

Radio Spreads False Report Of H-Fallout

(Picture on Wirephoto Page)
PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP)—A fake broadcast over Stanford University's student radio station that fallout from the H-bomb blast was burning "hundreds of people in San Francisco" left an experiment-minded newscaster with a lot of explaining to do Tuesday.

Lloyd Downton, 25, said his false rumors kept the station telephone ringing for three and a half hours after he inserted the following into an otherwise factual news broadcast:

"Hundreds of people in San Francisco are swarming to hospitals because of dark, smog-like clouds that are burning them and causing dark brown and black stains on their skin."

Downton, a graduate student in journalism who edits the weekly Belmont Courier-Bulletin, explained that he is taking a course in social psychology.

Prepared Report
One of his assignments, he said, was to study the ways rumors spread and how they are altered in the process. Knowing the H-bomb blast was coming Sunday, he prepared the fake news report well in advance.

Originally, the fictitious victim city was to be Mexico City, he said, but at the last moment he decided to localize it by naming San Francisco.

Piped Into Dorms
Although the station, KXSU, is a "carrier frequency" station that cannot normally be heard off the campus, its newscasts are piped into Stanford dormitories. Downton got quick results. To some callers he told the truth. Others had to find out for themselves.

His estimate of the effect of the hoax was somewhat different from that of the station's student manager. Downton gave the impression he spent the three and a half hours after the newscast answering telephone queries. Manager Terry Bateman, however, reported that the program brought only 15 calls.

Bateman hurried to the station when he heard of Downton's stunt at 8:55 p.m. (PDT) Sunday, and broadcast a retraction an hour later. Bateman said he wasn't firing his newscaster, though, because "I think I've got him straightened around now."

University officials have declined to talk about the incident.

Actors Veto Dick Haymes' Role in Play

NEW YORK (AP)—Dick Haymes is still having his troubles. This time, he is unable to get permission from Actors Equity to appear in a Miami Beach, Fla., production of "The Tender Trap" scheduled to open June 2.

Allred Harding, spokesman for the union of performing artists, said Haymes and his Florida producer applied before Equity's governing council two weeks ago both to play in the show and to rejoin the union.

Haymes lost Equity membership in 1953 for having falsely listed Santa Barbara, Calif., as his birthplace. He was born in Argentina.

Although Equity sometimes permits aliens to appear in productions in this country, particularly if they created a starring role in a show, Harding said the council "did not feel Haymes made a sufficient case to justify an exception." Haymes has not previously performed in the comedy.

Haymes' request for membership was turned down because only citizens may belong to Equity. He may be able to rejoin Harding said, when he gains U.S. citizenship, expected in a few months.

Klamath Falls Canal Study Wins Approval

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate Monday passed a bill authorizing a \$5,000 study to determine the best means of eliminating the hazard of an open irrigation canal flowing through Klamath Falls, Ore.

In the 38 years since the canal's construction, 25 persons have drowned there.

The Senate Interior Committee, in sending the bill to the Senate, said that "in view of the appalling loss of life over the years, attributable to the operations of the canal, no time should be lost in developing a workable plan for protective measures."

The bill goes to the House.

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