



Theatre Operations Observe Two Decades Of Service

RCA TALKS TELEVISION TO RADIO SERVICEMEN

John R. Meagher, television engineer of Camden, was the feature speaker at a recent television servicing meeting held by Radio Electric Service Company, Philadelphia distributors of RCA equipment.

The subject of Meagher's talk was "Television Servicing and Installation" and covered typical television antenna installation and lead-in problems, typical local television interference problems and analysis of minor television operational problems. An RCA television receiver was used in the course of the talk for demonstration.

Interest in television among radio servicemen may be gauged by the turnout of more than 300 which does not include many who were turned away because of lack of seating space.

★ SPECIAL BULLETIN ★

On Jan. 26th the RCA Service Company opens a Peace Bond Drive in support of the U. S. Government. I trust that all of us recognize the importance of giving full support to a program from which we all benefit.

By subscribing to the Peace Bond Drive we build a future for ourselves which is evidenced in accumulated savings, and at the same time we provide necessary funds to aid our government in keeping the peace.

Within a short time each of you will receive the necessary applications, and I feel sure that in such an organization as The RCA Service Company we shall beat our quota as we always have. That's why I'm tipping you off in advance.

W. L. Jones

RCA Promotes "Show Business"; Television Next On List - Johnson

In 1928 as the movie industry was undergoing the radical change from silence to sound a new "star" of the era was born—RCA THEATRE SERVICE. For many years previously RCA had been active in motion picture research, particularly on sound systems; and the new subsidiary, RCA Photophone Company, Inc. was formed with a primary purpose of bringing a "voice" to the screen.

The first scheduled RCA contract service call was made on the first installation at the Majestic Theatre, Johnstown, Pa., in August of 1928. The new equipment held a mystery for practically every exhibitor, and regular service on a weekly basis was therefore essential to good equipment performance. Thus, service personnel had the job of supervising installation of equipment, rendering periodic and emergency service and arranging for theatre surveys.

The Service Division of RCA Photophone, Inc., at its formation operated from offices in New York City, and in early 1930 division offices were set up in Chicago and San Francisco to provide improved commercial and technical administration. Then in 1932 business operations of Photophone were taken over by RCA Victor Company, Inc., and home office activities shifted from New York to Camden while district operations were consolidated. The merger of RCA Victor and RCA Radiotron Company, Inc., to form the RCA Manufacturing Company, Inc., in 1935 had little direct effect on the service division; but the latest organization change on the last day of 1942 brought about a consolidation of RCA Service activity.

Present Organization Formed

This took place when the RCA Manufacturing Company was made a division of the parent company and the RCA Service Company, Inc., was established as a

(Continued on page 2)

HEADS THEATRE SERVICE



C. E. JOHNSON

RCA "EVENING SCHOOL"

The best idea of the month goes to Andy Hilderbrand's group at Cliffside Park, N. J. They've inaugurated a "class night," currently Thursday of every week, when the boys gather on their own time to catch up on installation and service tips of the new model sets. The session has become a good time to "iron out" problems. Andy says, "The general discussion has helped us lots with our television set-up."

RCA SERVICE COMPANY NEWS

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Editor
JOSH BILLINGS, JR.

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(Continued from page 1)

subsidiary. Thus, in addition to the twentieth anniversary of RCA theatre service we celebrate five years of consolidated RCA Service.

On the side of technical operations it should be pointed out that sound was introduced to the movies in two ways—sound on film and sound on disc. While RCA promoted the former method which was considered better, both types of equipment were serviced until the latter passed into virtual extinction about 1930.

First AC Equipment

Late in 1931 the first AC operated RCA theatre equipment was introduced. This did away with cumbersome storage batteries and motor generator sets. Also, this meant improved reproduction, simplified and less costly installation and reduced service requirements. Contract service thereafter was reduced to one or two calls per month.

By the time this new equipment was offered to the exhibitors RCA service engineers were quite familiar with its operation since many had been instrumental in its development.

In late 1934 the sound replacement parts plan as we now know it was introduced to theatre service customers at a low cost weekly rate. This service feature was popular from the start, and has been a major factor in the steady, rapid growth of contract service. Two more features of contract service were added in 1940, a projection replacement parts plan and portable emergency sound system lease plan. The former was a twin to the sound parts plan while the latter provided a compact sound system which could be put in service in a matter of minutes if a major difficulty occurred in a main theatre system.

While the last war affected normal service as a result of material shortages and transfer of many men to government work, there were great advancements in research and training and experience of personnel. The end of the war saw the



Johnson's right hand men are Ed Stanko (left), technical operations head, and Les Hart, commercial operations.

problems of reconditioning old equipment or installing new. They are currently being met in addition to maintaining and expanding service activities. To assist in technical installation and service problems a group of field service supervisors was established in 1945.

In the course of twenty years RCA theatre service engineers have made many noteworthy technical contributions in the interest of the art of motion picture sound reproduction. A few examples include: the buzz-track method of alignment of sound recording and reproducing equipment, the RCA triatic signal tracer for facilitating detection of trouble in theatre sound reproducing equipment, the series of "sound service checkups" to improve sound reproduction in theatres and the publication of valuable information manuals such as "RCA Photophone Handbook for Projectionists" and "RCA Theatre Television Handbook for Projectionists."

During these two decades, RCA service has also played a prominent role in contribution to the theatre industry by furthering the sale and advancement generally of RCA theatre products. Any dedication must include a continuation of that policy.

With the present high attendance figures on record in the nation's theatres, RCA looks forward to continued growth in theatre service. At present about 27% of the country's theatres hold contracts for RCA service. Ready to serve them are more than 200 field engineers and the many RCA Theatre Supply Dealers located throughout the country.

Television on the Way

We do not need a very special "crystal ball" to tell us that the next advance will probably be the introduction of theatre television. In this respect RCA is out in front (see feature on page four).

What then does twenty years of RCA THEATRE SERVICE mean? Briefly it means a nationwide organization of highly trained technical specialists dedicated to the tradition of the theatre, "The Show Must Go On."

RCA Theatre Engineer Wins \$500 Suggestion Award For In-Car Speaker

Charles Moore, RCA service engineer of the Dallas District, hit the jackpot when the Suggestion Committee granted him the maximum award of \$500.00 for his suggestion on the new RCA in-car speaker.

Charley says, "It was indeed a great surprise as the motive for my suggestion was to save the service engineers from numerous emergency calls and to satisfy the customer so future sales would be made. I am not only happy to receive the \$500.00 award, but glad my suggestion could be used to forestall a heavy loss to the company." The photo below shows Charley (center) receiving his check from W. W. Gilreath, Dallas District Manager, while J. W. Cocke, Regional Sales Manager, looks on.



In-car speakers mounted in pairs on a permanent parking lot pedestal between every two cars are currently offered for sale to drive-in theatres. The in-car speaker is convenient, smartly styled and built to withstand all types of weather. A support bracket provides attachment to the car window which may then be closed. Thus, the regular operating season is extended many weeks in most localities, and the volume of business should increase. The instrument is pictured below.



PUBLIC LAUDS RCA SERVICE WITH CONTRACT RENEWALS

New Program Will Provide Streamlining of Operations

Television policy renewals showed a favorable national return of better than 80% for 1947. The Brooklyn shop heads the list with a return of 358%, S. Norwalk second with 170%, Long Island (Fr. Sq.) third at 135%, and Collingswood just ahead of the rest with 106%. An average of better than 100% is possible since most renewals are made several weeks in advance of expiration.

Of the total renewals obtained 79% were gotten by direct mail solicitation from the shops, 13% by telephone, 5% through personal contact and the remaining 3% as a result of other means—as telegram or voluntary by the customer.

To date all renewal policies are drawn on 621TS and 630TS sets; but a program will be offered for other numbers as soon as their policies begin to expire. Also, all policies are presently being sold for one year only.

The outstanding record of the shops on these renewals is not only a tribute to the high quality of the RCA product but also to the service furnished the public by the RCA Service Company Shops.

Since the television shops are limited in space and are primarily organized to render technical services to the public a new program of policy renewal solicitation is being readied to take effect as soon as possible. The direct mail campaign is to be centralized at the home office with the shops assisting only when necessary. By eliminating this paperwork for the shops they will be in a better position to render the service that the public demands.

Procedure and Audit Aids In Shop Inventories

Television shops and the Newark warehouse had a busy time on January 2nd when they undertook their initial complete physical inventory.

In order to assure uniform procedure, J. T. Sullivan's Procedure & Audit group supplied a detailed bulletin, together with necessary forms. The completeness of the instructions left nothing to be desired, and the group is to be congratulated on their fine groundwork job.

RCA SERVICER TESTS NEW EQUIPMENT ON "NORTH POLE" EXPEDITION

The highly specialized activities of P. P. Melroy's government group of the Home Products Division are of necessity rarely open for publication. However, once in a while an interesting job turns up that is free of restrictions. Such a job is scheduled for Jan. 19th when M. R. Pagliarulo takes off for Alaska on an assignment to test ice measuring equipment.

Equipment was constructed under a development contract by RCA Victor Engineering Products Division. When laboratory tests reached the point where field tests were in order the forthcoming trip was scheduled.

It will be the purpose of the expedition to study the performance of the field test model, secure data for design and improvement and instruct personnel in its use. Specifications call for portable equipment, but present design makes it a two-man proposition.

Some components of the instrument are a crystal projector, 600-watt driver and visual scope-type indicator. Operation is on supersonic principle for echo ranging



P. P. Melroy (left) heads the government group which sends M. R. Pagliarulo on an Alaskan assignment.

which deviates from past practice where fluid was the medium. In dealing with ice the instrument must indicate the thickness of ice as well as the presence of air between ice and water. Accurate results must be obtained to temperatures of 60 degrees below zero.

Pagliarulo will accompany the equipment on the direct flight and will spend about six to eight weeks in the present darkness of the Arctic. He will work about 500 miles north of any point previously reached by an RCA engineer on any war assignment.

PREPARING FOR A NEW SERVICE



Ken Hollister's Beverage Inspection group of Industrial Division has begun a series of training meetings to instruct field engineers on the procedure of servicing the new machines now coming off the production line. The photo above shows the initial class which met Jan. 7-9. R. C. Schell of Engineering Products is giving instructions on the reject mechanism operation of the machine as the others look on. They are (left to right): H. Burgess, R. Sear, H. Hanson, H. Hepler, M. Wheaton, G. Knapp, H. Ewing, H. Lubcker, L. Leidy, K. Hollister, D. Waltz.

RCA Engineer Discusses Theatre Television

Company Adds Much to Development in Past Two Years

[ED. NOTE: The second of our series of articles featuring RCA products appears through the courtesy of R. V. Little, Jr., RCAV Engineering Products Division, and The Society of Motion Picture Engineers, for whom it was prepared originally.]

The equipment is still in the experimental stage, but when it is offered to the public it will be serviced by RCA Service Company field engineers. All in RCA Service who keep abreast of new developments should find this latest report on large screen television of interest.]

DEVELOPMENTS IN LARGE SCREEN TELEVISION

RALPH V. LITTLE, JR.

The high degree of excellence achieved in the production and reproduction of Sound Motion Pictures has placed this art above all others in popularity and entertainment value. With high standards already established, large screen television makes its debut in the entertainment field, not as a competitor, but as an ally, an ally with mutual interest and, we believe, vast possibilities.

Large screen television is still in the experimental stage but considerable progress has been made during the past two years. Experimental equipment has been built and demonstrated with excellent results. This equipment, which will now be described, will form the basis for determining specific requirements and future design.

There are three major elements in a large screen projection system which are combined to produce the overall result viewed on the screen. The first is the source of light and picture, the projection kinescope, which translates the video information into a pattern of light on the tube face by the scanning process; second, the optical system the function of which is to collect the light rays from the face of the kinescope and direct them to the screen, properly focused, as an image of desired size; and third is the screen from which the picture is viewed. These three elements must each be designed for their best efficiencies in a coordinated system, in order to make possible the best in picture quality and brightness.

We will examine each element of such a system in order to understand their limitations and discuss the problems common to each. The projection kinescope is similar to that used in the direct viewing table model television receiver and requires the same video amplifier, deflection, and high voltage functions as required for the receiver; the differences are those of magnitude in order to obtain the very bright picture required. We see in figure one, the diagram of a typical projection kinescope tube; the electron gun here emits a stream of electrons which are focused by an electron lens and accelerated, by the high anode potential which is 50 KV. for the 7" tube. to the screen where it causes the phosphor coating of the face to emit light in accordance with the density of the electron beam which is controlled by the video signal. The deflection yoke surrounds the neck of the tube and is provided with suitable currents to make the scanning raster necessary to form a picture image pattern. Television has no satisfactory method of using a supplementary high intensity light source, such as a carbon arc, which might be controlled at video frequencies so high-light brightness is a function of phosphor efficiencies. The method then of obtaining highlight output from a projection kinescope, as compared with a home receiver kinescope, is to provide high accelerating voltage on the tube. This permits the phosphor to be bombarded with electrons of high velocity which produces more light while the current remains low.

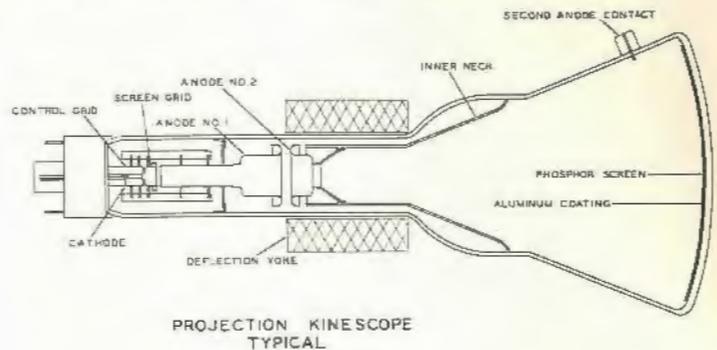


Fig. 1

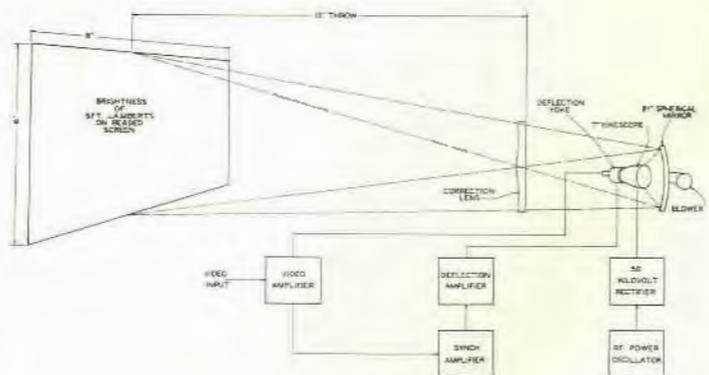


Fig. 2

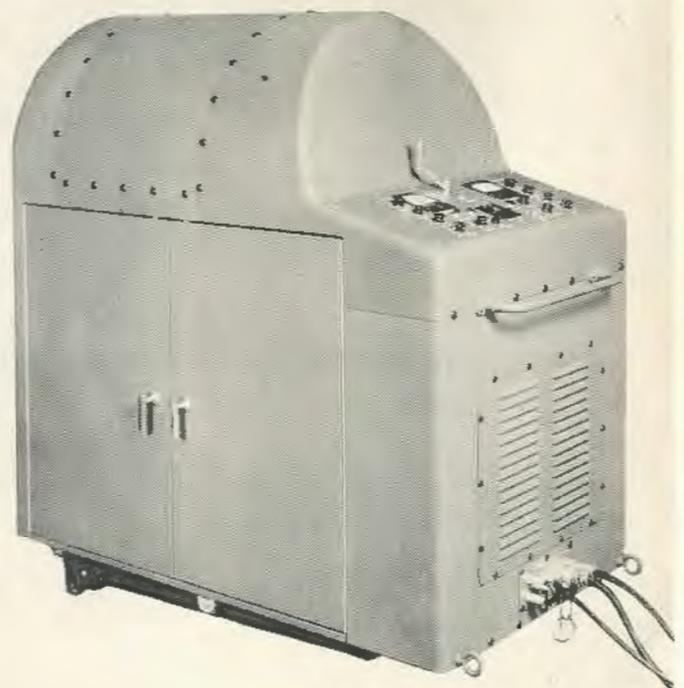


Fig. 3

The relative voltages used on typical kinescopes are: for the 10-inch home receiver, 9000 volts, while 50,000 volts is used for the 7-inch projection kinescope, and for the larger 12-inch and 15-inch projection kinescopes, 80,000 volts accelerating potential is used. Although the high voltages are used, the current requirements are small and are generated in safe radio frequency power supplies which have very low stored energy. Future developments will be centered on the improvement of the phosphors and the electron optics of the kinescope. The typical projection kinescope highlight brightness is about 3000-foot lamberts.

The second requirement of the projection system is the lens. You are familiar with typical motion picture lens which may nominally be an $f\ 2.0$ with a five-inch focal length and use $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch in diameter elements. Refractive lens of this type for kinescope of 7-inch in diameter would require a lens equal to the face diameter to gather sufficient light from the picture and in a practical design could not exceed a speed of $f\ 1.5$. The $f\ 1.5$ lens would have a gain of 1.75 over the conventional, thus leaving much to be desired in efficiency. Television engineers soon realized that the lens system was one place where more gain might be realized. The RCA reflective optical system was devised and gave effective speeds to $f\ 0.6$ with the 42-inch mirror system which has been completed for use with a 15-inch kinescope to produce an 18 x 24 foot picture. The relative speed as compared with the $f\ 2.0$ system would then be 11 times the gain in light, a truly remarkable increase. Reflective optical systems are characterized by short focal lengths which are necessary in order to produce the fastest lens speed or smallest f number. The projector for the 6 x 8 foot screen uses a 21-inch mirror, a 14-inch correction lens, and a 7-inch projection kinescope and has a throw distance of 15 feet. The projector for the 18 x 24 foot picture uses a 42-inch mirror, a 36-inch lens, a 15-inch kinescope, and requires a throw distance of 40 feet.

The screen then forms the final link in our overall system and affords another opportunity to improve the gain in picture brightness. Consideration has been given to the various types of screens available. Experience obtained in our experimental work indicates that some form of directional viewing screen gives the best compromise in highlight brightness and viewing field. The beaded screen has given good results in this respect and is used with our demonstrations, but further development is in order. Developments in screens promises to permit greater gains and it is expected that gains as high as 3 may be obtainable to the advantage of the overall system.

The S. M. P. E. recommends an optimum screen brightness of 7-14-foot lamberts. Television is approaching this requirement of the theatre, and developments underway will provide a picture equivalent to the recommended standard of brightness.

In diagram two we have the essential elements of the large screen projector, the projection kinescope, the RCA reflective optical system, the video amplifier, which modulates the kinescope to produce the light and dark areas corresponding to the television camera image, the deflection circuits to produce the synchronized scanning raster, the radio frequency oscillator and rectifier to supply the 50 kilovolts, and the necessary power supplies. The components of a large screen television projector have been discussed, pictures will now be shown for a more detailed description of the present experimental equipment.

The projector for the 6-foot x 8-foot screen shown in figure three is a completely self-contained unit which operates from a video signal supplied from a coaxial cable or a television

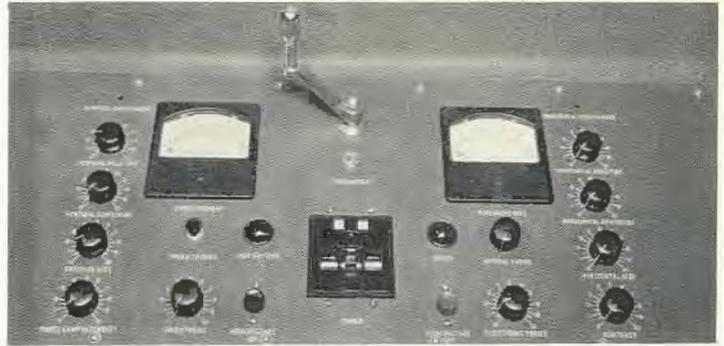


Fig. 4

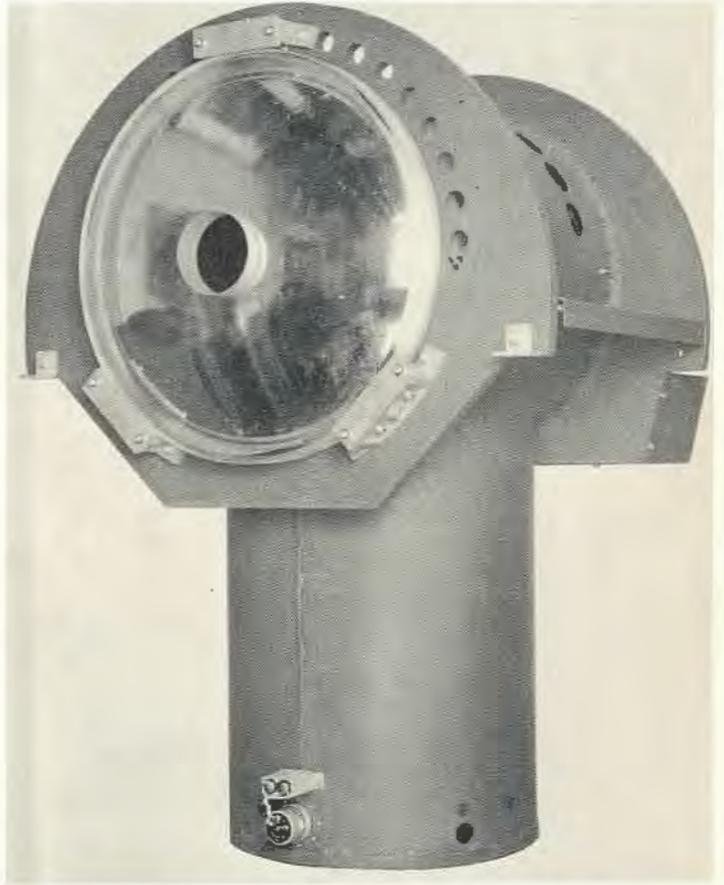


Fig. 5

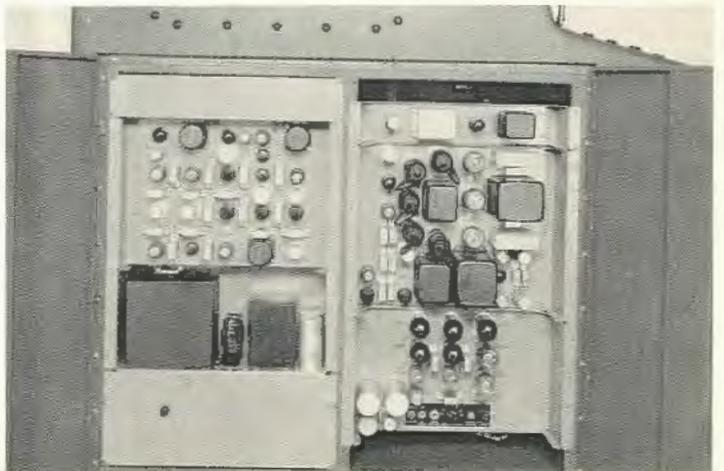


Fig. 6

receiver. The unit measures 53 x 32 x 60 inches and weighs 1200 lbs. and requires 18 amperes at 115 volts 60 cycle a.c. or approximately 2 kilowatts. The cabinet houses the optical barrel containing the RCA reflective optical system, the 7-inch projection kinescope, and a 50 kv high voltage rectifier unit. Aligned on either side of the cabinet are the video amplifier, deflection units vertical and horizontal scanning voltages, the radio-frequency oscillator which drives the high voltage rectifier, and the necessary regulated power supplies. The control panel (figure four) is located at the rear and has all operational controls accessible. It is noteworthy that most of these controls would not be made available on a commercial design, but would be on the associated chassis units since frequent adjustment is not required. The required controls would be found consisting of the contrast, brightness, optical focus, and electrical focus. A photograph of the optical barrel (figure five) is presented to show the mounting of the mirror, the bottom tank which houses the high voltage supply and effectively shields it from radiating. This unit must be very rigid to hold the optical system in precise alignment.

An interior view of the left side (figure six) shows the orderly arrangement of the electrical equipment used. The left-hand panel is the synchronizing circuit panel, the major unit on the right is the deflection chassis which drives the deflection yoke on the neck of the tube. The other chassis are d.c. power supplies.

In figure seven the other side shows the video amplifier on the right. The radio frequency oscillator below it drives the high voltage supply. On the left we have a power supply for the units just described and a fuse panel for the protection circuits.

A unique design feature of the projector is the high voltage power supply (figure eight), as previously mentioned, it is driven from a power oscillator operating at 60 kc. Energy at this frequency is fed to a step-up transformer which develops 25 kv peak-to-peak a.c. which is then doubled in the special rectifier circuit to furnish the 50 kv required. The next figure shows the actual supply designed for this equipment, and its unique features include the self-contained filament transformers built into the socket of each tube.

A similar high voltage rectifier is shown in figure nine and here we have a quadrupler to supply the 80 kv required for the projector using the 18-foot x 24-foot screen. The radio-frequency voltage generated in the coil is impressed on each rectifier tube. These tubes for d.c. are in series so that four times the voltage is realized across the output resistor and kinescope. These unique power supplies employ a circuit developed by Mr. O. H. Schade of the RCA Victor Division, Harrison, and a mechanical arrangement devised by Mr. Fred G. Albin, recently of Camden Engineering and now at the Hollywood office.

Figure ten shows the projector built for the 42-inch optical system and is the largest unit of its kind ever attempted. It will throw an 18 x 24-foot picture on the screen from the face of a 15-inch kinescope. The mechanical and electrical problems were of great magnitude as was to be expected. I wish to say that any resemblance of this unit to another nationally advertised product is purely coincidental. This unit represents the accumulation of many years of effort on the part of many engineers in the RCA Victor Division located at Camden, Harrison and Lancaster, and RCA Laboratories of Princeton. Credit is due them for their contribution to the overall project as well as to Mr. F. G. Albin who coordinated the design of the equipment described in this paper.

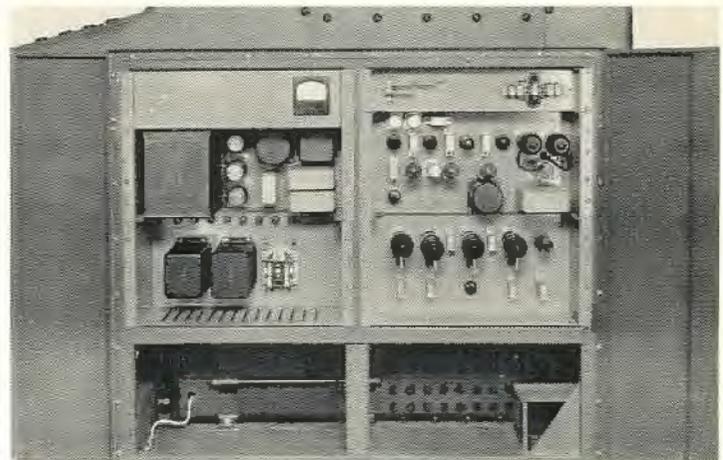


Fig. 7

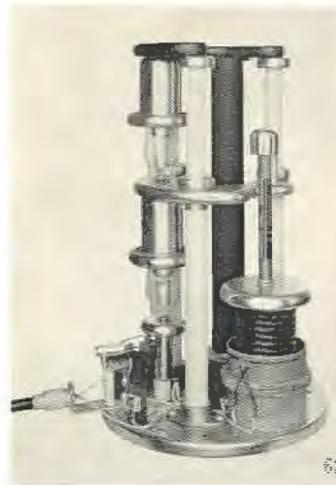


Fig. 9



Fig. 8

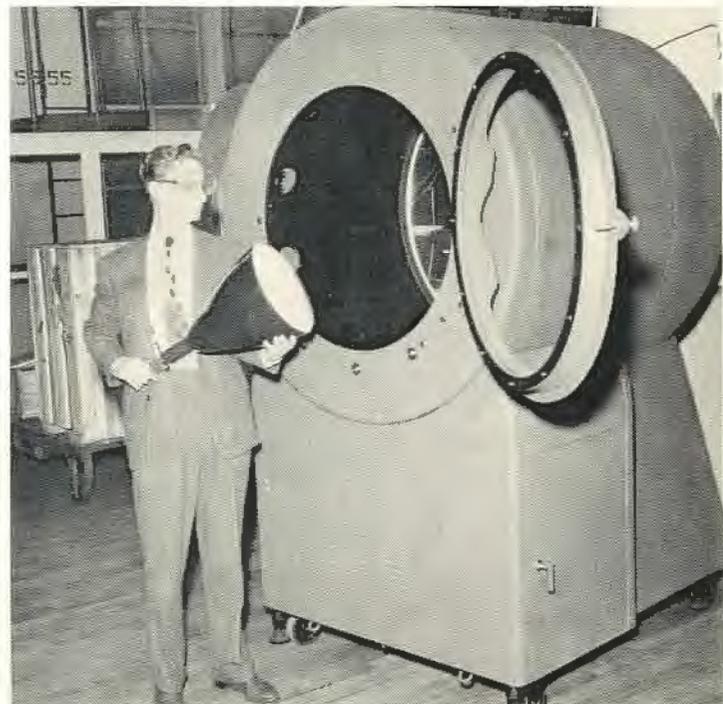


Fig. 10

Bowl Game Televised By Demonstration Group On Latest Trip To South

Frank Helgeson and his television demonstration group recently returned from a three-week trip to the sunny South where their assignment included the televising of the big Sugar Bowl game between Texas and Alabama.

Their departure on Dec. 26th followed several weeks of preparation; but at the last minute flight plans were disrupted in view of the holiday snowfall. However, they arrived in New Orleans in time to set up equipment and televise on schedule.

The program included boxing bouts on Dec. 29th, basketball games between Tulane-Oklahoma and Holy Cross-North Carolina State on Dec. 30th and the bowl game on Jan. 1. Double relays were used in all instances. The latter event was sponsored by RCA, ABC, and Station WDSU in cooperation with the Sugar Bowl Committee who made arrangements to seat 550 persons before fifteen receivers in the Monteleone Hotel at New Orleans.

On the return trip a stop was made at Birmingham, Alabama where a demonstration was held from Jan. 8 to 12 in cooperation with R. P. McDavid Co., local department store, and Station WAPI.

The next trip for the group is tentatively scheduled for the middle of February to Madrid, Spain.

RP Men Discuss Problems; Tour Midwest Plants At 4-Day Meeting

P. C. McGaughey and the group of RP engineers held a four-day conference from Nov. 17 to 20 at RCA's Indianapolis plant. The meeting was highlighted by a complete inspection of the Indianapolis and nearby Bloomington factories where the men saw radio table models and consoles, television sets and records in production. During the course of the meeting informal conferences were held to discuss procedures, modifications and individual field problems.

On the evening of the 17th, key men of the Indianapolis plant were guests of the RP men at the local Athletic Club, and a similar dinner was held on the following evening for Bloomington heads.

Since it was quite an event to have all present at one time the photo below was taken.

They Talked About Theatre Products Quality



Once a month Servicers and Engineering Products quality control men get together to analyze field complaints and suggested changes. The above photo was taken of the group at the December meeting in J. E. Beezer's office and includes left to right: J. Fluck, L. Barr, C. Underhill, A. Demmer, J. Byrd, J. Beezer, A. Lazzlo, P. Smith, D. Phyfe, E. Stanko, D. Way, L. Watson.

They Pursued High-Grade RP Production



Included in the group are from left to right—Seated: T. Y. Flythe, M. R. Pagliarulo, P. C. McGaughey, C. E. Walter, F. Atlee. Standing: D. W. White, H. J. Mills, W. H. Powell, R. J. Isnogle, R. F. Hurd, K. M. Aitken, A. B. Chapman, J. T. Kavanagh, F. Lutzack.

Camden and District Office News

Home Office Notes: B. D. Bachin, M. I. Dengler, T. Leggoe, A. Duff

In the midst of holiday cheer that pervades the Christmas season, four girls from the Financial Division announced engagements. Sporting diamonds are Letty Brager, Grace Clyde, Rena Hare and Katherine Tracy.

Mrs. Charles Harker of Financial Division is currently on a six-week leave of absence for a belated honeymoon in Florida.

Welcome back to Dottie Flynn who has just returned after a month's leave of absence.

New faces at Camden include: District Operations: V. Giacoboni and H. Rosen. Financial Division: G. Clyde, J. Deane, K. Gardner, V. Gavbashian, F. Short and F. Swartz. Home Products: J. Ferguson, B. J. Harvey and D. Hahn.

Recent visitors at Camden included Frank Hamre, District Manager of Pittsburgh; John Moran, Boston District Manager and Al Riley, Supervisor of Dallas District.

Jim Stover, formerly of Home Products Div., left the company on Jan. 15 for a job with the Boy Scouts of America. Best of luck on the new venture, Jim!

Congratulations and many thanks are in order for Joe Murray, Financial's Office Manager, on the grand way in which he and his committee organized the home office Christmas party. To give you an idea of what a treat it was we're including several pictures on this page.

Ed Greipp of Theatre Equipment is right proud of daughter Carol Ann. The photo below shows the big smile she managed for Pop.



Congratulations to Lloyd Yoh who recently took over the job of Administrative Assistant on Home Products, Government and Television. He was formerly manager of RF Heating in the Industrial Division.

CLEVELAND

M. K. Meyer

Kenneth P. Herrick of Toledo, Ohio is a new addition to the Photophone group.

Aside from the fact that Cleveland had a big holiday rush, their news just 'aint.

DALLAS

E. L. Lunday

Field engineer Cnrridcri reports that Mobile is now 100% RCA on theatre service.

KANSAS CITY

H. M. Story

K. C. engineers are getting on the air in off moments. Six amateur radio stations are set up, and we hope to list them by calls in the next issue. They ask about getting a spot frequency for an RCA Net. VanDuyne would like to hear from any members of the service family who are interested.

Joe Moore lost a contract the hard way when one of the theatres he serviced burned to the ground.

RCA Service Home Office Christmas Party



Cope Forbes has been permanently assigned to the Twin City area with headquarters in Minneapolis. Tom Mooney is up that way, too, covering western Minnesota and the eastern half of the Dakotas, while Charlie Speckman takes over parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

E. D. VanDuyne and Don Davis travelled together to Denver, and Van returned to K. C. after visits with Jerry Campbell and Mike Gieskieng.

Paul Connet, District Manager, returned from a three-day conference with Twin City engineers in time for the Christmas rush.

Archie and Jane Speak are quite thrilled with their new RCA RPT combination.

LOS ANGELES A. E. Jackson

An oddity on the job was Bob Conner working in snow on Mount Wilson about an hour from home where the temperature was 87 degrees.

Los Angeles calls attention to the fact that with a Christmas temperature of 84 degrees, Santa came down Hollywood Boulevard in a bathing suit.

A mysterious bug knocked Art Jackson, Rudy del Castillo and Al Tinkham for a loop, but they're all back on the job again.

PHILADELPHIA M. C. Jarrell

Gil Knapp and Ray Sear were given Christmas toys in Beverage Inspection Machines to service for Coca-Cola.

District personnel who included Christmas holidays in vacations were Charlie Graham to California, Bill Powell to Missouri, Ed Knoble to Pittsburgh and Bill Strieby to Lake Placid.

Santa was kind to Charlie Rush. A new motorcycle replaces his old motor-bike.

PITTSBURGH M. E. Milligan

Frank Hamre, District Manager, was recently elected Post Commander of American Legion Post No. 116 at Belevue, Pa.

RP ENGINEER TALKS ON FM AT NEW YORK MEETING



RCA Service Company speakers seem to be in demand these days and the photo above shows H. J. Mills, RP engineer of Boston District, propounding the features of Crestwood service at an FM meeting in New York.

Bruno-New York, distributors of RCA products sponsored the meeting which had a peak attendance of about 500. The lecture was accompanied by slide film illustrations.

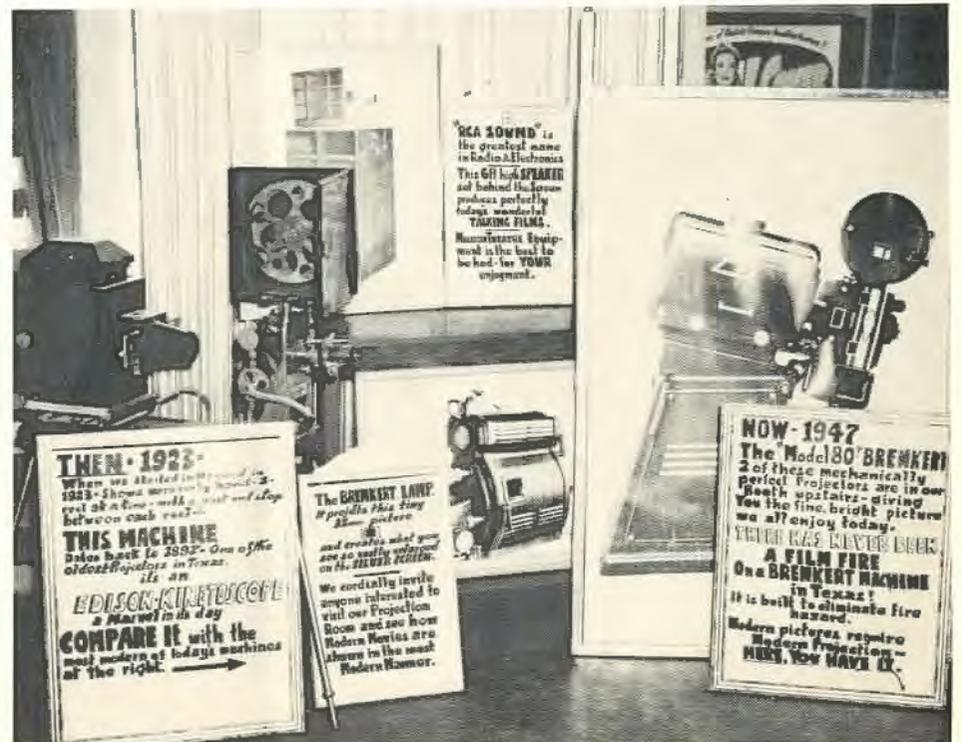
SMALL TOWN EXHIBITOR DRAWS PUBLIC INTEREST WITH SHOWMANSHIP IDEA

Exhibitors are important citizens in any community, but perhaps nowhere is this more clearly realized than in the small town. Here opportunities for showmanship are frequently at their best.

Mr. Henry Reeve of Menard, Texas is a good example of a small town exhibitor alert to maintaining public interest in his business. A recent idea of his serves to illustrate the point.

He felt that his customers would be interested in knowing something about the projection of the pictures they go to see. Therefore, he decided to create a display in the lobby of his Mission Theatre to show the pace of the times in the projection world.

Somehow he had managed to keep his old Edison equipment with which the Mission opened in 1923. This together with "blowups" of his RCA Brenkert equipment and RCA Sound System formed a unique contrasting display which attracted much interest and inquiry on the part of the public. A good percentage of the customers asked to visit the projection booth. The photo below shows the arrangement with informative posters which tell the story. We think you'll agree that Mr. Reeve deserves a lot of credit for a successful idea.



Television Shop Notes

CLIFFSIDE PARK

H. A. Forscutt

"The Big Snow" which blanketed the Northeast late last month found Andy Hilderbrand's group struggling through ice and snow to maintain video service. Frank Long, Art Brophy and Dick Helhoski were snowbound on Dec. 26th. The boys were awakened from their office desks by an irate customer who admitted that he couldn't see his own garage but wanted service or else!

Bob Bucina and George Krause are January grooms with Al Julewicz coming up with an engagement. Also, as you read this, Dick Helhoski should be passing out cigars.

Jack Reefer, ex-pro footballer and new installation man, has a problem getting his 190 lbs. up the ladders without splitting them.

Best wishes go to Jim Helliwell, dispatcher, in his new home.

FORDS

R. C. Gray

Bob and his group fared little better than the Cliffside Park gang in the holiday winter blast. They dug out from under in time to send us the photo below of Frank Schultz — world's fastest typist — so they say. The boys at Fords claim Frank can do the work of three men. At lunch he types with a ham sandwich in one hand and a bottle of milk in the other.



CHICAGO (69th ST.)

W. D. Gould

During a recent call Bill Hess found a 630TS doubling as an electric mouse trap. The mouse had crawled across the corona ring in the high voltage compartment, and Bill wanted to know if removal of the body should be billed to guarantee or demand service.

Verne Ray, who made a thirty-foot jump without the benefit of a parachute came back to work with a cast on his

heel. He'll be filling in as a dispatcher for the next few weeks.

The Christmas rush brought much more than the customary mail to Gould's boys; and since the office used to be a sub-station of the U. S. Postal Dept. there was some suspicion that the local mailman had suffered a lapse of memory when he came in with stacks of installation requests.

CINCINNATI

F. S. Cole, Jr.

Larry Fleming joined the "ball and chain" club recently, and the boys presented the couple with a clock so Larry would make the office on time.

Roy Batteau gave an unscheduled exhibition of RCA test equipment at a local department store when he moved most of the shop to the spot where a 648PTK was acting up.

Phil Boys has his 5-watt rig souped up and is hunting contacts on the East Coast. The local distributor helped the boys start the holidays off right with a bang-up party.

MILWAUKEE

H. W. Johnson

Howard and his boys congratulate Fords on their installation at sea (RCA Service News, Dec.). However, they note that their installation in a local gasoline dispensary is not to be overlooked. With gasoline at 29.1 cents per gallon their motto is "television in every gas station."

Marquardt, O'Malley and Johnson recently solved the housing shortage problem. Marquardt knew someone and rented an apartment. O'Malley bought the furniture so he could get a lease on an apartment. Johnson sold his soul and bought a house—all contributions and orange crates should be sent to 5170 N. Shoreland.

An incident that Howard and his group recall with grim humor involved Fred Lakewitz, present Cambridge manager. During the early tests at WTMJ Fred saw a show unique in the annals of television. The image orth's were trained on lady wrestlers at the local arena; and it can be simply stated that the camera men are still blushing.

ST. LOUIS

S. E. Baker

All hands were needed for the Christmas rush. Ed Steinman was welcomed back from a quality control meeting in Indianapolis while Bob Hayhurst came in from Baltimore and Clyde Leighton returned from Bryn Mawr.

Since electrical interference in Lou Schaeperkoetter's neighborhood is too much for him to enjoy his ham rig he is purchasing one of the 630TS television kits offered to employees.

Fords Shop Sends Photos Of Sea Installation On Pilot Ship



The above are photos of the seagoing installation made by Joe Shuskus of Fords, N. J. shop on the pilot ship "New Jersey" (see RCA Service News, December).

Upper photo shows Joe putting the finishing touches on the antenna installation, while the other picture has one of the pilots standing between Joe (at left) and Bob Gray, Fords manager, with the 630TV set installed.

A special antenna to aid reception and a converter to change over the vessel's direct current were installed along with the television receiver.

Television By Piece-Meal

In Chester, Pa., an unidentified man posing as a television repairman removed parts from six television sets. It was presumed that he is trying to assemble enough parts to build his own instrument.

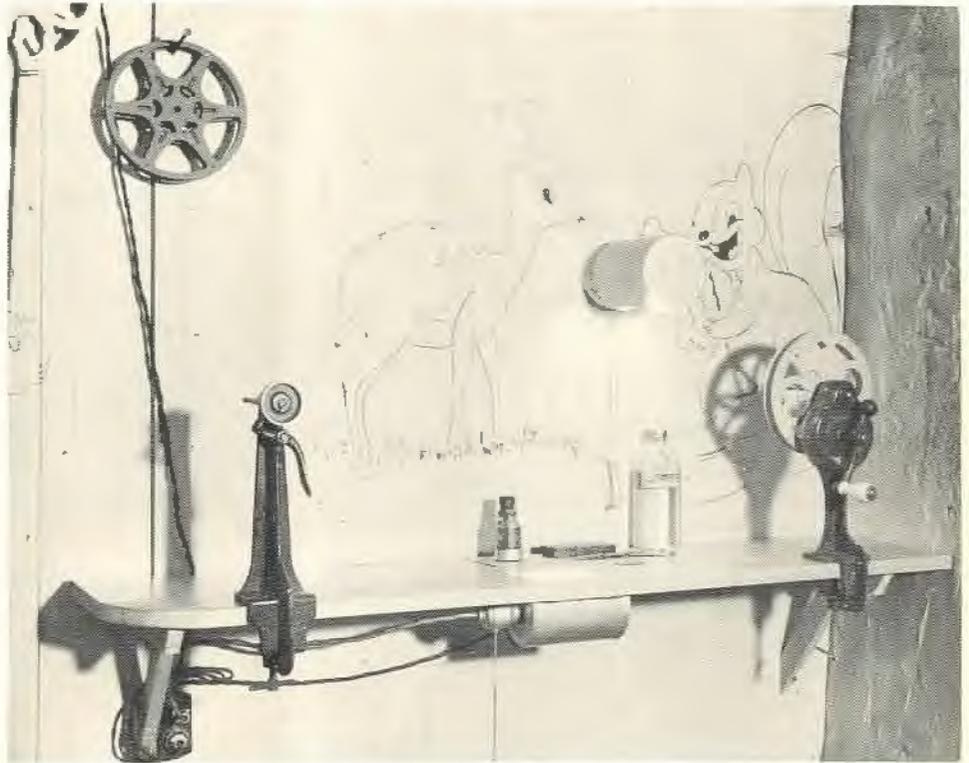
Men in all RCA Television Service Shops are advised to present identification to the owner upon entering his home, and we suggest that he be advised to request same.

Brattleboro, Vt. Theatre Engineer Describes Interesting Spare-time Hobby

When winter comes many outdoor sports fans brave the ice and snow to ski or skate while others seek indoor activities. If you find yourself in the latter class you'll be interested to know about the hobby of C. E. James, Brattleboro, Vt. theatre engineer of the Boston District.

Charley informs us that he can't keep his mind off business entirely so he turns exhibitor in spare moments. To preserve the atmosphere he has built a little theatre in the recreation room of his cellar. The layout includes a small stage, red and blue footlights and house lights on dimmers, 16 mm projector and synchronized turntable, remote controlled traveler and two-way speaker system with high and low frequency units.

"Snow White" figures on the walls round out the setup as you can see from the accompanying photos. Now when winter comes Charley is set for a comfortable evening of entertainment at home.



From Here and There

We get many brief notes from time to time which hand us a laugh or slight chuckle, so we're passing on a few in this issue:

A recent definition of an engineer was passed in the other day, and we'll quote it without comment. "An engineer is a person who passes as an exacting expert on the basis of being able to turn out with prolific fortitude infinite strings of incomprehensible formulae calculated with micromatic precision from vague assumptions which are based on debatable figures taken from inconclusive experiments carried out with instruments of problematical accuracy by persons of doubtful reliability and questionable mentality for the avowed purpose of annoying and confounding a hopeless chimerical group of fanatics referred to all too frequently as Engineers."

In 1933 RCA offered Victor dog salt and pepper shakers for 10c as a promotional item. A few weeks ago, Bryce Metcalfe, Public Relations of RCA, received two letters on the same day, one from New York and one from Virginia, with dimes and requests for sets of shakers. We are baffled by the double delayed action.



A Word To The Wise . . .

In the December issue of the News we included an accident page without comment in the hope that a word to the wise was sufficient. We're apparently catching on to the idea, for the RCA Service Company accident list showed a sharp drop in the past month. Now that we're on the right road let's keep up the good work until this page stands blank except for the monthly safety posters.

Stockman Injures Hand In Warehouse Accident

Frank LaConte, stock mover at the Newark warehouse suffered injuries to his left hand while unloading a truck of aluminum tubing on Dec. 5th. The accident occurred when the driver, who was assisting him, dropped his end of the load. Frank held the balance of the load which slipped from his grasp injuring his hand. One stitch was taken in the wound at City Hospital, Newark. He returned to work after treatment.

Engineer Hurts Shoulder As Car Overturns

A. G. Berg, theatre service engineer of Chicago District, injured his shoulder when his car turned over in a ditch. He was off the job for about a week and a half, but is now back at work.

Engineer Escapes Injury When Car Skids Into Truck

Hal Prosser, theatre servicer from Pittsburgh District, took off on an emergency call at Huntingdon, Pa., on Dec. 4th. The road was slippery, and as Hal attempted to slow down at the foot of a hill he skidded into the rear of a truck. While he was shaken up he wasn't hurt, and lost no time from injuries.

Damage Set At \$600 In Pittsburgh Accident

\$600 damage was the cost of E. R. Lohr's accident plus a shaking up when he was involved in a recent automobile accident. Lohr was fortunate in not losing any time on his job in the Pittsburgh District.

