SKYWIRE

THE CANADIAN RADIO AMATEURS' JOURNAL

JANUARY 1950

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Edited by - Fenwick Job, VE2TH

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VE2TH, 284 Guilbault Ave., Longueuil, Quebec!

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SIDEBANDS

Talking with one of the RI's recently brought up several important things that the Department of Transport would like to remind all Canadian hams about. Since the RI was talking from our side of the fence, because he's an activr fraternity member himself, and an old timer from away back, his comments are very much worth listening to and thinking about.

As he said, there are regulations which govern our amateur activities, and which some of the boys seem to feel were made just for the other guy. As a result, they have been overlooked by some of us now and then.

Perhaps the most important of these is the class of license you hold at present and whether you're abusing the privilege of using the airlanes. Chief complaint is that many amateurs not licensed to do so are apparently using what are termed the Class A bands of 20 and 75 meters on phone. Some of the boys seem to feel the better DX and traffic bands should be open to them, but at the same time, are not inclined to do some studying and slugging for that Class A ticket. Those all-band privileges must be worked for today, although it wasn't so very long ago that they were given automatically after two years licensing, plus an exam in phone transmitter adjustment and operation. But time has changed that, and in addition to a strict phone technique examination, the operator is required to be able to read code at a speed which a good many phone addicts have classed as hopelessly beyond their talents. Result is our Joe finds the bands restricted, to him, beckoning and tunes up on them. If he's caught illegally using any band other than for which licensed, a three month suspension of license is the punishment meted out to the offender by DOT. That's for a first offence - the second offence means not only loss of equipment but cancellation of your ham ticket for life.

It isn't worth it, just because, as some hams say, there isn't time to get that code speed up to requirements. It is the easiest thing to do, if you have time to operate your rig at all. Instead of a gabbyragging session get down to work on your CW and theory and in a matter of a few weeks it can be brought up to speed, if you'll work at it. There are special aids for individuals, such as Instructographs' code transmission, with a playback for use in your own home, or for group study, and available at a low nominal rental, or you can sort out a CW signal on one of the bands, moving at a little faster clip than you can handle at that moment, and you can pick up your speed that way. If you were able to get the CW down pat for your first test, you can do it again for Class A privileges!!

The *West Side Radio Club of Toronto* is making an effort to bring all members of that club to Class A status this year, and it would be a good project for any club in the Dominion to follow the lead. Class A is pretty nice, and you can get it at a little inconvenience. Better to be away from the bands a few weeks, and learning than caught on a restricted band and lose your license entirely.

The other items our RI mentioned were

that in many cases, individuals forgot to register changes of address with DOT when a move was made from one *QTH* to another - and that the use of unmodulated and unidentified carriers on the air is going to have to stop immediately.

Don't forget to let the RI know where you've moved to. Frequently *DOT* is encountered where no ham is known to be, and after much sleuthing and many complaints, it is found that someone hasn't complied with regulations which state that changes of address must be given at once to the Department of Transport. How else can *DOT* keep an accurate and up-to-date check on the Canadian amateurs? If *you* have just moved, and overlooked this detail, attend to it immediately and you can avoid a lot of later trouble and a possible penalty.

The Department has also said it is going to penalize hams who persist in putting unmodulated carriers on the air and then cutting them off again, without proper identification. Station operators must identify their station either in code or voice. And when working break-in, our regulations stipulate that call signs are to be given at least every five minutes. Actually the regulations state the call letters must be given at the termination of each transmission. Some latitude in interpreting this section has been allowed in deference to the traffic operators who are most likely to use *BK* and to whom the burden of added calls on each occasion would be tedious and slow down the flow of traffic considerably.

Take a look at page 22 of this issue and see what a brother ham has to say about the annoying practice of malicious jamming of a channel in use. This isn't the best type of sportsmanship, and the few offenders could be cracked down on by the other hams themselves.

While we're at it, talking about D.O.T. regs, don't overlook the fact that you are required to have frequency and modulation checking equipment in the station at all times, and this doesn't mean that it can be conveniently 'Down at Bills' when the RI knocks at your door. When he does, have it there, and have the license hung in a conspicuous place for him.

Don't feel this resume is directed at you unless it fits. It's almost time to renew licenses for another year, and a reminder about these things, said the RI could avoid a lot of unhappiness later.

Stick to regulations - get that Class A license, and be a better ham in the years to come. Courtesy and thoughtfullness on your part, at all times, will pay big dividends to you personally.

In *SKYWIRES'* pages you actually read the news about the VE's while it's still new because in the publishing of the magazine we work to an extremely close deadline. It is literally possible to cover events in Canada within a week of their happening and so all club secretaries, an interested individuals are invited to send contributions to *Skywire* about any newsworthy happenings in their area.

Good technical material is always needed and for which payment is made on publication. Although everyone these days is rushed off his feet, make time somehow to get those articles ready. A number of hams have written, promising articles of every description, but, don't depend on the other guy - get something done yourself and earn a bit of extra dough for the rig, or household.

Ed Hewitt VE2TH.

BRIDGEWORK

J.L. Huard, VE2IG

In this article - measuring resistance, and capacity with a tone generator and means to locate breaks in mike cable and ribbon transmission lines -- all for less than ten bucks. The code practice set you need is thrown in free.

Yes, that's a lot of gadget for ten dollars in these years of high costs for everything but it can be done. A miracle ? No, just an old radio principle - the Wheatstone Bridge tailored to present day needs.

A few years ago, while working for a firm manufacturing and installing intercom systems, the boss asked if I could build him a small, rugged instrument our installations crew could use to test and service cables in minimum time, even when no AC was available. After playing a few weeks with various tone generators, capacity bridges and ohmmeter, the result was a small box with a few refinements added later for ham radio.

The following diagram and parts list tells the story easily, and there is no special, critical way of placing components. The accuracy of the instrument is determined by the accuracies of resistors R1, R2, R3 and C1, C2, C3. The buzzer should be adjusted to a tone of approximately 700 cycles. For most of the tests you can use test leads on the binding posts, but when testing small capacities, and low resistances, you will get a truer reading by connecting the part to be tested, direct to the binding posts.

To reduce mechanical noise from the buzzer wrap it with sponge rubber, once it is adjusted and you can clamp the whole thing, with a suitable mounting, to the side of a wooden container box in which this unit is built.

The dial can be any cardboard disc or square glued to the front panel and covered with a piece of plexiglass, once it has been calibrated. Hold this whole thing in place by using the nut and washer on the potentiometer shaft.

Here's how the calibration is done. First you connect a pair of earphones to their jack, put the switch on and turn selector switch to get the 10,000 ohm resistor in the circuit. Then, you hear a tone in the phones, so you connect an accurate 10,000 ohm resistor to the binding posts of the bridge and rotate the potentiometer shaft until you hear a null point in the tone. Third, adjust the pointed knob on the shaft of the pot so it indicates the center of the dial scale. Mark 10, at this point, on the scale.

Remove the 10,000 ohm resistor from binding posts and replace it with one of 5,000 ohms. Find the null and mark 5 on the scale, and so on until the scale is calibrated from 3, or 300 ohms to 100, or 100,000 ohms. You mark the present position of the selector R X 1,000 and turn selector to where the 1,000 ohm resistor is in the circuit. Mark this position R X 100 and finally turn the selector to put the ten ohm (10) resistor into the circuit. Mark at this position, R X 1.

For example, the number 2 on the dial scale is the indicator for 2, 200, or 2000 ohms, depending on position of the selector switch.

For the capacity calibration, follow procedure outlined above for resistance, except that you don't alter the setting of the pointer knob on the potentiometer shaft. If you have a friend in the service business, get him to help find resistors and condensers to test calibration of your bridge, and also compare its readings with other test instruments.

OPERATION OF BRIDGE.

When testing a resistance, if you can't find a null point, the resistor under test is either open or higher than 100,000 ohms in value. If no null is obtained on capacity on either of

the ranges, the condenser under test is leaking or is partially shorted. This does NOT, however apply to electrolytics.

For impedance testing, if for example you want to test a loudspeaker, you use the Resistances settings on the selector and reading obtained is the impedance of the speaker voice coil. It becomes possible to apply the same procedures in testing transformers, if you connect a resistor representing the proper load on the primary winding, when you are testing the secondary. In these cases, the nulls are not quite as sharp as when testing resistors.

If you're looking for breaks in mike cable or a ribbon transmission line, it is necessary to know the capacity per foot or per yard, and to then measure the capacity from either end of a broken cable. When the reading is divided by the capacity per foot or per yard, you have an accurate answer giving distance to the break.

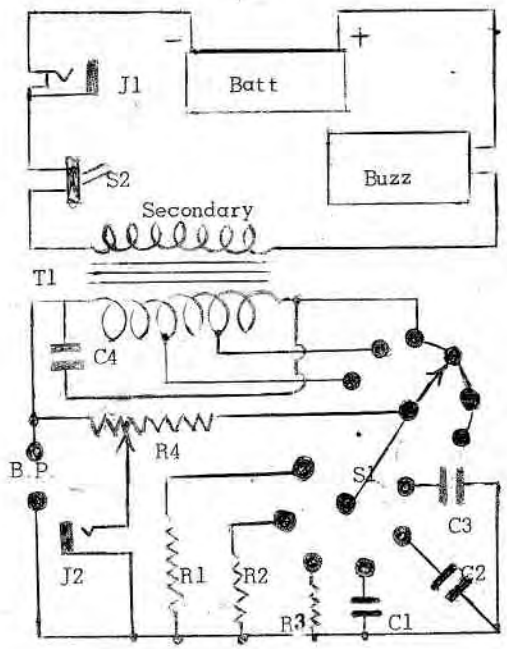
As a TONE GENERATOR, you take the signal output at the phone jack and use selector and potentiometer to get the desired level. This is a very useful item for testing speech amplifiers, and adjusting the modulation percentage on your transmitter.

As a code practice set, simply plug the key in the jack provided for this use, and adjust intensity of the tone by turning the pointer.

As indicated in the diagram and parts list in this article the bridge will measure resistance and impedance from .3 ohms to 100,000 ohms and capacities from .0001 to a maximum of .6 microfarad.

Once you've built up and tested this little box of tricks you'll find it is indispensable. As you become more familiar with it, you'll find more uses for it, and learn that it will save you a lot more than its original cost, in both time and money in the shack.

There's nothing hard to build about the unit. I would like to say again and all parts needed can be readily obtained from your nearest jobbers stocks. For high accuracy, check the value of R1,R2,R3, and C1,C2 C3 carefully on a good test meter first, before building them in to the Bridge.



PARTS LIST

Batt - Battery 4½ volt C type, miniature.
Buzz - Buzzer unit of any type available.
T1 - Transformer, Universal output type 119B Hammond.
S1 - Selector switch of 2 poles, 6 position.
S2 - Toggle type switch, on and off control.

R1 - 10 ohm, 1 watt resistor.
R2 - 1,000 ohm 1 watt resistor.
R3 - 10,000 ohm 1 watt resistor.
R4 - 5,000 ohm control, Mallory A5MP or the equivalent.

C1 - .001 mica condenser, postage stamp type.
C2 - .01 paper condenser, tubular, 600 volt.
C3 - .1 paper, 600 volt condenser.
C4 - .05 paper, 600 volt condenser.

J1 - Mallory jack type 702 or A2, for keying.
J2 - Mallory also, for earphones position.
B.P. Binding posts for test position of other parts.

Also needed are one large pointer knob for R4, and one short one for S1, plus box to build in.

HOW I DOODIT

Burton Moore, *VE3ARY!*

How to use 19 Set components which are available at unusually low cost in surplus, as substitutes for high-priced standard counterparts. The small amount of time it takes to construct these items will save you plenty.

Some time ago the writer bought a 19 Set. As is, these units require some work for the average ham shack, and the first work to be done was on the earphones and microphone. I remodelled them - and that's what this article is all about. These units are both low impedance jobs, requiring adaption to usual applications

In order to use them in standard high-impedance circuits, here's how they can be modified. On the earphones, in order to work in an ordinary phone jack circuit (hi Z) the answer was to use a transformer to match in the low Z cans.

Take any old electrolytic condenser can and saw the mounting screw off the bottom. Then saw the body of the can to two and an eighth inches long. The hole in the bottom of this can is enlarged to fit the threaded end of a phone plug which is then fastened to the can with a nut. The matching transformer is then removed from the 19 set (may also be bought alone from surplus stores) removed from its housing or square case, and fitted into the newly made shield can made from the electrolytic. The secondary of this transformer, or the high resistance winding is connected to the phone plug mounted in this can, and the low impedance or primary side of the transformer is connected to a new pr. of headphone cords attached to the 19 Set phones. These are also available surplus for a few cents. Tape all exposed leads or the soldered joints to eliminate shorting. And then to finish the job, use a knife to remove the cover from the unused portion of the old electrolytic can, drill a hole in it for a rubber grommet small enough to fit on the phone cords snugly, and tie a knot in the cord. Bolt the transformer into place in the shield and put the cover back on the end of can. Tap or press edges down, cement!

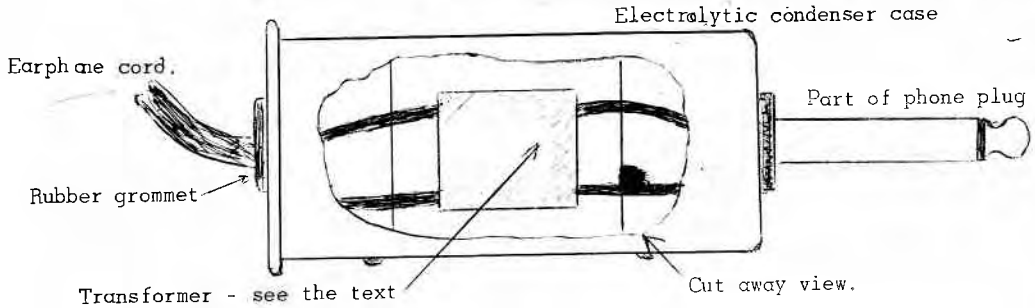
For further details see the drawing on page 8.

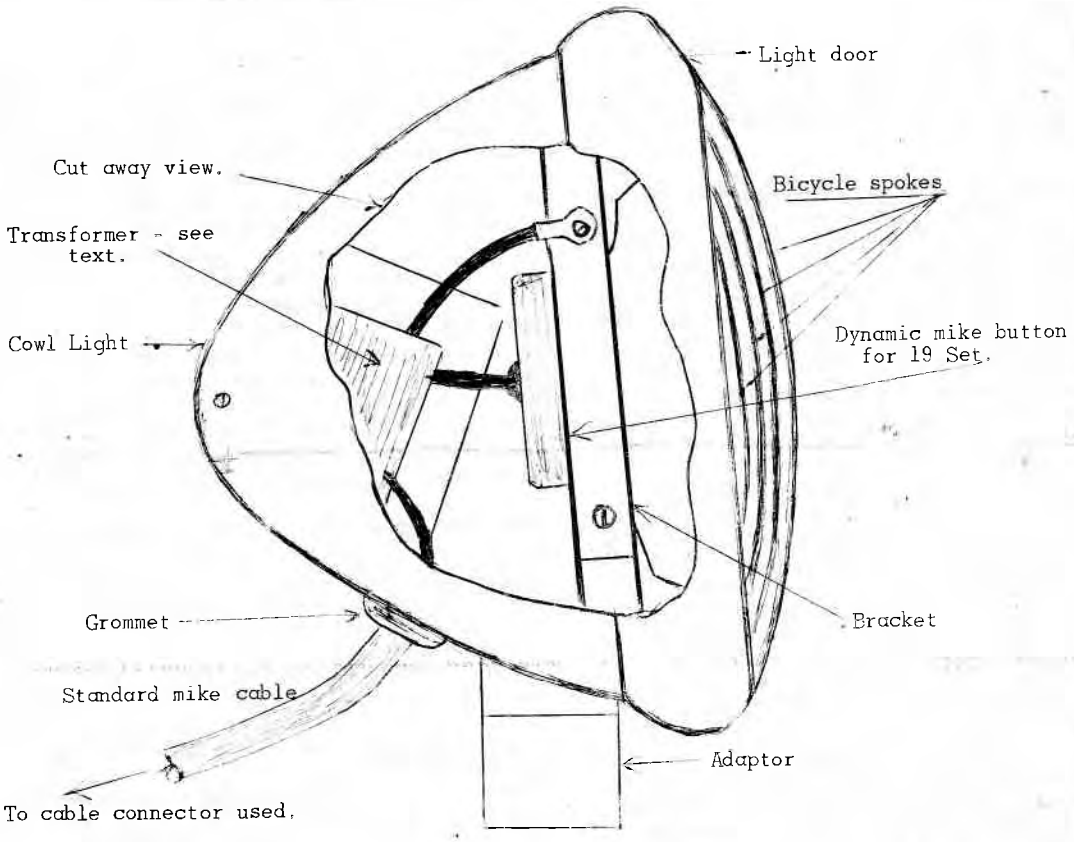
In converting the mike to a high impedance unit, you first make a trip to the nearest autowreckers. Get a cowl light, nickel or chromed finish, large enough to hold both the mike capsule and accompanying transformer - same type as used for the earphones (See parts list for both these units on next page).

Remove door from the light and the light socket from inside, as well as the bracket which mounted the light originally on the car. You will need an adaptor to fit a mike stand. When this is fastened to the case, a hole is then drilled behind it and either a rubber grommet or a chassis connector fitted there, for the cable connections. The transformer is fitted to the back of the case, and the secondary or high impedance winding connected to the mike cable or cable connector. If you use a grommet, instead of a connector, make sure there is a good ground made between the cowl light, and the cable shield. The low impedance side of the transformer is of course, connected to the dynamic mike capsule, and the capsule is then mounted by brackets to the inside of the cowl light. You can make these to suit you.

Get some nickel plated bicycle spokes, cut to proper length, slightly curve them and solder into place on back of the door to cowl light. Take some care and extra time to make this as neat as possible, and the mike will look fine. Cut a piece of grill cloth to fit behind the spokes, cement this at the edge inside the cover and then back it with a piece of window screen cut large enough to hold itself in the cowl light door. Tack it into place with some solder and then mount the door on the case. The result is a neat looking high impedance mike for the shack or for any other use, and a low cost unit that not only looks weel but at the same time, sound mighty good.

HOW I DOODIT


Electrolytic condenser case
Earphone cord.
Part of phone plug
Rubber grommet
Transformer - see the text
Cut away view.


Light door
Cut away view.
Bicycle spokes
Transformer - see text.
Cowl Light
Dynamic mike button for 19 Set.
Grommet
Bracket
Standard mike cable
Adaptor
To cable connector used.

BEAMETTE

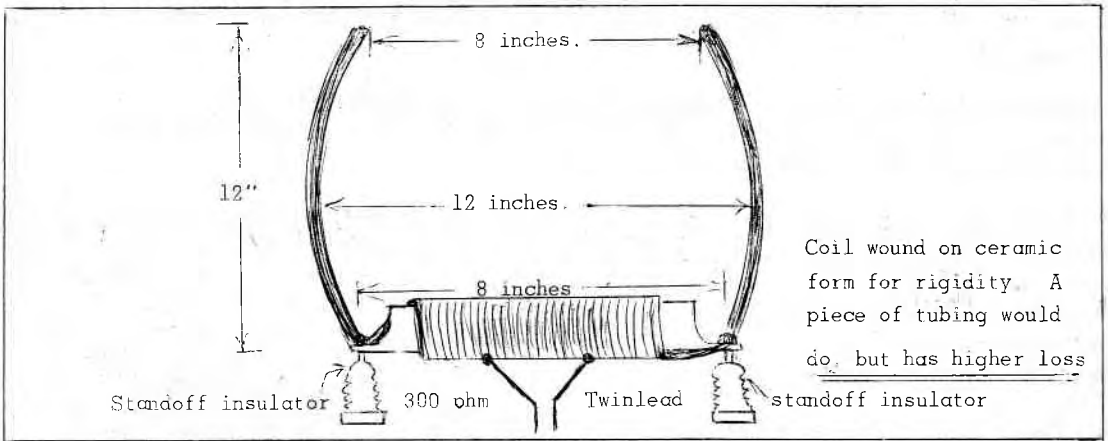
W.L. Guenette, VE2KQ

This is about an antenna which is particularly useful to the people stuck in apartments and who cannot get on the air because of antenna erection restrictions. This little antenna will help to get you on and operating again. While a Skywire outside would give better results, excellent reports have been received with this unit just two feet from the transmitter in use. The drawing is pretty well self explanatory for construction detail you'll need, and will give you a general idea of the appearance of each element. The vertical sections shown are made of three eighths inch copper tubing.

The center coil shown is wound on a 2½ inch form and consists of 14' (fourteen feet) of number fourteen enamelled wire. When loading the transmitter into the antenna, the 300 ohm line is tapped on to the coil at the point which gives the maximum loading with the lowest S.W. ratio. The usual checks for standing waves should be made.

The director for the beam is made exactly the same as for the radiator except for the coil in the center which has sixteen feet of number fourteen enamelled on the same size of form - 2½ inches. Spacing between radiator and director is one foot!

That's all there is to it. It works, and for the apartment resident, or the man who uses ten meters for local contacts and rag chews, it's the answer you need to get on.



Here is a miniature two element Ten Meter Beam which can be built by any amateur for about two dollars, and in a couple of hours. The junkbox probably has all the parts needed !!! Diagram shows deaail for two element, but it should be easy to make a four or more element job with these spacings.

RED FACES

We blush, and admit to a rather interesting drafting error which appeared in the December, 1949 issue of Skywire on page eight. Because of the last minute rush, there is an error in capacity size, and an omission in the capacity parts list, for the speech amplifier section of Command Power. Thus - C6 *should* have been a .01 mica bypass, 600 volt type, instead of the value given. And C9 *should* have been given as a 25 mfd, 50 volt cathode bypass condenser. It would be interesting to know how many more of you boys caught this error, and didn't write.

SPEAKING OF THINGS TO COME!!

Next month in Skywire we will present a complete and detailed article on the ins and outs of High Power Super Modulation. You'll be able to duplicate this unit yourself without any hard to get components required. To our knowledge this is the first article in the high powered class to appear anywhere on this subject. Circuit details were given some time ago on this system - the Taylor Super-Modulation idea, but the parts list was not shown, and for a good many months many interested hams worked to obtain the fabulous results indicated in the description of how the thing worked. Read the complete and inside information in *Skywire for February. Don't miss it.*

A reminder that many hams in Canada have been receiving for the past several months, complimentary copies of this publication, in order to introduce *Skywire* to VE operators in every province.

At the moment, a new mailing list is being compiled so that another representative cross section of the Canadian amateur fraternity will receive complimentary and introductory copies. This means that if *you* are not on our regular subscription list, you're going to miss a few issues of this magazine. If you've enjoyed the copies already sent to you, make sure you obtain a complete set of issues as they appear by subscribing now. Fill out the form below and mail it in to the address given, or ask your nearest radio parts jobber to handle the subscription for you. The subscription fee has purposely been kept so low that *every ham in Canada* will be able to afford *Skywire*, and thus keep up with what is happening among *VE's!!!*

SKYWIRE MAGAZINE
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DX NEWS

This month, the biggest DX news is that operators all over the world are tuning up the big finals and checking antennas in preparation for the Sixteenth Annual A.R.R.L. International DX Competition.

A couple of weeks after you get this issue of Skywire, the CW section of this contest gets under way. Not only can an interested operator snag some DX that's sometimes hard to get, but he can fully complete some of WAS and WAVE requirements, if he's sharp about his techni and operating times.

The CW end of the contest will be held from February 10th to the 12th and from March 10th to 12th. Phone men get their chance at the contest from February 17, to the 19th, and from March 17th to 19. The rules are almost identical to those in use last year, with just three additions to them. The CW quota for VE's is now raised to six because experience in past contests has proved that certain foreign countries run into trouble making VE (and W) contacts during their second week of operation. This increase means that more contacts will be available to the foreign contestants late in the contest. The old self assigned number used in years gone by is to be used no longer. Instead, you will use three digits, representing the power input to the rig. If under a hundred watts, this power is prefixed by a zero - i.e. 75w would be 075 and so on. Requirements for log forms are changed and it is suggest you take a look at pages 18 and 19 QST, January, 1950 for the details.

VE operators this year are required to use different forms for CW and phone operation so check this matter carefully.

Incidentally, entries by multiple operator stations are welcomed, although only those entries by signle operators become eligible for the special certificate awards offered to top phone and code scorers in each country and ARRL section. There is a club competition with a gavel as prize for the ham group with highest aggregate score.

As there are quite a number of rules to be followed with regard to your entry, a good idea would be to sit down and carefully go over them now, before the contest. You'll find them on pages 18 and 19 of January issue of QST along with a couple of tips on what to do during the contest periods, for best results.

The first letter in the DX mailbag for the month rolled in from Whitehorse, where the weather really gets cold. Jack Spall, 8AS, and ex 3ER from 1933 to 40 is working this stuff called DX right and left. He has had to do all his operating on 20 CW and phone as apparently 10 is worthless up there for any more than W and VE QSO ing and at odd intervals some South Pacific stuff. Jacks' comments on 20 were that the band has been fair, but signals were mostly weak and had no competition, often with just 6 to 12 of them across the band. It takes some listening to pick out the good ones. He's managed to get 35 zones out of 85 countries, a total which sounds good. Some of the best, according to him were ZD4AM, UB5DC, VS6JH, HA5BF, TF3EA, ZB8AJ, SVØWH, VQ4CUR, UAØFL, VS7AD, EA5BE, FT4AN, among quite a number of other interesting ones. And he adds, as a reminder to all VE8's to get stamped and self addressed envelopes in to him for QSL return. There are around3,000 cards on the books right now, and unless they're asked for soon by the owners, he's going to have to destroy some to make room for others.

And to our way of thinking, destroying a bunch of cards, seems unnecessary. You'll be a lot happier about things later, if you send your envelope to Jack for yours right away. How about it, you VE's in 8?

Don Murphy, 2BV sent in a piece on KV4AA who is a very ardent DX man. As such, Don says, he's anxious to contact VE and VO stations during the ARRL DX contest mentioned on page 11. He's even drawn up an easy schedule of times when he'll be listening especially for VE/VO stations on various bands, and he lists his frequency as well. What more could you ask for ??? Daily during the 16th DX contest, you'll find KV4AA (on Feb. 11, 12 and March 11, 12, 1950) on the following.... 7110 kcs from 0700 to 0715 GMT, 3560 kcs at 0900, to 0915, 14,125 at 0200 to 0215 *GMT, and* 28,100 from 2030 to 2045 *GMT*. What more could you ask for. He'll also be on 11m, if you work there, on approx 27,100 kcs, between 2100 and 2115 *GMT*. Here's a chance for VE and VO to get KV4 *QSL*, and you'll be doing Dick a favor too. Dick has most trouble with his 3.5 mc contacts, and he has asked if you boys would make a great effort there.

Don also includes a list of choicer meat and has listed the frequencies and tones which is exactly as wanted. When submitting reports, please include this data at all times, to help the other man find it again later on. Don got *MD2PJ, T7 on 20m at 14052, CR6AQ, T9 also on 14052, YO3GK T9 on 14015, MC1BH, T9 and 14062, VQ8AX, T8, 14064, F9QV, T9, 14068, ZP8BL, 14028, T9, MT2BFC, T9 right on the edge - 14000 VS6AC, T9, 14080, ST2TC, T7, 14007, ZD8B, T9, 14018, VQ3KIF, T8, 14015/20, XZ2EM on 14004/006 at T7, VQ4BB, 14012.50, FE8AB, 14028 and T9. Many of the QTH's for the list* are to be found on the next page.

VE7HC is back chasing DX after a long absence, and now has 198 countries worked. He claims he'll retire when he breaks 200! Maybe he should, and give someone else a chance at it. 8PA of Lakeburn, N.B. broke 100 countries just at year end, and broke into a new jug to celebrate. G3FFO, who a short time ago signed VE5, 6 and 3 is now looking for VE 20 meter CW contacts. VO6X and 6EP both of Goose Bay are getting some nice logs filled out too. VE3QL, formerly DX Ed for Xtal is still chasing DX. Understand his new *QTH* is out in the country, with unlimited space for arrays and away from TVI and BCI. VE1EA down in Windsor, N.S. heard G6BQ and G5JU on 160 CW on Dec. 18th and the following night he got his own signal across the pond on 160 CW, to work GI3UB, and again on January 18th, he snagged G2PL and GD3UB on 160. In between those dates, Clarry worked EK1AO on 80 to hang up a nice bit. He now has 8 countries and 3 continents on 1.8 Mc all time total and 4 countries and 2 continents postwar. He says as far as he knows he's the only VE to work either Europe or Africa two way since the 160 meter band was first set up years ago. How about it, boys ?

VE2WW, is back on again for the first ops since June, and knocked off 3 new country sigs, giving him 156 and 39 zones. Toughest zone for Don is 23, which is the last hurdle to WAZ. Don reports *XZ2EM, 14032, Burma, at 11.30 A.M. PJ5XA, T6 at 14015, CR4AE, 14003 and a drifting T6. Not often on phone, there are two this time, EL9A, 14140 and VP7NR, 14160.*

For the last four or five weeks, up to mid-Jan., 2GM reports Europe rolling in on 80 at S6 and 7. 2GL keeping tfc sked got in a G3 contact before the net opened, with a signle CQ and signature. GM got Budapest and couple of Germans on 40 one night and next evening got EQ9J on 3505 at 5.30 p.m. and a DL3 before 6.00 p.m. the same night. 3GI in Ottawa also has been heard working England and Germany around 3500 kc, which is pretty fair these nights..... And *how about reports from other sections ????*

DX QTH's

The DX QTH's on this page are reprinted from The Short Wave Magazine of London, England in part, with the remainder of the list having been sent in by Ray Sisson, VE3AEB, and by Alan Golding, an SWL, as well as Don Murphy, VE2BV who has included the frequencies of the ones he has worked. Contributions of DX news and QTH's are wanted from all sections of Canada, so if you have worked some good stuff, let the rest of the country know about it.

This first list is from Short Wave Magazine.

CR5UP, Lionel Pierce, St. Thomas Island, in Portuguese West Africa.
FF3CN, Box 566, Dakar, Africa.
FF8GP, % P.A.A., Box 583, Dakar, Africa.
FN8AD, D.S. Seal, Hatkola, Dyerdhar, Chandernagore, French India.
HP8BR, A.R. Rowley, Apartado 883, Panama.
KL7EH, % C.A.A. Iliamna, Alaska
KR6BV, A.P.O. 239, % P.M., San Francisco.
ST2TC, T.H. Christodoulides, P.O. Box 25, Malakal, South Sudan.
VQ4AQ, Box 171, Nairobi, Kenya Colony.
VQ8AX, Box 155, Port Louis, Mauritius.
VS1DD, S. Steele, R.S.F., S.A.S.S., R.A.F., Tengah, Singapore.
VU2DH, D.M. Hamilton, % M/S Madura Co., Ltd. Cochin, South India.
YO3GK, QSL Bureau, Box 85, Bucharest, Roumania. Don't mention radio on letter.
ZB2G, Royal Naval W/T Station, North Front, H.M.S. Rooke, Gibraltar.
ZP9FA, C.S. Martin, Box 716, Asuncion, Paraguay.
EA8LS, Box 346, Las Palmas, Canary Islands.
EQ3SAM, Sam Harrison, 509 Weldon Avenue, in Oakland, California.
HC2JR, Box 1304, Guayaqyil, Ecuador.
HP1TS, Box 913, Panama City, Panama.
KP4AA, Box 515, Rio Piedras, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
KP6AH, U.C. Beebe, C.A.A., Palmyra Island, via Hawaii.
MP4BAE, % International Aeradio, Ltd., at Bahrein Islands, Persian Gulf.
MT2BFC, Bill Wheeler, G3BFC, % B.O.A.C., in Tripoli.
MT2DZ, Box 260, Tripoli, North Africa.
MT2DZ/A same as the above in Tripoli.
VE8MB, % U.S. Weather Bureau, Arctic Section Washington 25, D.C. U.S.A.

And from Ray Sisson, VE3AEB, Schreiber, Ont.

PZ1OY, John Kooman, Box 547, Paramaribo, Surinam.
ZD8FB, Lungi Airport, Sierra Leone, Africa.
ZD1PW, Same as the bove - Lungi Airport.
PJ5HM, goes via W2GHV
EK1RW, Roy Winterbottom, R.C.A. Tangiers.

This next list, from Don Murphy, VE2BV, with frequencies for these stations given in the DX news on the two preceding pages.

MD2PJ, Box 66, Tripoli, Libya.
CR6AQ, Box 79, Luanda, Angola.
MC1BH, Please QSL via R.S.G.B.
VQ8AX, Box 155, Port Louis, Mauritius.
F9QV, Bonifacio, Corsica, France.
ZP8BL, QSL via R.C.P. in Paraguay.
MT2BFC, Please QSL via R.S.G.B.
VS6AC, Box 541, Hong Kong.
ST2TC, Box 25, Malakal, Sudan.
ZD8B, QTH in call book is okay.
VQ4BB, Box 20, Nanyuki, Kenya.

From Alan Golding of Picton, Ontario, these!

EA3RT, Rep Argentina, 45, Barcelona, Spain.
G2CGR, 75 Bywell Road, Dewsbury, Yorkshire.
G3BNC, 22 Rochester Rd., Portsmouth Hants.
HC1KW, % L.A.G.S., U.S. Embassy, Quito in Ecuador
VP7NK, P.O. Box 128, Nassau, Bahamas.
KP4QZ, ex W4QZ, Box 336, San Turce, Puerto Rico.
MD2AC, 195 A.A.C.S., A.P.O. 231, P.M. New York
MI3GH, A.P.O. 843, % P.M. New York, N.Y.

And how about the rest of you VE DX men ? Let's have your reports as soon after reading this issue, as you can get them into the mail. They will then appear in the February Skywire.

DX PREDICTIONS

Prepared by C.B. McKee, Engineering Division, CBC International Service.

On these pages are shown frequency predictions for amateur communications on various circuits to almost any part of the world, from most major cities here in Canada. Choose the city nearest you for your own DX use.

Figures shown indicate maximum useable frequency via F layer and thus do not consider effect of Sporadic E which may enable unexpected and unpredicted distances to be covered on frequencies higher than those shown on the chart. The figures shown under the local times read direct in megacycles, indicating the amateur band which may be used.

PREDICTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 1950 !

SACKVILLE TO	AST	01	03	05	07	09	11	13	15	17	19	21	23 hrs.
Europe		7	7	7	14	14	28	28	28	14	7	7	7
Africa		14	-	-	28	28	28	28	28	28	14	14	14 Mcs-
Caribbean		7	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	28	14	14	7
S. America		7	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	28	14	14	7
Australia		14	7	7	7	14	14	-	-	28	28	-	14
U.S.A. West		14	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	28	28	14	14
U.S.A. Central		14	14	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	28	14	14
U.S.A. South		7	14	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	28	14	14
Vancouver		7	7	7	7	14	14	28	28	28	28	14	14
Watrous		7	7	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	28	14	14
Toronto		7	7	3	3	14	14	14	14	14	14	7	7
Montreal		3	3	3	3	7	14	14	14	14	7	7	7

MONTREAL TO	EST	00	02	04	06	08	10	12	14	16	18	20	22 hrs-
Europe		7	7	7	14	14	28	28	28	14	7	7	7
Africa		14	-	-	28	28	28	28	28	28	14	14	14
Caribbean		7	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	28	14	14	7
S. America		7	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	28	14	14	7
Australia		14	7	14	14	14	14	-	-	28	28	-	14
U.S.A. West		14	14	14	14	14	28	28	28	28	28	28	14
U.S.A. Central		7	7	7	7	14	14	28	28	28	14	14	14
U.S.A. South		7	7	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	28	14	14
Vancouver		7	7	7	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	14	14
Watrous		7	7	7	7	7	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Toronto		3	3	3	3	7	14	14	14	14	14	7	7
Sackville		3	3	3	3	7	14	14	14	14	7	7	7

(Continued on the next page)

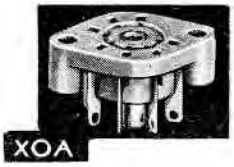
TORONTO TO EST	00	02	04	06	08	10	12	14	16	18	20	22 Hrs.
Europe	7	7	7	14	14	28	28	28	14	14	7	7 Mcs
Africa	14	--	--	14	14	28	28	28	28	28	14	14
Caribbean	7	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	28	14	14	7
S. America	7	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	28	14	14	7
Australia	14	7	14	7	7	14	--	--	28	28	--	14
U.S.A. West.	14	14	7	7	28	28	28	--	28	28	28	14
U.S.A. Central	7	7	7	7	7	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
U.S.A. South.	7	7	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	28	14	14
Vancouver	14	7	7	7	14	15	28	28	28	28	28	14
Watrous	7	7	7	7	7	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Montreal	3	3	3	3	7	14	14	14	14	14	7	7
Sackville	7	7	3	3	14	14	14	14	14	14	7	7

WATROUS TO MST	22	00	02	04	06	08	10	12	14	16	18	20 Hrs.
Europe	7	7	7	7	14	14	14	28	14	7	7	7Mcs.
Africa	7	--	--	7	14	14	28	28	28	14	14	7
Caribbean	14	14	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	28	14	14
S. America	7	14	14	7	14	28	28	28	28	28	28	14
Australia	14	7	14	14	7	14	14	14	--	28	28	14
U.S.A. West	14	7	7	7	7	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
U.S.A. Central	7	7	7	7	7	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
U.S.A. South	14	14	14	14	14	28	28	28	28	28	28	14
Vancouver	7	7	7	7	7	14	14	14	28	28	14	14
Toronto	7	7	7	7	7	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Montreal	7	7	7	7	7	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Sackville	7	7	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	28	14	14

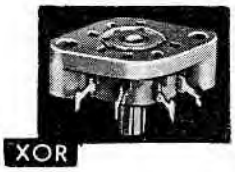
VANCOUVER TO PST	21	23	01	03	05	07	09	11	13	15	17	19 Hrs.
Europe	7	7	7	7	7	14	14	14	14	7	7	7 Mcs.
Africa	7	--	--	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	14	14
Caribbean	14	14	7	14	28	28	28	28	28	28	14	14
S. America	14	7	7	7	7	28	28	28	28	28	28	14
Australia	14	14	7	7	7	7	14	14	28	28	28	28
U.S.A. West.	7	7	7	3	3	7	14	14	14	14	14	14
U.S.A. Central	7	7	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	14	14	14
U.S.A. South	14	14	14	7	7	28	28	28	28	14	14	14
Watrous	7	7	7	7	7	14	14	14	28	28	14	14
Toronto	14	7	7	7	14	14	28	28	28	28	28	14
Montreal	7	7	7	7	7	14	28	28	28	28	14	14
Sackville	7	7	7	7	14	14	28	28	28	28	14	14

We would like to hear from the DX men as the accuracy of the above predictions each month, if you can take a few moments to drop a note into the mail. All such letters will be forwarded to Mr. McKee. Use the city nearest you in the above tables for DX.

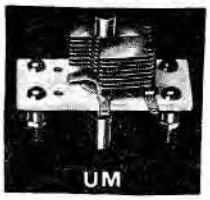
National



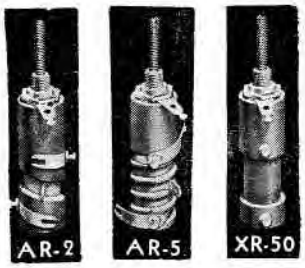
The XOA Socket is a socket for the Miniature Button 7 Pin base tubes. Low loss mica filled bakelite insulation. Mounts with two 4-40 screws. Socket contacts extend axially from base of socket.



The XOR Socket is the same as the XOA Socket except that the contacts extend radially from base of socket.



The UM condensers are low-loss, aluminum plate staked construction miniature variables designed for UHF converters, VFOs and the like — minimum capacity is exceptionally low. The UMs can be mounted in PB-10 or RO shield cans and have 1/4" dia. shafts front and rear for ganging (see pages 21, 23 and 24 for shield cans and couplings). Plates: straight-line-cap., 180° rotation. Dimensions: Base 1" x 2 1/4", mtg. holes on 5/8" x 1-23/32" centers, 2-5/16" max. length.



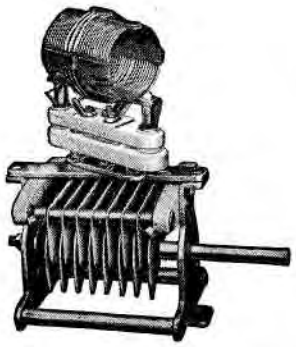
The AR-2 and AR-5 coils are high Q permeability tuned RF coils. The AR-2 coil tunes from 75 Mc. to 220 Mc. with capacities from 100 to 10 micro-micro-farads. The AR-5 coil tunes from 37 Mc. to 110 Mc. with capacities from 100 to 10 micro-micro-farads. The inductive windings supplied may be replaced by other windings as desired to modify the tuning range.

The XR-50 coil forms may be wound as desired to provide a permeability tuned coil. The form winding length is 1 1/16" and the form winding diameter is 1/2 inch. The iron slug is 3/8" dia. by 1/2" long.

EXCITER COILS AND FORMS — TYPE AR-16 (Air Spaced)

These air-spaced coils are suitable for use in stages where the plate input does not exceed 50 watts and are available in the sizes tabulated below. Capacities listed will resonate the coils at the low frequency end of the band and include all stray circuit capacities. All have separate link coupling coils and all fit the PB-16 Plug and XB-16 Socket.

The XR-16 Coil Form also fits the PB-16 Plug and XB-16 Socket. It has a winding diameter of 1 1/4" and a winding length of 1 3/4".



Band	End Link	Cap Mmf	Center Link	Cap Mmf	Swinging Link	Cap Mmf
6 meter	AR16-6E	25	AR16-6C	25		
10 meter	AR16-10E	20	AR16-10C	20	AR16-10S	25
20 meter	AR16-20E	26	AR16-20C	26	AR16-20S	40
40 meter	AR16-40E	33	AR16-40C	33	AR16-40S	55
80 meter	AR16-80E	37	AR16-80C	37	AR16-80S	60
160 meter	AR16-160E	65	AR16-160C	65		

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COUNTRYWIDE

This monthly column will bring you the news of activities of many of the boys you know and in your operating, often work on the various bands both phone and CW. Club secretaries are in the know about activities usually, and are invited to submit reports monthly to keep the rest of the VE districts informed. Individual hams are also requested to send reports on their own, as well as about others, doings. Send these direct to Countrywide, Skywire Magazine, Longueuil.

From the Ontario section which has the largest numerical group of amateurs, our first report.

VE3JJ, the West Side Radio Club has its winter program under way. New club transmitter is out of the planning stage. Members are all looking forward to the annual Field Day Banquet, courtesy Eveready Battery Co. (Canadian National Carbon Company) which presents the Field Day Trophy. Can't understand why more clubs do not submit copies of FD logs for competition in this fine 'do'. Also under way is drive to get as many Class C and B hams as possible into A.

Around Trenton, AIL, DH and ASD are just getting back into shape after the SS. AIL and BSB are both on 40 with lo-power. DH is ready to move traffic for anyone to anywhere, he says. AYG is spending most operating time on AFARS nets now. BOQ who bought TV set and let radio of the ham variety, slide, will be back on 40 soon. BUT works 40 with one ear to the 2 meter receiver, hoping he'll hear something there. BLP is heading for 40 too. YP is ambitious and is building a special 20 meter receiver, with a 10 meter converter (see the back cover!!!) AMT is back putting the bite on some good DX. AJJ was recent visitor to Trenton and made the rounds of the 6 meter shacks. He was down installing two way FM for Hydro trucks and in their power stations.

In Northern Ontario, BGI has blossomed as an outstanding poet who parodied Twas the Night before Xmas with some dandy comments on the boys in his area. It appeared in the club publication - Break-In along with another interesting verse of just eight lines on Santa C. There follows, the poem, from Break-In, the Kirkland Lake Club sheet.

I'm writing this letter to tell you
Cost of living has taken away
All the things that I really have need of
My workshop, my reindeer, my sleigh.
I'm travelling now on a donkey
He's old, he's crippled, he's slow.
So you'll know if I miss you this Christmas
That I'm out on my --- in the snow.

VE3AHP of Owen Sound has contacted a number of clubs with the following message.

' Just a card to ask if you and any of the boys would care to share in a fund to help VE3IY, who as you may know is in dire need. He's in very poor health, terribly crippled with arthritis and has plenty of Doctors bills. We are asking one buck from each ham, which can be sent to 3AHP. What say, gang?

From around Niagara Falls - 3DE is finding the Stamford Police on his favorite freqs.. AUQ is handling outgoing cards to the QSL Manager, 3QB for a very slight fee per card. This will take care of the matter at less expense for you, than any other way. 3BNW at last got the okay from his xyl to move his rig back into the house. 3BTO is in double harness now with a new xyl. Chuck Knapp, new call, signs 3ACY, and Fred Hrenchuck is BXZ. AUQ says if you're looking for good DXlook at 40 meters after eleven at night. There are numbers of Falls ham down on ten from a look at the list active there - AAQ, AFI, ASH, BKL, BKO, BSA, BTI, BYL, KP, BRQ, DEE, DCE, DBF and AY.

Kingston reports a lot of activity on the 40 meter net in this area. ATL, CAV, CAQ, CBA ASM and BDA got on to start it. CAZ was net control until rig went foof. BBY now is RCC after working LDG of Moncton. CAQ is recovering from an illness. BFK, the hi-power man with one and a half sweet watts, tried for the traffic net workout. CAV is working on DX and has now hit VE7! ASM is working on a new exciter, getting bugs out. CAQ and BDA can now be found on ten meters regularly.

The Western reports are next, and one of the clubs is missing this month, so we'll hope a letter will be in the mail for February. How about it, Dot?

The Saskatoon gang have been keeping all the bands hot during the recent cold snap. Every one seems to be getting a share of contacts, but nothing startling in the way of DX. 5EE is looking for two meter contacts. The December meeting of the S.A.R.C. was well attended when 5MQ gave a highly instructive address on the propagation of radio signals. The gang turned out in full force for Januarys' meeting, in spite of the fact that on our thermometer, the mercury had dropped to forty below. Don Leitch, VE4JL of Winnipeg, gave an interesting address on portable equipment and how it can be applied in emergencies. It was decided to hold the Saskatchewan Hamfest in Saskatoon on July 1st and 2nd, so mark your calendars boys, and keep the dates in mind. Details will be published at a later date. On January 6th, the OM's left their rigs long enough to entertain their yl's and xyl's with a turkey dinner and social evening. The entertainment committee consisting of 5MQ, 5GR and 5FY as Chairman and Assistants in the order given, are to be congratulated. There was never a dull moment and everyone had a swell time. Many good prizes went to lucky winners, and 5OB acted as emcee for the evening. We are sorry to learn that 5RJ is on the sick list and likely to be QRT for several weeks. 5AN broke his wrist trying to crank up the old Chev. 5JB reports another daughter for three of a kind now. See you on the air, gang.

VE5YF, Madolyn Sinclair.

There's life on the West Coast too, with an interesting report from the Delta Radio Club of Vancouver. 7LZ, who is x3WW is finding a series cathode modulator for 812's works FB. LZ works 10 and 20 with a Vee ant. 7KC hoped to be back on in time for BERU contest, and rebuilt power supply for greater efforts. OK is back on after long layoff, and is getting bigger and better 14 mc DX with 813. EO returns to air after moving to Lulu Island. George is back from Montreal where he visited 2BV. Don Murphy x5EU who is active on 14 mc. these days. Geo. also skeds G3FFO. Bill Decaon who used to be VE5KQ. EY using 807 singly on 14 mcs with good results when the high-powered boys lay off. Now has new home built 12 tube super working beautifully. AEL finds TV is more intriguing than QSO's these days. How ab't getting back on, J? AJI finds TV more to liking too but is planning ham comeback in early part of the New Year. AX is still working on that FB super he built, souping it up. SK is a traitor, or rumor he's building BCL set is untrue! AJW, works 80 and 40 when the spirit moves him. KM finds home constructed selecto-jet results are effective with his RA-1B. 7EY is busy getting a news letter out monthly as Sec'y of Club. Any time to operate, J.P.??

Monty Montgomery, VE2KG has turned in a lot of news about the Montreal area boys. 2ABJ has an idea that works - a miniature radio controlled car. LP worked out same idea as a small bus. ZF handling tfc with VE8's. SA and Mg putting up a 26' mast for a 75 meter Skywire, smack on top of MGs' roof. Knocking off for coffee, they got bad jolt when the works came down with a crash, because kids used the antenna wire for a tug of war. AAV building new rig for 20. Lost his ant. in wind on Jan. 11. KG lost his beam on the 14. QV back on 10 after 8 months on 75. EX is selling his big rig with 813 final, but already is planning something more. NJ, recently under the surgeons knife, is now much better. KE had a nice new 10 meter beam on back porch. We said - had. LP lost decision when another car knocked his trunk in and ruined his mobile rig. RP, to make sure he gets out, calls CQ in Spanish, English and French! AKC has antenna gremlins. His signal goes up and down like crazy. AGF has now finished redecorating his quarters, formerly occupied by by CY and FW. Latter is now G2AFW, on 10 20 40 CW from England. LV made a resolution to get up code again. XP and his xyl were recently received by Viscount and Lady Alexander. For the 4th consecutive year, a 10m New Years roundup found 35 stations in a round table that brought 1950 in, in style.. Listening in were ZG in Grand'Mere, BN, Pop, Canadas oldest ham, and W1MMV and 2CFY in the U.S. A special QSL to commemorate the QSO has been designed by 2QS and will be made photographically by MG. The card is to show a roundtable, with a baby holding a mike and around the table will be calls of all the participants. Incidentally, what stories are to betold about wind damge ? Let's have them, and we'll print the best ones. See you at the meeting on Monday, January 30th, at 8.00

Monty - VE2KG

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Saskatoon boasts two amateur radio clubs. The *Campus Club* at the U. of S. holds its' meetings at the University twice monthly with daily technical classes and CW practice. President is Mervin Falk, 5MV with Jack Gannon Sec'y-Treas. The *Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club* holds its' meetings on the second Friday of each month at HMCS Unicorn. Prexy - Mort Kendall, 5DR. Carl O'Brien, 5OB, S.T.

The Montreal Amateur Radio Club will hold its' next meeting Monday, January 30th at 8 p.m. in the Breadner Room of the Canadian Legion Building on Mountain St. Radio Hobby Show will be held with good prizes for best and most useful entries. A Swap Session is also slated. Bring any radio gear worth one buck or more and get a ticket for items you bring. Ticket entitles you to select some other hams contribution to the table. Door prizes as usual. Visitors welcome. The February meet will be the 27th and a new Board of Directors for the club will be elected that night.

Fort Frances, Ontario is getting on the map in amateur radio, due to the efforts of VE3ACH, J.G. McLaren who has undertaken teaching a class of 30 hams at night classes in the High School there. The Ontario Department of Education has given approval and the first class was held on Tuesday, January 10th. The course is held every Tuesday from 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. Skywire salutes VE3ACH. We hope you'll keep us posted as to progress, J.G.

The Niagara Peninsula Radio Club had an unusual shin-dig on December 8th. The gang got together for an evening of entertainment and dancing, replete with a floor show and refreshments. VE3AUQ is the man responsible for getting out the club news-sheet.

The Kingston Amateur Radio Club also wound up the year with a real party. It was held as an Xmas party on Friday, December 30th. The novel twist the Kingston boys had was holding the party continuously throughout the evening, as a social gathering in the homes of club members operating a phone station. Stations were netted so the gang could get together and exchange greetings. Transportation was available for those needing it - xyls and yl's were welcomed and refreshments were served. The Kingston boys are right on their toes, and publish an interesting and newsy booklet.

The Collingwood Amateur Radio Club, at Vancouver, meets at eight oclock on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 5755 McKinnon Street. W.J. Summerby, VE7ABP is Club Secretary. How's the news out on your side of the world.?????? We'd like to have some further accounts of the club activities, if you'll put us on the mailing list.

The West Side Radio Club, Toronto meets on the second Friday of each month, with all general meetings open to visitors. Special meetings are held between the general meetings, which are thus open to members only. The Club Headquarters, near Roncesvalles and Fern Streets is a little hard to find, so if you're in town, or going to be, contact VE3AZX at LLoydbrook 0485.

The Delta Radio Club of Vancouver sent along a newsy letter about member activities which will be found under the heading of Countrywide in this issue, but did not include the dates of meetings. Hams who are visiting Vancouver should contact VE7EY, J.P. Lumb for further information.

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club has a new slate of officers for 1950, with Bret Fader, VE1FQ as President, Ray Helpard, 1LK as Veepee, H. Wyman, 1HC, the Money Man and Doug Johnson, 1LK, Sec'y. Membership of the club is now over the 50 mark and they're pushing it up. Binks Fisher, their Bulletin Editor is retiring, to be replaced by VE1OM for the coming year. Let's have the news from the East, for the club section of Skywire, Doug!

Continued on page 21

(Club Activities - continued)

The Moose Jaw Amateur Radio Club hold their meetings on the second Thursday of every month. Place is the Canadian Legion Hall, and a welcome mat is out for visitors who are in the city on this day. Prexy 5OM, VP 5AV, Sec'y-Treasurer, 5JJ or Activities Manager 5WM are the boys to contact for any further information.

Late flash from the Kingston A.R.C. about meeting place and date. On the first and third Wednesday of every month, at H.M.C.S. Cataraqui !!

The Loyalist City Amateur Radio Club of St. John, N.B. is moving ahead rapidly with its club publication. Thanks, Murray for the copies. Does the club meet in the YMCA on a regular nite each month, and will you drop us a line in advance, so out of towners can attend ?

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, holders of the call VE3CCE have a new Exec. President is Doc Vermander, 3BOC with Ernie Tierney, 3AOX the V.P. Marc Vermander, 3AWW is Sec'y and Harry 3BEB, Hayes is Treasurer, Sid Sheard, 3BCL is Technical Adviser. How about some technical articles from the Capitol City, Sid ? And club meeting dates, too, Marc ??

The Trenton Club, publishers of the Quinte QTM, reported that they presented a brand new receiver as a door prize, to Ed Dafoe of Trenton. In the report to the local paper, facts got lost someplace, and it now comes to light that this fine receiver, incorporating all the latest features is of the white porcelain finish variety and works best when operated on WC. We wonder about those recent features it had - no receiver is complete without a Noise Silencer!

The Radio Club of Quebec is to be congratulated on the further improvement in the new club publication - C.A.R. Printed entirely in French, it may be of interest to a large number of hams in the Prairie Region and perhaps in South-West Ontario. VE2NK is the Editor. Write him!

The Kirkland Lake Amateur Radio League book - Break In arrived, indicating Alex Snider, 3PA as President. Alex is the man mentioned in Traffic Lights last month for handling some good emergency traffic for the Arctic. As all members are notified of meetings by phone, the date of this event has not been included in the publication. If the Sec'y will send this along, it will be included in this Column for the benefit of those who may be travelling through.

Any Canadian Club -- is cordially invited to send along data on club meetings and activities for inclusion - *without any charge* - in these pages. Today, more than ever before, many hams are travelling throughout the country, and publicizing your meetings dates and locations may mean the difference to some of these boys, between spending a slow night in a hotel, and being among friends at an amateur club meeting. When possible, include the phone numbers of a representative cross section of your Executive, in order that travellers may contact them at home between meeting dates. *At your next Executive meeting* - arrange for the Secretary to put Skywire on the regular monthly mailing list. Keep us informed and we'll spread the info. to all call areas in Canada. Good publicity can make your club better and more appreciated.

While on the subject of club activities - a reminder that Skywire is constantly in need of good technical material for which payment is made on publication. There are scores of good articles lying unwritten in shacks in every Province, because of the fear they might not be accepted, or because the time for writing them has not yet been found. If the Executives of the clubs will contact the men known among their club members as the technical whizzes who do the best work, and suggest on a personal level that this or that piece of equipment be given the treatment in writing, it can bring your club further good publicity. Which part of Canada has the best ham group - and the most precise workers ?? We don't know at the minute, but we want to in the immediate future. Go to work on it, and prove your point !!!!!

OPEN LETTER

from

J. Miles Whitteker, VE3MB!!

Radio VE2TH,
Mr. Fenwick Job,
Editor Skywire,
Longueuil, Que.

Dear OM:

I have received the occasional copy of your Skywire which has been appreciated. I am writing to call to your attention a condition which exists on the 75 meter band and which with a bit of courtesy and thoughfullness on the part of some operators, could be avoided. I refer to the matter of QRM.

To mention one instance:- a few evenings ago, VE1IE, VE1YV, VE2XO and my station, were trying to work G3DDK on the 75 meter band. We were all on the same frequency and the frequency was busy all the time. Anyone listening on this frequency could tell that it was occupied. A number of times during our efforts, a VE2 station, speaking in French, came on zero beat with this frequency and promptly covered up the other stations with an S-9 plus signal. VE2XO broke in a couple of times to ask that the frequency be left open for this effort to work England but it was of no avail. I eventually got fed up and pulled the switch.

In this day of the VFO and its almost universal use, it is difficult to understand why any station will deliberately open up on an occupied frequency. Every night I see the same thing on this band. Many a night the band is so full that I stay off the air, for lack of space on which to park. There are many VE1, VE2 and VE3 stations who are just as thoughtless and will and do pop onto an occupied frequency and mush things up. Amateur Radio operators seem to be a thoughtless bunch, and a lot of them are lacking in courtesy. It would seem to be much the same as going into a restaurant, and finding all the tables occupied, to promptly sit down on someones' lap and proceed to eat, regardless of the rights of the other fellow. As the British would say - It just isn't cricket!

I know that there are many more hams in Canada than we have room for on this band of frequencies, but it would seem that just a little more courtesy shown by everybody would obviate much of the QRM we have on the bands. The AFARS phone net on 3815 is often spoiled by fellows camping on the same frequency and testing, or calling CQ. I know I have a right to use this band at any time, and on any frequency I desire within the prescribed limits of the band - and every other ham has the same right. But is it courtesy to always stand upon your rights and disregard the other fellow ? It should be a matter of give and take. I have been a ham since 1932 and we have always had QRM - and always will - but, if our rigs are operated with courtesy and intelligence, much of the QRM could be avoided. Take a listen on the bands, fellows, before throwing that switch and see if there is room for you. If there isn't, just keep silent as I have done many nights, and give the other fellow his fun. Your turn will come.

Thank you, Mr. Editor,

VE3MB -- Whit (signed)

LADIES PRESENT

This column is most particularly for the distaff side of the ham household, but it's quite possible the OM will find in it something which will interest him too. The news this month is about electronics in the home, and what may be a part of our living before long.

If all the predictions of the electrical engineers comes true, you're going to have to think up new ways of keeping busy around the house. There will be no worry about vegetables boiling dry, or anything else cooking too long. Experts have even gone so far as to predict your electric range will have temperature controls on the surface units, and the heat on the top of the stove will be adjusted to the food being cooked. If the water boils away, the temperature will automatically drop to a point where the food won't burn.

The electrical marvels come from the Westinghouse engineers who predict that electronics will influence almost everyones life throughout the entire world. A tough steak would be impossible, they say, because it will be electronically tenderized before it is sold. And one of these days you may have a combination washing machine and dryer that will soak wash, rinse and dry your clothes all in one operation. And you may even be doing socks in a supersonic washer.

Housewives may shop for fresh and for pre-cooked foods a few times a year and no more. Foods will be stored in special refrigerators and freezers with compartments for all kinds of food, so each will have its required temperature and proper conditions of humidity.

Perhaps you house will be illuminated by bottled sunlight which will come from phosphor powders mixed into building materials or into paint and wallpaper. This mixture would, at night, emit the light energy absorbed duting the day. You may have indoor climate control for your house since the house will be built with special electrical equipment to provide the power needed for this and other devices.

There is only one thing which seemingly is still stumping the electrical wizards and that is a simple substitute for the present day ironing techniques. The new electrical ironers have heloed but they want something that irons a shirt automatically. They're dreaming of something like a sensitive, self-adjusting form over which a shirt could be drawn easily and steamed and finished at the same time. And just to show you that these visionaries are producing results, here are the three latest designs which are appearing in the market now.

There is an automatic dishwasher that washes off food waste, suds the dishes, rinses them and finally dries them too. There is an electric range, built like a kneehold desk, so that you'll have the room needed for the knee when seated on a stool. The third item is a refrigerator with a completely automatic defrosting system. The researchers figured out that the average household refrigerator is opened 60 times a day so this frig keeps track and on the 60th opening, the defrosting mechanism starts to work, even to eliminating any need for further attention from you, because it disposes of the defrosting water by itself.

The electric motors for home equipment and appliances will be burn-out proof. In fact, it looks as if tomorrow's man around the house is going to be stuck if he gets the urge to take something apart as all the electrical gadgets will be foolproof. Or is that a poor choice of words?? Hubby will have a specially made vacuum cleaner of the old style that he can take apart and put back together to his hearts content.

Talking of stoves, as we were a moment ago, this year will see a much wider application of di electric cook stoves, the latest gimmick, which cook a roast by short wave in a matter of minutes. Most of these are earmarked for large hotels and restaurants at the moment. For home use, research men are not entirely satisfied with di electric stoves. They say there can be an improvement in the substitution of this stove for the one you use now, but they'd like to eliminate a stove in the house entirely. Eventually they think they may, by working out new food processing and packaging methods. When that happens, no wife can complain that she spends her time over a hot, hot stove, or any other kind of stove. These researchers haven't figured out what is going to take its' place for turning out that early morning pot of Java, because there will always be a need for some way of heating the pot. However they do feel that the stove itself will gradually go into ob so le scense.

Perhaps you'd like to do some travelling to your shopping district on street-cars and busses such as ply the streets of Washington, DC. Music and advertising on radio-equipped transportation units is a fact there, and after weeks of stormy controversy between transit officials, and legal representatives of some of the people who ride the busses and street-cars and don't like the idea, the Public Utilities Commission ruled that radio reception was not an obstacle to safety of operation, and in fact through the creation of much better will among the passengers, it tends to improve the condition under which the public rides.

Capital Transit Company officials have since announced that in addition to the two hundred and twelve music equipped vehicles now in operations, radio sets will be installed as soon as possible in some 1,300 other public conveyances.

Officials have estimated revenues which will result from commercials inserted in the broadcasts at one hundred thousand dollars a year at least. But it was these commercial injections which drew the ire of those who were opposed to the radio programming. Two of the opposition legal eagles have denounced the innovation in scathing terms declaring that since the riders have no choice in their programs they are a captive audience. This, they said, violated the riders' constitutional rights.

Boos and catcalls from the opponents had collided with the applause from other citizens who like to break the monotony of a ride, by relaxing and listening. Floods of letters deluged newspapers, for and against the programming, but apparently the decision was based on something more than impassioned pleas reflecting personal feelings. And Washingtonians now have music while they ride.

Here's something else to interest housewives! Recently, Crosley introduced a new small white table radio for kitchen use. It was fitted with suction cups so it was possible to fit it securely to the kitchen refrigerator. The dealers sold out at once when families discovered that this set also made a sturdy, attractive radio for the kiddies room. The suction cups made its position there a lot safer.

And something new for the men is to be seen on some of the American trains today.

Drop a quarter in a slot and you get in return a six minute electric shave, with a refreshing shaving lotion sprayed from a dispenser, along with a sterilizing germicidal lamp to make sure the razor is very personally yours during those 6 minutes. It's a new device which is soon to be installed across the country in trains, hotels, restaurants, bus and airport terminals and even gas station rest rooms. It was first discovered by U.S. soldiers in Europe and was brought over by them to this continent for use.

Now that canned salmon is back on your grocers shelves, let's talk about one of the peculiarities of this tasty fish. It seems that salmon probably have a very sharp sense of smell. This theory was advanced because it is believed that migrating salmon smell their way back from the sea.

Salmon minnows were trained at the University of Wisconsin. These tiny fish learned to discriminate between waters from different lakes by the difference in smell. The experiments were done by a couple of professors who used only blind minnows. They were trained by receiving food when they swam in water from one of the lakes, but by getting a mild electric shock if they chose water from another lake. Before long they would swim only in the water in which they got food, and they would stay in that water, no matter what happened to them there. And it may be that these experiments have given the answer to that ageless question of how a salmon can find its way back up the same river and the same creek in which it was first hatched.

A scientist, Dr. F.G. Smith has been picking up four meter radio waves from the stars, he says and probably they're stars so dim that they can't be seen. Dr. Smith has been picking up the celestial radio waves with a special antenna. He has discovered two major sources for the signals, and twenty three smaller ones. He says the radio stars are about the same size as ordinary stars which can be seen in the heavens at night. This he gathers from a study of the signals he has received. Just how he calculated the size of any star from such data is very complicated and beyond the laymans understanding.

However, Smith goes beyond the mere measurements of these stars, and has developed a theory. He says these radio stars have such immense stores of energy that they may prove to be a source of cosmic rays. Most people in the scientific know have believed that cosmic rays originate at the sun, and this conflicting theory is quite interesting.

The cops were confused. State Policemen in Maine started getting radio messages to investigate situations and arrest men in New Mexico. New Mexico State Police transmissions, because of freak conditions were loud and strong in Maine. At the end of a trying day, the desk officer said - The cowboys have really been riding herd on us today.

Competition is the spice of life, and the right Reverend Monsignor William McGrath of Duqoin, Illinois is always a man to meet it. Right in the middle of his sermon over a public address unit the priest paused for a moment. The next voice heard by the congregation was the desk sergeant at the nearby police station, issuing a stolen car bulletin. The challenge of the air-waves was met by McGrath as he said - Seems I've got some competition but I'll try and beat him and with a few police punctuations now and then, he did so. And if memory serves, 2QS had very similar trouble on ten meters not too long ago. Perhaps across the Dominion there have been hams embarassed by similar circumstances ??

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Bert Altherr, VE2GM

The holiday season traffic load was something terrific, to say the least. Tuning around, on 3.5 megacycles, there seemed to be nets, other stations and the like, busily moving traffic, at every five kilocycles on the band. There was no let up until the small hours of these mornings. About a week before Christmas, conditions were so good on 80 that DX stations of excellent signal strength were coming through right across the band. The tremendous increase in QRM from the DX hounds made it all the more difficult for the traffic men. But QRM or not the traffic went through just the same. Those traffic men who had a few minutes between the skeds joined the picnic and worked some nicer pieces of 80 meter DX.

From down East, we got word that the Maritime Net, operating Fone on 3790 kcs, is in full swing again. As many as 23 stations have reported in on a signel night, and as many as 4 channels were used simultaneously to fan the traffic. Sounds like a very active net. Let's hear more about these activities in the near future.

There is no sign of activity from an 80 C.W. net in the Maritimes at this writing. This is a badly felt void in Quebec as the VE2's are continually asked by VE3's and the U.S. nets to QSP traffic to VE1-land. It becomes a major problem when there is not a net at the destination. Traffic from Quebec and the Ontario area for the Maritimes, may be relayed to the 13th Regional Net (TRN) on 3675 kcs, at 7.45 p.m. and 9.15 p.m. EST. From the U.S.A., the Maritimes traffic comes through the Eastern Area Net (or EAN) on 3705 kcs at 8.30 p.m. & is brought to TRN at 9.15 p.m. by the TRN relay stations. As soon as a Maritime CW net is activated, it should send a representative to TRN to give and receive traffic. TRN is an integral part of the new A.R.R.L. traffic System.

We received a message from Reub, VE3ATR, who is Manager of QON on 7267 kcs. He says that they have regular outlets for Kincadine, Burlington, Toronto, Timmins, North Bay, Ft. Wm. Iroquois Falls, Sudbury, Stevens, Goderich - and to Hamilton and Lachine, P.Q. Since receiving this information, we have learned that Doc, VE1VJ, is also a regular on the QON. Doc lately has been QNI the 10 p.m. sked of 01*, a Quebec CW net on 3570 kcs.

A very nice letter from Ralph, VE3BBM, who is a regular member of QON gives lots of dope about this and that, as well as the latest NCS skeds for QON. Here they are. Monday, 3BVR, Tuesday, 3BBM, Wednesday, 3WK, Thursday, 3IA, Friday is BBM. Saturday is either open or handled by 3ATR and Sundays 3AZZ is in the drivers seat. If you have any traffic for the destinations listed in this column, report your traffic to QON on 7267 kcs any day of the week. Incidentally, QON must be one of the very few nets active for the entire seven days of the week.

Ralph, VE3BBM also comments on the incorrectly used Q signal - QRX, on nets and by others. No longer does this mean - wait - because it was recently changed. Now it means - When will you call me again, when sent by the receiving ham, and I will call you again, at such and such a time, when used by yourself in traffic. Ralph also points out that QSZ is getting him down. Traffic men should NOT QSZ unless requested to do so by the receiving station. It seems quite likely that many stations just QSZ through habit when sending a message, and this slows the handling of messages very considerably when an operator is having no trouble receiving.

In a Post Script to his letter, BBM asks - Hey, what about a Canadian BPL with lower requirements ???? Well, what about it fellows. Let's get your opinion on this as soon as possible.

Two nice letters were also received from a pair of real Old Timers. One of these was from 3HK, Fred, and the other from Bill, 3IL. Both letter writers have given the dope on the Phone Nets, in Ontario. Quoting from Freds letter (3HK) -- At present there are three organized channels for traffic. Two are Nets, and one is a club. The Ontario Phone Net operates on 3815 kcs and starts at 7.00 p.m. EST, Monday through Thursday.

He says further - The Air Force Net operates

on 3815 kcs. Monday through Thursday too. It starts at 8.30 p.m. EST. The Ontario Phone Net concludes business at 8.30 p.m. at which time the Controller (NCS) of the Ontario Fone Net makes way for the Controller of the Air Force Net. The Ontario Phone Club commences at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday mornings on the same frequency. This club is primarily intended to give an opportunity to the 75 meter fraternity to promote friendship, and to extend this friendship to hams in need, both abroad and here.

Over and above all this activity on these 3 nets, Fred is on the air himself EVERY day at 9.45 a.m. and 5.15 p.m. EST on 3815 kcs just in case there is any emergency or norm traffic to be handled.

Bill, 3IL, gave us similar dope about these phone nets. He is also a regular, and an OT who started his hamming back in 1920. Here is wishing you many more happy years of hamming Bill.

The Mauricie Net is active on 146.8 mcs and to date there are eleven stations all crystal controlled on this frequency. They are-- VE2's AT ZG ABI EC ABB - all in Grand Mere, ABJ KJ AIM at Shawinigan Falls, OD and VE at Three Rivers and AFU at St. Etiennes-desGres. In addition to this, ZG and VE have mobiles in their cars. This net is available for an emergency, or traffic as all receivers and transmitters are xtal controlled on the operating channel. All use three element, horizontally polarized beams, according to ZG in the C.A.R. Bulletin, Quebec City Club.

In Quebec City, an emergency drill took place on December 26th with the objective of handling traffic re the flooding of Champlain Basin on the North Side of the city. The drill lasted 2½ hours and was a great success due to the teamwork of all concerned. Some 15 members took part either as operators, or with their own equipment. All types of gear was used.... low power fixed, portable and portable-mobile installed in cars. The R.C.C.S. supplied a truck and two stations were specifically for Red Cross Services. Congratulations to the leader of this emergency net - VE2QN who is the ARRL EC for Quebec City.

And talking about emergency work, here's an item worth mentioning, because its traffic.

A young Canadian pilot on Deception Island, in the South Antarctic swapped New Years greetings with his Ottawa Dad not long ago. On January 2nd, A.R. St. Louis spoke with his son for more than and hour, through a rig operated by Commander J.M. Doull, a ham operator whose call we haven't been able to determine. Doull, who operates CW worked the son on a phone CW contact since the Deception Island rig was a phone job. In case you're wondering, Deception is a little more than two thousand miles from the South Pole, and nearly eight thousand away from Ottawa.

The son Peter was able to chat without interference for the entire period, and in fact USA hams stood by all during the contact to make a sure thing of the QSO in case of fade, offering a relay of messages if needed. Needless to say Mr. St. Louis Sr., from now on is going to be an ardent booster of ham radio.

The Kingston ham club has organized a new CW net on 7180 kcs, and 3CAZ is NCS. The net was given its first test late in November at 8.00 peeyem and is slated to function on the Wednesday evenings on which there are no club meeting interruptions. The net has invited participation by all the active Kingston boys who can get on the frequency, and has also suggested that outside stations looking for Kingston contacts will now be able to make them.

The Northern Ontario gang have proposed a network of phone stations from Timmins, Iriquois Falls, Twin Falls, Sudbury, North Bay, Kirkland Lake and Abitibi, to operate on 75 meters and keep traffic moving from those districts. As of this writing, the scheduled times and channels of operation are not known, and we would like in the near future to hear from this group, and publish details of when and where the net is.

Most of the news this month has been about the traffic and emergency activity in the Eastern part of Canada, not because the column is restricted to any one part of the country, but, at deadline, there has been no arrival of news from the Western Sections. We'd like to hear about ALL the nets in Canada, in every province in order to bring out into the light the fine traffic job being done in this country by VE's. We want your ideas on net operation too, so get your news in the mail to Skywire, Longueuil, PQ.

HOW'S UR OBS IQ?

A R R L OBS.

The following official bulletins are reprinted for your convenience. Keep right up to date by listening for the OBSin your own neighborhood.

Official Bulletin Nr 220 Dec. 12, 1949
The Third ARRL VHF Sweepstakes will be held January 18 and 19. Similar to the annual November ARRL Sweepstakes, this contest will be open only to stations operating on the 59, 144, 220 Mc, and higher bands. All amateurs in the Leagues field organization are invited to take part and a special certificate award will be given to the leading entrant in each ARRL section. Rules in full will appear in January QST. Convenient forms for reporting VHF SS contacts will be furnished upon receipt of a mail or radiogram request.

Official Bulletin Nr 221 Dec. 19, 1949
You are invited to participate in an ARRL frequency measuring test on February 6 and 7. Signals for measurement will be transmitted from W1AW at 9:30 PM EST February 6 on approximately 3509, 7267 and 14179 kc, and at 12:30 AM EST February 7 on approximately 3589, 7056 and 14101 kc. All participants will receive reports comparing the accuracy of their measurements with those of a professional frequency measuring laboratory. The most accurate measurements will be reported in QST. This early announcement is made to allow ample time for checking and calibrating equipment. Full details concerning the Frequency Measuring test will appear in Jan QST

Official Bulletin Nr 222, Dec. 27, 1949
ARRL invites your attention to the Voice of Americas weekly 15 minute program devoted entirely to amateur radio. Prepared with the cooperation of ARRL and broadcast twice each Sunday, the program is beamed first to the Latin Americas -- and the Far East at 8:45 AM EST from various points in United States on 6060, 6185 9515, 9570, 0750 and 11730 kc. A rebroadcast is beamed to Europe at 2:15 PM EST on 9690, 11790, 15250, 15270, 17780, 21500 and 21650 kc. Each program is relayed either in the Far East or in Europe on various frequencies for additional coverage.

Official Bulletin Nr 223, Dec. 27, 1949.
The dates of the third ARRL VHF Sweepstakes were stated incorrectly in Official Bulletin Nr 220. The contest will be held Saturday and Sunday, January 21 and 22. See Jan. QST for complete rules.

The R.S.G.B. invites participation in its first 1950 top band contest to be held from 2100 hours G.C.T. Feb. 4 until 0800 hrs GCT on Feb. 5. The contest is open to all amateur stations operating in the 1.8 megacycle band. R.S.G.B. estimates that there will be more than one hundred G stations on the air during the contest period, many of which will attempt transAtlantic contacts if propagation conditions prove favorable. A second top band contest will be scheduled November 18 and 19 during hours to be announced later.

Official Bulletin Nr 225, Jan. 10, 1950
The National Bureau of Standards announces changes in transmission made over WWV. Audio frequencies of 440 and 600 cycles are now transmitted in alternate five minute periods. Time announcements at five minute intervals are now given

(Continued on page 29)

HAMADS

Skywire Hamads must pertain to amateur radio. Rates are 20¢ per word, per insertion, for commercial advertisements for profit and 4¢ per word, for non-commercial, non-profit advertisements by experimenters or licensed radio amateurs. Full remittance must accompany copy. Print plainly, count address in total words. Do NOT send personal checks unless exchange is included. Send advertisements to Skywire Magazine, Longueuil, Quebec.

For sale - Bendix Radio Compass Receiver, 12 tubes; 325 to 695 kcs, and 3400 to 7000 kcs. New, never used - $20.00. 2 - 456 kc Iron Core IF's - $2.00. 0-1 MA 3½ in. round meter to swap for 0-300 or 0-500 MA. VE3AQZ, Port Dover, Ontario.

For sale: HRO receiver, glass tubes, noise limiter built-in, speaker, band-spread coils, power supply, A1 shape, used very little - $175.00, FOB Brandon. All enquiries answered. M. Wood, VE4MW, 534 Louise Avenue, Brandon, Manitoba.

For sale - PV-500 transmitter, less tubes but with complete power supply. Price - $150.00. Apply to P.E. Paul, VE2QT, 5289 - 4th Avenue, Rosemount, P.Q. . Phone FAlkirk 9922.

Converted Bendix Receiver, type RA-1B, frequency 150 kc to 15 mcs less 1.5 - 1.8 mcs, in 6 bands, speaker and cabinet - $85.00. Transmitter, 9 x 7 x 5, 5Y3, 6C4, 6AQ5, plate and antenna meters, key, 40M xtal and coil - $23.00. Write W.J. Ford, VE1RT, 562 Brunswick St., Fredericton, New Brunswick.

The landlord says no more fooling - the beam has to come down. It's a four element dual 10 and 20 (four elements on each band), inductively fed, complete with tower, prop motor, the selsyns and cables, plus relays and transformer. Elements specially made by Alcoa. And I haven't time to use it now. It will be sold at a ridiculously low price to the man who is able to take delivery chez VE2TH, Longueuil, Quebec. Proven gale-proof - come and see it.

(Continued from page 28) *OBS* 225.

in *GCT* by telegraphic code and in *EST* by voice. *WWVH*, recently established in Hawaii by the Bureau, broadcasts on an experimental basis on 5, 19, and 15 Mc. The program of broadcasts on the three frequencies is essentially the same as that of *WWV*, except that there are no time announcements by voice. Further information on the technical broadcast services may be obtained on request from National Bureau Standards, Washington, DC.

Official Bulletin Nr 226, Jan. 17, 1950

You are cordially invited to take part in the Sixteenth *ARRL* International DX Competition. Contest periods for *CW* are February 10 to 12 and March 10 to 12. Phone competition is scheduled for February 17 to 19 and March 17 to 19. Details and rules may be found on page 17 of January *QST*. Attention is invited to the fact that since Newfoundland and Labrador are now part of Canada, VO stations are in the same category as W and *VE* and must contact only stations located outside the United States and Canada. Though not required for entry in the contest, convenient report forms for the *CW*, phone, or both sections of the competition will be supplied by *ARRL* upon receipt of a radio or postal request.

If you don't know the scheduled time and frequency of the nearest *OBS* to you, the information may be obtained from your *SCM*. Keep up to date on ham activities. Listen locally for Official Bulletins!!

TELEVISION

Television is still moving rapidly ahead, in the United States, and since their developments are likely to be our future in TV, if and when it comes to Canada, let's take a look at what is happening there.

For instance, television images such as appear on a receiving set are photographed and recorded for future reproduction, by new equipment recently shown at meetings of the National Association of Broad casters. The system is called a kinephoto unit - product of *RCA*. Basically it is an unusual projection-type of kinescope, or a picture producing device, with camera, amplifiers and so on. The kinescope and a camera are mounted on a double cabinet unit which also houses the power supplies. The equipment uses standard video signals fed to it from the TV studio. The kinescope or picture tube is a special job with a five inch flat face of the aluminized, projection type. The screen is a short persistence blue phosphor type with very high actinic value. The motion pictures, made by the companion camera can be either in sound or silent. The sound track and a picture on the same film at the one time, or the sound can be fed to a separate recorder for edit and re-recording.

If you *do* own a television set now, it is more than likely you have some of the few troubles mentioned lastmonth. Chances are that so many of your friends want to look at the new gadget that you can't get near the screen yourself.

If you are victim of a throng of socalled friends who wander into your home, drinking all your liquor, and invading privacy to make general pests of themselves, this story may be of value to you. An unhappy, and determined shop-owner in New York may have the answer to all your suffering. He has a lot of odd answers, it may be said. The mans name is Al Cohn, and he stocks up on eerie gimmicks like imitation bedbugs, mechanical mice and exploding beercans, all of which are likely to give the uninvited guest the idea that home is the place to go, promptly. If the things just mentioned don't work, Cohn suggests these choicer items -- some of his special chewing gum, the kind that bites back, or perhaps itching powders or rubber lizards to do the trick. And - if those self-defined friends still don't take the hint and get started for home, Al has a special reserve item guaranteed to jolt them out of their seats. It s a little thing called a seat-sizzler which makes even the most avid TV fan decide that he s had enough.

This prolonged argument about color television is still going on without any end in sight at this moment. On the one hand, U.S. Senator Edwin Johnson has predicted that color TV will be available to the US public in the near future, possibly within a year. And on the other side of these statements, we find the Television Manufacturers Association has asked the Federal Communications Commission not to take any immediate steps in designating a specific color system, without which there is no possibility of color TV being available on a general scale.

Johnson has based his prediction on the recent devlopments in the field, and the fact that side-by-side tests of the three most important systems so far devised, and these tests are now scheduled for February.

Continued on Page 32.

For Young Men Who Want to Become Skilled in the Techniques of Radio and Communications

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R.C.N.57

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Johnson is also head of the Senate Commerce Committee which passes upon all legislation and appointments in this field. He feels that shortly after the comparisons to be made this coming month as we said, a move will be made by the *FCC* to set up TV standards which will permit color to move into its own.

On the other hand, the Television Manufacturers Associations said that development and experimentation have not gone far enough to warrant adoption of any one color system as yet. *TMA*, they stated, were interested in an efficient, practical color system suitable for all size television . Something that could be made available to the consumer, they said, at a minimum cost and which would require a minimum of adjustment to existing sets. They furthered this statement by saying they believed no such system has yet been presented and demonstrated to meet those requirements.

Incidentally, there's something new in the offing for television fans - a view of the United Nations at work. Assembly President Carlos Romulo announced early in November, that the Ford Motor Company would be sponsoring a three hour daily, nationwide tele cast of U.N. meetings. These programs were to be filmed for later showing in other countries. Previously there has been the occasioanl telecast of the U.N. proceedings on individual stations, but this is, according to authorities, the most extensive nationwide public service in the history of television or radio. If you happen to be able to get any TV shows, or can get to a city whrre there are TV sets, the U.N program will be shown on the *CBS* Television networks from eleven to one (noon), ESTime and from three to four peeyem, on Mondays through Fridays.

A new device has been perfected to eliminate some of the interference with television reception. The device is called the Harmoniker. This new device is designed to eliminate those peculiar herring-bone markings which show up on television sets from time to time. Usually the pattern is interference from an amateur station nearby. And that's where the name Harmoniker comes in. The interference is due to the radiation of harmonics from the ham rig - harmonics at a higher frequency that the operating one. The new device is in effect, a filter which elimnates harmonic interference. It is used by the ham operator, it might well be pointed out, and not by the set owner, and a current issue of the G.E. Ham News, which you will soon have, tells how it can be assembled and installed.

Britain opened the world's most powerful television transmitter on December 17, 1949 at a place called Sutton Coldfield, which is near Birmingham. This station, the first of a series of transmitters outside London, all planned to provide most of Britain by 1954 with television, is a show piece of radio engineering which the British hope, in the near future, will give them a lead in television contracts.

The control panel has been completely simplified so that one engineer on duty controls the entire system, and outside, their tremendous transmitting tower pokes holes in low clouds. This mast is 750 feet high, and weighs 140 tons - the highest ever to be built in Britain for broadcasting. The Sutton Coldfield transmitter will rebroad cast to a large area of the midlans, programs which so far have only been viewed by those within range of the original London transmitters - the first to operate.

Next month, in this column, because some areas of Canada are within range of the U.S. television transmitters, we will discuss a list of features to look for in buying a receiver. There's plenty to it, and don't let a fast talking dealer try to tell you other wise.

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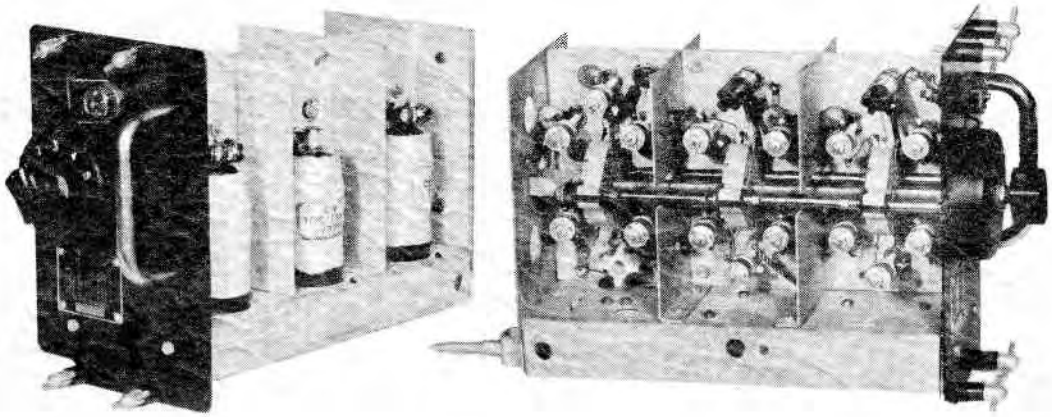

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