

of students in the high school were not, in the early days, "the children of the Spanish-American workers." The chapter on the school, based on hearsay, contains many errors of fact and interpretation.

Fisher and her husband, a physicist, arrived on the project in October 1944, only seven months before the bomb was tested at Alamogordo. Fisher's mother kept her letters, and they form the backbone of this book, revealing the typical concerns of a spouse at Los Alamos in the last year of the war. Los Alamos was no paradise. The houses were poorly constructed and either too hot or too cold. Dust lay everywhere except after the rare rains, when the place became too muddy. The wood-and-coal stove was a horror: No city-bred woman would cook on it. The produce in the commissary was limp and tired. The Army Corps of Engineers, who were in charge of the running of the town, could be petty and bureaucratic. Because the houses were cheek by jowl, people lived in such close proximity that familiarity often bred contempt; like many others, Mrs. Fisher became critical of the life style of certain of her neighbors. Worst of all were the chronic water shortages, making sanitation a nightmare. Fisher's letters reiterate once again all the familiar complaints about this town, more thrown together than planned. On the happy side, though, people were cooperative and helped one another. Warm friendships developed, some of which would last a lifetime.

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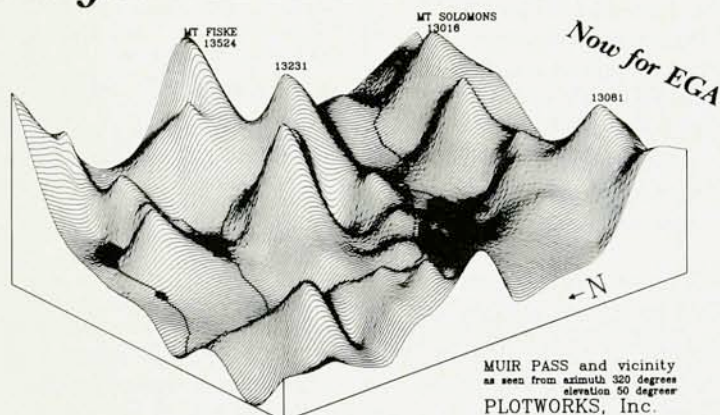
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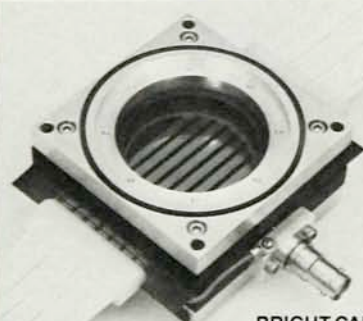
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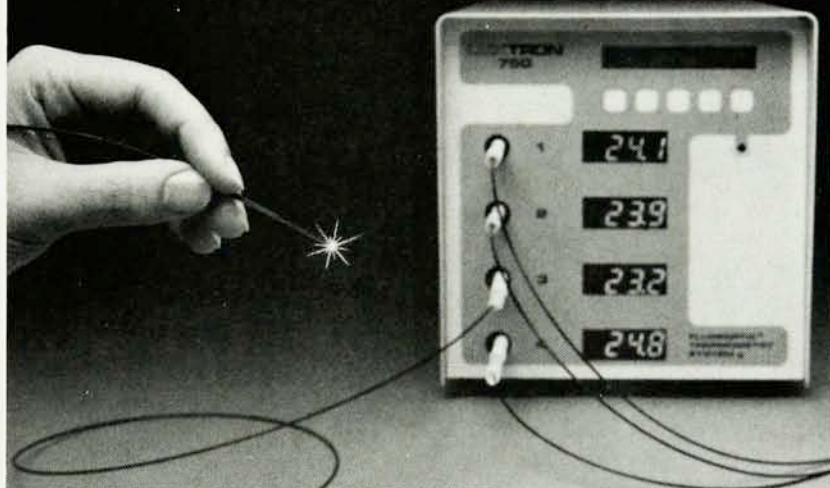
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