USC SCIENTIST RECORDS THOUGHT WAVES

Machine Reveals Brain Work on Paper Strip

Your brain sends out thought waves by tiny electrical impulses. Amplified 300,000 times, they can now be recorded on a strip of paper to show:

The kind of thoughts you hold and

You can be identified by this process of "fingerprinting" your brain waves.

Animals think; infants and idiots do not.

These are some of the revelations made in the University of Southern California laboratories by Dr. Lee E. Travis, psychologist, and recently announced after five years of intensive research.

Can Be Identified

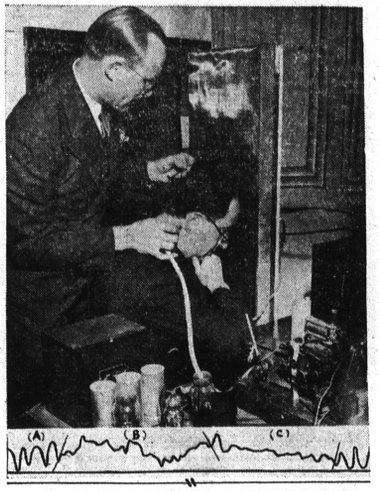
By attaching wires to a person's ear and head, then amplifying the brain potentials, which have a strength of from 20 to 200 millionths of a volt, the current is recorded on a moving strip of paper. The fine lines made by an ink stylus give Dr. Travis his clues.

"Wavy lines with an even curl indicate that the brain is relaxed," explained the Trojan scientist. "The instant that a thought begins these lines begin to straighten out. Thinking of an object produces one kind of marking. Abstract, problematical or emotional thoughts all make other characteristic recordings. Everyone has typical brain wave lines that can be identified," said Dr. Travis.

Potential Uses

"The brain is an automatic creator and is not a mere network of silent nerves that respond to stimuli. Even in sleep it continues to give off impulses of its own."

The process being developed by the S. C. psychologist has nothing to do with intelligence. "It does give us a clue as to how the brain works," Dr. Travis said, "and we hope to add contributions to the fields of medicine, psychology, and to the studies of thinking ability."



Ability to "fingerprint" thought waves on a narrow strip of paper is being demonstrated by Dr. Lee E. Travis of U. S. C. He is seen attaching electric terminals to the ear and head of his assistant, H. Sjaardema and by amplifying brain currents 300,000 times the recorded strip shows (a) the brain waves at rest (b) the intrusion of a thought (c) another type of thought envolved with a problem just before the mind relaxes again.

Burglar Errs on Beer

OAKLAND, Cal. (U.P.)—August Dangles, restaurant proprietor, got a real kick out of being robbed. A burglar carried off a case of 24 bottles of what was presumably beer. But it was mineral water.

Riding the car tracks is a bad motoring practice in every respect.

Yoder Taking New Position

Five years' service as local agent for Southern California Edison company will come to an end for Thomas R. (Dick) Yoder on Saturday, Jan. 21. On that day he will transfer to the merchandising department of the power company and start working out of the Redondo Beach district office. Yoder, who has many friends here, is now in his 16th year as a member of the Edison personnel.

He will be succeeded here by Marshall Anderson, who has been local agent at Gardena for the past three years.

Council Holds Adjourned Meet

At an adjourned meeting of the city council Tuesday night, the contract for the re-painting of the municipal water district's low storage tank was awarded to the lowest bidder and 11 bids were opened on the purchase of 1550 tons of crushed rock and the same number of barrels of road oil for street improvements.

The Non-Corrosive Products company of Huntington Park, which had submitted a quotation of $2,750 for the tank painting job, was awarded the contract on recommendation of a city committee that checked the four bids received last week. The painting job will carry a five-year guarantee and the work will start Jan. 30, according to Superintendent William H. Stanger.

Bids offered on the purchase of 1,300 tons of No. 4 crushed rock, 250 tons of No. 5 crushed rock and 1,550 barrels of road oil are being studied by the street department, city engineer and city attorney. They will make their recommendation to the council next Tuesday night.

P. E. Deed Delayed

Other city business transacted by the municipal board this week included: Granting an appropriation of $400 for the purchase of new office furniture and equipment for the municipal water district's headquarters, 1510 Cravens avenue.

Officer Willard Barnett, having served his six-month probationary period on the police department, was given a permanent appointment on recommendation of Director John Stroh. The police head said that Barnett's work during his "rookie-hood" was very satisfactory.

City Attorney John E. McCall, asked regarding the progress being made toward acquiring the deed to the Pacific Electric right-of-way along Torrance boulevard that the papers had been traced by P. E. attorneys in Los Angeles to an attorney's office in New York City.

Pool Hall Permitted

"They are being given a final 'once-over' there," McCall said. "The Pacific Electric attorneys in Los Angeles said they hoped the city would bear with them by allowing more time than the original 30 days."

"We have 'borne with' the P. E. fair longer than 30 days in the past and I guess we can stand a few more delays," Mayor Tolson commented.

A pool hall license was granted Ed Torrence at 1211 El Prado and Leonard Young, acting city engineer, reported that a sodium vapor lamp had been installed near the KNX transmitter station at the junction of 190th and Hawthorne boulevard. Appropriations of $433.35 for the purchase of rock for street repairs and $190 for fertilizer for the city parks was approved.

Bike Licenses To Be Sold at County Schools

Within the next few weeks, bicycle owners who live in county territory will be required to re-register their wheels and obtain 1939 license plates the same as automobile owners. Lieut. J. B. Kelly of the Vermont avenue Sheriff's Substation told The Herald today that a new method of issuing the licenses will be used for the annual renewal drive.

"We will send a license collector around to the various schools in the unincorporated area with two radio officers to contact the boys and girls right in their classrooms," Lt. Kelly said. "The fee will be 25 cents per bicycle as usual."

OBITUARY

MRS. MARTHA A. WATSON . . . Funeral rites for Mrs. Martha A. Watson, 80 years of age, who passed away last Friday, Jan. 13, at her home, 1317 Portola avenue, were conducted Monday at Stone and Myers chapel. Interment followed in Inglewood Park Cemetery.

Mrs. Watson, who was a native of England, came to this country in 1914 and had been a resident of California for 15 years. She leaves her daughter, Mrs. E. W. Lock, with whom she made her home; three sons, and two daughters in the East, and a son, and two daughters in England.

ROY L. ALLEN . . . passed away last Thursday at a Los Angeles hospital as result of an attack of pneumonia. He had been ill only a few days. Mr. Allen, who was 43 years old and a native of Portland, Ore., lived with his family at 1229 West 225th street in Lomita. He had lived in that district for the past three years and operated a bakery delivery route.

He was survived by his widow, Mrs. Louise Allen, and three small children. The funeral service was held Monday morning at the A. M. Gamby chapel in Lomita with Rev. John Orr in charge. Interment was at Roosevelt Memorial park.

L. B. Fights for Locating Custom House at Port

The harbor district is the proper location for the proposed new customs building for Los Angeles, the board of supervisors was told today by the Long Beach chamber of commerce.

Protest against allocation of funds by the county to supplement the $150,000 originally appropriated by the federal government for purchase of a site was registered with the board on behalf of the chamber membership.

"Business could be conducted much more efficiently at the harbor site than at Los Angeles 25 miles away," the chamber's letter stated. "The site should be at the harbor irrespective of whether it is at Long Beach, San Pedro or Wilmington."

Mrs. Jared Sidney Torrance, widow of the founder of this city, is reported to be recovering satisfactorily following a major operation performed last week.

Group to Form Major Plan for Dist. Development

First steps toward realization of a far-reaching plan for development of this area and the surrounding southwest portion of the county will be taken at a meeting tomorrow (Friday) night, 7:30 o'clock, in the Chamber of Commerce here.

The purpose of this session will be to form a sub-committee of the Southwest District Highways association to design a course of cooperative publicising of the district and promoting highway improvements, notably Crenshaw boulevard from Hollywood thru Inglewood, Hawthorne and Torrance to Palos Verdes Estates. This development was first proposed by Oscar Willits in recent addresses before the South Bay Realty Board and the Highways association.

Four Torrance men, Mayor William H. Tolson, Grover C. Whyte of The Herald, President Alden W. Smith and L. J. Gilmeister of the Chamber of Commerce, have been named to meet with the following at the meeting Friday night: Mayor Ray Darby, Clarence W. Schouboe, Leo Calkins, P. R. Mowry, Sam Hill, Roy Rosenburg of Inglewood; Willits of Palos Verdes; Mayor Colfax Bell and Major John Berry of Redondo Beach; Clifford Reid of Hollywood Riviera; George A. Roitsch of Manhattan Beach, W. C. Curl of Hawthorne, president of the District Highways association.

Girls Elect New G. A. A. Officers

New officers of the Girls' Athletic association of Torrance high school were elected late last week. The second semester will find the following girls holding executive positions:

Lucille Acree, president; Ramona Carlin, vice-president; Marjorie Page, recording secretary; Norine Schroeder, corresponding secretary; Julie Shaver, treasurer; Evelyn Vincent, playday chairman; Polly Bartlett, sergeant-at-arms, and Arlys Fossum, reporter.

Mrs. Karmee Dolley of this city was elected secretary of the Roosevelt Memorial Park association this week. She has been working in the office of the firm for the past six months.