

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

SOMEbody gravely announces that during the coming Fall and Winter one million owners will exchange their present sets for something newer and better—or, at least for something different. What's to become of the old sets? Perhaps the radio trade will resort to something like the method adopted by the music trade a good many years ago when the old square piano was a nuisance. Piano manufacturers and dealers called convention, which was held in Atlantic City, where square pianos from all over the country were destroyed in a bonfire. Result: the price of a square fell 100 per cent below par the day following the bonfire. Why not try the scheme for radio?

RADIO WORLD

The First and Only National Radio Weekly

Radio World's Slogan: "A radio set for every home."

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Karas Brothers Win

The sailing yacht "Siren," owned and sailed by the Karas brothers, L. L. and A. E., recently won the Mackinac race, the Lake Michigan classic, for the second consecutive year. Both sailors are vice-presidents of Karas Electric Co., prominent radio parts manufacturers, 4040 N. Rockwell Street, Chicago.

Rating in Horsepower Favored for Stations

Washington. Requests made by Commissioner O. H. Caldwell of the Federal Radio Commission, for an improved method of expressing the power of broadcasting stations, because of recent public discussions of the "tremendous power" of such stations has brought from the Commission the suggestion that all radio stations be rated in the "old familiar term of 'horsepower.'" In a letter, Commissioner Caldwell pointed out a "20-horsepower station," like WBZ, of East Springfield, Mass., WGN, of Chicago, and KOA, of Denver, "seems not nearly so formidable as one called by the uglier term of '15 kilowatts.'" One horsepower equals 746 watts. "A sixty-horsepower station, like WEA-F of New York or KDKA of Pittsburgh," he said, "is not such a terrifying thing when compared to any seven-passenger automobile, which radiates almost exactly the same amount of power," he said.

Text of Letter

The full text of the letter, made public without the name of the addressee, follows: "In answer to your several requests for an improved method of expressing the power of broadcasting stations, it might be well, in view of recent public discussions of the 'tremendous power' of such stations, to rate all radio stations in the old familiar by-gone terms of 'horsepower.'" "Speaking of a station in terms of its 'horsepower' would probably give a clearer conception, of the actual power quantities involved, to the minds of the Radio

Commissioners, the general public, and the Radio leaders of Congress. "One horsepower equals 746 watts. Knowing this ratio, one can readily translate bothersome electrical terms into familiar farmer and shop language. "Thus, a '20-horsepower station' (like WBZ, KGN or KOA) seems not nearly so formidable as one called by the uglier terms of '15 kilowatts.'

One-Horse Stations

"And, a 60-horsepower station,' like WEA-F or KDKA, is not such a terrifying thing when compared to any seven-passenger automobile, which radiates almost exactly the same amount of power. "If a familiar comparison for the 20-horsepower station is called for, it can be found in the domestic electric range and water heater installed in hundreds of thousands of American homes, and which similarly consumes about 15 kilowatts, or 20 horsepower. "The only drawback to this nomenclature lies in the possibility of some wag referring to broadcasters like WGR (Buffalo), WBT, (Charlotte, N. C.), WHA, (Madison, Wis.), etc., as being 'One horse stations,' which, of course, they are—their output of 750 watts being almost exactly one electrical horsepower. "Expressed in such homely language as horsepower, familiar to every farmer and mechanic, the mystery of kilowatts and such gibberish is gone; the lay listener will no longer be mystified and impressed by ranters against high power; and the cause and opportunity for much political oratory this winter will be automatically removed."

Board Puts Check on Experimental Waves

Washington. The Federal Radio Commission will not grant applications for experimental broadcasting licenses unless it is determined that the research is designed to accomplish a definite purpose and to further the art of broadcasting, Commissioner Orestes H. Caldwell announced.

Many requests for experimental licenses have been received, said Mr. Caldwell, and there is not room to grant all applications. Therefore, he said, the decision had been reached only to grant such license when it is known and when an applicant can prove beyond doubt that he is setting out to discover facts or acquire information not already available to the art.

Text of Letter

The full text of the body of a letter sent by Commissioner Caldwell to an applicant for an experimental license, setting forth in general the Commission's views follows: "The Commission has asked me to report to it upon recommendation in the case of your application for an experimental license. "As you are aware, the Commission is being overwhelmed with requests for experimental licenses by all groups of people, many of them wholly unequipped to carry on experimental work, or without definite purpose as to what such work shall accomplish. "I have read over carefully the state-

ments filed with your application but I cannot find any definite reference to the work which you intend to accomplish, if granted this license.

"I believe the Commission is forced to limit such licenses to cases where the applicant shows beyond doubt that he is setting out to discover facts or information not already available to the art.

Board Is Careful

"The Commission keeps a careful cross reference of the various classes of research work being done and often it is possible to refer applicants to other work which has been accomplished by earlier experimenter without issuing a special experimental license.

"Of course, you will understand that I thoroughly encourage experimental work of all kinds. The development of radio has come from experimentation and any check upon the freest use of such experiments would be fatal to the further progress of the art.

Novel Research Encouraged

"On the other hand, with the limited number of wavelengths available, and with the great congestion in all parts of the land, it is necessary to observe the greatest possible scrutiny of every application to make sure that the work contemplated is along wholly new and novel lines and does not merely duplicate investigations, the result of which are already well known to the art."