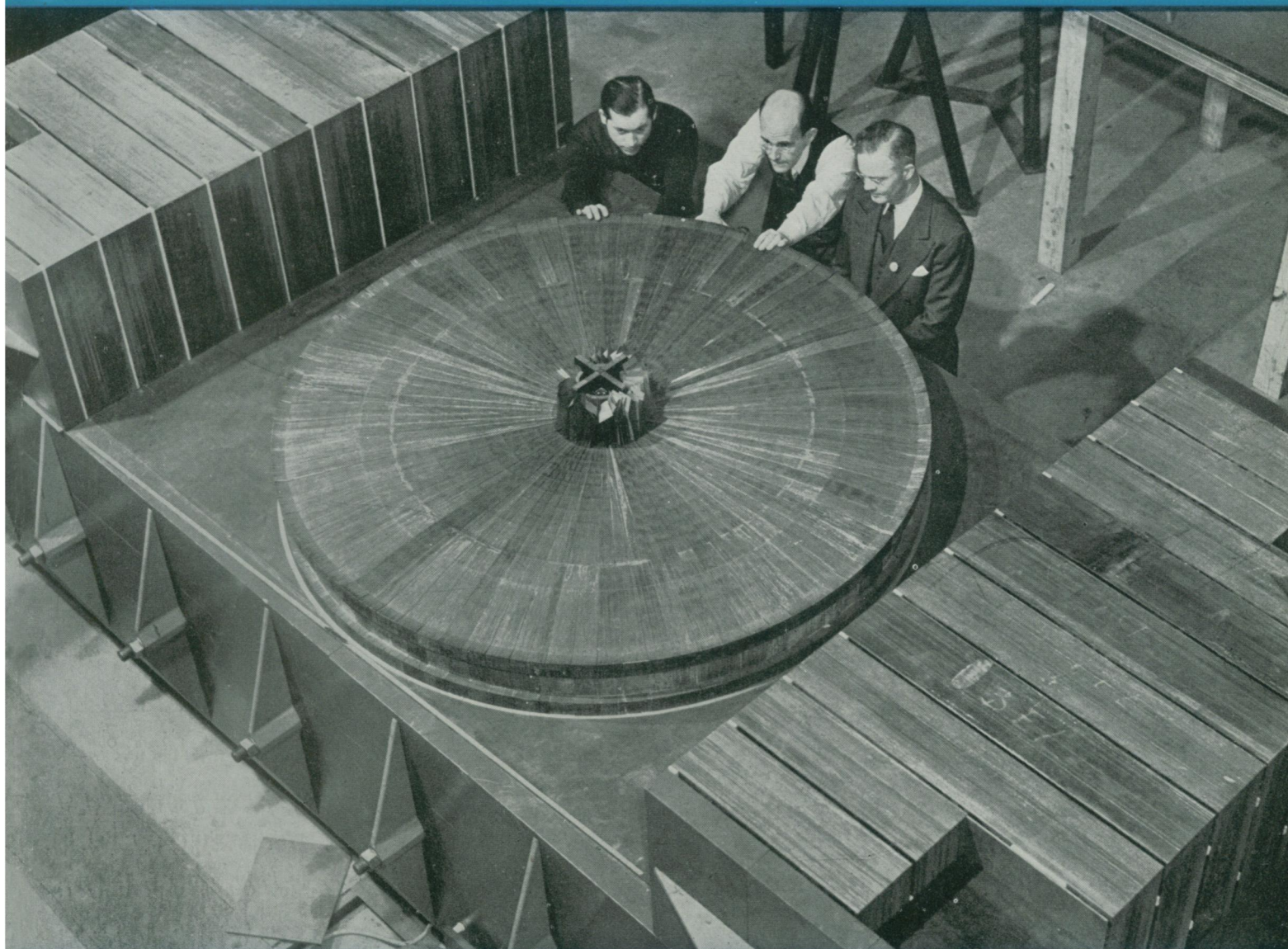


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE • MARCH 27, 1943



## X-ray Giant

See Page 200

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

## Do You Know?

*Pecan shells* are used to make activated charcoal for gas masks.

Peruvian wild *tara bushes* are now furnishing an extract used in tanning leather.

If *match sticks* were shortened a quarter of an inch 380 carloads of lumber would be saved in a year.

*Boneless beef* shipped to our armed forces overseas reduces shipping space by 60%, and the bones left increase the available fertilizer supply.

Burning off *grazing* land in the early spring causes fire injury to grass roots and seed crowns and may decrease the amount of summer feed very seriously.

The first lighted *airways* for night flying have just been opened in Mexico, and clipper service from Los Angeles to Mexico City and beyond to the south and east, is now operating on a 24-hour basis.

*Access roads* will be constructed by the U. S. Forest Service to 97 now inaccessible timber sections where 15 billion board feet of lumber may be obtained for war purposes, all in western mountain country.

*Castor-bean* growing will be greatly increased in 1944, with some 3,000,000 pounds of seed expected to be produced this season from 10,000 acres in eight Midwestern states under a federal government plan.

## Question Box

### Page numbers of Questions discussed in this issue:

#### AERONAUTICS—RESOURCES

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#### AGRICULTURE

What important research is being conducted in Puerto Rico? p. 196.

#### ASTRONOMY

How were two unseen stars discovered? p. 200.

What planet will reappear in the sky during April? p. 202.

#### CHEMISTRY

How are radio waves used to save waste lumber? p. 201.

What new method is being used to analyze fertilizers for potassium? p. 201.

#### ENGINEERING

How does a new plastic speed plane production? p. 203.

How is the new invisible defense against moisture applied to radio insulators? p. 195.

Post-war refrigerators are likely to have what new conveniences? p. 198.

What improvements have recently been made on the household furnace? p. 199.

*Most articles which appear in SCIENCE NEWS LETTER are based on communications to Science Service, or on papers before meetings. Where published sources are used they are referred to in the article.*

Will lowered anti-knock value of gasoline require engine changes? p. 207.

#### MEDICINE

How is shock from fever treatment of gonorrhea being fought? p. 198.

Torn nerves are repaired by what new procedure? p. 195.

What injury from explosive blasts has sometimes been overlooked? p. 200.

What remedy has been discovered for empyema, the serious chest infection? p. 196.

What source of medical skill is being wasted in this country? p. 197.

Why are the tropical diseases expected to spread to temperate regions? p. 197.

#### POPULATION

What has been the war's effect on baby production? p. 200.

#### PSYCHIATRY

Why should the "paranees" be in power in Germany? p. 199.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

How many physicians are needed to care for civilian needs? p. 206.

The death rate of hogs from *cholera* is one-fifth of the rate 20 years ago, but cholera is still number one enemy of hog owners.

"Marsh rabbit" in the meat market is *muskkrat*; it is excellent eating if the musk glands are removed when the animals are dressed.

*Small fishes* that rid cattle of insect parasites on their bellies when the cattle enter streams to drink are reported by scientists and travelers.

A basic unit of 100 *Army vehicles* shipped overseas requires a spare-parts shipment of 35,000 pieces weighing 20 tons.

*Clay*, used even in prehistoric days, has been more generally used than any other of the natural materials in the earth's crust.

*Gray squirrels* have been observed chipping the loose bark on white oak trees and eating the geometrid caterpillars found under it.

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