

L.V.H.S. PASSING PRETTY

By JEANNE SMITH

DO YOU AGREE WITH US?

With most of the prominent newspapers in America choosing the 10 biggest news stories of the year 1939, the journalism class also had a conference and decided that the following 10 events had the most reader interest value: 1. Declaration of war against Hitler. 2. Death of Pope Pius XI. 3. George and Elizabeth of England visit America. 4. Russia invades Finland. 5. Graf Spee scuttled at Montevideo. 6. Sinking of the Athenia. 7. Neutrality Bill. 8. Spanish Civil war ends. 9. California and Ohio's "Ham and Eggs" plans. 10. Date of Thanksgiving changed.

BUT WE CAN'T BE OUTDONE

The Desert Breeze, L.V.H.S. medium for publicity, cannot be outdone by the Examiner, Times, or any such insignificant sheets. Consequently we also chose the 10 big Breeze stories of the entire year 1939. Here they are!

1. The results of the election of student body and class officers. 2. The election of Renza Myers as junior prom queen. 3. Madge Trainer chosen as football queen. 4. Teachers' institute giving L.V.H.S. a four-day vacation. 5. Babe Anderson of the grammar school winning the annual spelling contest. 6. The winners of the awards presented at the annual Rotary-Kiwanis Lions clubs' football banquet. 7. Forty-six students attending the music festival at Ely. 8. Enrollment records being broken at L.V.H.S. 9. The senior play, "Skidding," with the Hardy family being presented by members of the class of '39. 10. The forensic trip to Reno made by five students.

PREDICTION: IT'LL BE A WOW!

It looks as though the senior class play is going to be a riot again this year with "Youth Takes Over" being the comedy chosen. The story concerns high school days and was written by Betty Smith and Robert Finch, who are both renowned for expressing their sense of humor on the printed page. "Youth Takes Over" will be presented March 8.

A PIONEER AT L.V.H.S.

For the first time here at the high school, there is a debate coach separate from the dramatics instructor. Young Mr. Line, a new teacher, has been chosen to fill the position and from first impressions, he seems to be doing L.V.H.S. justice. The question for debate this year is, "Resolved, that the government own and operate the railroads." The forensic meet will be held sometime in March or April at Reno.

THERE'S A REASON

No shows this week—no smiles on our faces, no laughing in the halls, no talking between periods and no gossiping in study halls—no, none of these typical school actions have recently been displayed. Why? Because of the semester tests!

NO WONDER!

From the high school exchange: I like exams. I think they're fun. I never cram. I don't flunk one. —I'm the teacher.

INSTALLATION TO O.R.C. AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary to the Order of Railway Conductors installed the officers for the ensuing year at their recent meeting. Mrs. J. C. Wright will serve as president; assisted by Mrs. J. H. McCann, vice president; Mrs. Theresa McGovern, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. F. C. DeVinney, musician; Mrs. F. G. Butler, trustee, and Mrs. W. Holland, guard. The members of the organization then repaired to the Silver Cafe, where they were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. Holland.

BETA SIGMA PHI WILL MEET MONDAY

Kappa Chapter, Beta Sigma Phi, will meet Monday evening, Jan. 15, at 7:30. Members of Lambda Chapter, Boulder City, will be guests and the business of the evening will be planning for the state meeting to be held in Las Vegas in March when both these chapters will act as hostesses.

THE ENCHANTED FOREST

The Junior Musicians of Las Vegas and Boulder City presented a joint concert assisted by Therese's Dancers at the L.D.S. church Friday evening.

Orchestral numbers and a violin solo, "Humoresque," by Alice Brady preceded the lovely musical drama. It was a thrilling spectacle for the several hundred who attended, to see over 100 children playing and dancing in unison.

Under the baton of Mr. Lambert and the direction of Therese we have a truly worth while organization in our two cities.

In the near future a repeat concert will be given in the Boulder theatre.

RADIO EXPERTS SUBMIT REPORTS ON ELIMINATION OF RADIO INTERFERENCE

(Continued from Page One) would amount to \$3,630, wages and auto upkeep of the man. If the campaign should run 100 weeks (practically two years) the cost to the city is estimated at \$3,600 for man's wages and \$1,000 for auto upkeep and expenses.

In concluding his report, Mr. Foote lists hospitals and business houses as special cases. However, these do not bother for more than one or two blocks and are not serious except where the business house is located in a residential district.

Continuous interference radiated by the 33,000-volt power lines of the power company contribute only about one per cent of the total interference and bothers only about one per cent of the population. This can be somewhat reduced by the power company and the city, especially the city, in removing their street light wires from the poles that carry this high voltage and putting them on separate poles, on the opposite side of the street from the high voltage line. Then the few people it will then affect can overcome it by installing a proper antenna. It is to be remembered that this continuous noise only bothers reception in daytime.

The city street light circuit contributes almost one-half as much to radio reception as the intermittent troubles on power lines which break out from time to time.

With this extensive plan, appliance interference will be reduced to about 1 per cent and power troubles to about the same amount. An overall liberal estimate would be to say that 95 per cent of present noises will be stopped, provided a continuous check-up campaign as is suggested is kept up after the main campaign is over.

Mr. Foote gives as his experience in daily contact with radio reception and interference problems and in repairing all makes of radios in Las Vegas during the past 10 years that much of the trouble with noisy or weak reception comes from three factors which can be readily corrected by the owner or by a competent radio man. These he classifies as noisy tubes; poor antenna installation or ground and loose connections on same; poor adjustment of the tuned circuits in the set itself.

ATTORNEY ENGLE HERE

Bert J. Engle, former Las Vegas attorney, is spending a few days in this city on business. Mr. Engle is attorney for the Savahi Gold Mine, located about 40 miles west of Parkersburg and with L. B. Haver, secretary and treasurer of the company, is attending to some legal formalities connected with the corporation.

RETURNS FROM WEEK-END

Bill Busiek, advertising manager of the Las Vegas Age, spent the week-end in Hollywood, California.

CONNELLS RETURN FROM ABILENE

Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Connell and small daughter have returned to Las Vegas after spending nine months in Abilene, Texas.

VISITS VEGAS

Joseph L. Asbury, manager of the Ambassador hotel at Salt Lake City, but whose permanent home is in Ojai, California, has been spending a few days in Las Vegas.

Mr. Asbury was formerly a publisher of newspapers in the state of Washington, in California and in Utah.

Mrs. W. E. Ferron entertained Wednesday evening her contract club at her home, 404 Fremont street. The following guests were Mesdames Will Beckley, J. T. Walters, W. R. Bracken, Sam Lawson, R. R. Russell, A. B. Witcher, Miss Irene Barsaloux and the hostess, Mrs. Ferron.

Mrs. Roscoe Thomas entertained her "pan" club Wednesday at 1 o'clock luncheon at her home, 827 South Seventh street. The members enjoying the afternoon were: Mesdames Forest R. Mildren, C. W. Woodbury, W. E. Ferron, A. W. Ham, Arthur Brick, Ryland Taylor, R. R. Russell, R. R. Myers and the hostess, Mrs. Thomas.

(Continued from Page One) them install filter condensers at the factory but with little success. We have worked with automobile manufacturers trying to have them install resistors on the high tension lead of the spark coil. Here, too, we have met with but slight response.

In the matter of filtering house meters as proposed I see many reasons to question the advisability of this. In the first place it would appear that the city would be purchasing and installing equipment on privately owned power services. This would raise the point—who would own the condensers after they were installed? The second point is that if the power company believes this to be an advisable procedure, should they not do it? The third point is that while the installation of small condensers would by-pass considerable high frequency to ground from such appliances as may be used in a home the appliance would still be creating interference, this interference would still disrupt reception and it still is necessary to filter the appliance properly. The fourth point is that such a process would not stop incoming interference, it would not correct poor installation of radio receivers and for the same amount of money that would be spent installing these condensers the city and the power company could carry on a real campaign of interference mitigation, could bring the campaign a lot closer to the listening public and accomplish some real good. I might further state that this filtering process was tried in San Francisco in 1931, financed by the Radio Trades Association. It was abandoned as being impractical after a thorough trial. It was the consensus of opinion that the cost was out of all proportion to the benefits received. It was decided by a committee of competent engineers that the place to correct interference was at the source.

The place to attack radio interference from appliances is at the appliance proper by installing small filter condensers on the appliance on the theory that we have dealt with the offending appliance by the best known engineering practice.

Neon Signs—There is considerable interference from neon signs in the downtown area. Some of this is undoubtedly fed back on utility lines and adding to the general noise level. In those signs with movable effects the flasher is causing the disturbance. In the stationary signs there are several factors to consider. In the installation of the tubing, unless extreme care is used, there can be a discharge to ground and interference. In the high voltage leads there is always a chance for an arc to ground. This can cause interference. When tubing is filled with impure neon gas with air particles there is a breaking down of this air and interference results.

A neon sign stationary and properly installed should not create interference while it is in good condition. Noisy neon signs should be repaired if defective and filtered if inherently noisy.

Power Lines—When radio interference is heard on a radio receiver the first thought that crosses the mind of the lay public is that the power lines are responsible when as a matter of fact they may be guilty of carrying and not guilty of creating the interference heard. There is a fine distinction there and one that the lay public could not be expected to understand. I feel that as long as the power company is selling the power to operate these receivers they have a certain responsibility concerning their operation. To fortify this argument let me draw an analogy: If John Smith were to purchase a small electric fan for let us say five dollars, take it to his home and connect it to a convenience outlet and discover that although the outlet and the fan were in working condition, that the fan was of the proper voltage he would have all of the powers of the Public Service Commission behind him if he should demand that the small, inexpensive fan be made to operate. The power company would no doubt spend practically unlimited money to give a consumer the benefit of the breeze from a fan which by usage and

public acceptance has been recognized as a necessity. I fail to see, when we consider the widespread use of radio receivers and what radio reception has come to mean in the every day lives of the great majority of our people why radio interference does not fall in the same category.

It is conservatively estimated that there is upward of \$300,000 invested in Las Vegas radio receivers. Where public utility responsibility ends in the matter of their operation has never been definitely settled by the courts. However, as a matter of public relations it would seem reasonable to suppose, and I am sure it is true, that they will go to any reasonable length to keep all of them operating to the entire satisfaction of their owners. John Smith may be able to get along without the fan and John Doe may get along without a radio receiver, but both have been accepted as legitimate power load. It would reasonably follow, therefore, that the successful operation of both is a responsibility that rests upon the shoulders of the power company.

Within the city limits there is much to be desired particularly in the downtown areas. It is an engineering fact that when two lines are closely paralleled to each other any radio frequency (or interference) created on one line will be inductively coupled to the other. It follows then that they should be separated as far as consistent and possible. Primary lines form a network all over town and interference collected by them from secondaries will cover needless areas. This may not be in the form of distinguishable interference but background noise.

Hardware on poles has not been installed with the separation demanded since the advent of radio. Until the proper separations are made and the proper bonding is done there will be constantly recurring cases of interference to disrupt radio reception.

In the matter of the feeder line from Boulder Dam the insulation from a radio standpoint is far from adequate. When suspension type of installation of this type is installed on transmission lines even in high signal areas there are a number of factors which both singly and in total are constant sources of interference. When dust accumulates on one section the remaining sections are subjected to undue strain and the brush discharge resulting therefrom blows out all radio reception in adjacent areas. Oxide forms on the clevis connections, cotter pins form horn gaps and a multitude of things all make for trouble.

No one can deny that this line is unreasonably noisy from a radio standpoint. This interference is coupled to adjacent lines and transmitted throughout wide areas.

It would be my recommendation that a mile of "LAPP" pinless pin type insulation be installed on this feeder line and that the same treatment be accorded the Goodsprings line.

I cannot too strongly stress the importance of insulation in sections such as this where signal strength

is low and every vagrant noise becomes a matter of annoyance to the radio listener. This matter of insulation has been given a great deal of study by utility engineers. Exhaustive experiments have been conducted to determine the types of insulation most adaptable to low signal areas. The results of these tests and experiments are available and they are indeed illuminating.

Without question the matter of power distribution in Las Vegas has been a problem. The load has increased in an unheard of manner. This condition has made demands of the construction department of the power company which could not have been anticipated. Furthermore, unless they had made a study of interference from a power distribution standpoint it is easy to see why construction should be as it is. Sooner or later the matter for radio interference that can be prevented or reduced must become an issue. It would seem good policy to recognize that fact at the earliest possible time and gradually take the necessary steps to reduce it in orderly fashion.

Summary—A report of this character is difficult to compile for the non-technical mind. It would have been possible to prepare a map showing areas where interference was objectionable, but this map would have been only indicative of interference as it existed at the particular time when the tests were made. While it is true that certain areas are perpetually noisy these are in the minority. Most of the interference areas are intermittently noisy with varying intensities of noise.

The situation in Las Vegas regarding radio interference is identical with many other cities with which I have had dealings. In the city of San Diego, for instance, interference reached such a point that very few radio set owners could derive a particle of benefit from programs that were available and should have been heard. A campaign was instituted and reception in that city at the present time is unquestionably the best in the nation. I might add, however, that signal strength in that city is high. In Los Angeles broadcasters, dealers and the listening public all bitterly complained about interference until the matter was attacked systematically and a long range program instituted. The results of this program are evident on every receiver in the city. In San Francisco, San Bernardino, Riverside, Portland, Boston and innumerable other cities it was necessary to recognize interference for what it was, attack it intelligently and cooperatively.

I would recommend that the ordinance now existing in the city be repealed and the Pasadena ordinance be substituted.

I would recommend that a campaign of education be inaugurated through the cooperation of the local papers to educate the listening public where they do not not have the facts and to prevent the dissemination of false information.

I would recommend that some central point where telephone service is available at office hours where

the public may call regarding interference and that such calls be investigated and a report of the findings made to the proper authorities.

I would recommend that the city of Las Vegas purchase a small stock of materials necessary for interference mitigation so that regardless of the interference, if it comes from equipment privately owned it may be corrected without delay. From long experience I find this to be vital.

I would recommend a methodical check in the downtown area of all appliances, signs, motors of all sorts

and every piece of electrically operated equipment. I would suggest that they be either given an O.K. after a test or tagged as noisy and then the noisy equipment be listed and the owner given a reasonable time to suppress the interference. Failing in this would bring that equipment within the provisions of the suggested ordinance.

I would recommend that the power company officials be approached and their cooperation solicited. They will find, as other power company officials have found, that this will be an economical method of handling interference sources on

their lines and equipment. Cooperation such I suggest will bring about a gradual reduction in interference without any undue burden on either the taxpayers or the power company.

This must be a long range program. There are no panaceas and no short cuts to success. No matter who undertakes it he should be assured before he starts of the wholehearted cooperation of all concerned. Given this, radio reception in Las Vegas can be vastly improved in the course of a year.

Signed: GEORGE R. WALTERS.

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