

The Newspapers' Part in Radio Development

By ROSCOE SMITH



The Display of Apparatus Made by Amateurs Who Were Awarded Prizes in a Newspaper Contest.

RADIO has become a very practical business in Chicago. High school students are not only studying its theories and principles, but making apparatus as well. Radio equipment on display at the *Chicago American* Radio Show, ranging from the finest regenerative set with two-stage amplification, capable of receiving at a distance of 1,200 miles, down to the simplest outfit a boy can make for \$1, is the product of the Austin High School, Lane Technical High School and the Tilden High School workshops.

The big attraction of the Tilden exhibit was the 20-watt radio telephone transmitter, flanked by the other apparatus completing radio transmission. The transmitter has a sending radius of 200 miles under good condi-

tions, carrying voice and music. A motor generator of 100 watts, wound by Tilden students, a 500 cycle transformer supplying the plate voltage for the four tubes when the set is used as a modulated C.W. set and a filter coil, also attracted much attention. Three radio receiving sets, the largest being a variometer regenerative set made by Frank Smolek, a 2B student, a Reinartz tuner with single current spider web inductance and tickler feed back gave evidence of Austin High's activity in the field of manufacture.

Ever since *RADIO NEWS* published the account of "Opera Broadcasting at Chicago" in February, when it became a practical reality, radio development in Chicago has been a succession of daily surprises, with new angles confronting the "fans" at every turn.

When opera broadcasting was given publicity and the public realized that wireless telephony had come to them overnight, so to speak, the first questions asked were, "What are the best radio sets?" "What do they cost?" "Where can we get them?" Everybody was "at sea" and none so badly waterlogged as the radio craft itself!

Then the newspapers came to the rescue. Radio pages, radio supplements, and radio columns began to appear. Concert programs were printed, market schedules and news broadcasted by various newspapers from the Westinghouse station. Clergymen broadcast sermons, Sunday evening concerts became popular and Mayor Hylan, Anne Morgan and other celebrities gave special talks.

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Radiophone Broadcasting Station Installed by Texas Newspaper

THE Fort Worth (Texas) *Record* is the pioneer newspaper in the radio field in the Southwest. It is the first paper west of the Mississippi to install its own radiophone broadcasting station. The set is of 200-watt input, with a range of from one to two thousand miles, and is used for broadcasting weather forecasts, crop and market reports, baseball scores, police bulletins, concerts, etc.

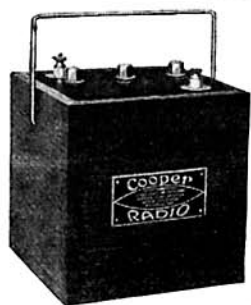
The set was purchased through a Fort Worth firm and all work on it was done by

A Texas Newspaper Station Broadcasting Entertainment and Weather Reports.

the *Record's* staff. It is located on the roof of the *Record's* five-story building, where remodeled windmill towers are used to carry the antenna 125' above the ground. The station is regularly licensed by the Government for broadcasting, and has been assigned the call letters WPA and wave-lengths of 360 meters for broadcasts and 485 meters for weather forecasts.

This station is in charge of a licensed operator, W. H. Pitkin, an ex-Navy man, who has been in the wireless game for a number of years.





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The Newspapers' Part in Radio Development

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the former being the first national figure to use the broadcasting facilities.

A flood of letters to the newspapers asking information as to how to construct radio sets and further knowledge on the principles of radio, resulted in an arrangement by the *Chicago American* with the public school authorities to furnish copy, diagrams and photographs from the technical departments capable of setting forth the whole subject in an educational way, calculated to help those who were eager to learn more about radio construction.

With this new phase of publicity the schools themselves got busy. Albert G. Bauersfeld, director of technical training and Principal Bogan at Lane, with C. A. Carlson of the woodworking department and Jack Callanan, the radio "fan" who knew the answer to every question, Austin High School's technical experts, C. J. Herringshaw, of the electrical department at Sheldon High School and with the Tilden experts finally the construction work was launched, culminating in the Radio Show staged by the *American* and viewed by thousands.

Construction of the smaller crystal sets and various hook-ups, conducting of "Questions" and "Answers" columns, drawings and instructions apart from these layouts in national publications, was due to the hearty co-operation of the newspapers with the Chicago High Schools.

Of course the Westinghouse broadcasting plant "KYW," under the guidance of that company's radio directors, was primarily responsible for awakening this part of the world to the possibilities of radio. Later on the municipal radio broadcasting station "WBU" entered the field. Then the Illinois Bell Telephone Co. took a hand. Wires could be leased, regular telephone wires from any subscriber, direct to "KYW," and anybody could broadcast, provided the Westinghouse directors thought it was a drawing card. The Chicago Board of Trade was not slow to take advantage of this facility for spreading its market reports and quotations to all points of the compass. It was now possible to flash news by telephone for broadcasting, and prize fights were listed on the same program where possibly a mid-week sermon was listed.

Group organizations, classes in all parts of the city are holding radio evenings, many of the high school experts presiding. *The Daily News*, the *Journal*, *Herald-Examiner*, *American* and *Post* have vied with one another to give the public the latest word by print and diagram and photograph of what is new in the fascinating field of Radio.

That the "Radio Page" is here to stay is not denied anywhere. Co-operation between newspapers, the schools and the public seems to be growing by leaps and bounds as the scores of letters increase daily and interest in the "Questions" and "Answers" departments has become a problem for editorial departments.

Impetus to local enthusiasm will be given by the Pageant of Progress Radio Exposition and the big Radio Congress in August. The sending range of the big broadcasting stations has been increased and the public of the middle west has become educated, through the newspapers, to the belief that cheap radio equipment is a poor investment.

AND THEY ARE NOT GAS CONTENT!

With the exception of editors, few things are as critical as a vacuum tube.

By A. J. De Long

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