

# Television Heard at Johannesburg

## ALEXANDRA PALACE PROGRAMMES

Johannesburg, Nov. 15.

A local amateur, Mr. Pleass, is making radio history, regularly picking up the London television transmissions from the Alexandra Palace.

Since October 13 he has been hearing London's television girls announcing and listening to programmes, including the tour of Southampton docks and other items.

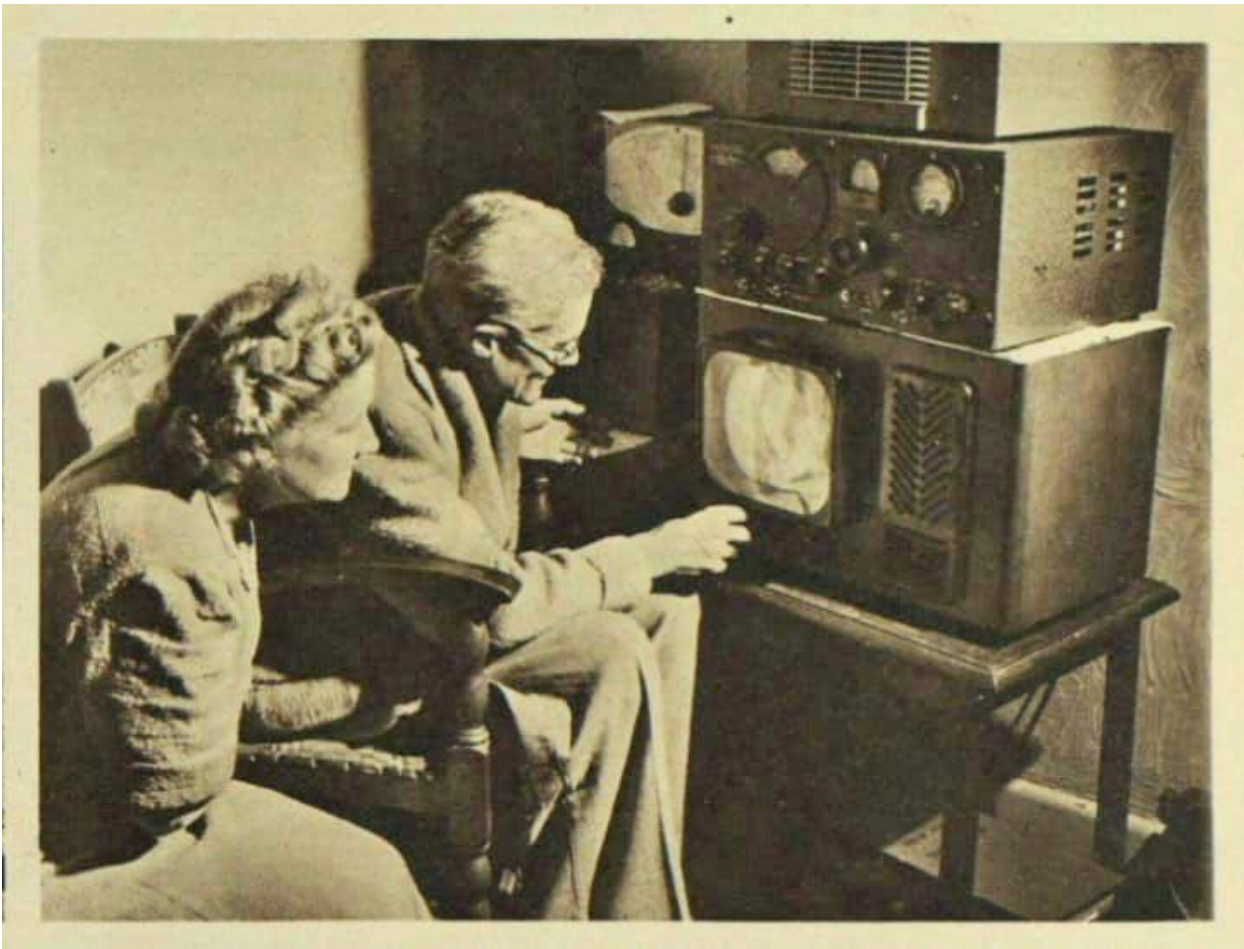
The vision sounds were also picked up, but as Mr. Pleass has not a television receiver he has not utilised them.

Local radio engineers are amazed as these seven-metre transmissions are designed only for reception within a 40-mile radius of London after which they were believed to vanish into space—or to earth.

Mr. Pleass, who was an early radio pioneer, is getting London television with strength and consistency equalling normal Daventry transmissions. He also heard a Californian transmission on five metres, but is uncertain whether it may be the harmonics of a higher wave length. He is awaiting postal confirmation.

The Hong Kong Telegraph, November 25, 1936

Courtesy of Harry Moore



Illustrated London News - November 6, 1948

MR. HENRY RIEDER AND MRS. RIEDER, Freak conditions enabled Mr. Rieder, radio amateur in Cape Town, to pick up a television programme transmitted from Alexandra Palace some 6000 miles away. It is possible to pick up these transmissions from London only twice year—that is, in March and October, when midsummer is halfway between South Africa and Britain. Television experts of the B.B.C. anticipated these freak conditions and arranged a few weeks ago for a television set to be sent to Mr. Henry Rieder, and on Saturday, October 23, he radioed London that he was watching fire-fighting demonstration, and gave details which were not mentioned by the announcer, in order to confirm this. He stated that it was a bit spotty," but that for fifteen minutes it was very good. He fiddled with it a little," he said, in order to bring it up clear, and once he got it, it held steady.

Courtesy of Harry Moore

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Comment from Steve McVoy:

When I lived in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in the early 60s, there was an article in a local paper about a ham radio operator near me who regularly received 6 meter transmissions from Europe. I visited him, and he demonstrated the reception. He also said it only happened twice a year.