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Tallest Talking Tower

The highest self-supporting tower in the United States used as an aerial has been completed for the radio station KOA at Denver. The tower stands 470 feet high and is a departure from the customary type of radio antenna, where copper wires were stretched in "clothesline" fashion between two towers. It will act as a vertical radiator of radio waves. With the "clothesline" antenna, a large part of the electrical energy released flows directly upward and is lost in space, whereas with the new type of radiator installed at KOA a larger quantity of the broadcast waves radiate parallel to the earth's surface. As a result, engineers expect a greater signal strength to be produced at a given distance.

Slender compared to others of its kind, the tower is 35 feet square at the base and tapers to a two-foot square at the top. It will withstand a wind of 125 miles an hour, and its 50-ton weight bears town equally, when no wind is blowing, on four huge porcelain "eggs" which insulate it from the ground. This tower was installed in conjunction with a new 50,000-watt transmitter.