Opening of the Chemistry Building and the Science Lecture Theatre

At a ceremony held at the University on Friday, September 5, Sir James Vernon, C.B.E., B.Sc. (Sydney), Ph.D. (London), Hon.D.Sc. (Sydney), F.R.A.C.I., General Manager of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, opened the Chemistry building and the Honourable C. B. Cutler, E.D., Minister for Education and Science, opened the Science Lecture Theatre.

Prior to this, the Deputy Chancellor, Dr. G. A. Edwards, admitted Mr. Cutler to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters and Sir James Vernon and Mr. R. Basden, B.Sc. (London), M.Ed. (Melbourne), A.S.T.C., F.R.A.C.I., F.I.M. Aust., first Warden of Newcastle University College, to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science.

In presenting the Honourable C. B. Cutler, E.D., to the Deputy Chancellor for admission to the Honorary Degree, Professor J. J. Auchmuty said:

Mr. Deputy Chancellor,

I present to you the Honorable Charles Benjamin Cutler on whom has been conferred the Efficiency Decoration, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Deputy Premier and Minister of Education and Science in the State of New South Wales.

A fifth generation Australian and already a member of the Citizens' Military Forces when war engulfed this country, Charles Cutler, who was ultimately to retire with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, had a very distinguished career overseas in North Africa, Palestine and Syria, serving in both the Siege of Tobruk and the Battle of El Alamein as well as in the Pacific Islands before he returned to take an active part in the local affairs of his native Orange prior to election to the Legislative Assembly in 1947 as the youngest member of that body.

Dr. R. Basden

The Honourable C. B. Cutler, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor J. J. Auchmuty, and Sir James Vernon
By deliberate choice Ralph Basden had made his career outside the Capital of this State. Every one of his colleagues of parliament would be the first to admit that for so many years, in Wollongong and in Broken Hill — he took a very active part in community activities but he never neglected his interest in Geology, in Botany and in Chemistry, especially in the essential oils and sugars of native plants and so it was no surprise that when he was made a member of the New South Wales Parliament in 1954 to continue his connection with the University College and later with the University which sprang from it, as an Honorary Research Fellow in Geology, that he should say he is at least in regular attendance as any member of the academic staff. And thought that is not a name repeatedly. The affection and respect in which he is held by our graduates is shown by his election and re-election as a representative of the Division of Arts in 1954 and the Division of Commerce in 1957. Mr. Deputy Chancellor, it is with great personal pleasure that I present to you Ralph Basden, one of the creators of our University of Newcastle, for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science.

Sir James Vernon, C.B.E., was presented to the Deputy Chancellor for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science, by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Chemistry, Professor J. A. Allen. Professor Allen said:

Mr. Deputy Chancellor

I present to you James Vernon, Knight Bachelor, Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire and Leighton Medallist of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, Bachelor of Science in the University of Sydney, Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Liverpool and Research Scholarships in Chemistry, for his contributions in the University of Sydney, General Manager and Director of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company.

Sir James Vernon was elected Deputy Premier on two occasions served as Acting Premier of the State and has recently been a member of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute: Management; first Warden of the Newcastle University College, Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Chemistry in the University of Newcastle.

Ralph Basden, after serving in the First World War in Field Ambulance Units and subsequently in private industry had a distinguished career in higher education. He is in the New South Wales University of Technology decided at the end of 1951 to establish a University within the confines of the Newcastle Technical College and to make the Principal of that College also the first Chancellor of the University. Indeed he was as well as an administrator, his natural talent for politics was never obscured under many a difficult situation as the aims, objects and ambitions of the two institutions forced into a joint existence in a small city in the heart of New South Wales. At least in this State the two Colleges were both primarily technological but with the introduction of the University system, the New South Wales University of Technology and the University of Newcastle, in 1954 and 1957 and their quick and disproportionate expansion, new stresses and strains brought to bear upon Ralph Basden's own personality which would give offence to no man.

The full text of Sir James Vernon's address at this ceremony is as follows:

Mr. Deputy-Chancellor and members of Council, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you Mr. Deputy-Chancellor for the honour you have done me with your presentation.

My family roots lie in this district, for my forbears settled on the Hunter and the Upper Hunter many years ago when they were driven from the then Newcastle University College. The Commission had been in 1961 that I came with the Australian University Commission to inspect this shortland site, an area that has grown so much in industry and development over the years; it is an area which has been part of the distant background of my family and to come to the University of Newcastle to address the students is an honour and a significance for me.

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Although over 20 years in Parliament Charles Cutler is still a healthy and vigorous young man by any ministerial standards. He has been elevated not only to the ministry but to the Deputy premiership. Two occasions served as Acting Premier of the State and has recently been a member of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute: Management; first Warden of the Newcastle University College, Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Chemistry in the University of Newcastle.

Mr. Deputy Chancellor, I have the honour to present on the Hunter and the Upper Hunter many years ago when they were driven from the then Newcastle University College. The Commission had been in 1961 that I came with the Australian University Commission to inspect this shortland site, an area that has grown so much in industry and development over the years; it is an area which has been part of the distant background of my family and to come to the University of Newcastle to address the students is an honour and a significance for me.

I believe, therefore, that the foundations of the University of Newcastle have been well laid. The University has developed a prominent position in the Commonwealth of Australia. It is a place where high growth rates in student numbers. I congratulate the University and the Vice-Chancellor and all the staff of the University for their planning and development. It is a pleasure to me to be associated with the University in this development, that is not only in its teaching, but not only a very difficult direction; they are conditioned to appear in the academic curriculum but are reticent about a standard of living which we may be unable to sustain.

I do not share these fears. Some problems will certainly be encountered in the years ahead, and the community will have to decide what is a potentially serious enough to tip the scales against what I believe is the national interest. As a consequence of these factors, and above all, the education is required in tertiary education in order to meet the needs of our society. I do not believe that much purpose is served by either forming a consensus or more or less universality of views among the students that are alleged to attach to the other. I think we must guide the students of this University in the service of the Commonwealth of Australia.

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It was also essential for unchallenged access at the "Front Ky from a thunderstorm far out to sea. Apprehension was felt at Newcas-
ty. The University of Newcastle has sprung from an area of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and there reflect much social reaction and changing social values, as the exploration.

The pressence of tens of thousands of VLP guests present. The most favoured watchers gathered at the Cape to see at first hand the dawn of a new age of the sciences and technologies are becoming more practical fact that the ciences and technologies are becoming more

At T minus 15 seconds a great hush descended except for the network commentators in voms parked at the back of the Press Centre waiting. Against the blackness there was some sort of glow from its internal systems flexing in a computer-controlled pre-launch sequence. The computer, the faith of Mission Control a our only guide. Everyone had seen

Back at the Press site the view of the Saturn 5 was utterly impressive as it stood illuminated by the best part of a hundred searchlights. The view on the pad was majestically on it's pad and thought were with the three astronaut

The vast majority of the spectators were Americans who contributed a native air of vacation excitement. Across the isle of Floridians there were the 3,500 representatives of the media of the world. They crowded against the fence and took pictures of the Pad 39-A as this operation commenced and the three stages of the giant rocket's gleaming yellow and black glistered with light. Already 700 tons of kerosene was about to be fed into the fuel pumps carried at the rate of 10,000 gallons a minute from storage tanks around the perimeter of the pad area. During this hazardous operation nobody was allowed within half a mile of the rocket.

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As the sun rose above the thunderclouds out to sea, where an occultation was about to be performed of the key event, particularly those in the transportation section, had not slept for days.

At midnight the buses began a shuttle service taking newsmen to the Press Centre at Cape Kennedy. Shortly before dawn flashes of lightning could be seen in the eastern sky from a thunderstorm far out to sea. Apprehension was felt at Newcas-
ty. The University of Newcastle has sprung from an area of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and there reflect much social reaction and changing social values, as the exploration.

The sun and the temperature climbed higher together and the general excitement of the crowd mounted. The three stage VLP's pilots who brought their big Miami-bound jets down to land on the pad within seconds before lift-off. In the late stages of the countdown help-
tol was the computer checking that all five engines were running smoothly. Then, at T plus 5 seconds, as the tail of the rocket was about to hit the Press site the air of expectancy made everybody tense. It lacked the thunder-clap quality of the ignition

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The count-down proceeded with unhesitating smoothness, each loudspeaker announcement confirming that all systems were "go" and with ending with what seemed almost like a magical incantation "by now it is T minus X minutes and Y seconds and counting"

At about T plus 5 seconds as the tail of the rocket was about to cleave the atmosphere, the VLP's launched. Reporters who had been hoping to obtain a view of the Saturn in action through the Press Site began to compress the confusion in the tally room at 1 and 300 pounds. As the big engines roared to life the sound of miles away from the flight path of the radar and the viewer or listener does not in some way provide a complete and complete impression of a Saturn rocket. Certainly the term "blastoff" has been over used.

As the Saturn 5 climbed higher in its noise was heard over a wider area. On one previous firing it was detected by instruments near New York, 1,000 miles away from the pad.

When the Saturn 5 disappeared from view near the eastern horizon we were left with the voice of Mission Control as our only contact. The remaining astronauts were visible as large as they could be seen.

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The sub equent landing on the Moon and the televised transmission carried at a duplicate set of feed pipes thoughtfully provided for just uch an

About 60 miles away at the general excitement of the crowd mounted. The three stage VLP's pilots who brought their big Miami-bound jets down to land on the pad within seconds before lift-off. In the late stages of the countdown help-
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PROFESSOR A. M. GIBBS

Professor A. M. Gibbs took up his appointment to the Chair of English on October 16. A Bachelor of Arts in the Universites of Melbourne and Oxford and a Bachelor of Literature in the University of Oxford, Professor Gibbs was the 1956 Victorian Rhodes Scholar. Having lectured at the University of Adelaide from 1960 to 1964 and in the University of Leeds from 1964 to 1965.

PROFESSOR W. F. J. PICKERING

Professor Gibbs has published a book on George Bernard Shaw in the Writers and Critics series. He was an original joint editor and a member of the founding Editorial Committee of the Australian Southern Review.

Mr. A. Iriki, a Bachelor of Arts in the University of Queensland and a Master of Technology in the University of Sydney, has taken up his appointment as Senior Tutor in Chemical Engineering on August 1.

Mr. J. F. Vivian, Lecturer in Mathematics, resigned on November 6 in order to take up his appointment as Principal Officer in Charge of the Department of Mathematics in the College of Advanced Education at Canberra.

PROFESSOR K. W. ROBINSON

Dr. D. D. S. Kamackartii, a Bachelor of Engineering in the University of Andhra and a Master of Technology and a Doctor of Philosophy in the University of Kharagpur, took up the position of Lecturer in Psychology on August 30. He was previously a Teaching Fellow in that University.

Mr. R. W. Robinson was appointed to a Personal Chair in the Department of Geography on September 19. Professor Robinson is an Honorary Graduate in both History and Geography and a Senior Lecturer in the Universities of Sydney and Newcastle in 1965 as a Lecturer in Geography.

Mr. Leo Hillman, who graduated a Bachelor of Arts from the University in 1968 with Honours Class I in Economics, has been appointed a Tutor in History in Macquarie University. He was previously a Teaching Fellow in that University.

Mr. Arundel Trevor Whitehead has been appointed a Teaching Fellow in Economics in Macquarie University. Mr. Whitehead was previously a Transport Analyst with the Commonwealth Bureau of Roads. He graduated as Bachelor of Arts from this University in 1968 with Honours Class I in Economics.

Mr. Norman Douglas, a 1969 Graduate of this University with Honours Class I in History, has been appointed a Tutor in History in Macquarie University.

The Council acknowledges with gratitude the following benefactions which were received during 1968 —

Australian Atomic Energy Commission
(Staff and Others) — Contribution towards furnishing Staff and Others—Contribution towards furnishing Staff
(Associate Professor William Frederick Joseph Pickering was appointed to a Personal Chair in the Department of Chemistry on September 19. Professor Pickering is a Master of Science and a Doctor of Philosophy in the University of New South Wales and has pursued almost his entire educational and academic career in Newcastle, first at Newcastle Technical College, then at Newcastle University College and finally in the University of Newcastle.

December, 1969

THE GAZETTE

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UNIVERSITY NEWS

Dr. P. H. Scalf, a former teaching fellow and doctoral student in the University of Newcastle, has returned to Australia after two years at the National Research Council, Ottawa and has taken up a research post at the Central Research Laboratories of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited at Shortland.

Miss Patricia Walker, an arts student at the University, was crowned Mattara Princess for 1969 by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle in the ceremony held in Civic Park to mark the opening of the Mattara. Miss Walker represented the University of Newcastle in the University Services' Prize in Psychology.

Mr. Francis Cecil Gutt, who graduated from the University in 1965 as a Bachelor of Engineering, has been awarded a National Heart Foundation Research Fellowship worth more than $7,000. Mr. Gutt was appointed a Lecturer in the Department of Chemical Engineering at Lucas Heights, Mr. Gutt plans to make a prototype nuclear battery for a heart pacemaker. About one ten thousandth as powerful as an ordinaryorch banry but only about the size of a small battery, implanted by surgery, would last more than ten years. Present heart pacemakers have mercury batteries which are effective for about two and a half a years.

Mr. Arthur Allen Parsons, a 1968 Bachelor of Science (Technology) Graduate of this University, has been appointed Plant Engineer at the Newcastle State Dockyard.

Mr. Lea Hillman, who graduated as Bachelor of Arts from the University in 1968 with Honours Class I in Economics, has been appointed Plant Engineer at the Newcastle State Dockyard.

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Contributions towards purchase of equipment for Chemistry Department —

Colonial Sugar Refining Co. Ltd. ... 1,000.00
C.S.R. Chemicals Pty. Ltd. ... 500.00
Newbolds General Refractories Ltd. ... 50.00
Commercial Union Australian Group ... 10.00
Darks Ice Works ... 20.00
Commonwealth Trading Bank ... 500.00
Ampol Petroleum Limited ... 100.00
Kodak Australasia Pty. Ltd. ... 50.00
John Lysaghts (Aust.) Ltd. ... 500.00
Bradmill Industries Ltd. ... 200.00
Electric Lamp Manufacturers (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. ... 200.00

H. L. Wheeler—Cash for Purchase of Library Books ... 50.00


The Faculty Wives’ Association—A pen and wash drawing of Newcastle by Queensland artist, Margaret Olley.

The British Council—A donation to the Department of Education of 24 tape-recordings of talks on various aspects of British life.

Miss Nancy Morison—A donation of a large number of books to the University Library.

Titan Manufacturing Co. Pty. Ltd.—$1,500 worth of photoelastic equipment for the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Miss Marlene Norski—A 1725 German Family Bible, printed in Old Gothic script and illustrated with wood carvings.

Various Professional Accounting Bodies—Subscription to all Australian and leading overseas accounting journals have been donated to the Research Materials Collection of the Department of Commerce.

State Dockyard—A donation to the University Library of a number of journals with extensive back issues dealing with the broad field of Naval Engineering.

Texas Instruments, Elizabeth, South Australia—A large collection of new transistors, integrated circuits and other electronic components.

Broken Hill Proprietary Co. Ltd. and Newbolds General Refractories Ltd.—Donations of small quantities of special materials for thesis projects in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Industrial Chemistry.


Claude Neon Ltd.—A donation to the Faculty of Architecture of all cathode tubes, tube supports and transformers for the proposed artificial sky being fabricated for the Building Science Laboratory.

Austral Bronze Metal Manufacturers Pty. Ltd.—A donation of a complete blower test rig to the Department of Mechanical Engineering for work associated with the desalination project.

Professor K. H. Hartley—A donation to the University Library of some 370 volumes from his personal collection. The works are mainly on French and Italian literature and language.

The United States Information Service—A donation to the University Library of 100 volumes, a number of which are concerned with astronautics.

Mr. R. C. Ward—A donation to the University Library of a fine copy of *The Australian Portrait Gallery and Memoirs of Representative Colonial Men*, Sydney 1885.