

Aug 6th 1961

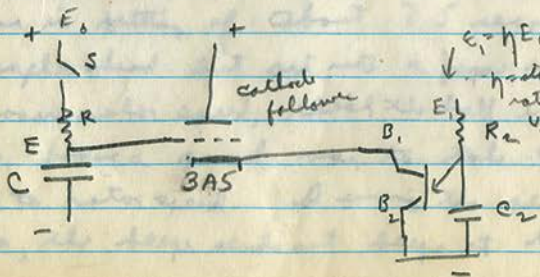
Dear Ed & Vivian:

Lots of news & progress and some setbacks since you left.

1. A movie "The Honeycomb Machine" reviewed in Time, Aug 4 issue - "The three of them [a missile scientist and 2 other characters] decide to become wealthy at a Venice Casino, using as their good luck talisman a ship based missile-tracking electronic computer named MAX. The aspiring bandits are all set to block the roulette action and flash the data to MAX when suddenly..." See also newsweek some weeks where it is clear that the information is sent by flinker signals. The movie has not opened here yet - it is certainly a bad development but may not be as bad as it sounds - they may be suggesting a sequential statistical system rather than a predictive system. In any case we should certainly continue our plans.

2. The electromechanically controlled D.C. motor did not work out well - delivery time on the miniature model is 7 weeks & more so I scouted around and located 2 of the larger models in surplus stores. They keep good time (.1% error as advertised) but are erratic in starting and stopping and also quite large and noisy - they various factors make them look rather poor for our job - total cost to learn this \$44.

3. I have been working on an all electronic timing system - no moving parts. It looks very good so far;



Basically the idea is as shown at left. Switch S is closed for one rotor revolution. capacitor C (starting at 0 charge)