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SOVIET RADIO OPERATORS AMONG STALIN PRIZE LAUREATES

V. Prival'skiy

The famous army of Stalin Prize Laureates has been increased by a new and large detachment composed of 1,285 workers in science and engineering, talented inventors, designers, and innovators in production.

There are more than 100 representatives of radio engineering among this year's prize winners. First-class prizes were awarded to 23 persons, among them a group of engineers headed by V. L. Kreytser, for inventing a new, first-class, television transmission system with high clarity. The practical application of this television system gives the Soviet Union first place in the world for clearness and detail of the transmitted pictures. In this respect, our country has far outstripped the USA and Britain where the development of television is not based on perfecting this branch of radio engineering for the good of the people, but on purely commercial interests.

Second-class prizes were awarded to a group of engineers headed by F. P. Lipsman for designing new radio apparatus; to a group of research workers, headed by V. S. Mel'nikov, for designing and introducing new and highly efficient methods of radio communications; and to a group of engineers, headed by Chief Designer A. A. Savel'yev, for work on radio communications.

The increased rate and efficiency of radiotelegraphic transmission is a special feature of Soviet radio communications. The first place in the world in this branch of radio technology has long belonged to the USSR. Even before World War II, high-speed phototransmitters had been developed in the Soviet Union, which permitted carrying on communication at the rate of 1,000 words per minute. In transmitting abroad, we are obliged, by request of foreign radio correspondents, to reduce the speed because the equipment of foreign telegraph centers cannot operate at such high speeds.

Third-class prizes were awarded to several groups of engineers and designers, headed by S. S. Koshko, A. V. Krasilov, Ye. Ya. Boguslavskiy, G. C. Ginkin, N. A. Gurevich, P. I. Selov, and others, for designing and introducing into serial production new radio apparatus.

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Many of the radio specialists who were awarded Stalin Prizes came from the ranks of the radio amateurs. Many of them, patriotically interested in the radiofication of the country, have made radio their chief profession.

Viktor Semenovich Mel'nikov is one of those who has followed the road from radio amateur to outstanding scientist and director of a laboratory in a scientific research institute. He was awarded a Second-Class Stalin Prize for designing and introducing new and highly efficient methods of radio communication. Mel'nikov was born in Irkutsk in 1911. His father, a revolutionary by profession, died in 1919. Mel'nikov and his mother went to Ulan-Ude. While in school, he became interested in radio, and made his first crystal set from a schematic diagram in a journal.

In 1928, the Society of Friends of Radio opened a branch in Ulan-Ude, Mel'nikov became one of the first members, and with his colleagues built multi-tube radios and a club radio transmitter. In 1930, he became a travelling repairman for a communications office. The following year he entered the Moscow Institute for Communications Engineering. After finishing his courses he was appointed head of the laboratory of one of the scientific research institutes. At the head of a large group of colleagues, he has worked since 1941 on methods of increasing the efficiency of radio communications.

Mel'nikov is not the only example, however. Others who have come from the ranks of radio amateurs include: G. G. Ginkin, famous designer; V. I. Shpagin, engineer; V. A. Lizarev, scientist; and many others.

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