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Millions See TV Better As Stations Boost Power

By WAYNE OLIVER

NEW YORK. Aug. 18.—(AP) Millions of set owners for the first time are seeing television as it should be seen as a result of the boost in power by more than 40 of the nation's 107 stations.

Those at some distances from stations or in bad reception areas who formerly received washed out, jumpy images now are getting clear, steady pictures. The power boosts also have brought several million more persons within practical range of television for the first time. Although the increased power did not greatly

increase the range of stations since the signals travel in a straight line and not follow the earth's curvature—there were modest increases in coverage in most cases.

The higher power broadcasts have made it practical for many prospective set owners to have television with ordinary low cost antennas instead of the expensive towers and equipment formerly needed in their areas.

The improvement in reception has been little short of spectacular in some cases, such as that of WPEX, the New York News station here. At the same time it boosted its power by six times, WPEX moved its antenna site from the top of the News building to the new Central TV atop the Empire State Building.

Previously, reception from the station had been none too good in many parts of the metropolitan New York area, which has 2,400,000 sets. After the power boost and switchover to the new antenna location, the station was flooded with messages from viewers which were pretty well summed up by one who wrote from Middletown, N. Y., that "it was like having the sun come out bright all of a sudden on a dark, cloudy day."

WHAS-TV in Louisville, Ky., boosted its power nearly five times to become the most powerful in the country. WTVJ in Miami upped its power more than 10 times, and WTBN in Columbus more than trebled its power, as did WAVE-TV in Louisville, and WJZ-TV and WNBET in New York.

The Federal Communications Commission authorized the power increases as the first step toward ending its long freeze on television stations, since Oct. 1, 1948, and opening up new areas to video. The next step, due by the end of this year or early 1952, will be the licensing of additional stations on the present 12 channels and on 70 more closely resembling them.

The "Trichobatrachus Robustus" is one frog that has a skin of fila-

new channels to be opened in high-frequencies.

Painless Commercials

Filmed for Video

Hollywood TV Producer Morris M. Wein contends he has come up with a painless television commercial.

Wein has made a series of TV motion pictures—starring Charles Coburn and Spring Byington—in which the only advertising is the appearance of the sponsors' products in the scene as they are used by the actors or would be seen normally in the home.

As an added gimmick, however, there is an announcement at the beginning of each film of prizes for viewers who can correctly identify the products and list them on a postcard to the station.

Wein says such commercials will avoid irritating viewers and be just as effective for the sponsors as those with vocal accompaniment making the most of the visual impact of TV.

"Nobody reads you a newspaper advertisement, a billboard or a magazine ad," he observes. "Visual advertising is still basic."

Just in case sponsors don't go for the idea, however, Wein has filmed the same series "without any brand name items in evidence, to be used with the customary opening, middle and closing commercials."

He also has signed Margaret O'Brien for a teen-age series.

The one-half-hour films cost \$22,500 each and Wein says they are shot exactly as if they were intended for theater showing. He says the stars, signed to seven-year contracts, do very well financially because of the frequency of their appearances.

Disc Jockeys' Week

Begins Tomorrow

The disc jockey, long a mainstay of radio but seldom receiving the fanfare accorded other performers, will come into his own next week.

The period of Aug. 20 through Aug. 26 has been designated as National Disc Jockey Week.

How many disc jockeys are there? Two authorities in the field, Frank Burke, editor of Radio Daily, and Joe Cicala, editor of Billboard, say there are 11,750 of them.

Lou Leeds, head of Leeds Music Corp., says disc jockeys wield a strong influence on the public's taste in music and on the success or failure of a new tune.

The "Trichobatrachus Robustus" is one frog that has a skin of fila-

ments closely resembling hair.

ON TELEVISION TODAY

11:30 A.M.—Firing Tigers Adventure—(5)

12:45—History of Your Hands; Charles F. McCarthy—(4)

2:00—Baseball: Yankees vs. Athletics—(5), (11)

4:30—Our Pet Parade—(7)

4:30—Top Bands: Pots from Lincoln Park Zoo—(4)

5:00—Super Circus: Battie Ward and her trained young elephant—(7)

6:00—Shriek in the Night; with Ginger Rogers and Leslie Townes—(7)

6:30—Star of the Family, costarring Peter Lind Hayes and Harry Healy—(2)

7:00—Leave It to the Girls; with Mike Frankovich, former football star and new movie producer as guest—(4)

7:00—Summertime Revue—Singers: Betty Reilly and Dancer Joan Holloway—(2)

7:30—Meet the Press; Carlisle Hinsdale, state department personnel—(4)

8:00—American Inventory: The Later Years; Dr. Louis L. Dublin, vice president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance company—(4)

9:45—Children's Theater: Adventure Time—(10 A.M.)

10:15—WNET-4 Adventure Time—(10 A.M.)

11:15 A.M.—Children's Hour—Off the Air—(10 A.M.)

12:15—WNET-4 Children's Hour—(10 A.M.)

1:30—WNET-4 Flying Tigers—(10 A.M.)

2:30—WNET-4 Flying Tigers—(10 A.M.)

3:00—WNET-4 Flying Tigers—(10 A.M.)

4:00—WNET-4 Off the Air—(10 A.M.)

4:30—WNET-4 Yankee Game—(10 A.M.)

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