searchlights, each producing one billion candlepower, will beam into the sky at the Electric Power & Light pavilion, sponsored by the nation's utility companies. This is equal to 340,000 auto headlights, someone has said.

More than 1,000 aluminum panels staggered into triangular prisms give the pavilion the look of a giant organ. During the day, the prisms will reflect

the sun's rays and at night multicolored lights will play on them, creating a fairy-tale castle effect.

Inside, you will be invited to step onto an immense "magic carpet" that will carry you through a lighthearted musical show depicting the contributions of investor-owned electric power and light companies in meeting the electrical energy needs of a growing America.

Names in Posterity

A few steps away, you will be able to place your name on record in the Westinghouse time capsule to be read by people centuries later. The capsule, located at the site of a similar one buried at the time of the last New York World's Fair, will be suspended between pylons and reflected in

What to Expect at the Fair—4

a pool so its reflected image appears at the depth of the buried capsule. On Oct. 16, 1965, the capsule will be lowered into its steel burial shaft.

In the meantime, your signature will have been transferred to special microfilm along with other important records of 20th-century civilization, now being assembled on the five continents.

Computers Featured

Next you might look for an egg-shaped dome covered with "IBMs." Seat yourself in a ground-level theater and you will be raised right into the sphere where you will be shown movies on nine screens telling about the development of computers. The experience promises to be something like

being ingested by the "brain" of an electric computer.

Computers also are featured at the National Cash Register exhibit where the focus is on "The Micro-World"—always at hand but "waiting for us to look and discover."

As an example of new micro-world abilities, the exhibit will show complete contents of the King James Version of the Bible reduced and assembled into an area the size of a small file card, yet with every word easily readable under a microscope.

For relaxation after the complexities of the modern business world, National Cash Register has provided a "game room" where both grown-ups and youngsters will have a chance to operate various types of business machines and to match wits with them.

Another major natural science display in the fair's industrial section is in the Festival of Gas pavilion where for

the first time a "total energy plant"—based on successful use of natural gas to provide all power, heating, and cooling requirements at low cost—will be shown. Heart of the "energy plant" is a natural gas-fired turbine, similar to those used in jet airplanes.

Radio Hams' Delight

For radio "hams" and others, the Coca-Cola "Tower of Music" will have facilities for communicating instantaneously with amateur radio operators around the world. A special three-position sending and receiving station is being installed for operation by members of the American Radio Relay League. Visitors will be invited to witness and listen to conversations between operators and their counterparts throughout the world.

In the Equitable pavilion a demographic display will graphically demonstrate the population explosion on a 45-

foot map of the United States. Great achievements of communication will be depicted in the gigantic floating wing of the Bell Telephone System pavilion through which visitors will be carried at the rate of 4,000 an hour in fiberglass chairs with built-in sound systems and special stabilizing devices to keep them level as the conveyor climbs up and down.

New-Type Phones

Also at the fair the public will become acquainted with "one of the biggest changes in the telephone since the dial"—the push-button telephone. About 1,400 public phones on the fair grounds are touch-tone. It is estimated that a number with seven digits can be touch-toned in two to five seconds compared with an average of 10 seconds by dialing.

One of a series of 10 articles

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