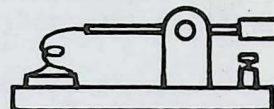
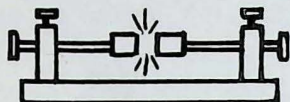


Spark-Gap Times

Published By

The Old Old Timers Club



NUMBER 12 PAGE 1

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 NOVEMBER, 1962

THE FIRST OF DECEMBER. DOES IT SEEM POSSIBLE THAT A NEW YEAR IS JUST A MONTH AWAY? THE DAY OF THANKSGIVING PAST AND THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS BEGINNING. WONDER WHAT MEMORIES ARE BROUGHT TO MIND? PERHAPS A TRIP TO GRANDFATHER'S HOUSE IN THE FAMILY SLEIGH OR THE HORSE AND BUGGY. PERHAPS OF THE FEASTS OF A DEPARTED ERA, THE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE CHURCH OR SCHOOL HOUSE, THE HUGE CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE WITH REAL CANDLES, SKATING ON THE CREEK OR MILL POND, HITCHING A SLED RIDE BEHIND A CUTTER OR SLEIGH, SNOWBALLING PASSERS BY AND THE MULTITUDE OF OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THOSE DAYS. THEY WERE GOOD DAYS WEREN'T THEY?

FOR THE APPROACHING CHRISTMAS SEASON, YOUR PRESIDENT WISHES ALL HANDS A PEACEFUL AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS. MAY THE THINGS THAT YOU WISH BE YOURS; PERHAPS FRIENDS DROPPING IN FOR CIDER AND POP CORN, OR PERHAPS A QUIET EVENING WITH A FRIEND AND A HOT TODDY OR A TOM AND JERRY. ANYWAY TO YOUR TASTE. PERHAPS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE GRANDCHILDREN ROMPING ABOUT THE HOUSE TO YOUR UTTER CONSTERNATION AND GREAT HAPPINESS. MAY IT ALL BE YOURS AND MAY WE ALL FIND MEANS TO EXPRESS OUR GREAT THANKS FOR ALL THE GOOD THINGS THAT HAS BLESSED US DURING THE PAST YEAR. MAY WE FORGET THE OTHERS.

"MERRY CHRISTMAS"

THE OCTOBER ISSUE WAS A MONTH LATE IN GETTING TO THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRIBUTION. FOR THIS WE ARE VERY SORRY. THIS CAUSED BY SICKNESS IN MARTIN HOLMES' FAMILY AND CERTAIN DUTIES THAT WERE ASSIGNED TO HIM THAT PREVENTED HIS GETTING THE WORK DONE AS PROMPTLY AS USUAL. IT IS HOPED THAT THE DECEMBER WILL GET OUT ON TIME AND THAT IT WILL BE TO YOUR LIKING.

THE SECOND INSTALLMENT OF THE BLUE BOOK IS NO DOUBT IN YOUR HANDS BEFORE THIS AND NO DOUBT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE INSTALLMENT CONSISTING OF THE THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH DISTRICTS BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF SPARK-GAP TIMES. ACCORDING TO OUR VERY FINE BLUE BOOK EDITOR, THE FOLLOWING INSTALLMENT SHOULD BE READY FOR PRINTING AROUND THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. IT WOULD SEEM THEREFOR THAT ALL DISTRICTS SHOULD BE IN BE IN THE HANDS OF ALL MEMBERS SOME TIME DURING THE FIRST MONTHS OF THE NEW YEAR.

THE AMOUNT OF WORK GOING INTO THE BLUE BOOK PROJECT IS ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE AND I DOUBT THAT WE SHALL EVER BE ABLE TO THANK BERT OSBORNE ENOUGH FOR ACCEPTING AND REALLY ACCOMPLISHING THIS ASSIGNMENT. YE OLDE COPY BOYE HAS OCCASION TO SEE THIS WORKER'S ACTION WEEKLY AND FOR A BUSY MAN TO TAKE ON SUCH A JOB IS CERTAINLY A CREDIT TO HIM.

W2EG SENT IN AN OBSERVATION SOMETHING LIKE THIS, " IF YOU WANT A THING DONE GIVE THE JOB TO A BUSY MAN". BERT IS IS A LIVING EXAMPLE. THANKS MANY TIMES OLD OLD TIMER.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12

PAGE 2

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

WE REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR AWARDS CHAIRMAN, K2BX FOUND IT NECESSARY TO RESIGN THE POST FOR REASONS OF INADEQUATE TIME. MERRILL, IN ADDITION TO HIS MANY DUTIES AT MONMOUTH, IS SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRMAN AND IS UP TO HIS EARS IN OTHER CIVIC ACTIVITIES. MERRILL HAS MADE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OOTC AND WE REGRET THAT HE IS UNABLE TO CARRY ON THE DUTIES OF AWARDS.

MR. PERLEY B. DUNN, W6WPF, 5262 NEWCASTLE AVE. ENCINO, CALIFORNIA HAS CONSENTED TO SERVE AS AWARDS CHAIRMAN AND WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE HIM. JACK (HANDLE) HAS BEEN ACTIVE REPORTING WEST COAST NEWS FOR SPARK-GAP TIMES SINCE THE FIRST DAYS OF THE OLD BLABBER MOUTH AND WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO THE BEST OF SERVICE IN THE AWARDS PROGRAM. GOOD LUCK JACK. THANKS.

VERY SOON, PERHAPS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, ALL THREE SUPPLEMENTS TO THE 1913 GOVERNMENT CALL BOOK WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION BY OUR SECRETARY, EARL WILLIAMS. THESE THREE SUPPLEMENTS WILL BE OBTAINABLE ONLY AS A GROUP OF THREE AND AT A PRICE OF \$3.00 FOR ALL THREE. THE COST OF PREPARING THESE REPRODUCTIONS IS RATHER LARGE AND IT IS HOPED THAT THE PRICE OF \$3.00 WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER THE COST AND PERHAPS NET A SMALL PROFIT.

ANOTHER ITEM OF GREAT VALUE THAT IS IN PREPARATION IS THE EARLY ELECTRO IMPORTING COMPANY'S CALL BOOK. THIS CALL BOOK AND SUPPLEMENTS REPRESENT AN ACHIEVEMENT BY EARL WILLIAMS. EARL LEARNED OF THE EXISTANCE OF THIS MATERIAL AND IMMEDIATELY GOT ON HIS BICYCLE AND MADE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS TO GET THIS MATERIAL FOR REPRODUCTION. WE ARE INDEBTED TO HAROLD VOORHIS FOR THE USE OF THE MATERIAL FROM WHICH THE REPRODUCTIONS ARE BEING MADE. THE PRICE FOR THE COMPLETE SET AS RECEIVED FROM HAROLD WILL BE \$3.00

OUR SECRETARY EARL WILLIAMS SHOULD BE CONTACTED FOR THE ABOVE REPRODUCTIONS. THEY WILL BE MAILED OUT IN THE ORDER OF THE ORDERS RECEIVED. IT IS HOPED THAT OUR MEMBERS WILL APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS THAT HAS BEEN MADE BY OUR SECRETARY IN GETTING THIS PROGRAM STARTED.

PERCE B. COLLISON

THE FOLLOWING IS A LETTER RECEIVED BY W2EG FROM THE ABOVE MEMBER WHICH SEEMED TO BE OF SUCH INTEREST THAT IT COULD NOT BE LEFT OUT OF THIS JOURNAL.

DEAR EARL;

JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT A "FELLOWSHIP" HAS BEEN AWARDED TO ME BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE I. R. E. ABOUT 1% OF THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP HAVE BEEN GIVEN THIS AWARD. WONDERFUL TIME AT THE HARC LAST SATURDAY.

73,

PERCE.

P.S.- THEY WERE HOLDING A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF I.R.E. AND THEY ADVISED ME BY LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE. P.B.C.

CONGRATULATIONS PERCE ON A DESERVED AWARD. I AM SURE THAT ALL MEMBERS JOIN ME IN EXPRESSING OUR PLEASURE THAT A MEMBER OF OOTC AND YOU IN PARTICULAR HAVE BEEN SO HONORED.

AT THE EDITOR'S REQUEST, OUR SECRETARY WAS REQUESTED TO OBTAIN A NEWS ITEM ON THE HARC. PERCE HAS CONSENTED TO THIS AND HIS ITEM FOLLOWS. NEXT PAGE.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 3

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

BY PERCE B. COLLISON K2DZ

OLD OLD TIMERS CLUB
EARL WILLIAMS, SECRETARY

DEAR EARL:

RECEIVED YOURS OF THE 17TH AND MY FIRST REACTION WAS TO CALL YOU AND BEG OFF THE JOB OF WRITING UP THE BIG DOINGS AT THE HARC SHINDIG ON THE 13TH BECAUSE I WAS NOT ON THE INSIDE FOR PLANNING THE AFFAIR OR ANY OFFICIAL ACTIONS. I SUGGESTED TO THE KIND LADY WHO ANSWERED THE PHONE THAT YOU GIVE THE JOB TO OUR VENERABLE MEMBER RALPH BARBER, WHO AS SECY. TO THE QCWA WAS BETTER QUALIFIED TO DO THE JOB.

HOWEVER AFTER A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, I DECIDED TO WRITE YOU AND GIVE MY PERSONAL REACTIONS TO THIS MEMORABLE AFFAIR, SO HERE GOES;

MANY, MANY YEARS AGO (1905) WHEN I WAS SITTING AT A SMALL TABLE IN MY BEDROOM AT 103 PARK PLACE, BROOKLYN, N.Y. WHICH TABLE WAS A DISORDERLY CONGLOMERATION WITH A HOME-BREW COHERER AND SPARK COIL, (WHICH WAS POWERED WITH TWO DOZEN WORN-OUT DRY CELLS) LITTLE DID I THINK I WAS MAKING HISTORY. ALL I KNOW IS THAT I WAS FASINATED TO PICK UP THE OLD MARCONI STATION (SE) AT SEA GATE, CONEY ISLAND, AND WHAT WAS THEN THE POWERFUL TRANSMITTER OF PT, THE NAVY STATION AT THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARD.

MY FATHER AND MOTHER, WHEN THEY SAW THE "SPARKS" WERE AFRAID I WAS GOING TO BE KILLED AND DID THEIR BEST TO KEEP ME FROM PUTTERING AROUND WITH THAT "CRAZY" STUFF. THEY WOULD GIVE ME NO MONEY TO BUY THE TIN-FOIL FOR CONDENSERS OR WIRE TO PUT UP AN AERIAL, SO EVERY SATURDAY, I SNEAKED AWAY FROM THE HOUSE AND DROVE A GROCERY WAGON FOR A STORE MANY BLOCKS AWAY FOR THEENORMOUS WAGES OF \$2.00 PER DAY. THIS WENT ON FOR SEVERAL WEEKS UNTIL AN IRATE GOSSIPING WOMAN NEIGHBOR, WHO KNEW MY DAD WAS VERY PROSPEROUS, STOPPED MY MOTHER ON THE STREET AND TOLD HER IT WAS A DISGRACE FOR HER LITTLE SKINNY PERCY TO BE DELIVERING GROCERIES ALL OVER THE NEIGHBORHOOD. MA CHECKED UP AND TOLD POP WHAT I WAS DOING. POP CHUCKLED AND TOLD HER HE WAS PROUD OF ME AND THAT I HAD PLENTY OF GUTS AND HE WAS GOING TO GIVE ME ALL THE MONEY I WANTED TO BUY ANYTHING I NEEDED. THIS REFERRED TO RAW MATERIALS BECAUSE WHAT I NEEDED COULD NOT BE PURCHASED AS A FINISHED PIECE OF EQUIPMENT. CORTLANDT STREET DID NOT EXIST AND IT WAS SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE HUGO GERNSBACK OPENED UP A SMALL TOP-FLOOR ESTABLISHMENT IN A FROWSY OLD BUILDING ON WEST BROADWAY IN DOWN TOWN NEW YORK.

FOLLOWED SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE I COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL. WHILE AT ADELPHI ACADEMY IN BROOKLYN (1908), A SMALL GROUP OF US NUTS FORMED UP A "SCIENCE CLUB" OF WHICH I WAS PRESIDENT. (IF YOU LOOK AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (1912) LISTING OF AMATEUR RADIO STATIONS, YOU WILL FIND 2LX LISTED AT ADELPHI COLLEGE, THAT WAS US).

THE OLD PROFESSOR GAVE US THE RUN OF THE PHYSICS LABORATORY AND ALL THE APPARATUS IN IT. ALONG ABOUT 1910, WE CONNECTED A "WIRELESS TELEPHONE" USING A COPPER-CARBON DC ARC, (OSCILLATING) USING DATA FOUND IN DUDELLS' "SINGING ARC" BOOK AND OTHER FUNDAMENTALS FROM ERNEST RHUMER, SLABY ARCO AND OTHERS. WE MODULATED THE ANTENNA RF WITH A CARBON-BUTTON MICROPHONE WHICH WAS A REPLICA OF THE ORIGINAL MICROPHONE WHICH BELL SUBMITTED TO THE U.S. PATTENT OFFICE WHEN HE APPLIED FOR A PATENT. IT WAS A LARGE AND UGLY CONTRAPTION. IT CONSISTED OF A GOATSKIN DIAPHRAM ABOUT SIX INCHES IN DIAMETER, STRETCHED ACROSS A WOODEN BOX OPENING. IN THE CENTER OF THIS DRUM-LIKE CONTRAPTION, A COPPER PENNY WAS CEMENTED AND A THIN WIRE WENT TO A BINDING POST; A HALF INCH STRIP OF SPRING (HARD COPPER) HELD A HALF-SPHERE OF CARBON (ABOUT THE SIZE OF A MOTH BALL) WHICH WAS CEMENTED ON WITH SOME SORT OF METALLIC PASTE. THIS WAS THE OTHER ELECTRODE. WHEN YOU HELD THIS MIKE CLOSE TO YOUR LIPS AND YELLED, THE GOAT-SKIN DIAPHRAM "VIBRATED" AND IT "MODULATED" THE RF FROM THE ARC AND YOUR VOICE WAS "ON THE AIR". PROBABLY ABOUT 5% MODULATION. USING A SHORT AERIAL, WE COULD

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 4

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

TRANSMIT A SIGNAL FROM ONE ROOM TO ANOTHER. THE OLD "PROF" THOUGHT I WAS A GENIUS AND ONE DAY WE PUT ON A SHOW IN THE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM. WE SENT OUR VOICE FROM THE "LAB" AND USED A SIMPLE SILICAON DETECTOR RECEIVER ON THE SCHOOL STAGE. ONE DAY WE PUT THE "WIRELESS TELEPHONE ON A BIG OUT-DOOR AERIAL AND CALLED SE, ABOUT TEN MILES AWAY. DAVE SARNOFF WAS OPERATOR AT SE THOSE DAYS AND HE TOLD ME THAT HE NEARLY FELL OFF THE CHAIR WHEN HE HEARD IT. WONDER IF HE REMEMBERS IT?

I WAS WORKING DURING SUMMER SCHOOL VACATIONS AS A "WIRELESS TELEGRAPH" ELECTRICIAN'S HELPER FOR THE OLD DeFOREST COMPANY. BOB MARRIOTT WAS MY BOSS. I WAS PAID \$45.00 A MONTH. HIHI

CAME THE DAY I WENT TO THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARD TO GET AN AMATEUR LICENSE. I WAS PRETTY DAMN GOOD ON READING CODE (AMERICAN MORSE). I STILL REMEMBER IT, SO AFTER THE OLD CHIEF PASSED ME ON CODE, HE TOOK ME INTO A ROOM FULL OF OLD DeFOREST GEAR, MOTOR GENERATORS, STARTING BOXES, MOTOR AND GENERATOR "FIELD RHEOSTATS", CUTLER-HAMMER STARTING BOXES, DETECTORS ETC. ETC. HE KNEW I WAS A "WIRELESS CONSTRUCTION MAN" SO HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO GIVE ME AN EXTRA SPECIAL STIFF "TECHNICAL EXAMINATION".

THE JOB WAS FOR ME TO CONNECT SOME GEAR AND MAKE A COMPLETE WIRELESS STATION, TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER. THEN I WAS TO CALL PT AND ASK "WHO WAS ON WATCH" AND BRING HIM THE ANSWER. IT TOOK ME ABOUT THREE HOURS TO SORT OUT WHAT I WANTED FROM THE "JUNK PILE", AND TUNE IT UP TO THE WAVE-LENGTH WHICH PT WAS USING AND GET ON THE AIR. I CALLED PT, ASKED THE QUESTION AND SIGNED BC WHICH WAS SELF SELECTED CALL. THE ANSWER I GOT WAS "WHO THE HELL WANTS TO KNOW?" SO I WROTE DOWN ON A SCRAP OF PAPER AND BROUGHT IT OUT TO THE OLD CHIEF. HE GAVE ME A PAT PAT ON THE BACK AND SAID "KID YOU ARE NOW A LICENSED WIRELESS "AMATEUR" AND YOU ALSO RATE A "COMMERCIAL LICENSE". IT WAS SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE I FINALLY GOT MY FIRST COMMERCIAL LICENSE.

ALL OF THIS AND MUCH MORE WAS ON MY MIND AS I SAT AT THE TABLE WITH SEVERAL OTHER "OLD-TIMERS" DOWN AT THE HARC CONVENTION AND WAITED FOR HERBERT HOOVER JR. TO CALL OUT MY NAME TO COME UP AND GET MY "50 YEARS" AWARD. I THINK I HAD TO HOLD BACK PROUD TEARS WHEN I HELD THE "PLAQUE" IN MY SHAKING HANDS.

AFTER GEORGE BAILEY FINISHED INTRODUCING THE "BRASS" AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE I WAS STARTLED TO HEAR HIM SAY TO THE CROWD, "GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE WITH US TONIGHT A VERY RARE INDIVIDUAL, A LIVING ORIGINAL CHARTER MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF RADIO ENGINEERS...PERCE COLLISON SATND UP"; I TOTTERED TO MY FEET AND HELD ON TO THE TABLE AND THIS TIME I DID CRY. I RECEIVED A LONG APPLAUSE.

THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, I RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM GEORGE BAILEY, WHO AS YOU KNOW, IS THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE IRE AND A VERY CLOSE FRIEND, TO THE EFFECT THAT I HAD BEEN AWARDED A "FELLOWSHIP" IN THE IRE.

EARL, MY CUP RUNNETH OVER", I CANNOT WRITE ANY MORE. 73 AND GOD LOVE ALL THE OLD TIMERS.

PERCE.

50 YEAR AWARDS

THE 1962 HUDSON DIVISION ARRL CONVENTION, SPONSORED BY HUDSON AMATEUR COUNCIL AND HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMATEUR LICENSING, WAS HELD IN THE HOTEL STATLER HILTON IN NEW YORK CITY ON OCTOBER 13, 1962. AMONG THE EXHIBITS THERE WAS A BOOTH OF THE ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION IN WHICH OUR OLD FRIEND BRUCE KELLEY DEMONSTRATED AND OPERATED OLD TIME WIRELESS GEAR. A SPECIAL PERMIT WAS GRANTED BY FCC FOR THIS ONE DAY OPERATION. WE OWE BRUCE A SPECIAL VOTE OF THANKS FOR ALLOWING OOTC TO OCCUPY A SECTION OF THEIR BOOTH.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 5

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

HONORED GUESTS INCLUDED DR. GEO. W. BAILEY W2KH, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, CDR FRANK BARNETT, U.S. COAST GUARD, IRVING BINGER W2CMM, PRESIDENT SSBARA, GEO. E. BURGHARD, RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA, CAPT. ALVAH N. COLE JR. CHIEF MARS USAF, MAJ. GEN. EARL F. COOK W4FZ CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER USA, HARRY J. DANNALS W2TUK PRESIDENT HARC, JOHN DiBLASI W2FX PRESIDENT QCWA FRANK A GUNTHER W2ALS PRESIDENT AFCEA, HERBERT HOOVER JR. W6ZH PRESIDENT ARRL, JOHN HUNTOON W1LVQ GEN. MGR. ARRL, MORTON B. KAHN W2KR DIRECTOR ARRL, WM. L. R. KISER K2PJS ENGINEER IN CHARGE NEW YORK DISTRICT FCC, IVAN H. LOUCKS CHIEF AMATEUR & CITIZENS RADIO DIVISION FCC, GEORGE S. TURNER CHIEF ENGINEERING AND MONITORING BUREAU FCC AND LCDR CHAS. R. WINNETTE DIRECTOR U.S. NAVY MARS U.S.N.

PRESENTATION OF 50 YEAR AWARDS TO THOSE WHO HOLD A PRESENT DAY LICENSE AND HELD A LICENSE IN 1913 (UNDER THE LAW OF 1912) WAS MADE BY HERBERT HOOVER JR. W6ZH.

70 AWARDS WERE PRESENTED AND 29 OF THESE WERE OOTC MEMBERS. THIS REPRESENTS OVER 41%. AWARDS WERE MADE TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS;

W2ZM	RALPH G. BARBER	2FS	VEIAJ	J. J. HOLMES	6DQ
WIRM	ALAN W. BURKE	1HI	W6JF	B. B. JACKSON	2EX
WIED	ALFRED J. CARVER	8ED	W3BS	KARL G. KRECH	2BR
K2DZ	PERCE B. COLLISON	2KN	W2WL	WALLACE H. LELAND	6WL
W2YGI	ALFRED S. CRESSE	3BU	W8DG	DANIEL C. MCCOY	2HA
W1IH	L. S. BENNETT	1HY	W2B0	MAYBERT A. MCINTYRE	2DF
W1LV	IRVING E. CUTTING	9AI	W2FG	CLARENCE H. PFEIFER	2FA
W4KJ	HAROLD B. DOTEN	1KH	W7OE	HOWARD S. PYLE	7HP
W2IY	EDW. W. DUGAN	2IY	W7COH	TOWNSEND J. RIGBY	6DU
W2LP	LAWRENCE J. DUNN	2LM	KP4ZK	RICHARD SCHELL JR.	2BF
W2WX	RICHARD S. EGOLF	2LE	WIAE	GEO. E. STERLING	IAE
W4TY	ROBERT S. FENIMORE	3JU	W1TK	JOHN E. WILKINSON	1KN
W1DIU	SEBASTIAN GAHM	1JU	W2EG	EARL C. WILLIAMS	2EA
W2MDB	JOHN N. HERLAND	1JY	K2CR	RICHARD D. ZUCKER	2DB
W2WJ	W. HOLLIS HOFFMAN	3BT			

IT SEEMED STRANGE NOT TO SEE OUR GOOD MEMBER GEORGE STERLING WIAE AT THE GUEST TABLE, BUT HE CHOSE TO SIT WITH THE REST OF THE BOYS WHO RECEIVED AWARDS. GEORGE WON A PRIZE. NOT A BIG ONE BUT A PRIZE. THE LAST WE SAW OF GEORGE HE WAS HEADING OUT OF THE HOTEL WITH AN ARMFUL. WONDER WHAT THE PRIZE WAS THAT HE WON.

EARL, W2EG

A STATEMENT OF POLICY

IT HAS FROM THE THE BEGINNING AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE POLICY OF THIS JOURNAL TO AVOID CONTOVERSIAL SUBJECTS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE. THIS DOES NOT HOWEVER PREVENT OUR MEMBERS FROM USING SPARK-GAP TIMES AS A FORUM FOR EXPRESSING THEIR HONEST VIEWS.

OUR GOOD MEMBER MORT SMITH W6HSC HAS EXPRESSED HIS THOUGHTS TO YE OLDE COPY BOYE IN A WAY THAT NECESSITATES THE THE PUBLISHING THE LETTER HE WROTE TO ARRL ON AUGUST 1, 1962. AS STATED MANY TIMES IN THE PAST, YE OLDE COPY BOYE HAS NO AXE TO GRIND WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANIZATION. WHEN HOWEVER, ONE OF OUR MEMBERS FEELS THAT HE HAS NOT HAD JUST TREATMENT, IT IS BELIEVED THAT IT IS A DUTY TO SHIELD HIM FROM THE EMBARRASSMENT OF SUCH ACTION.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 6

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

MORT BELIEVES THAT HE WAS SLIGHTED IN NOT BEING HONORED BY A 50 YEAR AWARD AND HIS LETTER TO ARRL IS OFFERED BY HIM IN SUPPORT OF HIS CLAIM AND FOLLOWS;

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE
38 LA SALLE ROAD
WEST HARTFORD 7, CONN.

SUBJECT: GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY LICENSING OF
AMATEUR RADIO

ATTENTION: MR. JOHN HUNTOON

GENTLEMEN:

AS PER YOUR ARTICLE ON PAGE 65 OF THE APRIL ISSUE OF "QST" PLUS ISSUES NOS. 8 AND 9 OF SPARK-GAP TIMES RELATIVE TO PIONEER OLD TIME WIRELESS AMATEURS WHO WERE ACTIVE PRIOR TO AND OR LICENSED IN THE YEAR 1912, I AM SUBMITTING A PHOTOSTATIC COPY OF MY LICENSE WHICH WAS A "CERTIFICATE OF SKILL IN RADIO COMMUNICATIONS N. 358." THIS WAS ISSUED TO ME BY E. STUART TUCKER, GUNNER, U.S.N. ON THE 25TH OF SEPTEMBER, 1912 AT THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARD ELECTRICAL SCHOOL, NEW YORK. MY BEING AN ACTIVE AMATEUR AT THAT TIME, GUNNER TUCKER ENDORSED MY "CERTIFICATE" SO IT WAS VALID FOR BOTH AMATEUR AND COMMERCIAL OPERATION, AS HE ADVISED ME AT THAT TIME, THIS ENDORSEMENT WOULD MAKE IT NOT NECESSARY FOR ME TO TAKE ANOTHER EXAMINATION FOR AN AMATEUR LICENSE AFTER THE FIRST OF THE COMING YEAR. THIS IS THE ONLY "CERTIFICATE" TO MY HUMBLE KNOWLEDGE AND PERSONAL AWARENESS SO ISSUED, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE SOME OTHERS I DO NOT KNOW OF.

ALSO ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND A COPY ENTITLED REF (A), THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH TOGETHER WITH A SWORN AFFIDAVIT BY WILLIAM A. WAYMOUTH WAS FORWARDED TO THE FCC, ATTENTION COMMISSIONER GEORGE E. STERLING AT WASHINGTON, D.C. TESTIFYING TO MY OPERATING AN AMATEUR WIRELESS STATION IN THE YEAR 1908 WHILE AT FRIENDS' ACADEMY, LOCUST VALLEY, L.I. N.Y. THE STATION HAD BEEN IN OPERATION SLIGHTLY MORE THAN A YEAR, WHEN BILL WAYMOUTH JOINED OUR SCHOOL. IF NECESSARY I AM QUITE SURE I CAN SECURE ANOTHER AFFIDAVIT TO THIS EFFECT FROM HIM IN PUERTO RICO.

WALTER TIMMIS, DOUGLAS BEYEA AND MYSELF ARRIVED AT FRIENDS' ACADEMY THE EARLY PART OF 1905. THE FALL AND WINTER OF 1905 & 1906 WALTER AND I BECAME INTERESTED IN WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY. WE SECURED THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S BLESSING TO ERECT ANTENNAS ANYWHERE ON THE SCHOOL CAMPUS WHICH WAS QUITE EXTENSIVE. WE HAD TWO WAY CONTACTS AT THIS TIME FOR DISTANCES OF A LITTLE OVER A THOUSAND FEET. WE LATER DUMPED THE COHERER SET-UP AND WENT OVER TO CRYSTAL AND ELECTROLYTIC DETECTORS, THEN WE STARTED TO BE ABLE TO HEAR SIGNALS FROM MUCH GREATER DISTANCES.

AFTER THE SUMMER VACATION AND DURING THE FALL AND WINTER OF 1906 & 1907 WE BRANCHED OUT AND FORMED A WIRELESS TELEGRAPH NETWORK. WE BUILT A STATION FOR JOHN APPLEBY AT GLEN COVE, TWO MILES DISTANT AND ANOTHER FOR LEROY MATTHEWS ABOUT ONE MILE NORTH OF US AT LOCUST VALLEY AND OF COURSE OUR ORIGINAL STATION AT THE BOARDING SCHOOL, LOCATED ON THE GLEN COVE TO OYSTER BAY ROAD. JOHN AND LEROY WERE DAY PUPILS AND COMMUTED FROM THEIR HOMES, WHILE THE REST OF US BOARDED AT THE ACADEMY.

OUR CALLS WERE THE SAME AS OUR INITIALS: JA, LM, WT, DB, MS, AND FA FOR FRIENDS' ACADEMY. WE OCCASIONALLY COMMUNICATED WITH THE STEAMERS YALE AND HARVARD (RY & RH) OF THE METROPOLITAN LINE, THEN RUNNING EXPRESS PASSENGER SERVICE THROUGH THE LONG ISLAND SOUND BETWEEN NEW YORK AND BOSTON. THESE VESSELS WERE EQUIPPED WITH A MARCONI 10 INCH SPARK COIL, A BANK OF LEYDEN JARS, A STRAIGHT SPARK GAP AND A SQUARE SHAPED HELIX, WOUND WITH A NUMBER ZERO STRANDED PHOSPHOR BRONZE WINDOW SASH CORD WIRE INSULATED FROM THE WOOD BY SMALL ROUND PORCELAIN INSULATORS. THE KEY (MARCONI) WAS MOUNTED ON THE FRONT EDGE OF THE OPERATING TABLE AND IT MADE AND BROKE THE DC STORAGE BATTERY POWER SUPPLY TO OPERATE THE SPARK TRANSMITTER.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 7

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

THE STORAGE BATTERIES WERE RECHARGED THROUGH A BANK OF RESISTORS FROM THE SHIP'S MAINS. THE RECEIVER CONSISTED OF AN ENGLISH MARCONI TUNER, MAGNETIC DETECTOR AND A PAIR OF ENGLISH BROWN 'PHONES. SUSPENDED BETWEEN THE TWO MASTS WAS THE CONVENTIONAL INVERTED "L" FLAT TOP 4 WIRE ANTENNA, LEAD-IN OFF THE FRONT RUNNING TO THE RADIO ROOM LOCATED ON THE TOP DECK, FORWARD, ON THE STARBOARD SIDE. SOME OF THE OTHER STATIONS WE CONTACTED, USING THE ACADEMY'S CALL WERE; "PT" THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARD, N.Y., "DF" AT MANHATTAN BEACH, "NY" AT 42 BROADWAY, N.Y. ALSO "TWT" THE GERMAN TELEFUNKEN STATION LOCATED ON THE ROOF OF 111 BROADWAY, N.Y. THEN THERE WAS "OHX" AT THE BATTERY, N.Y. OPERATED BY THE NEW YORK HERALD. I USED TO COPY OLD "CC" AT SOUTH WELLFLEET, MASS., WHO USED TO SEND PRESS MESSAGES TO SHIPS AT SEA AT 10 PM NIGHTLY.

AFTER LEAVING FRIENDS' ACADEMY AT LOCUST VALLEY I ATTENDED THE NEW YORK MILITARY ACADEMY LOCATED AT CORNWALL ON HUDSON, N.Y. WHERE I AGAIN SET UP OPERATION OF MY AMATEUR WIRELESS STATION. WHILE AT THE ABOVE SCHOOL, I CONTACTED A FEW OF THE LARGE STEAMERS OF THE HUDSON RIVER DAY LINE WHICH CARRIED PASSENGERS BETWEEN NEW YORK AND ALBANY. THE COMPANY ALSO HAD A STATION AT MOUNT BEACON WHICH WORKED THE RIVER STEAMERS. MOUNT BEACON WAS LOCATED DIAGONALLY ACROSS THE HUDSON RIVER FROM THE ACADEMY. THE COMMERCIAL COMPANIES AND THE NAVAL OFFICIALS FROWNED ON THEIR STATION OPERATORS ENGAGING IN COMMUNICATION WITH AMATEUR STATIONS, BUT WHEN WE COULD BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE TO THEM AT VARIOUS TIMES WE ALWAYS GOT A TNX OR 73 WHICH CONCLUDED A BRIEF CONTACT.

ENCLOSED IS A PHOTOSTAT COPY OF AN AFFIDAVIT BY ROBERT B. MCCLURE, NOW RETIRED FROM THE U.S. ARMY AND RESIDING IN CARMEL, CALIFORNIA, WHO WAS A CLASSMATE OF MINE IN 1910, TESTIFYING TO THE FACT THAT I OWNED AND OPERATED MY AMATEUR STATION AT THE ABOVE MENTIONED MILITARY BOARDING SCHOOL.

FROM N.Y.M.A. I RETURNED TO BROOKLYN, N.Y. WHERE I WAS BORN AND AGAIN ERECTED MY AMATEUR WIRELESS STATION IN 1911. MY TRANSMITTER WAS POWERED WITH A 1 INCH SPARK COIL, OPERATING FROM NO. 6 DRY CELLS, AS ALMOST ALL OF THE CITY AT THAT TIME WAS USING GAS LIGHTS AND ELECTRICITY WAS NOT AVAILABLE. I HAD VERY MANY TWO WAY CONTACTS FROM HERE WITH SUCH WELL KNOWN BOYS OF THOSE DAYS LIKE ARTHUR MINNERS, "AM", DOC HUDSON, "DH", FATHER BRADFORD, "QNF" (MORSE) OPERATED BY CHARLEY SHERWOOD, WHEN HIS CABLE SHIP "RELAY" WAS IN PORT. I OPERATED "QNF" WHILE SHERWOOD WAS AT SEA. IT WAS DURING MY RESIDENCE IN BROOKLYN THAT I FIRST CONTACTED RAY MEYERS, "MI" WHO ALSO LIVED IN THE SAME CITY. RAY IS NOW OUR SOUTHWESTERN DIRECTOR OF ARRL FOR THIS AREA AND I WISH TO ADD THAT IT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO SECURE A BETTER MAN FOR THE JOB. I WENT TO SEA IN 1912 AND RAY MEYERS I BELIEVED ENROLLED IN THE U.S. NAVAL SERVICE ABOUT 1914. MR. MEYERS BECAME CHIEF ELECTRICIAN (RADIO) SOME TIME AFTER AND WAS STATIONED AT BAR HARBOR, MAINE (WBD) AT THE SAME PERIOD I WAS ON THE STEAMERS SUSQUEHANNA "KOLN" AND THE GEORGE WASHINGTON "KDCL", BOTH OPERATED BY THE U.S. MAIL S.S. CO. FROM WHICH I TRANSMITTED MANY HUNDREDS OF PASSENGER TRAFFIC MESSAGES TO RAY AT "NBD" ON THE 450 METERS SPARK. SOME THIRTY ODD YEARS LATER, I AGAIN RAN INTO THIS MAN PERSONALLY AT AN ARRL CONVENTION HELD IN THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL IN LOS ANGELES. HE LIKE MYSELF ALSO OPERATED AN AMATEUR WIRELESS TELEGRAPH STATION BEFORE THE DAYS OF LICENSING. IT'S A SMALL WORLD. RAY'S CALL NOW IS "W6MLZ". THIS MAN HAS HAD A MOST UNUSUAL AND EXTRAORDINARY CAREER, THE EXPLOITS OF WHICH READ LIKE SOME OF THE EPISODES OF JULES VERNE. HE HAS DONE MUCH GOOD FOR OUR COUNTRY IN MANY BRANCHES OF COMMUNICATIONS. MR. MEYERS CAN TESTIFY TO MY OPERATION OF AN AMATEUR STATION BEFORE THE DAYS OF LICENSING, WHEN WE BOTH LIVED IN BROOKLYN, N.Y.

REFERRING TO MY REF (A) ENCLOSED, THERE IS A POSSIBLE CHANCE THAT MR. GEORGE E. STERLING MAY REMEMBER SEEING SOME OF MY CORRESPONDENCE WHEN HE WAS FCC COMMISSIONER, AS HE WAS MOST INSTRUMENTAL IN PUTTING THROUGH THE ENACTMENT OF "THE GRANDFATHER CLAUSE" FOR AMERICAN RADIO AMATEURS, IT IS UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO EXPRESS IN JUST PLAIN MERE WORDS, THE RESPECT, APPRECIATION AND AFFECTION WE SHOULD HAVE FOR SUCH WONDERFUL FAIRNESS AND REAL COOPERATION EXTENDED US BY OUR GOOD RADIO COLLEAGUE FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY DURING WARTIME, AND THE ENTIRE RADIO FRATERNITY. HIS PRAISES SHOULD BE SHOUTED FROM THE ROUSE-TOPS, LONG LIVE OUR GOOD FRIEND "GEORGE E. STERLING".

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 8

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE.

HOPE 2 C U IN N.Y. OCTOBER 13, '62

73 FM

MORTIMER ORR SMITH

A POSER FROM TOM STEVENS W6KAA

DEAR CLINE:

HERE IS SOME DOPE WHICH MIGHT BE OF INTEREST AND REQUIRE SOME OF OUR MEMBERS TO PUT ON THEIR "THINKING CAPS"! HI! WONDER HOW MANY OOTC MEMBERS RECALL THE STATIONS, THE CALL SIGNS OF WHICH WERE AS FOLLOWS?

AX, BX, G, HA, HV, WQ, NBD, NY, OHX, RU, SE, SN, SV. FOR ANSWERS LOOK FOR THE RIGHT PAGE IN THIS ISSUE OF SPARK-GAP TIMES.

THE TEACHER WAS GIVING HER CLASS A TEMPERANCE LESSON-- ON THE TABLE WERE TWO GLASSES ONE FILLED WITH WATER, THE OTHER WITH ALCOHOL. IN HER HAND SHE HELD A LIVE WORM.

DIPPING THE WORM INTO THE GLASS OF WATER HAD NO EFFECT ON THE THING, BUT IN THE GLASS OF ALCOHOL QUICKLY DIED.

"NOW JOHNNY," ASKED THE TEACHER, "WHAT LESSON DO YOU GET FROM THAT EXPERIMENT?" "WELL, MA'AM," REPLIED THE LAD, " I THINK THAT IF YOU DRINK ALCOHOL, YOU WON'T HAVE WORMS."

FROM DICK KLEINBERGER W2AEC

I RECEIVED A NICE LETTER FROM W2AEC, DICK KLEINBERGER A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO AND THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH IS AN EXCERPT FROM THIS LETTER:

"POSSIBLY SOME OF OUR MORE INTELL-
ECTUAL OOTCS MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN ADVANCED SCIENTIFIC MATTERS, SO I THOUGHT THAT THE ATTACHED ITEM MIGHT BE WELCOME. MAYBE YOU CAN FIND SOME SPACE FOR IT IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE SPARK-GAP TIMES".

FOLLOWING IS THE PERTAINING ITEM;

THE FOLLOWING SIGN IS THE LATEST ADDITION TO OUR GROWING COLLECTION OF SCIENTIFIC GERMAN. IT HANGS OUTSIDE A GLASS-ENCLOSED ROOMFUL OF COMPUTING MACHINERY AT LOS ALAMOS SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY.

A C H T U N G

ALLES LOOKENSPEEPERS

DAS COMPUTENMACHINE IST NICHT FOR GEFINGER POKEN UND MITTENGGRABBen. IST EASY TO SCHNAPPEN DAS SPRINGENWERK, BLOWFUSEN, UND POPPENCORKEN MIT SPITZENSPARKEN. IST NICHT FUR GEWERKEN BEI DAS DUMKOPFEN. ALLES RUBBERNECKEN SIGHTSEEREN KEEP HANDS IN DAS POCKETS, RELAXEN, UND WATCH DAS BLINKENLIGHTS.

OK FELLERS, WATCH DAS BLINKENLIGHTS. EEC.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 9

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962



COL. FRED J. ELSER, USA-RET.

SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF PACIFIC WIRELESS W6FB/W6ANM

ANALYSIS OF THE 1 FEBRUARY '62 ROSTER OF THE OOTC SHOWS THE FOLLOWING BREAKDOWN OF "STARTING YEARS" LISTED FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP AS OF THAT DATE: '01-2; '02-1; '03-1; '04-2; '05-0; '06-13; '07-12; '08-31; '09-17; '10-24; '11-15; '12-24; '13-15; '14-16; '15-13; '16-20; '17-6; '18-4; '19-17; '20-17; '21-10. THE MEDIAN IS BETWEEN 1911 AND 1912. OF COURSE THIS WILL ADVANCE RAPIDLY AS TIME GOES ON, BUT IT DOES SHOW THAT OUR PRESENT MEMBERSHIP IS COMPOSED OF THOSE EARLIEST (AND NO DOUBT HAPPIEST) RECOLLECTIONS ARE OF THE GOLDEN DAYS BEFORE WORLD WAR I AND THE ADVENT OF BROADCASTING (LATE 1921). I WOULD LIKE TO DEDICATE THE FOLLOWING TO THEM:

"SPARK DAYS" TUNE OF "SCHOOL DAYS"

SPARK DAYS, SPARK DAYS, DEAROLD QRM DAYS,
HIGH NOTES AND LOW NOTES FROM ROTARIES,
AS THEIR OWNERS POUNDED KEYS,
THEY WERE THE DAYS OF GOLDEN HUE,
THOUGH THE CONDENSER OFTEN BLEW,
BUT WHEN THE BILL FOR JUICE CAME DUE

WE FORGOT THE DAY WE WERE BORN! WE MOURNED THE DAY WE WERE BORN!

PLEASE PARDON A LITTLE NOSTALGIA--- I'VE BEEN LOOKING THROUGH MY OLD FILES OF QST

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 10

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

AND THE PICTURES AND ADS. WERE A LITTLE TOO MUCH. NO DOUBT OF IT THINGS HAVE CHANGED.

IT WAS IN FEBRUARY OF 1911 THAT A SMALL BOY (ME) LEFT WASHINGTON, D.C. AND AFTER A LONG AND CIRCUITOUS TRAIN TRIP VIA CHICAGO, EL PASO, MEXICO, SAN DIEGO AND PASADENA FINALLY ARRIVED AT THE U.S. ARMY TRANSPORT "THOMAS" AT FORT MASON, SAN FRANCISCO. I BELIEVE AT THIS TIME STATIONS WERE STILL USING TWO LETTER CALLS (E.G. "CC" FOR CAPE COD, "PL" FOR POINT LOMA, "PG" FOR GOAT ISLAND.) AND A BIT LATER THE INT. CONF. ASSIGNED PREFIXES OF "K", "N" & "W" FOR U.S. STATIONS: "K" FOR THE COMMERCIALS, "N" FOR THE NAVY DEPARTMENT, & "W" FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT. AT ANY RATE I BELIEVE THE "THOMAS" DID OR SOON WAS TO BEAR THE CALL "WXM".

I WAS TO CROSS THE PACIFIC THREE TIMES HERE PRIOR TO WORLD WAR I. THERE WERE AT THAT TIME THREE SISTER SHIPS ON THE TRANSPORT RUN TO THE PHILIPPINES; THE "SHERIDAN" AND THE "SHERMAN" AS WELL AS THE "THOMAS". IRON CLAD RUMOR HAD IT THAT THEY HAD WOODEN FRAMES. THIS I CANNOT VERIFY, BUT THEY HAD BEEN IN SERVICE FOR MANY YEARS AND WERE ALL NAMED FOR CIVIL WAR GENERALS. DRAW YOUR CONCLUSIONS! THE ARMY HAD INSTALLED A TELEFUNKEN SET ON CORREGIDOR IN 1909 TO WORK THE TRANSPORTS COMING INTO MANILA BAY SO I SUPPOSE THE WIRELESS GEAR ABOARD THE SHIPS DATED FROM ABOUT THAT TIME. THE TRANSMITTER ON THE "THOMAS", I BELIEVE, WAS A 2 KW 'STRAIGHT GAP' RIG MADE BY THE MASSIE WIRELESS CO. I MAY BE WRONG. ANYWAY, MOST OF THE GEAR SEEMED TO BE IN AN ASBESTOS LINED CLOSET UNDER THE OPERATING BENCH WITH THE GAP UP ON THE BULKHEAD IN A GLASS 'RESONATOR' LOOKING LIKE A GOLDFISH BOWL. THIS GAP WAS VERY NOISY AND ESPECIALLY DURING THE 'SIESTA' HOUR EVERY AFTERNOON COULD BE HEARD OVER THE SHIP.

I HAVE READ IN THE "SAILING DIRECTIONS" FOR ABOUT THE YEAR (1911) WHERE THE BU. OF NAVIGATION HAD SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT TO SAY ABOUT WIRELESS STATIONS ABOARD SHIPS OF THAT ERA: "THE MASTER WILL FIND THE WIRELESS OF GREAT VALUE IN COMING INTO AND LEAVING PORT, REQUESTING BERTHING INSTRUCTIONS, ETC, ETC. HOWEVER NO RELIANCE SHOULD BE PLACED ON IT FOR COMMUNICATIONS IN EXCESS OF 50 NAUTICAL MILES." THIS MAY OR NOT HAVE BEEN TRUE, BUT THE OPERATORS ON THE VAST DESERTED STRETCHES OF THE PACIFIC SEEMED TO FIND PLENTY OF SENDING TO DO, NO DOUBT TESTING THE APPARATUS, COMMUNICATING WITH PASSING BUT UNSEEN SHIPS AND MAYBE EVEN TRYING FOR "DX". AT ANY RATE IT WAS ALL TREMENDOUSLY FASCINATING TO ME IN THOSE DAYS BEFORE AIRMAIL, THE TRANS-CONTINENTAL TELEPHONE, ETC. AS THE "THOMAS" CHUGGED AT 12 KNOTS ALONG HER 5-WEEK COURSE TO THE PHILIPPINES VIA HAWAII, GUAM AND THE STRAITS OF SAN BERNARDINO AND BACK, I BECAME INOCULATED WITH THE VIRUS "HAMMUS" WITHOUT REALIZING IT.

REMEMBER, IN THOSE DAYS THERE WAS NO ARRL, NO QST, NO HANDY'S HANDY HANDBOOK, AND OUT IN MANILA, NOT EVEN ANY "HAMS". WE DEPENDED ON LORE GAINED FROM AN OCCASIONAL SHIP OPERATOR, "POPULAR MECHANICS" AND LATER, THE "BOY SCOUTS' HANDBOOK". BUCHER'S AND ZENNECK'S BOOKS WERE NO DOUBT AVAILABLE IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUT A LITTLE OVER THE HEAD OF A YOUNG HAM OF THOSE DAYS.

MY PROGRESS FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS DEPENDED ON SUCH THINGS AS LEARNING THE CODE (FORTUNATELY THE INTERNATIONAL OUT THERE) ON A ROOM-TO-ROOM TELEGRAPH HOOK-UP AT SCHOOL, REPAIRING OLD MAGNETO CRANK-TYPE TELEPHONES, AND FINALLY BUILDING A BREADBOARD RECEIVER WITH AN ELECTROLYTIC DETECTOR, WOLLASTON WIRE 'N ALL. IN SPITE OF THE HIGHLY-TOUTED 'SYNTONY' TUNING EQUIPMENT, ABOUT ALL WE COULD HEAR ON IT WAS STATIC, AND DARN LITTLE OF THAT. MANY OF THE PRESENT DAY BRETHREN WOULD NO DOUBT HAVE BECOME DISCOURAGED AT THE MEAGER RESULTS, BUT ONE ATTRIBUTE OF THE OLD-TIMER WAS BULL-HEADED 'STICK-TO-IT-IVENEMENT', NOW SELDOM EXHIBITED (EXCEPT ON 75 METER ROUNDTABLES) MAYBE? WIRELESS AS A COMMUNICATION MEDIUM MAY HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT LACKING IN THOSE DAYS, BUT IT HAD ALL THE FASCINATION AND 'HOCUS-POCUS' OF AN OUIGA BOARD.

THE THING THAT FINALLY PRECIPITATED ME INTO BUILDING THE FIRST SENDING SET (AMATEUR) IN THE PHILIPPINES AFTER MY SECOND TRIP OUT THERE IN 1916, WAS NO DOUBT THE NAVY'S ERECTION OF NPO AT THE CAVITE NAVAL BASE, ACROSS THE BAY FROM MANILA. OUR HOUSE WAS ON THE WATERFRONT IN MANILA, AND IT WAS EASY TO SEE THE 600 FOOT, TRIANGULAR, SELF-SUPPORTING TOWERS GOING UP AT THE NAVY BASE.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 11

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

UP AT THE NAVY BASE. FORTUNATELY, MY FAMILY HAD FRIENDS OVER THERE, AND I WANGLED VISITS THERE AND EVEN CLIMBED THE HALF-FINISHED TOWERS ON SUNDAYS, WHEN THE WORKMEN WERE AWAY. AH! YOUTH!

THE CAVITE STATION WAS ONE OF A TRANS-PACIFIC CHAIN OF LONG-WAVE ARC STATIONS, THAT ULTIMATELY INCLUDED PEARL HARBOR, GUAM, SAMOA, CAVITE AND PEKING. (NPM, NPN, NPU, NPO, AND NPP). THEY USED ARCS MADE BY FEDERAL ON WAVELENGTHS BETWEEN 10,000, AND 20, 000 METERS. I THINK THE MAIN TRANSMITTER AT CAVITE THEN HAD 500 KW ARC CHAMBER WITH A 350 KW STANDBY. AT ANY RATE, THERE WAS A TREMENDOUS STORAGE BATTERY IN A SEPARATE BUILDING THAT WOULD RUN THE INSTALLATION FOR 40 HOURS IF THE MAIN POWER WAS INTERRUPTED. OPERATING WAS FROM A LOCAL CONTROL POINT AT FIRST IN A ROOM INSULATED WITH THICK SLABS OF CORK, AND COMMUNICATION WITH THE TRANSMITTER MAN VIA A BLINKER TELEGRAPH LINE. OLD DeFOREST CABINETS WERE IN EVIDENCE WITH THE GLOBULAR AUDIONS. RELAY VIA GUAM TO PEARL WAS ABOUT PAR FOR THE COURSE.

ABOUT THIS TIME A NAVY OPERATOR NAMED JOHNSON WHO WAS GOING HOME GAVE ME HIS PERSONAL RECEIVER. THIS WAS A SLAB OF HARD RUBBER THAT HAD SEEN MUCH BETTER DAYS AND HAD MORE HOLES DRILLED IN IT THAN ANY SWISS CHEESE. ON THIS PANEL WAS MOUNTED A HOMEMADE LOOSE COUPLER WITH A TAP SWITCH IN THE PRIMARY AND A SLIDER THAT CHANGED THE NUMBER OF TURNS ON THE SECONDARY AS IT SLID IN AND OUT OF THE PRIMARY. THERE WAS ALSO A WIRELESS SPECIALTY DOUBLE CRYSTAL DETECTOR STAND, AND A W.E. TELEPHONE CONDENSER. THIS WITH A PAIR OF BRITISH TELEPHONEES (WITH COILS IMPREGNATED WITH BEESWAX) CONSTITUTED A MODERN AND VERSATILE SET BY THE STANDARDS OF THAT DAY.

GREATLY ENCOURAGED, I SCoured MANILA FOR ENOUGH BARE COPPER WIRE (IT CAME ON SPOOLS AND WAS SOLD BY AUTO SUPPLY HOUSES) TO ERECT AN INVERTED L, 4 WIRE ANTENNA WITH RATTAIL LEADIN ON THE ROOF OF OUR 3-STORY HOUSE FACING THE BAY. IMMEDIATELY, SUCCESS WAS MINE. NOT ONLY DID I GET THE BLIZZARD OF ARC-MUSH FROM CAVITE, BUT THE ARMY STATION ON CORRIDOR CAME BANGING THROUGH AND THE SHIPS COMING IN AND OUT OF MANILA BAY HAD GOOD STRONG SIGNALS THAT ENCOURAGED ME TO BRUSH UP ON MY CODE.

ABOUT THIS SAME TIME THE "BOY SCOUT" HANDBOOK CAME OUT WITH A DESCRIPTION OF AN INEXPENSIVE, FOOL-PROOF TRANSMITTER THAT LOOKED LIKE THE "CAT'S PAJAMAS" FOR A LONELY YOUNG HAM 7000 MILES WEST OF THE U.S.A. I WENT "SCROUNGING AGAIN TO GARAGES, PHOTO SHOPS AND THE MERALCO ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY AND WHEN I FINISHED HAD A "SQUEAK-BOX" RIG NEATLY MOUNTED ON A BREAD-BOARD INCLUDING SUCH FAMILIAR OBJECTS AS A FORD COIL (RUN OFF 4 CROWN IGNITER DRY CELLS), A GLASS PHOTO-PLATE AND FOIL CONDENSER, FIXED SPARK-GAP, AND HELIX. THIS WAS INTERCONNECTED TO THE ANTENNA AND RECEIVER BY MEANS OF A APDT PORCELAIN BATTERY SWITCH FOR QUICK CHANGE FROM SEND TO RECEIVE! NOW I WAS IN BUSINESS---OH YES---ONE THING MORE---SOMEWHERE I HAD READ THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO GET A LICENSE BEFORE YOU WENT ON THE AIR, SO OFF I WENT TO THE BUREAU OF POSTS FOR ONE.

THE POWERS-THAT-BE WERE GLABBERGASTED BY MY UNUSUAL REQUEST (THE PHILIPPINES DIDN'T HAVE A RADIO LAW UNTIL 1924), BUT SHUNTED ME AROUND UNTIL I WOUND UP IN THE ARMS OF A YOUNG U.S. RADIO ENGINEER FROM NEW YORK WHO WAS OUT THERE INSTALLING 25 KW ROTARY SPARK SETS MARCONI, FOR THE NEW PHILIPPINE INTERISLAND WIRELESS TELEGRAPH CHAIN. NO DOUBT HE WAS A HAM BY THE FERVOR WITH WHICH HE GREETED ME. I ONLY WISH I COULD REMEMBER HIS NAME. HE QUICKLY PUT THE OFFICIAL APPROVAL ON MY NOVEL ACTIVITIES AND ALLOWED ME TO USE MY INITIALS FOR A CALL. OH YES! ONE MORE THING--THE MOST IMPRESSIVE ITEM IN MY TRANSMITTER WAS A BIG BUNNELL KEY WHICH COST ME MORE THAN THE REST OF MY SPARK RIG PUT TOGETHER.

THIS LITTLE RIG WAS A SOURCE OF A GREAT DEAL OF INNOCENT FUN UNTIL WE WERE PUT OFF THE AIR...IT KILLED ANTS FINE WHEN THEY WERE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO MARCH ACROSS THE ANTENNA SWITCH---I EVEN COMMUNICATED WITH SHIP OPERATORS IN THE BAY...ONCE I EVEN USED THE FORD COIL "PLAIN AERIAL" CONNECTED TO AROUSE THE OPERATOR ON ONE OF THE LINERS WAITING IN THE BAY OVERNIGHT FOR QUARANTINE (THE NAVY 600 METER STATION CLOSED AT 5 P.M.)

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 12

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

AND FORWARD A DH MESSAGE FOR MANUEL QUEZON (LATER FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES) FROM HIS WELCOMING COMMITTEE. AH, THOSE WERE INDEED THE DAYS.

AFTER THE WAR, THINGS SETTLED DOWN---MORE HAMS CAME ON TH AIR, I GOT AN AUDIOTRON CABINET, AND WENT BACK TO THE STATES IN 1920. IN THOSE DAYS THE COMMERCIAL SHIPS USED TO WORK VPS HONG KONG, FFZ SHANGHAI AND JCS TOKYO. EACH HAD A VERY DISTINCTIVE NOTE AND METHOD OF OPERATING. I NEVER VISITED THE STATIONS BUT THEY TELL ME THAT FFZ IN FRENCH CONCESSION IN SHANGHAI WAS A MOST UNUSUAL STATION. IT HAD A ROUGH STUTTERING NOTE, WHICH CARRIED FAR, BUT COMBINED WITH THE HALTING, LIMPING METHOD OF KEYINGBY THE CHINESE OPERATOR DID NOT LEAD TO CONFIDENCE THAT ANYTHING WAS BEING COPIED. AS A MATTER OF FACT THE CHINESE WERE OPERATORS 'PAR EXCELLENCE' AS ATTESTED BY THE FACT THAT THE TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER WERE IN DIFFERENT ROOMS AND THE HEAVY AWKWARD TRANSMITTING KEY WAS MOUNTED ON A POST IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TRANSMITTING ROOM. ACTUALLY THEY COULD COPY AT ANY SPEED AND WERE VERY RELIABLE, BUT YOU WOULD NEVER THINK IT TO LISTEN TO THEM. THERE USED TO BE A DEAD SPOT THE LAST NIGHT COMING INTO MANILA FROM HONG KONG. IT WAS LATER DISCOVERED THAT THIS WAS CAUSED BY A MINERAL MOUNTAIN ON THE BATAAN PENINSULA AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF CHROMIUM ORE WERE LATER TAKEN OUT OF THIS MINE.

I HAD A RATHER HUMOROUS EXPERIENCE ASORE IN HONOLULU WHILE THE PASSENGER SHIP I WAS ON (ECUDOR) WAS LOADING PINEAPPLES THIS YEAR (1920). I VISITED THE LOCAL DEFOREST AGENCY AND BOUGHT SOME GEAR AND THE MANAGER INVITED ME UP TO HIS STATION WHERE HE HAD INSTALLED AN 8 STEP AUDIO AMPLIFIER TO HEAR THE CALIFORNIA 200 METER SPARK STATIONS, WITHOUT SUCCESS. WHILE THERE I NOTICED A 5 WATT VT-2 TUBE ON THE TABLE, AND NEVER HAVING SEEN ONE BEFORE, AND ASKED WHAT IT WAS. HE TOLD ME HE HAD BEEN USING IT FOR SOME EXPERIMENTS WITH CW TRANSMISSION BUT STATED IT WOULD NEVER BE A SUCCESS AND ADVISED ME AGAINST SPENDING ANY MONEY ON IT. THIS JUST A YEAR BEFORE CLIFF DOW'S SUCCESSFUL WORK ON CW FROM HAWAII. CLIFF (THEN 6ZAC NOW W6ZB) IS NOW ACTIVE FROM W6ZB.

A FEW WORDS MORE. BEFORE COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING STARTED UP IN LATE '21 WE USED TO LISTEN TO DR. DEFOREST'S EXPERIMENTAL 500 WATT OSCILLATION TRANSMITTER 6XC FROM THE CALIFORNIA THEATER IN SAN FRANCISCO ON 1200 METERS. A SOURCE OF FUN, COMPARABLE TO CANDID CAMERA ON TV NOW, WAS THE OLD CATALINA ISLAND A.T. & T. RADIOTELEPHONE LINK FROM THE MAINLAND. NO SCRAMBLING WAS USED AND SOME OF THE CONVERSATIONS WERE QUITE UNEXPURGATED. THE TELEPHONE COMPANY QUICKLY PUT IN AN UNDERSEA CABLE AFTER THE ADVENT OF BROADCASTING.

-----30-----

CLINE: YOUR 1 AUGUST ISSUE A PIP. THANKS FOR NOTE ON ME AND MY MULTIPLUCITY OF CALLS. 73 TO IZE. HE WILL REMEMBER MY VISIT OVER 30 YEARS AGO WHEN WE SPECULATED ON THE REASON FOR THE DRIFTING FREQUENCY AT WNBH. ENJOYED JIM BURNS' CONTRIBUTION ALSO. THE QUOTE HE MENTIONED IS ON PAGE 53 OF QST FOR OCTOBER '23 AND MENTIONS HIM AS OPERATOR IN CHARGE OF AC-2 AT PHILLIPS FIELD AT ABERDEEN, MD.

73 FM 00TC #194

THANKS A LOT FRED FOR THIS MEMORY REVIVING AND MOST INTERESTING ARTICLE. LET'S HAVE MORE OF THEM-----YE OLDE COPPYE BOYE.

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT IN THE ARTICLE BY ERNEST HENDERSON, I FAILED TO GIVE HIS CALL. MY APOLOGY TO ERNIE AND ABOUT IN THE PANTS TO MYSELF. THE CALL IS WIUDY. EEC.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 13

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

W3BO COLUMN

BY

PAUL G. WATSON

IN AN ISSUE OR TWO BACK OF THE "TIMES" WE TOLD YOU ABOUT HOW A CHANGE IN OUR SPARK GROUND WAS FORCED ON US BY THE ABANDONMENT OF THE "PRIVY" IN OUR BACK YARD AND THE TRANSFER OF THE "THRONE" TO THE SECOND FLOOR BATHROOM. IT WAS JUST NEVER THE SAME AFTERWARD.

THIS GROUND IN THE PRIVY WELL CONSISTED OF TWO OLD "HOT WATER BOILERS" EACH FASTENED TO THE END OF A STRAND OF OLD OVERHEAD TROLLEY WIRE LOWERED SOME 60 FEET INTO ABOUT 12 TO 15 FEET OF "WATER" IN THE BOTTOM OF THE WELL. NO PLUGS WERE IN THE BOILER CONNECTIONS SO THEY THEY FILLED, AND IN TIME SANK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE WELL. IT WAS A WONDERFUL GROUND FOR THE SPARK TRANSMITTER, AND FOR RECEIVING.

ONE SUMMER NIGHT, SOME TWO YEARS AND MORE, AFTER BREAKING OF THE ELECTROLYTIC INTERRUPTER, (ALSO DESCRIBED IN THE TIMES A FEW ISSUES BACK) WE HAD A TERRIFIC ELECTRICAL STORM, WITH TORRENTS OF RAIN. ONE OF OUR NEIGHBORS WAS UP, LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW AND SAW LIGHTENING STRIKE A TREE ABOUT THREE HOUSES AWAY FROM OURS, AND THE PROVERBIAL "FIRE BALL" ROLLED FROM THIS TREE BASE TO OUR YARD, AND DOWN THE PRIVY WELL. THIS NEIGHBOR SAID THAT HE THEN SAW OUR "TWO HOLLER" RISE VERTICALLY SEVERAL FEET IN A SHEET OF BLUE FLAME AND DISINTEGRATE IN THE AIR. THE PIECES OF WOOD DROPPED BACK ON THE GROUND ACCOMPANIED BY A SPRAY FROM THE WELL WHICH, TO SAY THE LEAST, DID NOT RESEMBLE COLOGNE.

NO ONE IN OUR HOUSE KNEW OF THIS HAPPENING, AND AFTER THE STORM BAATED IN AN HOUR OR SO, THE NEIGHBOR AWAKENED MY FATHER AND THE TWO OF THEM INVESTIGATED AS FAR AS THEY COULD IN THE DARK. I WELL REMEMBER THE TWO OF THEM TALKING IN THE KITCHEN WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER, AND HEARING MY FATHER SAY, "I CAN'T FIGURE HOW THE WATER GOT SPIT UP".

WHEN DAYLIGHT CAME WE WERE ALLOWED TO GET UP AND SEE THE DAMAGE "THAT THE STORM DID". RAIN HAD PRETTY WELL WASHED THINGS DOWN BUT THE ODOR REMAINED. DURING THE AFTERNOON WE FOUND THAT ONE BOILER HAD BURST AND THAT THE WIRE ATTACHED TO IT WAS BROKEN OR BURNED OFF SEVERAL FEET ABOVE THE "WATER" LEVEL.

IT WAS THEN APPARENT TO US WHAT HAD HAPPENED. THE LIGHTENING HAD APPARENTLY JUMPED EITHER TO THE WET WELL WALL, OR THE OTHER WIRE, AND THIS SPARK HAD EXPLODED "SEWER GAS" IN THE WELL, THUS ACCOUNTING FOR THE "BLUE FLAME" SEEN BY THE NEIGHBOR. THE BOILER HAD BURST FROM PRESSURE GENERATED BY HEAT AND THROWN THE "WATER" UP OUT OF THE WELL.

WITH ALL THAT HAPPENED AFTER THE ELECTROLYTIC INTERRUPTER INCIDENT IN MIND, I WAS PREPARED FOR THE WORST, "NO MORE G-- D--- WIRELESS" FROM MY FATHER WAS THE VERY LEAST I EXPECTED. IT JUST NEVER OCCURRED TO MY FATHER THAT THE "G-- D---WIRELESS" HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS OCCURANCE. THE INTERRUPTER INCIDENT WAS FORGOTTEN BY THIS TIME, AND IT WAS NOT UNTIL MANY YEARS LATER, WHEN HE HAD MELLOWED CONSIDERABLY WITH AGE, THAT I TOLD HIM WHAT HAD HAPPENED. HIS ONLY COMMENT THEN WAS, "SON, I JUST NEVER COULD FIGURE OUT WHY ALL THAT WATER WAS "SPIT UP" OUT OF THAT WELL WHEN THE LIGHTENING WAS GOING DOWN."

W3BO

INDUSTRIAL REVIEW

MOTORS FOR TRICYCLES ARE A NORMAL BYPRODUCT OF A PROCESS KNOWN COMMONLY AS MARRIAGE, OR IN SOME INSTANCES AS MATRIMONY. IN RECENT YEARS THE NUMBER OF TRICYCLE MOTORS PRODUCED BY INDEPENDENTS IN THIS COUNTRY HAS INCREASED CONSIDERABLY, BUT NOT IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS TO AFFECT THE ACCEPTED PROCESS. ONLY IN SOVIET RUSSIA ARE THE INDEPENDENTS IN THE MAJORITY, WHERE THEY ARE SUBSIDIZED BY THE STATE.

W3BO

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 14

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

W3B0 COLUMN
BY
PAUL G. WATSON

IN JULY 1924 WHILE I WAS A RADIO SUPERVISOR OF THE U.S SHIPPING BOARD AT SAVANNAH, GA. NEED AROSE FOR MY MAKING AN EMERGENCY TRIP TO WASHINGTON, JUST AT THE VERY MOMENT OUR FIRST BORN WAS DUE. MY MOTHER-IN-LAW HAD BEEN ON HAND FOR A DAY OR TWO TO HELP OUT, AND SHE CAME UP WITH THE BASIC IDEA, THAT WHILE I MIGHT BE ESSENTIAL AT THE KEEL LAYING, I WAS IN NO WAY NEEDED AT THE LAUNCHING,

I WAS IN WASHINGTON ONLY A FEW HOURS WHEN THE PRIVATE USSB WIRE BROUGHT THE NEWS THAT I HAD A SON BORN THAT AFTERNOON AND THAT "ALL WAS WELL". LATER THAT SAME AFTERNOON I TOOK A FEW MINUTES AND WENT OUT TO FIND A "TELEGRAPH FLORIST" (NOT SO COMMON IN THOSE DAYS) TO SEND MY WIFE A DOZEN RED ROSES AND A MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION. THE MESSAGE READ, "THANK YOU FOR OUR SON" WHICH WAS IN CONFORMANCE WITH A CONVERSATION I HAD JUST BEFORE I LEFT SAVANNAH.

I ARRIVED HOME LATE THE SECOND DAY AFTER SENDING THE ROSES TO THE HOSPITAL, AND WAS MET AT THE DOOR BY MY MOTHER-IN-LAW, AND IN LESS TIME THAN IT TOOK TO SET MY BAGS DOWN, WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF JUST ABOUT THE WORST DRESSING DOWN I EVER, GOT NAVY OR OTHERWISE. IN ABOUT 15 MINUTES I ARRIVED AT THE HOSPITAL, SAW THE NEW ARRIVAL, TALKED WITH THE WIFE, GOT "SET ON" AGAIN, ENDING WITH "HERE DAMN IT READ THIS". SHE HANDED ME THE TELEGRAM WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE ROSES. IT READ, "THANK YOU FOR OUR FUN".

WE WERE STILL DISCUSSING THIS THIRTY TWO YEARS LATER AT OUR DAUGHTER'S WEDDING, FOR THIS SON WHICH STARTED IT ALL, TURNED OUT TO BE A DAUGHTER, AND I JUST NEVER COULD EXPLAIN HOW IT ALL STARTED. I WAS UNJUSTLY (?) ACC USED OF BEING REAL DRUNK AMONG OTHER THINGS.

W3B0

SOME OF THE "SELF MADE" MEN WE KNOW SHOULD, IN OUR OPINION, HAVE SERVED A MUCH LONGER APPRENTICESHIP BEFORE THEY STARTED TO WORK.

IT IS A FORTUNATE THING FOR MOST OF US THAT INCOME TAX IS NOT BASED ON OUR SELF EVALUATION, BUT RATHER ON OUR ACTUAL FINANCIAL WORTH AS EVALUATED BY OTHERS IN THE FORM OF WAGES.

IT'S A SHAME THAT YOUTH AND FLEXIBLE IDEAS ARE WASTED ON YOUNG PEOPLE, FOR SECOND CHILDHOOD SEEMS TO INCLUDE NEITHER.

W3B0

ANSWERS TO TOM STEVENS' POSERS

AX ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.
BX BOSTON, MASS. (88 BROAD ST)
G GALILLEE, N.J.
HA CAPE HATTERAS, N.C.
HV HAVANA, CUBA.
WQ EAST PORT, MAINE.
NBD NAVY STATION, BAR HARBOR, MAINE.

NY NEW YORK--42 BROADWAY
OHX NEW YORK HERALD BATTERY PARK, N.Y.C.
RU PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS.
SE SEA GATE, L.I. N.Y.
SN CHARLESTON, S.C.
SV SAVANNAH, GA.

HOW MANY KNEW THEM ALL.

AN INTERESTING BIRTH TABLE

BY

W2EG EARL C. WILLIAMS

WHAT DAY WERE YOU BORN ON?

1753 TO 2059

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
175				A	B	C	K	F	G	A
176	I	D	E	F	N	B	C	D	L	G
177	A	B	J	E	F	G	H	C	D	E
178	M	A	B	C	K	F	G	A	I	D
179	E	F	N	B	C	D	L	G	A	B
180	C	D	E	F	N	B	C	D	L	G
181	A	B	J	E	F	G	H	C	D	E
182	M	A	B	C	K	F	G	A	I	D
183	E	F	N	B	C	D	L	G	A	B
184	J	E	F	G	H	C	D	E	M	A
185	B	C	K	F	G	A	I	D	E	F
186	N	B	C	D	L	G	A	B	J	E
187	F	G	H	C	D	E	M	A	B	C
188	K	F	G	A	I	D	E	F	N	B
189	C	D	L	G	A	B	J	E	F	G
190	A	B	C	D	L	G	A	B	J	E
191	F	G	H	C	D	E	M	A	B	C
192	K	F	G	A	I	D	E	F	N	B
193	C	D	L	G	A	B	J	E	F	G
194	H	C	D	E	M	A	B	C	K	F
195	G	A	I	D	E	F	N	B	C	D
196	L	G	A	B	J	E	F	G	H	C
197	D	E	M	A	B	C	K	F	G	A
198	I	D	E	F	N	B	C	D	L	G
199	A	B	J	E	F	G	H	C	D	E
200	M	A	B	C	K	F	G	A	I	D
201	E	F	N	B	C	D	L	G	A	B
202	J	E	F	G	H	C	D	E	M	A
203	B	C	K	F	G	A	I	D	E	F
204	N	B	C	D	L	G	A	B	J	E
205	F	G	H	C	D	E	M	A	B	C

Go down column to first three digits of year.
Then across to column of fourth digit, and
obtain Year Type Letter.
Then find month
go straight across to Year Type Letter, then
down to calendar.

JAN	E	L	G	N	D	K	A	H	C	J	B	I	F	M
FEB 29	B	I	D	K	A	H	E	L	G	N	F	M	C	J
MAR	B	H	D	J	A	N	E	K	G	M	F	L	C	I
APR	F	L	A	N	E	K	B	H	D	J	C	I	G	M
MAY	D	J	F	L	C	I	G	M	B	H	A	N	E	K
JUNE	A	N	C	I	G	M	D	J	F	L	E	K	B	H
JULY	F	L	A	N	E	K	B	H	D	J	C	I	G	M
AUG	C	I	E	K	B	H	F	L	A	N	G	M	D	J
SEP	G	M	B	H	F	L	C	I	E	K	D	J	A	N
OCT	E	K	G	M	D	J	A	N	C	I	B	H	F	L
NOV	B	H	D	J	A	N	E	K	G	M	F	L	C	I
DEC	G	M	B	H	F	L	C	I	E	K	D	J	A	N

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 16

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

W7COH TOWNSEND J. RIGBY HIS STORY

DURING MY LAST YEAR IN GRAMMER SCHOOL IN PASADENA CALIFORNIA, SEVERAL OF US BUILT A TELEGRAPH LINE WHICH COVERED MOST EVERYTHING NORTH OF COLORADO STREET AND WEST OF FAIR OAKS AVENUE. OTHER BOYS GOT JEALOUS AND KEPT BREAKING DOWN OUR LINES SO A COUPLE OF US DECIDED TO TRY USING WIRELESS. WE HAD LEARNED MORSE CODE AND HAD SOME WIRE, BATTERIES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AS A STARTER.

YOU FELLOWS IN THE EAST HAD A TREMENDOUS ADVANTAGE OVER US BECAUSE YOU HAD ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION AND MATERIAL, STORES ETC. WE HAD NOTHING TO GO ON. WE HAD TO GO IT ON OUR OWN AND DO THE BEST WE COULD WITH WHAT WE COULD GET LOCALLY. WE GOT A COUPLE OF FORD COILS, USED BATTERIES FROM OUR SETS AND THE KEYS. BUILT UP TWO COHERERS AND DE-COHERERS USING IRON FILINGS, GLASS TUBING AND TWO OLD DOOR BELLS FOR TAPPERS! STRUNG UP ABOUT 500 FEET OF WIRE IN AMONG SOME TALL EUCALYPTUS TREES AND WE WERE IN BUSINESS.

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE THRILL OF WATCHING THAT COHERER WORK THE FIRST TIME. THE DISTANCE OF TRANSMISSION WAS NOT MUCH OVER A COUPLE OF HUNDRED FEET IF THAT FAR-BUT IT WORKED. THE BUG HAD BITTEN AND THE BITE HAS NEVER HEALED IN 56 YEARS.

WAS INTERESTED IN DRAWINGS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE RECTIFIER UNIT IN RECENT ISSUE OF SPARK-GAP TIMES. I BUILT A BIG SPARK COIL (BY GUESS AND BY GOLLY) ABOUT 1906. USED STOVE PIPE WIRE CUT TO LENGTH AND SOFTENED IN FIRE IN BACK YARD-INSULATION WAS PARAFINE PAPER MADE BY DIPPING SHEETS OF WHITE PLAIN PAPER INTO HOT PARAFINE AND HANGING IT ON STRINGS AROUND MOM'S KITCHEN. THE SECONDARY PIE WINDINGS WERE MADE ON AN OLD FOOT POWERED SEWING MACHINE CONVERTED INTO A SORT OF LATHE. THE WIRE WAS DOUBLE COTTON COVERED. THE WHOLE SHEBANG WAS IMMERSSED IN THE HOT PARAFINE AFTER COILS TIED TOGETHER. WHAT A MESS FOR MOTHER TO CLEAN UP!!! I THINK WE USED TWO DIMES FOR CONTACTS FOR THE VIBRATOR. I HAD NO TROUBLE WITH MY LIQUID RECTIFIER. AS I REMEMBER OUTSIDE OF HEATING AND SHORTING AND BLOWING FUSES IT PERFORMED SATISFACTORILY.

THIS WAS REALLY HIGH POWER AND CONTACTED STATIONS IN LOS ANGELES WITH IT, THEN STARTED EXPERIMENTING WITH RECEIVER EQUIPMENT. MY DAD WAS IN THE MINING BUSINESS AND I HAD PLENTY OF SAMPLES OF ALL KINDS OF MINERALS TO EXPERIMENT WITH. GALENA, IRON PYRITES, SILICON, MOLYBDENUM AND MANY OTHERS. FIRST USED A PIECE OF SPRING COPPER CUT TO A POINT AND BENT IN AN INVERTED "U" SHAPE. THEN I SOLDERED A PHONOGRAPH NEEDLE ONTO THE COPPER SPRING. THIS WORKED, AT LEAST I FOUND A SIGNAL COULD BE BROUGHT IN MUCH BETTER THAN WITH THE OLD COHERER-DECOHERER, BY A SET OF EAR PHONES ACROSS THIS GADGET. WE NAMED THEM CAT WHISKER DETECTORS.

BY THIS TIME WE HAD COMMENCED TO GET MORE DATA FROM THE EAST AND THE ELECTRO-IMPORTING CO. HAD STARTED BACK IN NEW YORK CITY. BOUGHT ELECTROLYTIC DETECTOR FROM THEM. ALSO A COMMERCIAL STATION WAS BUILT ON A HIGH HILL IN LOS ANGELES AND ANOTHER ON CATALINA ISLAND AT AVALON. THEIR ANTENNAS WERE VERTICALS ON SPREADERS ON GUYED MASTS. LOS ANGELES STATION CALL WAS "G" AND AVALON WAS "A". I HAVE BEEN UP AT "G" AND WATCHED AND CALLED BY THE HOUR WITH NO ANSWER FROM "A", ONLY ONCE IN A GREAT WHILE WOULD CONTACT BE MADE.

THE EQUIPMENT USED LARGE SPARK COILS, AND AS I REMEMBER, CARBORUNDUM AS DETECTORS. I THINK BANNING BROTHERS, WHO OWNED CATALINA ISLAND THEN, BUILT THESE STATIONS.

ABOUT 1909, A PAL OF MINE NAMED NEWBY, AND I TOOK MY CAT WHISKER AND TUNING COILS UP MT. WILSON. I HAD A PAIR OF "BALDWIN TYPE C. PHONES". I HAD JUST ACQUIRED THEM, (I LOST THEM MOVING HERE TO STEVENSVILLE). THE OBSERVATORY OFFICIALS WOULD NOT ALLOW US TO SET UP ON TOP OF MT. WILSON. THEY WERE AFRAID OUR EQUIPMENT MIGHT INTERFERE WITH SOME OF THEIRS. SO WE SET UP ABOUT TWO MILES BELOW THE TOP AND BROKE MANY A "DX" RECORD DURING OUR SHORT STAY. MY PAL LIVED NEXT DOOR TO THE HEAD MAN AT THE OBSERVATORY, SO WE DID GET TO SEE THE NEW 100 INCH REFLECTING TELESCOPE AND ALL THE LABORATORY EQUIPMENT ETC.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 17

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

I HAD REBUILT A WOODSHED ON REAR OF LOT AND MADE A NICE HAM SHACK. BY THE WAY, I HAVE HEARD THAT AMATEURS BECAME KNOWN AS "HAMS". WELL I USED TO HANG AROUND WESTERN UNION A LOT WHEN I WAS LEARNING THE TELEGRAPH CODE AND THE OLD TIME OPERATORS ON W.U. USED TO CALL WE "LEARNERS" OR "AMATEURS" HAM OPERATORS. THIS WAS IN 1905 AND 1906 AND WE BECAME CALLED "HAMS". AT LEAST THAT IS THE WAY IT STARTED OUT WEST, AND WE GRADUALLY BECAME "HAMS" AND TO US AND AN INEXPERIENCED WIRELESS OPERATOR WAS A "LID". THE WORD "SHACK" CAME FROM USING AN OLD BUILDING OR "SHACK" AND REMODELING IT INTO A WIRELESS ROOM OR WIRELESS "SHACK", SO AS TO KEEP THE NOISE OF THE SPARK OUT OF THE HOUSE.

I HAD TWO INTERESTING EXPERIENCES WHILE I HAD THIS SHACK. IT WAS WIRED ESPECIALLY FOR MY USE. A SPECIAL METER AND POLE TRANSFORMER WAS INSTALLED. THIS WAS I THINK, ANOTHER FIRST. I NEARLY GETTING ELECTRICUTED. DON'T KNOW YET WHAT I WAS DOING BUT WE HAD EXTRA HEAVY CONTACTS ON THE KEYS AND THE KEYS WERE EXTRA HEAVY ALSO. I HAD A BREAK-IN SYSTEM RIGGED ON THE OPPOSITE END OF THE LEVER OF THE KEY FROM THE PADDLE. THERE WERE FOUR CONTACTS ON THIS GADGET AND I THINK THEY BROKE THE ANTENNA CIRCUIT TO THE DETECTOR, AND WHAT THE OTHER TWO BROKE I DON'T REMEMBER. ANYHOW, I WOKE UP OUT IN THE YARD (MY CHAIR WAS DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE DOOR TO THE SHACK AND IT WAS OPEN EXCEPT DURING STORMY WEATHER) LYING IN THE CHAIR ON MY BACK! COULDN'T FIND ANY BURNS AND GUESS I MUST HAVE GOTTEN ACROSS A GROUND AND ONE SIDE OF THE POWER TO THAT KEY. I WAS SURE "SHOOK UP" CONSIDERABLE. TAUGHT ME TO BE CAREFUL AND RESPECT ALL ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS.!!

THE OTHER EXPERIENCE OCCURRED ABOUT TWO O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING. I WAS ABOUT HALF ASLEEP WHEN SOMEONE SAID, "HELLO, HELLO." I HAD ONLY ONE PHONE ON ONE EAR. I GOT UP, LOOKED AROUND OUTSIDE BUT SAW NO ONE! WENT BACK, PUT ON PHONES--SAME THING, "HELLO, HELLO". THEN I LOOKED FOR SOME HOOKUP FROM MY ANTENNA TO THE TELEPHONE LINES IN THE ALLEY--BUT THAT WAS ALL CLEAR--NO STORM, NO WIND--ONLY THAT MYSTERIOUS VOICE ON THE AIR! WENT BACK AGAIN AND PUT ON PHONES AND THIS TIME THE VOICE SAID, HELLO, HELLO, THIS IS THE DEFOREST WIRELESS TELEPHONE STATION IN LOS ANGELES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANYONE WHO HEARS THIS, CONTACTING US AT-----. THIS I DID AND THEY WERE SURE PLEASED TO FIND THAT I HAD HEARD THEIR TRANSMISSION FAR AWAY AS PASADENA--15 OR 20 MILES! THIS WAS SOME TIME IN 1908 OR 1909.

IN 1911 WE MOVED TO LOS ANGELES. I SET UP MY STATION AT 2910 FLOWER STREET. A MAN NAMED JACK MCCARTHY BUILT A HUGE ANTENNA--8 WIRES ON 12 FOOT SPREADERS ABOUT 500 FEET LONG AND 150 OR 200 FOOT MASTS FLAT TOP. HE HAD BUILT A WIRELESS TELEPHONE AND FORMED A COMPANY AND WAS SELLING STOCK. A YOUNG FELLOW, WHO BY THIS TIME, WAS MANUFACTURING SOME WIRELESS EQUIPMENT, BUILT THIS STATION AND MOST OF THE EQUIPMENT. I BELIEVE HE IS STILL IN THE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT BUSINESS IN LOS ANGELES. FOLKS OR FAULKS WAS HIS NAME.

I USED TO LIKE TO PUT THAT HIGH FREQUENCY ARC ON C.W.. I TALKED TO HAMS ALL OVER CALIFORNIA AND TO THE NAVY STATION AT BREMERTON, WASHINGTON. THEY ANSWERED IN CODE AND I TALKED OVER THE MIKE! IT WAS SIMPLY A HIGH FREQUENCY GENERATED ARC WITH A SPECIALLY BUILT HEAVY CARBON GRANULE TELEPHONE TRANSMITTER CONNECTED ACROSS THIS ARC. IT SURELY HAD A BEAUTIFUL SIGNAL. WE PLAYED PHONOGRAPH RECORDS AND JACK MCCARTHY HAD A BEAUTIFUL IRISH TENOR VOICE. I USED TO SET MY RECEIVER AND GO TO STATION AND HAVE HIM SING SONGS FOR MY MOTHER ACROSS TOWN. WE HAMS THEN PUT CARBON GAPS ACROSS OUR SPARK TRANSMITTERS, AND WITH OLD TELEPHONE TRANSMITTERS, WE USED TALK ALL OVER LOS ANGELES. (ABOUT 75,000 POP. THEN)

THIS GUY ROCHRIG IN PASADENA BECAME WITH MANY MORE HIGH POWERED TRANSMITTERS, A NUISANCE TO COMMERCIAL AND NAVAL WIRELESS STATIONS. THEY WOULD NOT ALLOW THE NAVY STATIONS TO OPERATE--JUST PUT A WEIGHT ON THE KEY AND BLANK OUT EVERYTHING (AND WHAT I MEAN IS EVERYTHING) IF NAVY OR COMMERCIAL STATIONS INTERFERRED WITH THEIR CONVERSATIONS! SO, UNCLE HAD TO STEP IN, (AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED ON THE WEST COAST).

IN 1912, WE WERE NOTIFIED THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN A STATION AND OPERATOR'S LICENSE TO STAY ON THE AIR, SO FEBRUARY 12, 1912 I TOOK MY FIRST COMMERCIAL AND AMATEUR

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 18

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

I THINK IT WAS GIVEN IN FEDERAL BUILDING IN LOS ANGELES--CAN'T IMAGINE R I WORKING ON A HOLIDAY TODAY! ANYHOW THAT'S WHEN I RECEIVED MY FIRST LICENSE AND ALSO COMMERCIAL--WHICH ENTITLED ME TO OPERATE ANY TYPE OF WIRELESS EQUIPMENT--IT WAS AN EXTRA COMMERCIAL--FOR I NEVER SAW ANOTHER LICENSE JUST LIKE IT. THESE LICENSES WERE RENEWED IN 1915 IN SAN FRANCISCO BY TAKING ANOTHER EXAMINATION, AND ALL OF THEM TOGETHER WITH ALL MY RECORDS AND PICTURES OF MY OLD EQUIPMENT WERE LOST IN A FLOOD IN SHERIDAN, WYOMING IN 1917. MY FIRST ASSIGNED CALL WAS 6DU. W6EA, WHO IS STILL IN LOS ANGELES WILL VOUCH FOR ME. HE WAS ORIGINALLY 6EA.

I WENT TO SEA AS FIRST OPERATOR AND SPENT MANY HAPPY MONTHS UP AND DOWN THE PACIFIC COAST ABOARD THE COASTAL VESSELS. WE HAD BIG ANTENNAS OR AERIALS ON SPREADERS BETWEEN THE MASTS. BIG MESS OF BATTERIES OUT ON DECK FOR EMERGENCY OPERATION OF THE OLD TEN INCH SPARK COILS THAT USUALLY HUNG SUSPENDED OVER YOUR HEAD IN THE SHACK. THERE HAD TO BE A MESSAGE SENT BY THIS EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT EVERY TIME WE LEFT PORT AND THEY HAD TO WORK! BOY! WHAT A RACKET! THEY HAD A RANGE OF ABOUT 100 MILES. WE HAD SOME BEAUTIFUL EQUIPMENT --ALL MARBLE SWITCH BOARDS AND SENDING SETS WITH ROTARIES ENCLOSED ON THE END OF THE GENERATOR SHAFT. EVERYTHING ABOARD WAS D.C EXCEPT THE ALTERNATOR FOR THE WIRELESS TRANSMITTERS AND WHAT A MESS OF LOOSE WIRING.

LATER ON THEY GAVE ME A "TUBE" RECEIVER TO TRY OUT AND ALL I COULD HEAR WAS NOISE FROM LOOSE CONNECTIONS. THE SIGNALS WERE BLOTTED OUT, SO I TOLD THEM IN A REPORT "THE VACUUM TUBE WILL NEVER BE PRACTICAL; IT'S TOO NOISY". IMAGINE THAT. I WISH I HAD A COPY OF THAT REPORT--IT WAS A DILLY. "VACUUM TUBES WILL NEVER BE PRACTICAL, TOO NOISY". SO DEFOREST FIXED THAT WITH THE LITTLE GRID.

AM ENCLOSING A SNAP SHOT TAKEN IN 1912 ABOARD THE SS YALE IN SAN PEDRO HARBOR, THAT'S THE ONLY ONE I HAVE LEFT--I STILL HAVE THE FILM AND A COUPLE COPIES OF THE PICTURE--SO YOU NEED NOT RETURN IT. (YE OLDE COPPYE BOYE WANTED TO REPRODUCE THIS PICTURE BUT THE RESULTS WERE NEGATIVE. THE PICTURE IS AT THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S FOR FURTHER EFFORT AND WILL BE GIVEN IF WE CAN POSSIBLY MAKE IT.) I DID HAVE PICTURES OF SHACK AND EQUIPMENT OF SEVERAL SHIPS--BEAR, BEAVER, HARVARD, OWEN, PRESIDENT, GOVERNOR, ROSE CITY ETC, BUT THEY WERE LOST IN THAT FLOOD. HOW I KEPT THIS ONE I DON'T KNOW. I FOUND THE FILM IN MY PAPERS SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND HAD PRINTS MADE.

I USED TO LOVE TO RELAY TRANSPACIFIC TRAFFIC FOR KPH. HAD AN OPERATOR NAMED LOVEJOY THERE AND HE AND I WERE ABOUT THE FASTEST OPERATORS ON THE COAST AT THAT TIME. THOSE GOOD OLD QUENCHED SPARK ROTARIES HAD A BEAUTIFUL NOTE AND I DOUBT IF IT CAN EVER BE EQUALLED FOR AN OLD TIMER. YOU COULD TELL HOW ROUGH THE SEAS WERE AS THE NOTE WOULD VARY AS THE ARMATURE OF THE GENERATOR CAME AGAINST THE THRUST BEARINGS.

ABOUT 1911 THEY HELD AN AVIATION MEET AT THE OLD DOMINGUIER RANCH ABOUT 15 MILES FROM LONG BEACH. A MAN NAMED McMANNUS CALLED ME AND ASKED ME TO HELP HIM PUT A WIRELESS UNIT ON A PLANE SO AS TO SEND A MESSAGE FROM A PLANE IN FLIGHT. WE USED A STORAGE BATTERY, A TWO INCH SPARK COIL AND WIRED AN ORDINARY DOOR BELL PUSH BUTTON TO THE "STICK" OF THE PLANE FOR A KEY. THE PLANE WAS A MODEL "B WRIGHT" BIPLANE FLOWN BY PHIL PARMALEE. WE STRUNG 4 WIRES LENGTHWISE OF THE TOP WINGS, BUT COULD NOT GET PLANE OFF THE GROUND; SO WE TIED 75 FEET OF WIRE TO TAIL END OF PLANE AND STRUNG IT OUT ON THE GROUND BEHIND THE PLANE AND GOT IT OFF THE GROUND.

PARMALEE WAS A MORSE OPERATOR SO I DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH TROUBLE COPYING HIM. THERE WAS ABOUT 75,000 PEOPLE THERE THAT DAY AND SAT UP ON THE TOP SEAT OF THE GRAND STAND AND COPIED THIS MESSAGE, "GREETINGS EVERYONE. TELL FARRIS I WILL OPEN THE MEET IN SAN FRANCISCO. I AM COMING BACK NOW". HE WAS ABOUT 15 MILES AWAY WHEN HE SENT THIS OVER THE BALDWIN RANCH. I THOUGHT THIS WAS THE FIRST MESSAGE FROM A PLANE IN FLIGHT TO THE GROUND, BUT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AGO ON THE GERRY MOORE SHOW ON TV, SOME ONE OF YOU OLD BUZZARDS BACKED THEIR CLAIM TO HAVE BEATEN ME BY A YEAR. ANYWAY, IT HELPED TO MAKE HISTORY AND WE HADN'T HEARD OF YOUSE GUYS DOING IT BEFORE US.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 19

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

I MET MANY FAMOUS FLYERS AT THIS MEET, ONE OF THE WRIGHT BROTHERS, GLEN CURTIS, PHIL PARMELEE, ARCH HOXEY, FISH AND TWO BROTHERS, ONE FLYING AGAINST PARMALEE AND THE OTHER DERIGIBLES, I THINK THEIR NAME WAS KNABENSHUE. (NOTE: YE OLDE COPPYE BOYE REMEMBERS ROY KNABANSHUE AND HIS DIRIGIBLE. I BELIEVE HIS FATHER WAS EDITOR OF THE TOLEDO BLADE.) THE PLANE FLYER WAS KILLED DURING THE SAN FRANCISCO WORLD FAIR'S 'DIVE OF DEATH' WHICH FISH ACCIDENTALLY DEVELOPED DURING THIS MEET. ALSO A FRENCHMAN WHO FLEW FOR BLERIOT AND MANY MORE FINE FELLOWS.

I WAS RANCHING IN MONTANA DURING WORLD WAR I. I WASN'T EVEN AWARE THAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO REGISTER FOR THE DRAFT. MY FATHER-IN-LAW HAPPENED TO GO TO TOWN (65 MILES BY WAGON) AND HE REGISTERED FOR ME. THEN I RECEIVED MY NOTICE TO APPEAR BEFORE THE DRAFT BOARD AT MILES CITY OUR COUNTY SEAT 110 MILES AWAY AIR LINE. I TRAVELED 350 MILES BY HORSE HORSE BACK, MODEL T AND RAILROAD AND ARRIVED ON MY LAST DAY OF GRACE. I TRIED TO GET INTO THE NAVY WITH NO LUCK. ARMY WOULDN'T PUT ME IN THE SIGNAL CORPS AND I WAS EXEMPTED AS I WAS A RANCHER RAISING BEEF.

I CONTINUED RANCHING FIVE MORE YEARS. ALL MY GEAR WAS DISMANTLED AND STORED IN SHERIDAN, WYOMING, AND ALL WAS LOST INCLUDING IRREPLACEABLE RECORDS IN THE BIG FLOOD. I DID NOT HAVE MUCH TIME FOR "RADIO" AS IT HAD BECOME DURING MY RANCHING DAYS; HOWEVER I DID STUDY AND WORK ON BATTERY OPERATED SETS AROUND THE RANCH COUNTRY. IN 1923 I MOVED TO MIDWEST WYOMING AND WORKED AS ELECTRICIAN AND THEN OPERATOR AND THEN CHIEF OPERATOR AT THE STEAM ELECTRIC POWER PLANT. THIS PLANT WAS THE MOST MODERN IN THE NORTHWEST AT THE TIME IT WAS BUILT. I HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO STUDY AND COMPLETED A CORRESPONDENCE COURSE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING.

IN 1931 I GOT INTERESTED IN HAM RADIO AND WENT TO CASPER FOR THE EXAMINATION. THE R.I. WAS WALKING AROUND THE ROOM AND I HEARD SOMEONE CALL HIM MR. LOVEJOY. WHEN HE CAME TO ME I HANDED HIM MY PAPERS AND ASKED HIM IF HE WAS THE LOVEJOY WHO USED TO OPERATE KPH. HE SAID, "NO", TOOK A GOOD LOOK AT ME AND SAID, "I SHOULD KNOW YOU"--"YOU USED TO BE OPERATOR ABOARD SHIPS WHEN I WAS R.I. INSPECTING EQUIPMENT ON THE COAST. I TOLD HIM WHO I WAS AND HE REMEMBERED ME AND SAID IT WAS HIS BROTHER WHO OPERATED KPH. SO WE HAD A FINE EYEBALL QSO. I PASSED EXAMINATION AND STILL HAVE HIS LETTER WITH LICENSE. IT WAS GENERAL CLASS AND I WAS ASSIGNED THE CALL W7COH WHICH I STILL HAVE.

I BUILT A TRANSMITTER USING A SINGLE 112 I THINK (LITTLE RECEIVING TUBE). NEXT CAME A "45" THEN A PAIR OF "45", THEN A PAIR OF "10S" AND A SUPER SKYRIDER RECEIVER THE FIRST OR ONE OF THE FIRST HALLIGRAFTER BUILT. MY PRESENT LICENSE IS "EXTRA GRADE" OBTAINED UNDER THE GRANDPAPPY RULING. THEY FOUND 6DU AND EVEN "R" AND "TJ" IN EARLY CALL BOOKS BUT I CAN'T SEE WHY IT ISN'T IN 1913--IT'S IN ALL THE REST PRIOR TO AND LATER THAN 1913.

AT PRESENT THE RIG IS "HOME BREW"--813 FINAL ON C.W.--A BENDIX TA12D MODULATED BY AN OLD BOGEN SOUND AMPLIFIER RE-BUILT. I HAVE AN ART 13 BUT AS YET NO POWER SUPPLY FOR IT. RECEIVER IS SX43, A CRV REGENERATIVE FOR C.W. AND A BC456 COMMAND FOR SPARE; I AM EC, ORS, RACES AND MARS. WAS SCM FOR UTAH, WYOMING 1933 TO 1938 OR THEREABOUTS.

SO, THAT'S MY STORY. MY FIRST "DX" WAS WITH STATION OF PERCY PALMER, LONG BEACH TO PASADENA ABOUT 1908 OR 1909. SINCE I SPENT VACATIONS IN LONG BEACH, I SPENT MANY DAYS WITH PERCY AT HIS QTH IN LONG BEACH. HI! BEFORE RETIRING I WORKED ABOUT 20 YEARS FOR THE MONTANA POWER CO. SPENT 10 YEARS AS SAFETY DIRECTOR. I LIVED AT TARGET RANGE JUST OUT OF MISSOULA AND OPERATED MY HAM STATION FROM THERE FOR 16 YEARS.

IF YOU THINK THIS IS WORTH USING DO SO. I DID NOT OBTAIN PERMISSION TO USE ANY OF THE NAMES MENTIONED. DR. KNOWLES RYARSON, FORMERLY DEAN OF THE CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE COLLEGE WAS A SCHOOL MATE AND HE ALSO WAS IN ON THE TELEGRAPH LINE, BUT NOT ON THE WIRELESS, BUT COULD VOUCH FOR THE AUTHENTICITY OF MY EARLY DAY WIRELESS PRIOR TO 1910. I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM KNOWLES FOR SEVERAL YEARS. HOPE YOU CAN MANAGE TO DECIPHER THIS SCRIPT.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 20

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

PERHAPS I HAVE ANOTHER FIRST. I ORGANIZED THE PASADENA WIRELESS CLUB AND WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT. ROY PEGG, BYRON McDONALD, AUSTIN ROCHRIG, A FELLOW NAMED CRUM AND A COUPLE MORE I CAN'T REMEMBER EXCEPT THAT TWO OF THEM DIED LATER WHILE MEMBERS. NONE OF US WERE OVER 16 YEARS OLD. THIS WAS THE FIRST WIRELESS CLUB ON THE WEST COAST AT THAT TIME THAT I KNOW OF. PEGG, McDONALD AND I BECAME OPERATORS ABOARD SHIP LATER.

ROCHRIG BOUGHT A 1/2 KW TRANSFORMER, PUT UP TWO 80 FOOT MASTS AND A BIG FLAT TOP 200 FEET LONG, AND HE COULD BLANK OUT EVERYTHING UP AND DOWN THE COAST AND HE DID IT EVERY TIME ANYONE INTERFERRED WITH HIM. USED TO PUT A PAPER WEIGHT ON THE KEY AND LET THE 5 KW GO. IT WAS THINGS LIKE THIS THAT CAUSED LICENSING.

I HAD A BEAUTIFUL 1 KW RIG---ALL MAHOGANY CASE ON GLASS FEET, SPARK GAPS ON FRONT PANEL WITH BRASS VENTILATORS ON THE ZINC RODS. LATER HAD A ROTARY GAP--A BIG HELIX TUNED TO THE TRANSMITTER. GLASS PLATES WITH TIN FOIL ON BOTH SIDES IMMERSSED IN OIL FOR CONDENSERS AND A BIG KEY AS MENTIONED BEFORE!! BOY, THOSE WERE THE DAYS; AERIAL WAS 200 FEET LONG WITH 6 FOOT SPREADERS, AERIAL WIRES WERE PHOSPHOR BRONZE WIRE! SAN DIEGO, LONG BEACH AND SAN FRANCISCO WITH NO QRM, NO REGULATIONS (EXCEPT NEIGHBORS ON THE NOISY SPARK). NO NOTHING BUT YOUR OWN INGENUITY. HAMING IS BIG BUSINESS TODAY, HIII

SINCERELY,

T.J. RIGBY W7COH
Box 397
STEVENSVILLE, MONTANA.

THIS MOST INTERESTING STORY SHOULD BRING TO MIND MANY THOUGHTS TO OUR MEMBERS. THIS IS SOLID HISTORICAL MATTER TOWNSEND, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. (YE OLDE COPPYE BOYE)

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS A FINE CONTRIBUTION BY A NON-MEMBER WHO HAS BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE IN ALLOWING US TO USE THE MATERIAL MENTIONED FOR REPRODUCTION. THESE REPRODUCTIONS ARE MENTIONED ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE OF SPARK-GAP TIMES AND WILL BE OBTAINABLE FROM THE SECRETARY AT AN EARLY DATE.

THE WIRELESS BLUE BOOKS PRE-GOVERNMENT CALL BOOKS

BY HAROLD V.B. VOORHIS--NDM--1908--THEN RED BANK, N.J. *****

NOT VERY MANY RADIO AMATEURS KNOW ABOUT THE THREE PRE GOVERNMENT CALL BOOKS LISTING AMATEUR RADIO STATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES--CALLED WIRELESS BLUE BOOK OF THE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, "CONTAINING A LIST OF UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN WIRELESS TELEGRAPH STATIONS--INCLUDING MERCHANT VESSELS, VESSELS OF THE U.S. NAVY, REVENUE CUTTERS, AND U.S. AMATEUR STATIONS." (IN SECOND AND THIRD ISSUES THE WORD "CANADIAN" WAS CHANGED TO AMERICAN).

THE FIRST BOOK--DATED MAY 1, 1909--5" x 6 1/2", WHILE THE SECOND--DATED JUNE 1, 1910, AND THE THIRD--DATED JUNE 1, 1911, 6" x 9", WITH BLUE COVERS. NUMBER 1, DENOMINATED "FIRST ANNUAL OFFICIAL," WAS ISSUED BY THE MODERN ELECTRICS PUBLICATION, NEW YORK CITY, COPYRIGHT, 1909, BY H. GERNSBACK. IT CONTAINS FIFTEEN PAGES--ONE AND A HALF DEVOTED TO THE LISTING OF AMATEUR STATIONS. THE ADDRESS WAS 84 WEST BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y.

THE SECOND BOOK, WITH 1910 H. GERNSBACK COPYRIGHT, HAS SAME PUBLICATION NAME--ADDRESS "223 FULTON STREET, NEW YORK CITY", WITH SIXTEEN PAGES, SEVEN DEVOTED TO AMATEUR LISTINGS. IN AN ADVERTISEMENT ON THE INSIDE COVER, A CHARGE OF 25 CENTS IS ANNOUNCED FOR

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 21

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

FOR A LISTING IN 3RD--1911 ISSUE. IT STATES THAT AT TIME OF 1910 ISSUE THERE WERE 9000 MEMBERS OF THE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION. (NO DOUBT AN "EXPANDED" MAILING LIST OF CUSTOMERS OF GERNSBACK AND "MODERN ELECTRICS MAGAZINE"). THE ACTUAL PRINTERS WERE THE SHOEN PRINTING Co.-13 VANDEWATER STREET, NEW YORK.

THE THIRD BOOK, WITH 1911 COPYRIGHT, BY MODERN PUBLISHING Co., 233 FULTON STREET, NEW YORK, HAS ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF PAGES AS THE SECOND BOOK.

AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR MODERN ELECTRICS ON BACK PAGE OF THE FIRST BOOK LISTS THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS: A.C. AUSTIN, JR.-A. FREDERICK COLLINS- M.A. DEVINY- DRL LEE DE FOREST - H. GERNSBACK - WM. MAVER, JR. AND F.C. PERKINS. NONE OF THESE NAMES APPEAR IN FIRST GOVERNMENT CALL BOOK AND ONLY ONE, A.C. AUSTIN, JR. OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, N.J., HAS HIS NAME AND CALL (AU) IN THE BLUE BOOKS (1 & 2 ONLY). HOWEVER, LEE DE FOREST AND HUGO GERNSBACK ARE WELL KNOWN.

SOME REMARKABLE (IF TRUE) STATEMENTS OF "POWER" ARE CONTAINED IN THE LISTINGS. IN THE FIRST BOOK WE FIND STATIONS WITH 14 INCH, 12 INCH AND 10 INCH SPARK COILS. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SEEN THESE IN 1909. ONE STATION GAVE 32 METERS AS HIS WAVE LENGTH, AND ONE AS 950 METERS. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW HOW THEY MADE THE MEASUREMENTS.

IN BOOK III, WE FIND SOME "HOT" STATIONS: IKE-10 INCH COIL; TEX AND WB1-12 INCH COILS; DFS-10 K.W.; SSE-15 K.W. AND RES-WORKING 2000 METERS WITH 3 K.W. ONE STATION (AJH) WITH A HALF K.W. GIVES A 25 METER WAVE LENGTH. IF THESE POWERS WERE TRUE I THINK SOMEONE SHOULD SEARCH THE NEWSPAPER FILES IN THE LOCATION OF THE STATIONS FOR ELECTROCUTIONS.

IN THINKING OVER THE "OZONE" SITUATION WITH ANYONE USING 10-15 INCH SPARK GAPS, IT OCCURS TO ME THAT STATION MJ - 80 METERS - 10 INCH COIL, OZONE WIRELESS Co. IN SAN FRANCISCO, WAS PROPERLY NAMED. WITH A 1 1/2 INCH SPARK GAP IN 1911 (INCREASED TO 4 INCHES LATER) I USED TO SIGN OFF AFTER A HALF HOUR WORKING BECAUSE OF "HEAVY AIR".

IT WILL BE NOTED THAT THERE WERE THREE ONE-LETTER CALLS IN 1909, TWO IN 1910 AND NINE IN 1911. IN 1910 THERE WERE FOUR WITH FOUR AND TWO WITH FIVE LETTER CALLS. REMEMBER THEY WERE USING MORSE CODE THEN.

THESE ARE INTERESTING BOOKS. I HAVE MADE AN ALPHABETICAL CARD INDEX LISTING OF THE NAMES OF THOSE FOUND IN THESE BOOKS. THERE ARE 1068 NAMES.

ONLY FOUR YL'S ARE LISTED (AT LEAST THEY APPEAR TO BE YL'S):

OHK - OLIVE HEARTBERG, NEW YORK, N.Y. -BOOK 2
AB - ALICE A. BALL, SEATTLE, WASH.- BOOK 3
MSA - FRANNY GLEN, BELOIT, WISCONSIN BOOK 3
JAS - JOYCE A. SHERMAN, BOWLING GREEN, OHIO. BOOK 3

UNLIKE PRESENT CALL BOOKS, THESE BOOKS DO NOT REPEAT NAMES IN PREVIOUS ISSUES WITH THESE EXCEPTIONS:-

2 - IN BOOKS 1 & 3
4 - IN BOOKS 1 & 2
57 - IN BOOKS 2 & 3

63 - DUPLICATES WHICH WERE REMOVED FROM TOTALS ON FOLLOWING PAGE:

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 22

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

BOOKS	1-LETTER CALLS	2-LETTER CALLS	3-LETTER CALLS	4-LETTER CALLS	5-LETTER CALLS	TOTAL	STATES
I-1909	3	42	44	0	0	89	21
II-1910	2	73	462	4	2	543	41
III-1911	9	130	297	0	0	436	46
TOTALS	14	245	803	4	2	1068	X

IT WOULD BE HARD TO ESTIMATE HOW MANY OF THOSE LISTED ARE STILL LIVING. ASSUMING ALL WERE AT LEAST TEN YEARS OLD IN 1909, ALL LIVING NOW WOULD BE OVER SIXTY-TWO YEARS OF AGE - MOST PROBABLY AROUND SEVENTY YEARS OLD. EVERY ONE OVER THE "LIFE" EXPECTANCY FOR THE PERIOD.

WHEN THE PAGES OF OF THE ORIGINAL BOOKS ARE REPRODUCED, ANYONE WHOSE NAME APPEARS MAY SECURE MAY SECURE A SPECIALLY PRINTED CERTIFICATE ATTESTING HIS LISTING, BY SENDING NAME, ADDRESS AND ORIGINAL CALL LETTERS (AND PRESENT CALL LETTERS, IF ANY) WITH 50 CENTS IN STAMPS TO HAROLD V.B. VOORHIS, 60 REMSEN STREET.-APT. 9C, BROOKLYN 1, N.Y. THE FEE TO COVER MAILING, CONTAINER AND COST OF PRINTING CERTIFICATES-ANY EXCESS TO GO TO OOTC TREASURY.

CALL BY STATES - IN THREE BLUE BOOKS

	I	II	III	TOTAL		I	II	III	TOTAL
ALA.	0	3	3	6	MONT.	2	2	0	4
ARIZ.	0	0	1	1	NEB.	0	6	3	9
ARK.	0	1	1	3	NEV.	0	2	0	2
CAL.	10	53	33	96	N.H.	0	4	6	10
COL.	0	1	0	1	N.J.	18	46	75	139
CONN.	1	25	9	35	N.Y.	22	155	110	287
D. OF C.	0	3	5	8	N.C.	1	0	1	2
FLA.	2	1	1	4	N.D.	0	0	1	1
GA.	0	3	4	7	OHIO	2	13	26	41
IDA.	0	1	1	2	OKLA.	0	0	1	1
ILL.	2	28	28	50	ORE.	1	6	3	10
IND.	1	10	8	19	PA.	3	31	24	58
IOWA	0	2	3	5	R.I.	4	4	4	12
KANS.	0	5	4	9	S.C.	0	1	0	0
KY.	0	3	2	5	TENN.	0	1	3	4
LA.	0	2	1	3	TEX.	1	4	3	8
ME.	1	5	3	9	UTAH	0	2	0	2
MD.	0	8	5	13	VER.	0	5	2	7
MASS.	9	64	28	101	WASH.	2	8	7	17
MICH.	0	7	4	11	W. VA.	1	0	1	2
MINN.	2	3	6	11	WIS.	1	9	11	21
MISS.	0	2	0	2	ALASKA	0	1	1	2
MO.	3	11	4	18	CANADA	0	2	8	10

TOTAL.....1068

THE FOREGOING ARTICLE BY HAROLD IS IN THE WRITERS OPINION ONE OF THE BEST ARTICLES OS HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE RECEIVED. THSI WAS PREPARED BY HAROLD VOLUNTARILY AND ATCON- siderable EFFORT. NIFFOUR MEMBERS ENJOYED IT AS MUCH AS YE OLDE COPPYE BOYE, WE ARE DEEPLY INDEBTED TO HAROLD FOR HIS FINE WORK.

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 23

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

FOR QUITE SOME TIME YOUR PRESIDENT HAS BEEN MAKING A CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO OBTAIN A MAN WHO WOULD VOLUNTEER FOR THE POST OF COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER. IT WAS BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE THER WOULD BE NO VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS IMPORTANT POST. THE POST REQUIRES A MAN OF GREAT FEELING OF RESPONSIBILITY AND WHO REALIZES THAT THE POST OF COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER IS NOT AN HONORARY POST ALONE.

AN IDEAL MEMBER FOR THE POST AND WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THE APPOINTMENT OF W5RIH, ROY ARMSTRONG FOR THIS MOST IMPORTANT JOB. ROY HAS HAD A FINE BACKGROUND IN THIS TYPE OF OPERATION AND IS SO DERNED DEPENDABLE THAT YOU CAN SET YOUR WATCH BY HIM. HE NEEDS THE FULL COOPERATION OF ALL MEMBERS, HE DESERVES IT AND YOUR PRESIDENT MAKES URGENT REQUEST FOR THE SAME FINE COOPERATION YOU HAVE ALL GIVEN TO HIM.

THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM ROY IS A STARTER AND IS QUOTED IN IT'S ENTIRETY BECAUSE IT IS CONSIDERED A LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS:

DEAR CLINE:

ATTACHED IS PROPOSED LAYOUT OF NETS SYSTEM FOR OOTC TO BE PUBLISHED IN SPARK-GAP TIMES, DECEMBER ISSUE.

I WISH YOU WOULD MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE SAME ISSUE THAT I HAVE BEEN APPOINTED COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER AND REQUEST THE MEMBERSHIP TO ASSIST ME AS MUCH AS THEY POSSIBLY CAN. THIS IS A BIG UNDERTAKING AND IF I AM GOING TO PRODUCE, I NEED THE BACKING OF THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICIALS.

CLINE, THIS CAN BE DONE...IT WILL TAKE TIME AND A LOT OF PLUGGING "ON THE AIR", BUT I AM WILLING TO TRY AND WILL PUT ALL MY PAST EXPERIENCE INTO IT. ENJOY OUR SESSIONS AT NOON TIME ON 14.295 AND HOPE MORE OF THE GANG SHOWS.

BEST OF LUCK AND HEALTH TO YOU AND YOURS,

73,

ROY W5RIH Box 60-B Rt. 1
LEANDER, TEX.-

OOTC SOCIAL NETS

IT IS THOUGH THAT SOMEONE SHOULD INITIATE AND PUT INTO EFFECT, SOME NETS, TO COVER VARIOUS FREQUENCIES AND TIMES OF OPERATION FOR THE MEMBERS TO SWAP LIES AND EXPERIENCES. I HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO UNDERTAKE THIS PROJECT AS COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER; HOWEVER LIKE ALL NET OPERATIONS, I WILL NEED NET CONTROL AND ALTERNATE CONTROLS TO TAKE OVER IN VARIOUS SECTIONS DEPENDING ON FREQUENCY AND TIME REQUIREMENTS. THIS WILL TAKE TIME AND A LOT OF COOPERATION FROM MEMBERS IN ORDER TO ORGANIZE WORKABLE NETS TO BENEFIT ALL.

TO MAKES THESE NETS INTERESTING AND TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION, CERTAIN SIMPLE OPERATING PROCEEDURES WILL BE NECESSARY. THESE WILL COME OUT LATER. IT IS MY INTENTION TO EVENTUALLY HAVE LOCAL IN DIVIDED SECTIONS OF OUR AREA OF TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AND NETS COVERING ALL SECTIONS OF THE TOTAL AREA AT DIFFERENT TIMES AND ON DIFFERENT FREQUENCIES.

I WOULD LIKE FOR ALL INTERESTED MEMBERS TO STUDY THE ROSTER AND SEE IF A NET IN YOUR WORKABLE SECTION WOULD BE IN ORDER AND ADVISE ME AS TO THE COVERAGE, FREQUENCY, TIME, MODE OS EMISSION AND POTENTIAL NET MEMBERSHIP. FROM THIS INFORMATION YOU FURNISH AN INTELLIGENT SURVEY, AND SUITABLE NETS CAN BE ORGANIZED; IN TURN AREA WIDE NETS CAN FOLLOW.

IN ORDER TO GET THE BALL ROLLING, I HAVE COME UP WITH THE FOLLOWING, AS AN INTERIM, STARTING JANUARY 1, 1963:

SEE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR NET DATA:

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 24

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

SESSIONS NOW OPERATING:

VOICE	14295 Kc.	DAILY	1800 GMT	ALL SECTIONS	SSB
	3940 Kc.	THURS.	2400 GMT (7 PM)	EASTERN SECT	AM

NEW SESSIONS: (TEMPORARY)

VOICE	14285 Kc.	DAILY	0100 GMT	ALL SECTIONS	ALL MODES
	7335 Kc.	DAILY	0300 GMT	ALL SECTIONS	ALL MODES

CW.....	14090 Kc.	DAILY	2400 GMT
	7035 Kc.	DAILY	0200 GMT

THE OOTC MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY AND/OR ALL THE SESSIONS AND BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS NET ORGANIZATION.

TEMPORARILY, THIS STATION W5RIH WILL ENDEAVOR TO MEET THE ABOVE SKEDS UNTIL WE CAN COME UP WITH A WORKING PROGRAM.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE OUTLINING YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS PROGRAM SHOULD BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THIS STATION. LET'S GET IN AND OUT THIS OVER IN A BIG WAY.

73,

ROY E. ARMSTRONG W 5 R I H
Rt 1, Box 60-C
LEANDER, TEXAS.

AGAIN, FELLOW MEMBERS YOUR OFFICERS URGENTLY REQUEST THAT YOU GIVE THIS FINE MEMBER EVERY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE. WE COULD NOT FIND A BETTER MAN FOR THIS POST, BUT HE DOES REQUIRE YOUR FULLEST COOPERATION. THIS IS YOUR OOTC AND YOU WILL GET FULL MEASURE OF BENEFITS ONLY BY TAKING THE FULLEST PART IN IT'S ACTIVITIES. THANKS GENTLEMEN.. YE OLDE COPPY BOYE.

HOW TO TUNE A TRANSMITTER

By

EARL C. WILLIAMS

JUDGING FROM THE NUMBER OF BAD SIGNALS STILL ON THE AIR TODAY, IT IS EVIDENT THAT THERE STILL SOME WHO DON'T KNOW THE PROPER PROCEEDURE OF TUNING THEIR TRANSMITTER. WAY WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING;-

YOUR TRANSMITTER HAS TWO INDEPENDENT CIRCUITS, NAMELY; THE CLOSED OSCILLATING CIRCUIT, CONSISTING OF THE CONDENSERS (CAPACITANCE), THE PRIMARY OF THE OPEN OSCILLATING CIRCUIT CONSISTING OF THE OSCILLATION TRANSFORMER SECONDARY, THE ANTANNA TUNING INDUCTANCE (LOADING COIL), RADIO FREQUENCY METER, ANTENNA AND GROUND. A VARIATION OF THE CAPACITANCE OR INDUCTANCE VALUE IN EITHER OF THESE CIRCUITS, AFFECTS THE RADIATED WAVE. FIRST, TUNE THE CLOSED CIRCUIT TO THE DESIRED WAVE LENGTH BY CLOSING THE KEY CAUSING THE CIRCUIT TO FUNCTION. SITUATE THE WAVE LENGTH IN INDUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP TO THE CIRCUIT AND TAKE A READING. RESONANCE ON THE WAVEMETER WILL BE INDICATED, ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF WAVEMETER USED, BY A MAXIMUM SOUND IN THE TELEPHONE, A MAXIMUM READING OF A CURRENT READING METER OR THE BRIGHTNESS OF A GLOW LAMP. WHICHEVER DEVICE IS USED, RESONANCE WILL BE INDICATED BY A MAXIMUM INDICATION.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 25

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN

1 DECEMBER, 1962

IF THE WAVELENGTH READS HIGH. REDUCE THE NUMBER OF TURNS OF INDUCTANCE, IF TOO LOW, INCREASE THE INDUCTANCE BY ADDING TURNS. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO ADJUST THE CAPACITANCE, (CONDENSERS) AS THIS IS FIXED AT THE FACTORY. HOWEVER, FOR THREE HUNDRED METERS, A SWITCHING OR PLUGGING ARRANGEMENT CUTS DOWN THE VALUE OF OF THE CAPACITANCE AUTOMATICALLY AND THIS SWITCH OR PLUG MUST BE IN THE PROPER POSITION.

WHILE IT IS NOT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, IT IS ALWAYS BEST WHEN CALIBRATING THE CLOSED CIRCUIT, THAT ALL OF THE VARIOUS PIECES OF APPARATUS COMPRISING THE OPEN CIRCUIT BE DISCONNECTED ONE FROM THE OTHER AND THE SECONDARY DRAWN AWAY FROM THE PRIMARY COIL TO THE POSITION OF MINIMUM COUPLING. THIS IS SO THAT MINIMUM MUTUAL INDUCTION WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE CIRCUITS, ELIMINATING ANY BROADENING EFFECT OF THE MEASURED WAVE.

WHEN THE CLOSED CIRCUIT HAS BEEN TUNED TO THE GIVEN WAVELENGTH, THE OPEN CIRCUIT IS RECONNECTED AND THE COILS OF THE OSCILLATION TRANSFORMER (COUPLER) BROUGHT IN CLOSE RELATIONSHIP. INDUCTANCE IS THEN ADDED OR SUBTRACTED FROM THE SECONDARY OR ANTENNA INDUCTANCE (OPEN CIRCUIT) UNTIL THE ANTENNA AMMETER INDICATES RESONANCE BY A MAXIMUM INDICATION. THIS SHOWS THAT THE OPEN CIRCUIT IS NOW TUNED TO THE SAME WAVELENGTH AS THE CLOSED CIRCUIT AND THE SET READY FOR OPERATION.

IN ORDER HOWEVER THAT THE PURITY AND SHARPNESS OF THE WAVE MAY BE CHECKED UP, THE RADIATED WAVE SHOULD BE MEASURED WHILE THE TRANSMITTER IS IN ACTUAL OPERATION. IF TWO OR MORE WAVES ARE PRESENT THE COUPLING AND INDUCTANCE VALUES OF THE SECONDARY AND ANTENNA LOADING COIL SHOULD BE SO PROPORTIONED THAT THE ENERGY IN ANY OF THE LESSER WAVES SHALL NOT EXCEED TEN PER CENT OF THE ENERGY IN THE DESIRED WAVE. A DECREMENT READING SHOULD THEN BE TAKEN. ACCORDING TO THE LAW, THE DECREMENT MUST NOT EXCEED TWO TENTHS FOR ORDINARY OPERATION.

P.S.---OH YES! I FORGOT TO TELL YOU, "YOU HAVE JUST TUNED A SPARK TRANSMITTER". YEAH! ANOTHER THING. DO NOT OPEN YOUR SPARK GAP TOO FAR JUST TO SHOW HOW FAR IT WILL GAP. PUT 'EM CLOSE, IT IS FAR MORE EFFECTIVE.

W2EG

THIS SHOULD PROVOKE A FEW QUIET CHUCKLES EARL. COULD HAVE COME RIGHT OUT OF A LETTER I MIGHT HAVE RECEIVED FROM LESCARBOURRA OF THE OLD EI Co. BACK WHEN. EEC.

THIS OFFICE HAS RECEIVED A COPY OF A RESOLUTION HONORING OUR DISTINGUISHED MEMBER MR. RAYMOND E. MEYERS W6MLZ. FOR LACK OF SPACE THIS MONTH IT WAS AT FIRST NOT THOUGHT POSSIBLE TO REPRODUCE THIS FULL RESOLUTION BUT IT IS SUCH AN OUTSTANDING CITATION THAT SPACE CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN THE BOOT. THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS.

WHEREAS, RAY E. MEYERS HAS HAD A DISTINGUISHED CAREER AS AN INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEER; AND

WHEREAS, HE HAS SERVED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR 22 YEARS IN VARIOUS POSITIONS BOTH AS A NAVAL OFFICER IN TWO WORLD WARS AND IN CIVILIAN CAPACITIES, AND WAS A RADIO OFFICER UNDER SIR HUBERT WILKINS ON THE FIRST ATTEMPT TO REACH THE NORTH POLE BY SUBMARINE IN 1931; AND

WHEREAS, HE HAS BEEN HONORED BY THE U. S. STATE DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE RADIO AMATEUR COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RADIO CONSULTANT COMMITTEE AND BY APPOINTMENT OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AS A MEMBER OF THEIR NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND

NEXT PAGE PLEASE

Spark-Gap Times

NUMBER 12 PAGE 26

CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

1 DECEMBER, 1962

WHEREAS, SOME OF RAY MEYERS' FINEST WORK HAS BEEN DONE IN THE FIELD OF AMATEUR RADIO WHERE HE WAS FIRST LICENSED AS AN AMATEUR IN 1914 AND WHERE HE NOW HOLDS ONE OF IT'S HIGHEST POSITIONS - THAT OF DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE; AND

WHEREAS, HIS ACTIVITIES IN BEHALF OF THE SIGHTLESS AND HANDICAPPED THROUGH HIS SPONSORSHIP AND WORK AS CORRESPONDING SECRETARY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HANDICAPPED RADIO AMATEUR NET HAVE WON FOR HIM ACCLAIM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT BY ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DOES HEREBY CONGRATULATE AND COMMEND RAY E. MEYERS W6MLZ FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HIS FELLOW MAN AND FOR HIS UNSELFISH DEVOTION TO THE CAUSE OF ASSISTING THE SIGHTLESS AND HANDICAPPED TO A HAPPIER AND FULLER LIFE.

PRESENTED BY:

JAMES HARVEY BROWN
COUNCILMAN, 13TH DISTRICT

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED
10 - 1 - 62.

SECONDED BY :

EVERETT G. BURKHALTER
COUNCILMAN, 1ST DISTRICT

ON BEHALF OF OUR ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP RAY, I EXTEND OUR MOST SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS.

E. E. C.
PRES.

OUR SECRETARY HAS SENT IN THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO HIM THAT IS THOUGHT OF OUTSTANDING INTEREST. HOPE YOU DON'T MIND AL. YE OLDE COPPYE BOYE. (LETTER ADDRESSED TO W2EG)

DEAR EARL:

THANK YOU FOR THE BLUE BOOK. ENCLOSED IS MY COVERING CHECK FOR \$3.00

AS I SAID PREVIOUSLY, LOOKING AT THE PHOTOS ON THE FIRST PAGE, I WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN IRVING IF I FELL OVER HIM, AND THAT GOES FOR BERT ALSO, CLIFF STREET OF 12 & 13 NOTWITHSTANDING. I'M NOT SURE I EVER MET ROLAND.

INCIDENTALLY, IF ANYONE KNOWS TO WHOM "UNITED WIRELESS" CAP BADGE BELONGS, I WILL BE GLAD TO LET HIM HAVE HIS BADGE. SOME DAY WILL GET ON THE MILL AND POUND OUT A FEW STORIES MEXICAN REVOLUTION, RUSSIAN REVOLUTION, WWI AT SEAGATE, ETC., ETC.

ORIGINALLY BEING A NEW YORKER, WENT HERE FOR MANY AND VARIED EXPERIENCES OVER THE YEARS. WHEN EDWARDS OR DUFFY HAD A MESSY SITUATION AND NO TAKERS, THEY GENERALLY CALLED ON ME AND I ACCEPTED WITH PLEASURE. EVEN AT THAT I HAD SOME GOOD TIMES ALSO AS CHIEF ON THE ESPERANZA, APACHE, COMANCHE, ARAPAHOE, OLD COLONY AND OTHERS; FREIGHTERS ON LONG HAULS AND BRITISH TRAMPS-3RD MATE ON ONE SAILING VESSEL.

SO MUCH FOR THIS TIME OR I WON'T STOP. REGARDS AND THANKS FOR THE FINE OVERALL JOB YOU ARE DOING EARL,

73,

AL BERG

BE HAPPY TO GET THOSE STORIES AL AND THANKS. YE OLDE COPPYE BOYE.

THE BLUE BOOK SUPPLEMENTS

YOUR BLUE BOOK EDITOR, BERT OSBORNE HAS MADE ABOUT EVERY EFFORT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THE PICTURES AND BIOGRAPHIES OF ALL OF OUR MEMBERS. CERTAINLY HE HAS MORE THAN FULFILLED HIS DUTIES IN THIS RESPECT, BUT HE IS STILL DIS-SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS. BERT HAS REQUESTED THAT SOME MEANS BE PROVIDED FOR THE INSERTION OF BIOGRAPHIES AND PICTURES THAT HAVE FOR SOME REASON NOT BEEN SENT IN TO BERT FOR INSERTING IN THE ORIGINAL PRINTING.

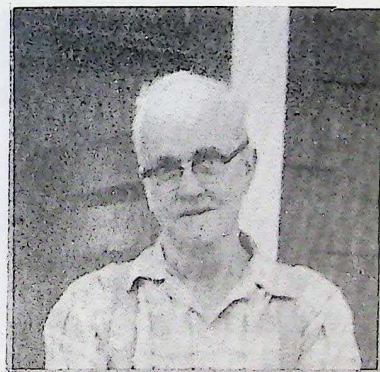
YOUR SPARK-GAP TIMES EDITOR HAS DECIDED TO PUBLISH AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR A SUPPLEMENT THAT WILL PRINT THE PICTURE AND BIOGRAPHIES OF MEMBERS RECEIVED INTO THE OOTC SINCE THE LAST PRINTING OF THE BLUE BOOK AND ALSO ANY OTHERS NOT IN PREVIOUS PRINTING. ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY IF YOUR PICTURE AND/OR BIOGRAPHY IS NOT NOW IN THE CURRENT PRINTING OF THE BLUE BOOK.

BELOW IS SHOWN THE PICTURE OF WIED, ALFRED J. CARVER WHO NEGLECTED TO GET HIS PICTURE IN THE FIRST PRINTING OF THE BLUE BOOK. THIS PICTURE IS PROVIDED SO THAT IT MAY BE CUT OUT AND PASTED IN THE SPACE PROVIDED FOR HIS PICTURE.

ALSO BELOW IS THE PICTURE OF TOWNSEND RIGBY, W7COH AS MENTIONED IN HIS ARTICLE. THE PICTURE DID NOT ALLOW OF VERY GOOD REPRODUCTION BUT IS GIVEN SO THAT YOU MAY MEET THIS FINE MEMBER AND POSSIBLE OLD TIME FRIEND. YE OLDE COPPYE BOYE.



CHIEF WIRELESS OPERATOR
TOWNSEN JOHNNS RIGBY
ABOARD S S YALE 1912
SAN PEDRO HARBOR



ALFRED J. CARVER WIED

Spark-Gap Times

CORRECTION

OUR SECRETARY HAS CALLED THE ATTENTION OF YE OLDE COPPYE BOYE TO THE GRAVE MISTAKE MADE ON THE BACK PAGE OF THE ADDRESS SHEET OF SPARK-GAP TIMES.

IN THE LIST OF THE FIRST THIRTEEN ORIGINAL MEMBERS AN * ASTERISK INDICATES THAT OUR DISTINGUISHED MEMBER W2DH, HAYNES W. LIPPINCOTT IS SILENT KEY.

WHAT A BLUNDER. MY APOLOGY TO HAINES AND TO ALL MEMBERS. HOPE YOU CAN OVERLOOK THE BLUNDER.

YE OLDE COPPYE BOYE.

Spark-Gap Times

SPARK-GAP TIMES IS PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY THE OLD OLD TIMERS CLUB AT NO COST TO MEMBERS.
A LIMITED NUMBER CAN BE FURNISHED TO NON-MEMBERS AT A COST DONATION OF \$2.00 PER YEAR.

OOTC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
EARL E. CLINE SR. W4PPZ
408 WEST VIEW AVENUE
CHATTANOOGA 11, TENN.

VICE-PRESIDENT
MERRILL D. BEAM K2BX
118 LEWIS STREET
EATONTOWN, N.J.

SECRETARY-TREASURER
EARL C. WILLIAMS W2EG
507 WAYSIDE ROAD
NEPTUNE, N.J.

HISTORIAN
EDW. G. RASER W2ZI
19 BLACKWOOD DRIVE
TRENTON 8, N.J.

EDITOR
STEARNS POOR WIPO
128 MILL STREET
HANOVER, MASS.

1913 LISTING CHAIRMAN
WM. B. GOULD WINP
926 WOODGATE AVENUE
ELBERON, N.J.

BLUE BOOK EDITOR
C. BERT OSBORNE W4MF
1608 HIXON PIKE
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

AWARDS CHAIRMAN
PERLEY B. DUNN W6WPF
5262 NEWCASTLE AVENUE
ENCINO, CALIF.

HONORABLE FOUNDER
HUBERT E. INGALLS WINQ
R. F. D.
EPPING, N.H.

NET MANAGER
ROY E. ARMSTRONG
R.F.D. 1, Box 60-B
LEANDER, TEXAS

EDITOR SPARK-GAP TIMES & YE OLDE COPPYE BOYE
W4PPZ

FIRST THIRTEEN ORIGINAL MEMBERS

# 1	HUBERT E. INGALLS	WINQ	# 9	H. W. LIPPINCOTT	W2DH *
# 2	IRVING VERMILYA	WIZE	# 10	ERIC LEAVENS	W2OUS *
# 3	ROLAND BOURNE	WIANA	# 11	LEWIS SPRINGER	W2ENX *
# 4	JOHN E. WILKINSON	WITK	# 12	LELAND K. SWART	W2RBH
# 6	FRANKLIN STANDISH	WIJZU *	# 13	DR. CHAS. W. WEBBER	W3CC
# 7	ARTHUR A. STOCKELLBURG	WISS	# 14	ROBT. S. FENIMORE	W4TY
# 8	CLARENCE PFEIFER	W2FG		*-----SILENT KEY	

PRICES

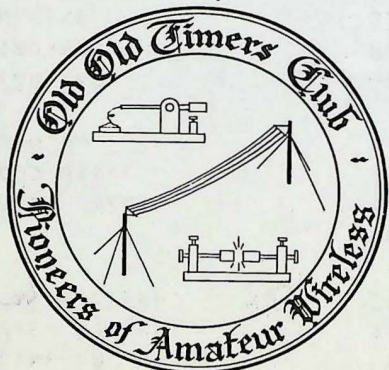
100 LETTERHEADS-----	\$2.00
250 GUMMED STAMPS (WITH OLD OLD TIMERS CLUB SEAL)-----	\$1.00
LAPEL PIN (EITHER PIN TYPE OR LAPEL TYPE)-----	\$2.00
OLD OLD TIMERS CLUB "BLUE BOOK"-----	\$3.00
NON MEMBERS-----	\$5.00
REPRODUCTION OF 1913 GOVERNMENT CALL BOOK-----	\$2.00
SUPPLEMENTS (SET)-----	\$3.00
AWARDS CERTIFICATE-----	\$1.00
1909, 1910 AND 1911 E.I. COMPANY AND MODERN ELECTRICS CALL BOOKS (SET)-----	\$3.00

ABOVE ARE LATEST AND REVISED PRICES. EARL C. WILLIAMS W2EG, SECRETARY-TREASURER.

SEND ALL ORDERS OR INQUIRIES DIRECT TO THE SECRETARY-TREASURER. ADDRESS ABOVE.

RETURN REQUESTED

Spark-Gap Times



408 WEST VIEW AVENUE
CHATANOOGA 11, TENNESSEE



JOHN D. KEIM K 6DH
P. O. BOX 517
BELVEDERE, CALIF.