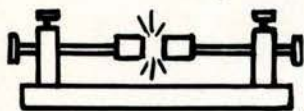
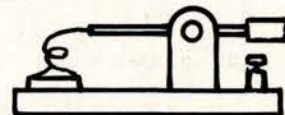


Spark-Gap Times



Published By
The Old Old Timers Club



NUMBER 8

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 APRIL, 1962 PAGE "A"

THE KING IS DEAD!

IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF BLABBER MOUTH WAS PUBLISHED A LETTER FROM OUR VERY GOOD FRIEND, HOWARD PYLE, W7OE, IN WHICH WAS EXPRESSED AN URGENT SUGGESTION TO CHANGE THE TITLE OF BLABBER MOUTH TO SOMETHING WITH GREATER DIGNITY.

A GRIPE SHEET AND QUESTIONNAIRE WAS INCLUDED IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE REQUESTING THE OPINION OF OUR MEMBERS. OF THOSE RESPONDING, BY FAR THE GREATER NUMBER REQUESTED A CHANGE IN TITLE AND THE MEMBERS DESIRES ARE REFLECTED BY THE ABOVE MASTHEAD. IT IS DESCRIPTIVE OF THE ERA IN WHICH MOST OF US HAD OUR GREATEST THRILLS AND ENJOYMENT.

HENCEFORTH, THE OLD OLD TIMERS CLUB PUBLICATION, FORMERLY KNOWN AS BLABBER MOUTH WILL BE KNOWN AS,

"SPARK GAP TIMES"

LONG LIVE THE KING!

WHAT IS IT THAT THESE YOUNG KIDS WON'T DO? A LETTER WRITTEN ON THE DECEMBER GRIPE SHEET FROM WIGV, OUR GOOD FRIEND MALC SMITH IS A GOOD CASE IN POINT. EXCERPTS FROM MALC'S LETTER FOLLOWS. READ IT AND GRIN, GRIN, GRIN.

"THE ONLY THING EXCITING I CAN SAY IS THAT MY HAMMING WAS RUDELY INTERRUPTED AT CHRISTMAS TIME DUE TO THE ARRIVAL FROM SANTA OF A STEAM ENGINE! I HAD INFORMED MY WIFE THAT I DID NOT NEED ANYTHING AS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT, BUT LATER ADDED JOKINGLY I WOULD LIKE A STEAM ENGINE. SO, LO! AND BEHOLD! A STEAM ENGINE I RECEIVED.

IT WAS MADE IN GERMANY AND VERY MUCH LIKE THE OLD TIME ONES WITH HORIZONTAL BOILER PIPED OVER TO A ROCKER ARM PISTON ENGINE. I HAVE HAD THREE DIFFERENT RADIO HAMS OVER AND WE HAD FUN AGAIN!!! "CAN YOU IMAGINE THIS? I HAVE A HUNCH THAT MARGARET HAS HAD MANY A LAUGH UP HER SLEEVE.

MALC ADDS THAT THEY WILL BE IN ORMOND BEACH FLA. DURING MARCH. HAVE FUN MALC AND MARGARET.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

8 APRIL, 1962 PAGE 1



OLD OLD TIMER W6KAA
LIEUTENANT COMMANDER THOMAS M. STEVENS
U S N (RETIRED)

IT IS WITH MUCH PRIDE THAT THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY TOM STEVENS IS PRESENTED TO THE READERS OF SPARK GAP TIMES. THIS GREAT GENTLEMAN IS ONE OF OUR MOST BELOVED, RESPECTED AND ADMIRED MEMBERS. YE OLDE COPY BOY CONSIDERS IT A PRIVILEGE TO PRESENT THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE AND HE HOPES THE READER WILL ENJOY IT AS HE DID.

JUST ONE MONTH BEFORE REACHING THE AGE OF SEVENTEEN, TOM JOINED THE NAVY AS AN APPRENTICE, THIRD CLASS, AT HIS HOME TOWN OF AUSTIN, TEXAS AND WAS SENT TO YERBA BUENA ISLAND IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA FOR BASIC TRAINING. AFTER SOME SIX MONTHS OF RIGOROUS DRILLING, TARGET PRACTICE, LEARNING HOW TO TIE KNOTS, BECOMING PROFICIENT IN WIGWAG SIGNALING AND MANY OTHER DUTIES OF A MANOFWARSMAN, HE WAS DETAILED TO THE OLD WOODEN SAILING VESSEL MOHICAN FOR A FIVE MONTHS CRUISE ALONG THE PACIFIC COAST.

PRIOR TO JOINING THE NAVY, TOM HAD WORKED IN A PLUMBING AND ELECTRIC SHOP IN AUSTIN, AND WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN BECOMING A NAVY ELECTRICIAN. AT THE NAVAL TRAINING STATION AND ON THE MOHICAN HE READ AND STUDIED ALL THE BOOKS DEALING WITH ELECTRICITY THAT WERE AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARIES AND BOUGHT OTHERS.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

SPARK GAP TIMES

1 APRIL, 1962 PAGE 2

AFTER FINISHING THE SEA CRUISE ON THE MOHICAN HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE RECEIVING SHIP HANCOCK AT THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARD IN SEPTEMBER, 1903. THIS WAS JUST ONE YEAR AFTER HIS ENLISTMENT. ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS THAT ATTRACTED HIS ATTENTION IN THE NAVY YARD WAS A WIRELESS TELEGRAPH STATION JUST WITHIN THE MAIN GATE. HE MADE IT HIS BUSINESS TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE OPERATORS PERFORMING DUTY WITHIN THE SMALL SHACK.

ONE OF THE OPERATORS WAS GEORGE S. DAVIS, WHO, MANY YEARS LATER BECAME PRESIDENT OF TROPICAL RADIO TELEGRAPH COMPANY AND A DIRECTOR OF RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA WITH WHOM TOM HAD MANY BUSINESS RELATIONS. DAVIS HELPED TOM GET STARTED IN WIRELESS AND HELPED HIM LEARN THE CODE - AMERICAN MORSE.

DURING THE LATTER PART OF 1903 AND EARLY 1904, TOM WAS ASSIGNED TO THE BATTLESHIPS INDIANA AND MASSACHUSETTS. NEITHER WERE WIRELESS EQUIPPED. BOTH VESSELS WERE DECOMMISSIONED AND THEN TOM WAS ASSIGNED TO THE BATTLESHIP IOWA, WHICH HAD JUST BEEN FITTED OUT WITH A SLABY-ARCO WIRELESS INSTALLATION. TOM GOT DETAILED TO THE WIRELESS ROOM AND UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF LESLIE E. SWITZER, HE BECAME PROFICIENT IN CODE AND THE PROPER MAINTENANCE AND ADJUSTMENT OF THE INVOLVED EQUIPMENT.

SWITZER AND TOM WERE THE ONLY OPERATORS ON THE IOWA AT THIS TIME, SO WHEN ORDERS CAME FOR THE TRANSFER OF SWITZER TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S YACHT MAYFLOWER, TOM HAD TO TAKE OVER THE WIRELESS ON THE IOWA. THE IOWA WAS ATTACHED TO THE GREAT WHITE FLEET UNDER COMMAND OF ADMIRAL ROBLEY D. EVANS WHO WAS THE FIRST SENIOR OFFICER TO MAKE USE OF THE NEW MEANS OF NAVAL COMMUNICATION.

OPERATORS ON OTHER VESSELS OF THE FLEET WERE, TO NAME A FEW, V. FORD GREAVES ON THE MAINE, FLAGSHIP, WOLVERTON ON THE KENTUCKY, GEORGE ALMOUR ON THE MISSOURI AND GALLAGHER ON THE ALABAMA. ALL THESE PIONEER NAVY WIRELESS OPERATORS WERE AMATEURS OF THE FIRST ORDER BECAUSE ALL OF THEM WERE CONTINUALLY EXPERIMENTING WITH THE GEAR AVAILABLE. DIFFERENT TYPES OF ANTENNAS WERE ERECTED, THE MERCURY TURBINE INTERRUPTERS WERE ALTERED TO GIVE A FIVE HUNDRED CYCLE NOTE INSTEAD OF THE 60 CYCLE NOTE ORIGINALLY PROVIDED, AND EXPERIMENTS WERE CONDUCTED WITH MICROPHONIC AND ELECTROLYTIC DETECTORS. THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE USE OF HIGHER PICHED SOUND AND WAS LATER INSTRUMENTAL IN DEFEATING THE CLAIM OF FESSENDEN THAT HE DEVELOPED THIS FEATURE.

TOM REMAINED IN CHARGE OF THE WIRELESS ON THE IOWA UNTIL HE WAS DISCHARGED IN OCTOBER, 1906. IN THE MEANTIME HE TRAINED A NUMBER OF WIRELESS OPERATORS, AMONG WHOM WERE OTTO CLINE, ROBERT SCHRICK AND OTHERS.

BECAUSE WIRELESS BECAME SUCH AN IMPORTANT MEANS OF COMMUNICATION TO THE NAVY, OTHER OPERATORS WERE ASSIGNED TO ALL THE VESSELS OF THE FLEET. AMONG OTHERS SERVING WITH TOM WERE CYRIL D. RINEHART, AUSTIN F. PARKHURST AND OTHERS.

ON BEING RELEASED FROM THE NAVY, TOM RETURNED TO AUSTIN WHERE HE FOUND THE DE FOREST WIRELESS TELEGRAPH COMPANY OF TEXAS WAS ERECTING A POINT-TO-POINT SYSTEM IN A NUMBER OF TEXAS CITIES. HE IMMEDIATELY JOINED THE FORCES OF DEFOREST AND OPERATED THE FIRST WIRELESS STATION IN SAN ANTONIO, HOUSTON, BEAUMONT AND PORT ARTHUR.

AFTER A COUPLE OF YEARS IN TEXAS, TOM RETURNED TO NEW YORK AND RAN ON VARIOUS SHIPS. THERE WAS ONLY ONE OPERATOR ON SHIPS IN THOSE EARLY DAYS AND LIFE WAS VERY INTERESTING FOR THE SPARKS ON PASSENGER VESSELS. AMONG THOSE ON WHICH TOM SERVED WAS THE MERIDA (NOW AT THE BOTTOM OF THE ATLANTIC NEAR CAPE HATTERAS), CITY OF ATLANTA, SUNK BY GERMANS IN FIRST WORLD WAR; HARVARD, WRECKED ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

IN MAY OF 1909, TOM TOLD HIS SUPERINTENDENT AND GOOD FRIEND, HENRY J. HUGHES THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO BE MARRIED TO A BOSTON GIRL AND WANTED A JOB ON SHORE. MUCH TO HIS SURPRISE, HUGHES SAID, "OK, GO TO BOSTON AND TAKE OVER THE NEW STATION BEING

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL, 1962 PAGE 3

INSTALLED ON THE BOSTON HERALD BUILDING. THIS STATION BECAME "MH". IN THIS CASE BUSINESS DID MIX.

"BH" WAS OPERATED AT ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION ON THE BOSTON HERALD BUILDING FOR ABOUT TWO YEARS AND THEN MOVED TO THE FORERIVER SHIPBUILDING YARD AT QUINCY, SOME FIFTEEN MILES EAST OF BOSTON. ABOUT THIS TIME, THE UNITED WIRELESS TELEGRAPH COMPANY BECAME INVOLVED WITH FINANCIAL LOSSES AND ALLEGED FRAUDULENT USE OF THE MAILS. THIS RESULTED IN IT'S PRESIDENT BEING SENT TO ATLANTA PRISON AND THE COMPANY GOING INTO BANKRUPTCY.

DURING THE TWO YEARS AND TEN MONTHS THAT TOM MANAGED THE BOSTON STATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES OF UNITED WIRELESS, SHIP INSTALLATIONS BEGAN TO TAKE PLACE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS. ON JULY 1, 1911, THE SHIP WIRELESS ACT BECAME EFFECTIVE AND MANY VESSELS WERE REQUIRED TO BE EQUIPPED WITH SUITABLE APPARATUS. TOM TOOK ON QUITE A FEW ASSISTANTS, AMONG WHOM WERE ART STOCKELLBURG WISS, HARRY (BUCK) CHEETHAM, GEORGE NICHOLS, DAN DECOSTE AND SEVERAL OTHERS. ALL THESE EARLY BIRDS HAD THEIR HANDS FULL IN OPERATING THE COASTAL STATIONS, MAKING SHIP INSTALLATIONS, MAINTENANCE OF SHIP STATIONS, ASSIGNING SKILLED OPERATORS AND MAKING EMERGENCY REPAIRS AND INSTALLATIONS OF STORAGE BATTERIES AND TELEPHONES BETWEEN THE WIRELESS ROOM AND THE BRIDGE AS REQUIRED BY THE SHIP ACT.

NOW THIS SHIP ACT WAS STRICTLY ENFORCED BY A YOUNG FELLOW BEARING THE NAME OF HARRY C. GAWLER, THE FIRST WIRELESS SHIP INSPECTOR ASSIGNED BY THE WASHINGTON OFFICE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF OUR HONORARY MEMBER, MR. W.D. TERRELL. GAWLER KEPT TOM AND HIS ASSISTANTS BUSY DAY AND NIGHT, THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE DAYS OF THE YEAR.

AS OF APRIL 1, 1912, THE MARCONI WIRELESS TELEGRAPH COMPANY OF AMERICA ACQUIRED THE ASSETS OF THE OLD AND DEFUNCT UNITED WIRELESS TELEGRAPH COMPANY AND TOM FOUND HIMSELF WORKING FOR NEW BOSSES. UNDER THE NEW MANAGEMENT, PAY CHECKS ARRIVED ON SCHEDULE AND PROGRESS BEGAN TO RAPIDLY DEVELOPE.

IN THE LATTER PART OF 1914, TOM WAS TRANSFERRED FROM THE BOSTON AREA TO BALTIMORE TO RELIEVE CHARLES J. PANNILL AS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SOUTHERN DIVISION OF THE MARCONI COMPANY. PANNILL JOINED THE CIVILIAN STAFF OF NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS AND WAS STATIONED AT ARLINGTON, VA. THE SOUTHERN DIVISION EXTENDED TO ALL PORTS AND COASTAL STATIONS ON THE ATLANTIC COAST SOUTH OF NEW YORK. COASTAL STATIONS WERE AT CAPE MAY, N.J., PHILADELPHIA, BALTIMORE, CAPE HENRY, CAPE HATTERAS, SAVANNAH, JACKSONVILLE AND BEST OF ALL WST MIAMI BEACH, FLA. THE TERRITORY ALSO TOOK IN ALL THE SHIPBUILDING YARDS SOUTH OF NEW YORK, WHERE MANY NEW SHIPS WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION, ALL OF WHICH HAD TO BE EQUIPPED WITH WIRELESS SETS.

THOSE WERE BUSY DAYS FOR TOM WHO HAD TO VISIT ALL THE COASTAL STATIONS TWICE A YEAR AND MAKE THE ROUNDS OF ALL SERVICE DEPOTS WHICH WERE LOCATED IN THE PRINCIPAL PORTS. HE WAS ABLY ASSISTED BY PAUL C. RINGGOLD UNTIL HIS TRANSFER TO NEW YORK TO WORK DIRECTLY UNDER THE MARINE MANAGER, DAVID SARNOFF. HIS JOB AT BALTIMORE WAS FILLED BY THE APPOINTMENT OF WESLEY P. KELLAND, NOW RETIRED FROM RCA MARINE SERVICE. KELLAND WAS ONLY ONE OF THE MANY HAMS AROUND BOSTON WHO OPERATED A SPARK SET (THEN UNLICENSED), WHO WAS GIVEN HIS FIRST WIRELESS JOB ON A SHIP UNDER TOM PRIMARILY TO GET RID OF HIS INTERFERENCE TO "BH".

WHILE AT BALTIMORE, IT WAS TOM'S DUTY, IN ADDITION TO RUNNING THINGS ON AMERICAN VESSELS, TO ASSIGN OPERATORS TO FOREIGN SHIPS SUBJECT TO THE SHIP ACT, WHICH HAD ENTERED PORTS WITHOUT OPERATORS. ONE SUCH VESSEL WAS A SAILING, AND LOADING AT BALTIMORE FOR EUROPEAN PORTS. THIS WAS DURING THE WAR PRIOR TO OUR ENTRY. A YOUNG FELLOW BY THE NAME OF GEAR WAS ASSIGNED. HE WANTED TO MAKE THE TRIP TO GET A LONG NEEDED REST. HIS NAME APPEARS ON THE VETERAN WIRELESS OPERATORS MONUMENT IN BATTERY PARK, NEW YORK BECAUSE HIS SAILING VESSEL WAS WRECKED IN A STORM OFF THE COAST OF SPAIN AND ALL HANDS LOST. IT IS RECALLED THAT ANOTHER OPERATOR HAD TO BE FOUND TO TAKE A TUG ACROSS THE ATLANTIC IN MIDWINTER.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL, 1962 PAGE 4

THERE WAS ONLY ONE VOLUNTEER, SAM CISSENFELD OF BALTIMORE, NOW A RETIRED MERCHANT. WHEN TOM WISHED SAM "BON VOYAGE" HE NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE HIM AGAIN, BUT THAT LITTLE HEBREW SPARKS RETURNED SAFE AND SOUND WITH A WIDE SMILE AND A BIG BAG FULL OF GREEN-BACKS.

AFTER TWO YEARS OF SERVICE AS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SOUTHERN DIVISION OF THE MARCONI COMPANY AT BALTIMORE, TOM WAS CALLED TO NEW YORK WHERE HE WAS OFFERED THE POSITION OF MARINE SUPERINTENDENT, PACIFIC DIVISION, MARCONI COMPANY AT SAN FRANCISCO. HE ACCEPTED AND RETURNED TO BALTIMORE TO PREPARE FOR THE TRIP ACROSS THE CONTINENT WITH HIS WIFE AND SON TO THE WEST COAST. ENROUTE HE CAUGHT A BAD COLD AND UPON REACHING HOUSTON, HE HAD TO GO TO A HOSPITAL WITH DOUBLE PNEUMONIA.

AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS DELAY AT HOUSTON, HE PROCEEDED TO THE WEST COAST. THIS WAS LATE DECEMBER, 1916. SEVERAL MONTHS LATER OUR COUNTRY ENTERED WORLD WAR I AND TOM IMMEDIATELY RE-ENTERED THE NAVAL SERVICE, THIS TIME AS A LIEUTENANT (JG) AND ASSISTANT TO THE PACIFIC COAST COMMUNICATION SUPERINTENDENT, COMMANDER EDWIN H. DODD, U S N. TOM'S FIRST AND PRIMARY DUTY WAS TO ENROLL ALL AVAILABLE WIRELESS OPERATORS IN THE NAVAL RESERVE. CAPABLE OPERATORS, EVEN THOSE WITH ONE EYE, ONE LEG OR ONE ARM MISSING WERE ACCEPTED BECAUSE OF THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION.

AFTER COMPLETING ENROLLMENT OF ALL OPERATORS, HAMS AND POTENTIAL OPERATORS WHO WERE SENT TO THE HARVARD WIRELESS SCHOOL, TOM TOOK OVER THE HANDLING OF COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL OF THE PACIFIC. THIS INCLUDED OPERATORS FOR ALL CALIFORNIA, OREGON, WASHINGTON, ALASKA, HAWAII, GUAM AND THE PHILIPINES. IN ADDITION, PERSONNEL HAD TO BE FOUND FOR ARMED GUARD UNITS ASSIGNED TO MERCHANT VESSELS AND ALL MEN-OF-WAR VESSELS.

TOM REMAINED ON ACTIVE DUTY FOR OVER TWO AND A HALF YEARS AND WHEN RELEASED TO CIVILIAN STATUS, HE FOUND HIS OLD JOB WITH MARCONI NO LONGER EXISTED; SO HE TOOK OVER THE REPRESENTATION OF THE NEWLY FORMED INDEPENDENT WIRELESS COMPANY ON THE WEST COAST. HE ESTABLISHED SERVICE DEPOTS AT SEATTLE, PORTLAND, SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES. HE HAD BEEN IWT ONLY TWO MONTHS WHEN HE WAS OFFERED A MUCH MORE ATTRACTIVE POSITION WITH THE RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA, WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN OPERATIONS ON JAN. 1, 1920. HE ACCEPTED AND RETURNED TO THE EAST COAST.

TOM BECAME ASSISTANT GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, MARINE DEPARTMENT, RCA AT NEW YORK. THIS WAS A HIGHLY RESPONSIBLE POSITION BUT HE WAS PREPARED FOR IT BY HAVING TAKEN A CORRESPONDENCE COURSE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION. IN ADDITION TO THE OPERATION OF OVER A THOUSAND COMPANY OWNED MERCHANT VESSELS, HIS DEPARTMENT WAS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OPERATING AND MAINTAINING OVER FOUR HUNDRED UNITED STATES SHIPPING BOARD VESSELS.

BECAUSE THE MARCONI COMPANY HAD SOLD ALL ITS COASTAL WIRELESS STATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR, AND AS THE NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE DID NOT CARE TO CONTINUE HANDLING COMMERCIAL MARITIME RADIO TRAFFIC, TOM WAS GIVEN THE ASSIGNMENT BY GENERAL MANAGER DAVID SARNOFF TO RE-ESTABLISH AN EFFICIENT AND MORE MODERN COASTAL TELEGRAPH SERVICE. HE WENT TO WORK ON THIS HIGHLY COMPLICATED MATTER AND SOON HAD STATIONS IN OPERATION AT NEW YORK, (WNY); CHATHAM, MASS. (WCC); CAPE MAY, (WCY); SAVANNAH, (WSV); PORT ARTHUR, (WPA); GALVESTON, (WGV); SAN FRANCISCO, (KPH); SAN PEDRO, (KSE) AND SEVERAL OTHERS INCLUDING A NUMBER ON THE GREAT LAKES.

THESE STATIONS WERE SOON USING VACUUM TUBE TRANSMITTERS AND BECAUSE OF THE SELECTION OF THE MOST COMPETENT RADIO OPERATORS, THESE STATIONS BECAME FAMOUS FOR THE RAPID

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL, 1962 PAGE 5

AND EFFICIENT MANNER IN WHICH SHIP-TO-SHORE TRAFFIC WAS HANDLED.

IN 1924 TOM REPRESENTED THE RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA AT A NATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD IN WASHINGTON DURING OCTOBER OF THAT YEAR. IT WAS CALLED BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE HERBERT HOOVER FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDYING PROPOSALS FOR THE CHANGE IN ALLOCATIONS OF FREQUENCIES SO THAT THE NEW BROADCASTING INDUSTRY COULD FIND SUITABLE CHANNELS WITHOUT INTERFERING WITH OR BEING INTERFERED WITH BY OTHER SERVICES.

UP TO THE TIME OF THE CONFERENCE, THE BROADCASTING STATIONS USED ONE OR TWO FREQUENCIES, VIZ; 360 METERS AND ONE OTHER. BY FULL COOPERATION OF COMMERCIAL, GOVERNMENT AND AMATEUR SERVICES, A VERY APPROPRIATE SOLUTION WAS FOUND FOR THE TIME BEING. BROADCASTING STATIONS BEGAN TO INCREASE BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS AND AMATEUR STATIONS LIKEWISE INCREASED BEYOND ALL EXPECTATIONS. THE AMTEURS WERE ABLY REPRESENTED AT THIS CONFERENCE BY HIRAM PERCY MAXIM, KENNETH B. WARNER OF WEST HARTFORD AND J.B. STEWART OF PHILADELPHIA.

AGAIN IN 1927, ALONG WITH COL. MANTON DAVIS, GENERAL COUNSEL OF RCA AND WILLIAM A. WINTERBOTTOM, VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER OF RCA COMMUNICATIONS INC., TOM REPRESENTED RCA AT THE INTERNATIONAL RADIO CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR SEVERAL MONTHS PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE, MANY MEETINGS WERE HELD IN WASHINGTON, PREPARING THE AGENDA WITH THE MANY AND VARIED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION. THE USE OF HIGH AND VERY HIGH FREQUENCIES WERE COMING INTO GENERAL USE AT THIS TIME, BUT AS NO INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS HAD AS YET BEEN PROMULGATED, IT WAS NECESSARY TO STUDY AND SUBMIT WORKABLE PLANS FOR THE USE OF THE GREAT NUMBER OF HIGHLY VALUABLE CHANNELS FOR WORLD WIDE SERVICE, FOR GOVERNMENTAL, AMATEUR AND OTHER SERVICES.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING, COMMANDER T.A.M. CRAVEN, U S N, PLAYED A MOST IMPORTANT PART BY DEVISING A COMPREHENSIVE AND WORKABLE DIVISION OF THE ENTIRE RADIO SPECTRUM. TOM PLAYED A PROMINENT PART IN WORKING WITH REPRESENTITIVES OF MANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS IN LINING THEM UP TO ADOPT THE CRAVEN PLAN. FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE USE OF HIGH FREQUENCIES WAS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED ON A BASIS WHERE INTERFERENCE WOULD BE HELD TO A MINIMUM. MANY OTHER IMPORTANT PROVISIONS WERE ADOPTED AT THIS CONFERENCE SUCH AS THE DISCONTINUANCE OF THE USE OF SPARK TYPE TRANSMITTERS IN THE MARITIME SERVICE. COASTAL TELEGRAPH STATIONS AND PRACTICALLY ALL SHIP STATIONS WERE EQUIPPED WITH SPARK TRANSMITTERS ONLY, AND THE INTERFERENCE CAUSED TO THE BROADCAST RECEPTION WAS INTOLERABLE IN ALL COASTAL AREAS.

BECAUSE RCA HELD THE BASIC PATENTS ON VACUUM TUBE TRANSMITTERS, IT WAS A MOST DIFFICULT MATTER FOR COMPETING AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANIES TO FULLY COMPLY WITH THE PROVISION OF ABOLITION OF SPARK SETS. IT SEEMED OBVIOUS THEREFORE, THAT THE ACQUISITION OF SOME COMPETING FACILITIES BY RCA WAS HIGHLY DESIRABLE. THEREFORE ON JANUARY 1, 1928, RCA PURCHASED THE ASSETS OF THE INDEPENDENT WIRELESS TELEGRAPH COMPANY, INCLUDING ALL ITS COASTAL AND SHIP STATION CONTRACTS. THOSE SERVICES WERE AMALGAMATED WITH THE MARINE DEPARTMENT OF RCA, AND A NEW COMPANY-RADIO MARINE CORPORATION OF AMERICA WAS FORMED TO OPERATE THE COMBINED SYSTEMS. AT THIS TIME TOM WAS GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT OF RCA AND CONTINUED IN THAT POSITION WITH RADIOMARINE UNTIL MAY, 1933 WHEN HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO SAN FRANCISCO TO MANAGE RADIOMARINE ON THE WEST COAST.

ON MAY 31, 1937 TOM RESIGNED FROM RADIOMARINE. AFTER A PERIOD OF REST AND TRAVEL TOM WORKED BRIEFLY FOR NBC IN HOLLYWOOD AND THEN WENT WITH THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AS MONITORING OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE LOS ANGELES AREA.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL, 1962 PAGE 6

ON SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 6, 1941, TOM, ALONG WITH AN ASSISTANT WAS INVESTIGATING AN ALLEGED UNLICENSED STATION REPORT, WHEN HE HAPPENED TO TUNE IN ON A BROADCASTING STATION WHICH WAS REPORTING THE BOMBING OF PEARL HARBOR BY JAPANESE PLANES. HE REMARKED, "THIS MEANS WAR", AND IMMEDIATELY RETURNED TO THE MONITORING STATION. REAL WAR CONDITIONS PREVAILLED FROM THAT MOMENT UNTIL THE FINAL PEACE TERMS WERE SIGNED ON THE MISSOURI.

SHORTLY AFTER THE BOMBING OF PEARL HARBOR, A REPORTED ATTACK ON LOS ANGELES BY JAP PLANES, ERRONEOUS AS IT WAS, NEVERTHELESS CAUSED ALMOST PANIC IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. THE COLONEL IN CHARGE OF THE AIR DEFENSE IN THAT AREA, CALLED TOM AND DEMANDED THAT ALL BROADCAST STATIONS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BE TAKEN OFF THE AIR IMMEDIATELY. BEING UNABLE TO REACH HIGHER AUTHORITY IN FCC AT THAT TIME OF NIGHT, TOM BEGAN CALLING ALL BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA AND ORDERED THEM TO CEASE OPERATION AT ONCE AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. ALL STATIONS COMPLIED.

LATER, PLANS WERE MADE WITH THE BROADCASTING INDUSTRY TO HAVE STATIONS GO OFF THE AIR IN EVENT OF ENEMY ATTACKS. TOM HAD MANY AND VARIED EXPERIENCES IN INVESTIGATING REPORTS OF ILLEGAL AND SUBVERSIVE RADIO OPERATIONS, MONITORING OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC BROADCASTING, AND RECORDING FOREIGN STATIONS.

THE USE OF HIDDEN HIGH FREQUENCY EQUIPMENT ON THE BODIES OF PERSONS ATTEMPTING TO GET RACE RESULTS OUT OF SANTA ANITA AND HOLLYWOOD RACE TRACKS WAS OF FREQUENT OCCASION. THOSE ATTEMPTING SUCH ILLEGAL USE OF RADIO WERE QUICKLY DETECTED, ARRESTED AND CONVICTED IN THE FEDERAL COURTS.

SHORTLY AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE FINAL PEACE TREATY, THE RADIO INTELLIGENCE DIVISION OF FCC, ALONG WITH ITS SPECIAL MONITORING STATIONS WAS DISSOLVED AND TOM WAS TRANSFERRED TO WASHINGTON, WHERE HE CONTINUED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1950, WHEN HE RETIRED. WHILE HE WAS IN WASHINGTON, HE SERVED UNDER MR. GEORGE S. TURNER, CHIEF OF FIELD ENGINEERING AND MONITORING SERVICE AND FOR A SHORT TIME UNDER MR. WILLIAM N. KREBS, CHIEF OF THE MARINE RADIO SERVICE.

UPON HIS RETIREMENT, TOM RETURNED TO CALIFORNIA AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER JOINED THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL DEFENSE COMMUNICATION DIVISION WITH WHICH HE COVERED SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOR FIVE YEARS. UPON REACHING THE AGE OF 70, HE RETIRED. FOR A BRIEF PERIOD AFTER RETIRING FROM THE STATE CIVIL DEFENSE, HE SPENT HIS TIME IN PREPARING RACES PLANS FOR SOME 200 CITIES AND COUNTIES OF CALIFORNIA.

TOM IS NOW FULLY RETIRED; FIRST FROM THE U S NAVY AS LIEUTENANT COMMANDER AND FROM FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AS RADIO ENGINEER. FOR HIS NAVAL SERVICE HE HOLDS TWO MEDALS AND BRONZE STAR. UPON RETIRING FROM FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, HE WAS TENDERED A DINNER PARTY AND PRESENTED WITH A BEAUTIFUL GOLD WATCH, AND SEVERAL PIPES BY HIS CO-WORKERS.

TOM IS A VETERAN MASON OF OVER FIFTY YEARS. HE IS ALSO A VETERAN WIRELESS OPERATOR AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF VWOA. HE NOW SPENDS HIS TIME RAISING LOVELY FLOWERS AND PLAYING WITH HAM RADIO AND HI-FI SETS. IN RETROSPECT, TOM HAS A DEEP FEELING OF APPRECIATION TOWARDS ALL THOSE WHO HELPED IN MAKING HIS LONG AND SUCCESSFUL COMMUNICATIONS CAREER POSSIBLE. THIS INCLUDES MANY COMMERCIAL OFFICIALS, NAVAL OFFICERS AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES, PLUS THE THOUSANDS OF COASTAL AND SHIP STATION OPERATORS WHO WORKED WITH HIM SOME FORTY OR FIFTY YEARS AGO.

AN INSPIRING AND INTERESTING CAREER

THE TEAKETTLE HAS MUCH TO ADMIRE. THE DARNED THING SINGS EVEN THOUGH IT'S IN HOT WATER UP TO IT'S NECK.

"EVEN BACK IN MY YOUTH THERE WAS SOMETHING GUARANTEED TO MAKE YOU SLEEP", AN OLD FARMER TOLD THE YOUNG DOCTOR. "THEY CALLED IT WORK".

HALF CENTURY OF AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING TO BE CELEBRATED IN OCTOBER, 1962

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS WHO WERE FIRST LICENSED IN 1912 AND WHO ARE STILL ACTIVE TODAY, WILL BE HONORED AT A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY BANQUET TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK CITY ON OCTOBER 13, 1962 TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

FIFTY YEARS AGO, CONGRESS ADOPTED THE RADIO ACT OF 1912, BRINGING ORDER TO THE THEN-NEW BUT RAPIDLY EXPANDING ART AND SCIENCE OF WIRELESS OR RADIO COMMUNICATION. AS ONE OF IT'S FEATURES, THE ACT REQUIRED FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS OBTAIN A LICENSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR, AFTER PASSING AN EXAMINATION. THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR AT THAT TIME WHO SIGNED THESE FIRST LICENSES WAS MR. CHARLES NAGEL.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING IS BEING HANDLED BY A SPECIAL COMMITTEE COMPRISING REPRESENTITIVES OF A NUMBER OF SPONSORING SOCIETIES INCLUDING THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE (ARRL), ARMED FORCES COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS ASSOCIATION (AFCEA), INSTITUTE OF RADIO ENGINEERS (IRE), QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA), RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA, HUDSON AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, AND THE SINGLE SIDEBAND AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (SSBARA). THE OFFICERS OF THIS COMMITTEE ARE MR. JOHN DI BLASI, CHAIRMAN, WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF THE QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION; MR. JOHN HUNTOON, VICE-CHAIRMAN AND GENERAL MANAGER OF THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, AND MR. DAVID TALLEY, SECRETARY-TREASURER, WHO IS A MEMBER OF ALL OF THE AFOREMENTIONED SPONSORING SOCIETIES.

A SEARCH IS NOW IN PROGRESS TO LOCATE THOSE WHO OBTAINED THEIR HAM LICENSE OR "TICKETS" DURING THE INITIAL LICENSING PERIOD OF 1912 AND ARE CURRENTLY LICENSED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AS AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS. AN APPROPRIATE AWARD WILL BE MADE TO ALL SUCH AMATEURS BY THE SPONSORING SOCIETIES. THE AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED IN PERSON TO THOSE ABLE TO ATTEND THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY BANQUET WHICH WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HUDSON DIVISION CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE AT THE STATLER-HILTON HOTEL, NEW YORK CITY, ON OCTOBER 13, 1962.

OLD TIME HAMS WHO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AWARD SHOULD SEND DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY WHICH CAN BE IN THE FORM OF THE ORIGINAL OR AN ATTESTED PHOTOCOPY OF THE INITIAL AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE ISSUED IN 1912, TO THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC., WEST HARTFORD, CONN., ATTENTION MR. JOHN HUNTOON, BEFORE AUGUST 15, 1962. IN CASES WHERE THE HAM'S NAME AND AMATEUR STATION CALL LETTERS ARE LISTED IN THE JULY 1, 1913 EDITION OF THE CALLBOOK, "RADIO STATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES", THIS MAY BE CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY PROOF. (IF ORIGINAL 1912 LICENSE HAS BEEN LOST OR DESTROYED).

FEBRUARY 9, 1962

BY DAVID TALLEY, W2FF, 40 E. 9TH ST., NEW YORK 3, N.Y.

ONE OF MAN'S GREATEST ASSETS IS HIS MEMORIES.

W2EG

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL, 1962 PAGE 8

1913 GOVERNMENT CALL BOOK

W2EG, EARL WILLIAMS, OUR VERY LIVE WIRE SECRETARY HAS ARRANGED TO HAVE THE PAGES OF THE ORIGINAL 1913 GOVERNMENT CALL BOOK REPRODUCED. THESE PAGES ARE 30 IN NUMBER AND ARE TRUE REPRODUCTIONS OF THIS INTERESTING HISTORICAL LISTING OF THE FIRST LICENSED RADIO AMATEURS. IT IS COSTING A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY FROM THE OOTC TREASURY TO GET THESE REPRODUCTIONS BUT THE WHOLE 30 PAGES ARE OFFERED TO OOTC MEMBERS FOR \$2.00 A SET POSTPAID. TO NON-MEMBERS THE PRICE WILL BE \$3.00 POSTPAID.

THIS MOST INTERESTING HISTORICAL MATERIAL MAY BE OBTAINED BY ORDERING DIRECT FROM THE SECRETARY, MR. EARL C. WILLIAMS W2EG, 507 WAYSIDE ROAD, NEPTUNE, N.J. THE ORIGINAL PRINTING WILL BE FOR 100 SETS OF COPIES. THEY SHOULD BE READY FOR MAILING THE FIRST PART OF APRIL. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT YOU GET YOUR ORDER IN EARLY IF YOU WISH A SET FROM THE FIRST PRINTING.

A LION WENT INTO "BAR" AND ASKED THE BARKEEP FOR A DRINK--DOWNED DRINK AND ASKED FOR ANOTHER--DOWNED THAT, LOOKED AROUND AND SAID "GEE I'M HUNGRY--LOOKED ALONG AT END OF BAR WHERE A SWEET CHICK WAS HAVING ONE BY HERSELF. LION EASED ALONG, GRABBED THE CHICK--WOOF, ONE SWALLOW AND CHICK WAS GONE. THE BARKEEP SAID, "YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT". NO, SAID THE LION, "NOW I HAVE INDIGESTION". "OH, NO", SAID THE BARKEEP, "IMPOSSIBLE, THAT WAS A BAR-BIT-1".

VE2BG TOM LETTS.

OOTC NETS AND SKEDS

THURSDAY EVENING 75 METER NET--3.945 MC.---DAILY NETS --40 METER NET--7.215 MC. AND 20 METER NET--14.295 AT 1800 GMT. OH YES THE 40 METER NET MEETS AT 12.30 GMT. WE HOPE MORE OF YOU WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET OLD FRIEND AND BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH OTHERS OF OOTC WHOM THEY HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY KNOWN. WHETHER IT IS ON ONE OF THE NETS, A QSO OR A CQ, IT IS URGED THAT YOU SINE WITH OOTC AS WELL AS YOUR OWN SINE. IN THIS WAY YOU WILL ACQUAINT ALL WITH THE FACT THAT YOU ARE OOTC AND WILL IN ALL LIKELYHOOD MEET SOME OF YOUR OLD BUDS OF YEARS GONE AFLEETIN'.

EXERPT FROM A GRIPE SHEET

IN RE: PERCE B. COLLISON'S LETTER (K2DZ) ON NC-4 FLYING BOATS. I BELIEVE THE MODEL LETTERS WERE NC AND THAT THE FOUR SETTING OUT ON THE TRANSATLANTIC TRIP WERE NUMBERED NC-1, NC-2, NC-3 AND NC-4, THE LAST BEING THE ONLY ONE TO COMPLETE THE TRIP. I WAS ON USS HANNIBAL IN BREST, AND HEARD NC-4 LEAVING THE AZORES.

LISBON CALLED HIM AND ASKED "HYDROPLANIZ AMERICANO?", NC4 REPLYING "YES". FOLLOWED NC-4 INTO LISBON AND THENCE TO PLYMOUTH ENGLAND. NC-4 PASSED LOW OVERHEAD IN BREST. HEARD HIM SAY, "NOW REELING IN ANTENNA, PREPARING TO LAND", WHEN HE ARRIVED IN PLYMOUTH.

WIOD/4 JIM CLAPP (NOW W4AU)

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 1.

1 APRIL, 1962 PAGE 9

AUGUSTO E. OSORIO
LU2AO



WE ARE GLAD TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT A PICTURE OF ONE OF OUR VERY DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS FROM OUR SISTER REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA. AUGUSTO ALTHOUGH ONE OF OUR NEWER MEMBERS IS ONE OF OUR MOST ACTIVE MEMBERS.

AUGUSTO IS A MEMBER OF MOST OF THE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES OF ARGENTINA AND IS PRESENTLY SECRETARY OF "CENTRO RADIO VETERANOS", AN ORGANIZATION OF VETERAN RADIO OPERATORS OF ARGENTINA. HE IS A PROLIFIC WRITER FOR THE VARIOUS SOUTH AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS AND IS THE AUTHOR OF SEVERAL BOOKS, ONE OF THE LATER ONES BEING "RADIOASTRONOMIA".

YOU HAVE ALL SEEN HIS NEWS BULLETINS AND I AM SURE ENJOYED THEM AS HAVE I. HE HAS SENT IN A COPY OF "CHASSIS" RADIO-TV, WHICH IS ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT SOUTH AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS, IN WHICH IS LISTED ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF OOTC. HE HAS WRITTEN SEVERAL ARTICLES ON THE OOTC THAT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN VARIOUS ARGENTINA PUBLICATIONS.

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE THIS GENTLEMAN FOR ONE OF OUR MEMBERS AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MANY MORE LIKE HIM, FROM SOUTH AMERICA.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FINE WORK THAT MR. OSORIO HAS DONE IN BEHALF OF THE OLD OLD TIMERS CLUB, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO APPOINT HIM AS SOUTH AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OLD OLD TIMERS CLUB. THIS WILL INCLUDE ALL AREA SOUTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA.

IT IS HOPED THAT SOME DAY A SOUTH AMERICAN CHAPTER MAY BE FORMED, AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT AUGUSTO IS THE MAN TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF OOTC THROUGHOUT ALL SOUTH AMERICA. HE WILL BE EXPECTED TO APPROVE ALL APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP BEFORE BEING FINALLY ACTED UPON BY THE BOARD AND TO ACT AS MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN FOR SOUTH AMERICA. IN ADDITION, AUGUSTO WILL BE EXPECTED TO PROMOTE THE BEST INTERESTS OF OOTC IN VERY WAY HE BELIEVES BENEFICIAL.

THIS IS THE FIRST APPOINTMENT OF THIS CHARACTER MADE OUT OF THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA AND I AM SURE THAT ALL OF OUR MEMBERS WILL HEARTILY AGREE THAT IT IS A GOOD ONE AND ONE THAT WILL BENEFIT OUR ORGANIZATION. AUGUSTO HAS NOT BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT THIS APPOINTMENT, BUT KNOWING HIS FINE RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ACHIEVMENT, I AM SURE HE WILL ACCEPT.

IN A LETTER TO THE WRITER, AUGUSTO ENCLOSED A COPY OF THE ARTICLE ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF "CENTRO RADIO VETERANOS" AND A CUT SHOWING HIM WITH A GROUP AT THE BANQUET TABLE. I WISH IT POSSIBLE TO REPRODUCE THIS ARTICLE FOR OUR MEMBERS.-- YE OLDE COPY BOY.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

THE BLUE BOOK OF AMATEUR WIRELESS

1 APRIL, 1962 PAGE 10

IT HAS BEEN IN MIND TO PUBLISH A BOOK GIVING BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON MEMBERS OF OOTC SINCE THE EARLY DAYS OF ITS EXISTANCE. MANY ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE PAST TO GET THIS BOOK PUBLISHED AND INTO THE HANDS OF THE MEMBERS. THE EFFORT UP TO NOW HAS BEEN MOST DISCOURAGING AND THE RESULTS EVEN WORSE.

THERE HAVE BEEN TWO BASIC REASONS FOR THE FAILURE TO GET THIS BOOK OUT BEFORE NOW. FIRST, THOSE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE THE PROJECT LEARNED AFTER STARTING, THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE THE AVAILABLE TIME OR THE FACILITIES FOR CARRYING THE JOB THROUGH TO COMPLETION. SECOND, OUR MEMBERS HAVE BEEN SLOW TO SEND IN THE NECESSARY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA AND USABLE PICTURES.

W2Z1, ED RASER MADE A VALIANT ATTEMPT BUT WAS FRUSTRATED BY LACK OF PROPER FACILITIES FOR PRODUCING WITHIN OUR MEANS. ONE OF OUR LOCAL MEMBERS, W4MF, BERT OSBORNE HAS CONSENTED TO TAKE ON THE JOB AND IT IS NOW BEGINNING TO TAKE SHAPE. PROGRESS MAY BE ACCELERATED IF THE MEMBERS WILL COMPLY WITH THE LAST REQUEST FOR BIOGRAPHICAL DATA AND USABLE PICTURES.

IT IS PLANNED TO GO AHEAD ON THIS PROJECT REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS WHO HAVE FAILED TO SEND IN THE REQUESTED DATA. MEMBERS WHO HAVE FAILED TO SEND IN THE MATERIAL REQUESTED, OF NECESSITY BE GIVEN ONLY SUCH MENTION AS THE INFORMATION WE HAVE IN OUR RECORDS. IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO INSERT ANY MATERIAL WHATEVER AFTER THE PLATES ARE MADE.

THE OOTC "BLUE BOOK OF AMATEUR WIRELESS" WILL BE CONTAINED IN A ROYAL BLUE PLASTIC COVERED THREE RING BINDER WITH A SUITABLE ON THE COVER. A THREE RING BINDER WAS SELECTED SO THAT ADDITIONAL MATERIAL MAY BE ADDED FROM TIME TO TIME AND TO ALLOW FOR THE ADDITION OF NEW MEMBERS EACH YEAR.

IT IS PLANNED TO ISSUE THIS BOOK IN CALL AREA INSTALLMENTS, STARTING WITH THE 1 AREA, AND WITH THE OTHER CALL AREAS ISSUED IN CALL AREA NUMERICAL ORDER. WE HOPE TO HAVE THE FIRST INSTALLMENT ISSUED IN EARLY OR MID SUMMER. IT HAS NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED WHETHER IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO MAKE A CHARGE FOR THIS BOOK OR NOT, BUT IF A CHARGE SEEMS NECESSARY, IT WILL BE ONLY FOR THE ACTUAL PRODUCTION COST.

YE OLDE COPY BOY HAS ORDERED A SMALL QUANTITY OF STAMP SIZE OOTC SEALS FOR USE ON QSL CARDS ETC. IF THEY TURN OUT OK, IT IS PLANNED TO ORDER A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER FOR OUR MEMBERS USE. THIS FIRST LOT COST \$2.20 BUT IN LARGE QUANTITIES, THE PRICE SHOULD BE VERY MUCH LOWER.

WHICH WAY?

A BUSINESS MAN WENT TO SEE A PSYCHIATRIST, AND THE DOCTOR ASKED WHAT SEEMED TO BE TROUBLING HIM. THE FELLOW SAID, "NOTHING, BUT THE FAMILY THOUGHT HE OUGHT TO SEE A DOCTOR BECAUSE HE LIKE COTTON SOCKS".

THE PSYCHIATRIST ASSURED HIM THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE DIDN'T LIKE NYLON OR SILK SOCKS. AS A MATTER HE SAID, "I LIKE COTTON SOCKS MYSELF".

"YOU DO?" ASKED THE MAN IN GREAT EXCITEMENT. "HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR--WITH OIL AND VINEGAR OR, JUST A SQUEEZE OF LEMON JUICE?"

"THE POOREST OF ALL MEN", SAYS OUR NEIGHBOR, "IS NOT THE ONE WITHOUT A PENNY BUT IT'S THE FELLOW WITHOUT A DREAM".

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL, 1962

PAGE 11

RECOLLECTIONS BY W2AVG

DEAR EARL & OOTC: ENCLOSED IS CHECK FOR \$5.00 TO COVER COST OF THE OOTC PIN AND A FEW BUCKS LEFT OVER TO CARRY ON THE EXCELLENT WORK OF THE CLUB. REALLY GET A BANG OUT OF THE BLABBER MOUTH, BUT SOMEHOW DONT CARE TOO MUCH FOR THE TITLE BLABBER MOUTH; IT'S MUCH TOO GOOD A SHEET FOR THE TITLE. THE DECEMBER ISSUE'S ARTICLES BY GEORGE STERLING AND PERCE COLLISON BROUGHT BACK MANY MAMORIES.

THE MENTIONING OF WGY, SOS AND OUR VERY GOOD FRIEND HARRY SADENWATER, ESPECIALLY IS CAUSE TO REMEMBER MANY THINGS, SINCE HARRY WAS OUR TOP BOSS MAN IN THE EARLY DAYS OF WGY. HIS TITLE WAS CHIEF ENGINEER AND MANAGER OF WGY AND IT'S EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS WITH X CALLS SUCH AS 2ZAD, 2XAF, 2XK, 2XI ETC. WE HAD A WHOLE FLOCK OF SUCH CALL LETTERS, RETAINING WGY AND OLD S.W. STATIONS UNDER THE HEADING OF WGEO 1, 2, AND 3, AND HANDLING THE VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCASTS WITH 25, 50 AND 100 KW ANTENNA POWER.

HARRY WAS NOT ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WGY AND SW STATIONS BUT ALSO KGO AND IT'S SHORT WAVE STATION IN DENVER, COLORADO, BUT ALSO KOA AND DID A WONDERFUL JOB OF KEEPING THESE STATIONS IN ADVANCE OF THEIR TIMES. WGY AND THE SW STATIONS WERE AMONG THE FIRST, IF NOT ACTUALLY THE FIRST TO USE CRYSTAL CONTROL AND HIGH LEVEL MODULATION, AND VERY EARLY IN THE 20'S WGY WAS A "HIGH POWERED" BROADCASTING STATION USING FIRST 1 KW, 5 KW, 25 KW, 50 AND FINALLY 200 KW ANTENNA POWER.

WGY PROGRAMS WERE BROADCAST FOR OVER A YEAR IN THE MIDDLE 1920'S USING SINGLE SIDE BAND MODULATION, USING PEAK POWER OF AROUND 200 KW AND REBROADCAST FROM ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY FOR MANY MONTHS, WITH HAROLD K. BERGMAN AS CHIEF ENGINEER. HAL DIED SEVERAL YEARS AGO, AND WAS WELL KNOWN IN THE EARLY DAYS WITH THE UNITED FRUIT CO. AT SWAN ISLAND AND LATER WITH INTER-CITY AND RCA. THE SSB PROGRAMS WERE NOT BROADCAST OVER WGY BUT RATHER OVER ONE OF THE "X" STATIONS ON RATHER LOW FREQUENCY AROUND 1500 METER WAVELENGTH, AND WAS FAR SUPERIOR AT THE RECEIVING END THAN LAND LINES AT THAT TIME. MR. OWEN D. YOUNG AND SON CHARLES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INSTALLATION AT BOTH ENDS. INCIDENTALLY, MR. YOUNG IS STILL ALIVE AND VERY ACTIVE AT HIS HOME IN THE SMALL VILLAGE OF VAN HORNSVILLE, N.Y. LOCATED BETWEEN SPRINGFIELD CENTER ON US ROUTE 20 AND THRUWAY ON STATE 80.

OWEN D. YOUNG WAS WELL KNOWN IN THE 1920'S FOR HIS WORK WITH THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS TALKS, BOARD CHAIRMAN OF BOTH GENERAL ELECTRIC AND RCA. HE ENCOURAGED THE GE CO. AND HARRY SADENWATER'S WORK ON BROADCASTING ETC., AND COME TO THINK OF IT, I RECALL THE OLD RCA AMATEUR GEAR IN THE EARLY 1920'S OR EVEN EARLIER, SUCH AS THE UP LINE OF TRANSFORMERS AND RESISTORS. COMPLETE LINE OF PARTS AND MANUFACTURED HAM GEAR...10 WATTER, 20 WATTER AND 50 WATTERS AND EVEN A 1 KW SETUP.

HARRY HAD A GOOD DEAL TO DO WITH THE DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE OF THE TRANSFORMER LINE SUCH AS THE UP-1368 TRANSFORMER FOR THE 10 WATT GEAR; IT HAD A 350 WATT PRIMARY FROM 102 TO 120 VOLTS; 550/550 VOLTS SECONDARY AND TWO 7.5 VOLT FILAMENT WINDINGS TO HANDLE THE 202'S AND KENOTRON RECTIFIERS.

THE UP-1016 WAS FOR THE 50 WATTERS WITH 750 WATT TAPPED PRIMARY FROM 102 TO 120 VOLT LINE...1500/1500 SECONDARY AND A COUPLE OF 10 VOLT FILAMENT WINDINGS FOR THE 203'S AND 217'S KENOTRON RECTIFIERS. I RECALL THE BARREL SHAPED FILAMENT TRANSFORMERS WITH THEIR TAPPED PRIMARIES, SUCH AS THE UP-1658, 150 WATT PRIMARY, 102-120 VOLTS...CENTER TAPPED SECONDARY AT AROUND 12 AMPERES TO LIGHT A COUPLE OF 203'S OR 217'S.

SUCH GEAR IS STILL USED AT WGY AND W2AVG AFTER ALL THESE YEARS AND SPEAKS WELL OF THE

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL, 1962. PAGE 12

DESIGN OF ABOUT FORTY YEARS AGO AND COME TO THINK OF IT WGY SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR OOTC SINCE IT WILL CELEBRATE IT'S 40TH YEAR OF COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING IN FEBRUARY 1962. 'THO IT'S EXPERIMENTAL DAYS GO BACK MUCH FURTHER. MIGHT ASK WARREN FORD (W2GTB), OOT ON THE EARLY DAYS OF EXPERIMENTAL WORK. HE SHOULD KNOW, HE WAS THERE.

MORE ON HARRY.. RECALL THE UP-1653 30 HY, 160 MA REACTOR...THE 1654 30 HY 300 MA (900 OHMS RESISTANCE) AND THE UP-415 3 HY 160 MA MODULATION REACTOR... HOT WIRE ANTENNA AMMETERS ETC. ETC... OFTEN WHAT HAPPENED TO MY BIBLE THE RCA LISTING THE STUFF??

WELL RECALL GEORGE STERLING'S REMARKS ON THE 600 METER WATCH WHICH BROADCASTING STATIONS WERE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN., WGY AT THE INSISTANCE OF HARRY SADENWATER TOOK NOT ONLY GREAT CARE BUT EVEN GREAT PRIDE IF WGY COULD BEAT ANY OF THE STATIONS, NAVY, COAST OR SHIP AND BROADCASTING STATIONS IN INTERCEPTING AND HEARING AN SOS AND GOING OFF THE AIR. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE IF WE COULD BEAT WFAF OR WJZ AND IT WAS WITH SPECIAL PRIDE IF WE COULD BEAT WSC OR WIM. THEY WERE ALWAYS HARD TO BEAT.

I STILL RECALL WITH A SMILE WHEN ONE OF OUR OPERATORS, LARRY D. SPRINGER..EX USN WW#1 AND WILLARD D. PURCELL EX USN WW#1, (LATTER HARRY'S RIGHT HAND MAN). WE ONCE SIGNED OFF WGY DUE TO A DISTRESS CALL IN THE NORTH SEA AND ON ANOTHER OCCASSION WHEN WE HEARD A SHIP IN DISTRESS OFF THE CHINA COAST. BOY, WERE WE PROUD OF OUR HOME BUILT SOUPED UP SPECIALLY BUILT 600 METER SUPER-HET RECEIVER.

WONDER HOW MANY BROADCASTING STATIONS HAD 600 METER TRANSMITTERS ALSO.. WGY DID, AND FOR THE LIFE OF ME I CANNOT REMEMBER THE CALL LETTERS. SEEMS IT WAS REQUIRED BY LAW TO BE ABLE TO RECEIVE AND TRANSMIT ON 600 METERS TO GET A BROADCASTING LICENSE IN THE OLD DAYS.. ANY HOW, WE DID TEST THE RIG A COUPLA TIMES, (2KW) CW AND ICW; AND IF MEMORY SERVES ME CORRECTLY, WE MUSTA RAISED A FEW EYEBROWS AT EITHER WIM OR WSC WITH A CRK WITH THE STRANGE CALL LETTERS. PERHAPS GEORGE STERLING CAN GIVE US SOME DOPE ON THE REQUIREMENTS FOR 600 METER TRANSMITTERS IN THE EARLY DAYS...EVEN HARRY SADENWATER WAS RATHER SURPRISED WHEN I ASKED HIM ABOUT TESTING THE RIG. AFTER WHICH IT WAS JUNKED...BRAND NEW AND WITH PERHAPS 5 MINUTES OR LESS "ON THE AIR" USE. HOWEVER IT REMAINED AS PART OF THE EQUIPMENT FOR ABOUT 8 YEARS. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE 600 METER RIG HAD A 600 METER "FOLDED DIPOLE" HALF WAVE ANTENNA ON IT BACK IN THE MIDDLE 1920'S, THE FIRST I HAD EVER SEEN. IT SEEMS IT WAS DESIGNED BY ANDREW RING WHO BUILT CRYSTAL CONTROL 25 KW RIG FOR WGY.

I WELL RECALL MR. STERLING'S REMARKS ON EARLY TV, ESPECIALLY FROM WGY IN 1926 ON 790 Kcs. WITH IT'S NEON TUBE AND SCANNING DISC...AT FIRST WE HAD AS AMNY AS FIVE WATCHERS IF WE CALLED THEM FIRST ON LANDLINE, SUCH AS HARRY SADENWATER, W.R.G. BAKER, CHARLES YOUNG, DR. E.M. KINNEY AND DR. E.F.W. ALEXANDERSON WERE AMONG THE FIRST WHO HAD RECEIVERS. LATER ON TV WAS BROADCAST AT ABOUT 2500 Kcs. STILL USING DISC.

IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE SW STATIONS WERE USING SUPER MODULATION, SSB AND FM EXPERIMENTALLY IN THE MIDDLE 1920'S AS WELL AS FACIMILE AND TELETYPE. AND ALL WITH THE BLESSING AND HELP OF HARRY SADENWATER, WHO IN THE ESTIMATION OF MANY WAS NOT ONLY A FINE GENTLEMAN, BUT WAS ALSO A RARE COMBINATION OF ENGINEER AND EXECUTIVE AS WELL. WE MISS HIS PASSING AND HE WON'T BE FORGOTTEN FOR A LONG TIME TO COME.

I RECALL HARRY FOR ANOTHER REASON, AND IT ALSO DEALS WITH OUR PRIDE IN THE 600 METER WATCH. AT THE TIME WE WERE EXPERIMENTING WITH THE PROJECTED 500 KW NAVY TRANSMITTER. USING THE EXPERIMENTAL 200 KW WGY AM TRANSMITTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TUBES AND CIRCUITS AND RUNNING AS HIGH AS 1200 KW INPUT TO THE FINAL STAGE, AND KEYING IT.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL 1962 PAGE 13

MOST OF THE WORK WAS DONE ON THE MID-8 AM WATCH WITH A CREW OF "YOUNG SQUIRTS", MOST OF WHOM WERE FRESH OUT OF COLLEGE WITH A BRAND NEW MASTER'S OR DOCTOR'S DEGREE.. SURPRISINGLY ENOUGH, WHILE A FEW WERE HAMS, MOST DIDN'T KNOW THE CODE. I WON'T GIVE ALL THEIR NAMES EXCEPT A FEW SUCH AS ANDREW D. RING, WHO LATER WAS WITH THE FCC AND NOW A CONSULTANT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

EARLY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER POWER, WE RUN INTO MANY SNAGS, SUCH AS PARASITICS HIGH POWER TUBE FAILURES DUE TO DYNATRON OSCILLATION, ETC..ETC., AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE CORONA ON THE ANTENNA; ALSO THE CATCHING FIRE OF AN ABANDONED CINDER COVERED ROAD UNDERNEATH THE TUNING HOUSE TO THE BURIED GROUND RADIAL SYSTEM, WHICH WAS REPLACED WITH A COUNTER POISE ABOUT 10 FEET OVER THE GROUND. ALL THIS CAUSED HARRY SADENWATER AND US TO GIVE INTERFERENCE ON 600 METERS, CONSIDERABLE WORRY AND ESPECIALLY WITH THE CORONA ON THE ANTENNA.

WE WARNED OUR OPERATOR ON THE 600 METER RIG TO BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL WHILE PREPARING FOR FURTHER TESTS AFTER MIDNIGHT. WE WERE GIVING ONE OF OUR NEWER OPERATORS A "TEST RUN" ON THE 600 METER WATCH WHILE PROGRAMMING THE REGULAR WGY EVENING PROGRAM, THEN USING 50 KW. HE WAS STRICTLY OK ON "COPY", AS HE HAD SERVED ON THE GREAT LAKES AS AN OPERATOR, WHILE ATTENDING SCHOOL DURING VACATIONS... IN FACT HE WAS VERY GOOD. THINGS HAD GONE SNAFU AND DEVELOPMENT WAS BEING HELD UP AWAITING PARTS BEING REPAIRED. TO PASS THE TIME AWAY, WE DECIDED TO GIVE OUR 600 METER OPERATOR SOME "CODE" PRACTICE AND THE BIZ!!! OUR RAY ----- WHO LATER BECAME ONE OF THE BRASS OF GE, AND JACK----- WHO IS ONE OF THE BRASS WITH RCA, (AND THEREFOR NO NAMES PLEASE), WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED. JACK WAS A REAL TOP RADIO OPERATOR HIMSELF, BESIDES BEING A REAL TOP ENGINEER AND ACTIVE HAM DECIDED THAT RAY COULD BE A BIT BETTER... SO MIXES UP THE VARIOUS NOISES THROUGH A CAPACITOR FROM THE 250 VOLT "SHOP" DC SYSTEM AND AN ASSORTMENT OF NOISES FROM OTHER DC GENERATORS...THIS MIXED WITH AN AUDIO OSCILLATOR SO THAT JACK COULD IMITATE A FEW "SPARK" TRANSMITTERS AS WELL AS THE TONE OF WIM AND WSC... BY GOLLY, PRETTY SOON THINGS BEGAN WARMING UP ON 600 METERS. THINGS WERE KINDA TOUGH IN FACT "SHUT HER DOWN"... "HEAR AN SOS"... OUR HERO IS DOING HIS STUFF. WAS THIS A SHOW? I'LL SAY!

MOST OF US WERE WATCHING THE SHOW...OUR HERO WAS HARD AT IT. OTHERS TOOK TURNS IN BEING VARIOUS STATIONS HELPING ALONG WITH THE "DISTRESS". IT SEEMS THAT THE LEVIATHAN HAD STRUCK AN ICEBERG..THINGS WERE ROUGH.."TAKING TO THE BOATS"... "BOILER ROOM EXPLODED"... "LISTING TO THE PORT"...EVERYONE WANTED TO GET INTO THE ACT..."INTERFERENCE" AND "COPY" WAS TOUGH...ALL WAS CONFUSION...IT LASTED FOR TWO HOURS. UNTIL THE DAMAGED PARTS NECESSARY TO CONTINUE THE EXPERIMENTAL WORK WERE RECEIVED.

OUR HERO FAITHFULLY COPIED EVERY WORD AND PART OF WORD..UNTIL WIM OPENED UP AND ANNOUNCED THAT A GRAVE MISTAKE HAD BEEN MADE, THAT THE LEVIATHAN HAD NOT STRUCK AN ICEBERG BUT A FLOATING "COW TURD". BOY!!! OUR HERO BLEW HIS STACK...HE FLUNG THE 600 METER LOG BOOK ACROSS THE LAB...HE HAD BEEN TAKEN BUT GOOD...; AFTER ALL THEY WERE MASTERS AT IT...RAY LIVED IT DOWN, BUT NOT FOR YEARS AFTERWARDS. HIS "COPY" SHOWED THAT HE WAS REALLY ON THE JOB IN SPITE OF FADING, STATIC AND ABOUT EVERYTHING A GOOD MIXING PANEL COULD THROW IN FOR GOOD MEASURE. RAY HAD HARDLY MISSED A LETTER IN OVER TWO HOURS OF THE "DISTRESS".

THIS REALLY TICKLED THE BOYS, BUT THIS SORT OF THING CAN AND DID BACKFIRE. IT MAY BE GOOD CLEAN FUN AND OFTEN GOOD PRACTICE FOR CODE, BUT SOON AFTERWARDS ANOTHER TOP ENGINEER WITH POOR OPERATING ABILITY WANTED TO STAND 600 METER WATCH...WE WEREN'T SURE...CONDITIONS AT SEA REALLY WERE BAD...HURRICANES COMING UP THE COAST. AS STANDBY, THE MASTER CONTROL AT WGY STUDIOS WAS ALSO PARALLELED ON THE 600 METER RECEIVER... MCR WAS TIPPED OFF ABOUT A BIT OF CODE PRACTICE...THINGS QUIETED DOWN AND MORE OR LESS FORGOTTEN WITH COMPANY BIZ..IN FACT WE HAD FORGOTTEN TO TELL THE RELIEF OPERATOR AT MCR ABOUT "CODE" PRACTICE....

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL, 1962. PAGE 14

WELL, OUR RELIEF MAN AT MASTER CONTROL COMES ON DUTY AND BEING EX NAVY AND MARINE OPERATOR, KNOWS WELL THE CONDITIONS AT SEA DURING HURRICANE SEASON...AND SHORTLY SQUARED AWAY. HE LISTENS ON THE 600 METER RECEIVER AND LO! AND BEHOLD!... AN SOS... JUST AT THE WRONG TIME, WE HAD GIVEN OUR NEW REGULAR 600 METER OPERATOR...WHO NOT ONLY COPIED IT THE FIRST TIME BUT HAD ALREADY GOTTEN THINGS STARTED.. ALL WAS CONFUSION, SO WHAT DOES OUR MASTER CONTROL OPERATOR DO BUT FOLLOW HARRY SADENWATER'S STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO "SIGN OFF WGY FIRST".... WE SURE BEAT WFAF, WJZ, WIM, WSC AND NAVY STATIONS THAT TIME,, WE SHOULD...

BOY! WAS HARRY SADENWATER MAD!...ONE OF THE FEW TIMES HE EVER BLEW A GASKET.. INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL HANDS..."THERE WILL BE NO MORE..REPEAT NO MORE CODE PRACTICE ON THE 600 METER RECEIVER". ALL THOSE INVOLVED WERE CALLED ON THE CARPET...ALL WERE GIVEN A TALK...NONE WERE FIRED BUT COULD HAVE BEEN. AFTER SEEING BOTH LOGS AND COMPARING THEM, HARRY WAS SECRETLY PLEASED, AS THEY WERE IDENTICAL IN EVERY DETAIL, AS NOT A SINGLE MISTAKE HAD BEEN MADE IN THE COPY.... EVEN THO IT WAS A FAKE SOS; AT LEAST THE BOYS WERE ON THE JOB...HE TOOK GREAT PRIDE IN IT.

YOU CAN BE SURE THERE WAS NO MORE OF THIS SORT OF THING...WE ALL HELD HARRY SADENWATER IN GREAT RESPECT, NOT ONLY AS OUR BOSS, BUT AS A REAL FINE GENTLEMAN WHO KNEW HIS BIZ...AND COME TO THINK OF IT KNOW THAT HARRY HELD A PINK TICKET...ONE OF THE XTRA CLASS LICENSES...WAS IT THE NUMBER 1 OR DID PICKERELL GET NUMBER 1...SEEMS THERE IS A STORY ABOUT IT..I'VE HEARD VARIOUS VERSIONS..AND NONE FROM HARRY HIMSELF...WONDER IF SOME OF THE OOTC'S SUCH AS MR. GEORGE STERLING COULD COMMENT ON THIS???

ALONG WITH BLABBER MOUTH..RECENTLY RE-READ "SOS TO THE RESCUE" BY KARL BAARSLAG.. OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 1940, BROUGHT BACK MANY MEMORIES SUCH AS THE LONG WINDED STORY I HAVE GIVEN YOU IN REGARDS TO OUR EXPERIENCES WITH HARRY SADENWATER, AND WHICH I HOPE WILL BRING BACK MEMORIES AND WARNINGS. ON THE BOOK BY BAARSLAG, I WOULD RECOMMEND IT TO MANY OF THE OOTC'S FOR SOME INTERESTING READING BY A SEAGOING RADIOMAN AND HIS VIEWS, AND SOME STORIES OF THE EARLY SHIP DISASTERS. CHAPTER 10 IS ON THE SUBJECT OF LADY MARINE OPERATORS...ONE WODERS ON HOW MANY OF THEM ARE STILL AROUND?? AND ARE THEY ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN OOTC? (YES IF OTHERWISE QUALIFIED). THEN TOO, HOW COULD THEY, AREN'T THE LADIES ALWAYS SUPPOSE TO BE 39 OR YOUNGER? BUT, ALL KIDDING ASIDE, IT WOULD BE AWFULLY NICE TO KNOW OF THEM AND HAVE THEM AS MEMBERS.

AS CAN BE UNDERSTOOD FROM THIS EPISTLE, I'VE HAD VERY LITTLE SEAGOING EXPERIENCE OTHER THAN IN THE US NAVAL RESERVE...ACTIVE DUTY ABOARD SUBS AND 4 STACKER TIN CANS...SEVERAL COMPASS STATIONS...LOTS OF AIRCRAFT...BUT LITTLE COMPARED TO MANY OF THE OOTC'S WHO WERE REALLY ACTIVE. HAVE ALWAYS TAKEN A KEEN INTEREST IN STANDING WATCH...EVEN A BIT AT OLE RCA COMMUNICATIONS AT 64 BROAD STREET, NYC IN THE EARLY 1920'S...

I HAVE MANY SAMPLES OF OOTC VOICES AND FISTS THAT I HAVE RECORDED ON TAPE..OFTEN REFLECT ON HOW WONDERFUL IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TO HAVE HAD A HIGH GRADE TAPE RECORDER 40 OR MORE YEARS AGO AND TO HAVE TAPED UP FOR HISTORY THE OLD "VOICES" THAT ONE HEARD ON SPARK AND ARC IN THE BEGINNING SUCH AS NAH, MGY (TITANIC), THE SHRILL VOICE OF VCE AT CAPE RACE...FFU IN FRANCE, AND MANY THOUSAND MORE; THE INDIVIDUAL FISTS AND SOUNDS, NOT TO MENTION THE "MESSAGE", WOULD BRING BACK MANY MEMORIES AND PERHAPS A TEAR OR TWO.. SUCH IS THE PASSING PARADE...THE STRAIGHT GAP...ROCK CRUSHERS...QUENCED GAPS... NON-SYNCS ARCS... EACH HAD IT'S VOICE AND PERSONALITY...THE FELLAS THAT WOUND UP AND DOWN THE SCALE AND COULD PRODUCE AN OCTAVE OR MORE...OH BOY!!!

WELL FELLA,, THESE ARE A FEW THOUGHTS I HOPE YOU CAN DECODE FROM A POOR FELLA WHO STILL EARNS A LIVING WHILE MAKING A ONE MAN SHOW FROM WGY ON THE MID-8 SHED... TRYING TO

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL, 1962. PAGE 15

TRYING TO MAKE SENSE IN A LETTER...RUNNING ALL NITE DISC PROGRAM AND KEEP 4 TYPEWRITERS GOING.
MAYBE SHOULDA TRIED THIS LETTER ON THE 4-12 WHEN IT'S A BIT EASIER ON ALL OF US.

AFTER THOUGHTS

DONT MENTION THE NAMES, BUT HERE ARE SOME OF THE ONES INVOLVED. IT MIGHT BE EMBARRASSING IF NOT LIBEL TO MENTION THEM NOW THAT IT'S PAST HISTORY AND THEY HAVE MADE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES. THE FELLER WHO WAS AT THE TIME ASSIGNED TO MONITOR 600 METERS WAS ONE RAYMOND WILLIAMSON...RAY AS MOST OF US WAS IN HIS EARLY 20'S AND HAD JUST GOTTEN HIS EE FROM MICHIGAN STATE...RAY HELD DOWN A RADIOTELEGRAPH 1ST FOR A TIME, BUT AT THE TIME BELIEVE IT WAS A RADIOTELEGRAPH 2ND LICENSE...HE HAD OPERATED ON THE GREAT LAKES AND BESIDES BEING A VERY SHARP ENGINEER, WAS A CRACKERJACK COMMERCIAL AND HAM OPERATOR.. HE SOON AFTERWARDS GOT HIS MASTER'S DEGREE AND IS PRESENTLY ONE OF THE TOP RADAR MEN AND BRASS FOR GE AT ELECTRONICS PARK, IN SYRACUSE, N.Y.

THE REAL CULPRIT WAS AN URUSUALLY SHARP BOY BY THE NAME OF JOHN E. YOUNG..WAS W3AUV JACK I BELIEVE GOT THE HIGHEST GRADES WERE EVER GIVEN AT DREXEL...BOTH OF THE ABOVE WERE REALLY SWELL FELLERS, VERY GOOD LOOKING LADS.JACK WAS A CRACKERJACK HAM BUT HAD NO COMMERCIAL TICKET...HAD UNUSUAL ABILITIES AND COULD TAKE SOLID 45 WPM MIXED UP STUFF ON THE MILL. JACK INSTALLED MANY OF THE GE TRANSMITTERS, THE FIRST GE 50-B, (50 KW) AT WTIC, HARTFORD... TRANSMITT. 1 AT CHICAGO, IN TEXAS, THE SW AND BC TRANSMITTERS AT ROME, ITALY FOR THE POPE AND MANY MORE. HE WAS VERY HIGHLY THOUGHT OF BY GE AND OTHERS.. JACK IS ONE OF THE BRASS WITH RCA PRESENTLY.

ANOTHER OF THE BOYS WAS ANDREW D. RING...ANDY WAS ALSO AN EXCEPTIONALLY ABLE BOY AND WAS ONE OF THE TOP DESIGN MEN FOR MANY PIECES OF EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING THE NAVY 500 KW JOBS. HE LEFT GE MANY YEARS AGO TO BECOME CHIEF ENGINEER FOR FCC, BUT HAS FOR MANY YEARS NOW BEEN IN CONSULTING PRACTICE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THERE ARE SEVERAL MORE OF EQUAL CALIBRE...SO YOU CAN SEE WHY I NEGLECTED TO INCLUDE THE WHOLE NAMES.

AT THAT TIME SO. SCHENACTADY WAS THE GE'S SHOWPLACE IN RADIO DEVELOPMENT..JUST ABOUT THE CREAM OF GE'S RADIO MEN WERE HERE AND IT WAS CONSIDERED CHOICE STAMPING GROUNDS... MANY HAD MASTER'S DEGREES AND QUITE A FEW HAD DOCTOR'S DEGREES SUCH AS KINNEY, NIXDORFF. BAKER (WRGB), ALEXANDERSON AND OF COURSE WE HAD MANY MORE IN AND OUT. IF YOU WILL LOOK AT YOUR 1926 QST HANDBOOK, YOU WILL SEE A FEW MENTIONED SUCH AS McARTHUR, TOP NOTCH VACUUM TUBE MAN. MAC IS STILL AROUND AND WHILE RETIRED IS STILL CONSULTING FOR GE.

I COULD WRITE A BOOK ON THE EXPERIENCES IN THIS FIRETRAP OVER THE PAST 35 YEARS OR SO WITH GE'S RADIO DIVISION, AND THEY ARE MOSTLY PLEASANT MEMORIES AND A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE. FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS OR SO OR SINCE THE END OF THE WAR THERE HAS BEEN VERY LITTLE DEVELOPMENT, JUST BREAD AND BUTTER STUFF, OPERATING THE 5 TRANSMITTERS. THREE OF THEM ARE HIGH POWERED STUFF, (50 AND 100 KW) ANTENNA POWER FOR VOICE OF AMERICA, AND OF COURSE REGULAR 50 KW WGY, 810 KC. JOB. IT'S BEEN LOTS A FUN...AND TO THINK ON HOW WE HIRED TOP BOYS AT STARTING WAGE OF 40¢ AN HOUR... AND I DO MEAN WITH DEGREES. BOY! HOW WE DREAMED OF A \$4000 A YEAR JOB.. BUT THEN TOO, I BOUGHT A BRAND NEW DELUX MODEL "A" FORD ROADSTER DELIVERED FER \$487.50!! SO IT'S ALL RELATIVE. YEP, EVEN IN 1940 ONE COULD GET PRACTICALLY ANY MAKE OF CAR FOR LESS THAN \$1000 DELIVERED AND EVEN A PACKARD 6 OR A CAD FER AROUND \$1500..BUT SO IT GOES.

OH YEAH! IT SEEMS I CONVENIENTLY FORGOT TO MENTION THAT I TOO WAS CALLED ON THE CARPET BY OUR HARRY SADENWATER...HARRY AT THE TIME WAS TOP BOSS MAN IN THE PUBLICITY AND

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL, 1962. PAGE 16.

AND ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATIONS AFTER BUT NOT DURING DEVELOPMENT PERIODS. DEVELOPMENT WORK CAME UNDER OTHER TOP BRASS...BUT HARRY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LICENSES OF ALL STATIONS AND BROTHER, WE HAD A FIST FULL OF "X" CALLS. I WAS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO HARRY AND BELIEVE ME HE TOOK ME OVER THE COALS, BUT GOOD, SINCE I WAS AT THE TIME RESPONSIBLE TO HIM AND OTHERS. I WAS FIRST IN LINE TO GET CHEWED OUT, BUT HARRY WAS A GENTLEMAN AND ONE TOOK IT, KNOWING HIMSELF WRONG... HARRY JUST DIDN'T BLOW HIS STACK FOR FUN... I'LL ALWAYS RESPECT AND TREASURE HIS MEMORY, AND I AM AWFULLY GLAD TO HAVE KNOWN AND WORKED FOR HARRY SADENWATER, ONE OF THE FINEST MEN I HAVE EVER KNOWN.

ON THE "X" CALLS, AT ONE TIME WE HAD 18 TRANSMITTERS ON SIMULTANEOUSLY AT SOUTH SCHENACTADY, USING 8 MODES OF MODULATION ON 18 DIFFERENT FREQUENCIES FROM AROUND 800 Mcs. TO 125 Kcs... YOU NAME IT AND WE TRIED IT...SSB, TV, FM, FACIMILI, ETC., ETC.

BOY, I WILL WRITE A BOOK IF I DON'T QUIT.

SINCERELY,

GEORGE M. HOFFER (W2AVG)

THANKS GEORGE. MANY A CHARGE WILL BE HAD FROM THIS FINE ARTICLE.. YE OLDE COPY BOY.

WINDOW DRESSING

A PRETTY GIRL ENTERED A DRESS SHOP AND SAID TO THE MANAGER; "MAY I TRY ON THAT TWO PIECE DRESS IN THE WINDOW?" "GO RIGHT AHEAD", SAID THE MANAGER, "IT MIGHT HELP BUSINESS".

WAY BACK WHEN.BY W2WL, WALLY.

THINK IT IS TIME FOR ME TO GET IN MY TWO CENT'S WORTH RE BLABBER MOUTH. GET A BIG KICK OUT OF IT, ESPECIALLY IN READING ABOUT SOME OF THE BOYS I EITHER KNEW OR KNEW OF "WAY BACK WHEN".

GOT MY FIRST HAM TICKET AS 6WL, OUT ON THE WEST COAST, IN 1912. HAD BEEN MESSING AROUND FOR SEVERAL MONTHS PRIOR TO THIS. FIRST RIG CONSISTED OF THE USUAL COIL, INTERRUPTER, AND HELIX. RX WAS A QUAKER OATS BOX MOUNTED COIL, CRYSTAL DETECTOR, OIL IMMERSSED VC AND HEAD PHONES. HAD QUITE A SKY WIRE, THOUGH. IT CONSISTED OF A TWO-WIRE FLAT TOP, ONE END ON A THIRTY FOOT POLE ON TOP OF THE HOUSE, THE OTHER ABOUT EIGHTY FEET UP IN A EUCALYPTUS TREE, AND 450 FEET BETWEEN SPREADERS. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE WIRE HAD BEEN DONATED BY A NEIGHBOR WHO WORKED FOR THE TELEPHONE COMPANY.

GOT MY FIRST COMMERCIAL TICKET IN 1914, AND WENT TO SEA FOR A YEAR FOR THE OLD MARCONI CO. OUT ON THE COAST, IN 1915. HIT THE NAVY FOR A HITCH DURING WWI, DURING WHICH I LOST MY HAM TICKET.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL, 1962. PAGE 17.

WENT TO WORK FOR AN ELECTRICAL JOBBER IN OAKLAND, CALIF. IN '21, AND GOT BACK ON THE AIR AS 6CEG IN '23. CHANGED JOBS IN '29, GOING WITH THE OLD BOEING AIR TRANSPORT CO. AS A RADIO OPERATOR, IN OAKLAND. WAS TRANSFERRED IN '30 TO A JOB AS CHIEF OP FOR THE COMPANY IN CHEYENNE, WYO., AND GOT THE CALL W7GCO. DURING THE TIME I WAS IN CHEYENNE, NATIONAL, BOEING VARNEY AND PACIFIC AIR TRANSPORT WERE CONSOLIDATED INTO UNITED AIR LINES, WITH WHOM I HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED UP TO MY RETIREMENT THE LAST OF JANUARY OF THIS YEAR. IN '35 I WAS MADE FLIGHT DISPATCHER FOR UAL, AND IN '41 WAS TRANSFERRED TO DENVER, COLO., AND GOT THE CALL W9YBS. WAS TRANSFERRED AGAIN IN '42, THIS TIME TO NEW YORK, AND GOT MY PRESENT CALL ON APPLYING FOR MODIFICATION.

ONE ITEM OF INTEREST THAT MIGHT INTRIGUE SOME OF THE BOYS IS SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED DURING THE FALL OF 1916, AT WHICH TIME I WAS A FRESHMAN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IN BERKELEY. SOME OF US GOT TOGETHER IN THE RADIO CLUB OF THE COLLEGE, AND CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF BROADCASTING THE U.C.-STANFORD FOOTBALL GAME. OF COURSE WE PLANNED DOING IT BY USING A 1 KW QUENCHED ROTARY JOB THAT WAS OWNED BY ONE OF THE MORE AFFLUENT MEMBERS OF THE CLUB, INASMUCH AS NONE OF US KNEW MUCH ABOUT VOICE AT THAT TIME, ALTHOUGH ALL HEARD THE VOICE MODULATED ARC OUTFIT THAT WAS OPERATING ON THE FAIRMONT HOTEL, IN SAN FRANCISCO.

AS I WAS THE ONLY ONE IN THE OUTFIT THAT HAD A COMMERCIAL TICKET, I WAS PICKED TO DO ALL THE DIRTY WORK IN CONNECTION WITH GETTING PERMISSION TO SET UP THE GEAR. I MANAGED TO DO ALL THIS, BUT I'LL GUARANTEE THAT IT WAS NO EASY JOB.

THE DAY OF THE GAME EVERYTHING WAS ALL SET - ANTENNA STRUNG ALONG THE TOP OF THE GRANDSTAND, AND THE RIG TESTED OUT WITH SOME OF THE LOCAL GANG. WE PLANNED ON TRANSMITTING THE RESULTS OF EACH PLAY, AFTER PLAY HAD BEEN COMPLETED, USING SYMBOLS FOR THE PLAY, SUCH AS "LH/RE" PLUS 5, WHICH MEANT THAT THE LEFT HALF HAD CARRIED AROUND RIGHT END FOR FIVE YARDS. VERY SNAZZY! EVERYTHING WAS FINE UNTIL WE PUT ON THE FIRST TRANSMISSION, THEN A WILD-EYED GUY SHOWED UP AND SAID THE COACH DEMANDED THAT WE QUIT THAT RACKET, AS THE QUARTERBACK COULDN'T MAKE HIS SIGNALS HEARD. (THOSE WERE THE DAYS BEFORE THE HUDDLE). WHAT TO DO!!!!

WE FINALLY CAME UP WITH A COMPROMISE. WE MADE OUR TRANSMISSIONS AFTER THE BALL WAS SNAPPED, AND WHILE THE PLAY WAS GOING ON, AND WHILE EVERYONE WAS NOT EXACTLY HAPPY, WE WERE. BUT DON'T LET ANYONE EVER TELL YOU THAT A QUENCHED ROTARY OUTFIT WAS QUIET!!!

WELL, GUESS THAT THE ABOVE SHOULD KEEP YOU OCCUPIED FOR A WHILE. AS I SAID AT THE OF THIS BLURB, I THOROUGHLY ENJOY READING BLABBER MOUTH. THINK THAT THE TITLE IS QUITE APROPRO. AS MOST OF WE OOTC MEMBERS DO JUST THAT!

VERY 73,

WALLY,
WALLACE H. LELAND, W2WL

THANKS WALLY-- NICE GOING

FAMILY BLESSING

" I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS BILL" SAID PETE TO HIS BEST FRIEND, "BUT AT THE PARTY LAST NIGHT YOUR SISTER PROMISED TO MARRY ME, CAN YOU FORGIVE ME FOR TAKING HER AWAY FROM

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL, 1962. PAGE 18

THE FAMILY?" "THINK NOTHING OF IT", WAS THE REPLY. "THAT'S WHAT THE PARTY WAS FOR.

OLD "DF"--A SATIRE

SOME YEARS AGO, FOLLOWING THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF WIRELESS, A STATION STOOD IN A LOW SECTION OF SWAMP LAND, A SHORT DISTANCE FROM MANHATTAN BEACH, N.Y. VARIOUS POWERS WERE USED FROM TIME TO TIME AND THE RANGE WAS UNUSUALLY GREAT. INCREDIBLE DISTANCES WERE COVERED EVEN WITH LOW POWER, AND THE NIGHTLY PRESS WAS COPIED BY SHIPS NEAR AND FAR. OLD OPERATORS OF THAT DAY WILL RECALL THE THE LOW FREQUENCY SPARK OF "DF", AND HOW WELL HIGH IMPOSSIBLE IT WAS TO TUNE HIM OUT. OWING TO THE BROAD TUNING OF THOSE DAYS, THE SIGNALS WERE GENERALLY "ALL OVER THE TUNER". ALTHOUGH THE PRESS WAS SOUGHT AFTER AND WELCOMED, THE INTERFERENCE AT OTHER TIMES ADDED NOT A LITTLE BIT TO THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF OPERATORS OF THAT DAY.

IT WAS AN ORDINARY OCCURANCE TO LEARN FROM OPERATORS, THAT "DF" HAD BEEN COPIED IN MANY FAR OFF CORNERS OF THE EARTH, SUCH AS ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT AND IN SOUTH AMERICAN WATERS. WHILE NO EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN, FOR THE UNUSUAL CARRYING POWER, IT WAS GENERALLY CONSIDERED GOOD GROUND AND CLEAR RANGE AT SEA, COMBINED WITH SOME OTHER FREKISH CONDITION, PLACED "DF" IN A CLASS BY ITSELF.

WAY UP MID' THE LABORADOR ICEBERGS, WORKIN' A "CPR" BOAT
WHEN YOU THINK YOUR FREE FROM JAMMIN', DOESN'T IT GET YOUR GOAT?
YOU'VE GIVEN 'EM "G" FOR TWENTY, WITH HIS SIGNAL WEAK AS BREATH,
WHEN HE'S JUST STARTIN' UP WITH HIS THIRD ONE,
YOU'RE JAMMED TO HELL BY "DF"!

FOR WE HEAR THE BOUNDER A SENDIN', BUT THE BOUNDER, HE DON'T HEAR US,
SO WE JUST THROW THE PHONES ON THE TABLE, AND GIVE UP TO AN IMPORTANT CUSS.
HIS SIGNALS GET STRONGER AND STRONGER, 'TILL THEY NIGH RENDER YOU DEAF.
YOU MAY GO WHERE YOU PLEASE, FROM CAPE RACE TO BELIZE,
BUT YOU CAN'T GET RID OF "DF".

THEY TALKS ABOUT MULTIPLE TUNERS, AND VALVE SETS AND SUCH SORT OF STUFF,
WE CONSIGN THE WHOLE LOT TO THE JUNK HEAP, WHEN OLD "DF" IS SENDIN' HIS STUFF.
HIS PERCENTAGE OF DAMPIN' IS AWFUL, AND THE WHOLE THING PUZZLES ME YET,
IS HOW THE HELL DOES HE DO IT,
WITH A SIMPLE TWO KILOWATT SET.

FOR WE HEARS THE BOUNDER A SENDIN', BUT THE BOUNDER HE DON'T HEAR US,
SO WE LAYS THE PHONES ON THE TABLE, AND GIVES UP TO AN IMPORTANT CUSS.
HIS SIGNALS GET STRONGER AND STRONGER, 'TILL THEY NIGH RENDER YOU DEAF!
AND YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THE CALL OF "HA",
SENT OUT BY "G" AT "DF".

OF COURSE HE'S GOT A BIG AERIAL, AND AN ACRE OF GROUND PLATES WE KNOW,
BUT ONLY TWO KILOWATTS OF POWER, THOUGH YOU HEAR 'EM WHERE EVER YOU GO.
FROM 42 DEGREES RIGHT TO SEA GATE, HE FOLLERS YUO UP LIKE A GHOST.
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM HIS MUSICAL SWAY
FROM BELLE ISLE TO THE MEXICAN COAST.

NEXT PAGE PLEASE.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL, 1962. PAGE 19

FOR WE HEARS THE BOUNDER A SENDIN', BUT THE BOUNDER HE DON'T HEAR US
SO WE LAYS THE PHONES ON THE TABLE, AND GIVES UP TO AN IMPORTANT CUSS
YOU CAN GO WHERE YOU LIKE, ANYWHERE ON THE PIKE,
BUT YOU CAN'T GET RID OF "DF".

ED G. RASER, W2ZI--WIRELESS SINCE 1908

READ IT FELLERS AND CHUCKLE. THIS IS GOOD ED; OUR THANKS...YE OLDE COPY BOY.

SEZ W2EG-- EARL

THE FARMER WELCOMED THEIR DAUGHTER BACK FROM HER FIRST YEAR IN COLLEGE. HE GOT UP TO LEAVE AND SAID, "I HAVE GOT TO GO OUT AND SPREAD THE HORSE MANURE".... AFTER HIS LEAVING THE DAUGHTER SAID, "I WISH YOU WOULD SPEAK TO DAD AND HAVE HIM USE THE WORD FERTILIZER". THE MOTHER REPLIED, "I DON'T THINK YOU CAN DO MUCH WITH YOUR DAD. IT TOOK ME TWO YEARS TO HAVE HIM SAY MANURE".

CORRECTION OVER DUE

SINCE RECEIPT OF THE CURRENT ROSTER OF MEMBERS OF THE OLD OLD TIMERS CLUB, WHEREIN THE YEAR OF COMMENCEMENT AS AN AMATEUR IS INDICATED AS 1908, I HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED BY MY FRIENDS WHO UNDERSTOOD THAT I BUILT MY FIRST AMATEUR EQUIPMENT AND OPERATED IT IN 1899. THIS IS THE DATE INDICATED ON MY QSL CARDS AND RECORDED, EVEN IN MY BIOGRAPHY IN THE PUBLICATION WIRELESS PRESS, LTD., PUBLISHED BY THE MARCONI WIRELESS TELEGRAPH CO., IN LONDON, ENGLAND, AT THE TIME I WAS OPERATING THE WANEMAKER-MARCONI WIRELESS TELEGRAPH STATION ATOP THE WANEMAKER STORE IN PHILADELPHIA, PA., IN 1902, AND AGAIN IN WHO'S WHO IN ENGINEERING, BY JOHN WILLIAM LEONARD, PUBLISHED BY WHO'S WHO PUBLICATIONS, INC., IN NEW YORK CITY, 1925.

OF COURSE THE REASON FOR THE 1908 ENTRY IN THE ROSTER IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE OLD OLD TIMERS CLUB, UNDER ARTICLE VIII OF ITS CONSTITUTION SHOWING QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP, REQUIRES THAT THE APPLICANT FOR MEMBERSHIP MADE A TWO WAY CONTACT OVER HIS OWN TRANSMITTER WITH SOME OTHER WIRELESS STATION. IT ALSO REQUIRES THE "DATE OF HIS OR HER FIRST TWO WAY CONTACT BY WIRELESS". THIS INFORMATION I FURNISHED BUT DISTINCTLY STATED THAT WHEREAS MY TWO WAY CONTACTS HAD OCCURRED IN 1908, AND THAT I AM LISTED IN THE FIRST ANNUAL OFFICIAL WIRELESS BLUE BOOK OF THE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, PUBLISHED IN MAY, 1909, I DID HOWEVER CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE MY WIRELESS TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER IN 1899.

IN 1899, I WAS LOCATED IN PHILADELPHIA, PA., AND READ IN THE NEWSPAPERS ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL YACHT RACES BEING REPORTED FOR THE FIRST TIME BY MARCONI WIRELESS OFF SANDY HOOK, N.Y. THIS AROUSED GREAT INTEREST IN ME TO BE ABLE TO RECEIVE SUCH REPORTS OF THE NEXT YACHT RACE IN 1900. I COMMENCED IMMEDIATELY TO CONSTRUCT PARTS AND ASSEMBLE A TRANSMITTER CONSISTING OF A ONE INCH RHUMKORFF COIL (SPARK COIL), THE PRIMARY OF WHICH I ENERGIZED BY A BATTERY CIRCUIT CONTAINING A TELEGRAPH KEY, AND ACROSS THE SECONDARY TERMINALS I CONNECTED A SPARK GAP CONSISTING OF TWO SMALL BRASS RODS WITH A BALL AT THE END OF EACH ROD, THE BALLS BEING SEPARATED ABOUT A QUARTER INCH APART; THE SPARK OCCURRING BETWEEN THEM WHENEVER THE TELEGRAPH KEY WAS DEPRESSED. TO ONE OF THE TERMINALS OF THE COIL I CONNECTED AN ANTENNA OF ABOUT SEVENTY-FEET IN LENGTH, AND TO THE OTHER TERMINAL I MADE A CONNECTION TO GROUND. THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT MARCONI WAS USING AT THAT TIME; NO OSCILLATION TRANSFORMER OR TUNING

PLEASE TURN TO NEXT PAGE.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL, 1962. PAGE 20

COIL AND NO CONDENSERS; JUST A PLAIN ANTENNA TO GROUND CIRCUIT BROKEN ONLY BY THE SPARK GAP.

MY RECEIVER WAS ALSO PATTERNED AFTER THAT OF MARCONI AND CONSISTED OF A SILVER-NICKLE FILINGS COHERER WHICH I CONSTRUCTED BY USING A GLASS TUBE ABOUT A QUARTER INCH IN DIAMETER IN WHICH WERE INSERTED TWO SILVER PLUGS SEPERATED ABOUT AN EIGHTH INCH APART AND THE SPACE BETWEEN THEM FILLED WITH A MIXTURE OF SILVER AND NICKLE FILINGS. ONE OF THE PLUGS WAS CONNECTED DIRECTLY TO THE ANTENNA WHICH WAS ALSO ABOUT SEVENTY FIVE FEET LONG, AND THE OTHER PLUG WAS CONNECTED TO GROUND. AGAIN THERE WAS NO TUNING COIL OR CONDENSERS IN THE CIRCUIT, JUST AN ANTENNA TO GROUND THROUGH THE COHERER. ALSO CONNECTED TO THE TWO SILVER PLUGS WAS A LOCAL CIRCUIT CONTAINING A BATTERY OF LOW POTENTIAL, A SENSITIVE RELAY WHICH OPERATED AN ORDINARY ELECTRIC BELL WITH THE GONG REMOVED AND THE HAMMER PLACED CLOSE TO THE GLASS TUBE COHERER TO TAP IT AND SHAKE THE FILINGS APART AFTER THE FIRST SIGNAL HAD COHERED THEM AND PERMITTED CURRENT TO PASS THE RELAY. THUS THE RELAY CIRCUIT WAS OPENED, THE TAPPER STOPPED, AND AND EVERYTHING IN READINESS FOR THE NEXT SIGNAL. THIS ARRANGEMENT ACTUALLY WORKED WHENEVER THE TRANSMITTER WAS OPERATED.

THERE WAS ONE IMPORTANT TROUBLE; THERE WAS NO OTHER STATION IN THAT LOCALITY WITH WHICH TO WORK. THE NEXT AMATEUR (WALTER J. DEERY), WD, A GENERAL ELECTRIC SALESMAN, DID NOT APPEAR UNTIL ALMOST A YEAR LATER, IN 1900. SO, IN ORDER TO WORK MY EQUIPMENT, I LOCATED THE TRANSMITTER AT ONE PLACE AND THE RECEIVER A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, AND HAD A COLLEAGUE OF MINE, CHARLES WACHTER, ALTERNATELY OPERATE THE TRANSMITTER WHILE I WAS AT THE RECEIVING EQUIPMENT SOME DISTANCE AWAY AND VICE VERSA. IT WAS ACTUALLY A TRANSMISSION BETWEEN TWO STATIONS BUT EACH STATION LACKED EITHER A TRANSMITTER OR A RECEIVER THAT WOULD ENABLE THEM TO WORK BACK AND FORTH.

UNFORTUNATELY, AS RECORDS WILL DISCLOSE, THERE WAS NO INTERNATIONAL YACHT RACE OFF SANDY HOOK IN 1900, SO I NEVER DID RECEIVE THE RESULTS SO EAGERLY SOUGHT.

FINDING THE COHERER RATHER SLUGGISH IN OPERATION AND QUITE UNRELIABLE, I MADE VARIOUS KINDS OF DETECTORS, THE NEXT BEING THE COPPER OXIDE TRIPOD WHICH CONSISTED OF A METAL TRIPOD WITH THE BOTTOM OF IT'S LEGS POINTED STANDING ON A PLATE OF OXIDIZED COPPER; THEN THE CARBON-STEEL DETECTOR WAS TRIED. THE FIRST TYPE BEING TWO SMALL BLOCKS SET UPRIGHT ON A BASE WITH THEIR UPPER EDGES GROUND TO A KNIFE EDGE AND A STEEL NEEDLE, WITH A SMALL WEIGHT SUSPENDED FROM IT'S CENTER TO KEEP IT FROM ROLLING OFF, LAID ACROSS THE CARBON BLOCKS. THIS WAS THE FIRST AUTOMATIC DECOHERING TYPE OF DETECTOR THAT I USED; BUT THE EDGES OF THE CARBON BLOCKS WERE HARD TO MAINTAIN IN A SUFFICIENTLY SHARP CONDITION BECAUSE THE CARBON IS SO BRITTLE. IF I DID THIS TODAY I WOULD USE A COUPLE OF RAZOR BLADES STANDING UPRIGHT, WITH A SMALL ROD OF CARBON ACROSS THEIR EDGES OR PERHAPS USE THE CARBON STRIP FROM A PENCIL.

WITH THE CARBON-STEEL DETECTOR A SINGLE DRY CELL WAS CONNECTED IN SERIES WITH THE CARBON BLOCKS AND A TELEPHONE RECEIVER. THIS WORKED FAIRLY WELL BUT I GOT A BETTER IDEA. PROCURING FROM THE DRUGGIST A SMALL WOODEN PILL BOX (THEY DON'T COME THAT WAY ANYMORE), I INSERTED A SEWING NEEDLE THROUGH EACH SIDE AND KEPT THE POINTS ABOUT ONE QUARTER INCH APART AND THEN FILLED THE BOX WITH CARBON GRANULES FROM A TELEPHONE TRANSMITTER. BOY! OH BOY, HOW NICELY THAT WORKED; ALL THE TROUBLES OF THE OTHER TYPE DISAPPEARED. I HEARD THE NEW NAVAL WIRELESS STATION AT THE PHILADELPHIA NAVY YARD, CALL LETTERS PV AT THAT TIME, AS SOON AS THEY OPENED UP. I CAN'T RECALL THE EXACT YEAR BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN AROUND 1913.

MY NEXT DETECTOR WAS THE ELECTROLYTIC, THE FIRST ONE I MADE WITH A GLASS EYEDROPPER TUBE. RUNNING A PIECE OF VERY FINE ($1/1000''$) PLATINUM WIRE THROUGH THE TUBE I SEALED IT INTO THE FINE POINTED END WITH A BUNSEN BURNER FLAME AND THEN CAREFULLY GROUND DOWN THE END OF THE TUBE UNTIL IT PRESENTED A SMALL FLAT SURFACE WITH A MINIATURE DOT OF PLATINUM IN THE CENTER. THE SMALL END OF THIS TUBE WAS THEN INSERTED IN A SMALL AMOUNT OF NITRIC (OR SUL-

NEXT PAGE PLEASE

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL, 1962 PAGE 21

FURIC) ACID SOLUTION (ABOUT 10 %) AND CONNECTED IN A CIRCUIT WHICH INCLUDED A POTENTIOMETER FOR ADJUSTING THE POTENTIAL, A BATTERY OF A COUPLE OF VOLTS AND A TELEPHONE RECEIVER. THIS WAS CONNECTED IN THE USUAL MANNER IN THE RECEIVING CIRCUIT AND WORKED QUITE WELL FOR A WHILE BUT HAD THE HABIT OF GETTING RATHER INSENSITIVE AFTER WORKING FOR A DAY OR TWO.

DISCOVERING THAT WOLLASTON WIRE WHICH CONSISTED OF A VERY FINE, ALMOST INVISIBLE, PLATINUM WIRE COATED WITH SILVER TO MAKE IT USABLE, COULD BE OBTAINED FROM BAKER & CO., IN NEWARK, N.J., I OBTAINED A SMALL QUANTITY AND MADE A DETECTOR FROM PARTS OF A TELEGRAPH SOUNDER. USING THE UPRIGHT YOKE MEMBER AND SAWING OFF THE LONG END OF THE ARMATURE, I TAPPED A HOLE IN THE SHORT END AND SCREWED A WIRE HANDLE TO IT SO THAT BY PRESSING DOWN ON THE WIRE HANDLE, THE LONG END OF THE ARMATURE WOULD RISE UPWARD. ON THE LONG END OF THE ARMATURE, I PLACED A SMALL CLIP TO HOLD A SHORT LENGTH (ABOUT 3'8") OF WOLLASTON WIRE. DIRECTLY UNDER THE CLIP, I SUPPORTED A SMALL PLATINUM CUP PARTIALLY FILLED WITH A SOLUTION OF NITRIC ACID INTO WHICH THE WOLLASTON WIRE DIPPED ABOUT 1/64 INCH.

THE NITRIC ACID DISSOLVED THE SILVER FROM THE WOLLASTON WIRE TIP ALLOWING THE FINE PLATINUM WIRE TO CONTACT THE ACID. THE PLATINUM TIP WAS SO FINE THAT I HAVE SEEN IT UNDER A MAGNIFYING GLASS REFUSE TO ENTER THE ACID BUT RATHER TOUCH THE SURFACE AND THEN CURL UPWARD JUST AS THOUGH THE LIQUID WAS A SOLID; THAT'S HOW FINE THE PLATINUM WIRE WAS. THIS ARRANGEMENT ALSO EMPLOYED A BATTERY, A POTENTIOMETER AND A TELEPHONE RECEIVER. (THERE WERE NO WIRELESS HEADPHONES YET AVAILABLE, SO WE USED TELEPHONE RECEIVERS AND INCIDENTALLY, MY FIRST HEAD RECEIVER WAS A SINGLE ONE ON A BAND FOR ONE EAR AS SHOWN IN AN EARLY PHOTOGRAPH OF MY STATION).

THE WOLLASTON WIRE ELECTROLYTIC WORKED VERY WELL WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT YOU HAD TO RAISE THE PLATINUM WIRE FROM THE ACID EVERY YOU TRANSMITTED OR IT WOULD BE BURNED OFF. ALSO A NEARBY STATION A NEARBY STATION OR A BLOB OF STATIC WOULD BURN IT OFF AND YOU HAD TO GO ALL THROUGH THE PROCESS OF DISSOLVING THE SILVER OFF ANOTHER PORTION OF THE WOLLASTON WIRE BEFORE YOU COULD RECEIVE AND THIS TOOK SOME SECONDS. IT WAS, THOUGH, A VERY SENSITIVE DETECTOR AND ONLY OUTDONE BY THE CRYSTALS THAT FOLLOWED.

THE NEXT DETECTORS WERE THE CRYSTALS, CARBORUNDUM, SILICON, IRON PYRITES, PERIKON (CHALCOPYRITE AND ZINCITE), AND FINALLY GALENA, AND CERUSITE. CERUSITE WAS A GRANULAR FORM OF GALENA WHICH APPEARED TO BE MORE SENSITIVE, AT LEAST YOU COULD FIND A GOOD SPOT MUCH EASIER THAN WITH GALENA. I FOUND A SUPPLY OF CERUSITE IN THE LEAD BEARING ORE OF PENNSYLVANIA SOMEWHERE AROUND YORK, AND MY COLLEAGUE AT THAT TIME PROFESSOR LLOYD M. KNOLL OF CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, PHILADELPHIA, USED TO MAKE TRIPS UP THERE FOR SUPPLY.

OF COURSE THE DEFOREST AUDION OUTDID THEM ALL, BUT WHEN ARMSTRONG CAME UP WITH HIS REGENERATIVE CIRCUITS, WE THOUGHT THAT WAS THE END OF THEM ALL. HOW THOSE SIGNALS BOOMED IN THAT EARLY MORNING WHEN PROF. KNOLL AND I LEFT NEW YORK CITY ON THAT MIDNIGHT TRAIN AFTER HEARING ARMSTRONG ANNOUNCE HIS REGENERATIVE CIRCUITS AT THE MEETING OF THE I.R.E. AND IMMEDIATELY WIRE UP OUR AUDIONS FOR REGENERATION; IT WAS JUST UNBELIEVABLE.

BUT NOW I AM GETTING UP TO THE TIME WHEN I WENT COMMERCIAL AND BOARDED A STANDARD OIL TANKER AT BAYONNE, N.J. AND HESITENTLY CALLED NY TO GIVE HIM A DEPARTURE REPORT AND HE FLASHED BACK AT ME WITH A LONG MESSAGE FOR THE SKIPPER WHICH, EVEN AFTER MUCH REPHRASING, THE SKIPPER COULD NOT UNDERSTAND. SPARKS HAD A VERY RED FACE THAT TIME.

73 AND 30

TOM W3AX

THANKS FOR THE STORY TOM. IT WAS MOST INTERESTING AND WILL BE ENJOYED. YE OLDE COPY BOY.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL, 1962 PAGE 22

NEW MEMBERS SINCE MARCH 11

W2ABL	323	W2WI	311	K6IL	306	WOPR	307
W2AK	320	W3PM	302	W60HU	314	VE2TA	324
K2DC	313	W3RV	325	W6ZSH	184 WAS W6JFQ	VE2NB	326
W2EBT	322	W4AU	173 WAS W1OD	W8JDW	328 WAS	WIAN	327
W2FO	319	W4OP	312	W9CMC	317		
W2JPX	318	W4EJD	309	WICV	305		
W2PYW	310	W5RV	321	WIKJ	304		
W2VW	316	W6GMA	329	WIJT	315		

THIS LIST WAS PREPARED BY OUR SECRETARY W2EG FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE IN KEEPING YOUR ROSTER UP TO DATE. 19 MARCH, 1962---W2EG EARL C. WILLIAMS.

SINCE TYPING PAGE 10 AND WITH FURTHER REFERENCE TO THE BLUE BOOK, REASONABLY FIRM COST FOR PRODUCTION HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO MAKE AN "AT COST" PRICE TO MEMBERS ONLY OF \$3.00 AND A PRICE TO NON-MEMBERS OF \$6.00 INCLUDING THE MAILING COST AND ADDITIONS AS THEY BECOME NECESSARY. THIS PRICE INCLUDES THE THREE RING BINDER WITH AN IMPRINTED COVER AS WELL AS ALL INSTALLMENTS AS THEY ARE COMPLETED.

OUR SECRETARY REQUESTS ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE NO DESIRE FOR THE OOTC BLUE BOOK OF AMATEUR WIRELESS, TO NOTIFY HIM BEFORE SHIPMENT IS MADE WHICH WILL BE 1 JUNE OR SOONER. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MADE FOR PAYMENT BY NOTIFYING OUR SECRETARY.

THE OLD OLD TIMERS CLUB PUBLICATION, SPARK GAP TIMES, (FORMERLY BLABBER MOUTH) IS NOW A YEAR OLD AND IT IS TIME FOR AN APPRAISAL. IT WAS FIRST STARTED AS A SORT OF NEWS LETTER AND THROUGH THE MONTHS OF IT'S EXISTANCE, HAS SEEMED TO DEVELOPE INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN A NEWS LETTER.

THE ARTICLES THAT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY MANY OF OUR MEMBERS HAS BEEN OF HIGH ORDER, AND AS A RESULT, OUR PUBLICATION HAS RECEIVED RECOGNITION OF A SORT. SEEMINGLY PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AND IT IS HOPED THAT THE DIRECTION WE HAVE TAKEN IS MEETING THE APPROVAL OF OUR MEMBERS. IF IT IS NOT, CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM WILL HELP AND IS REQUESTED. IN ANY EVENT YOUR CONTINUED COOPERATION IS NECESSARY. REMEMBER!, IF YOU SUBMIT THE ARTICLES THAT OTHER MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO READ, IT WILL BE BECAUSE THESE SAME ARTICLES ARE THE SAME AS YOU WOULD ENJOY READING. "SPARK GAP TIMES" WILL BE JUST AS GOOD AS YOU WANT IT TO BE, IF YOU WILL PUT YOUR SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL AS SOME OF OUR MEMBER CONTRIBUTORS HAVE DONE.

PERHAPS WITH JUSTIFIABLE PRIDE, IT IS NOTED THAT MOST OF THE ARTICLES HAVE BEEN OF HISTORICAL NATURE AND THIS MATERIAL WILL BE OF GREAT VALUE ONE OF THESE DAYS. IF YOU HAVE SAVED THE COPIES ISSUED LAST YEAR, LOOK THEM OVER. YOU WILL SEE WHAT IS MEANT.

EARL E. CLINE SR. W4PPZ
PRESIDENT AND YE. OLDE COPY BOY

EARL C. WILLIAMS W2EG
SECRETARY-TREASURER

MERRILL D. BEAM
VICE-PRESIDENT.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 8

1 APRIL, 1962 PAGE 23

AWARDS CERTIFICATES

IN MAKING REQUESTS FOR AWARDS, IT IS REQUESTED THAT THESE REQUESTS BE MADE TO THE SECRETARY. THIS IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING FULL AND COMPLETE RECORDS AT THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY. IT HAS BEEN FOUND THAT THESE RECORDS ARE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL AND YOUR FULL CO-OPERATION IS URGENTLY REQUESTED.

IT IS INTENDED THAT OUR MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE KEPT FULLY INFORMED ON ALL MATTERS REGARDING THE AWARDS PROGRAM. SUGGESTIONS ARE ALWAYS IN ORDER YOURS IS SOLICITED.

BLUE BOOK OF AMATEUR WIRELESS

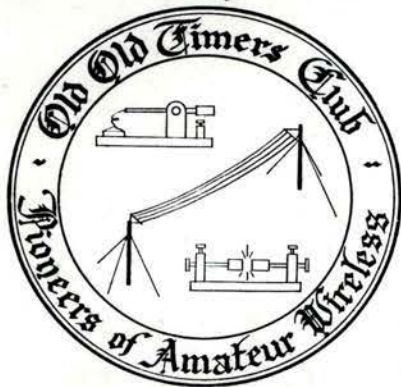
SINCE THE PREVIOUS PAGES WERE TYPED, IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ORDER 400 BINDERS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE BEST PRICE. THIS WILL REPRESENT A SIZABLE SUM TO BE TAKEN FROM THE TREASURY AND WILL LEAVE IT LEANER THAN IT HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME. IF SOME OF OUR MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO MAIL IN THEIR CHECKS FOR THE BLUE BOOK TO OUR VERY CAPABLE SECRETARY, I AM SURE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE UNAPPRECIATED. E.E.C. W4PPZ.

HONOR ROLL

19 FEB. 1962

PRESENT CALL		1913 CALL	PRESENT CALL		1913 CALL
WIAE	GEORGE E. STERLING	IAE	WIAI	OLIN C. BROWN	IAI
WIAN	CHESTER A. KENNEDY	IAC	WIDIU	SEBASTIAN GAHM	IJL
WIDQ	HAROLD C. BOWEN	IKO	WIGJ	RICHARD M. DANIELS	IGJ
WIGV	MALCOLM H. SMITH	IGN	WIHW	HENRY T. MUNROE	IHW
WIIW	LAWRENCE S. BENNETT	IHY	WIIV	CLARK E. MERRILL	IHO
WIJV	FEARING PRATT	IJG	WILV	IRVING E. CUTTING	IAI
WIMH	GEORGE W. VAUGHAN	2MG	WIPH	EDWARD E. HAYWARD	IJE
WIRL	FRANCIS W. DANE	IJU	WIEM	ALAN W. BURKE	IHI
WIRZ	ALBERT E. SNOW	IJF	WITK	JOHN E. WILKINSON	IKN
WIUA	HAROLD T. HARGRAVES	IUA	WIUE	GEORGE H. JETTE	IUE
WIVR	T. HOMAS R. PENNYPACKER	IKF	K2BA	HARRY M. ASH	2BA
K2BF	WILLIAM N. BAKER	2LU	W2BM	EARL HERMANC	2BM
W2BO	M.A. MCINTIRE	2DF	K2CR	RICHARD D. ZUCKER	2DB
K2DZ	PERCE B. COLLISON	2KN	W2EG	EARL C. WILLIAMS	2EA
W2FG	CLARENCE H. PFEIFER	2FA	W2IL	TELFER C. COOPER	2DR
W2JF	ANTON C. FREY	2JF	W2LP	LAWRENCE J. DUNN	2LM
W2MB	JOHN N. HERLAND	IJY	W2WJ	W. HOLLIS HOFFMAN	3BT
W2WX	RICHARD S. EGOLF	2LE	W2YGI	ALFRED S. CRESSE	3BU
W3BS	KARL G. KRECH	2BR	W3WP	JOSEPH C. VAN HORN	3CH
W4TY	ROBERT S. FENIMORE SR.	3JU	W4VG	STANLEY G. SAULNIER	2KT
W6EA	HOWARD C. SEEFRED	6EA	W6IN	GEORGE T. DROSTE	2KU
K6IS	WALTER A. KOERBER	6WK	W6JF	BENJAMAN B. JACKSON	2EX
W6YI	LARRY J. BARTON	6LB	W7HF	GEORGE D. WILSON	7GW
W7OE	HOWARD S. PYLE	7HP	W8DG	DANIEL C. MCCOY	2HA
W8DJ	EDMUND H. BREMER	8DG	W9WK	CARROLL W. THOMAS	9AH
VEIAG	JOSEPH J. HOLMES	6DQ	(COMPILED FOR OOTC BY WINP, WM. B. GOULD)		

Spark-Gap Times



408 WEST VIEW AVENUE
CHATANOOGA 11, TENNESSEE



WAYNE M. NELSON W 4AA
P.O. BOX 72
CONCORD, N. C.