

A & M Scientists Attempting To Use Static to Find Storms

The static that fouls your television or radio reception may some day save your life.

A&M scientists—who three years ago this April showed the world how to track and forecast a tornado's strike—are now trying to translate the noise of static into information that can improve long-range forecasting of violent storms or weather fronts.

Static is simply the noise made when the electrical impulses which all clouds carry is discharged or "swapped" around. A&M scientists are tuning in on this static with ground-based radio receivers, and depending on the static frequency or intensity, they can spot potential storm conditions at ranges far beyond where radar can now function efficiently.

In the future, it is hoped static noises from far-off weather fronts will be analyzed by weather experts, who will determine if potentially violent weather is building up. Radar will then check information as the storm moves closer.

Warning Can Be Sent

Once information from both radio and radar is gathered, warnings can be sent to weather centers, which in turn will inform the proper agencies, and the public, by radio and television.

Thus, the static that is simply an annoyance to Texans today may tomorrow give signals of storms thousands of miles away—and allow more time for warnings to be given.

Texans have a prime stake in this work. For Texas is at the bottom of a trough that United States weather scientists call "Tornado Alley." This is a four-state area composed of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and the Lone Star State, an area through which 251 tornadoes ripped last year.

Residents of "Tornado Alley" are now in what is normally the "season" for violent disturbances of the tornado type. April, May and June are generally the worst months in these four states. Last year during this time Texas caught 104 tornadoes. Kansas was "second best" with 62.

Journal Accepts Paper by Biologist

A paper presented at a recent meeting by an A&M scientist has been accepted for publication in "Experimental Cell Research," a journal published in Stockholm, Sweden, by the International Society for Cell Biology.

Dr. Frederick H. Kasten, assistant professor of biology, presented the paper, "Feulgen-DNA Changes During Autolysis of Ascites Tumor Cells," at the 10th annual meeting of the Histochemical Society in Atlantic City, N. J., April 12-13.

The report deals with some of the chemical changes which occur in cancerous cells.

Kasten's research study is supported by grants from the National Cancer Institute and the Atomic Energy Commission.



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A&M Scientists Pioneers
Radar forecasting and tracking, which was pioneered in the Southwest by A&M scientists, is limited in range. The big radar set now in operation at A&M sweeps up to 400 miles, but the really useful operations are generally at ranges of 250 miles or under.

Radio, however, offers possibilities in terms of many hundreds of miles, and can be used to augment existing radar procedures.

The principal scientist on current radio research at the college, Dr. George Huebner, of the department of meteorology and Oceanography, explains the process this way:

"All clouds carry electrical charges. As they build up or break up, electrical discharges occur, which, on your radio, you hear as static. As formations become more intense, the rate of electrical changes becomes faster and heavier, and these changes are detect-

Liz, Eddie Set Wedding Date

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — If Eddie Fisher can get the night off, he will marry Elizabeth Taylor next Tuesday in Las Vegas, Nev.

They want Michael Todd Jr., son of the actress' late husband, to be best man, so they had to set the date up two days. The wedding date originally was May 14. Then they learned young Todd has to be in Spain by that date.

able at ranges up to thousands of miles away.

"By using radio receivers on the ground, with directional antennas, scientists beam in on the more 'promising' areas of static, and the clouds act as floating radio transmitters, sending their signals to the scientists at the receivers.

Use of Triangulation

"By triangulation, using three sets at different locations, areas of heavy weather can be spotted at great distances. By learning to 'read' the differences in intensities and frequencies of static, as they relate to different formations, the weather scientists can then tell what is coming up and prepare other scientists for further observations by radar as the formations move closer.

Huebner explains that A&M scientists are trying to learn to translate the differences in strength and rapidity of static noises into terms that will tell other scientists what type of weather condition is building up, where, and how it's developing. The range of frequencies covered is a broad one, going from 10 kilocycles to 200 megacycles.

The work is being done for the U. S. Air Force's Cambridge Research Center, Cambridge, Mass. "The present Air Force nets are used primarily in location of severe storm centers," Huebner says. "We're investigating methods that can augment radar observations, and provide more detailed information and can, consequently, give more time in forecasting," he said.

Floral Group Helps Finance Scholarships

One of A&M's many projects is the Student Floral Concession which was started in October, 1941, and has become a money-making function of the Department of Floriculture to help pay for a scholarship in the department.

"The concession was granted to the club by the college and is strictly a student activity," said Horace R. Baker, sophomore floriculture major and manager of the club this year.

Besides the money being used to benefit the department, the work also teaches the students how to buy flowers and select the different styles and types.

The group has the option to sell corsages at all major school dances and balls as well as the home football games. All the flowers that are used are bought through a local florist.

The students that work on the yearly project are paid on the size of the event. Representatives work in every dorm and are authorized by the college to sell the corsages.

"In past years the profits have bought needed supplies for the department such as a photo-copying machine, two microscopes, multi-copy reference books used in floriculture and a microscope projector," said Baker.

"This year we paid for the training of a flower judging team and made possible a field trip to Pennsylvania," Baker said.

Liles Receives Insurance Grant

Henry F. Liles, instructor in the Division of Business Administration, has received a fellowship with Trinity Universal Insurance Co. of Dallas.

He will be with the Dallas firm from June 1 to July 15, studying and observing the different departments.

This fellowship is one made possible by the cooperation of the American Association of University Teachers of Insurance and insurance companies.

Cape Cod, Mass., is surrounded by water and is connected with the mainland by bridges.

OLD AGE CHECKOUT
PENTICTON, B.C. (AP)—The B.C. Old Age Pensioners' Assn. voted to ask the federal government to end the "unjust discrimination" which does not permit pensioners to collect their checks while outside Canada. The annual convention asked that checks be forwarded.



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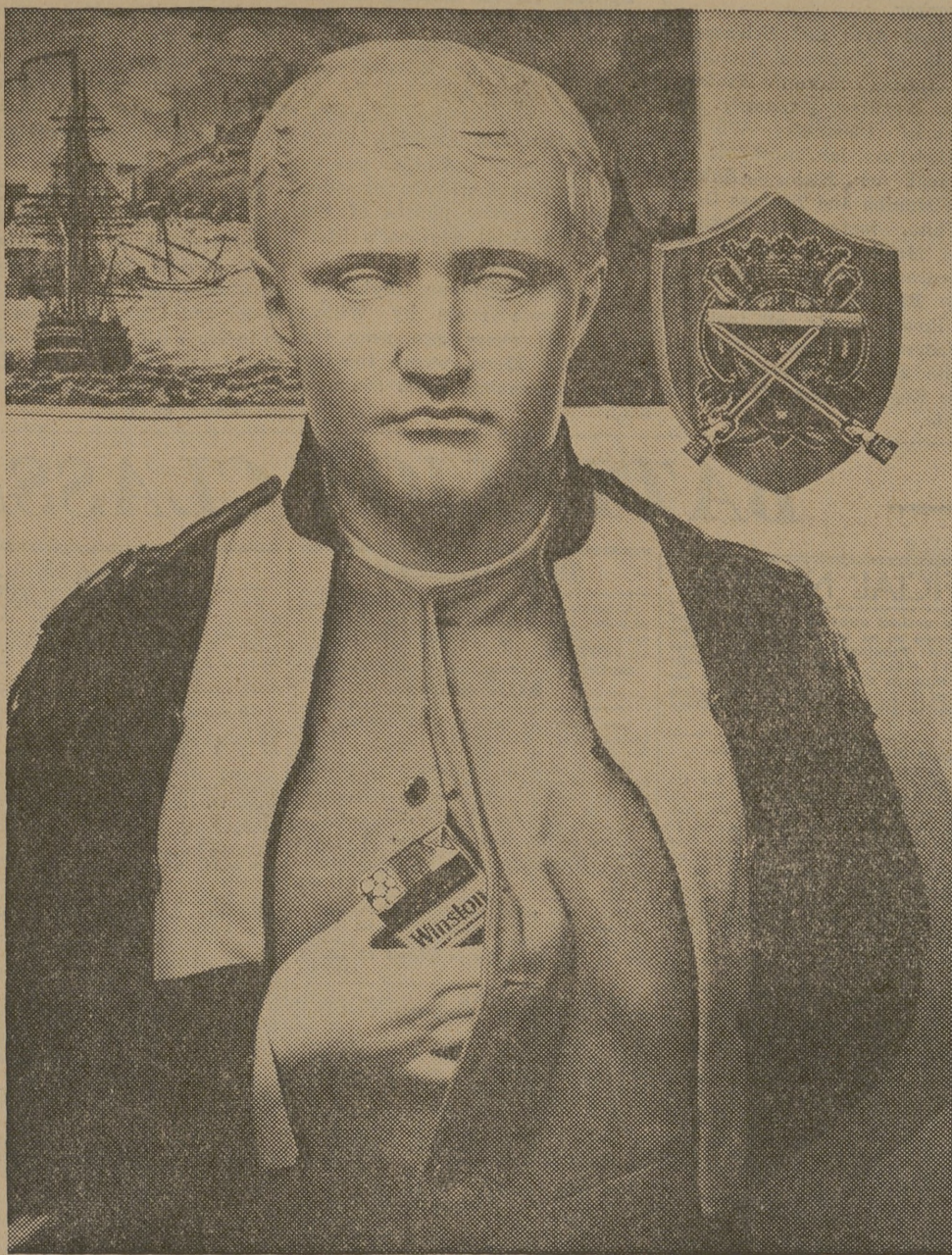
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