

Enough SR90 Floating in High Atmosphere To Kill All on Earth

Editor's Note: In the recent presidential campaign, politicians debated the hazard of a nuclear war. The danger of a nuclear war is not a new one. It is a danger that has been with us since the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. The danger is that a nuclear war could result in the annihilation of the human race. The danger is that a nuclear war could result in the annihilation of the human race.

By JOSEPH L. MYLER
United Press Correspondent
Washington—(U.P.)—Floating in the high atmosphere right now is more than enough of man-made poison to kill everybody on earth.

It is strontium-90, a radioactive product of the atomic age. It was unknown to science a decade and a half ago. It is the most menacing of the radioactive poisons that were spawned in production when man learned to split the atom.

Deadly as it is, the SR90 now in the stratosphere won't kill anybody. By the time it settles out, it will be spread so thinly over the 200 million square miles of earth that no one will get a fatal or even damaging dose.

The stratosphere, that region of thin air that starts 40,000 to 50,000 feet up, is impregnated with about 40 pounds of strontium-90. It was put there by superbomb tests, mainly American. Its effects are global. They last for years.

It has been estimated that less than 32 pounds of SR90 would be enough to inflict agonizing slow death on all of the inhabitants of the planet should it reach them directly.

Margaret Reported In New Romance

London—(U.P.)—London buzzed with rumors of a new royal romance today because Princess Margaret was the week end guest of a millionaire bachelor nobleman.

Princess Margaret, who hasn't had a steady boyfriend since her headline-making romance with Group Capt. Peter Townsend spent the week end at the luxurious Wiltshire residence of the 35-year-old earl of Wilton.

The earl is a handsome, bashful bachelor who usually shuns the gay life of which Margaret is so fond. However, he recently joined what is known as the "Margaret set" in London's cafe society.

The Daily Sketch said today, the earl was "London's most eligible bachelor... one of the princess' newest friends."

The party went hunting, and Daily Sketch columnist Simon Wain mysteriously reported "the bag was better than satisfactory."

The News-Chronicle said Margaret's friend, Judy Montague, who was to the party, "shortly detected" rumors of a new romance.

The paper said the princess chose "jaunty" clothes to wear on the outing.

Boxed Candy Gifts More Than in 1954

Chicago—(U.P.)—The boy friends gave more boxes of candy last year than in 1954 according to reports of the National Confectioners' Association.

The association said sales of packaged candy increased \$4,000,000 pounds. A sales increase of \$23,000,000 over 1954 was recorded. While candy bar sales increased less than one per cent all sales totaled almost three billion pounds.

Per person the United States ate 10.6 pounds of candy, up from last year but down from the 1947-51 average of 17.6.

Court Records

POLICE COURT
Stanley Gertrude Nelson, failure to stop at red light, \$5.
Patsy Ann Ehlman, no operator's license, \$5.
Roy Carl Curknight, failure to stop at red light, \$5.
Richard Wayne Zimmerman, violation of basic rule, \$10.
John Henry Galt, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Woodrow Wilson Smith, failure to stop at red light, \$5.
Lynn Arthur Miller, failure to stop at red light, \$5.
Robert Earl Burns, operating motor vehicle without operator's license, \$5.
Franklin Benjamin Hancock, failure to stop at red light, \$5.
Barton B. Butler, failure to stop at red light, \$5.
Gregory Brent McKen, no operator's license, \$5.
James Lloyd Hovey, failure to stop at red light, \$5.

DISTRICT COURT
Maurice Lee, Hildenbrand, truck speeding, \$15.
Vida Bell Estelle, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Donald Raymond Rice, overload, \$47.
Lee Smith, drunk on public highway, \$30, bail forfeited.
Glen William Hunsbaw, overload, \$113.
Howard Eugene Monk, no operator's license, \$5.
Billy Gene Welch, four adults in driver's seat, \$15.
John Vernon Wheeler, violation of basic rule, \$12.50.
Marvin Pierce Walser, failure to yield right of way, \$15.
Daniel Thomas Cobb, failure to stop at stop sign, \$10.
Arnold W. Radcliff, overload, \$23.
Samuel Allen Thomas, failure to yield right of way, \$10.
Arthur John Ward Jr., violation of basic rule, \$12.50.
Richard Dean Murphy, "overload, \$67.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATION
Richard Kenneth Van Allen, Baker, and Rosalee Ellen Mae, route 1, box 2095, Central Point.
Donald George Van Curier, Union Creek, and Barbara Linnie Covey, box 19, Prospect.
Charles FRAIN Wall, Phoenix, and Diane Orem Tuttle, Shady Cove.
Albert Dale Woodard, Klamath Falls, and Veronia Fay Stahn Manning, Dorris, Calif.

Radiostrontium has been drifting down slowly over all the world since the first giant bomb test in 1952. The bones of every human being contains detectable traces of it.

But there is no evidence whatever that SR90 has yet sickened anyone or is likely to as a result of tests to date. No case of radiostrontium poisoning has ever been reported or even surmised.

Actually, all that is known of radiostrontium's deadliness was learned from experiments with animals or deduced from the long-studied effects of chemically similar radium.

Like radium, if it gets inside the body, SR90 is a "boneseeker." Tiny amounts injected into laboratory animals invariably cause bone cancer.

Radiostrontium is one of many

products of atomic fission, the nuclear reaction of the A-bomb. It is not produced by atomic fusion, the nuclear reaction of the H-bomb.

But since H-bombs have a fission trigger, and some of them a body, SR90 is a "boneseeker." Tiny amounts injected into laboratory animals invariably cause bone cancer.

H-Bombs Cleaner

This country's newer H-bombs are "cleaner" than earlier models because, for a given size, they yield more fusion and less fission energy. Even so, no bomb with a fission trigger, however much the trigger may have been reduced, is absolutely clean.

An all-out nuclear war with weapons like some of the giant bombs now in the U.S. and

Soviet stockpiles would be a catastrophe to mankind from the standpoint of radiostrontium poisoning alone.

And it is generally agreed that any sharp jump in the rate of big bomb testing could imperil humanity.

Because of this, the United States would not think of conducting indefinitely, year after years, tests like its 1954 Pacific

series. That test program, Operation Castle, threw into the stratosphere four times as much SR90 as has been added by all tests since.

But Dr. Willard F. Libby, physicist member of the Atomic Energy Commission, has estimated that tests could go on safely for a century at the average world rate of the past two years. This rate, on an annual basis, is one-eighth that for the year 1954.

The other side of the picture

is that no one can guarantee that future tests by all nations will not surpass the rate of the past two years.

Next: Strontium-90 fallout and its menace.

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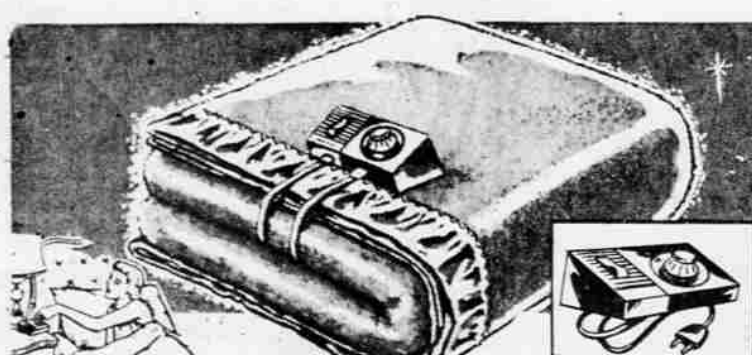
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