

# End to Pure Science Discovery Forecast

(Editor's Note: J. Wesley Sullivan, news editor of The Oregon Statesman, is on leave to accept a Nieman Fellowship to Harvard University. During his absence he will write exclusively for this newspaper as The Statesman's "Down-East" correspondent.)

By J. WESLEY SULLIVAN  
News Editor, The Statesman

BOSTON, Oct. 12—I took a peak into the future this week through the eyes of Harvard physics professor Philippe Le Corbeiller, who unlike his fellow "pure" scientists here at Harvard, is interested in science as it affects our daily lives.

In me he found a kindred soul, and so for two hours we wandered, teacher and student, through the years to come.

"Let us take a look at silicon," he said, his French accent adding dignity to his words.

A few years ago it was just another element, made from sand. Now it is on the verge of being "exploded" into countless thousands of uses. It may eventually become as useful as carbon, of which there are about a million compounds in use in the world today.

### Lubricating Oil

During World War II a silicon compound was developed to substitute for a carbon compound—lubricating oil. The silicon oil was able to withstand much colder temperatures.

Since the war, silicon has been developed into such products as a children's toy called Silly Putty, a new non-scut shoe wax, and a battery which turns sunlight into electricity. This last was developed by two former Willamette University students.

Silicon made possible the germanium transistor, which is replacing the vacuum tube. Bell Laboratories, which was making the transistors, put a laboratory of experts to work on how to control the unstable germanium. The secret, a silicon compound, was found instead by three Texans working in their small lab. Bell had to pay highly for the formula.

### End to Discoveries

I was amazed to find that Prof. Le Corbeiller foresees the end of discoveries in pure physics.

"In a piece of bread there are trillions of molecules," he said. "Each molecule contains thousands of atoms, each atom has one to 100 electrons each electron is composed of three things light, speed and time. Gradually we are working with smaller numbers. When we get to one there will be nowhere else to go." He pointed to a chart of the elements on the wall. "You see, all the numbers and squares are filled in."

He sees biochemistry as holding

some of the greatest developments in the future. One of the developments which will come soon is the creation of protein in the laboratory—in other words the creation of life itself. Of course, it will not be complex form of life, he adds.

### Effect on Society

He feels that one of the developments to have the greatest effect upon society is a pill that stops a hormone in the female body from its egg-producing function. He says the pill has no side effects upon the body and predicts its widespread use.

Prof. Le Corbeiller is convinced that at least half of what science has in store for us is now impossible to predict.

He cites an example of "looking into the future" as it might have done in 1900. In those days, he says—and with his 66 years, he knows whereof he speaks—if you were to ask a person what the future held, they would have said that soon man would fly. Experiments in flight were all around and it seemed that man must soon discover the secret. However, he adds, if anyone had predicted that the chief executives of the nation, within 20 years or so, could talk to all his citizenry at one time, everyone would have thought the forecaster mad.

The greatest things to come are simply beyond the reach of our imaginations, he believes—and yet they lie in wait for us, ready to alter our entire lives in the not-too-many years to come.

### Composers Moonstruck

PARIS, Oct. 12 (AP)—Baby Moon Waltz . . . By the Light of the Baby Moon . . . Baby Moon Mamba . . . Baby Moon Blues . . .

These are among dozens of sudden outpourings from newly moonstruck French composers. But the Society of Composers and Authors of Music ruled baby moon titles are in the public domain and can't be copyrighted. It said profits, if any, should go to the unknown headline writer who met a deadline with baby moon.

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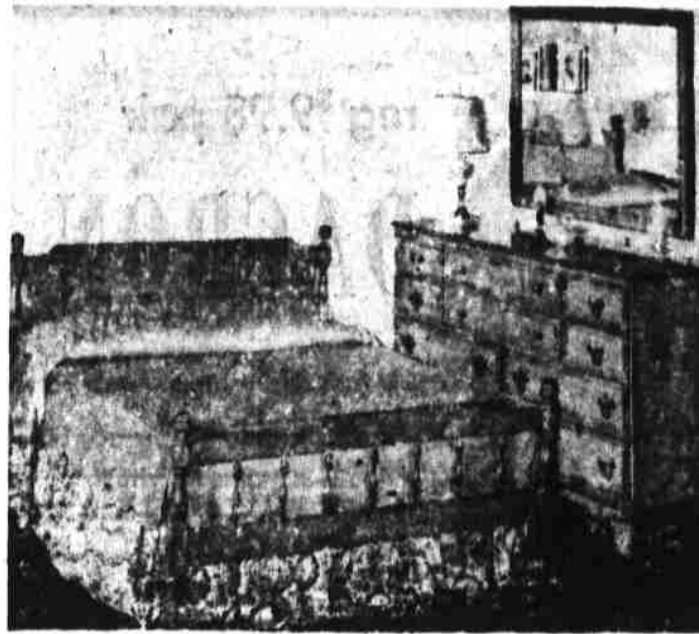
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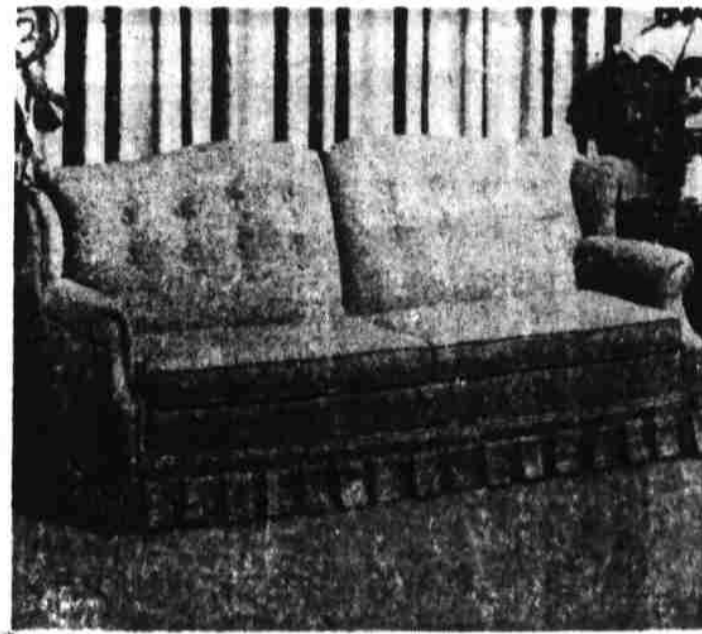


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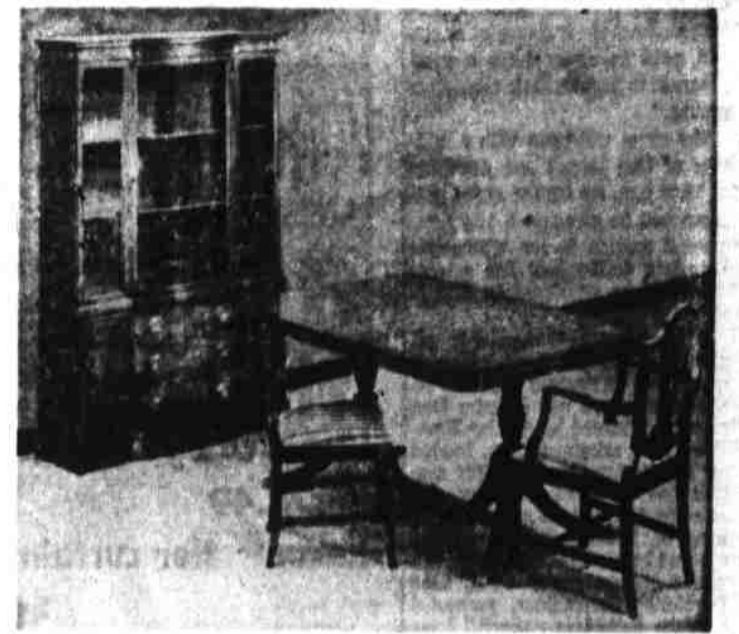


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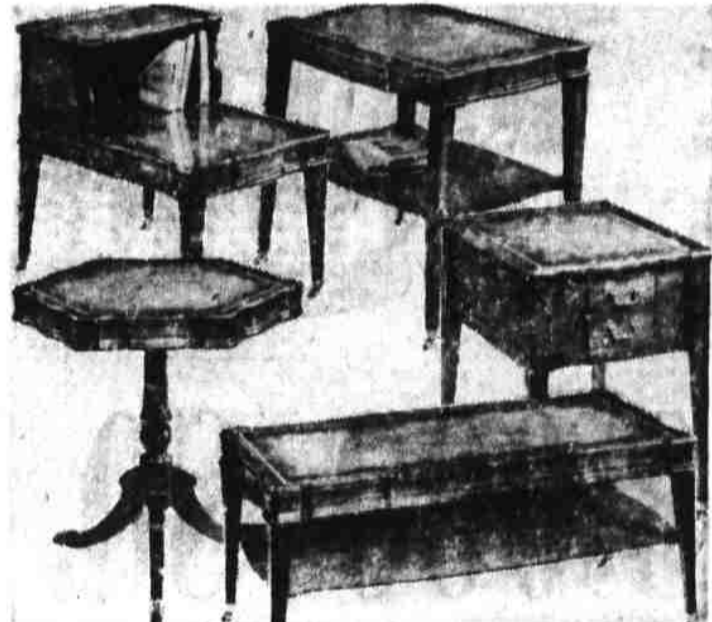


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