Television Programs
Received at 22 Miles on Home-Made Set
Richard W. Emery

California experimenter picks up telecasts regularly in home

as television progressed, and has kept the station advised of reception in Long Beach. For several years he was the only outside looker-in on the Los Angeles television broadcasts.

Gradually, through interest of the Hollywood Television Society, additional sets were built and put in operation. The society meets regularly. It has recognized Howell's contribution to television by giving him its first citation to honorary membership, an honor later awarded to Dr. Lee de Forest of Los Angeles, Dr. R. D. Lemert of Hollywood and Harry R. Lubcke, director of television for the Don Lee Broadcasting System.

Howell has been operating his receiving set at his home in Long Beach, and his nightly guest-list attests the great interest which the public now has in television. He has had as many as thirty visitors in one evening, to see one of the television programs. In his set a nine-inch tube is used in the receiver, which gives a picture 6½ by 7¼ inches when masked down.

The principal problem in television in the Los Angeles area at present is that of power. The television broadcasts are made on 1000 watts and, around the outskirts of the metropolitan area.

(Continued on page 234)

For August, 1939
Television—22 Miles

area, even slight interference causes distortion or interruption. Diathermy machines and automobile ignition systems are the worst offenders in this regard. Howell believes that if the power were stepped up to 10,000 watts, reception would be tremendously improved. Within five miles of the station, however, little interference is now being experienced by lookers-in.

Howell has found that a vertical dipole antenna with a parasitic reflector, 70 feet above the ground, helps greatly to overcome the lack of power in signals received. Images on his set are sufficiently bright to permit excellent photographs to be taken of them, with fast film and ten-second exposure.

Keen interest of the California television fans shows itself at the meetings of the Hollywood Television Society. Recently, at one of the society's gatherings, 100 spectators watched a program being received on a nine-inch tube. Most of those 100, as should be expected, went away even more keenly interested in television.

Frank Andrews, "Around the World" commentator on W6XAO, planned and executed recently a program believed to be the world's first attempt at visual education in the public schools by television. Members of the Hollywood Television Society installed receivers in public schools in Los Angeles and Long Beach, the University of Southern California, Pomona College and other schools, for reception of a telecast dramatization of the crossing of the Pacific by Pan-American Airways clipper. The Los Angeles Board of Education and the Pan-American company cooperated in the venture, which was outstandingly successful.

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