



"HOMING"

When the air navigator once tunes this new Sperry-RCA automatic direction finder to a radio beacon station, it points continuously to that station. The pilot need pay no further attention to its operation. William H. Dum, (left) American Air Lines pilot, is discussing the device with J. G. Flynn, Jr. Superintendent of Communications. Linked with the automatic pilot, this device provides not only automatic flying, but automatic blind flying as well.

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detected. Planes that stall drop sharply 100 or more feet before the pilot can recover; when this occurs at low altitude, a crash is a frequent result. The stall warning was developed by F. L. Thompson in flight tests at the N. A. C. A.'s Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory at Langley Field, Va. One Army and one Navy plane are also equipped with it. Since it is an unpatented government development, it is open to private manufacture without payment of royalty.

Science News Letter, October 22, 1938

ASTRONOMY

100,000-Mile Sunspot Crosses Face of Sun

See Front Cover

STORMY weather on earth, though it has laid whole states waste, is as nothing compared to what has been happening on the face of the sun during the past couple of weeks. The face of the sun was marked with an enormous sunspot, representing a pair of fiery tornadoes that darkened a strip of solar territory 100,000 or more miles long, and 50,000 miles wide at the widest part. Into that vast cloud a couple of dozen earths could be dropped at once, and still leave room for them to rattle around.

The spot was studied and photographed, since its first appearance on Oct. 5, by Mrs. L. T. Day, astronomer at the U. S. Naval Observatory. If it lasts through another rotation of the sun, it should reappear about Nov. 2. There is some suggestion that this spot was "budding" a month ago, Mrs. Day said. There was a small spot in about the same position on the sun's face on Sept. 16.

Sunspots are an indication of intense activity on the sun, which is often reflected here on earth by magnetic storms. These storms are unobserved by human beings, because our senses have no way of perceiving magnetic changes. But they do affect us just the same, because they seriously interrupt telegraphic and radio communication, and are frequently accompanied by flaring auroral outbursts.

Science News Letter, October 22, 1938

North Carolina will use cotton-and-rubber floor covering and cotton wall board in building its exhibit for the New York World's Fair.

Single women under 25 years old, who wish to work in offices and certain trades in Germany, are with a few exceptions required to work a year first in domestic service.