

● RADIO ●

Dr. J. C. Steinberg and H. C. Montgomery of the Bell Telephone Laboratories will entertain with synthetic deafness as guest scientists on "Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the coast to coast network of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Monday, November 27, 4:30 p.m., EST, 3:30 CST, 2:30 MST, 1:30 PST. Listen in on your local station. Listen in each Monday.

The research is one of several projects planned at M.I.T. under the terms of a gift of nearly \$650,000 from Dr. Godfrey L. Cabot of Boston "for research on the utilization of solar radiation for the tasks of man." In addition to the house-heating project the program calls for various fundamental investigations of direct physical and chemical methods of tapping this almost limitless source of energy, a source that on an average day yields as much as a horse-power per square yard of earth.

Science News Letter, November 18, 1939

CONSERVATION

Snowplows Build Ridges To Keep Moisture

SNOWPLOWs have something to do in the wheat-growing Northwest besides clearing roads. Snow is more than a bothersome traffic obstruction there, it is the farmer's principal frozen asset, especially after a droughty autumn like the one just past. Recommended off-highway job for snowplows therefore is to conserve snow on the fields.

The technique developed by Prof. H. F. McColly, of the agricultural engineering department of North Dakota Agricultural College, is to run the snowplow through the fields when the snow is about five inches deep on the level, building up ridges 18 inches high and about eight feet apart. This should be done when the snow is wet enough to pack; if straw and stubble are mixed in, so much the better. The ridges follow contour lines on sloping fields, and in flat country they are made to lie at right angles to the direction of prevailing winds.

Between the ridges midwinter snow is not blown away, but is trapped and held, as in the lee of a snow fence. Soil, too, even if not yet covered, is guarded from the scouring blasts. When a thaw comes the ridges, now compacted and perhaps frozen fast to the earth, serve as levees to hold the water and let it seep into the soil, not to rush away as runoff and perhaps carry eroded soil with it.

Science News Letter, November 18, 1939



Our Debt to Old Bohemia

"MY grandfather would have got a big kick out of this!" Frank Cermak ran a caressing finger along a transformer insulator, ready for the kiln. "He was a skilled pottery maker in Bohemia—turned out beautiful urns and vases. But he never tackled a job like this. It's about the biggest we've done."

Frank Cermak, head of the G-E Porcelain Department, isn't afraid of big jobs. His family have been skilled porcelain craftsmen for generations. His father, back in 1891, organized the department that Frank now manages. And Frank's son, too, is following the family tradition.

Ancient skills, passed on from father to son for generations, still play a part in modern industry. Porcelain craftsmen, for instance, produce insulators which make possible the transmission of electricity from the powerhouse to homes and factories, where it serves you in a thousand different ways.

In General Electric are hundreds of men who, like Frank Cermak, are applying their special skills to the task of making electricity more useful and less expensive. These experts—scientists, engineers, skilled workmen—are helping to provide you with the comforts and conveniences that electricity makes possible. They, too, are devoting their lives to the creation of More Goods for More People at Less Cost.

G-E research and engineering have saved the public from ten to one hundred dollars for every dollar they have earned for General Electric

GENERAL  ELECTRIC

90-1881DS