

# Over Four Million In U.S. Wear Contact Lenses - Including Bifocals, Too

NEW YORK (UPI) — You wouldn't notice it—of course—but more than four million Americans now wear contact lenses.

They are spending more than 100 million dollars a year on the tiny slivers of plastic and their numbers today, according to the Eye Research Foundation, compares with 200,000 in 1950 and about two million two years ago.

Behind this boom is an improved contact lens—a far cry from the old kind, which was oval shaped and covered even the whites of the eyes. The new lens is about the size of a small thumbtack head and weighs about as much as a down feather.

It floats on the natural tear layer of the eye and is held into place by a force known as capillary attraction—a kind of suction. And it covers less than 60 per cent of the iris.

The modern design lenses can be worn 16 or more hours daily and, if correctly prescribed, cause no pain. They can't pit, won't steam up or cloud in weather changes or streak in the rain.

And, because the lens follows the eye and because of the absence of spectacle frames, there is a 15 per cent gain in margin vision—the peripheral view.

According to the Eye Research Foundation, the lenses are used most frequently for these vision disorders: myopia (nearsightedness), hyperopia (extreme farsightedness), astigmatism (distorted,

blurred vision), aphakia (post-cataract removal), and keratoconus (cone-shaped cornea).

## 1959 Great Decisions Program To Cite Oregon

A committee of statewide will set the theme of Oregon's 1959 Great Decisions program for neighborhood "study groups" to discuss state and world affairs. The 10-week program will start January 25.

The 1959 program has been expanded to include two weeks' discussion of Oregon's historical development and future goals as a tie-in with the Oregon Centennial, reports state chairman Mrs. Mabel Mack, assistant director of the Oregon State College extension service.

County Great Decisions councils are now being formed throughout the state. They will help organize and provide study materials for neighborhood groups of 6 to 12 persons to discuss the Oregon topics, followed by eight-weeks' discussion of key foreign policy issues confronting the U.S. in 1959.

Last year, more than 400 such groups organized in Oregon. The program is also carried by high school social studies classes and by Oregon newspapers, television, and radio stations reviewing the issues.

Fact sheets on Oregon issues have been prepared by Oregon State College staff members in cooperation with state agencies and organizations and the Foreign Policy association, a nonprofit, non-partisan, educational agency. Taxes, schools, industrial devel-

opment, community expansion and other issues now facing Oregon are discussed in the first two fact sheets: "1859-1959 . . . Building Today's Oregon" and "What Frontiers in Oregon's Future?"

Eight succeeding fact sheets prepared by the FPA deal with U.S. foreign policy on alliances, communist powers, Middle East, Latin America, world economic revolution, new technology, what kind of world is possible, and challenges to the diplomat and citizen. FPA launched Great Decisions in several Oregon cities in 1955, establishing Oregon as "pilot state" in a program aimed at building informed public opinion on world affairs. The program has since expanded to 30 states and carries approval of more than 100 national non-governmental organizations including educational, professional, labor, agricultural and civic groups.

Oregon scored another "first" in 1957 when Great Decisions was carried statewide through Oregon State College extension service in cooperation with the FPA, the general extension division of the state system of higher education, the state department of education, state library, and some 25 statewide organizations.

Oregon's 1959 program marks the first time a state has included local issues as part of the Great Decisions series.

Children and teen-agers wear 27 per cent of the contact lenses in use today. Fifty-nine per cent of the wearers are female; 41 per cent male.

A recent survey by the Eye Research Foundation tells why men, women and adolescents are switching to contact lenses, which sell for \$150 to \$300.

Women do so primarily to improve their appearance and vision. They also said their mates—or dates—prodded them into getting rid of the spectacle-frame look. Sixty per cent of the gals who wear the lenses are single.

Men said they changed because of ego, athletic activities, the influence of women and because "contacts" are less bothersome.

Adolescents said they changed to improve their appearance and to gain more social acceptance. Contact lenses is a process for grinding the lens' edge to hitherto unattainable angles. This means the edge never touches the eye-lid or the eye. And this reduces adaptation time by 80 per cent.

The process was developed by Dr. Gilberto Coper, of Havana, Cuba. The ophthalmologist recently reported 90 per cent of 217 patients adapted to such lenses in less than one week, wearing them 10 to 12 hours on the first day.

Normally, it takes two to six weeks to reach this goal.

Another aid is an electronic device developed by Dr. A. E. Reynolds of Tulsa, Oklahoma, which

determines the exact curvature of the cornea and allows the grinding and polishing of a perfect fit in contact lenses for the first time.

And now, there is the bifocal contact lens, introduced only last spring. 500 are wearing them today. An experimental tri-focal contact lens is also in the works but it hasn't been tried out yet.

Even hypnosis is being used in contact lens research. Eighteen patients from Milwaukee, Chicago and Lexington, Kentucky, all suffering from anxiety over the transition to contact lenses, were hypnotized.

Dr. E. E. Aston, reporting on the experience, said: "It was suggested that they would have no discomfort when the lenses were inserted and worn. The hypnotist stressed that they could accommodate to the new lens with ease."

Dr. Aston said patients responded with gratifying results in every single one of the cases.

Contact lenses now come in 200 shades—or tints. In Hollywood, according to the Eye Research Foundation, the lenses sometimes are used to change the natural color of a starlet's eyes.

In one case, for example, the script called for a blue-eyed redhead. The red-head had brown eyes, but in the film her eyes are blue. A lens of the proper tint did the trick.

Ninety million Americans wear spectacles and the Eye Research Foundation, predicting an even bigger boom in contact lenses, notes that the majority of these can adjust to the practically invisible "contacts."

What do you do with the lenses when you're not wearing them? They are kept in tiny receptacles smaller than pocket-size tins of aspirin. Or in cylindrical cases smaller than lipstick tubes. There is a depository at each end, one marked "R" and the other "L" to signify which lens goes where.

Incidentally, these are lined with rubber or plastic. Velvet or a plush lining would cover the lens with lint.

## Rainfall In State Studied

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — Mary's Peak, highest point in the Oregon Coast Range, is shrouded in storm clouds almost daily during the winter.

Rain gauge studies atop the peak show, however, that the Willamette Valley, or lee, side gets almost twice as much rainfall in a typical winter as the coast side even though storms usually blow in from the ocean.

Why this is so and the factors involved in the distribution of precipitation around hills and mountains will be studied during 1959 and 1960 by Oregon State College meteorologists.

A \$5,000 grant for the two-year study has been received by the college from the National Science Foundation. Dr. Fred W. Decker, assistant professor of physics, is project leader.

Radar, now widely used to detect falling rain and storms, will be used in the study. The OSC weather radar unit, similar to the type built in planes, has been installed in a special trailer built in the department of physics for field operations.

Measurements of winter rainfall on the peak include approximately 75 inches for the east and north sides and 40 for the west and south slopes. In the new study, precipitation from individual storms will be studied and correlated with storm patterns, winds, etc. Air turbulence is no doubt one of the keys to the difference in rainfall, Decker notes.

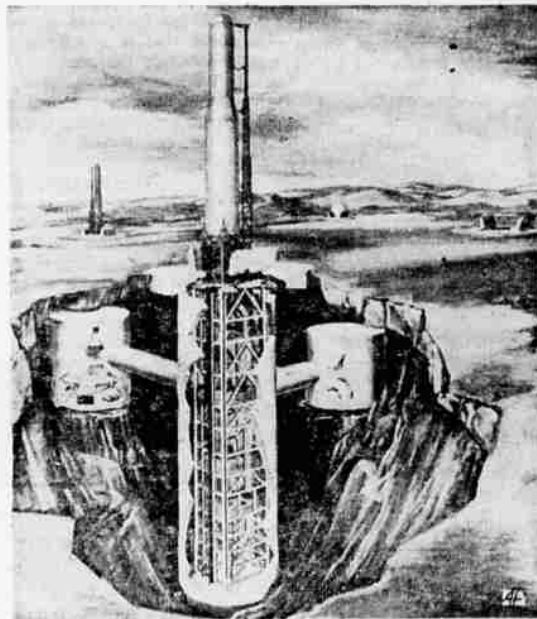
Data from observations of clouds and precipitation near mountains should reveal significant details of the physical processes which produce various rates of precipitation, he points out.

Last year, Decker received a \$29,000 grant from the U.S. Army signal research and development laboratories for studies on using radar and other electronic devices for forecasting and observing weather.

Assisting him on the new study will be Herbert Kershaw, research associate; Larry Mendenhall, junior from Willamina; and Larry Seagust, junior from Vale.

### BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY

BURLINGTON, Vt. (UPI) — Each day after work, mailman Edward Devino, who delivers about 220,000 letters each year, goes home to work on his hobby: stamp collecting.



NEW LAUNCHING CONCEPT for Titan missile is shown in this drawing released by American Machine and Foundry Company which reveals underground launching system for the missile now under development. The huge missile will rest on an elevator inside the underground steel framework and when it is ready for launching will be raised to ground level. In the underground blockhouses will be the firing control mechanism and station for receiving telemetry data from the missile. The launching complex is now under construction at Vandenberg Air Force Base near Lompoc, California. The new system eliminates the overhead gantry so familiar at Cape Canaveral, Florida. — AP Wirephoto

### SCENE OF THE CRIME

NEW YORK (UPI) — A tall, dark-haired young man in a dark suit and a trenchcoat signaled cabdriver Joseph La Rocca early one recent morning, hopped into his taxi, rode for a while, robbed La Rocca of \$40 and then hopped out. The cabbie quickly found a policeman and while they were prowling around the neighborhood looking for the bandit, a tall, dark-haired young man in a dark suit and a trenchcoat stepped out from between some parked cars and signaled to La Rocca. Turned out to be the same guy, who was arrested by the policeman as he was about to step into the cab.

### HYPNOTISM

STANFORD, Calif. (UPI) — Only one out of three persons proved susceptible to hypnotism in psychological tests on 74 volunteer students at Stanford University. The experiments also exploded the idea that easily hypnotized people are weak-willed, according to Dr. Ernest R. Hilgard of Stanford's Laboratory of Human Development. Most were described as well-adjusted extroverts who had experienced "firm but not harsh" discipline as children. Hilgard found many of the non-hypnotizable people to be timid, anxious, over-ordered, or afraid to submit to authority.

## Rowing Team To Host 7 School Units

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — The Oregon State College rowing team will represent the state of Oregon and be host school in June for a special Centennial Year regatta that will include crews from West Coast schools.

The race, scheduled for June 13, will be one of the top events of 1959. It will be run on the Columbia River Estuary adjacent to the main Centennial exposition area, under sponsorship of the state Centennial committee.

Crews invited to race with OSC include University of Washington, California, University of British Columbia, Stanford, UCLA, and University of Southern California. Both varsity and junior varsity races will be held. Karl Drlica, OSC rowing coach, is in charge of team arrangements.

Stands with a seating capacity of 15,000 persons are tentatively planned for the water events of the 100-day Centennial exposition.

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