

00-00-131

Neil Davis is interviewed by Steve Sherman on September 16, 1968 in Fairbanks, Alaska

Series title: This is Your University series tapes

Steve Sherman talked about experiments by the scientists from the Geophysical Institute. Dr. Davis Davis talked about the interest in getting a rocket facility here in the auroral zone. Three years ago NASA gave them some money for a feasibility study. This summer the Defense Atomic Support Agency learned of their efforts and had interest in coming to an auroral zone location for the barium release experiments. Steve asked how the barium will stain the skies. Dr. Davis said that the rockets will carry small canisters of barium and copper oxides which will be reacted at altitude to form a neutral and an ionized cloud. The neutral cloud will be green and the ionized cloud will be purple. The neutral cloud will drift with the winds and the ion cloud if electric fields are present will drift. There will be at least five rockets. Steve asked about other research programs using rockets. Dr. Davis said they anticipate the range will probably will have continued usage with most of the work centering on the auroral phenomenon. Steve asked about the date of the first rocket. Dr. Davis said the opening date is March 6 and then possibly through the whole month of March. Steve asked about disseminating the findings . Dr. Davis said they will publish in the open literature.