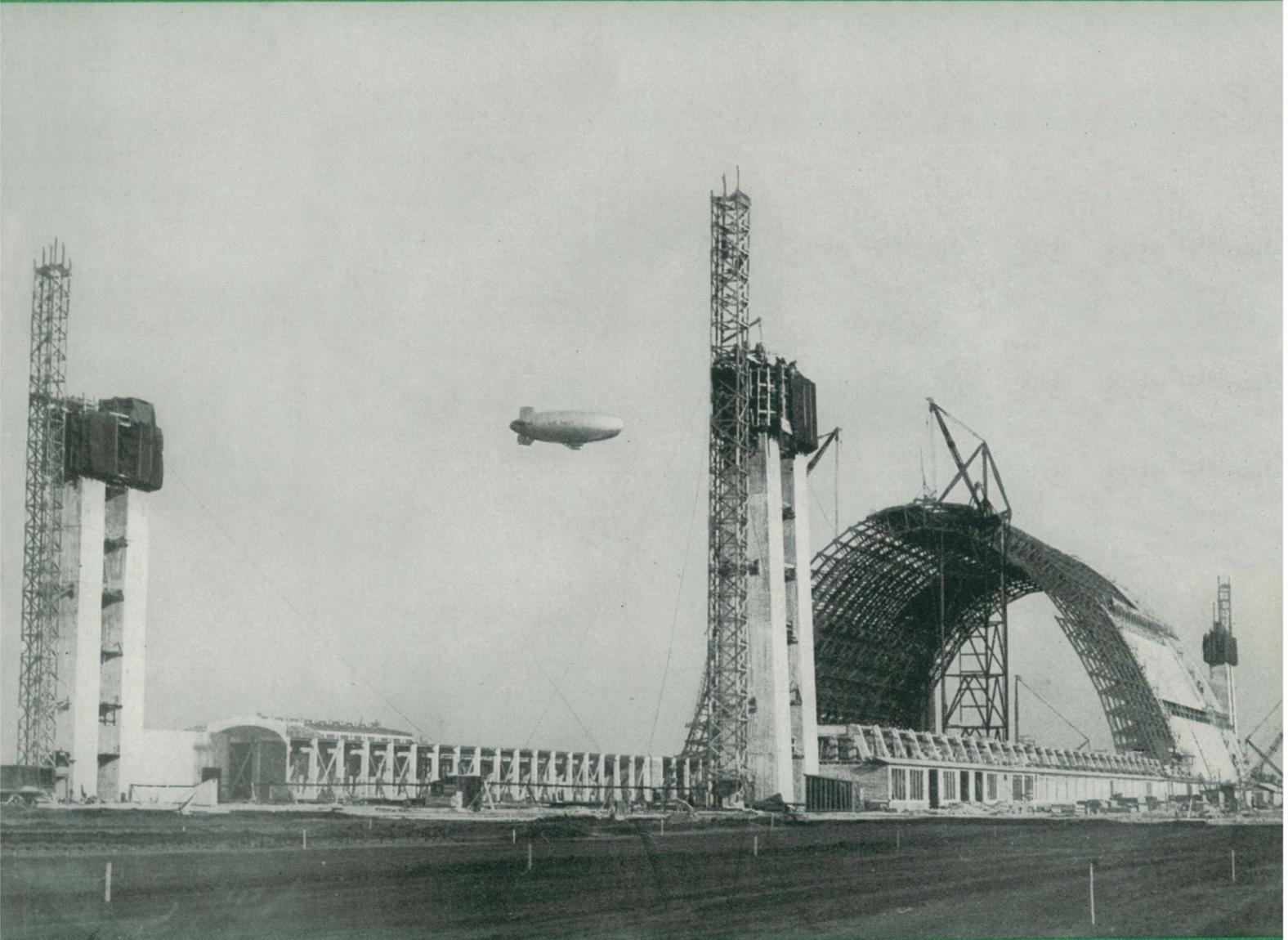


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE • MARCH 20, 1943



Wood for Steel

See Page 185

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

Forest-fire prevention is an important element in war activities.

Ethyl acetate and dibutyl phthalate, added to *fuel oil*, prevent the formation of gum on the burner.

The *balsa* tree, the wood of which is lighter than cork, is a fast-grower and often reaches a height of 40 feet in seven years.

Cigarette consumption accounted for but a small portion of the tobacco crop prior to World War I; now it uses 80% of the crop.

Uncorrected *visual defects*, that would cause productive deficiency, have been found in one person out of every four applying for work in certain factories.

Power plants on U. S. Reclamation Service irrigation projects in 11 western states produced last year more than seven and a quarter billion kilowatt hours of electrical energy.

There is less danger from *avian leucosis*, a poultry disease that kills annually a large number of birds, if young chicks are kept away from hens and on ranges not used for poultry for at least two years.

About 500 B.C., Nabu-rimannu, a *Chaldean* astronomer, calculated from data that had been collected on the motions of the sun and moon, that a year was 365 days, 6 hours, 15 minutes, and 41 seconds.

Question Box

Page numbers of Questions discussed in this issue:

ENGINEERING

How is manpower being saved in making gears? p. 185.

How was the ignitron rectifier developed? p. 190.

What role is a baby steel mill playing in airplane production? p. 185.

Why are the new tubeless tires not practical for private cars? p. 191.

ENGINEERING—AERONAUTICS

In what type of construction is wood replacing structural steel? p. 185.

EXPLORATION

What lies in the future for the science of the Arctic? p. 189.

HORTICULTURE

What should you plant in your Victory Garden? p. 186.

MEDICINE

How can shipwrecked seamen be saved from "immersion foot"? p. 179.

How were gonorrhoea and chancroid wiped out in one company of troops? p. 179.

NUTRITION

How much reduction in bulk is attained by dehydrating foods? p. 180.

If you have done research on food composition, where should you send your data? p. 184.

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.

PALEOPEDEGOLOGY

What is paleopedology? p. 180.

PHYSICS—MATHEMATICS

Why does a mathematician consider the Einstein theory of gravitation unsatisfactory? p. 188.

PHYSIOLOGY

What happens in the very brief time during which a muscle relaxes before a contraction? p. 183.

PHYSIOLOGY—PHYSICS

How do electric eels communicate with each other? p. 182.

PSYCHOLOGY

What trouble does a violet-blind man have seeing colors? p. 181.

PUBLIC HEALTH

How did the DI men of the U. S. Public Health Service avert a strike in a war industry? p. 181.

How do the meningitis cases this year compare with those of past years? p. 184.

What "grim warning" has been made to physicians about the possibilities for 1943? p. 185.

Women make excellent *dimplers*: dimpling, as well as welding and riveting, is an important operation in aircraft making.

Approximately 60% of the *paint* made in the United States is going into direct war service in the Armed Forces or in their supporting agencies.

The *swordfish*, which meets the standard engineering requirements for streamlined forms, is probably the fastest swimming creature in the world.

It costs more to transmit *electrical power* over 300 miles than it does to generate the power locally with steam or diesel engines.

Machine operators working on black shoes in a factory suffer less from *head-aches* and blind spots when the machines are painted white.

The war has created a demand for certain products of *Peru*, including sugar, copper, petroleum, flax, barbasco, quinine and rubber.

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