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THE KHAR'KOV AMATEUR TELEVISION CENTER

D. Nikolayev

The 7th All-Union Radio Exhibition had, as one of its exhibits, a unit for the formation of synchronizing and blanking pulses for a local television center designed by Vovchenko and Budnikov, Khar'kov radio amateurs. These two have solved great technical problems inherent in the construction of such complex units. This unit, subsequently modified, was the first of its kind for the Khar'kov amateur television center.

In continuing their project, it became clear to the Khar'kov radio amateurs that they needed assistance. They worked in plants and in scientific institutes, and took courses in television. The Oblast Committee of the party assisted in this valuable effort. Public opinion gave them strong support. Space was provided for the center and the local population helped in its construction. Workers in Khar'kov enterprises brought in the power lines, put up the tower, and made cabinets for the sound transmitter and picture transmitter in their off hours.

An active part in constructing the center was also taken by the Khar'kov branch of the Scientific and Technical Society of Radio Engineering and Electric Communications imeni Popov. Vladimir Vovchenko was mainly responsible for wiring the separate units.

Assembly of the units began in June 1949 and on the day of the 32d anniversary of the Socialist Revolution, the first picture came over the monitor tube. It was far from perfect but it gave great satisfaction to Vovchenko, Khromov, Makolov, Ryazantsev, Dvornikov, Stolyarov, Turgenev, and all those who had helped construct the first amateur television center in the USSR.

The builders still had many poor design features to contend with. For a long time they could not properly compensate for trapezoidal distortion in the iconoscope; there were distortions in the picture amplifier; they had to change

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the whole deflection system; the first master oscillator which they used was unsatisfactory, etc. But each mistake, however great the difficulty, was corrected. For example, when they had trouble tuning the transmitter, Vovchenko went to Moscow, where he studied at the television center and discovered his error.

By 1 January 1950, the picture quality, which had been unsatisfactory in November 1949, was satisfactory, and the first picture was transmitted on the 32d anniversary of the Soviet Army. This joint effort of the people of Khar'kov deserves the highest praise.

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