

Death Ray, Tunneling Device Sought From Inventors by Defense Department

San Francisco — The U. S. Department of Defense wants to add to its arsenal of mass destruction weapons a "death ray" capable of sizzling enemy foot soldiers at a range of at least 500 yards.

It also needs a tunneling device able to bore through solid rock at a half-mile an hour; an un-namable gadget that will dig a foxhole for a Patton tank in less than a minute and a method of snuffing out a burning city.

These requests are contained in a 34-page blue booklet being sent to scientific societies, research organizations and individual basement inventors entitled "Inventions Wanted by the Armed Forces."

The booklet is distributed by the National Inventors' Council of the U. S. Department of Commerce on behalf of the Defense Department.

Needs Said No Gag

It's no gag. The Department of Defense is in dead earnest when it asked for a death ray. The section reads:

No. 450. Destructive ray—equipment of usable size capable of producing destructive or death rays effective at 500 yards without excessive power input. Military application — to aug-

ment conventional weapons. Status—Investigation to date indicates that tremendous amounts of power would be required using present techniques and that a completely new approach is indicated."

If the death ray is not immediately forthcoming, the defense chiefs will settle for a somewhat less visionary weapon. What they immediately need is a weapon which would be more effective than conventional infantry tools in stopping the so-called "human sea" attack such as practiced by the Communists in Korea.

Idea No. 872 calls for "man-stopping weapons. More effective weapons to prevent overwhelming masses of enemy troops from overrunning positions."

Other Wants

The Inventors Council booklet also asks for: an artificial skin to be used for treatment of atomic burn cases; a method for transmitting electricity without wires; an "ice-proof" paint; a noiseless rocket; a quick way of "freezing" soils as a base for missile launching pads and a "mine field boundary detector" which

can ferret out hidden mine fields from a distance.

In its request for an atomic fire fighting method, the booklet asks for development of "a radical new means of putting out a massive atomic fire which may start over several square miles and be spread by blast

winds of 100 miles an hour."

As to the tunneling device, the department would like someone to invent a mechanical mole capable of "boring through soil at the rate of 6,000 feet an hour and through rock at 2,000 feet an hour—without creating a major waste disposal problem."

PROSPECT

Pre-Holiday Meetings Held

By MICKIE LARSON

Prospect — The December meeting of the Prospect Home Extension unit was held Wednesday, Dec. 11, at the home of Mrs. Willard Huffman. After a ham dinner a Christmas party was held and secret pals were revealed.

The next Home Extension meeting will be held Jan. 8 at the Community hall.

The Prospect Garden club had a work day at the Community hall Monday, Dec. 9. Wreaths and decorations were made for "Holiday House," and a potluck luncheon and Christmas party were held in the afternoon. Gifts were exchanged and secret pals revealed.

Bethel lodge 56 held their election Thursday, Dec. 5. Elected were Deb Dunlap, queen; Susan Chubb, senior princess; Carol Shepherd Jr., princess; Judy Taylor, guide and Linda Eccleston, marshal. Installation will be held Saturday, Dec. 28, at 8 p.m. at the VFW hall in Shady Cove.

St. Martha's guild held their meeting Dec. 10, at which time officers were elected for the coming year. Following the business meeting boxes of clothing were prepared for needy seminar students and their families.

Mrs. L. L. Conger injured her back in a recent fall and is staying at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Archie McKillop.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Goode have announced the marriage of their daughter, Patricia, to Michael Kaiser, which will take place at the Eagle Point Community church Saturday, Dec. 21.

The ski slopes at Crater Lake have been the scene of a good deal of activity the last four week ends. Members of the Rogue Snowmen report the skiing has been good.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Pope are moving to Idaho this week end. Others moving to new locations are Mr. and Mrs. James Harrington, who will make their home in Eagle Point.

Frank Hammer is in Rogue Valley Memorial hospital where he is being treated for injuries received in a pickup-truck collision.

Babies were born to three Prospect families recently. Mr. and Mrs. John Davidson have a baby girl, Teresa Anne; Mr. and Mrs. Roger Snyder, a son, James Allen and Mr. and Mrs. Dorian Woods, a son, named David Mark.

Miss Jeanette Bard and Rodger Powers of Prospect will be married at the Assembly of God church in Shady Cove, Saturday, Dec. 28.

A bridal shower will be given for her Dec. 18 by Joyce Moore and Suzanna Rodgers. The couple will make their home at Robber's Roost on the Rogue river.

Mrs. Louis Love of Prospect is in a Medford hospital with pneumonia.

Mr. and Mrs. Verner Mattheson, of Ontario, Ore., were recent week end visitors at the home of their son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Mattheson.

Young Denny Mattheson underwent an operation in a Portland hospital recently and will be confined there for two more months.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Arnold of Central Point visited at the home of their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Sanderson. Also visiting at the Sanderson home were Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Sanderson of Sams Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Artmire helped Mrs. Vesta Bernard move to Sisters, Ore., recently.

The Prospect Garden club will present "Holiday House" Dec. 17 from 1 to 4 p.m. with a tour of seven decorated homes. A Christmas tea will be served at the home of Mrs. Willard Huffman at the end of the tour.

Mr. and Mrs. Vern Marsh of Medford visited at the home of Mrs. Marsh's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pontice, over the week end.

The play "Arsenic and Old Lace" was presented by the Prospect Lions club Saturday, Dec. 14. A dance followed.

The night to see Santa Claus in Prospect is Thursday, Dec. 19 at the high school gym. The first, second and third grades will provide entertainment. Students from the fourth

'Sputnik' Leads New Range of Words To Give Dictionary Editor Fidgets

By DOC QUIGG
United Press Correspondent
New York—

You think you've got troubles? Consider the plight of the poor fellows who have to decide what new words are to go into our dictionaries every year. This has been a nasty year.

"Sputnik" alone is enough to give a dictionary editor the fidgets.

Add to it the whole new range of gab coincident with getting out of this word and then try to decide who many of this batch of words are going to be with us for some time. It's enough to make a many say foxy to philology and a pox on lexicography.

David Guralnik, chief lexicographer and editor of Webster's New World dictionary, has solved the Sputnik problem by putting it off.

"We're waiting for it to stabilize itself. Of course, it's the Russian word for satellite," he said.

"The base of the word is the Russian word 'put' meaning road. This is prefixed by the 'ss' sound which means with or along with. The 'nik' is the Russian suffix equivalent to the English 'er' or 'ist' as in farmer or journalist.

A Fellow Traveler
"So, it breaks down to 'one who goes along the road with, a fellow traveler' hence a satellite. When the word was first introduced in American newspapers, it was the American proper name for the first satellite. Then came Sputnik II. As of the moment, in English, it is the word

for two specific things. But when the first American one gets up, what will it be called?"

The new defense items also give dictionary men problems. "We did get Nike and Texas towers into the dictionary," he said. "After all, a lot of cities were surrounded by Nike bases and the towers were well known. But then we began to be flooded by Redstones and Vanguards and ICBMs and Thors and Jupiters. We're following a policy of wait and see."

I asked Guralnik what would happen if I made up a word like "Sputniked" as in "we was Sputniked" — meaning, naturally, "beaten in a contest in which you were never engaged in the first place."

"You start a word like that, and we'll record it," he said. "But the entry into the dictionary depends on usage. We'd have to see it in print a number of times and over a period of time. And then, of course, the media in which it appears will be a factor."

There is one word Guralnik's dictionary which he figures will take a bit of definition—fixing before long: "spaceship—a hypothetical rocket-propelled airship for interplanetary travel."

Here are some new entries scheduled for the next printing, early next year:

"Bam," a verb, as in "to ham it up." "Defect," an intransitive verb, as in "the soldier defected." "Gain," as used in hi-fi, meaning signal strength. "Outgoing," in the psychological sense, as in "an outgoing person."

TIMES ARE TOUGH AGAIN

New York — One subway rider must have been disappointed when the subway strike ended Monday. A letter to the New York Daily News read: "It has been a pleasure riding the jammed subways these past few days, and I trust the strike will continue for many weeks to come." It was signed, "Ralph, the pickpocket."

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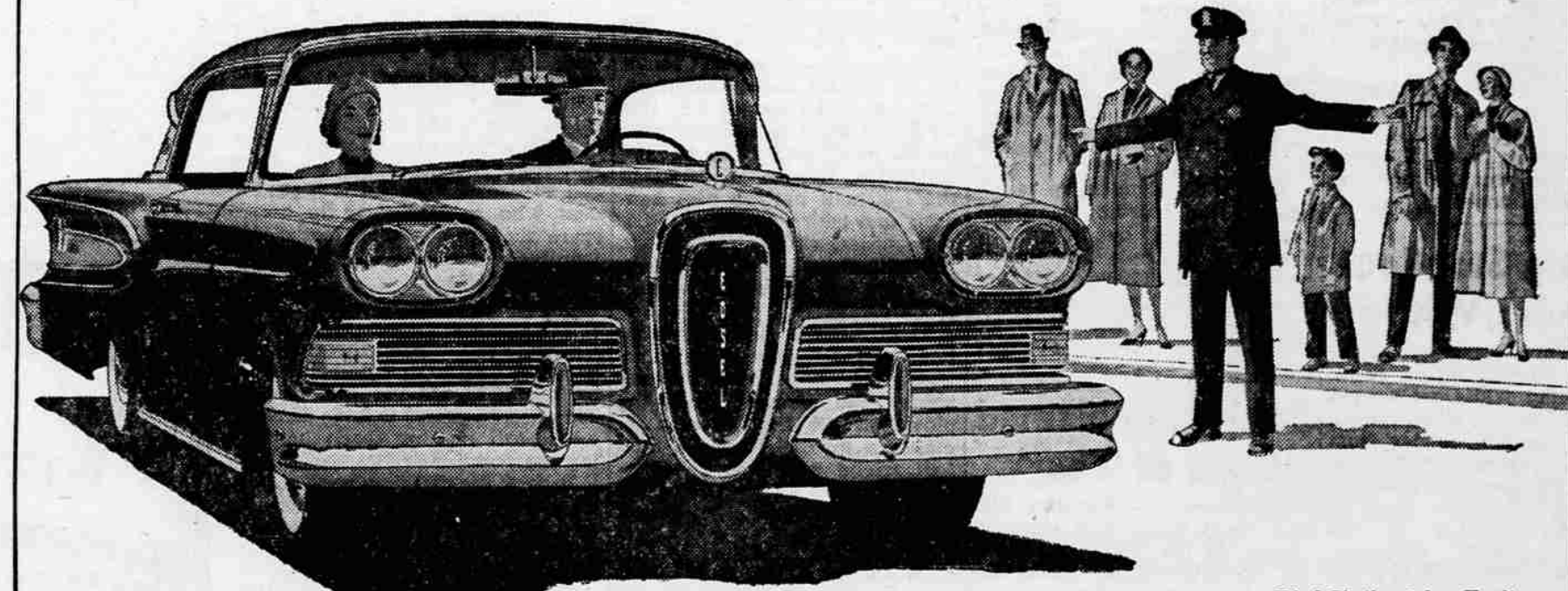
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