

# 'Magic Box' Will Warn West Coast Cities To Beware of Coming Enemy Bomber Attack

San Francisco—An electronic "magic box" invented by a Californian is the new "voice of emergency" that will warn West Coast cities to begin evac-

uating before an H-bomb ob- scures them in a monstrous beich of fire. Called "Sigalert," it is capable of flashing the red warnings of oncoming enemy bombers or

other attack within seconds to all citizens with radios or tele- vision sets turned on—no matter what station.

It already is in use in San Francisco, Los Angeles and 48 other southern California com- munities and some in Nevada and Arizona as an integral part of disaster warning networks.

### Named for Developer

It is named for Lloyd C. Sig- mon, vice president of radio sta- tion KMPC, Los Angeles, who developed its revolutionary transmission and receiving sys- tem which warns of local as well as national disasters.

Proponents of "Sigalert" say its values lie in the fact that it is always operative, every ready as an inaudible portion of an active radio signal to spring to life instantly when tripped by the proper switch.

"Sigalert" breaks into any broadcast or telecast with news of imminent attack, a flash fire, a tidal wave, hurricane or tor- nado.

San Francisco police say that such a system would have been invaluable during major earth- quakes; and that had "Sigalert" been in operation during the Christmas floods of 1955 the toll

of lives would have been much smaller.

### Immediate Alert

At the police department con- trol center in Los Angeles the chief dispatcher calls a "Sig- alert" and if the situation is one of impending national disaster or if a hurricane is barreling down on the community, all ra- dio and television programs stop immediately and the alert is on.

Every person who has his ra- dio or television turned on will know of the alert seconds after it is flashed by police or the Air Defense command at Ent Air Force base, Colorado, in case

enemy bombers are approach- ing.

### He won't wait to pack.

Hearing the warning on his radio, seeing it flash on his TV screen, the citizen will believe it and there will be no compla- cency, officials say.

He'll high tail it out of town to a safe evacuation area.

The man at home can also get the warning over his short wave set if he has a receiver installed or over a special designed "Sig- alert" receiver.

### The Method

Here is how the alerting sys- tem works.

On the spectrum of radio fre- quencies there are unused por- tions inaudible to the human ear. "Sigalert" takes the unused portion from 0 to 40 cycles, and using an extremely low percent- age of modulation, superimposes them on a radio-frequency car- rier to transmit the bulletin.

The entire "Sigalert" process can take place without inter- rupting a radio broadcast, and because the signal is inaudible, listeners won't hear it unless it is broadcast to them direct-ly on purpose.

If the emergency is not serious enough to warrant an immedi-

ate break into all stations, the chief dispatcher flips a switch and in every station equipped with a "Sigalert" receiver, a light goes on. A tape recorder is activated and the bulletin re- corded so it can be relayed over the radio network during a break in the program.

"Sigalert" is used in this way every day in the Los Angeles area to inform motorists of seri- ous accidents and crowded high- ways. Some of the bulletins are broadcast in factories in order to inform commuting employees of snarled traffic arteries be- tween cities.

## Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Mexico City—Former United Press Correspondent Colin Mil- ler, on the Mexico earthquake: "I've been through quakes in Japan, Chile and in California, but I've never been through anything as bad as this."

Washington—FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, defending the role of confidential informants: "The very basis of our success is the FBI's assurance to this country's citizens that the information they give will be main- tained in the strictest confidence in our files."

Ottawa—Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, on disarm- ment talks with Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker: "These talks were completely informal and on this very ac- count helpful in maintaining genuine understanding on the part of friendly neighbors."

Rome—Dr. Mirko Skofic, on the son born Sunday to his wife, Italian movie star Gina Lollobrigida: "He has dark hair and blue eyes and a nose that looks like his mother's. He should be a handsome boy."

New York—Actress Marie (The Body) McDonald, on the latest reconciliation with her husband, millionaire shoemaker Harry Karl: "It just came about naturally."



### Paul Hayden Kirk . . .

Once again the national spot- light is on a Northwestern archi- tect. One of Paul Hayden Kirk's houses is the subject of the cover story in the August issue of "House and Garden," and another is featured in a second section of the magazine. There are 22 additional pages on the theme, "The Arts of Living in Seattle." In essence they reflect family life in all of Western Washing- ton and Oregon. The contempo- rary house of West Coast lumber predominates.

The Kirk house on the cover looks from the top of Cougar Mountain, over the green of a second-growth forest, the blue of Lake Washington, and into the horizon gray of summer rain clouds.

Beams and posts of Douglas fir, hemlock decking, siding, with paneling and fencing of western red cedar, crowd the foreground of the cover scene. And so the story goes through the inside pages of pictures of the Paul Hayden Kirk homes. In home design, he is a West Coast woodsman—as much as any logger with the bark on.

### Glorify the Woods . . .

The inventiveness of the young Seattle architect sparkles even from the black and white pic-

tures of his designs. They glorify our region's bread and butter lumber in every view, inside or out. They project a persuasive appeal to the usual family group that is studying "House and Garden" and related magazines these days, with home building in mind.

There is an apt quotation in the story of how one husband and wife team made dreams turn into reality—the story of the second Kirk - designed home shown in the August issue of "House and Garden." The owners are Mr. and Mrs. C. U. Evans, and the place is on the Lake Washington shore of Mercer Is- land, linked to Seattle by the world-famous "Floating Bridge." They are quoted this way:

"This house," say Mr. and Mrs. Evans, "is as close to perfection as we could ask for—in its ease of entertaining, upkeep and the beauty of its setting. We had definite ideas but found difficul- ty in expressing them. When set out in plan form, however, the combination of house, cabana, bath-house and workshop was ex- tremely pleasing."

The house is finished outside in vertical hemlock. All interior partitions are sliding panels or hemlock paneling.

Style Center . . . California is today up front with France as a center of styl- ing in women's apparel. Wash- ington and Oregon hold increas- ing promise of becoming the major source for American pref- erences in home styles.

Paul Kirk, like Paul Thiry and Pietro Belluschi before him, has specialized in functional buildings designed for uses of science, education and business. As one example, he and his as- sociates have designed 34 medi- cal clinics, and Kirk himself is the author of a book on this distinctive phase of the expand- ing service of today's American architecture in meeting modern public service needs and trends.

Kirk stands out today, how- ever, as an originator who has contributed key features to the contemporary American style of residential dwelling, ever growing in national popu- larity. Recently he has added exterior exposure of wall posts to the exposed roof beams and decking of the modern living room. In his Cougar Mountain design a feature is a "children's wing" that will catch any young viewer's.

Kirk finds that on wings of wood there is no limit to the practical working out of the architect's inspirations in home designing. And now his flights o' creative imagination, in frame and from modern techniques, span the continent. New York sees them, so does Texas.

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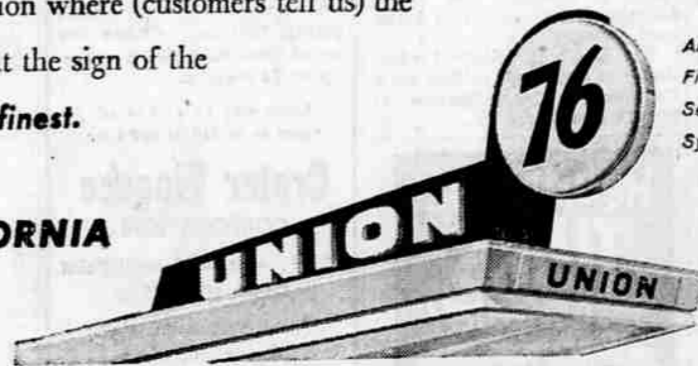
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