### THE VIDEO REPORTER

#### by Samuel Kaufman

T'S been customary for each item in the lideo Reporter column to begin with a big capital letter. That's the make-up style of this magazine and it's a thing we've become accustomed to. Yet, looking back at the column in the January issue, it suddenly dawned on us that the first two items, leading off as usual with big initials, told an unintentional exclamatory story. The first item had a big black "A" and the second one had a large ebony "W". Put them together at a single glance and they spell "Aw!"

Now the word "Aw!" is an exclamation that may, at this point, call for an explanation. That is, an explanation of why it stood out so boldly to our eyes.

Well, the answer is simple. We believe that the expression just about sums up our opinion of television's progress in 1940.

When 1940 made its exit, it was not merely the end of a year. It was also the end of radio's second decade. So it was an important milestone.

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of radio's second decade. So it was an important milestone.

It was a year of great promise for television and it was a promise that was unfulfilled. But, mind you, it was not a broken promise. But somehow, it's taking more time than anticipated for commercial sight-and-sound broadcasting to gain a foothold. The only consolation is that the trade and industry did its part in furthering things. The main hurdle too difficult to clear in 1940 was winning the confidence of the Federal Communications Commission to the point of getting a commercial grant for video stations. But there was delay, delay and more delay, until an entire year passed. And, it must be added that disputes over standards and frequencies in the trade itself was a hampering factor and that this point alone was sufficient for the FCC to demand a delay.

ACTUALLY, as 1941 came tearing around the bend, the signal of the video industry seemed to be full speed ahead. But it was still on a single track course which meant limited speed in progress. But progress was obvious. Even the FCC action in requesting a delay to iron out standards may prove constructive in the long run.

structive in the long run.

The most disillusioning thing of the video The most disillusioning thing of the video industry's status as 1940 bowed out was a lackadaisical attitude prevailing in network offices regarding television. Even where there were great fires of enthusiasm in previous months, there was barely a spark in December and early January. And it seems that the only reason they cared to nurse the spark along was that a great investment was represented in getting it started and that no one cares to put up great sums of money for enthusiasm flint until there are signs of early commercial profit.

TAKE the network, for example, where the greatest amount of television ballyhoo to date originated. Mention the word "television" around its offices today and there's a look of sadness rather than one of enthusiasm. It seems as if something is being mourned rather than sponsored. But the lads in the network's office declare that the lack of spirit is not their fault but that everything must await the action of the National Television Systems Committee and the more important reaction of the FCC before anything constructive can really be started or resumed. resumed.

resumed.

Skeleton staffs and skeleton programs are maintained where even a year before the network was going at things in a big way on a big budget. And when you deal with skeletons you deal with decay and, unless something comes along quickly to yank the video spirit out of the doldrums, it will bring television to the paradoxical state of being deca
(Continued on page 64)

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terest in emergency and defense work which should lead to additional opportunities where hams can be of service.

should lead to additional opportunities where hams can be of service.

F. (K5AY) Gaudreault ships us:

Ur local oracle has again changed QTH es call letters. Now located at Quarry Heights CZ wid the rest of the BPS at K5AY.

K5AT'S stift to the women. old Cocacola Mac is abit to become a has been dwn hr. due to return to the old country nxt month. Op taking his place. Guy by the handle of Frank Sines es seems to be a pretty gud spud fm hr. Don't tell him we said so.

K5AK bek on air after long period of silence. Sum op dwn thr at Amador finally got the whistle back together es bn wkg out fb wid it. Can usually be hrd in the pm fer few hrs.

We saw a pair of Staff Sergeant Chevrons walking around here the other a.m. es sent a member of our OGPU staff out to see who was walking around here the other a.m. es sent a member of our OGPU staff out to see who was under em. We found a bp who shud be pretty well kwn to all the brass destroyers es mike men. . . Bray out thr at K5AM. Congrais, Bray, om, es bests im the gang at the heights. We kot our share of em too!

Was the gang at K5AG humilitated? Well, we ask U! A ticket fer clix es chirp im the RI in, of all places. Seattle Wash. Wat u guys using dwn thr in Redleg Camp, a Calif KW? Well at least u knw ur getting out nw. But think of the rep of the K5 oil burners hr. Wat abt it men, lets get it stuff out of thr. We knw u can do it es still get it whistle up thr to Seattle so the RI wont even recognize it!

Once again fer u guys who want K5 crds, the hours of xmission hr are fm late in the afternoon to arnd nine or ten pm. We wont bother to give u the exact time becuz sum of the boys may get oversealous at times es miss the deadline a bit and who are we to be a killoy? Only stn supposed to be on the ether at all times of the day or night is K5AY es we'll usually oblige and Steinmetz Junior who wants to see tt K5 hang-

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ing up thr in the shack. U'll find us on 7160 wid a sig tt'll get anywhere.

Hws abt sum info fm sum u oms who burn the midnight oil? Has KC4USA got a 40 mtr freq? If so where is it? And when can he be wrkd? We'd like to buzz the boys in the Berg Country cs we have sum fellow soldiers dwn thr who'd be glad to hr fm us.

One our ops hr guy by name of Wedding who sinced O nw gone to civilian life to wrk Civil Service fer Pancanal. Hrs Luck, Wed, es drp in on the gang sumtime efen ur not gng zonite on us!

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Anybody ever hr an HN2 If so where are those things located? Hrd one hr es cudn't even find anything it looked like it in the book.

Last week we inaugurated sumthing hr which might interest sum of u people who want K5 contacts. Every Sunday am fm 0700 to 1000 gmt we'll wrk ani alert soul who'll lissen on 7160 kc allowing abt five mins per contact. Just lissen fer our QRZ? After each contact es jump in. Don't get impatient becuz it's impossible to wrk all at once. But we'll get all we can in it time. The service is to furnish u a ck on ur whistle fer both strength es quality. U can depend on our rpt becuz it'll be as accurate as the best in receivers can give u.

If NY1AE wanders across ur eardrums sum fine night, don't worry he's right dwn hr in the naval part of this combine. Located at Pedro Miguel. es other nite was first time we hrd him long time. Doesn't sound so strong fm hr but seems to be getting out fb to west north and central us.

RM from the 5th Dist. by W5HMV Windy Bill:

RM from the 5th Dist. by W5HMV Windy Bill:
An informal but FB ham fest was held recently in McComb, Miss. Among those present was W5HMY, W5GXO, W5DAN, W5EGE. W5EWD, W5FQL, W5FCH es W5IGW also plenty SWLS hi. The neeting was held at the fire station in McComb City.
W3IGW was really suprised when he met W5DAN the Pappy of 75 fone.
W5EGE is an old timer on CW in Brookhaven, Miss. Ben has never been on fone and whats more says he never will be on Ben is the checker champ of the fire house in Brookhaven the games are held every Sun. morning hi.
W3IGW is the proud possesor of two cypress poles 90 es 75 ft. tall. Harold lives in Greenville, Miss. on the Mississippi River so what does he do but go up the river es cut himself a couple of giant poles had them towed down to his town then had to pick out a special route thru the streets that had wide corners and as it was he knocked over a couple of mail boxs then Harold bought a qt. of likker and two cases of beer and the Light Co. boys did the rest.
W5GXO thinks 40 ought to be opened.
W5DAN was the sracious host at a luncheon

w5GXO thinks 40 ought to be opened up for fone work.

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W5DAN was the gracious host at a luncheon held in McComb, Miss, recently, the guests of honor being a certain fat boy and his battelaxe.

W5FCH bought himself a FB new RME, Jake says it really brings the sigs in.

W5IWW is a new and distinctive signal being heard on 160 fone Dale has a pr 812s in the final es runs 300 watts.

W5BZL in Del Rio, Tex. on 40 has a another nice carrier.

W5JBZ is a new comer on 160 welcome hi.

W5JEY old Hershel in Winnsboro, La. is also a new comer on 160.

W5JFS is a brand new ham in Baton Rouge.

La. his handle is Floyd Crum es he is looking forward to becoming known as the crum of 40 cw hi.

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W51GQ in Hommer, La. is now heard on 160 James has a fo mike voice.

W51TQ works 10 fone from Lake Charles, La. W5HRX the old CW man from Gulfport, Miss. is now one of the fone boys.

W5HPI the old pea picker up in St. Joseph, La. is using a T55 es running 120 watts.

W5HDZ in Coleman, Tex. is on 160 fone wid a healthy signal.

W5HOT es W5HQV are still holding their early morning rag chews.

W5FPU its roally a treat to work Harry who is located at the Ark, State Pen Harry is not an inmate of said institution however but is chief accountant up there hi. Harry has a convict house boy named Chick which he puts on the air and he is really a kick.

W5HMV was riding down the street in Baton Rouge, La. one day when he noticed a car up in front of him with the call letter W9AOV on it not having a horn on his car WHMV tapped out hi with his accelarater pedal and drove on 3 weeks later he called CQ one morning and lo who comes back to him but 9AOV who had just got back from a visit down south and was back in Cuba, Ill. George was really surprised when he found out 5HMV was the guy who had blew, hi, at way down in Dixie.

W5CEW in Benton, La. is a regular on 75 fone also.

Woley in Benton.

W5GEP in Corpus Christie, Tex. is an early bird DXer on 160 fone.

W5BV at last report was still enjoying an extended vacation hi Dan.

W4AV5 is back on the air with his usual fb

sig. W5HMZ says he wishes he had a good rig like

Windy Bills.
W5GIZ now has more licenses than a dog has

fleas.
W5BLQ Jack Gaines in Amite, La. is back on the air after a long abscence.

ORE QRM from the 5th District by W5HMV Windy Bill:
Well we will start this month off by asking the Ed. why he can't get the pictures and dope on the aforesaid pictures to gether in the same

issue which brings to mind the thot why he pays for this stuff any how hi.

The following story is currently being told on 160 by W51PR, seems like one of Gayles neighbors recently purchased a new radio and came to see Gayles about putting up and ant he said he had often heard BCI talked about and what he wanted to know was what direction should he put up his ant in order not to cause W51PR any trouble Gayle stagered and gulped and told him that since he was so nice about it to go ahead and put it up any way and he would take his chances. (Shoot the sherbert to him Herbert.) Once upon a time there was a ham by the call of V2HK3 in Kentwood, La. about 30 miles from McComb, Miss. now one Sunday W5HMV visited W5GXO in McComb and while there 5GXO called and contacted 5HKJ after a Xmission from 5HKJ 5HMV took over the mike and asked for a compartitive report 5HKJ thinking 5HMV was at his home base in Baton Rouge, La. proceeded to give 5HMV Q5R9 es 5GXO Q5R7 while they were both talking over the same rig. (Some fun eh kid.)

W3IKP is trying to ket W5HHT to show and tell him how to get a good sig on the air.

W3FHS in Overton Tex. really puts out a sig on 75 fone.

W3GUX es W5HHA are two new comers to McComb, Miss. they are connected with the CCC Hqs. that was recently moved from Camp Beauregard La.

W5AOZ is another Bill on 160 fone in New Orleans, La.

W5AOZ is another bill on too conditions. La.
W5HZP of Houston Miss. said he recently got a letter from the Texas chamber of commerce asking him to please state he was in Houston Miss. on his Xmission.
W5JAH of Lake Arthur La. is going to town

w55AB of Lane 1.00 on 160.

W5BV bought 6 RN when he found out his profile was in em.

W5DHE will soon have his kw on 75 fone in

W5DRE will soon have all w5DRE will soon have w5HMV was a recent speaker over WWL BC and gave his opinion on the situation of B.R.La. W5HCE says if there were enough hams in town he could get on the air hi. W5EKV of Brookhaven, Miss. is an AUTHOR no less.

OME of the boys are wondering who that new Y1 of Mack's is in oi' Alabam'. He qsoes the gal purty often: don't tell us tt new rig needs tt many rpts fm the same place, pal!

K5AS can promise to have sum gud tales to spin in next rpt becuz he collared assignment to cover election in Panama by radio fer Army hr es those things are usually anything but Sunday school pionic; so u can all luk fwd to hearing sum tall tales if yours truly cums thru wid whole skin!

A bit of interesting info abt K5AT agn. Mack does fb job on special duty grabbing war news out of the ether for the info of military personnel hr. His job is to sit up at the shack all day es rabbit hunt fer all war news cuming thru fm press wireless es others and pounding it all out on the mill. But te sgetting requests played by best squirter HP5K-HOK in Colon, discussing his mode-julation bu cokes, Mack's much too busy for any repetition of those adventures in Colon which led to much gleeful discussion of his 'black gal' arnd Birmingham's gashouse circuit.

#### Video Reporter (Continued from page 41)

dent even before commercial birth.

HILE New York television programs are continuing on an abbreviated scale at the time of this writing, the program lads are not going to any too much trouble to weigh the entertainment value of the stuff

to weigh the entertainment value of the stuff they're putting on.

They're making a mistake in continuing certain types of programs just because they're free. Sporting events, in particular, are being proportionately overdone. It's true that sports will always be an acceptable program topic, but the reason for the great proportion of sports pickups at this stage is that there are no talent fees to be paid.

Excellent pickup jobs have been achieved in various sports, particularly in wrestling and boxing. We'd hardly call wrestling parlor entertainment. Discounting the claims

lor entertainment. Discounting the claims that wrestling matches are not as brutal as that wrestling matches are not as brutal as they seem, the television camera and mike take the home listener right into the ring to hear the grunts, groans and snorts of the hirsute gladiators which may convince him that the men are going through terrible or-deals. But, all in all, the wrestling matches are tougher on the look-and-listening air and audience than to the men tied together like pretzels on the mat. It makes for good comedy, but we'll bet a peanut to a potato chip that the Legion of Decency will swoop in from Hollywood to make the boys on the mat keep their grupts clean. mat keep their grunts clean.