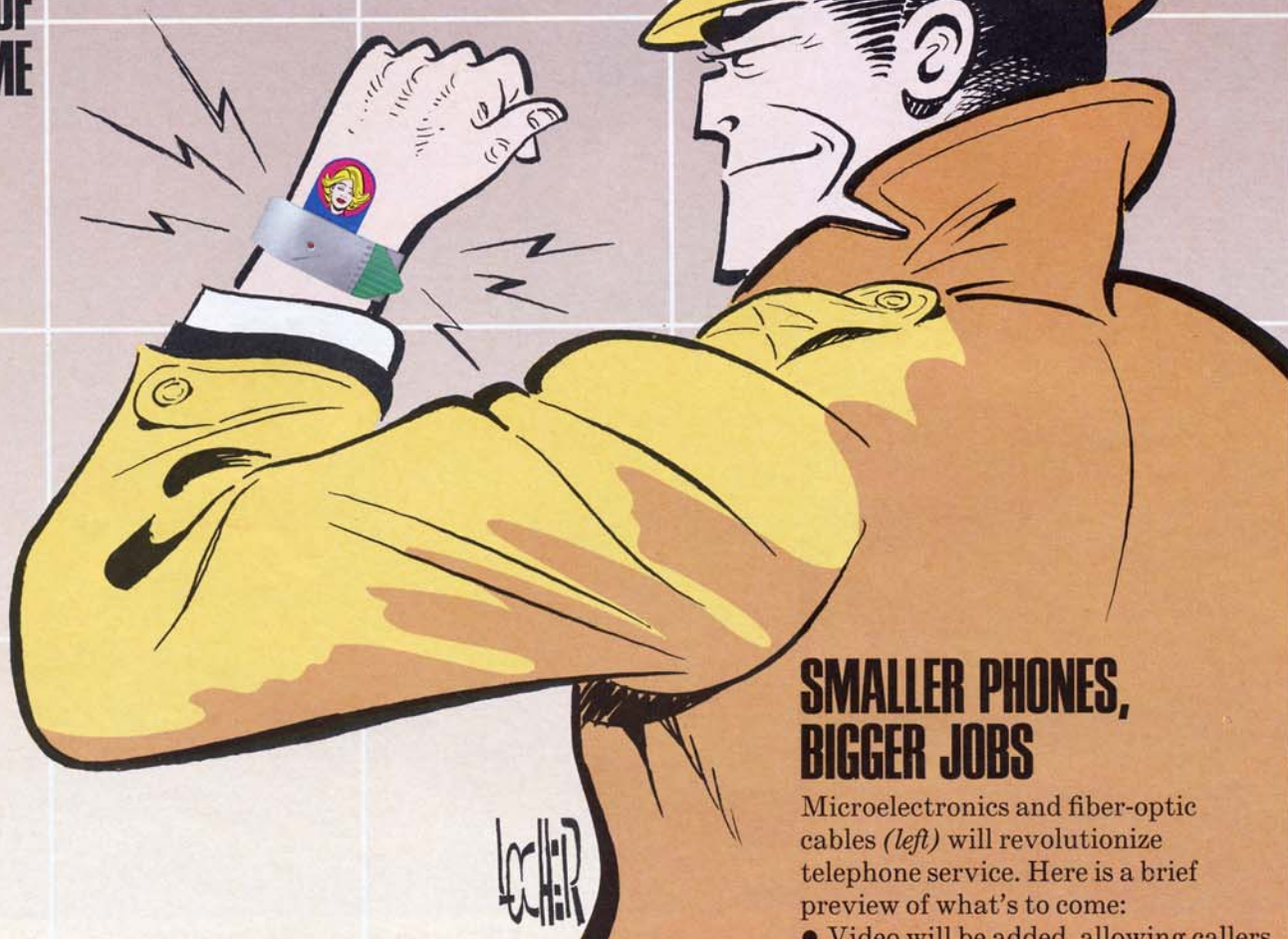




## A MAN AHEAD OF HIS TIME

Dick Tracy, a high-tech man since 1946 (when he strapped on his first two-way radio), uses a voice-activated wrist phone designed for LIFE to call up his wife, Tess Trueheart. A video display lets Dick ogle Tess, while a camera lens (button) allows Tess to get a bead on Tracy. The microphone-speaker is embedded in the triangle.



## SMALLER PHONES, BIGGER JOBS

Microelectronics and fiber-optic cables (left) will revolutionize telephone service. Here is a brief preview of what's to come:

- Video will be added, allowing callers to reach out and see someone.
- Portable phones will shrink to the size of a tie clip—and may double as such.
- Distinctive ring tones will reveal the identity of the caller.
- Home-generated tracing services will allow police to pinpoint obscene callers.
- Simultaneous voice-simulated translations will permit callers to converse with people speaking different languages.
- At-home medical exams will be conducted via the phone; for instance, cardiograms of heart patients will be transmitted to the doctor. In an emergency the physician may activate a home defibrillator to resuscitate a heart-attack victim.



### LEAPS OF LIGHT

In every house and office the copper wires of conventional phone service are giving way to the bundles of hair-thin glass fibers that make up a fiber-optic cable. Transmission capacity will increase 10,000-fold. Not only voices but also video images and raw data will be converted to computer

code and sent along the threads by pulses of laser light. Consequently, the functions of the telephone, TV set, VCR, fax machine and personal computer will be consolidated into one device. The superphone may even print out your newspaper. And it won't need a dialing mechanism or a keyboard, responding instead to voice commands. Should you feel the urge to communicate while out on a stroll, your wrist phone will bounce its signals via a microwave radio system to the nearest fiber-optic station.