

Radio KSE in Tenth Year

WIRELESS CONTACTS ALL SHIPS

DO you know that KNX-CBS transmitter station is NOT the only wireless broadcasting plant in Torrance?

A survey made by The Herald recently showed that very few local residents knew that for the past 10 years Station KSE has been operating on a 24-hour schedule in a small brick building west of Hawthorne avenue on 230th street. The station is one of the far-flung wireless outlets maintained by the Radio Marine Corporation of America, a subsidiary of the Radio Corporation of America.

It was moved to Torrance from Wilmington in July, 1928, and has been sending and receiving messages to and from ships via medium and short wave ever since. Station KSE is known as a marine postal station operating on low power—one kilowatt short wave and three-quarter kilowatt medium wave transmission.

Use Two Clocks

Located on a five-acre site with its two 200-foot towers the station building stands alone off Hawthorne but even the towers fail to attract many visitors, according to W. E. Everest, manager. His staff consists of three



WIRELESS WORK . . . Above is Manager W. E. Everest of RMCA station KSE (at left) located on 230th street here

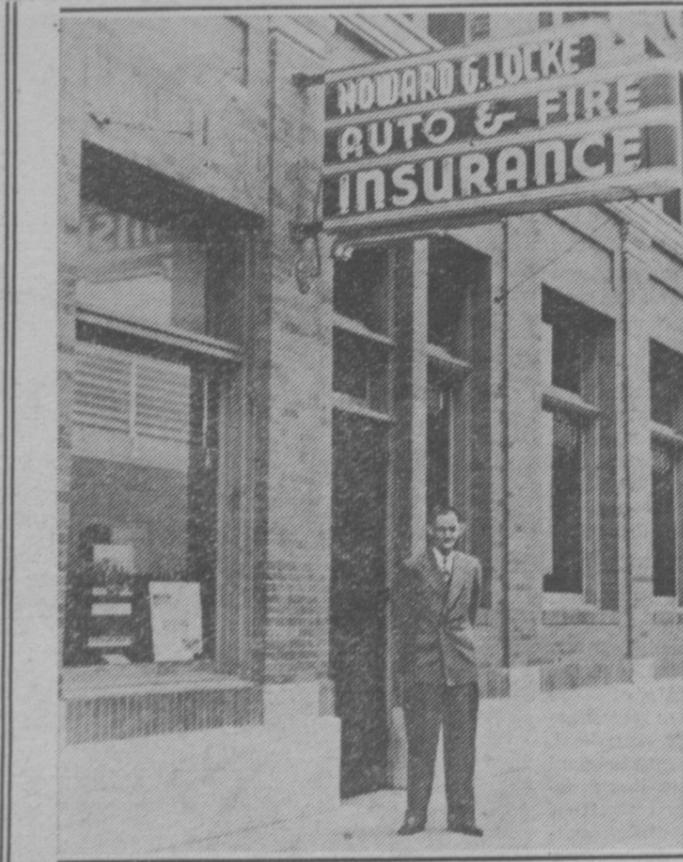
other operators, B. W. R. Hagen, Herman Friend and C. F. Cegavske. Everest has been a radio operator since 1917. He lives in Redondo Beach.

In addition to RCA broadcasting equipment—minus microphones because all messages are transmitted by the dot-dash system—two clocks face the operator on duty. One shows Pacific standard time, the other marks Greenwich standard time. All incoming messages are filed according to the later time.

KSE, by order of the Federal Radio commission, is silent from 15 to 18 minutes and 45 to 48 minutes past every hour. All the rest of the time it is busy

sending and receiving commercial wireless communications from over water. Manager Everest says that "almost wherever ships are, we work 'em" KSE has reached out to "work" vessels off South Africa, off storm-bound Cape Horn, in the South Seas, every place in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

"Because of atmospheric conditions we cannot contact ships near the Suez Canal in the Mediterranean or in the Red Sea," he said. KSE handles no government messages and those which cannot be transmitted from the Torrance station are sent to R.M.C.'s high power outlet near San Francisco.



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COMMUNITY CHORISTERS . . . Formed some 15 years ago by Charles Curtiss and Dr. W. J. Neelands, a church quartet has continued to sing at more public events here than any other entertainment group. Present members of the foursome are shown above, left to right: Carl Pisel, Gus Kinney, Curtiss and Dr. Neelands. Original members were Carleton Bell and City Judge Robert Lessing. The quartet appears frequently here.

Fiction in State's Name

California is literally translated "hot oven," but native sons may take comfort; the Smithsonian Institution reports that it was so named by a man who had never even been there.

A bare 18 years after the first voyage of Columbus, the Smithsonian reports, a Spanish scribbler, Montalvo by name, seized upon the new world as an ideal background for his new yarn.

His tale, "The Exploits of Esplandion," published at Madrid in 1510, gave a lurid account of a race of Amazons, rulers of "California," an earthly hades lying "at the right hand of the Indies, and very close to that part of the terrestrial paradise."

Spanish conquistadors seem to have read the novel avidly. When they discovered Lower or Mexican California, that barren waste "at the right hand of the Indies," as explorers believed, they gave it the name of the novelist's "hell on earth." As exploration proceeded, the fertile land to the north received the same title.

By that time, the true mean-

ing of the word had been forgotten. According to Dr. John P. Harrington of the Smithsonian, the learned Montalvo concocted the romantic amazon nation from two Latin words—"calidus fornax," or "hot oven." The "ia" is the common Latin and Greek feminine ending so often used for names of countries or regions.

Volunteers Man Waleria Station

Operating on a "call" basis, the Waleria fire station is now manned by volunteer firemen working under the supervision of Director John Stroh of the public safety department. This system was started last July. Two phones have been installed, one at the fire station, the other at W. K. Adolph's garage. During the day, Adolph is in charge and at night Lyle Sagel, one of the seven Waleria volunteers, sleeps at the station to receive alarms there.

Come and Live in Torrance