WCFL Is on the Air with Television Programs

By VIRGIL A. SCHOENBERG, Chief Engineer Station WCFL

FULFILLING the forecast made in the Spring issue of WCFL Radio Magazine, "The Voice of Farmer-Labor" is now broadcasting television signals. This notable achievement was accomplished many weeks sooner than promised. The first broadcast of human images was conducted during the early part of the evening of June 19. This was quickly followed by another on the afternoon of June 26. And now WCFL is preparing to broadcast motion pictures. In fact, this may be accomplished even before this issue of the magazine reaches its readers. WCFL is the real pioneer in television in this area, and may be depended upon to lead the way to the fullest realization of the advantages of this latest addition to modern conveniences.

Station WCFL conducts two television broadcasts each weekday. From 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. the signals are sent out over a short wave—6125 meters, using the call letters 9XAA. From 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. the regular WCFL aural wave length of 451.6 meters, or 620 kilocycles, is used. Splendid results have been obtained on both wave lengths. Reports have been received from fans in Davenport, Ia., Rockford, Ill., Benton Harbor, Mich., and from many points in Indiana, as well as from scores in Chicago. Where the fans are properly equipped to pick up the signals, the pictures come in with remarkable clarity.

Just how long or both of these broadcasts will continue—or just when the program will be further expanded—depends, of course, upon sanction of the Federal Radio commission. The initial broadcasts in June were conducted under special one-day permits. Authority to use a short-wave channel for television experimentation for a period of sixty days was received by WCFL on June 28. Permission to use the station's regular wave length for a schedule of television broadcasts was granted on August 24, this permit being for only thirty days. Both permits are, of course, subject to renewal. Additional broadcasts will, no doubt, be sanctioned when public interest seems to warrant.

The WCFL television booth and apparatus are located in the station's workshop and laboratory in the north tower of the Navy pier.

The television broadcast on the evening of June 19 was truly an epochal event. It was the first ever conducted successfully on a wavelength within the crowded sphere of frequencies reserved for standard radio programs. It was also the first television broadcast from a station in the Chicago area. Broadcasts...
previously made from eastern stations had all been
short waves. Many engineers had contended that
the broadcasting of television signals requires such
a wide band that it cannot be accomplished on the
higher channels without causing serious interference
to radio stations using adjacent bands. They insisted
that there is not room enough for television broad-
casts in the realm of higher wavelengths. However,
WCFL had no difficulty in confining its television
signals within in range of 500 cycles. In fact, the
television signals could be tuned out more sharply
than either vocal or instrumental broadcasts.

To E. N. Nockels, secretary of the Chicago Fed-
eration of Labor and manager of Station WCFL,
goes the honor of being the first person to be te-
vised on a standard radio wavelength. Televised—
that's a new word for your vocabulary. Mr. Nockels
was the first subject placed in the booth on the
evening of June 19. For a considerable period his
image was flashed out over the ether.

The signals were successfully picked up by a televi-
sion receiving set located in the Electricians hall,
47 North Ogden Avenue, Chicago, several miles west
of the sending station. A little group of television
experimenters and reporters gathered around the
receiving set and each in turn was able to dis-
tinguish the likeness of Mr. Nockels and to note his
facial movements. Reports were also received from
several other television experimenters who were able
to pick up the signals.

Later in the evening John Fitzpatrick, president of
the Chicago Federation of Labor, visited the
WCFL laboratory and was promptly ushered into
the television booth. He was followed by his son,
John, Jr. Several other people were also televised
during the evening, including a woman radio ex-
perimenter who pick up the television signals on
her radio receiver and set out immediately for the
WCFL laboratory, arriving there before the hour of
broadcasting had been concluded.

Two periods of television broadcasting were con-
ducted on the afternoon of June 26, the first from
4:40 to 5:15 and the second from 5:40 to 6:10. A
unique feature of this experiment was that the signals
were picked up by a receiving set placed in a giant
airplane which toured the skies over the western
part of Chicago. Thus WCFL set another pioneering
record by being the first television broadcast to be
picked up by an airplane.

The television broadcasts on June 26 were con-
ducted as a compliment to the Kiwanis club of Forest

(Continued on Page 62)
On the Air with Television
(Continued from Page 13)

Park, one of the western suburbs of Chicago. On that date members of the club held a meeting while touring over Chicago in two giant airplanes—the first meeting of that kind ever held up in the air. The demonstration was staged by the Kiwanians as a protest against the government abandoning the Mayfield flying field as a government airport.

When a regular schedule of short-wave broadcasts was commenced only images of the frequency chart were used for a considerable time, due to the fact that only a few amateurs were then equipped to receive television signals and even these few were having difficulty in getting reasonably clear reception.

The frequency chart is a placard with alternate black and white stripes or with checkered design, which is broadcast at the beginning of a television schedule in order to enable the receivers to tune in their sets. It is simple enough to tune a radio set until the squeals and howls give way to pleasant sounds but it is more difficult to “tune in” television signals unless the image being broadcast is of simple design.

Many reports have been received from amateurs who have been able to pick up the WCFL television broadcasts, and this number, of course, is increasing rapidly. Inquiries also are flooding both the station and WCFL Radio Magazine office. There is a widespread and increasing interest in television. WCFL is doing everything possible to foster this interest.

WCFL Radio Magazine, 1928