



AERIAL LANDING LIGHT SYSTEM AT LA GUARDIA

TECHNOLOGY

Men Are Louder on Phone

► NOW IT IS OFFICIAL. Men talk louder than women during a telephone call, but women make the most social calls.

Although some members of both sexes will loudly dispute these facts, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Murray Hill, N. J., has statistics to back them up. In a survey of 10,000 phone calls made in 10 cities, the following facts came to light:

Males talk the loudest, but there is a wide variation in their volume depending on whether a member of the gentle sex is on the other end of the line, or if the call is purely social or business.

When the boss is not looking, not all interoffice calls are strictly business. Sixty-six percent of the interoffice calls were social, the survey showed.

Callers in New York also talked the loudest of the 10 cities surveyed, Kathryn L. McAdoo of Bell Telephone Laboratories

told the American Institute of Electrical Engineers meeting in Ithaca, N. Y.

• Science News Letter, 80:6 July 1, 1961

Push-Button Telephone

► THE FAMILIAR telephone dial may soon be pushed aside by push-buttons.

Japanese scientists have installed an experimental transistorized push-button telephone system in a Tokyo department store to handle outside and intra-office calls. The system, which has been operating for more than a year, has improved service and will be used as a basis for future applications.

S. Yamato, K. Wantanabe, K. Muroga and J. Okuda of the Nippon Electric Company, Ltd., Tokyo, described the system to the American Institute of Electrical Engineers meeting in Ithaca, N. Y.

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TECHNOLOGY

Tap Niagara Falls

► THE LARGEST hydroelectric power project in the Western Hemisphere, and possibly the world, is being built in the shadows of Niagara Falls.

The huge power complex, which consists of two power plants, a reservoir and a high voltage transmission installation, will supply more than 3,000,000 horsepower or 2,190,000 kilowatts to area homes and industries. The \$720,000,000-project will be completed by the end of next year.

One power plant, built on the Niagara River's edge three miles downstream from the Falls, will house 13 turbines, each of

200,000 horsepower. The other power plant will also pump water into the reservoir when it is not used to generate electricity.

The Niagara region, a favorite honeymoon spot for many years, is now also attracting industry because of the tremendous power waiting to be tapped from the river.

The Niagara project was described by T. E. Thorgerson of Charles T. Main, Inc., Boston, at the American Institute of Electrical Engineers meeting in Ithaca, N. Y.

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AERONAUTICS

New Runway Lights Installed at La Guardia

► INSTALLATION of a new lighting system, picked by the Federal Aviation Agency as a national standard, has been completed on a runway at La Guardia Airport in New York City.

The British-developed RAE (for Royal Aircraft Establishment) lights are designed to reduce the dangers of night landings or landings made under limited visibility. They can be seen for 15 miles at night and give pilots a visual means of flying down a predetermined glide path on final approach.

Twelve light units in three-unit bars are arranged with two bars on each side of the runway. Individual units are equipped with a high-beam white light and a low-beam red filter. If the pilot is too high, both rows of lights show white. If he is too low, they show red. If he is on the proper glide path, he sees the front row of lights as white and the back row as red.

Purchase and installation costs for both ends of the trial runway totaled about \$80,000. Simplified versions at smaller airports would cost much less. FAA adopted the units after testing five different systems at the National Aviation Facilities Experimental Center, Atlantic City, N. J.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

Seattle in 1962 for National Science Fair

► THE 13TH NATIONAL Science Fair-International will be held May 2 to 5, 1962, at Seattle, Wash., in connection with that city's massive Century 21 exposition. The announcement was made by Watson Davis, director of SCIENCE SERVICE, which administers the annual fair.

The Seattle fair site is the Civic Auditorium, where the more than 400 youthful scientists expected to compete for awards will have approximately 38,000 square feet of floor space in which to set up their exhibits. The auditorium is in the 16-block area set aside for Century 21. Seattle's long-awaited "Space Age World's Fair" will open April 21 and continue through Oct. 21.

An exposition feature expected to be of particular interest to National Science Fair entrants and visitors is the U.S. Science Pavilion, which will house what is reportedly the largest science exhibit ever shown to the public. Built with Federal participation, the \$9,000,000 structure is expected to be completed about Feb. 15.

The National Science Fair's Seattle planning committee, in charge of local arrangements, is headed by G. L. Hollingsworth, director of Boeing Scientific Research Laboratories there.

This year's fair was held at Kansas City, Mo., where the Science Fair Council and Science Service selected Philadelphia as the site of the 1964 event. Albuquerque, N.M., will play host to the 1963 fair.

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