

America's Leading Broadcasters

At present the best heard American broadcasters are the high power transmitters. There are 28 using 50 kw. and one (WLW) using 500 kw. All of these stations carry network programmes except WOR Newark, WGN Chicago, and KNX Hollywood. WOR, WGN, and WLW are sometimes linked together for quality programmes. There are five networks in North America. The two NBC chains have about 100 stations with an average power of 17 kw. The 100 CBS stations average 5 kw. The CRC has 50 stations with an average power of 1 kw., and the 20 ABS stations average 1.5 kw. The last two chains have no 50 kw. affiliates. There are seven 50 kw. stations in the CBS. Of the 22 NBC associates, four carry WJZ programmes, five WEAJ features, and the others carry both.

Most of the high power stations are located about 25 miles from the centres of the cities. They generally come on the air at about 7 a.m. local time and close down at midnight or 1 a.m. WLW is on the air from 6.30 a.m. to 2 a.m. E.S.T. The increase in 50 kw. stations has been fairly rapid. Five years ago there were only eight on the air. Transatlantic reception of America should be improved with this increase in power.

New England is served by two stations, WBZ Boston 990, and WTIC Hartford 1040. WBZ is one of the pioneer stations of the country. It went on the air in 1921. It was first located at Springfield, but has now been moved closer to Boston. A booster station for Springfield WBZA 1 kw. is synchronised with WBZ on 990 kc. A short wave transmitter WIXAZ carries the programmes to other lands. WBZ carries WJZ programmes. WTIC is heard well in the British Isles. WEAJ programmes are radiated.

New York City has four 50 kw. stations. WEAJ transmits from Long Island, and WABC, WOR, WJZ from New Jersey. All but WOR are key stations for major networks. WJZ was opened in 1921; this was really the start of the radio boom in America. WJZ was then located in Newark. Its transmitter is now located at Bound Brook, New Jersey. W3XAL radiates the programmes on short waves. The studios of WJZ and WEAJ are in Radio City; WAP's headquarters are at 485 Madison Avenue; WOR broadcasts from Newark. The programmes of WABC are heard throughout the world via W2XBE.

Upstate New York has two 50kw. stations, WHAM Rochester 1150, and WGY Schenectady 790. Rochester is heard very well in both New York and Ontario. It belongs to the WJZ chain. Many fine musical programmes come from the city of Rochester. WGY, the General Electric station, is heard best through the short wave transmitters W2XAD and W2XAF. WEAJ programmes are relayed. In the early days of short waves W2XAD was often heard testing with G5SW and W2XAF with VK2ME.

Pennsylvania has two high power broadcasters, WCAU Philadelphia 1170, and KDKA Pittsburgh 980. WCAU is the key station of the Dixie network of the CBS. Programmes go out on short waves via W3CAU. KDKA has maintained a regular schedule longer than any other station in the world. It is now in its fifteenth

year of broadcasting. The WJZ network programmes are radiated to America on 980 kc. and to the world through W8XK. Many interesting and unusual broadcasts have been heard from this pioneer Westinghouse station.

Turning to the South we find four 50 kw. stations. WBT Charlotte, North Carolina 1080 and WHAS Louisville, Kentucky 820 are CBS affiliates. WSB Atlanta, Georgia 740 and WSM Nashville, Tennessee 650 belong to the NBC chain. WBT is heard very well as far north as Pennsylvania. Louisville is in the centre of the famous Kentucky blue-grass region. WSB "covers Dixie like the dew." The southern drawl of the Atlanta announcers is well known to American listeners. Nashville is called the "Athens of the South." WSM's transmitting mast is one of the highest in the world, reaching to 878 feet. The most famous programme of this station is the "Grand Old Opry," now in its tenth year. It is broadcast each Saturday night from 8 p.m. to midnight, CST, and consists of barn dance music, banjo players, old mountain ditties, cowboy tunes—a cross-section of rural America. The programme is popular throughout the entire nation.

Ohio has WTAM Cleveland 1070, member of the WEAJ chain, and WLW Cincinnati 700 NBC associate. The former is well heard in western Ontario, which lies just across Lake Erie. WLW has been operating since May 2, 1934 on 500 kw. It is located near the centre of population of the United States and is heard better than any other station. Daylight reception is provided to a distance of 400 miles. The station is heard as well as if it were surrounded by a ring of 50 kw. stations at a distance of 200 miles. At night the station is heard well within a radius of 2500 miles. W8XAL relays WLW on short waves.

There are three 50 kw. stations in

Chicago. WENR-WLS 870 and WMAQ 670 are affiliates, and WGN 720 is an independent. W9XF relays the programmes of WENR. WGN broadcasts from the Drake Hotel. There are three high power midwest stations. WCCO Minneapolis 810 and KMOX St. Louis 1090 are members of the CBS. WHO Des Moines is an NBC station. These broadcasters serve the rich farming area of this region.

Texas listeners have WOAI San Antonio 1190 and WBAP-WFAA Fort Worth-Dallas 800, both NBC stations. They carry many interesting programmes to all parts of the southwest. The plains country of Texas is famous for cattle. Two 50 kw. Mexican border stations are heard well in Texas, XEPN Piedras Negras 590 and XENT Nuevo Laredo 910. Rocky Mountain listeners receive NBC programmes through KOA Denver 830 and CBS programmes through KSL Salt Lake City 1130. The famous Mormon choir is frequently heard from Salt Lake over the CBS chain.

On the Pacific coast KPO San Francisco 680 radiates NBC features with 50 kw. power. California is famed throughout the world for its climate. In the southern part of the state KFI Los Angeles 640 and KNX Hollywood 1050 are leading stations. KFI carries NBC programmes to many listeners in America and even to Australasia. KNX has no chain connections. It is well heard in many parts of the United States.

At the end of May, France had 1,554,295 licensed listeners.

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