

Television, Science's Youngster, Starts Wearing Long Trousers

United States and Great Britain Battle Transmission Obstacles, Pave Way for Successful Staging of "See-and-Hear" Radio Shows

By JOSEPH W. LaBINE

In Manhattan's Radio City a few weeks ago fashion mannequins paraded before a strange new camera. In a neighboring building a distinguished audience saw these young women on a miniature motion picture screen, meanwhile hearing their gowns described by a commentator.

In London a movie audience witnessed a program being enacted at Alexandria palace, 30 miles away.

In Philadelphia each day regular motion picture news reels are "fed" to a mysterious new cable. In New York, 90 miles distant, the news reels are viewed on a 7 by 10-inch screen.

Such is the magic of television, a powerful new communication medium whose possibilities are being explored in America by broadcasting and telephone interests, in England by the British Broadcasting company, and in Germany by the state. Each has accomplished something; massed together these accomplishments are tremendous.

In the Western hemisphere greatest television experiments have been made by the Radio Corporation of America and its subsidiary, the National Broadcasting company. Each day in Radio City experimental programs are televised to whoever might be "watching" within the 25 to 35-mile radius that present day television covers.

The "Bugs" Are Gone. Actually, RCA's engineers have already ironed out most of the "bugs" in transmission and developed several great improvements in reception. A studio technique has been devised for handling the iconoscope, or televising camera. A larger cathode ray tube has been perfected to show a 7 by 10-inch image. Another tube projects it to a 3 by 4-foot screen. The sickly

ting the location of artillery fire. Another British accomplishment is the televising of color. Early in December John C. Baird, one of England's pioneers in the field, announced he had transmitted a colored image of the Union Jack. Baird's television system is one of two now in use across the sea, having been started in 1926. BBC began its transmissions in 1932 and three years later the government provided for a research commission to pave the way for general broadcasts.

Movies See Possibilities.

The projection of televised entertainment to a movie theater screen is one of BBC's greatest accomplishments to date. A British motion picture concern is already seeking permission to televise variety programs exclusively to a group of theaters.

Television may eventually fall directly into the motion picture industry's lap, simply because no other entertainment field has perfected a studio technique comparable to that required for successful staging of "shows." Several Hollywood studios

of coaxial cable at \$5,000 a mile. Total cost would be almost \$500,000,000.

Besides RCA and Bell Telephone, other American experimenters with

At Radio City televised broadcasts are guided through the control room (right), out over the mammoth antenna far above Manhattan's streets, and into receivers such as that at the left, where the image is reproduced on a 7 by 10-inch screen.



are already said to be investigating the possibilities. Government control in England has placed a stumbling block in the path of such developments. BBC has a monopoly on television broadcasts and public exhibition of television programs is barred.

America's most popular television question today is: "When do we get it?" Scientists claim the United States leads Great Britain in this development, but that does not make commercial television practical. Though RCA has adopted a 441-line image, Bell Telephone will soon offer 480 lines. Receivers capable of handling one of these images cannot accommodate the other. In other words, definite transmission standards must be established by all participants before television will become practical. Sending and receiving equipment must dovetail in every respect.

Though Americans may envy the British their commercial television, the wise scientists guiding American experiments have saved us millions of dollars. Admitting the embryonic status of their plaything, these men have refused to sponsor receiving sets that would become obsolete almost immediately. Not a single receiver available 18 months ago could be used today!

America's second most popular television question is: "How will it affect the newspapers, magazines, motion pictures and other information-entertainment media?" Since television requires eye attention as well as ear attention, it cannot hope—generally speaking—to win nation-wide audiences except in the evening recreation hours. When people watch and listen to news events their reactions will be much the same as under the present form of radio news coverage. Television will give only the highlights, as much as the ordinary person would see today when watching a big fire. And, as in the case of the fire, the average person will eagerly await his newspaper for complete details. If anything, television is apt to stimulate an interest in newspapers.

Magazine, motion pictures and legitimate stage performances will continue in popularity because Americans are natural gadabouts, unwilling to devote all their recreation time to one given entertainment. Television's biggest audience will come from our present radio listeners. The amount of time spent at receivers will be comparable to our present devotion to the radio.

All we need, then, is greater transmission distance, cheaper "piping" facilities and standardized transmission and receiving equipment. Whether these developments are just around the corner or a few miles ahead, we can't say for certain. But this much is true—no one is scoffing at the scientific infant. Some day it will grow up and stand right in the eyes!

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Floyd Gibbons' ADVENTURERS' CLUB



HEADLINES FROM THE LIVES OF PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF!

"John Dunker's Jump"

By FLOYD GIBBONS
Famous Headline Hunter

HELLO, EVERYBODY:

Well, by golly, today we have with us a guy who has chased old lady Adventure in some of the farthest corners of the globe. His chase ended after he had followed her all over South Africa, and finally ran her to earth in Gwelo, in Matabeleland, way up in the middle of southern Rhodesia. This guy's name is John Dunker, and today he lives in Brooklyn, N. Y. But along about the turn of the century, he was fighting with the South African Colonial cavalry in the Boer war.

John didn't class the Boer war as an adventure, though. The yarn he crashes into the Adventurers' club with happened after that mixup was all over. After John's regiment was paid off and disbanded, he went up to Bulawayo—went broke there and, hearing of a job up in Gwelo, a hundred and fifteen miles to the north, trekked up there on foot.

The old timers in that district thought he was crazy to attempt such a thing. They figured it must be at least a ten-million dollar diamond mine that induced him to take such risks. But all John was after was a job—and all he got out of his trip was a good sock from that old adventure lady he'd been chasing.

John says that that adventure was the biggest single thrill of his life, and I believe him. He says: "I had nice curly hair back in 1902, and every kink of it stood at attention when the thing happened—or rather, after it happened. For actually I did not know I was having an adventure until some two and a half seconds after it was all over."

John landed his job in Gwelo, and went right to work. It was a job that called for a lot of horseback riding—but that didn't bother a guy who had walked more than a hundred miles just to get the doggone job. Also, it was a job that called for crossing the Gwelo river at frequent intervals. And it was the river that put John in the way of adventure.

He Would Jump Across the River.

The Gwelo river was one of those streams you just couldn't figure out. In the rainy season it could be a rushing, raging torrent. But at other times of the year, it was nothing but a dry bed, cut through by a



The "Tree Trunk" Had Its Jaws Wide Open.

little trickle of water that a man could jump over. It ran down to the Zambezi, one of the biggest rivers in Africa, and it was usually full of crocodiles, and queer fish, and other strange and awesome denizens of the African waters.

The place where John worked was on one side of the Gwelo and the corral where the horses were kept was on the other. In the rainy season, when the river was high, you had to go the long way, over the bridge, to get to the horses, but in the dry season, John used to save time by going straight across. That was easy, because the river was narrow enough so that you could make it with a good leap. And John always made his crossing at a certain spot where the bank was steep and there was a dead tree trunk lying on the other side.

He would get up speed by running down the high-sided bank, take a broad jump across the water, and land on the tree trunk on the opposite side. He did it again and again, and never thought that there might be any danger in such a simple stunt. But that's the thing about danger. You never know where it's liable to be lurking.

Well, sir, one day John had a job to do that took him to a mine over at Selukwe, and he had to have his horse to make the trip. He started out for the river, turning over in his mind the things he had to do that day, and was deep in thought when he reached the top of the bank.

It Felt Wrong, and It Was.

He raced down the bank, made his running jump, and landed on the dead tree as usual, but there was something about that tree trunk that wasn't as it should be. It felt peculiar when John landed on it. And it seemed to him that the doggone thing moved a bit when he lit. It was only for a fraction of a second that the feeling went through him—a lot shorter time than it takes to tell it—but it was enough to make him move faster than usual, getting off that log.

The bank in front of him was as high and as steep as the one he had run down on the other side. Usually, he took his time about climbing to the top. But this time, impelled by his hunch that something was wrong, he gave a leap that sent him half-way to the top, and had scrambled the rest of the way before he stopped to look back.

What John saw from the top of the bank sort of amazed him, at first. But his amazement soon gave way to another sort of feeling altogether. The first thing he noticed was that he hadn't crossed the river in his usual place at all. The tree trunk he usually stepped on was lying near the bank ten or fifteen yards downstream. In his preoccupation, he had crossed the river in the wrong place.

And what was that thing John had mistaken for the tree trunk? Well, that's what gave him the shock of his life. When he turned to look from the top of the bank, the first thing he noticed was that that tree trunk had started out of the water after him. It had its jaws wide open, that tree trunk did, and it had a couple of beady little eyes that seemed to be registering disappointment over the fact that it had just missed as juicy a morsel as had ever jumped right smack at it.

Yep—you're right. That tree trunk was a full-grown, MAN-EATING CROCODILE! "How did I feel then?" says John. "Well, at that moment, every experience I'd ever had in my life faded right into insignificance."

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The Deer's Leap

The National Bureau of Standards says that if the deer started his leap with sufficient force to complete it, he would complete the leap, alive or dead; that is, unless some force, such as a bullet striking him, decreased his speed, or he changed his position in such a way as to strike the far side in landing.

Polar Eskimos Friendly

Polar Eskimos are a friendly, happy people who live farther north than any other human beings. They rove the Arctic from Greenland to Alaska. Skin tents are their habitation during the brief summer, snow igloos their winter homes. Their food, save for a few birds eggs and berries, is exclusively flesh—the seal, bear, fox, whale walrus and reindeer being the provider. They are prodigious eaters hence their plumpness and perhaps their good nature.

Ship Route Is "Inside Passage"

For about a thousand miles along the coast of British Columbia and Alaska there is a remarkable steamship route known as the "Inside Passage" or "safe way." A great system of islands, the exposed summits of the insular mountain range paralleling the coast, gives shelter from the main ocean.

Needle-Shedding Conifers

The larch is the only tree in the North, and the cypress the only tree in the South among our native conifers which drop all of their needles each year. Most conifers lose only a fractional part of their needles during the fall season. Brown coloration and falling off of the white pine needles on last year's twigs is a well known example of this partial defoliation by natural habit. The larches produce an entirely new supply of bright green needles in spring.

All-Purpose Gloves Crocheted Lengthwise

Nimble fingers are busily crocheting these lovely woolly gloves that so closely follow the vogue. They're quick to do—two flat identical pieces whipped together—with a gusset for that wrist flare. Use either yarn or string for end-



Pattern 5676.

less durability. Just wait till you see how easy they are to do! In pattern 5676 you will find directions for making these gloves; an illustration of them and of all stitches used; material requirements.

To obtain this pattern send 15 cents in stamps or coins (coins preferred) To The Sewing Circle, Household Arts Dept., 259 W. 14th Street, New York, N. Y.

Please write your name, address and pattern number plainly.

A Smart Artist

An Italian artist, after some argument on the subject, undertook to show all sorts of views of a man at one glance, and he did it in this way. He painted a man, turning his back to the spectators, and having at his feet some smooth water, in which the front view was reflected; on one side of him was a polished corset which he had taken off, on which was plainly reflected his left profile, while on the other hand was a mirror, in which might be clearly seen his other side.



He Who Trusts The man who trusts men will make fewer mistakes than he who distrusts them.—Cavour.

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