

VAS - Copy of address given by Pres. Michael Bass  
Aug. 11, 1989

Gov. Albertis S. Harrison / Not present  
Gov. Mills Godwin  
Gov. Lynwood Holton

Many members of the VA. Academy of Science have shown an interest in the establishment of a scientific museum, since its beginning in 1924. A state museum was therefore started early - one of minerals, timber and natural history. It was located in the basement of the old Finance Building. The State Museum was described by an Academy member at a council meeting in 1963 as disgraceful. The need for an inspiring science museum for the Commonwealth of Virginia had been apparent for many years. A resolution was prepared on November 10, 1963 requesting that Gov. Albertis Harrison appoint a committee to consider means for the short and long-range improvement of the State Museum and make recommendations for the scope and objectives of the Museum. In 1964, the General Assembly directed that a study be made.

Dr. Roscoe Hughes served on this Advisory Committee, appointed under the provision of the Senate Joint Resolution Bill No. 26. His time/effort given to the preparation of a final report reflected greatly his deep and devoted interest in the establishment of a new vision - the Virginia science museum, instead of improving the old concept in the basement of the Finance building.

During his Presidency of the VA Academy of Science in 1965-66, two outstanding events developed from Dr. Hughes' leadership.

1. He established the "Visiting Scientist Program" supported then by an NSF Grant which allowed some 60 days of visitations by qualified college Professors to high schools

throughout the state of Virginia. This program continues today with the help of the State Department of Education.

2. During his term as President of the Academy, a resolution concerning a Virginia museum of science was developed. A special committee of three members from within the Academy Council, with President Hughes as the guiding master, printed the final draft on 4 May 1967. The then immediate Past President Hughes moved forward into adoption. From this date to the final approval of the General Assembly that created the Science Museum of Virginia in 1970, Dr. Hughes was everywhere seeking/securing support for this museum. It was most proper that he served as the first Chairman of the Board of Trustees as appointed by Gov. Linwood Holton.

As President of the VA Academy of Science, I assure you that all members of the Academy are deeply interested in the growth of this Museum. We are proud of the many contributions past members have made to its creation and the maintaining of Roscoe's goals.

Roscoe Durall Hughes has honored us by having had this great, big vision of a Virginia science museum, the ability to develop, nurture and create it into existence. Especially, are we grateful to Roscoe for developing in each of us such a great feeling of accomplishment and pride in this our Virginia science museum.

Friday, Aug. 11, 1989