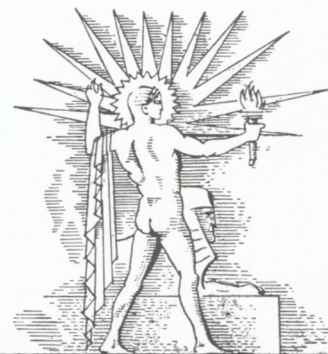
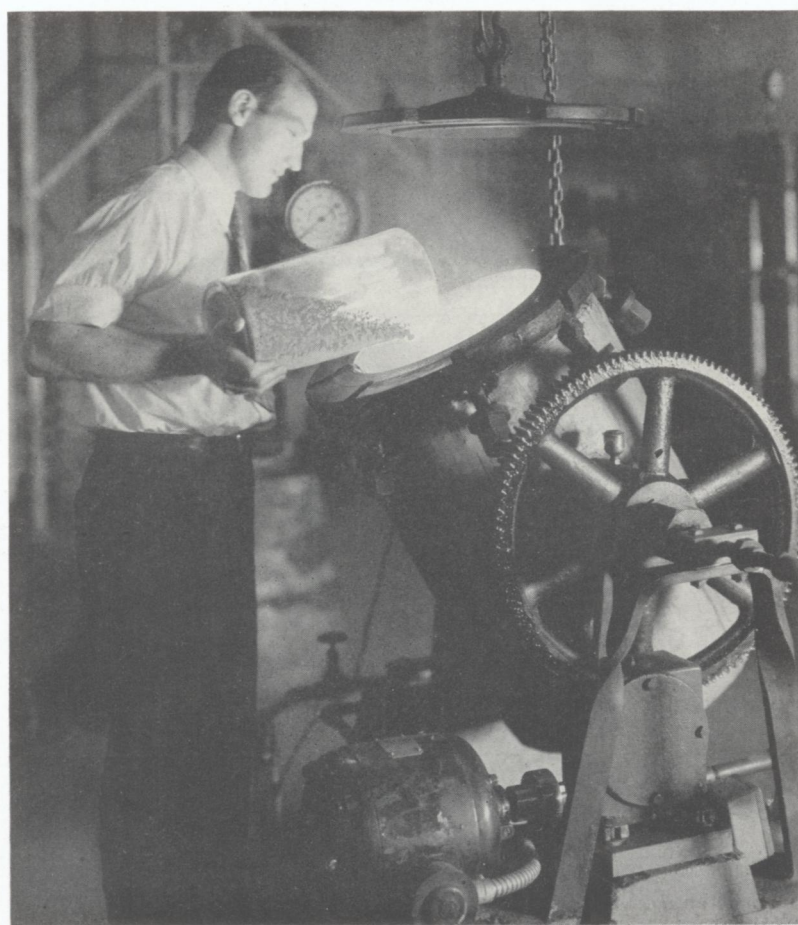


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



March 14, 1942

Wood for War

See Page 170

A S C I E N C E S E R V I C E P U B L I C A T I O N

Do You Know?

Arizona's *Grand Canyon* is not one but thousands of canyons worn away by water.

Barracudas are responsible for many of the attacks on bathers blamed on sharks.

More than 3,000 Red Cross trained first-aiders were at work at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7.

Speed of a highly trained boxer's *punch* is about 40 miles per hour—the average man's punch is about half that.

Contrary to popular opinion, *lightning* strokes are more severe at low altitudes than in high mountainous regions.

Ponds and meadows created by *beaver dams* are providing sanctuaries for Canadian wild ducks and geese in the James Bay region.

Occupational accident deaths last year amounted to 18,000—6% higher than the preceding year, National Safety Council figures show.

Shoes with wooden soles and paper tops are to be offered Norwegians in the face of a serious shoe shortage, according to Norwegian Government sources in Washington.

To help meet the war shortage of oil for *hog fattening* purposes, American farmers are being counted on to raise 5,000,000 acres of peanuts this year—3,000,000 more acres than in 1941.

QUESTIONS DISCUSSED IN THIS ISSUE

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

AVIATION

What recommendations have been made for streamlining college courses for aviation students? p. 163.

CHEMISTRY

How can wood be treated so that it can be twisted like rope? p. 170.

ENGINEERING

How have hand-skill workers for world of amusements been "converted" to machine work for democracy at war? p. 164.

ETHNOLOGY

How are Japanese in Hawaii proving their loyalty to the United States? p. 172.

HANDICRAFT

How can you make blackout shades of paper p. 169.

MEDICINE

What discovery gives support to the virus theory of human cancer? p. 165.

NUTRITION—PSYCHOLOGY

How do soldiers in action get their sweets and smokes? p. 172.

PHYSICS

What can you find out about a diamond by burning it in an electric arc? p. 163.

PUBLIC HEALTH

How can you make splints for emergency use? p. 168.

What criticism has been made of the new plan for examining selectees? p. 166.

What disease is expected to plague the hungry warring nations? p. 165.

What health advantages has the sugar rationing? p. 164.

VOLCANOLOGY

Why is it considered unlikely that bombs could cause a volcano to erupt? p. 167.

The *whale shark* is so sluggish it sometimes fails to avoid collision with ships.

The early Egyptians were expert *glass-makers*; artisans prepared glass of many colors, artificial gems and even enamels.

More *marriages*—1,565,000—took place in the United States in 1940 than in any previous year, according to the Bureau of the Census.

More Americans were killed in November *traffic* last year than by enemy bombers at Pearl Harbor, the National Safety Council states.

"*Whistling arrows*" were used by the ancient Chinese.

In Arabia, *coffee* was first drunk only by learned and religious persons.

Lucite, methyl methacrylate, makes ideal chin rests for violins—it clings to the musician's chin, gives him a firmer grip on the instrument.

Modern military aircraft must have *air speeds* of 400 miles per hour or more, according to the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

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chanical scanning disc and put it in the Iconoscope.

In this hour of history RCA Laboratories fittingly symbolize our faith in the future—that science will blaze new trails in the unexplored wilderness of the electronic sciences through radio research.

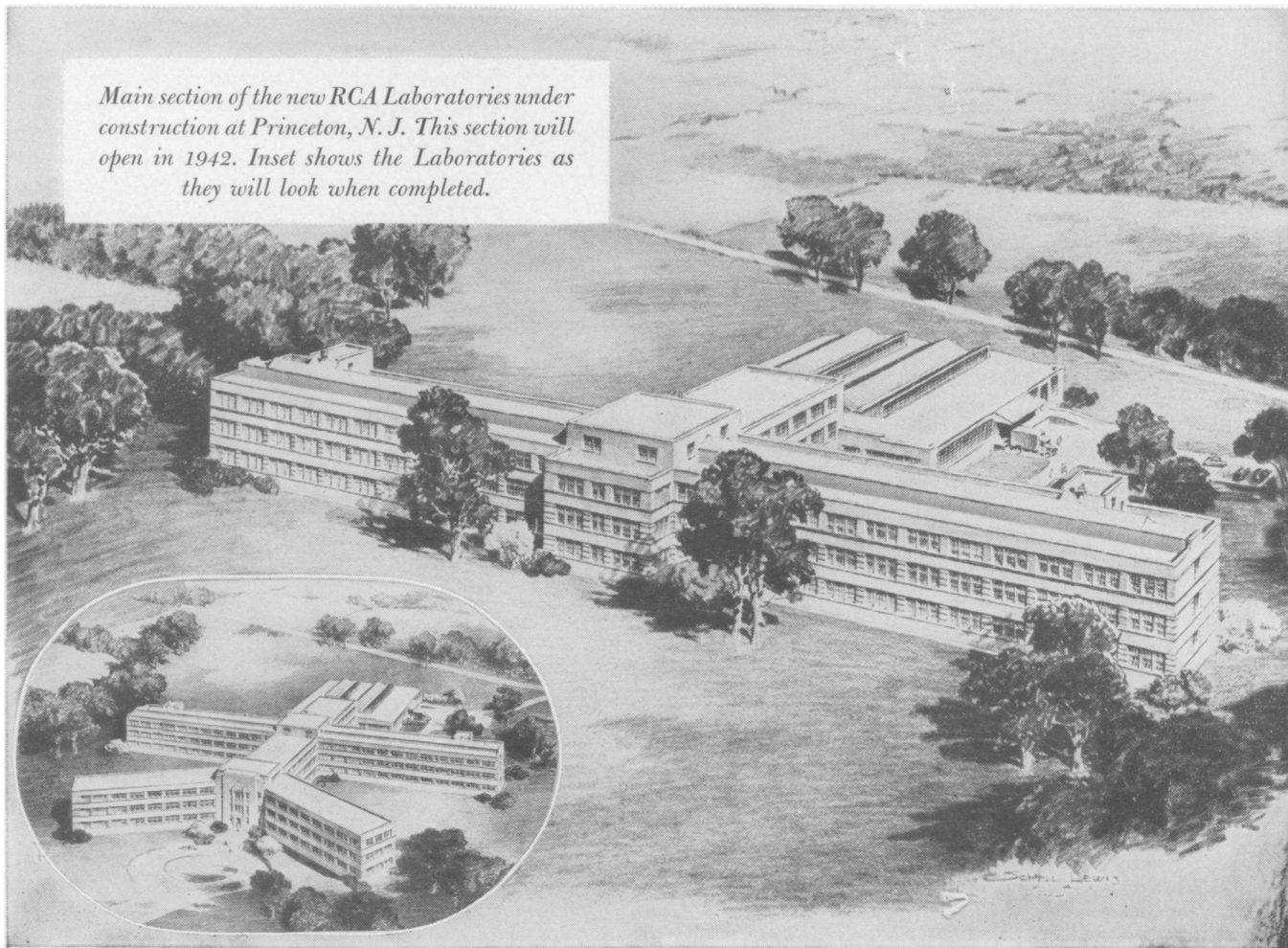


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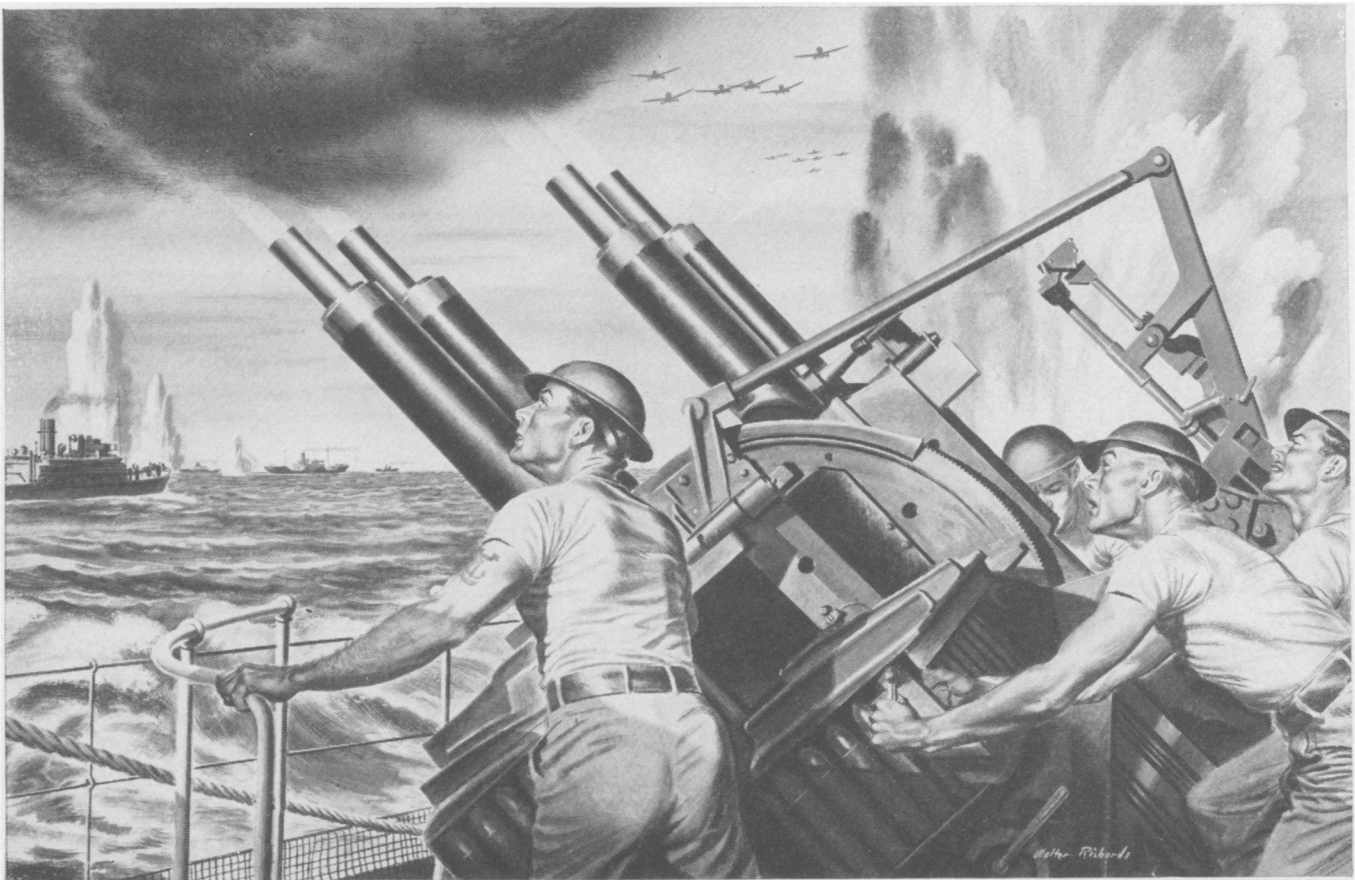
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Main section of the new RCA Laboratories under construction at Princeton, N. J. This section will open in 1942. Inset shows the Laboratories as they will look when completed.



"TO PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE, TO PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE"



Bad medicine for big bombers

ONE WAY to spoil a bomber's aim is to hang a curtain of steel over your ship and dare him to come down through it. To get that curtain of steel up there requires quick-firing, flexible guns.

To the plant of the Westinghouse Electric Elevator Company the Navy, a few months ago, brought its plans for such a gun. And to Westinghouse was given the important job of building the mounts that would control the aiming of these batteries of quick-firing guns.

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"Know how" will work for you again

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Navy Ship Turbines and Gears
Blackout Plant Lighting
Equipment

For the General Welfare

Air Conditioning
Electric Refrigerators

Switchboards
Lamps

Steam Turbines
Elevators

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