

# HEINL RADIO BUSINESS LETTER

2400 CALIFORNIA STREET

WASHINGTON, D. C.

## INDEX TO ISSUE OF SEPTEMBER 22, 1939

Amateurs Warned; Two Licenses Suspended.....	2
WMCA Hearing Scheduled By FCC.....	2
RCA Loses Primary Radio Contact With Geneva.....	3
Radio Good-Will Medium, Engineers Told By Britisher.....	4
U. S. Station Broadcasts Musical Pitch.....	5
De Forest Says Radio Is Potent Weapon.....	6
"Tam" Craven Likes Turkey, Pie; Hates Parsnips.....	6
Atlantic City Paper Protests "Smelly Bulova Deal".....	7
Reich Plans Visual Set; BBC Quits Television.....	8
Mexican Authorities Hunt Suspected Radio Spy.....	8
Trade Notes.....	9
New Radio Book Covers Field Thoroughly.....	10

No. 1159

## AMATEURS WARNED; TWO LICENSES SUSPENDED

America's 60,000 radio amateurs, who are credited with many heroic services in peacetime, yesterday were warned by the Federal Communications Commission to obey regulations strictly because of the international situation.

The occasion for the warning was the disciplining of two amateurs for violation of FCC rules. The customary punishment of three months' suspension of licenses was doubled, it was explained, as an example to other amateurs.

FCC officials indicated that radio amateurs probably would be the first to feel the hand of censorship in event the United States goes to war.

The Commission warned that further unauthorized activities, even during American neutrality, may result in the curtailment of amateur operations generally.

Meanwhile, the American Commercial Attache at Ottawa informed the Commerce Department that amateur stations in Canada, all of which operate under licenses as amateur experimental stations issued by the Radio Division of the Department of Transport, have been closed down "for the present time" and equipment placed "in an inoperative condition" under an instruction issued by the Government. The action was attributed to war conditions by officials of the Department of Transport. The order covers "all amateur sending and receiving stations", of which approximately 3,760 were licensed in Canada.

X X X X X X X X

WMCA HEARING SCHEDULED BY FCC

The Federal Communications Commission this week ordered a public hearing for next Wednesday in connection with the alleged interception and broadcasting of military secrets of Germany and Great Britain by Radio Station WMCA in New York City.

The Knickerbocker Broadcasting Co., Inc., license of WMCA, through William Weisman, its Vice-President, last week filed a general denial.

The Commission stated that the reply appeared to be incomplete and was not a forthright compliance with original order for disclosure of all the facts. The Commission also disclosed that it had made its own investigation of the alleged incident.

The Commission has the power to revoke the license of the station.

It was learned at the FCC offices that messages to the British and German fleets were addressed as a broadcast to all vessels and were not specifically directed to particular ships. According to the record, the messages were picked up by a radio receiver in a newspaper office in New York and sent out over its regular news service, in the course of which WMCA picked it up and broadcast it.

The Communications Act makes it a criminal offense for any one to disclose the contents of an addressed message.

It was explained by Commission experts that it has no jurisdiction over owners of radio receiving sets and that any disclosure of addressed messages which would be considered a violation of the Act would have to be referred to the Department of Justice for action in the courts.

X X X X X X X X

#### RCA LOSES PRIMARY RADIO CONTACT WITH GENEVA

The Federal Communications Commission this week cancelled the authority of the R.C.A. Communications, Inc., to carry on radio communication with Geneva, Switzerland, on a primary basis via point-to-point stations WEU, WEF, WKM, WKP, and WQT. It granted, however, the right to R.C.A. Communications to communicate with Geneva on a secondary basis for the purpose of handling addressed program material and communications incidental thereto.

The Commission on July 12, 1939, issued an order that the licensee, R.C.A. Communications, Inc., show cause, if any exists, why its licenses should not be modified by deleting therefrom authority to communicate on a primary basis with Geneva, Switzerland, in view of the fact that Geneva, although authorized as a primary point of communication in said licenses, is in fact an inactive point of communication.

R.C.A. Communications replied that, although there has been no direct public radiotelegraph service with Geneva for several years, that point is active in the conduct of a program transmission service, and asked that it be authorized as a secondary point of communication solely for the purpose of handling addressed programs and communications incidental thereto.

X X X X X X X X



## RADIO GOOD WILL MEDIUM, ENGINEERS TOLD BY BRITISHER

While a "war of words" continued over ethereal waves in Europe, the Institute of Radio Engineers meeting in New York this week heard Sir George Lee, recently retired Engineer-in-Chief of the British Post Office, laud transatlantic radio for fostering good-will.

Sir George, who was awarded a Medal of Honor by the Institute, for promotion of international radio, spoke from London to the 300 engineers gathered at the Hotel Pennsylvania.

A second award, the Morris Leibman Memorial Prize, was presented to Dr. Harold Trap Friis, Research Engineer of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, for his investigations in radio transmission, including the development of methods of measuring signals and noise and the creation of a receiving system for mitigating selective fading and noise interference. Both presentations were made by R. A. Heising, President of the Institute.

Operation of the aerological radio sounding equipment now in use at some forty sounding stations of the Weather Bureau, Navy Department and the Coast Guard was demonstrated at the morning session by Harry Diamond of the National Bureau of Standards, Washington.

Data for the more accurate forecasting of weather is obtained through the daily use of a network of radio sounding stations than by any previous experiments in weather findings, according to Mr. Diamond, who prepared his paper in collaboration with F. W. Dunmore, W. S. Hunman, Jr., and E. G. Lapham, all of the Bureau of Standards.

The equipment comprises elements for the measurement of barometric pressure, temperature and humidity and radio means for remote indication and recording of the values of these factors, as the apparatus, weighing less than a kilogram, is carried aloft and well into the stratosphere by small rubber balloons.

Dr. Lee de Forest, inventor of the audion tube, who arrived in New York Tuesday to participate in the celebration of de Forest Day at the World's Fair, reviewed the many applications of short-wave therapy, with which he has been experimenting for five years, in the fields of medicine and surgery.

On Wednesday, after a greeting by R. A. Heising, President, the morning session was devoted to a discussion of transatlantic and marine radiotelephone communication. F. A. Polkinghorn of the Bell Telephone Laboratories outlined the commercial operation of overseas circuits and J. F. McDonald of the Radiomarine Corporation of America, Inc., read a paper dealing with two-way telephone equipment providing ship-to-shore and intership communication for yachts and pleasure craft.



9/22/39

Papers dealing with various technical topics were read at the afternoon session by J. D. Kraus of Ann Arbor, Mich.; H. A. Brown of the University of Illinois; H. A. Chinn of the Columbia Broadcasting System; D. K. Gannett of the Bell Telephone Laboratories; R. M. Morris of the National Broadcasting Company; G. H. Brown of the R.C.A. Manufacturing Company, and R. E. Shelby of the National Broadcasting Company.

X X X X X X X X X

#### U.S. STATION BROADCASTS MUSICAL PITCH

The continuous broadcasting of the standard for musical pitch - 440 cycles per second, for A above middle C - has been inaugurated by the National Bureau of Standards over its radio station WWV, Beltsville, Md., the Department of Commerce announced this week.

Far beyond the needs of even the most exacting of symphony conductors, variance in the pitch is less than 1 part in 10,000,000.

Broadcast over a frequency of 5 megacycles per second, the pitch may be heard 24 hours a day, except for short periods on certain days in which other Bureau programs are being broadcast on the same radio carrier frequency.

The station call letters (WWV) are announced every ten minutes both by voice and Morse code, so that persons using the service may be certain they are listening to the right station.

A description of the broadcasts of standard frequencies and other services made available by the Bureau, is contained in letter circular LC565, a copy of which may be obtained upon application to the Radio Section, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

In addition to the standard musical pitch, these services include standard radio frequencies, standard time intervals in the form of pulses accurately spaced one second apart, standard audio frequency of 1,000 cycles per second, and bulletins of information on the ionosphere and radio transmission conditions.

X X X X X X X X X

## DE FOREST SAYS RADIO IS POTENT WEAPON

Radio may prove a deciding factor in the war in Europe, Dr. Lee de Forest, inventor of the audion tube and often called the "father of radio", declared this week on his arrival in New York from Chicago to celebrate "de Forest Day" at the World's Fair, where a dinner in his honor was to be given tonight (Friday) by the Veteran Wireless Operators' Association.

"While radio was in use in communications in the World War, it was not as a weapon", he told the New York Times. "Now it is beginning to show itself as the most powerful weapon that could be devised. The length of the war depends upon how early radio will prove effective; that it will lengthen or shorten the war, in my opinion, can be counted upon. We have witnessed since the invasion of Poland every day how it has been used to disseminate not only upon native populations but neutrals, including America, just what the warring powers wish us to know or to believe.

"We learn that the British and French are bombarding German ears with the story of their arms in this war, and you can depend upon it that no threat of the death penalty can stop every German from listening to the radio. In my opinion the radio is going to decide in favor of the powers that are now fighting Germany."

During his visit in the East, Dr. de Forest, who for several years in California has been conducting experiments in the field of short-wave therapy for use in the medical profession, will visit the British and French Embassies in Washington in the interests of acquainting officials with its benefits as applicable to field hospitals, especially in the treatment of fractures and infected wounds.

X X X X X X X X

## "TAM" CRAVEN LIKES TURKEY, PIE; HATES PARSNIPS

Amid all the serious problems facing the Federal Communications Commission, Commissioner T.A.M. Craven found time last week to answer the inquiry of the Washington Post food editor as to what he likes to eat. The interview was one of a series on favorite foods of prominent Washington men.

"What do I like to eat? Well, I don't like parsnips", Commissioner Craven said.

"That is not news", commented the editor, "for parsnips are one of the least used of the root crops, although when properly prepared they get some people's vote.

"But he does like vegetables - potatoes, peas, and even the unpopular turnip. Turkey roast, beef, lamb and ham are his favorites among meats. And he has a sweet tooth, for he likes pies, cakes and puddings. Sherry chiffon pie is a dessert that he likes exceedingly well. This is excellent pie taste."

X X X X X X X X X X



9/22/39

## ATLANTIC CITY PAPER PROTESTS "SMELLY BULOVA DEAL"

While the Federal Communications Commission last week heard oral arguments on the Arde Bulova request for permission to buy WPG, Atlantic City, and use its shared wavelength to give full time to WBIL, New York, the Atlantic City Daily World protested loudly in front-page editorials addressed to the FCC.

Under the heading "A Dirty Deal", the paper said:

"Frank J. Wideman, counsel for the City of Atlantic City, in the hearing before the Federal Communications Commission yesterday, in Washington, argued that radio station WPG should be allowed to be sold by Atlantic City to Arde Bulove, millionaire radio monopolist, because "The City could not afford the continued losses incurred by operating the station and needed available funds for repairing the board-walk."

"Mr. Wideman is uttering falsehoods.

"The City of Atlantic City is not losing any monies in the operation of WPG. It does not need the money to 'repair the Boardwalk.'

"The whole, smelly 'Bulova deal' is a matter of special interest and special privilege endeavoring to be served at the people's expense.

"The city is not losing any monies in its operation of WPG - as indicated by its true records. By its removal the city would lose a priceless publicity medium for the resort. In exchange it would receive a 'one-lung' radio station with one-twentieth its power and a coverage of 15 miles. In exchange it would receive a virtual monopoly of the various mediums of public information by one reactionary group owning morning, evening and Sunday newspapers, advertising agency and radio station."

The FCC previously had approved the sale in a preliminary decision, but withheld final judgment after listening to oral arguments.

The FCC gave protesting stations until September 21 to file final briefs. The Bulova firm was given until September 28 to file reply briefs.

X X X X X X X X



## REICH PLANS VISUAL SET; BBC QUILTS TELEVISION

According to a Berlin correspondent, the German television industry has pooled patents and experience for the production of the first receiver to be placed on the market in Germany, the Commerce Department reported this week. It is not known, however, whether the war will cause a postponement of the plan.

The price is fixed at 650 marks. The five makers concerned are Frenseh, A.G. (now an entirely German firm belonging to Zeiss-Ikon and Bosch, Stuttgart), Telefunken, Radio-Loewe, Tekade and Lorenz. These will jointly manufacture the sets of which 5,000 will, it is claimed, be available by December and another 5,000 will be made the moment these "show signs of selling". Television is, at the moment, restricted to Berlin. The receiving set has a 10 in. by 8 in. screen on the cathode-ray tube and there have been various savings in valves and other apparatus to simplify construction. Thus only 11 valves are required to produce full effect, together with 3 separate rectifier valves. The time-base equipment is said to be novel, requiring only one valve and a transformer. The total consumption for television and sound is 150 watts, of which the sound side takes 45.

Variety reported meanwhile that British television is on a holiday for the duration of the war. One of the first acts of the Government was to close Alexandra Palace, the television headquarters of BBC. Many of the BBC television men, including Wolfe Murray, were called to the colors as early as September 1, the article stated.

Gerald Cock, the BBC television head man, has been seriously ill in London for weeks with streptococci infection of the jaw and reported near to a nervous breakdown. He visited New York during the Spring.

X X X X X X X X X

## MEXICAN AUTHORITIES HUNT SUSPECTED RADIO SPY

Mexican authorities are trying to locate a mysterious, clandestine wireless sending station, reported to have been transmitting coded messages to Europe ever since the outbreak of the war, according to a Mexico City correspondent of the New York Times. The station is believed to be working for the German secret service.

It has been established that the station operates somewhere in Lomas de Chapultepec, smartest residential section of the Mexican capital, but attempts to locate it more exactly have

failed. It is thought it may be a mobile station, taken from one place to another after each transmission.

Officials are exercising increased vigilance over all wireless activity in the country. Licenses for amateur transmitting stations have been withdrawn and the rule that commercial broadcasters must submit all scripts for approval is more rigorously enforced.

X X X X X X X X X X

:::  
 ::: TRADE NOTES :::  
 :::

General Electric engineers have developed an oscilloscope for television work. The instrument is designed to meet the need in this field for an oscilloscope having means for both horizontal and vertical deflection capable of handling the wide range of frequencies encountered. It is suitable for the study of wave shapes and transients, the measurement of modulation, the adjustment of radio and television transmitters and receivers, the study of the phase shift in amplifiers and the measurement of voltage amplitudes. The oscilloscope operates from 110 volts, 60 cycles, and uses a nine-inch cathode ray tube.

-----

World radio reports issued by the Department of Commerce this week included the following: Nicaragua, Paraguay, Hong Kong, Tonga, Australia and Honduras.

-----

Coincident with start of the nation's Fall school term, more than 100,000 copies of the teacher's manual and classroom guide for the eleventh season of "Columbia's American School of the Air" have been mailed out to educators in every state in the union. The manuals are to be used in conjunction with "School of the Air" broadcasts over Columbia network which start Monday, October 9.

-----

J. Francis Harris of Mamaroneck, N. Y., has just arrived in Tokyo, Japan, to take up his new duties as a Vice President of R.C.A. Communications, Inc., in charge of Japan, Manchukuo, and China. Mr. Harris, who has been Manager of RCAC in Japan for several years, received his appointment as Vice President during a brief visit to the United States. He will continue to make his headquarters in Tokyo.

X X X X X X X X X X



## NEW RADIO BOOK COVERS FIELD THOROUGHLY

Unquestionably the new book, "Big Business and Radio" by Dean Gleason L. Archer, President of Suffolk University, and published by the American Historical Society of New York, will go down with Dean Archer's "History of Radio to 1926" as an outstanding library reference volume and as one of the most authoritative discussions of the subject. Copies of the book have been sent to the press with the compliments of Frank E. Mullen, Vice-President of the Radio Corporation of America.

"This explanation should properly be in the preface, but some people never read a preface - and this explanation is important!" Dean Archer writes in the opening chapter. "Disabuse your mind at once of any idea that the present volume is a mere continuation of the History of Radio to 1926. On the contrary, much of the struggle from which the volume takes its name was fought and won prior to July, 1926. The bulk of this volume consists of a story based upon records opened for the first time to any historian. That so great a conflict within the ranks of 'American Big Business' could have been fought without the knowledge of American journalists, or that the story could have slumbered for more than a decade without discovery, is little short of amazing, except for the fact that, generally speaking, great corporations are reticent and, moreover, do not make their records available to historians."

An idea of the wide field covered may be gained by the contents by chapter the headings of which are:

Behind the Scenes with RCA in 1922; A Prophecy Pigeon-Holed; A Vain Attempt at Mediation; Hostilities Begin; Compromise, Arbitrate, or Litigate; Attempts at Compromise; Arbitration Agreed Upon; The Arbitration of 1924; An Inconclusive Victory for RCA; Empire Swapping; Progress Toward a National Broadcasting Company; Radio Group and Telephone Company Make Peace; The National Broadcasting Company Arises; Travails of a Rival Radio Network; Radio and Talking Pictures; Radio Corporation Unified at Last; The Federal Anti-Trust Litigation; The Consent Decree; Radio and the Industrial Depression; Radio Broadcasting of Today; Historical Background of Television; Television and Facsimile; David Sarnoff Looks Ahead.

The volume is profusely illustrated and contains the following pictures:

David Sarnoff, General James G. Harbord; George F. McClelland, Herlin H. Aylesworth, Dr. Walter J. Damrosch, John F. Royal, Frank E. Mullen, W. A. Winterbottom, Charles J. Pannill, O. B. Hanson, Paul W. Kesten, Major J. Andrew White, Edward Klauber, William S. Paley, Alfred J. McCosker, Major Lenox R. Lohr, Vladimir K. Zworykin, Philo T. Farnsworth, Franklin Dunham, Dr. James Rowland Angell, and many others.

X X X X X X X X