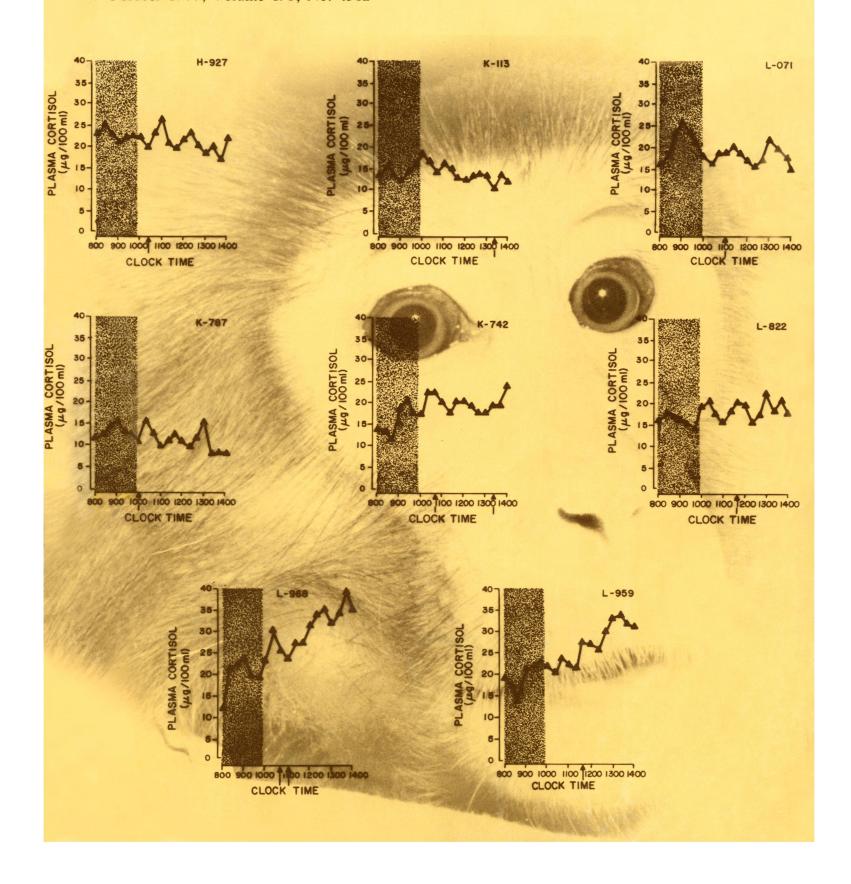
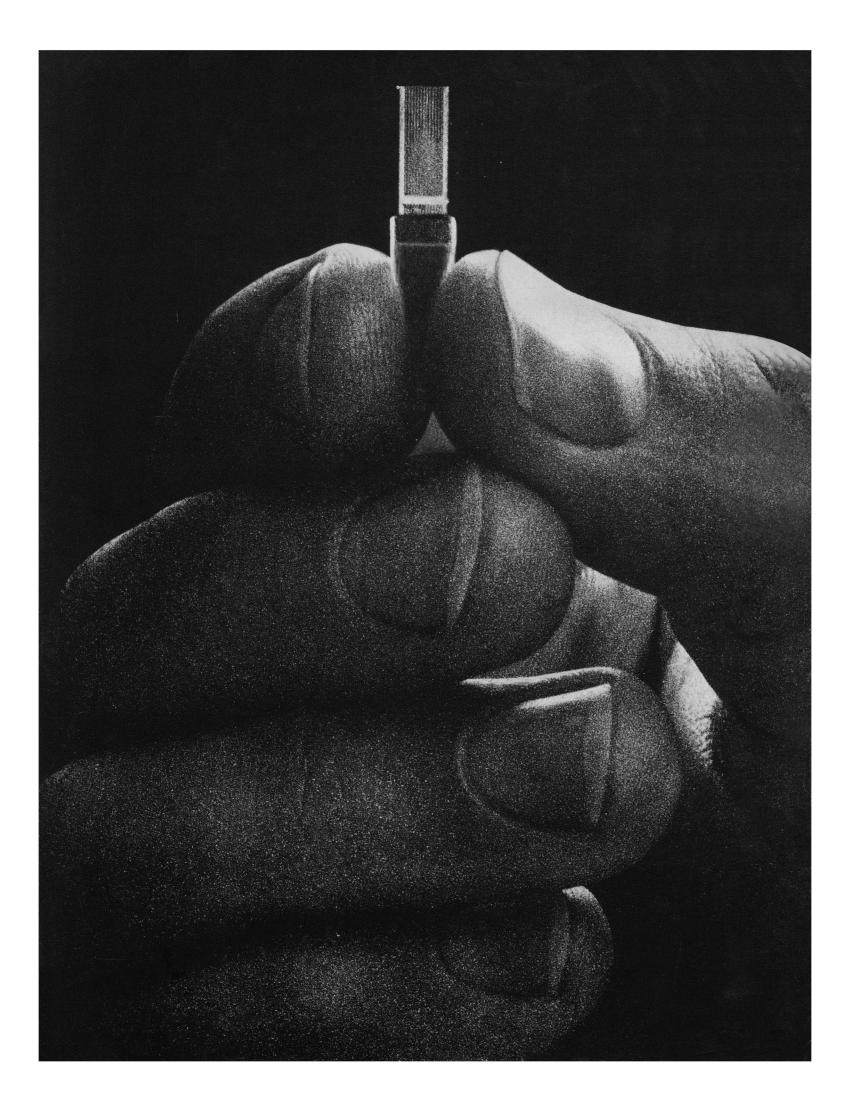
SCIENCE

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

7 October 1977, Volume 198, No. 4312





The Chicago Connection.

With it, the phone system of tomorrow is in Chicago today.

A while ago, we told you lightwave communications was just around the corner. Today, it's in the streets of Chicago.

For the first time, the human voice, business data and even video signals are being carried by lightwaves traveling over hair-thin glass fibers. Instead of electric current traveling over copper wire.

But without that little link you see on the opposite page, lightwave communications for such a wide range of services might still be an experiment in a lab. And without Western Electric technology, the link might still be a design on a blueprint.

The link is an outgrowth of an idea from the people at Bell Labs. While they were putting the major components of the lightwave system together, they had to find a way to splice the glass fibers and get the light across the splice.

A Simple Idea

The idea they came up with was deceptively simple. A coupling device made up of tiny grooved chips, smaller than the tip of your finger, that would guide the ends of the hair-thin fibers and butt them up

in perfect alignment.

There was only one hitch. Making one chip was easy. But there was no machinery that could mass produce all the identical chips that would be needed for a lightwave system like the one in Chicago.

Making Ideas Reality

That's where Western Electric comes in. Turning ideas into technological innovations is nothing new at Western Electric.

Over the years, Western Electric has piled up an impressive list of innovations that have become manufacturing standards.

It was the first company in the world to manufacture the transistor.

It was the first to put the laser to work as a useful production tool.

And it is the company that went beyond conventional machining techniques to make the chips for Chicago's lightwave system.

Each chip is pure silicon crystal. Its internal structure (a criss-cross arrangement of intersecting planes) provides a built-in blueprint for regularly spaced grooves. And because the crystal's diagonal planes etch faster than its per-

pendicular planes, uniform grooves can be chemically cut into the chip.

By combining the science of chemistry and the art of lithography, Western Electric's Engineering Research Center developed a way to etch 12 ultra-precise, perfectly shaped, identical V-grooves on each chip. With each groove no wider than a hair and separated only by a hair's breadth from its neighbors.

And, more importantly, they were able to reproduce these chips so that each one was a perfect double of the other.

Teamwork is the Key

The telecommunications revolution beginning in Chicago is another good example of how Western Electric and Bell Labs help put new technology into practical use for the Bell telephone companies, quickly and economically.

Their close relationship is an important reason why your telephone system is the most efficient and reliable communications system in the world. And it's a basic reason why

innovations in technology are a common occurrence in the Bell System.

Western Electric

7 October 1977

Volume 198, No. 4312

SCIENCE

Computer Encryption: Key Size: M. E. Hellman	8
The Leadership of the Geological Survey	11
Suid Evolution and Correlation of African Hominid Localities: T. D. White and J. M. Harris	13
Raymond Lindeman and the Trophic-Dynamic Concept in Ecology: R. E. Cook	22
Impact of Federal Regulations at a University: D. C. Spriestersbach and W. J. Farrell	27
Carl Rogers: Giving People Permission to Be Themselves	31
The Empathic Computer	32
Robert Thorne: Controversial Nominee for Energy R & D Job	34
Issue of Technology Transfer Is Snag for 1979 U.N. Meeting	35
The Zeeman Effect: A Unique Approach to Atomic Absorption	39
Amaranth: A Comeback for the Food of the Aztecs?	40
Bacterial Genetics: Action at a Distance on DNA	41
Nairobi Conferees Identify Desertification Indicators; 1978 AAAS Annual Meeting, 12–17 February, Washington, D.C.; AAAS Travelers; Women in Scientific Research Topic of AAAS Conference; \$185,000 in Grants for Project on Handicapped; Affiliate News; Marine Science Session Highlights Annual Interciencia Meeting.	43
	Computer Encryption: Key Size: M. E. Hellman The Leadership of the Geological Survey Suid Evolution and Correlation of African Hominid Localities: T. D. White and J. M. Harris Raymond Lindeman and the Trophic-Dynamic Concept in Ecology: R. E. Cook. Impact of Federal Regulations at a University: D. C. Spriestersbach and W. J. Farrell Carl Rogers: Giving People Permission to Be Themselves The Empathic Computer Robert Thorne: Controversial Nominee for Energy R & D Job. Issue of Technology Transfer Is Snag for 1979 U.N. Meeting. The Zeeman Effect: A Unique Approach to Atomic Absorption Amaranth: A Comeback for the Food of the Aztecs? Bacterial Genetics: Action at a Distance on DNA. Nairobi Conferees Identify Desertification Indicators; 1978 AAAS Annual Meeting, 12–17 February, Washington, D.C.; AAAS Travelers; Women in Scientific Research Topic of AAAS Conference; \$185,000 in Grants for Project on

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BOOK REVIEWS	Anthropology and History in Yucatán, reviewed by G. H. Gossen; Cell Wall Biochemistry Related to Specificity in Host-Plant Pathogen Interactions, N. T. Keen; The Ecology of the Seas, P. A. Larkin; Slow Virus Infections of the Central Nervous System, W. J. Hadlow; Books Received	45
REPORTS	Two-Billion-Year Granulites in the Late Precambrian Metamorphic Basement Along the Southern Peruvian Coast: B. Dalmayrac, J. R. Lancelot, A. Leyreloup	49
	Cancer Mortality in U.S. Counties with Petroleum Industries: W. J. Blot et al	51
	Bifunctional Intercalators: Relationship of Antitumor Activity of Diacridines to the Cell Membrane: R. M. Fico, T. K. Chen, E. S. Canellakis	53
	Synchronized Ultradian Cortisol Rhythms in Monkeys: Persistence During Corticotropin Infusion: J. W. Holaday, H. M. Martinez, B. H. Natelson	56
	Alpha Blocking: Absence in Visuobehavioral Deprivation: J. D. Glass	58
	Mental Set Alters Visibility of Moving Targets: R. Sekuler and K. Ball	60
	Striatal Efferent Fibers Play a Role in Maintaining Rotational Behavior in the Rat: J. F. Marshall and U. Ungerstedt	62
	Clockwise Growth of Neurites from Retinal Explants: A. M. Heacock and B. W. Agranoff	64
	Behavioral History as a Determinant of the Effects of d-Amphetamine on Punished Behavior: J. E. Barrett	67
	Neuronal Circadian Rhythm: Phase Shifting by a Protein Synthesis Inhibitor: J. W. Jacklet	69
	Selective Destruction of Neurons by a Transmitter Agonist: R. M. Herndon and J. T. Coyle	71
	Cortical Mechanisms That Augment or Reduce Evoked Potentials in Cats: J. H. Lukas and J. Siegel	73
	Imitation of Facial and Manual Gestures by Human Neonates: A. N. Meltzoff and M. K. Moore	75
	Transplantable Pancreatic Carcinoma of the Rat: J. K. Reddy and M. S. Rao	78
	Technical Comments: Hypertension and Nature of Stress: M. Peters; R. Friedman and J. Iwai	80

GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY Howard R. Gould Ramon E. Bisque	(E)	BIOLOGICAL SCIEN Mary E. Clark Jane C. Kaltenbach	VCES (G)	ANTHROPOLOGY (H) Raymond H. Thompson Philleo Nash
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COVER

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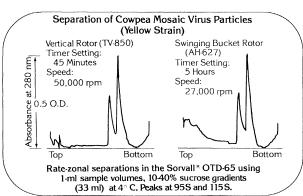
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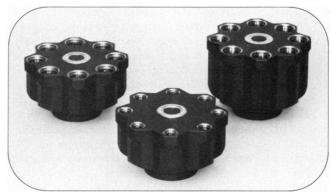
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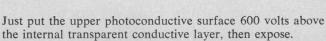
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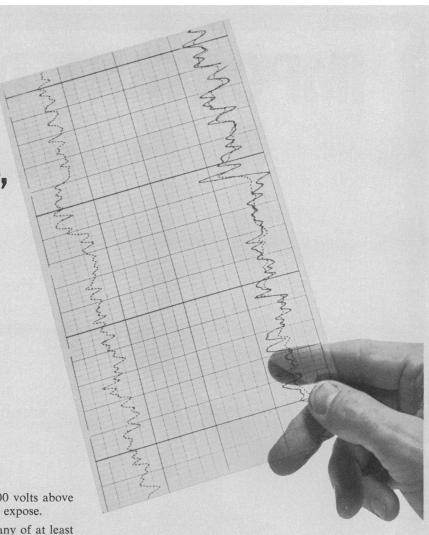
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The Leadership of the Geological Survey

In its actions with respect to science, technology, and medicine, the Carter Administration has compiled a mixed record. During the transition period last December, actions of some of the Carter transition team were amateurish. At that time, a number of leading scientists received telephone calls asking them to identify possible advisers about science-related positions in the government. Some of the callers obviously knew little about the scientific community. When one of the team was told to consider the name of Jerome Wiesner, the caller asked "How do you spell it and where is he at?"

Within days of the Inauguration in January, there were peremptory firings of heads of agencies before replacements were in sight. In the filling of vacancies, the physical sciences did not fare very well. For example, Robert White, an excellent scientist and administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who resigned of his own volition, has been replaced by a lawyer. The post of director of the National Bureau of Standards, long vacant, has still not been filled.

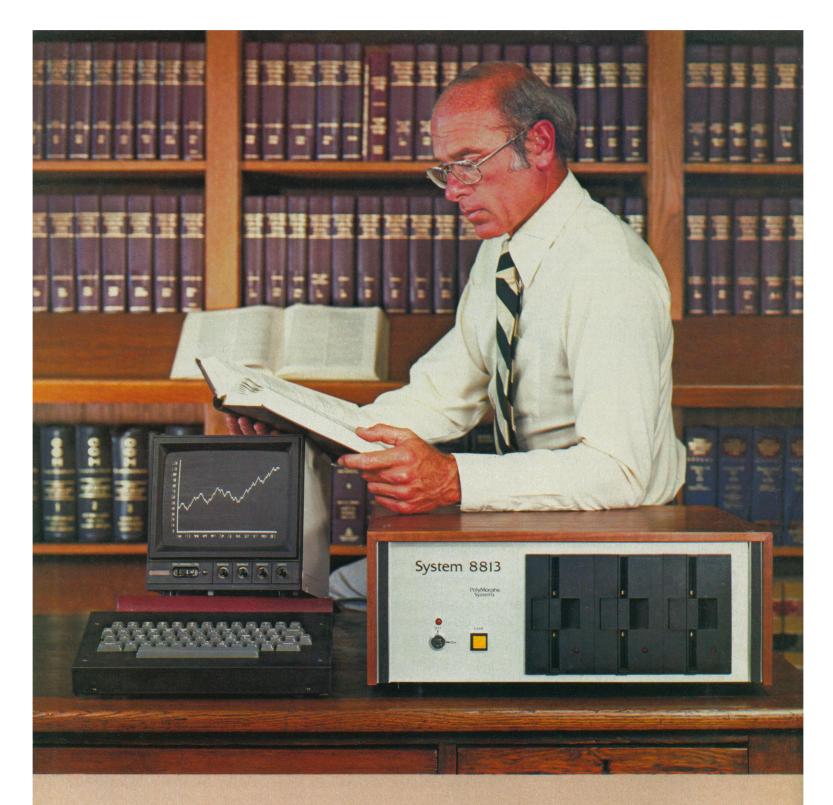
Lately, the performance of the Administration has improved markedly and excellent appointments have been announced. However, the recent dismissal of Vincent McKelvey, director of the U.S. Geological Survey, was disquieting for it seemed a step toward politicizing the Geological Survey.

During nearly 100 years the Survey has maintained a tradition of excellence recognized throughout the world. It is one of the few federal agencies whose activities represent an investment for the future. Throughout its history, the Survey has been directed by distinguished geologists. In turn, the heads of the operating divisions have been scientists broadly recognized for their competence. The Survey has been a research organization. It has been customary for professional staff to engage in fieldwork at some time during the year. Survey geologists have endured hardships in the process of studying the rocks on virtually every square mile of this country as well as on much of the rest of the earth. They have a degree of contact with the world outside Washington that is unusual in a federal agency.

A report on the Geological Survey prepared for Senator Jackson by Allen F. Agnew has provided a historical background and listed some of many major programs and goals.* In the report Dr. McKelvey summarized what he considered to be the mission of his organization. "The Survey's principal mission is to provide the knowledge about the earth that can serve as a basis for the identification and evaluation of resource and land use alternatives and for policy- and decision-making on the part of the Administration, the Congress, and the general public. Although the Survey's principal mission is to develop basic information on the earth and its resources, its responsibilities for the classification of Federal lands and the supervision of lease development are no less important. Essential in these missions is to insure that the nation's public resources are identified, conserved, and developed wisely, that the public receives its fair share value of leased resources, and that mineral exploration and production do minimum damage to other resource or environmental values. The Survey uses its scientific and technical resources to help achieve these objectives.'

The Geological Survey has traditions of rigor and excellence and an uncommon respect for facts and truth. The nation would lose a great institution if an inappropriate choice of the new director were made. A committee of the National Academy of Sciences has nominated a panel of first-class scientists who are qualified to serve. If the name of one of these is submitted to the Senate, damage will be limited. Joan Davenport, Assistant Secretary for Energy and Minerals at the Department of the Interior has stated that a distinguished scientist will be chosen. Her commitment to foster this action is reassuring.—PHILIP H. ABELSON

A. F. Agnew, The U.S. Geological Survey (Committee Print, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, 94th Congress, 1st Session, December 1975).



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(Continued from page 44)

ciety's annual forum, "Research for Survival," held in Toronto in May. Founded in 1970, SCITEC seeks to foster interdisciplinary communication among Canadian scientists and to bring science and technology to bear on problems of development, public policy, and public understanding. Members include individuals as well as more than 60 professional societies and an active contingent in both houses of Parliament.

CONICIT (Costa Rican National Council of Scientific and Technological Research) also was admitted to the IA as an affiliated organization during the IA annual meeting.

The two organizations were formally accepted into the federation at the inaugural of the 4-day symposium on marine sciences, one of an ongoing series sponsored by the IA. The July symposium, which was cosponsored by IA and CONICIT, brought together 60 to 70 scientists from a dozen countries in the Americas, as well as representatives from Japan. Arranged by Manuel Murillo, vice president of the University of Costa Rica, and Roger Revelle of the University of California at San Diego, the conference addressed such topics as aquaculture; ecology and environmental protection; education; training and technology transfer in marine sciences; and cooperative research in the marine field. The program included some two dozen presentations during regular panels and a similar number of contributed papers. The entire proceedings will be published and some of the papers will appear in Interciencia, the Interciencia Association's trilingual journal.

In the past, the IA has sponsored symposia in cooperation with AAAS, the Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science, and the Venezuelan Association for the Advancement of Science. Its symposium program, along with publication of the journal Interciencia, constitutes a primary activity of the Association, which was founded in 1974 by AAAS and representatives of scientific societies of other American nations. In addition to Canada and Costa Rica, countries represented in the federation include Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, the United States, and Venezuela. President of IA is Oscar Sala of the Brazilian Society; vice president is Leonard M. Rieser of AAAS; and secretary-treasurer is Salvatore Pluchino of the Venezuelan Association. Editor of the journal Interciencia is Marcel Roche of Venezuela.



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