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September 6, 1958

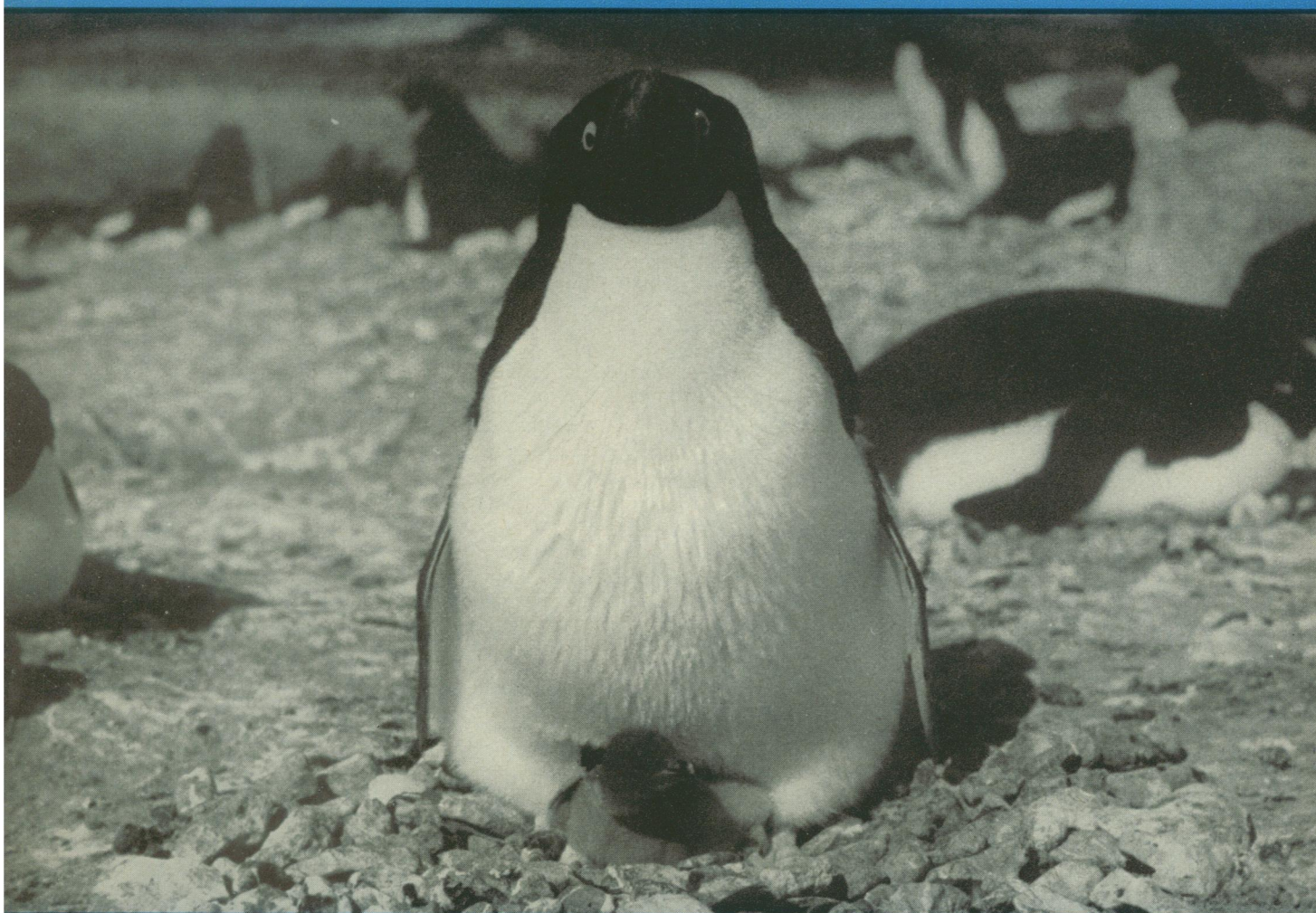
VOL. 74 NO. 10

PAGES 145-160

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

®

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE

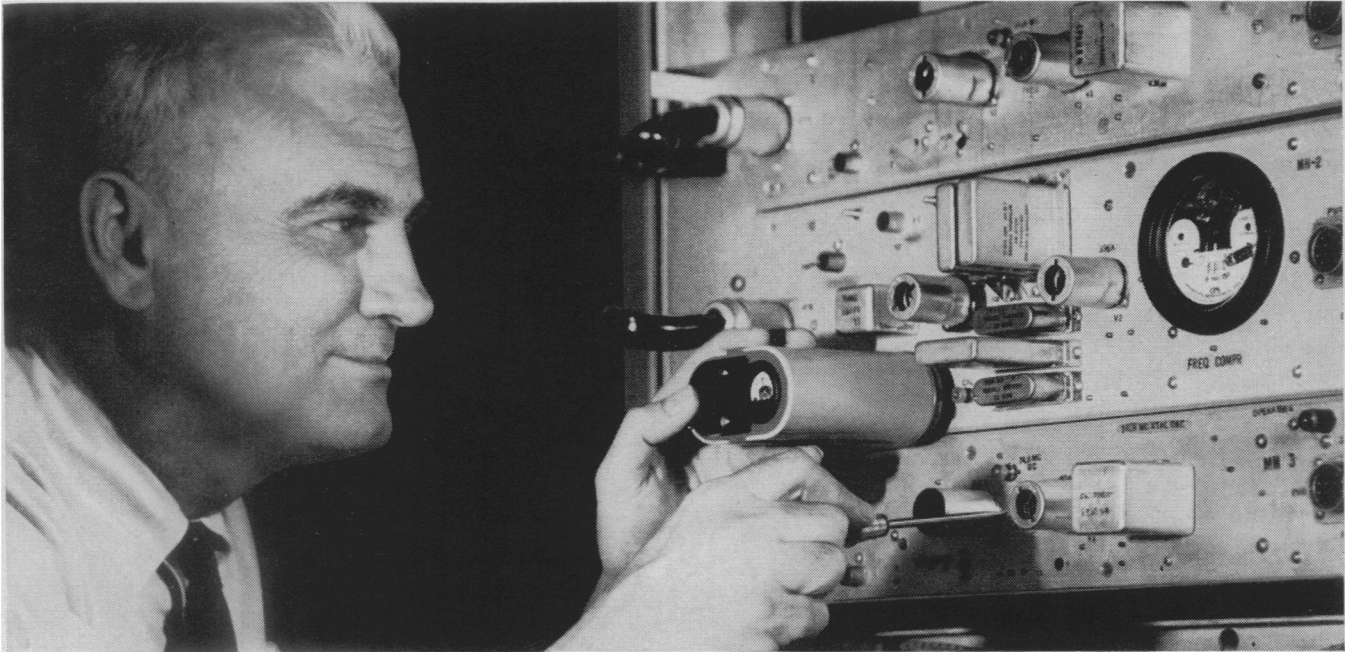


**Mother Penguin**

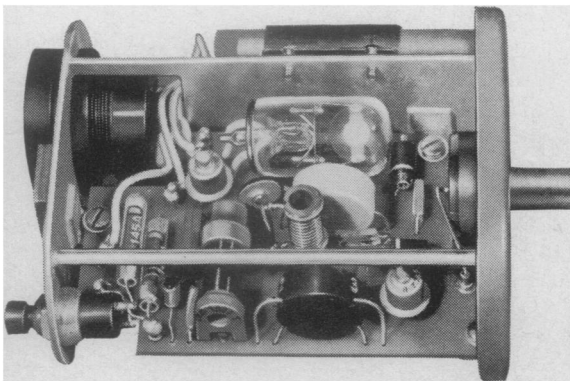
See page 148

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

# Bell Laboratories Announces Pocket-Sized Frequency Standard for Microwave Systems



Lawrence Koerner, who developed the portable frequency standard, demonstrates how the device can be plugged in at a radio relay station to supply a checking frequency. Battery-powered, the device maintains precision calibration for several months.



Inside the portable frequency standard. Four Laboratories-developed devices make it possible: (1) transistor, which converts the power from a battery to radio frequency oscillations; (2) voltage reference diode, which maintains constant voltage; (3) piezoelectric crystal unit of superlative stability; (4) thermistor, which corrects for temperature variations.

Microwave radio relay systems depend critically on the accuracy of their "carrier" frequencies. At scores of relay stations along a route, carrier frequency oscillators must be checked periodically against a signal from a precise standard.

In the past, the maintenance man has had to obtain his checking frequency by picking up a standard radio signal from a government station. This operation takes time—and requires elaborate equipment.

With a new *portable* frequency standard developed by Bell Laboratories engineers, the job is much simplified. To check an oscillator, the portable standard is plugged in, and a button is pressed. In seconds, it supplies a checking frequency accurate to one part in a million.

Until now, such precision in a frequency standard has been obtainable only in a laboratory. The new portable standard makes it available for routine use in the Bell System. First use of the standard will be to maintain frequency control in a new microwave system for telephone and TV, now under development at Bell Laboratories.

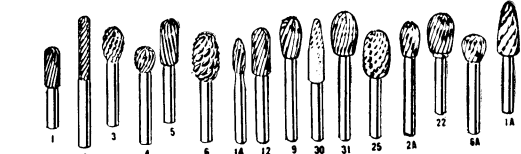


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Nos. 3A-7-13 and 23 (Giant Size) — \$1.50 ea.

COMPLETE SET OF 4 — \$5.50

COMPLETE SET OF 20 FILES — \$22.00 ppd.

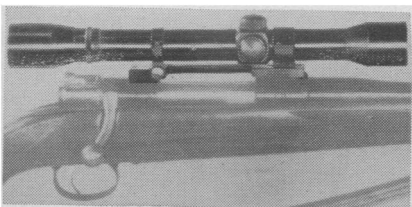
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1/4" RAM DRILL  
with Jacobs Geared Chuck  
& Key**  
Reg. \$39.95—Our Price



**\$14.95**  
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Ask any expert and he'll always say "RAM for Heavy Duty Work." Not just an ordinary 2 1/4 or 2 1/2 amp unit, but a powerful full 2.9 AMP. drill to do every heavy duty job in home, shop or industry. Built to take years of rough-tough use. Newer, more rugged motor gives 1/2" capacity in hard wood and 1/4" capacity in steel with a full load speed of 1200 R.P.M. Durable, mirror finished, lightweight aluminum housing. Features Universal series wound AC-DC motor; heavy duty multiple thrust ball bearings; automatic release trigger switch with locking pin; 6 ft. 2 conductor, UL approved cord and plug. Standard 115 V. AC-DC. This powerhouse measures 9" in length yet weighs only 3 1/2 lbs. If you've ever needed a drill or find that your present 1/4" job just won't do the things you expect of it, ORDER THIS 2.9 AMP. 1/4" RAM DRILL TODAY! Limited quantities.



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### Insure Sharper Shooting

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1. Protective cap on adjusting knob.
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- ONE HAND OPERATION . . .
- POWERFUL . . . lifts up to 1000 lbs.!

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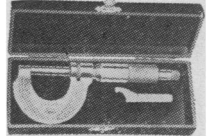
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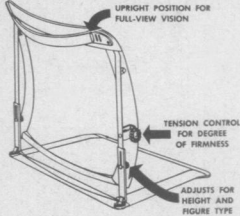
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## Questions

**ASTROPHYSICS**—What processes are involved in the life history of a normal star? p. 149.

**BIOCHEMISTRY**—How does Vitamin K play an important role in photosynthesis? p. 150.

**BIOLOGY**—What is the possible reason for raw fish causing anemia in mink? p. 153.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**—What is the estimated percentage of present stratospheric fallout that continues to sift to earth? p. 151.

**DEMOGRAPHY**—How does the population density of the Middle East compare with that of the U. S.? p. 153.

Photographs: Cover, U. S. Navy; p. 147, Unesco; p. 149, U. S. Army; p. 151, Merck & Co., Inc.; p. 154, New York State Department of Mental Hygiene; p. 160, Du Pont Co.

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Imagine getting two thousand hours of radio reception from one 15¢ flashlight battery . . . Enough to give the average user two years of trouble-free pleasure. You are probably wondering how in the world does this portable radio work . . . and how can it possibly cost so little? The answer is simple . . . while working on a military problem, scientists developed a new type of self-powered radio signal detection device named a GERMANIUM DIODE, and sub-miniature transistors to replace bulky radio tubes. The same miracle inventions are now being used on radar, sonar, and missile equipment. This germanium diode which requires no external current, actually generates its own power and draws radio signals right out of the air, just like a magnet. Transistors then amplify and convert these radio waves into audible signals! It is this electronic discovery which finally makes it possible for you, as a civilian to now own a practically lifetime radio. We use no bulky radio tubes, which as you know are fragile, wear out, burn out, and require constant replacement. Actual laboratory tests have proven that 100 transistors consume less power than one radio tube. Engineers have actually condensed an entire radio power plant into a 4-oz. sub-miniature unit which is smaller in size than a pack of cigarettes and will last indefinitely. Incredible as it may seem, after years of use, these Germanium Diode Detectors and transistors will remain just as powerful as when they were brand new! But wait . . . that's not all.

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These are the same features you will find on portable Transistor Radios selling for \$40.00 - \$50.00 and \$75.00. Because at \$7.95, we have sale priced this radio so far below its regular list price, we have agreed not to mention the manufacturer's name in our advertising. NOW . . . to make sure that



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## THINK OF IT!

Not only the smallest transistor portable in the world, but the lowest PRICED ONE TOO! THE PRICE . . . ONLY \$7.95. One of the most incredible inventions of our century . . . One that will leave your friends and neighbors completely startled the moment they see it . . . the moment they hear it! For the first time ever a POCKET SIZED TRANSISTOR PORTABLE. FOR ONLY \$7.95. The secret is a built-in lifetime power plant, the same type now being used by the Army and Navy in their radar and sonar equipment.

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## TRY IT FOR 10 DAYS!

Naturally, the best proof of just how sensational this PARADE TRANSISTOR RADIO really is, is in your own home. That's why we invite you to try it for 10 days . . . And, if after hearing its tone and clarity . . . if after using the personal earphone . . . if after taking it and using it wherever you go, you don't agree this is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to own this PARADE TRANSISTOR PORTABLE that's unlike any portable ever made and sold in this country before, then simply return it and it has not cost you a cent.

gineered portable transistor radio which has been designed and guaranteed to give years of trouble-free service. This all-transistor model radio will operate on one small standard 15¢ flashlight battery for over 2000 hours without battery charge. It actually costs less to operate than a comparable radio using house current. We guarantee your transistor radio will play with brand new clarity and power years from now because there are no radio tubes to wear out or replace. Never before has there been a guarantee as strong as this!

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 ( ) Send C.O.D. I enclose \$1.00 deposit and will pay postman balance plus postal charges.

## FACTS!

- Smaller and lighter than portable radios now selling for \$50 to \$75.
- Measures only 3 3/4" x 2 1/8" x 1". Smaller than a pack of cigarettes.
- Weighs only 4 oz. complete with battery.
- Comes complete with battery. One flashlight battery costs 15¢, gives 2000 hours of radio reception.
- No electric plug-in. Safe for all.
- Picks up General Civil Defense Stations
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- Manufacturers' unconditional written guarantee.
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- THIS IS NOT A CHEAP IMPORTED CRYSTAL SET.
- Made in U.S.A. Precision engineered.
- No radio tubes to wear out.
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