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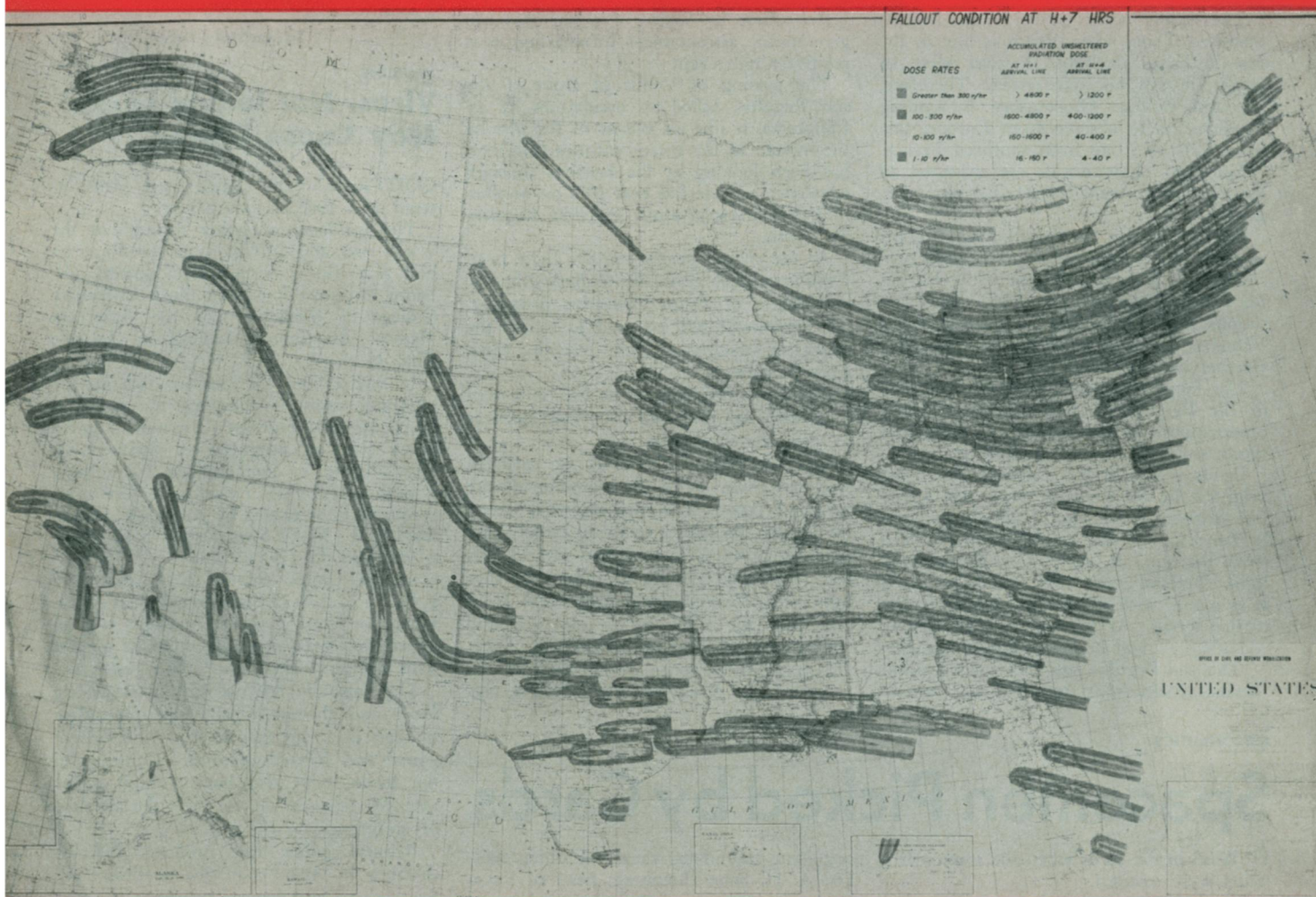
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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

®

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE



Fallout Patterns

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A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

"PACKAGING" MICROWAVES FOR MOUNTAIN TOPS



"TU" radio-relay station at Black Mesa, Arizona

In Arizona, the telephone company faced a problem. How could it supply more telephone service between Phoenix and Flagstaff—through 135 miles of difficult mountain territory?

Radio offered the economical answer: a new microwave radio-relay system recently created at Bell Telephone Laboratories. Operating at 11,000 megacycles, it was just right for the distance, and the number of conversations that had to be carried.

But first other problems had to be solved: how to house the complex electronic equipment; how to assemble and test it at hard-to-reach relay stations way up in the mountains; and how to do it economically.

On-the-spot telephone company engineers had some ideas. They worked them out with engineers at the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and at Bell Telephone Laboratories. The result: a packaged unit.

The electronic equipment was assembled in trailer-like containers at convenient locations and thoroughly checked out. The complete units were then trucked up the mountains and lifted into position.

The system, now operating, keeps a watch on itself. When equipment falters, a relay station switches in standby equipment, then calls for help over its own beam.

The new Phoenix-Flagstaff link illustrates again how Bell System engineers work together to improve telephone service. Back of their efforts is the constant development of new communications systems at Bell Telephone Laboratories.



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