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FACSIMILE BROADCASTING TAKES SPURT FORWARD

Heretofore playing second fiddle to television experiments, facsimile broadcasting has begun to attract increasing interest and threatens "to arrive" before its more publicized colleague. Recent developments point to an early commercialization of the art as applications for experimental licenses reflect the growing belief that facsimile broadcasting has reached a practical technical stage.

Recognizing the widespread interest in the transmission of written, published, or photographic matter via radio, Walter J. Damm, Managing Director of WTMJ, the Milwaukee Journal station, proposes to organize an association of facsimile broadcasters when the National Association of Broadcasters meets in Washington February 14-16th.

One of the pioneer experimenters in the field, Mr. Damm also disclosed that WTMJ will broaden its facsimile broadcasts as soon as new equipment can be installed.

Newspapers that are in broadcasting are taking a leading role in the development of facsimile transmission because of the general belief that it may be used ultimately to broadcast the morning newspapers to a subscriber via an attachment on his radio receiver.

Besides the Milwaukee Journal, which operates two short-wave facsimile stations, newspapers or press organizations which are engaged in experimentation are the Pulitzer Publishing Company, of St. Louis, the McClatchy newspapers on the Pacific Coast, and the Oregonian Publishing Company, of Portland, Ore.

Eight regular broadcasting stations are authorized to engage in facsimile transmission experimentally after midnight, usually between 1 and 6 A.M., while five short-wave facsimile stations are licensed.

Many more applications are pending, however, and the RCA Manufacturing Co., of Camden, N. J., the Finch Telecommunications Laboratories, of New York, and other manufacturers of facsimile equipment report that they are being stormed with orders from broadcasting stations.

Regular broadcasting stations authorized to conduct experiments in facsimile transmission are:

WGH, Newport News, Va.; WHO, Des Moines; WOR, Newark; KSTP, St. Paul, Minn.; KFBK, Sacramento, Calif.; KMJ, Fresno, Calif.; KSD, St. Louis; and WSM, Nashville.

Short-wave stations licensed are:

The Yankee Network, Inc.; the Oregonian Publishing Co., Portland, Ore.; Radio Pictures, Inc., New York, and the Journal Co., Milwaukee, Wis.

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PUBLISHERS' ORGAN APPROVES CRAVEN REPORT

Editor & Publisher accorded general approval to the section of the report of Commissioner T.A.M. Craven dealing with newspaper control of radio stations in an editorial in its current issue.

"One solid fact we gleaned from the report of T.A.M. Craven, member of the Federal Communications Commission. That is that newspapers own 28% of the stations on the American broadcast band, which makes them the largest single group of broadcasters. The rest of Mr. Craven's report referring to radio-press relationships, is in guarded words that may have several meanings.

"He fears that withholding representation on the radio from any industry may involve unreasonable discrimination without a reasonable basis; that press-radio relationship may eventually involve the freedom of speech and the press; and that it may also cause a 'possible turning aside of what may be a natural course of progress by which other established media bring their experience and their equipment to the gradual utilization of the new methods which science makes possible.'

"The establishment of undesirable precedents is also cited as a possible peril.

"If present and future Commissioners bring to their task the same solicitude for social questions as is evidenced by Mr. Craven, we don't believe the press need fear either expropriation of its radio rights, nor interference with press freedom for the maintenance. If other Commissioners are as diligent in seeking the information which Mr. Craven correctly declares is lacking, the press has nothing to fear. But if radio is to be made the volley ball between politically minded publishers and politicians who see in the radio a counter political weapon, you can look for hurricanes ahead.

"The warning, if any, in Mr. Craven's remarks, is that newspaper owners of radio stations so conduct themselves as to avoid justified criticism, and that all newspapers keep a sharp eye on the proceedings of the Communications Commission. They are potentially the most explosive in current Washington."

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FCC AMENDS RULES GOVERNING OPERATORS

Effective April 1, 1938, the Federal Communications Commission has amended in several respects Rule 443, outlining the scope of the authority granted by operator licenses. The major changes are with respect to the authority granted under the radio-telephone third class operator license. At the present time this license is generally valid for the operation of radiotelephone stations of 50 watts or less power, and with certain exceptions for other radiotelephone stations. The amended rule removes this power limitation. However, it specifically provides that stations manned solely by personnel holding a radiotelephone third class operator license must be supervised and maintained from a technical point of view by personnel holding a second class license, either radiotelephone or radiotelegraph.

The examination for radiotelephone third class operator license is limited to matters of law and regulation, and the possession of such a license gives no assurance that the holder thereof has any special technical qualifications. A number of instances have come to the attention of the Commission in which stations were involved in difficulty due to the attempts made by non-technical personnel to adjust the apparatus.

It should be pointed out that the provision of this rule does not require the person holding the second class operator license to be employed on a full-time basis or be required to stand a regular watch. It is believed that this should work no hardship on any licensee since any person that is technically capable of properly servicing and adjusting radio apparatus would have no difficulty in obtaining a radiotelephone second class operator license by examination. The setting of the effective date as April 1, 1938, should give ample opportunity for such qualification.

Other changes made in this rule do not affect the scope of authority as now existent. The rule is clarified to take into account recent changes in legislation and changes in the provisions of treaty which have become effective since this rule was first promulgated.

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NAB CONSIDERS LIBEL INSURANCE PLAN

The National Association of Broadcasters has under consideration a plan for group action to provide broadcasters with insurance against libel suits.

Following informal discussions over a long period of time, Managing Director James W. Baldwin is in the middle of a preliminary survey of trade organization members which indicates widespread interest in obtaining protection against suits and intimidation.

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N. Y. SCHOOLS PLAN EXTENSIVE USE OF RADIO

Convinced that educational horizons still are untouched by radio, the New York City school system is planning to embark upon an extensive program of classroom broadcasting, according to the New York Times. Starting March 1, daily broadcasts will take place. This may be increased later to two or three a day.

Not intended to take the place of the classroom teacher, the radio will be used, rather, to supplement the school curriculum. A committee is working on a plan whereby pupils throughout the city can listen to the programs at the same hour. Two sets of broadcasts are being prepared - one for the high school and the other for the elementary school level.

Extension of the use of the radio in the classroom grows out of the experiment conducted by the school system last Fall, when Dr. Harold G. Campbell, Superintendent of Schools, authorized seven radio broadcasts on the secondary level. These were voted a success, and as a result the authorities have cooperated to extend the local "school of the air."

All broadcasting will be supervised by members of the school staff. The script is to be written by teachers but, whenever feasible, students will be invited to participate in the writing, either as an extra-curricular project, or as a classroom activity. The radio presentations will be made entirely by pupils. Already many boys and girls have been chosen, following competitive auditions. No dearth of candidates was found, it was said.

The programs will be broadcast at the Brooklyn Technical High School, where the Board of Education maintains a radio studio linked to the municipal station, WNYC. The first series will go on the air from 11 to 11:15 every morning. The programs are intended primarily for classroom use.

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The Hazeltine Service Corp., New York, has filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission for a construction permit for a new television broadcasting station to operate on 42000-56000 and 60000-86000 kc., with 125 watts.

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WLW 50 KW LICENSE RENEWED AS HEARING IS FOUGHT

A routine renewal of the 50 kw. license of Station WLW, Cincinnati, was ordered by the Federal Communications Commission this week as it pondered a legal challenge of the designation for hearing of the station's application for renewal of its experimental license to use 500 KW.

Attorneys for Powel Crosley, Jr., filed a petition with the FCC asking a review of the action of Commissioner George Henry Payne in scheduling the experimental license for hearing. They challenged the right of Commissioner Payne to act on an experimental license despite the FCC reorganization which places him in a position of a one-man Commission under the new FCC procedure.

Indications meanwhile were that no hearing will be held for some time and that Station WLW will continue to operate with 500 KW.

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BBC CONDUCTS RADIO POLL BY MAIL

Sir Stephen Tallents, BBC Controller of Public Relations, has written to some ten thousand wireless license holders in the British Isles, inviting them to help the BBC by answering a questionnaire about their listening habits. The organization of the inquiry, which is the most ambitious experiment in listener research so far attempted in Great Britain, was worked out jointly with the British Post Office. The British Broadcasting Corporation selected the areas from which it wanted the names drawn, on a plan which ensured that every region should be represented. Then the Post Offices in each district picked the names at random and addressed the envelopes, so that the confidential nature of the record of license holders should be preserved.

The questionnaire asked, among other things, what type of program listeners preferred, what they considered the best times for them, what news bulletins they listened to, and when they usually had their sets on. In order to make the inquiry more effective, listeners were also invited to give their occupations and ages, but were expressly requested not to give their names.

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COST OF POWER RAISE CAUSES ADVERSE REPORT

The apparent inability of a community to support a 5 KW broadcasting station was given as the sole reason for an adverse recommendation this week by Examiner Melvin H. Dalberg on an application by WIBG, Glenside, Pa. The station sought an increase in power from 100 watts to 5 KW on 970 kc.

While admitting that the programs of the stations are "meritorious" and that the step-up would not cause interference, the Examiner stated:

"All of these matters, however, are entirely academic in view of the fact that the granting of this application would involve a cost of construction amounting to \$49,610 and a cost of operation for the first year amounting to \$60,796.60, and there was no proof whatsoever of financial support upon which a recommendation for the granting of this application could be predicated herein.

"It is therefore obvious that the granting of this application would not be in accordance with the public interest, convenience and necessity."

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NEW WEATHER RADIO STATION ATOP MOUNTAIN

The recent commissioning of a new full-powered simultaneous weather broadcast and radio range station on top of Lookout Mountain, adjacent to Mullan Pass, Idaho, brings to completion one of the most complicated radio construction projects ever undertaken by Bureau of Air Commerce engineers.

Situated 6,400 feet above sea level, the new station will furnish radio directional guidance and weather information to planes flying along the Northern Transcontinental Airway which traverses this pass through the Bitter Root Mountains. The station is directly on the Spokane-Missoula section of this airway, and the site was first suggested by airline pilots who felt that a station in this area would offer an excellent check and fixing point in addition to the directional guidance and weather information which would assist them in flying through this locality. The location of the station commands an excellent view of the surrounding country, and this feature is of particular value in analyzing and interpreting weather conditions for the information of pilots.

Profiting by past experience in the operation of radio stations in mountainous country, representatives of the Bureau quickly discarded four of the five sites under consideration because of the highly mineralized country, interwoven with mining tunnels and shafts which greatly attenuates radio signals and contributes to the phenomena known as multiple

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TRADE NOTES

William S. Paley has sent a gift of 125 CBS publications on radio broadcasting to the library of the University of Michigan, where a separate division devoted to all phases of the subject has been established. The collection will be available to students and research workers. Officials of the Columbia Broadcasting System, after conferring with Dr. Randolph G. Adams, curator of the William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, offered to cooperate in launching the library. It is believed that this is the first collection of its kind in the country. The publications sent by Mr. Paley include the widely known research studies of the radio audience initiated by Columbia in the last seven years. In addition, the Columbia Research Division compiled a bibliography to assist university officials in their building up of the radio library.

A new broadcasting station at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., was recommended to the Federal Communications Commission this week by Examiner Melvin H. Dalberg, reporting on the application of Platt & Platt. The request frequency is 1,000 kc. with 1 KW power, limited time.

Commander T.A.M. Craven, member of the Federal Communications Commission, will speak over the WABC-Columbia network Saturday, February 5th, from 10:45 to 11:00 P.M., EST., on his recent report on the economic and social aspects of broadcasting.

World-Radio, organ of the British Broadcasting Corporation, has recently issued a booklet entitled "Station Identification Panels", which lists all major European stations, a few American medium wave outlets, and all U. S. short-wave stations. Copies of the booklet may be obtained from BBC, Broadcasting House, London, W.1, for one shilling each.

An increase in power for WFBR, Baltimore, Md., from 500 w.-1 KW to 1 KW-5KW was recommended by Examiner P. W. Seward this week in a report to the Federal Communications Commission.

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BROADCASTING ABROAD - BULGARIA

Broadcasting was introduced in Bulgaria in 1929, when a group of amateurs constructed a broadcasting station at Sofia, with antenna power of 100 watts. This station was maintained by private contributions of money and phonograph records, small advertisement fees, and amateurs' labor and service. The power was gradually increased to 500 watts, but because of limited funds the programs consisted almost exclusively of records, advertisements, and performances by amateur musicians. In 1935, the Bulgarian government assumed the technical and program supervision of the station, increasing the power to 750 watts.

Broadcasting is now a monopoly of the Government, under the management of the Administration of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones under the Ministry of Railways, Posts, and Telegraphs.

In the early part of 1935, bids were opened for two additional broadcasting stations of 2,000 watts each, and for a national broadcasting station of 100,000. The two small stations, at Varna and Stara-Zagora, have been operating since December, 1936, and the national broadcasting station is expected to open in September.

There is also a small short-wave station (LZA) at Sofia with a wave-length of 20.04 meters, and antenna power output of 1,500 watts.

Programs are arranged both for entertainment and for cultural purposes. They include lectures of a general character and hours for children and peasants. The musical programs lay emphasis upon original Bulgarian music, modern music by Bulgarian composers and the classics. Most of the performers are distinguished Bulgarian musicians and singers, relays from the National Opera and concerts of the Bulgarian State Philharmonic Orchestra. There is a well organized news service, reporting sport and other events. The religious portion of the programs includes services from churches as well as religious talks.

Although there is some income from radio advertising, the policy has been a moderate one, and radio advertising has not over-burdened the regular broadcasting program. Most of the commercial advertisements are offered with music or some kind of entertainment, and only a small number are in the form of advertising copy. Only 10 minutes of the daily program are devoted to radio advertising (5 minutes at noon and 5 minutes in the evening) after the purely musical program is terminated.

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DAWES, DUNN, ANGELL NAMED DIRECTORS

General Charles G. Dawes, former Vice-President of the United States, author of the Dawes Plan, and subsequently Ambassador to the Court of Saint James; and Gano Dunn, noted scientist, engineer, administrator and President of the J. G. White Engineering Corporation, were elected to the Board of Directors of the Radio Corporation of America at the regular meeting of the Board held last Friday in New York City. They fill vacancies due to the recent deaths of Frederick Strauss, banker, and Newton D. Baker, former Secretary of War.

David Sarnoff, RCA President, further announced that at the meeting of the National Broadcasting Company Board, held the same day, Dr. James Rowland Angell, former President of Yale University, and now in charge of educational program development for the NBC, was elected a Director of that Company. General Dawes and Gano Dunn were also elected as Directors of the NBC.

"The election of these men as Directors", said Mr. Sarnoff, "brings to the RCA organization and its services, the benefits of a wide and successful experience in their respective fields of government, education, research, engineering, business, finance and administration."

General Dawes' long record of public service as soldier, statesman, financier and administrator before, during and since the World War, are well known at home and abroad. A native of Marietta, Ohio, he is now Chairman of the Board of the City National Bank and Trust Company in Chicago. His many contacts with business enterprises and people in the Mid-West enable him to bring to the RCA an understanding and appreciation of the viewpoint of that section of our country. W

Gano Dunn, a native of New York, graduated as an engineer from C.C.N.Y. and Columbia, received the honorary degree of Master of Science from the latter in 1914. After several years in the communications and electrical engineering field he joined the J. G. White Engineering Corporation in 1911 as Vice-President in charge of engineering and construction, and was elected President of that company in 1913. He has directed such outstanding construction projects as the steam plant at Muscle Shoals, thirteen trans-oceanic radio stations for RCA, three large irrigation dams for Chile and five large dams for Mexico.

Mr. Dunn is now President of Cooper Union and a Trustee of Barnard College. He is a member of Secretary Roper's Business Advisory Council and several years ago was appointed by President Roosevelt a member of the Science Advisory Board. In 1933 he was awarded the Townsend Harris medal of the College of the City of New York, and this week he received the Thomas A. Edison medal of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers

"for distinguished contributions in extending the science and art of electrical engineering, in the development of great engineering works, and for inspiring leadership in the profession." He has been an officer or delegate on many important scientific committees and special governmental commissions and is a past president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. He is a Fellow of that Society, the Institute of Radio Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and many other leading scientific societies, as well as a member of the Franklin Institutes and a long list of business, historical and engineering societies.

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NEW RADIO DEVICES FEATURED AT AIR SHOW

Inspired by new civil air regulations requiring all planes flying in bad weather to be equipped with radio transmitters and receivers, the leading manufacturers of radio equipment are showing new transmitters and receivers especially designed for private airplane owners at the air show in Chicago, the New York Times reports.

The Western Electric Company of New York was featuring a new light-weight transmitter with a power output of fifteen watts with crystal control. A special feature of the set is light weight and a substantial range of operation for the power.

It is designed to operate on the frequencies used by the air lines or on the frequencies used by the Federal Bureau of Air Commerce stations under license by the Federal Communications Commission. Working through airway stations the owner of a private plane in flight can keep in touch with ground stations throughout his flight.

The RCA Manufacturing Company of Camden, N. J., is showing another low-powered transmitter and several receivers for private aircraft. The company also is featuring a simplified antenna reel developed by George W. McCauley, President of the Aeronautical Radio Company of Roosevelt Field, L. I. Prices of the equipment vary from a figure slightly under \$400 for the Western Electric transmitter. But all of the quotations are substantially under prices of several years ago, when the Government first required transmitters on planes operating under instrument flying conditions.

Aircraft receivers feature simplified and more accurate tuning dials than heretofore.

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