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THE SCIENTIFIC VOICE

Charles V. Stanton

A small news item appearing recently in our favorite newspaper reports that placing transistors in microphones used in FM radio transmission is expected to make a great improvement in voice quality.

FM radio is used extensively by police departments taxi services and in aeronautics.

Present cycle of voice range in telephone and radiotelephone microphones is about one octave, it is stated. The transistor circuit is expected to increase this cycle to about three octaves. This will cause the voice to sound more natural and thus more understandable. At the same time these new circuits are expected to eliminate much of the hissing, popping and frying noises heard in receivers, particularly receivers in aircraft. Improved communication, it is believed, will be an important factor in facilitating air traffic and air safety.

Having had some personal experience with private aircraft radio reception, it would be our opinion that any change would be an improvement. Endeavoring to bring in a weak signal results in an almost intolerable noise level.

We are very hopeful that transistors soon can be worked as well into ordinary telephones, if they can produce the results claimed for them.

Warm Wife's Voice

We are told, for instance, that the use of transistors produces a "warmer" tone. Perhaps, then, they will take the chill out of friends wife's voice when she is given 30 minutes warning that you're bringing a friend home to dinner.

Transistors are also supposed to reduce frying, hissing and popping noises. They certainly will be most welcome in the editorial office when we listen to an irate subscriber reporting that her name was misspelled, that we completely balled up the story of her party for the Joneses, and that the editor is an old he-goat who don't know from nothing.

Perhaps transistors also can be made to do something for the guy who thinks he has to raise his voice over the telephone in proportion to the distance to be covered, or maybe the timid little voice that can't be persuaded to speak up.

Then, too, transistors are supposed to make the spoken word more intelligible over the radio or telephone, particularly like-sounding letters such as "B," "P," "V," etc. Maybe then we'll be able to get more initials printed correctly, without asking if it's "Q, like in cucumber."

Transistors, if you are not acquainted with them, promise to revolutionize electronics.

Douglas County May Benefit

We are accustomed to think of scientific development in big terms, such as the new atom-powered submarine. But a transistor is a tiny thing — about the size of a pencil eraser or a kernel of corn. It consists of a minute crystal of the metal germanium. Germanium transmits an electric current only in one direction. It can thus be made to perform the same duties as the tubes used in your radio set, or other electronic tubes far more bulky than the transistor.

The transistor has made possible many of the recent weapons of war, such as the guided missile, automatic gun pointer, radar sight, and numerous other such devices, because transistors are not affected by vibration as are vacuum tubes.

One of these tiny devices will amplify high frequency signals as much as 10,000 times. Some of the crystals are no thicker than a human hair and a small fraction of an inch in other dimensions.

Chief source of germanium today is found in soot from zinc smelters and factories burning coal. The germanium oxide is recovered from soot, converted to metal and then turned into crystal form, after which it is cut into desired shapes by diamond saws.

We have become particularly interested in transistors since Les Childs, local geologist, informed us that large quantities of this unique metal exist in Douglas County. The "mystery metal" prevalent in the Rogue-Umpqua divide, Childs says, contains a high percentage of germanium.

The great problem, Childs says, is to find some method of recovering the metal economically. If it remains at its present price of \$140 per pound, someone surely will come up soon with a process which could initiate an extensive mining industry in this area.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — Never mind whether cigarettes give you a cough.

Science is already musing over such problems. Let's take up today another tempestuous issue in the world of tobacco, which is:

If a man smokes a pipe is he less likely to rob a bank, strike his wife, or saw his mother-in-law in half?

The nation has an estimated 18 million regular or part-time pipe smokers. Are they a more law-abiding class than other type smokers?

To get the answer to this great social question Morris L. Levinson, president of the Kaywood Pipe Co., polled 200 police chiefs.

We have the results at hand. The statistics—like most statistics—seem to prove pretty much what ever you want to believe anyway.

To begin with, 131 police chiefs didn't reply at all. This proves something we have thought all along: You not only can't find a cop when you really want one—you can't even attract his attention through the mail.

Of the 69 police chiefs who did respond to the poll, 22 ducked the issue by saying they had no figures on the smoking habits of their local criminals. Just why not, they didn't say. But it would seem easy enough for the police, in grilling a suspect, to slip in a leading query, such as:

"We know you went to a progressive school as a boy, Butch, but what really led you to hijack that truck? What were you smoking at the time—pipe, cigarette

or cigar? Come clean now — if you know what's good for you." The remaining 47 police chiefs more or less bore out Levinson's hopeful faith that pipe smokers make good family men, rarely cause the cops trouble, and seldom kick small dogs around.

A few comments: The prefect of police in Paris, France, regretted he had no statistical data but admitted he smoked a pipe himself. "John McGraw of the New York Giants put thumbs down on ball players that smoked a pipe because they were the 'peaceful' type," said Chief of Detectives George Lofquist of Sacramento, Calif. "McGraw claimed they lacked that fighting spirit and I believe he was right to a large extent."

"Older men are pipe smokers, and crime reports reveal that the younger age groups predominate in crime," said Chief Roy D. Kerr of Tacoma, Wash.

"I do not smoke at all myself," said police officer L. M. Hilton of Ogden, Utah, but acknowledged pipe smokers committed few homicides in his area.

"Here, Have a Seat!"



Bruce Bioassat

Surely this ought to be the year of decision on the question of the European Defense Community.

Everyone knows that its fate hinges upon what the French do about it. And everyone knows that France's political leaders are extremely unenthusiastic about EDC.

Their lack of enthusiasm stems, of course, from their fear that Germany would tend to dominate the six-nation army. To balance that fear, the French want assurances from both Britain and the United States that they will keep armed forces in Western Europe a long time — perhaps 50 years.

Beyond this, the French would also like to have the British associated with EDC — indeed with all efforts at European unity — much more closely than Britain itself wishes.

On the question of troops in Europe, both Britain and the U.S. understand the political importance as well as the strategic value of contributing forces to the general defense. At the same time, Secretary of State Dulles has warned that American law-makers' patience will wear thin if France does nothing and Germany is consequently barred from taking part in its own defense.

Apparently the French have imagined that they could wait for greater assurances from America before going ahead. But certainly Dulles has now disabused them of that notion. We expect the French to act first. When they have approved EDC, then we may extend to them firmer guarantees of continued American military participation in Europe.

But up to now the French have not moved in response to Dulles' prod. Instead, they are looking more keenly toward Britain, in the hope of finding the prior assurances that could make EDC palatable to timid French politicians.

Fresh reports from London hint that British leaders are listening politely to these French overtures. France, Jean Monnet, architect of European unity efforts in the economic sphere, is trying to link Britain more tightly with the European Coal and Steel Community over which he presides. He believes that if he can succeed in that, he will have laid the foundation for a broader unity.

"We have had dealings with thousands of criminals here, and I cannot recall one of the 'big time' criminals smoking a pipe," commented Chief O.A. Booke of Meridian, Miss. "On the contrary, they chain smoked cigarettes, many of them taking only a couple puffs before stubbing it out and lighting another."

"Pipe smokers seem to have less nervous tension," wrote Police Supt. Leo Kullidy of Scranton, Pa. "It would appear pipe smokers come from the more stable social group," observed Chief S. G. Hagedahl of Kenosha, Wis.

"Pipe smokers are generally older, more settled persons than are the cigarette smokers, and it naturally follows that the cigarette smokers will be more numerous among the law violators," said Chief Ray Blankenship of North Little Rock, Ark.

Frankly, it seems to us this poll raises more questions than it answers.

What shape of pipe and what brand of tobacco will make pipe smokers even more lovable citizens?

Would pipe smoking by wives make them more peaceful in the home?

Does the country really need a good five-cent cigar, or would it just create new worries for the police?

Who commits the most crimes—the regular cigarette smoker, the filtered cigarette smoker, or the guy who likes 'em king size? Will police chiefs appear on television saying, "Why don't you smoke my brand — you don't see me being arrested, do you?"

Yes, and how about snuff? A lot of people take snuff secretly, and who knows what else they may be up to?

including Britain—in the political and military fields as well.

Even Chancellor Adenauer of West Germany is said to endorse this attempt, since European-minded Germans realize any bid by them for leadership would be viewed with grave suspicion.

So, in this first stage of what ought to be EDC's year of decision, Britain seems to hold the key. If the British can overcome their reluctance enough to tie in more closely with Western Europe, then the French may at last move to ratify EDC.

Without that, the whole enterprise may deteriorate into a waiting game between France and America. If neither then were willing to act first, the project might collapse, leaving Western Europe's defenses imperiled. For no practical alternative to EDC has yet been proposed by any Western statesman.

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

STILL THEY KEEP COMING TO OREGON

Eugene Register - Guard

Since the federal census was taken in 1950, the rate of population increase has slowed slightly for the state of Oregon as a whole, but the entire area west of the Cascades, and particularly southwestern Oregon, continues to show heavy gains—according to statistics compiled by the State Board of Health. The major facts:

State population 1940	1,069,684
State population 1950	1,521,341
Numerical gain	451,657
Percentage gain 10 years	39.6
Average yearly gain	45,166
Annual percentage	3.9
Present population (est.)	1,636,761
Numerical gain 3 yrs.	115,429
Average yearly gain	38,476
Average yearly percentage	2.2
Births over deaths	77,178
Immigrants (other states)	38,242

For the six southwest counties of Oregon, however, the population gains in the last three years have pushed the estimated census figure from 313,690 in 1950 to 364,531 in 1953, a gain of 49,841 or 15.8 percent, an average yearly gain of 16,637 or 5.26 percent. This table illustrates:

Births over Migration	deaths	gain	Total
Lane	8,619	10,267	18,886
Douglas	4,020	7,394	11,414
Coos	2,997	6,849	9,846
Jackson	2,709	1,762	3,351
Josephine	1,045	1,595	2,640
Curry	339	1,935	2,324
Impact in percentages:			
Curry		38.4 pct.	
Coos		23.3 pct.	
Douglas		20.0 pct.	
Lane		15.0 pct.	
Josephine		9.9 pct.	
Jackson		7.7 pct.	

Multnomah County gained 31,613 in the three years, but against its 1950 base of 471,537 that is less than 7 percent. Marion County showed a net gain of 3,350 but more people moved away than moved in. The percentage of gain was only about 3 percent on the 1950 base of 101,401. Lane County's 1950 census figure was 125,776. With the gain of 18,886 it should now be at least 144,662.

Shift of the lumber industry from Washington and the Columbia River area into southwestern Oregon, plus the stimulus of war, plus the development of power, plus climate and diversified agricultural opportunities have produced this growth. Conspicuous is the shift into Curry County which began in the post-war period (and drained many people out of this area). Much of the recent population movement has been within the state.

"Can this growth rate be expected to continue?"

Much will depend on development of new processes for wood utilization, and the industries which go with it, on the develop-

Reader Opinions

Trailer Owner Claims Commissioner Wrong

ROSEBURG — Reading the article in the June 22 News-Review quoting Mr. Stewart, our State Tax Commissioner, I was amazed to find he is so poorly acquainted with the facts of his office. Also, I have always been of the opinion that any individual appointed to a public office is to be of service to all the people under his jurisdiction. Mr. Stewart's remarks couldn't help but leave you with the feeling that he has no interest in the people who live in trailers or their problems.

Where has Mr. Stewart been all these years that the license fee on a trailer has been ascertained by the weight of the trailer? The plate on my trailer cost \$3 for a year. Some of my neighbors pay as high as \$85 and \$75 a year for a plate. This is a far cry from the \$10 plates Mr. Stewart spoke of. Also he stated we have paid nothing to the cost and upkeep of schools. I understand that 19 percent of the fees collected on license plates is used for that purpose.

There are seven children from this trailer court attending public schools in Roseburg. When you take 19 percent of the sum total paid for license plates on trailers in this court, plus the amount of tax our trailer court owner pays on the property our trailers are parked on, I think we are paying our share of educating those children. I am sure there must be families who have that number of children attending schools from just one home and who perhaps pay less tax than we do.

Also, Mr. Stewart's remarks about collecting the fees on the spot would tend to leave the reader with the impression that folks who live in trailers are "fly-by-night" individuals and that we do not pay our obligations.

A good credit standing is very important to those of us who live in trailers and whose occupations make it necessary for us to move often. I could purchase a two-bedroom house for \$500 down whereas it takes from \$1500 to \$2500 to make the down payment on a trailer home. Home buyers get up to 20 years in which to pay off their contracts. A trailer buyer gets from three to five years. That runs your payment well above \$100 a month, plus an average of another \$25 a month for parking facilities. Do you think an irresponsible person could keep up this kind of payments?

If the state legislature would have made a provision that after paying our property tax on a trailer we could purchase a license plate for a nominal fee, so we could move our trailers on the highway, there would be no opposition from folks living in trailer homes.

MRS. JOHN DONAVON
New Moon Trailer Court
Roseburg, Oregon

ACCIDENTS PREVENTABLE

SALEM — Ninety per cent of Oregon's 1953 traffic accidents could have been prevented if the drivers had obeyed the traffic laws, the State Traffic Safety Division said Thursday.

Of the 68,000 accidents, 61,000 involved a violation of law.

ment of more power supply, on still greater diversification in industry and agriculture. Minerals abound. The Hanna Company's huge development of Nickel Mountain in Douglas County may be a forerunner of new types of development.

It is our guess that there will be a tapering off of population increase in the next few years while some of these developments are in the formative stage.

Eisenhower Report Against Increasing Mineral Tariffs

By A. ROBERT SMITH
News-Review Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The long-awaited report of President Eisenhower's special commission on foreign trade policy made public this week recommends against a general increase in tariffs on imported minerals as a protective wall behind which Oregon's high-cost mines could be reopened and worked profitably.

The trade commission, headed by Clarence B. Randall of Inland Steel Co., advocated instead development of a climate in foreign countries for investment by American mining companies to assure this country an adequate supply of metals.

This was the majority opinion of the president's trade commission, although 7 of the 17 members dissented from it for varying reasons. Six of the dissenters were members of Congress who have generally opposed the reciprocal trade policy of the past 20 years which the Randall commission urged be renewed for three years.

Outlining the mineral supply and demand condition of America, the commission said: "We depend on foreign sources today for over 50 percent of our requirements of copper, lead and zinc; over 30 percent of our tungsten, bauxite and antimony; over 75 percent for chrome (bulk of the other 25 percent is mined in southern Oregon and western Montana under government-fixed prices) and manganese; practically all our nickel (except for anticipated new production near Riddle, Ore.); and all our requirements of tin, natural rubber and jute."

"To some extent, this need for development of foreign sources of materials may be mitigated by discoveries of new sources in the United States. To some extent, it can be lessened by intensified exploitation of high-cost U.S. sources," the commission reported said.

The latter course, however, would involve quickened depletion of some of them and high costs of materials to our industry and of the products to our consumers. For many materials, the only practical sources are outside our borders. In most of the countries where these sources are situated, local capital is not adequate to finance their development," said the Randall commission.

"The commission believes that the most effective contribution which the U.S. government can make to the development of the foreign sources of raw materials in which we and the free nations are generally deficient, is to follow policies favorable toward private investment abroad and to advocate among nations adherence to principles and practices hospitable to foreign investors and conducive to thrift and investment by their own nationals."

One principal in particular must be stressed: investors in the development of sources of needed materials must be assured against frustration of their ventures by unpredictable or capricious levies on exports or production by the countries of origin. Also our tariff policy toward the needed materials should be such as to offer

them reasonably easy access to the U.S. market."

The commission rejected the argument that military considerations should dictate a protectionist policy respecting strategic minerals which could be produced domestically at high-cost.

"Acceptance of this principle could lead to extreme distortions of the costs to our industry and consumers, with detriment to the international competitive situation of industry. The commission recommends that tariffs or other minor restrictions on raw materials should be determined on economic grounds. Under a finding by the President that it is necessary on solely military grounds to assure a strictly domestic source of supply, the commission recommends that the purpose should be accomplished by other means, the cost of which should be borne in the defense budget. In a subsequent article, the opposite point of view of a minority on the trade commission will be presented."

Greek Steamer Is Taken In Tow Off Oregon Coast

SEATTLE — The Coast Guard Cutter Yonca has taken the fuel-short Greek Steamer Aristotelsis in tow 1,200 miles off the Oregon Coast and is scheduled to transfer the line to a private tug late Wednesday, the Coast Guard reported Tuesday night.

The private tug is the Salvage Chief from Astoria, Ore. It is expected to bring the Aristotelsis into Astoria for refueling before Ore.; and all our requirements of tin, natural rubber and jute."

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