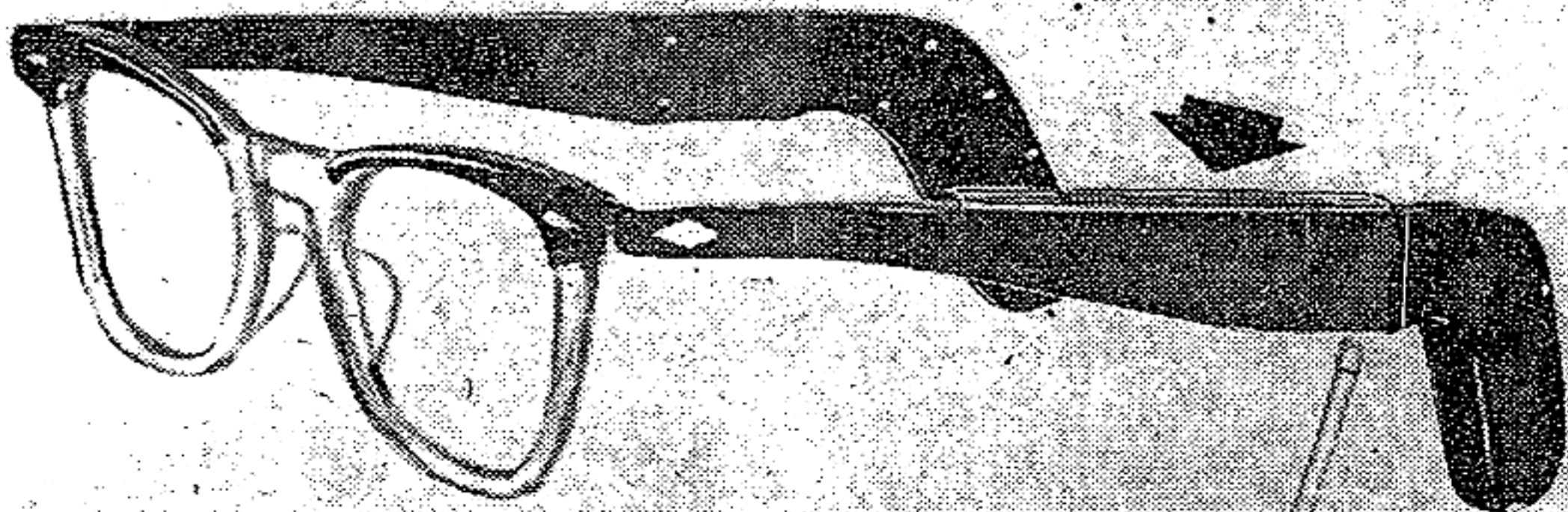


## Something New Under the Sun: Solar Hearing Aid



The hearing aid, Solaris, fits into one of the frames (arrow) in a pair of eyeglasses

A solar-powered hearing aid—said to be the first—was introduced yesterday by the Zenith Radio Corporation.

Eugene M. Kinney, vice president of Zenith and general manager of its hearing aid division, demonstrated the latest application of harnessing the power of the sun at a meeting in the Twenty-one Club. The hearing aid fits into one of the frames in a pair of eyeglasses.

Mr. Kinney said that the new hearing aid, known as

the Solaris, used silicon cells like those used to power the radio on the Navy's Vanguard satellite.

The instrument is equipped with four tiny silicon cells that convert the sun's rays into energy and enable the user to hear. Mr. Kinney described the cells as wafer-thin slices of highly purified silicon fortified with minute quantities of arsenic or boron.

The cells provide for efficient operation of a hearing aid outdoors on a bright or

slightly overcast day. Indoors or a very cloudy day, a tiny nickel cadmium battery that weighs less than an ounce automatically powers the device. A tiny standard mercury storage battery also can be used for auxiliary power.

Mr. Kinney said bright sunlight not only would run the hearing aid but also would recharge the nickel cadmium battery.

The new hearing aid will carry a suggested store price of \$250.

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