

Enjoy the Radio Programs This Winter



AC TUBE ARRIVES; TO BE GREAT HELP

Corporation Asserts These Tubes Solution To Many Problems of Radio

The AC tube has arrived at the Chas. K. Dennison Radio store. It is a proven success, the solution to the problems of a radio set. Newspaper articles appeared from time to time during the past year telling of various experiments being made by scientists in the development of tubes, filaments of which would work on regular alternating current tubes, but very little has been said about these tubes developed in the laboratories of the companies affiliated with RCA. The Crosley Radio corporation asserts that these sets are the solution to the problem of operating a radio set from the light socket.

A simple transformer with several winding steps down the current to the proper voltage for these tubes, eliminating other types of intermediate battery charger, trickle charger with storage battery or filter, in supplying the A current for a radio set. The Crosley Bandbox, the set that has taken the country by storm because it is the first set at a moderate price, incorporating a genuine Meutrodyne circuit, as against the comparatively ordinary lossier type of circuit, the first set at a moderate price that is completely shielded, the set that incorporates so many other changes and unusual features, is now being furnished adapted to use of new RCA and Cunningham AC tubes UX and UY 227.

The power converter unit contains the transformer which changes the voltage from 110 volts up and down to provide the proper voltage for the plates and filaments of the tubes. It incorporates that wonderful "self-heating" Merphon condenser taking the place of paper condensers which so frequently blow out. The Merphon condenser has a capacity of thirty microfarads, far more than is found in the ordinary smoothing circuit. As stated before the Merphon condenser is self-heating. If the dielectric film or coating on the metal in the condenser should break down momentarily, it is self-healing and builds itself up against further breakdowns. Should it ever short circuit momentarily, you never know it because it heats itself so quickly.

The liquid in this electrolytic condenser is sealed in, in a metal container, no danger of breakage, no danger of spilling. It can be carried up-side-down indefinitely. The liquid contained in the can is a simple borax solution. It can be poured over your favorite rug without injury. It never has to be replaced because this liquid is not dissipated through action of the condenser as occurs in a trickle charger. The Merphon condenser is the solution to the problem of the high capacity, a condenser that will last indefinitely without blowing out, and will function for years. The Merphon condenser is the invention of Colonel Merphon. It is controlled exclusively and manufactured by The Amrad Corporation. Its high capacity gives wonderful "smoothing" effect to the plate current supply, more than twice as much as is ordinarily used in other types of B voltage supply units.

The Crosley Radio Corporation is now manufacturing more AC receiving sets than any other manufacturer in the world.

COMMISSION GOES AFTER RADIO WORK

Lafount's Zone Covers Large Territory; Makes Study of Problems

Applying experience born of handling big projects involving millions of dollars and thousands of acres of irrigated land in the West, Harold A. Lafount, newly appointed radio commissioner, has led his job with enthusiasm in a short time he has solved many perplexing problems. His home is in Salt Lake City, Utah. Although his zone—the fifth, covers an immense territory, embracing Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii and Alaska, by intensive study he has familiarized himself with many of the problems of the broadcasters and the listeners. To add to his store of knowledge he plans to

Radio Amateurs Train To Assist Navy in Warfare



From the ranks of the radio amateurs are selected the men who are making up the Volunteer Communication Reserve of the U. S. Navy. They include some of the country's best amateur operators and assist to aid Uncle Sam in case of war. Prominent among the units in this organization is the U. S. Naval Communication Reserve of the Seventh District at Orlando, Fla.

make a personal survey of the more important centers in his zone in the near future. His itinerary will be announced shortly. Mr. Lafount is a positive character with firm convictions regarding the best manner to improve the radio art. His wide business experience and ripe judgment are proving valuable assets to the commission. For some years he was an outstanding figure in the development of irrigation projects and supervised the expenditure of millions so that his present job is not overwhelming. His work in the irrigation field brought him unstinted praise and endeared him to the farmers. Mr. Lafount is keenly interested in the farmers' problems and he is giving much thought and study to ways and means to insure them varied and helpful radio programs.

While taking a national view of the broadcasting field, Mr. Lafount is a booster for the West and he is guarding the interests of his zone with scrupulous care. He has impressed his colleagues with the fact that radio should be a vital factor in the development of the West, with its wide-open spaces and otherwise inaccessible means of communication. Mr. Lafount is also keenly interested in the movement to develop the low waves in the communication band, especially the point to point service. So far, however, he has reached no definite conclusions regarding policies to be followed by the commission, pending a public hearing on that question, scheduled for January 17. He is also making a critical study of the proposal to force the Navy Department to discontinue sending press messages over its transmitters.

Mr. Lafount does not look upon his appointment as a sinecure. He is on the job early and late, wrestling with serious, if not aggravating problems, trying to aid the listening public by insuring them more interesting and instructive programs. Government hours—from 9 to 4:30—mean nothing to Mr. Lafount. He is at his desk almost daily before 8 a. m. and leaves frequently after dark to return after dinner to complete some unfinished task. He is often forced to work as an elevator man.

Having made a success in various business enterprises, the salary attached to the present post is no special inducement to Mr. Lafount. He was prevailed upon to take the place as a matter of public duty and public service.

After a survey of the field, Mr. Lafount is convinced that vast problems remain for solution by the commission, so many in fact, that it will be physically impossible to solve them before March 15, when under the present act the licensing authority reverts to the commerce department and the radio commission would become a court of appeals to adjudicate conflicts between the licensing authority and the broadcasters. He is impressed with the suggestion of enlarging the powers of the radio commission to include all radio communication and supervision over the wired and wireless systems. Because of its vast possibilities and great responsibilities, Mr. Lafount believes that the radio industry should have a representation in the president's cabinet.

Season Brings Out New Horn Speakers

NEW YORK—(AP)—The season's developments in loud speakers seems to show a trend toward the horn again. Recent efforts of acoustic engineers have brought forward an improved horn which is said to rival or surpass the cone.

The new horn does not by any means resemble the old "goose neck" type, as it generally is made up in a cabinet very similar to that which houses the cone.

BLACKSMITH SINGER JUDGED ONE OF BEST

Ted Roy Secures Interesting Offers Following Achievement In Contest

OREGON STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Dec. 17.—The fame that comes from channel swimming, over-seas flights and similar widely heralded exploits is being duplicated to a degree in the case of Ted Roy, "Singing blacksmith" of Pilot Rock, since he has been judged one of the best amateur singers in the United States. Though Roy, with his instructor Paul Petri, is still in the east where the finals in the Atwater Kent radio audition contest were held, a host of attractive offers have poured into the music department here from those desiring to get Ted's name to contracts. One radio station wants him as a regular member of its staff. Another desires him for a special concert soon. A Portland theater wants to book him for a world's run and a new up-state show palace is hot on his trail as an attraction for their midnight matinee New Years eve.

Such financial prospects, coupled with his \$2900 cash prize and a year's scholarship, are a far cry from the real difficulties that have been encountered by Roy in his struggle to gain a college education and develop his remarkable voice. Though his immediate plans are not yet known here, he vowed when he left for New York that he intended to return and complete the year at least under Professor Petri, regardless of the outcome of the finals. Discouragements have been as much or more the lot of Roy in his climb to fame as of the thousands of other students here working their way through in whole or part. A year ago, after Ted had saved enough from his summer's work in his father's blacksmith shop to last him well through the winter, his home bank failed, wiping out his savings. He managed to continue by taking a dish-washing job in his own fraternity for his board and room. Professor and Mrs. Petri also aided him by granting several free scholarships in some courses.

Meanwhile his pleasing tenor voice became extremely popular in college circles, making him greatly in demand for scores of occasions in this and nearby cities. He has always been exceedingly generous with his talent, willingly responding whenever possible. He also sang frequently for the college radio station, KOAC. After two years as a member of

the glee club, he was elected president last fall and soon thereafter was induced to enter the contest sponsored by the Atwater Kent company. Roy won out in the local competition without much difficulty, which advanced him to the state finals, similar ones being held in each state of the union. Though in competition with other popular favorites from larger cities, Roy won both the popular vote and the decision of the technical judges.

With a bronze and silver medal in his trophy bag, he next was sent to the regional finals in San Francisco where he competed against nine other state champions from Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, Arizona and northern and southern California. Once more he won both the vote of radio fans and the highest rating by the professional judges, thus making him one of five men and five women to enter the national finals after some 60,000 amateur singers of America had been eliminated.

Both at San Francisco and in New York Roy was accompanied by his teacher, Professor Petri, who believed from the beginning that he had a voice capable of such development as would bring national recognition.

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Eye On Aerial Saves Fans Many Big Worries

CHICAGO—(AP)—Allments are many if the radio set is not given the proper attention. And little troubles may soon develop serious consequences.

The antenna should never be forgotten as it is the source of many difficulties. It must not run parallel to high tension wires. It should be well insulated and the lead-in free from contact with any grounded object. An aerial that is too long will make the receiver tune extremely broad. A good remedy is to keep the fundamental wave length of the aerial around 200 meters. Lightning arrestors becoming shorted are also a source of worry.

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