Local Radio Station Will Not Be Unprecedented, Files Show

Wireless Set, Vintage Of 1924, Once Announced Sports Contests

If the Federal Communication Commission, at its Washington hearing today, grants the Ann Arbor Radio Broadcasting Co., Inc. a license to operate a station here, it will not be making "history." The Daily files reveal that the University had established "a powerful wireless telephone broadcasting station" as far back as Feb. 12, 1924.

The station, WCBC, used mainly to broadcast play-by-play descriptions of the baseball and basketball games, was designed by Mr. E. E. Dreese of the electrical engineering department, according to The Daily, and was constructed by L. A. Dorff, '24E. It was a thoroughly equipped transmitter built around "four bulbs and having a capacity of 200 watts."

'Heard In Chicago'

Emerson Adams, local resident, remembered that the best programs were carried in the morning. The station was "heard in Chicago despite the fact that several of the country's most powerful sets were broadcasting from that city at the same time."

The station being petitioned for now is planned to operate on 1550 kilocycles, not very far from the spot occupied by its predecessor. It would have five times the strength of WCBC, 1 kilowatt and would maintain studios and offices in the First National Building downtown. The University would have no control over the station.

Only a short time ago, 1550 kilocycles was off the dial. With the rise of police stations and "short wave" reception, the Federal Communication Commission extended the band, and at present the position is occupied by WQXR, a high fidelity transmitter located in New York.

Campus Was Interested

The new invention stirred a great deal of interest on campus, if stories in The Daily are any criterion. New improvements were avidly reported and descriptions of the latest equipment were given prominent display.

Announcement that "a chimney located north of the Engineering Building" was to have been torn down was received fearfully, since it threatened to put an end to the station whose antennae were attached to its peak.

The station died an untimely death, however, when, as rumors have it, the federal government began to "crack down,

...mercial and experimental broadcasting. Students of r... matics classes give about ... each week over WJR, w... classes meeting to use the s...

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