

Crossley, Amateurs Work College Radio Station W3YA

"This is the 'Crossley Corporation's' station, W3YA, State College, Pa.," could very well be the announcement of the college amateur station, directed by Gilbert L. Crossley, professor of electrical engineering.

First licensed in 1912 as Station 8XE, the college's amateur station has been in almost continuous operation since that time, though for periods of several years it was licensed as a commercial broadcasting station, removing it from the amateur class. It was issued one of the first licenses under the Federal Licensing Act of 1912.

Dates from 1912
The founding of W3YA really dates back before 1912, to the late winter and early spring of 1909-10, when the electrical engineering department undertook the first experimental and instructional work in communication by radio. A few hundred dollars' worth of equipment, including an aerial, was installed in Engineering F, a wooden building.

In 1912, a severe and destructive sleet storm heavily damaged telegraph lines of many of the railways, seriously hampering train operations. At this time, the Pennsylvania Railroad, recognizing the need for more dependable communications, offered to cooperate with the electrical engineering department in the development of radio for industrial use.

P.R.R. Assists
The P.R.R. assisted in procuring a steel tower for the station, and the task of development was completed fairly well by 1916-17, when formal radio courses first opened at the College.

After noteworthy experiments carried on between State College and Harrisburg to determine the effect of mineral deposits on overland transmission, 8XE was closed and the equipment sealed during World War I. Activities in radio continued, as a Signal Corps officers' training unit was set up. Thousands of volunteers and drafted men were trained for communications work in both Army and Navy until 1919, when the station reopened.

Crossley Takes Over
In 1919, Gilbert L. Crossley, then an undergraduate student with considerable radio experience, took charge of the operation of the station. He built the first crude broadcast transmitter for the station in 1921.

From 1922 to 1932, commercial broadcasting was carried on, with a considerable delay in operations beginning in November 1928. Federal experimental restrictions at that time returned the station to amateur status, with its license renewed as W8XE and Technical Training School license W8YA. Commercial activities were halted by the Federal Radio Commission on June 22, 1932, because of necessary equipment changes which could not be financed.

Member of System
W8YA as a member of the Army Amateur Radio System, on May 21, 1934, was designated Army Net Control (ANC) 2, with the call letters WLMA added. In that capacity, it alternated with WLM in the Munitions Building, Washington, D.C.

During the disastrous statewide floods of 1936, contacts were made with Pittsburgh, Johnstown, Altoona, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Williamsport, and later with DuBois. Official and Red Cross messages from Washington and Baltimore also were handled. Professor Crossley and eleven student volunteers maintained a full watch from 7 p.m. March 19, 1936 until 5 a.m. March 22, 1936.

Momentous Flashes
Doubtless the most momentous

news flashes picked up and relayed by W3YA were those on the evening of December 7, 1941 when the news of Pearl Harbor was leaking out to a stunned nation. Soon after the declaration of war, the college amateur station was again closed because of wartime security restrictions on amateur stations.

Since the end of fighting, W3YA is again established as an official relay station of the Amateur Radio Relay League network in western Pennsylvania. The station, having no assigned frequency, can be picked up on any amateur band.

New Members
The group of professors and townspeople who form the organization will accept interested new members, the first requisite for admittance being possession of an amateur operator's license.

W3YA is continuing its free service to students, sending radiograms to friends in any part of this country, or to GIs overseas. Any message received by 5 p.m. will be transmitted the same evening, if it is left at the station on West College avenue behind the power plant.

Late AP News

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farmers intend to plant slightly larger acreages than during the past two seasons.

Weather Reports
ALASKA—An Army Air Forces B-29 has started what are expected to be routine weather reports from the top of the world. No effort was made to keep the flight a secret, and the plane sent a weather report from the North Pole in uncoded message available to all other nations listening in. The B-29 flew from the Army Air Base near Fairbanks, Alaska, and returned to its field early Tuesday morning.

Sugar Black Market
NEW MEXICO—In Albuquerque, New Mexico, a federal grand jury has accused the Doctor Pepper Company and its associates in the soft drink business of conspiracy to divert 1,250,000 of ra-

Purple Mood Creator



"The boys overseas during the war loved wild jazz" said Elliot Lawrence in an interview for *Time*, but now that they are back in the States they want sweet music." He added that, "They just want to put their arm around the girl friend and romance slowly."

Lawrence's orchestra, playing here for the Military Ball on March 29, features a symphonic wind section (bassoon, oboe, French horn, and English horn along with a clarinet), which he calls a "woodwindette."

"We're trying to get more classical sounds," he said, "and that way we get sort of a purple mood."

tioned sugar into the black market. In Dallas, a spokesman for the parent bottling company expressed complete surprise at the indictments.

No Aid for Yugoslavia

WASHINGTON—Congress was not the only place in Washington where there was discussion on aid to needy foreign nations. The State Department ruled out Yugoslavia from any share in the pending relief appropriation of \$350,000,000. The State Department also refused to let Marshal Tito's government buy some 100,000 tons of grain in this country. The reasons—lack of acceptable evidence that Yugoslavia really needs help, and suspicion that food already sent has not been distributed efficiently.

Acheson Testifies

WASHINGTON—Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson will resume his testimony today before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on the administration's proposal to help Greece and Turkey combat communism. Yesterday Acheson predicted that the Truman plan will not lead to war with Russia, and he said that aid

Sororities—

(Continued from page three)

turns her preferential ballot to Mr. Carruthers, he notifies each fraternity of the girls that have accepted its invitation. In this way a girl does not know definitely how many fraternities have bidden her."

Coeds Vote on "Going National"

When the question of "going national" came up in 1924, a questionnaire was submitted to each coed on the club question. A few of the questions and results follow:

Are girls at State College able financially to support a sorority? Yes—38. No—71.

Have clubs raised the scholastic standards? Yes—89. No—38.

Have clubs raised the moral standard of the girls? Yes—71. No—46.

Do clubs keep their alumnae in closer touch with their Alma Mater? Yes—211. No—24.

The vote taken among girls to decide on permanent existence found 149 in favor, 81 against. An editorial in the Collegian held that national fraternities would give Penn State greater prestige and respect in collegiate circles.

Chi Omega was the first national in September 1926, and others soon followed. Panhellenic, formerly Campus Clubs Council, was organized October 28, 1930.

Five Cottages Offered

Five campus cottages were made available to the clubs in 1928. The clubs chose the houses in order of the clubs' founding.

In a letter Dean Ray said, "It is the aim of our college to provide either houses or lodges in the near future for the girls' social clubs and fraternities. Because of the continuous development of buildings planned for the next few years, it is not possible now to establish any permanent policy on fraternity houses."

And sororities are still forming. In 1946 Beta Sigma Omicron, Delta Delta Delta, and Delta Zeta were organized nationally. Aldebaran is petitioning Alpha Gamma Delta for national recognition, and the total of sororities on the campus is now 19.

to the two countries should not be considered an extension of the Monroe Doctrine throughout the world.

Acheson added that neither should it be assumed that the same policy will be pursued in other countries.

Fishburn Says Band Needs New Outfits

"The band needs uniforms. They would look more presentable with new ones," said Hummel Fishburn, director of music, in an interview yesterday.

According to Mr. Fishburn, the uniforms are in bad shape from disuse rather than use. When the uniforms were taken out of storage last fall, moth holes were found.

New uniforms can only be obtained by a student vote on the All-College elections ballot to assess themselves for the amount. If the student body approved the amount would be added to the fees.

"I estimate that 50 cents per student would do it," said Mr. Fishburn. "In my opinion we don't need new overcoats, which are the most expensive part. We need just jackets, trousers, and hats."

The director suggested that at the same time some sort of rain jackets be purchased to save the uniforms and also the heavy overcoats are uncomfortable on warm, rainy days.

Debate—

(Continued from page one)

Schools sending delegates to the convention are Geneva College, Lehigh University, University of Pennsylvania, Westminster College, Allegheny College, University of Pittsburgh, St. Francis College, Seton Hill College, Dickinson College.

Slippery Rock State Teachers College, Susquehanna University, Bucknell University, Misericordia College, Mt. Mercy College, Shippensburg State Teachers College, Temple University, and Washington & Jefferson College.

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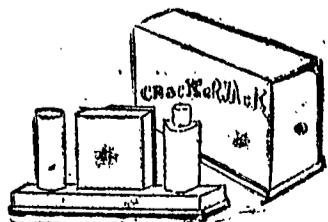


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