

Sun Spots Interfere With Communications Systems

By FAY VAN SCHOIACK
Due to circumstances beyond our control, we cannot continue the broadcast, the radio announcer said apologetically.
A bit frustrating to have your favorite program on radio or TV terminated in this manner but for the next year or two, interruptions may occur with increasing frequency. As the mischief-maker is approximately 93,000,000 miles distant from the earth, there is nothing to be done but "endure with patience."

Spots Increasing

Scientists tell us that the number of spots on the sun are increasing and will continue to gain in numbers till 1957-59 when the peak of the 11-year sunspot cycle will be reached. Also that spots on the sun spell trouble for communication systems of all kinds.

"What are sun spots? How can a spot on the sun 93,000,000 miles away from the earth have anything to do with a radio or TV program?" someone may be wondering.

Sun spots are great swirling cyclones of electrified particles coming from the interior of the sun. They appear as dark patches on the sun's surface. During sun spot activity huge masses of these electrified particles are shot into space and quickly reach the earth, causing a magnetic disturbance in the upper portion of the atmosphere, called the Kennelly-Heaviside layer.

Long distance radio waves cannot penetrate this layer. They rise until they strike it and then are reflected or "bounced" around the earth to a receiving station. However, the magnetic disturbance in the Kennelly-Heaviside layer caused by sun spot activity make it possible for the long distance waves to travel through this layer (which normally acts as a shield) and be lost in space.

Communications Hampered

As a result, radio and television is often blacked out and telegraphic communications hampered. Police radios and other networks may be disrupted for hours at a time. Voices and pictures from foreign countries are likely to come in on TV sets.

On Thursday, Feb. 24, 1956, it was reported to have been almost impossible to make radio telephone calls from Britain to the United States and Canada. At that time a large number of groups of sun spots was reported by a Cambridge university astronomer, Dr. D. W. Dewhurst.

Sunspots may be any size from just visible to 100,000 miles or more in diameter. The largest of the group observed on Feb. 24 was about 10 times as big as the earth. Usually they last only a few days, but sometimes a spot will not disappear for months. One on record persisted for 1 1/2 years, but that was most exceptional.

The northern lights or Aurora Borealis is another result of sun spot activity. The electrified particles from the sun act on the gases in the upper layers of the air causing them to glow in much the same manner that a current of electricity affects the gas in a neon sign.

Weather conditions upon the earth seem to have some connection with sun spots but this has not been proven. However, when spots or storms on Old Sol are nearing the maximum of the 11-year sun spot cycle there are likely to be floods in some parts of the world, droughts in others, and in general, an excess of unusual weather conditions.

VENUS AND THE MOON

Sky gazers on the Pacific coast will be privileged to enjoy a particularly spectacular Venus-moon conjunction during the evening hours of Thursday, March 15, when the crescent moon and brilliant planet will appear to be very close to each other low in the western sky.

A conjunction (astronomical) is the meeting or passing of two or more heavenly bodies in the same degree of the zodiac, or the sky-path in which the sun, moon, and planets travel.

Observers with time and patience can watch the moon pass north of the planet with approximately the width of the moon as distance between them. As Venus has almost reached its time of greatest brilliance and the setting hour is approaching the latest possible for observers in north temperate latitudes this conjunction makes an opportunity for several kinds of striking photographs.

Old Luna and the "Goddess of Love and Beauty" will be visible from 7 to 10 p.m., but will be nearest each other from 8 to 9 p.m. (PST).

American Catholic Convicted in China

Hong Kong —(U.P.)— Another American Catholic priest imprisoned in Shanghai has been tried and convicted of espionage and sentenced to four years in jail, it was reported Saturday. Catholic sources here said Father John Houle of Glendale, Calif. apparently was tried last October and that he wrote his mother about it on Christmas day.

These sources said Houle's sentence was made retroactive to June 15, 1953, the day he was arrested in Shanghai. He is one of seven priests jailed in Shanghai now.

Presumably Houle would be eligible for release in June, 1957. The Communists, however, have freed some convicted Americans ahead of time for "good behavior."

Two other Americans, Father Thomas Phillips, a Jesuit of San Francisco, and Father Joseph McCormack, a Maryknoll priest of New York, also were tried and convicted last fall. They were arrested the same day as Father Houle.

According to reports received here, Phillips was sentenced to three years' imprisonment and McCormack to five years.

If these sentences were made retroactive Father Phillips presumably would be released this summer.

Jury Finds Forrest Guilty of Assault

Hillsboro —(U.P.)— A Washington County Circuit court jury last night returned a guilty verdict against Louis Forrest, 25-year-old former Scofield school board member charged with beating Mrs. Esse Robertson, a teacher at the school. Forrest was charged with assault and battery.

The jury deliberated more than 3 hours before returning its verdict by a 10 to 2 vote. Judge Glen Hieber said he would impose sentence early next week.

The southernmost U.S. town is Florida City, Fla.; the northernmost, Penasse, Minn.

Conviction of Gold Upheld by Court

Washington —(U.P.)— The U. S. Court of Appeals has upheld conviction of former union leader Ben Gold on charges of falsifying a non-Communist affidavit with the National Labor Relations board.

The court voted 4-4 Friday to uphold the conviction. It would have taken a majority vote to upset the verdict. There is one vacancy on the court at present.

Gold's attorney, Joseph Forer, said he will appeal the decision to the Supreme Court. Gold is free on bond from a one-to-three year prison sentence until his appeal is finally settled.

Gold was head of the International Fur and Leather Workers union which was expelled from the CIO in 1949 on grounds it was Communist controlled.

Gold admitted he was a Communist for 30 years, but said he quit the party in order to sign the non-Communist oath in 1950. The Taft-Hartley labor law requires union leaders to swear they are not Reds if their unions want to use NLRB services.

The government claimed Gold's membership continued despite his public letter of resignation. Gold's attorneys claimed much of the evidence against him was introduced improperly to influence the jury.

Gold resigned his union post after his trial. He said he wanted to devote all his time to fighting a law he said was designed to deny legal privileges to Communist-infiltrated unions.

Man Pleads Innocent To Hatchet Slaying

Bakersfield —(U.P.)— Donald Wyciskala, 22, of Bismarck, N.D., accused hatchet slayer of Mr. and Mrs. James Askew, of Seattle, has pleaded innocent and innocent by reason of insanity for a double murder charge.

Superior Judge Robert A. Lambert Saturday set April 4 for a board of alienists to report to the court on the suspect's sanity. If found sane, trial will begin immediately for Wyciskala.

Wyciskala admitted he killed the couple Feb. 5th near McFarland. He was arrested later in New Orleans. He had claimed Askew had "nagged" him about his driving while they were enroute to Los Angeles.

Grange

Phoenix Grange will meet Tuesday, March 13.

The lecturers program will be at 8 p.m. and Mrs. Frank Perl will show slides taken in foreign countries.

Slides of England were shown at the Feb. 14 meeting, and Mrs. Perl was invited to show those of other countries at this later date.

The program will be open to all Grange members and friends. The regular meeting will follow.

In the Tropical Chamber on the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Md., technicians recreate a climate comparable to weather on South Pacific islands. Their purpose is to test airplane equipment under tropical conditions.

As We Live

By ELIZABETH HURLOCK, PH.D.

Imposition Is Usually An Early Childhood Habit



Dr. Hurlock

Some people make a practice of imposing on others. They expect others to do things they can do perfectly well do for themselves because they find it easier that way.

Very often, the person who imposes on others has acquired the habit during his childhood. He has been permitted, or even encouraged, by indulgent parents to let them carry the burdens he should have been carrying for himself.

Mothers are more often to blame for this than are fathers. They like to feel needed and wanted, especially when their children grow up and are able to do many things for themselves. And, because children are naturally lazy, as are adults, they quickly accept the help they get.

In time, the habit of letting others do things for them grows. They not only expect people to do things for them but they go so far as to ask or demand it.

Of course, if they can get away with it, it makes life easier for them. But sooner or later, every person who is in the habit of imposing on others will find himself in a position where there is no one to turn to. Then he will be in a tight spot. Never having learned to assume responsibilities or do things for himself, he is at a loss to know how to tackle the problem that confronts him.

Permitting oneself to be im-

posed upon is bad for anyone. It takes too much of his time and effort with the result that he is either overworked or he must neglect some of his own responsibilities. Of even greater seriousness, the person who permits himself to be imposed upon finds he receives little appreciation for his efforts and this makes his bitter and resentful.

In time, this resentment develops into a suspicion of all who ask him to do anything. He is so on the defensive from his past experience that he becomes uncooperative and this makes people dislike and shun him.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Helping at Home: "My son and his wife are living in our home and both work. They pay me room and board but neither offers to help. My daughter-in-law keeps their room clean and does their laundry but that is all. Shouldn't they do more to help?" —B. M.

(A) What arrangement did you make with your son when he brought his wife to live in your home? Did you ask them at that time to assume certain duties or wasn't that mentioned? I should think you could have a family discussion about the work, and ask your son and his wife to assume certain responsibilities. As both work, you cannot expect as much help as if your daughter-in-law were at home all the time.

Freeliveness: "I have noticed that my children, 5 and 3 years of age, get very fretful late in the afternoon, even when they have had naps or rests. Why is it?" —C.L.

(A) Your children are doubtless hungry or tired or both. If they have had a good rest after

Monday, March 12, 1956

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

Open House Scheduled At New Hilt School

Hilt—An open house in the recently completed Hilt elementary school will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 16. The board of trustees of the school has invited the public to visit the school during the evening.

A plaque commemorating the services of Mrs. Stella R. King to the community of Hilt will be presented to the school by Herman Baumann on behalf of the citizens of Hilt.

ANCHORED

Ionia, Mich. —(U.P.)— A 22-foot pleasure cruiser in dry dock had to be anchored Friday. Floodwaters from a nearby river flooded the building.

their midday meal, they are doubtless hungry. Try giving them a snack, such as fruit juice, milk, fruit, cookies, or bread and butter after their naps and see if this doesn't help. Children are usually fretful when they are hungry.

Carry Cane: "My husband insists upon carrying a cane even when he doesn't need it. I tell him it will make people think he is a dandy. Am I right?" —M.M.

(A) In the large cities, men carry canes with frock coats when they are dressed for special occasions. Otherwise, carrying a cane is usually limited to times of need, such as after an illness or in old age. I am afraid people will think your husband is showing off unless he wears dressy clothes when he carries a cane.

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Bulgaria Has New Law Governing Adulterers

Vienna, Austria —(U.P.)— Adulterers in Bulgaria can be sentenced to prison terms of up to three years, Budapest newspapers reported today.

The newspapers said a new law gives Bulgarian criminal courts the power to sentence per-

A WV-2 Super Constellation of the Navy's Airborne Early Warning Wing, Atlantic, is painted a smokey black. In the future, all Navy patrol planes will be painted the same color.

sons to six months in prison in most cases, while "severe" cases are punishable by sentences of three years.

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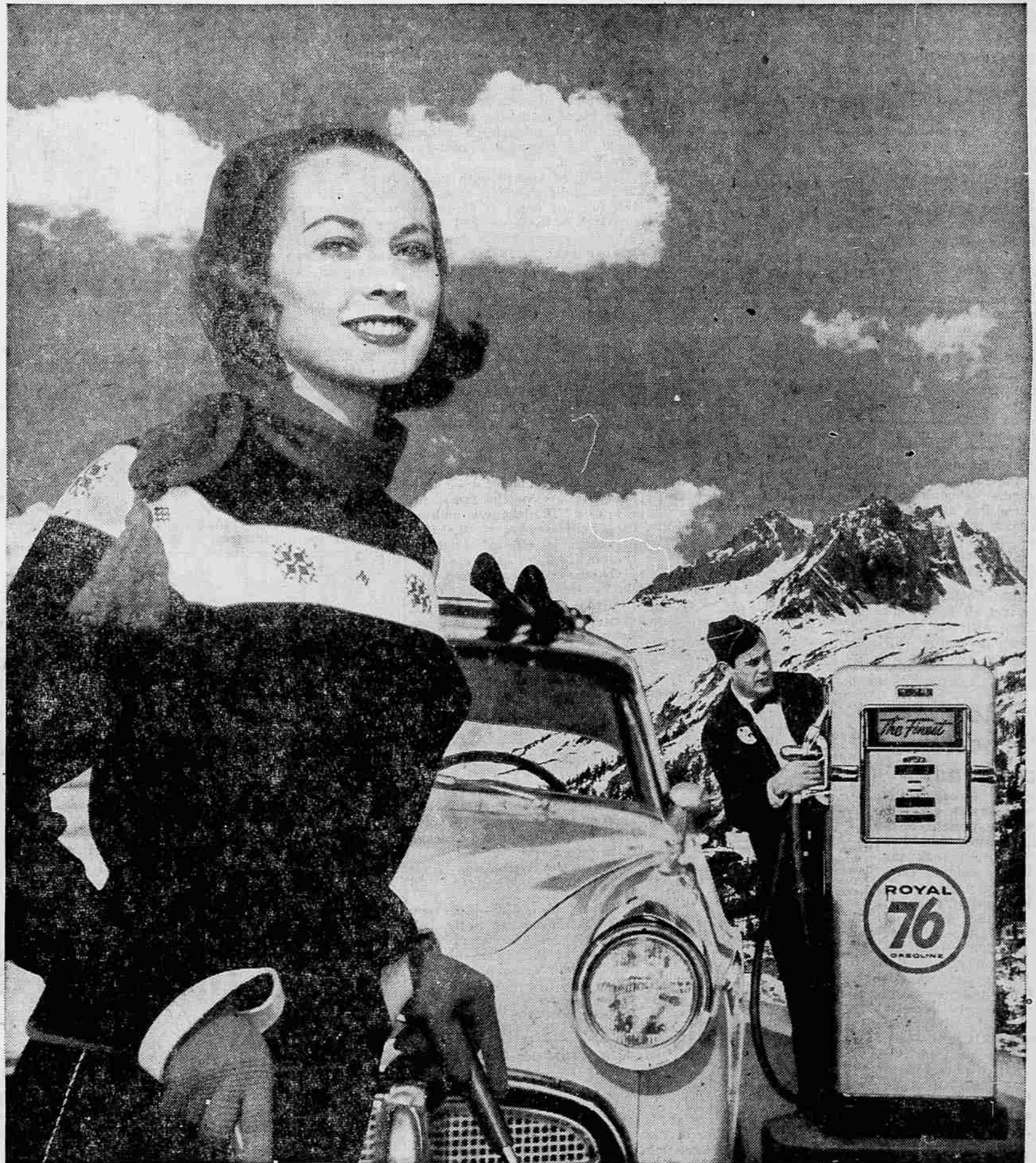


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