Parker 1958

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In 1958, Eugene Parker published one of the seminal works of solar physics. In this remarkably short paper, he showed that the solar wind was a simple by-product of the megakelvin corona, introduced his eponymous spiral, and explored the translation of magnetic instabilities into the inner solar system. These ideas became underpinnings of modern heliophysics; however, few people know the state of the science before Parker's innovations, or that the paper was very nearly rejected by *The Astrophysical Journal*. In this presentation, we outline the historical context of the paper, and review past observations that support Parker's hypotheses. As Parker himself said, "our present observational knowledge does not allow construction of a more detailed model…We hope that such information may be forthcoming." This statement still holds true today; our discussion will end with Parker Solar Probe and Solar Orbiter, missions developed to further explore the implications of Parker's work on the mechanisms driving the solar wind and Parker spiral.