



Founded in 1924

HEINL NEWS SERVICE

Radio — Television — FM — Communications

2400 California Street, N. W.

Washington 8, D. C.

Robert D. Heinel, Editor

RECEIVED

NOV 2 1947

FILES 11A1100

INDEX TO ISSUE OF NOVEMBER 26, 1947

Armstrong Wins FM Fight; Forces FCC Expert To Admit Error.....	1
England Has 9,291,472 Radios; 21,387 Television Sets.....	3
Record Set Production Indicates Heavy Christmas Sales.....	4
Farnsworth Will Sponsor "Metropolitan Opera Auditions" On ABC.....	4
Mackay Opposes RCA's Overseas Circuits Reconsideration Plea.....	5
Union Shop Granted In Washington, D. C., Radio Station Strike.....	6
White Tries To Quit Senate Leadership; Denies Rift With Taft.....	7
Radio Proximity Fuze Last Word In Forest Fire Fighting.....	7
Electric Plane Space Reservation To Save \$10,000,000 A Year.....	8
FCC Cites Washington Dealer For Radio Tube Misrepresentation.....	8
TV Industry Value Seen Zooming Into Astronomical Figures.....	9
FCC Formally Approves Six Letter Calls - Four Plus "FM", "TV".....	9
War Assets To Wind Up Electronic Supplies Equipment Sales.....	10
Manual Of Instructions For Radio Propagation Predictions.....	10
Phoney Radio Trade-In Allowances Opposed.....	11
Herbert Hoover, Jr., Patents Radio Prospecting Device.....	11
Construction Of C.& O.'s Train Telephone Service OK'd; Cost.....	12
BBC Climaxes 25th Anniversary By Telling About Television.....	12
Scissors And Paste.....	13
Trade Notes.....	15

ARMSTRONG WINS FM FIGHT; FORCES FCC EXPERT TO ADMIT ERROR

There was an exciting finish to a three year old FM controversy at the Federal Communications Commission last week when Dr. Edwin H. Armstrong, inventor of FM, who had previously been described as having been given the "bum's rush" every time he opposed the testimony of the FCC's expert K. A. Norton, turned the tables when Mr. Norton was called to the witness stand by forcing Norton to admit under oath that technical advice he had given to the Commission was totally in error.

When cross-examined by Dr. Armstrong as to certain conclusions which Mr. Norton had reached and upon the basis of which the Commission had "kicked FM upstairs" from the 44-50 megacycle band to the 88-108 Mc. band in 1944 thereby, it is alleged, almost wrecking the FM industry, Major Armstrong very quietly said to Norton:

"But you were wrong?"

To this Norton, who for years despite contradiction from Dr. Armstrong and almost every outstanding radio engineer in the country, had been trying to prove that his advice given to the Commission had been based upon sound principles, replied blithely:

"Oh, certainly. I think that can happen frequently to people who make predictions on the basis of partial information. It happens every day."

Apparently members of the Communications Commission conducting the hearing were themselves dumbfounded at such an admission by their own witness for as one observer put it, there was a sudden silence and "a pin dropped at that time would have sounded like a ton of coal".

With the witness thus unexpectedly admitting that he had given the FCC bad advice, Dr. Armstrong turned to Acting FCC Chairman Paul A. Walker and said:

"That is the point I would like to make, Mr. Chairman, the type of engineering advice this Commission has been given, and that has resulted in chaos to those of us who have been trying to do an engineering job."

To which Mr. Walker replied: "The record will show your statement, Major Armstrong."

Dr. Armstrong led up to Mr. Norton's admission by recalling that in 1945 the latter had declined cross-examination regarding the basis of FM advice given to the Commission on the ground that it was a classified matter, and suggested that a secret hearing be held under the auspices of the military. Also that when Charles R. Denny, then General Counsel for the Commission, made arrangements for the

meeting, he told Mr. Norton it had been suggested that Norton had made certain fundamental errors, and asked him whether he would be able to substantiate his conclusions at the secret session, the reply was "Yes, I certainly will be able to substantiate those conclusions at such a session."

Whereupon the following exchange took place:

By Dr. Armstrong: Q. "Now did you substantiate them, Mr. Norton?"

Mr. Norton: A. "Yes, sir, I did."

Q. On 80 megacycles?

A. The conclusions I had reference to were the conclusions as to the presence of long-distance high signal intensity F layer transmissions in the band up to 50 megacycles, which was the band then proposed for FM broadcasting.

Q. But you said 80 megacycles, Mr. Norton.

A. I said 80 megacycles relative to what I would have expected, yes, that is right; at that time, based on the available information I had at that time.

It was then that Dr. Armstrong exclaimed: "But you were wrong!" Following which Norton, who had prefaced his appearance by saying that he proposed to introduce his own "interpretation" of previous testimony in view of "continued statements by Dr. Armstrong that he had made a basic error", made the unexpected admission, "Certainly, I was wrong."

However, Dr. Armstrong still wasn't through with the witness. He desired to delve into the No. 1 top mystery as to who at a secret FCC meeting had doctored the report finally given to the press. The charge was that the confidential report made to the Commission admitted that Mr. Norton, who is now employed as an expert at the National Bureau of Standards, had made a serious basic error in his calculations which the Commission later took as a basis for boosting FM upstairs.

So Dr. Armstrong resumed the examination of Norton by saying:

"Now, when the public report was issued, something was deleted. A sentence was deleted and there was substituted therefor something else, which denied that an error had been made. This is the sentence that was substituted, or, rather, the two sentences:

"'A satisfactory explanation regarding the appropriate method to be employed in the analysis of this problem was furnished by Mr. Norton during the closed hearing. This analysis indicated that no error had been made in this report.'

"Do you have any knowledge, Mr. Norton, as to who made that substitution?"

A. "No, I do not, and I had no knowledge it was made, prior to the time it was made."

Dr. Armstrong urged the Commission to make a permanent assignment of FM's use of the radio band from 44 to 90 megacycles. It is now being used to hook up 29 eastern FM stations direct by air into a pioneer FM network which 117 more stations are asking to join and Dr. Armstrong asked its permanent retention for that purpose.

Scoring the inadvisability of "stop gap" allocation by sharing the 44-50 megacycle channel with television and emergency services, Dr. Armstrong observed that the only concrete result would be another delay to FM caused by "piecemeal" decisions of FM matters by the FCC. Armstrong said it was too late to move FM back downstairs but urged again that FM be given the 44-50 mc channel for relays.

Dr. Armstrong quoted the president of RCA as telling him in 1934 that FM "is not an ordinary invention. It is a revolution."

"From that day to this", Dr. Armstrong charged, "you will find the hand of the management of RCA working in the background against the advancement of FM broadcasting."

A supplemental brief was filed by RCA and NBC relating to the FM inventor's charges. "The accusations against RCA and NBC have no foundation in fact. RCA and NBC unequivocally and categorically deny these charges", the brief stated.

J. E. Brown, Assistant Vice-President and Chief Engineer of Zenith Radio Corp., testified that FCC's proposal is "incorrect, inadequate, and harmful to the public interest, particularly in rural areas."

Before last week's hearing it seemed very likely that the 44-50 mc. band would be assigned to emergency services such as fire, police, etc., but the opinion now appears to be that FM's chances for remaining there have greatly improved.

X X X X X X X X X X X X

ENGLAND HAS 9,291,472 RADIOS; 21,387 TELEVISION SETS

The number of radio receiving licenses in effect in the United Kingdom in a survey just reported was 10,898,781. Of these 9,291,472 were in England, 1,036,033 in Scotland, 415,327 in Wales, and 155,949 in Northern Ireland. In addition, 21,387 television receiving licenses were in effect, all in England.

X X X X X X X X X X X X

RECORD SET PRODUCTION INDICATES HEAVY CHRISTMAS SALES

Radio set production, including television receivers and FM-AM sets, broke all industry records in October and indicated preparations for heavy Christmas sales, the Radio Manufacturers' Association revealed this week.

For the first time in the industry's history more than 2,000,000 radio and television receivers were manufactured by RMA member-companies, in one month. FM-AM sets produced in October numbered 151,244 and were well above the production of any other month this year. Television receivers manufactured also reached a new high of 23,693 although the September reported figure of 32,719 was higher due to the inclusion of 16,991 sets produced earlier but not reported.

Total radio and television set production by RMA manufacturers numbered 2,002,303 in October and brought the year's ten-month total to 14,364,218.

FM-AM sets for the ten months totalled 830,106, while television receivers for the same period numbered 125,081. The television set production in October represented an increase of 110 percent over the average output for the previous nine months.

X X X X X X X X X

FARNSWORTH WILL SPONSOR "METROPOLITAN OPERA AUDITIONS" ON ABC

The "Metropolitan Opera Auditions Of The Air" which, between 1936 and 1945, added 42 new young artists to the Metropolitan Opera Association, will return to the American Broadcasting Company's list of broadcasts on January 4 and will be heard weekly thereafter. This was announced by E. A. Nicholas, President of the Farnsworth Television & Radio Corporation, which will sponsor the series in behalf of Capehart and Farnsworth radio, phonograph and television sets.

Mr. Nicholas said: "Electronic television as created by our company will one day serve grand opera and the musical world along with radio broadcasting. With radio, records and television, the American public within a few years has become familiar with the best in music, something that in the older nations of the world necessitated centuries of inculcation before their appreciation of the fine arts was accomplished."

"Once upon a time it was customary to look askance at anything artistic done in this country", Mark Woods, President of ABC, said. "Caruso, Tetrizzini, Scotti were all 'imported' and although there were a few, a mere handful, including that great American artist who recently died, Louise Homer, it was believed that Americans were incapable of competing with foreign artists at the Metropolitan. The Metropolitan Opera Auditions Of The Air proved how fallacious was such a belief."

X X X X X X X

MACKAY OPPOSES RCA'S OVERSEAS CIRCUITS RECONSIDERATION PLEA

Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company by its attorneys James A. Kennedy, John F. Gibbons and John A. Hartman, has filed with the Federal Communications Commission its opposition to the reconsideration of the recent grants to Mackay of circuits to Finland, Portugal, Surinam and The Netherlands, requested by the Radio Corporation of America (Heinl News Service, November 12, Page 5).

Mackay devotes more than half of the twenty-seven pages of its brief to the argument that RCA cannot properly object to the grant of these "Special Temporary Authorizations" to Mackay because RCA has from time to time asked for and received from the FCC, similar "S.T.A.'s" Mackay says "RCA cannot now be heard to challenge the propriety of a licensing procedure, expressly provided for in the Commission's Rules and Regulations and which it has invoked many times for the purpose of obtaining temporary authorizations to use regularly licensed frequencies and equipment to permit operations which it now says can only be authorized by regular licenses or modifications thereof, as provided in Section 309(a) of the Act."

Again Mackay says "RCA's condemnation of a licensing procedure which has become well established under Commission practice must be weighed, and adjudged accordingly, in the light of RCA's recognition of the propriety of such procedure in seeking instruments of authorization for its own use".

Mackay also says, "RCA incorrectly assumes that the Communications Act itself requires a specific license authorizing communication to each foreign point. This is not so So far as the law is concerned, the Commission could, if it saw fit, license a transmitter with blanket authority to communicate with all countries in Europe or with any other general area."

RCA's contention that the Commission in this case made no "Finding" of public interest, convenience or necessity is answered by Mackay by saying that the decisions cited by RCA on this point are inapplicable because they do not cover cases involving Special Temporary Authorizations, but rather, regular licenses were involved. Furthermore, the standard printed language on the S.T.A.'s, Mackay claims, "shows by clear implication that the Commission has made a determination that public interest would be served by the grant."

Finally, taking up "Public Interest and Competition", Mackay discounts the Oslo and Rome decisions, cited by RCA, in which cases Mr. James A. Kennedy was attorney for the FCC at that time, and claims that the grant in question "is manifestly a recognition by the Commission of the national policy as more clearly emphasized by the Congress in recent years since the early decisions in the Norway and Italy Cases". Mackay cites in this connection Section 314 of the Act, forbidding combinations of cable and radio companies under one management as in the case of the American Cable and Radio Corporation of which Mackay is a part, and quotes from the decision of the

Commission in the recent rate case (Docket 8320) where reference is made to the fact that "Congress has not approved any proposals looking toward merger of the United States international telegraph carriers".

Therefore, Mackay contends, the destructive competition of which RCA complained in its petition is quite in order and Mackay concludes "It is respectfully submitted that the Commission granted the applications involved herein after full argument on October 7, 1947, and after mature consideration of all questions involved; that RCA's petition herein fails to disclose any new matters not heretofore considered by the Commission; and, therefore, the petition should be denied."

X X X X X X X X X

UNION SHOP GRANTED IN WASHINGTON, D.C., RADIO STATION STRIKE

A 24-day strike at Radio Station WOOK ended Monday with an agreement between the station and the Washington local, American Federation of Radio Artists (AFL).

According to a statement prepared jointly by union and management negotiators, the station agreed to:

1. Recognize AFRA as the exclusive bargaining agent for announcers and radio artists.
2. Cooperate within the law in steps looking toward the early establishment of a union shop at Station WOOK.

Collective bargaining between the disputants led to a partial agreement covering wages, hours, overtime vacations and sick leave, the statement said. The parties agreed to meet next January to negotiate other terms of a more complete agreement.

The agreement provides for arbitration of further disputes and prohibits strikes or lockouts through October 30, 1948, termination date.

Four announcers and a disc jockey were involved in the walk-out, which Jesse R. Messittee, union attorney, attributed to "grossly unfair labor practices committed by the station". Richard Eaton, the firm's president, said the "strike was called without notice and solely for economic reasons."

Messittee said the union won a reduction in the workweek to 40 hours from 44, overtime after eight hours, a basic wage scale beginning at \$45 weekly, one week's vacation after 26 weeks and two weeks' vacation after a year.

X X X X X X X X X X X

WHITE TRIES TO QUIT SENATE LEADERSHIP; DENIES RIFT WITH TAFT

Drew Pearson's ABC broadcast last Sunday night that Senator Wallace White, Jr., (R), of Maine, intended throwing up the Senate leadership because he couldn't get along with Senator Bob Taft (R), of Ohio, brought forth a denial from Senator White.

The Maine Senator, however, admitted that he had recently submitted his resignation as majority leader but the Republican conference refused to accept it.

"I tendered my resignation", Mr. White said, "because I had become persuaded that the duties of floor leadership, along with those involved as Chairman of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, as well as membership on the Foreign Relations Committee, involved greater obligations than a Senator could fully meet.

"I was disposed to give up the floor leadership."

Senator White said the resignation was handed to Senator Eugene D. Millikin of Colorado, Chairman of the Republican conference, who brought it before a meeting of the Republican policy committee about a week ago.

The conference subsequently declined to accept the resignation, Mr. White added, and suggested that he withdraw it.

"I did so", he commented.

Mr. White, 70 years of age, co-author of both the original Communications Act and the pending revision, has been in the Senate since 1930, after previous service in the House. He has announced that he will not run for office next year.

X X X X X X X X

RADIO PROXIMITY FUZE LAST WORD IN FOREST FIRE FIGHTING

Airborne fire extinguishers equipped with the radio proximity fuze appear to offer a rapid and practical means for combating forest fires, according to extensive tests in which the National Bureau of Standards participated, along with other Government agencies, during the Summer. Characteristics of the radio proximity fuze make it particularly adaptable for fire fighting. Because it bursts the fire-extinguishing bomb at the desired height above the ground, it sprays the extinguishing material, which may be water or a fire-smothering chemical, over the burning area. If the bomb does not burst until it hits the ground, nearly half of the material in the bomb remains in the crater, and the remainder is sprayed over a very narrow area.

The radio proximity fuze, developed at the Bureau during the war, is an extremely small and tough radio sending and receiving station. Immediately upon being released, it begins to transmit radio signals. These signals are reflected back to the fuze from the ground, and when they reach a certain intensity or strength, the receiver triggers an electronic switch that detonates the bomb.

X X X X X X X X

ELECTRIC PLANE SPACE RESERVATION TO SAVE \$10,000,000 A YEAR

Development of an electro-mechanical device, known as "ABEX", (automatic booking exchange), designed to simplify and expedite the handling of passenger space reservations on airlines was disclosed Tuesday by the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation.

It is estimated that the over-all cost for the booking and handling of passenger space reservations currently runs in the neighborhood of \$20,000,000 a year. Through the automatic handling of space reservations a projected savings in operational expense of this nature of ultimately up to 50% is forecast.

Each airline's ticket agent will be supplied with a keyboard and a printer by means of which he can have access to information on all flights of the airline whether they originate at his own station or not. He can transmit signals which will represent the customer's desires with respect to date, flight number, departure point, destination point, and number of seats desired.

Immediately, without the intervention of any other human agency, the automatic central equipment will record in the salesman's machine, information as to whether or not the space is available. If the space requested is not available, the machine will automatically examine other flights to find the nearest one which will serve the passenger's needs.

X X X X X X X X X

FCC CITES WASHINGTON DEALER FOR RADIO TUBE MISREPRESENTATION

The Federal Trade Commission has approved a stipulation in which Harry J. Brown and Samuel J. Brown, co-partners trading as Brown Brothers Enterprises and as Major Radio and Appliance Co., Washington, D. C., agree to stop representing that any radio receiving set contains a designated number of tubes, in or of a designated tube capacity, when one or more of the tubes referred to are devices which do not perform the recognized and customary functions of radio receiving set tubes in the detection, amplification and reception of radio signals.

X X X X X X X X

TV INDUSTRY VALUE SEEN ZOOMING INTO ASTRONOMICAL FIGURES

The following figures were submitted to the Federal Communications Commission at the hearing last week by J. R. Poppele, President of the Television Broadcasters' Association, to emphasize the need for additional television channels:

Dollar Value of TV Station
Equipment - Annual Industry
Production:

$\frac{1947}{\$4,700,000}$	$\frac{1948^*}{\$10,350,000}$	$\frac{1949^*}{\$12,000,000}$
----------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------

Number of Television Re-
ceivers - Annual Production:

$\frac{1947}{176,000}$	$\frac{1948^*}{750,000}$	$\frac{1949^*}{1,106,000}$
------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------

Dollar Value of Television
Receivers - Annual Production:

$\frac{1947}{\$74,000,000}$	$\frac{1948^*}{\$387,000,000}$	$\frac{1949^*}{\$460,000,000}$
-----------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------------

Dollar Value of Total TV
Apparatus - Annual Production:

$\frac{1947}{\$79,000,000}$	$\frac{1948^*}{\$397,000,000}$	$\frac{1949^*}{\$472,750,000}$
-----------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------------

* Estimated

X X X X X X X X X

FCC FORMALLY APPROVES SIX LETTER CALLS - FOUR PLUS "FM", "TV"

The Federal Communications Commission has authorized Scripps-Howard Radio, to use the call letters of its television station at Cleveland, Ohio (WEWS) for its new FM (Frequency Modulation) station in Cleveland - thus WEWS-FM. In so doing, it provided for issuance of six-letter calls (four letters followed by FM or TV) regardless of whether or not the applicant has an AM broadcast station.

The practice of adding "-FM" and "-TV" to calls arose from a desire of licensees of AM broadcast stations to employ the call letters of the latter for their frequency modulation or television stations. Independent FM and television stations also indicate a desire to use the identifying suffix. Since such assignments do not require any more letters in basic call combinations, the Commission has no objection to the practice.

X X X X X X X X X

WAR ASSETS TO WIND UP ELECTRONIC SUPPLIES EQUIPMENT SALES

War Assets Administration has notified distributors of surplus electronic equipment that sales through them will be terminated March 1, 1948. Should any inventory remain in the hands of distributors after that date, WAA said, it will be disposed of by donations to educational institutions.

WAA said distributors now have a large inventory of electronic equipment comprising a variety of end equipment, radio components and vacuum tubes. However, disposal progress has indicated that present distributor inventories will be largely depleted by March 1.

It is anticipated, WAA added, that there may be no opportunity to purchase electronic equipment from the government after the distributor disposal program is terminated.

X X X X X X X X

MANUAL OF INSTRUCTIONS FOR RADIO PROPAGATION PREDICTIONS

Instructions for the use of the National Bureau of Standards's monthly periodical, "Basic Radio Propagation Predictions - Three Months in Advance", have been prepared in the form of a separate manual that is now available as NBS Circular C-465. The purpose of this manual is to explain how the monthly predictions may be used in calculations of usable and working frequencies for sky-wave transmission. Maximum usable frequencies and optimum working frequencies may be computed over any path for any time of day during the month in question. Prediction charts are included for two recent months and sample problems are given for four paths, with a discussion of differences in results because of length of path, the ionosphere layer controlling reflection, season of the year, and degree of solar activity.

An attempt is made to emphasize that the most important case of all, namely, transmission by the F2 layer over a transmission path more than 4,000 km in length, can be calculated in a very simple manner. The pamphlet also contains other useful data, including tables, charts, and specimen work sheets.

The manual known as Circular C465 may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents at 25 cents a copy. The subscription rate to Basic Radio Propagation Predictions is \$1 a year.

X X X X X X X X X X

PHONEY RADIO TRADE-IN ALLOWANCES OPPOSED

Most radio receiving set manufacturers are opposed to the use of fictitious trade-in allowances, are not making such offers to the public and hope that effective steps can be taken to curb such allowances, according to a poll of thirty such manufacturers by the National Better Business Bureau in New York. Recently, the bureau noted, there has been a revival of "\$100 for Your Old Radio" trade-in offers and others "less fantastic".

No manufacturer attempted to defend fictitious trade-in offers or stated that it would be his policy to advocate such trade-ins. A few indicated some doubt about their policy if the practice again becomes general. Some pointed to the difficulties of controlling abuses, while some were frankly pessimistic over the possibilities of outlawing the fictitious trade-in.

An appeal to correct this situation was backed by the Merchandise Committee of the Association of Better Business Bureaus. The Committee coupled its action with a warning that it will carry on an aggressive fight to inform the public of the deceptive nature of the practice.

Gail Ussery, Chairman of the Committee and General Manager of the Baltimore Better Business Bureau, declared the organization is not opposed to trade-in allowances as such, but termed those offered without relation to the value of the set traded as "symbols of dishonesty".

Kenneth B. Willson, operating manager of the National BBB, said that response to a letter sent to thirty leading manufacturers had brought a 100 per cent pledge of cooperation. The counter campaign will include publicity and filing of evidence with the FTC and advertising media.

X X X X X X X X

HERBERT HOOVER, JR., PATENTS RADIO PROSPECTING DEVICE

A seismic amplifying system providing, in geophysical prospecting, for the controlled variation of seismic wave sensitivity during recording, was patented last week by Herbert Hoover, Jr., of Sierra Madre, Calif., son of former President Hoover.

It is Patent 2,430,983 on a way to obtain first breaks in translating seismic wave-trains, and, at the same time, to control the sensitivity of the receiving apparatus in a manner which compensates for variations of the amplitudes of waves following immediately thereafter.

As designed by Mr. Hoover, who has assigned his rights to the United Geophysical Company of Pasadena, Calif., his invention consists of an amplifier, a source of sensitivity control; and timing means, independent of incoming signals, for adjusting the resistance means at predetermined time intervals.

X X X X X X X X X X

CONSTRUCTION OF C. & O.'S TRAIN TELEPHONE SERVICE OK'D: COST

Experimental telephone service for two Chesapeake and Ohio Railway trains was furthered by the Federal Communications Commission in authorizing construction of wire lines along the right-of-way between Orange, Va., (near Washington, D. C.) and Cincinnati, Ohio, and mobile tie-in apparatus. The estimated cost of the system is \$358,900.

Public toll telephone service will be available in the observation cars. Communication will be by the inductive method, giving the trains contact with the wayside wires which, in turn, will link with the Bell telephone system.

Frequencies of 142, 162, 180 and 198 kilocycles are assigned on a temporary basis, conditioned that there is no interference to other services, in connection with testing common carrier radiotelephone inductive systems. An Experimental Class 2 license was granted for a period of six months and the Commission's low-power rules waived to see what means are required in order to operate this service satisfactorily with the minimum radiated signal.

The system proposed is similar to that authorized last year for communicating with trains of the Kansas City Southern Railway between Kansas City, Mo. and Shreveport, La. This was the first grant of that nature. Last August, telephone service was inaugurated for certain trains of the Pennsylvania and Baltimore & Ohio railroads on the Washington-New York run.

This type of common carrier train telephone communication does not come within the scope of the established Railroad Radio Service which covers use of radiotelephony by rail line personnel for train operation and yard and terminal traffic control.

X X X X X X X X X X X X

BBC CLIMAXES 25TH ANNIVERSARY BY TELLING ABOUT TELEVISION

The story of the first regular service of television in the world - the British Broadcasting Corporation's Television Service - supplied what is claimed to be a climax to the special programs that have been marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of British broadcasting.

The first regular television transmissions in Britain began in 1932 on an experimental basis in a basement studio in Broadcasting House. Four years later on Nov. 2, 1936, a regular public service of daily transmissions to viewers in the London area began from Alexandra Palace. Britain then and for a considerable time afterwards was said to be the only country in the world with a regular daily television service to the public, and the development in Britain of this new form of entertainment attracted world-wide interest.

The outbreak of war meant unfortunately the abrupt close-down of television in Britain. The service was suspended, and the transmitters lay idle until British television was resumed in June of last year. Today viewers in the London area are able to see four hours of programs every day - including plays, variety, ballet, interviews, sport, public events, and illustrated talks.

X X X X X X X X X X

:::
::: SCISSORS AND PASTE :::
:::

Washington Society Reporter Sizes Up Major Armstrong
(Mary Van Rensselaer Thayer in "Washington Post")

FM's inventor, Maj. Edwin H. Armstrong, is in town and is an amazing person. Big, stooped, bald-headed, he is a gourmet, a fast driver, runs up several thousand dollars in monthly telephone bills, long-distancing his manufacturers, radio hams, licensees, scientific friends. Hailing unromantically from Yonkers, son of the American representative of the Oxford Press, while still in his 'teens he discovered the regenerative circuit which makes the vacuum tube useful, invented the super-heterodyne which makes ordinary radio what it is today.

As major in World War I, assigned to tracking down spies by listening in on their "air" conversations, he stumbled across what is known in radio parlance as the "upper circuit".

In this last war he worked out the best of the walkie-talkies, gave the Government free of charge all his licenses, royalties, though they were to be in force, paying him income only four more years. By this gesture the Government was assured its most important single means of wartime communication.

Right now the major does his experimenting at Alpine, N.J., where he erected a 400-foot tower, which, except for the Eiffel Tower, is the world's highest all-steel contraption. Oddly enough, he and his wife live in New York's social River Club, have a good time when they can entangle themselves from radio tubes and aerials.

- - - - -

Candid Mike Eavesdrops On The Unsuspecting
(R. W. Stewart in "New York Times")

The modest office of Allen A. Funt, radio productions, on Vanderbilt Avenue, wearing a shabby look with an honest air, really is a trap. Within those short confines Mr. Funt and his accomplices plot, for their mutual profit, to prolong indefinitely what amounts to a huge practical joke, and the fact that radio has become interested is not at all incidental. They call the results of their inquisitorial efforts "Candid Microphone"; WJZ-ABC gives the program network circulation Thursday nights at 8.

Eavesdropping is the devious metier of these gentlemen, at which they have developed uncommon proficiency. Capitalizing on hidden microphones, they practice their art in places or preconceived circumstances most likely to inspire unguarded conversation, which is captured on a recording tape. The remainder of their formula is almost mechanical: the tape is edited, an invariable necessity, if only to bring the wordage within the thirty minutes allotted them on the air, and the end product is put on disks for broadcast.

It should be reported here, perhaps, that these inadvertent contributions are not used without permission from the originators, who, in exchange for this privilege, receive from \$5 to \$15. Obstinate cases - those not really appreciative of the humor involved - might yield if \$25 is enough.

- - - - -

Radio Bonanza - No?
("Editor and Publisher")

Two reports of the Federal Communications Commission appearing in the last two issues of Editor and Publisher should make interesting reading for newspaper publishers recently embarked in running a radio station or contemplating same.

Time was when the mere grant of a wavelength, erection of a station, and the flick of a switch putting it on the air was practically a guarantee that with a little programming sense the project would be a big money-maker. Times have changed for radio.

Since V-J Day 259 new AM stations have gone on the air. Only half of them have been able to make money. The others are in the red and have been since the start. In addition, there has been a decline in the net broadcast revenues of all stations.

The FCC estimated there will be 2,250 AM stations on the air by the end of next year. There is no estimate of the number of FM stations, but we know there will be quite a few. Aside from the competition these stations will give each other in every city, as a group they will be competing with other long established media, namely newspapers, for the local advertiser's dollar.

Obviously, radio is no longer the bonanza it was.

- - - - -

Petrillo and the Metropolitan Opera Movies
("Washington Post")

The Metropolitan Opera Association of New York has announced that it will presently begin making movies - with sound tracks, of course - of the more popular operas in the Metropolitan repertory. The plan is to let or to sell prints of these movies to theaters, schools, musical associations and so on, with the ultimate purpose, no doubt, of creating a constantly widening knowledge and appreciation of operatic art.

We shall be interested to know about what Mr. J. Caesar Petrillo may have to say about this latest experiment. If Mr. Petrillo follows his usual logic in such matters, he will probably conclude that every time one of Mr. Feher's movies is shown to an admiring audience in Sauk Rapids, Minn., or Mer Rouge, La., it will throw the local silver cornet band out of work. Thus we shall not be surprised to hear that he has interdicted the whole business.

X X X X X X X X X X X

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

The first paper to carry a daily listing of television programs in the Capital is the Washington Daily News (Scripps-Howard). It began last Monday.

Directors of the Philco Corporation declared this week a year-end dividend of 50 cents a share on the common stock, together with the regular quarterly of $37\frac{1}{2}$ cents a share. In addition, the Board voted a stock dividend on the common stock at the rate of one share for each 20 held. The cash dividend brings total disbursements for 1947 to \$2, or double the amount paid to shareholders last year.

The opening of a new direct radiotelegraph circuit between the United States and Havana, Cuba, was announced last week by the Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company. The Mackay Radio end of the circuit in the United States is located in New York while facilities in Havana will be operated by the Radio Corporation of Cuba.

Scientists at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington are initiating a project for the observation and analysis of radio noise generated by the sun, a companion project to cosmic radio noise studies already in progress. The new investigation will seek to determine the range of frequencies broadcast from the sun, received intensities, and the correlation of solar noise with other solar, interstellar, and terrestrial phenomena.

Misrepresentation of a cough syrup is charged in a complaint issued by the Federal Trade Commission against Foley & Co., 945 George St., Chicago, alleging that the respondents have represented in newspaper and radio advertisements that Foley's Honey & Tar Compound is a remedy or a competent or effective treatment for colds and sore throat and coughs due to colds.

Characterizing these representations as false and misleading, the complaint avers that the value of the preparation is limited to its demulcent and mild expectorant properties.

Collins Radio Company - Year to July 31: Net loss before special reserves was \$113,195 and after including special reserves, net income was \$17,746, compared with net income of \$1,213 for previous fiscal year; net sales, \$12,151,266 against \$13,023,200.

A new RCA "AB" battery pack, VS-099, for farm radios, announced as the finest commercial "AB" farm radio pack ever developed, is now being marketed by the RCA Tube Department and features a new $1\frac{1}{2}$ -volt "A" and 90-volt "B" battery.

X X X X X X X X X