

The

CANADIAN AMATEUR

Vol. I No. 1 Published in the interests of the Radio Amateurs and Experimenters of Canada

VE7BCC/KL7

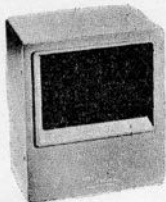


Mount Fairweather Expedition 1958

See Story Page 9

Complimentary Copy

January, 1959

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Fellow Radio Amateurs:

You have just received your first copy of "The Canadian Amateur" magazine, a National publication conceived and born during British Columbia's 100th birthday. We hope you like this Centennial souvenir. We sincerely hope you will tell us what you think of our new journal, enter our contest, tell us about yourself and station—maybe a picture or two. With 4,000 copies in the mails to the far corners of the earth, the first stage is lit. Now with your help, we are going into orbit!

May we see you in February when we salute the Province of Alberta. — "73"

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ALTERNATORS FOR THE

MOBILE OPERATOR

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**V E 7 A K D**  
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The Canadian Amateur

VOL. I No. 1 Jan., 1959

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THE CANADIAN AMATEUR

Devoted to the Radio Amateurs and
Experimenters of Canada.

Editor John H. Brown, VE7JB

YL Editor Lois Gillespie, VE7AUF

DX Editor Bill Wadsworth, VE7ZM

SSB Editor Thom. Holtby, VE7VP

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EDITORIAL

Fellow Canadians, and friends, wherever you may be, greetings. With a heart full of deep humility, and unbounded pride, we salute you with this, our first Canadian Amateur magazine.

The fulfillment of a dream, in this Centennial year, brings into reality a hope expressed by Canadian Amateurs across our great Dominion.

Fully aware of the problems to be faced, the obstacles to be overcome, and yes, the rewards to be won, we will try, in the days to come, to give you a Canadian Journal that will create, instill, and justify, the confidence of the Canadian Amateur.

The gratitude we feel, and owe, to a host of old, and new friends, who have helped, so unselfishly, to give us the heart and the courage for this venture, is indescribable, and we extend our eternal thanks.

The Canadian Amateur radio magazine, will be, as is the Canadian Amateur, many things, but high in the list it will try to be a strong fearless voice, defending, chiding, and applauding, the world's most fascinating pastime, Amateur Radio.

In the days to come we will bring you, on this page, our hopes, our aims and our plans, be with us, won't you, and now, good luck, good health, and a glorious 1959.

73, Your editor.

Letters to the
Editor



This magazine welcomes constructive criticism and will publish all such articles in future issues. No letter will receive attention unless signed by donor. The space on this page is limited, therefore, we request your letters be concise and to the point. All material shall become the property of The Canadian Amateur.

Our Cover . . .

Shaman's Rattle and Ceremonial Dagger

Kwakiutl Tribe of British Columbia.

One of the most powerful figures in the class conscious structure of the B.C. Coastal Indians' Society was the Shaman or the Medicine Man. He was a man apart and a law unto himself. Depicted here are two of his robes of office. In the foreground is a Witch Doctor's rattle; this device enabled him to call the Supernatural to his assistance or in case of sickness to drive the Evil Spirits away. The primary design on this rattle is that of the Raven. The object in the Raven's beak is the life-giving Sun that the Raven supposedly gave to mankind. The face on top of the wooden ceremonial dagger is that of D'Sonoqoa, the Wild Witch Woman of the Woods. This creature reputedly captured and ate children who misbehaved.

The blooms in the background are the Dogwood blossoms. British Columbia's floral emblem.

The unusual cover design is an exact reproduction of the QSL card created especially for the Mount Fairweather Expedition. Every amateur station fortunate enough to contact VE7BCC/KL7, received one of these fabulous confirmations.

OUR BEST . . .

TO THIS

AMBITIOUS PUBLICATION

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BEST WISHES TO "THE CANADIAN AMATEUR"

THINGS IN GENERAL

By J. E. Kitchin, VE7KN — Supervising Radio Inspector of B.C.

The Ed. left himself wide open when he gave the instruction to "pick your own subject". What a chance of a lifetime! However, it must be remembered that he has the last word or, rather, the last stroke of the pencil, so one must curb one's thoughts when the item is for a radio-amateur journal. Note that innocently phrased expression "radio-amateur" journal and not an amateur radio-journal. Or should it be "amateur radio" journal? This could go on for hours, or pages, and this once again brings up the question as to whether or not it is time to change that word "amateur". I believe this matter is being dealt with elsewhere in this issue which is the first of a new Canadian Journal for non-professional radio men. Congratulations are due to the Editor and to those associated with him who, through their efforts, have brought this about.

Well, it so happens, quite by accident of course, there are a lot of these non-professional operators and constructors ("amateurs" to you!) on the air so I thought it might be a good idea to make a few brief observations of general interest regarding operating procedures. Perhaps we could break procedures down into two parts, one being the actual operating in accordance with the Regulations and the other being that phase of the matter which is left to one's own discretion. This latter part is generally known as "operating courtesy". It is very difficult, and perhaps undesirable, to try to legislate a person into courtesy and it is amazing how many of us become different personalities when behind the wheel of a fast car, or even a slow one! The same thing occurs on the air. The following points are therefore outlined in a general sense as suggestions only.

Should a time limit be placed on

transmissions, both as regards the total elapsed time (or number of stations in a "round table") and the length of time for any single transmission from a station?

Call signs could be cleaned up, both on CW and phone. Perhaps this doesn't quite come under the heading of Courtesy but there is very little excuse for sloppy sending on a key, and the phone man who talks with a pencil (or is it a sandwich?) between his teeth doesn't deserve to be answered. Perhaps it is not realized that transmitting a call sign fast by voice sometimes results in a combination of sounds which are hard to identify correctly.

Phone stations have an additional responsibility in that the mike picks up anything and everything within its range and a key won't do that! Every precaution should therefore be taken to prevent background conversation and events being transmitted, and this applies not only to record players and BCL and TV sets but also to the wife's remarks, unless, of course, she is actually taking part in the contact. Some question has been raised as to a baby's howls but perhaps this also might be classed as a "third party taking part in a radiotelephone transmission."

Although practically everyone knows that people can be identified (more or less) by their handwriting, nearly every amateur loses sight of the fact that he is known by his handling of the key or mike and how he behaves on the air in the matter of "operating courtesy." One of the primary rules of the game is to never send faster than you can receive. If you try to "sink" the other man with fast sending, it might happen that someday somebody will come back at you a trifle faster than you can handle and it is easy to see who will look foolish.

(Please turn page)

THINGS IN GENERAL—Cont'd

Beginners on the key should take it easy and not try to develop a "swing" as this will come with ability in time. Neither should he attempt to use an automatic or semi-automatic key unless he has had some practice with it off the air and has become proficient in its use.

And let not the phone man point a dirty finger at the code man, for the phone man sometimes loses track of what he is doing and indulges in endless repetition and forgets that his speech and grammar, as well as his "programm content" will come under criticism from those who hear him. And those who hear him are not only the boys on the net but multitudes of SWLs as well.

One of life's mysteries is why some folks will say "OK, OK Joe on that receiver," but did you say it was a "blooper" or a "wing-ding?" If the transmission wasn't correctly received, why say "OK?" Oh well, maybe he

figures it is more polite to show some interest even if he doesn't really care what it is. And, also, we have "OK on the receiver Joe and OK on the coil and OK on that hookup and OK, etc., etc." I wonder why?

So, "73" (which of course, is wrong) and "that's 30 for now" (which is a current expression of most broadcast station announcers and which is also wrong). If you can tell what is wrong with these two expressions, please award yourself 37 box-tops. ●

Member VS6CG, Ole Fatty Fung? The big noise out Hong Kong way, in days gone by. Fatty is in Vancouver now, happy as a lark, with his family, busily engaged in counting the "take" from a successful little grocery business that he took over a few months ago. Says he has no time for such foolishness as Da Di Da Dit, Da Da Di Da, but he has that far-a-way look in his eye when he says it. Fatty asks us to say hello and a happy '59 to all.

Best Wishes



To

"The Canadian Amateur"

From

Taylor Pearson & Carson (B.C.) Ltd.

VE7AM

VE7OQ

VE7FD

VE7ADO

"The Radio Amateur's Complete Headquarters
in British Columbia"

University Ham Radio

By R. Beck

The Canadian Amateur magazine is most happy to welcome to its pages the University of British Columbia's Amateur Radio Station, VE7ACS. It is our sincere intention of assisting, in every way possible, to bring about a cross-Canada hook-up of universities. The obvious benefits to be derived from such a network should help bring about its early completion.

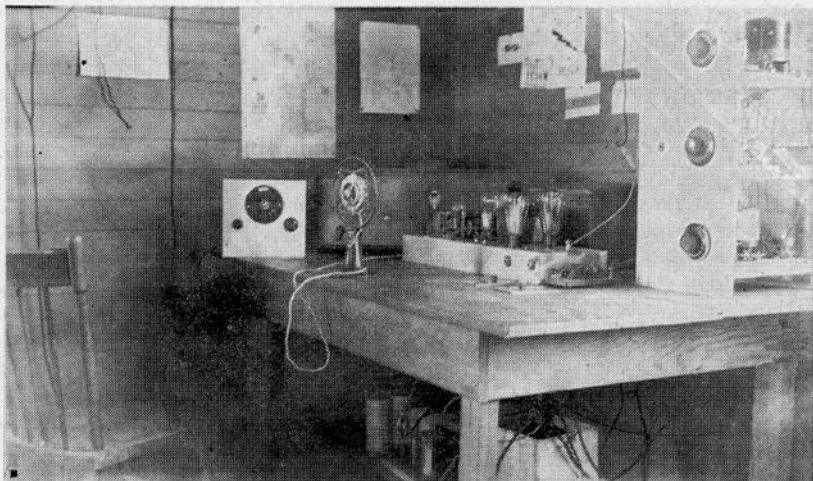
Faculties in the various universities throughout the country could be in constant, and instantaneous contact with each other, enabling them to exchange news, views and ideas. A national contest of, say chess, could very easily be arranged and staged. Addresses from any one college to all others in the net could be arranged.

We are proud to salute the University of British Columbia with this story of its Amateur Station by R. Beck, Operational Manager.

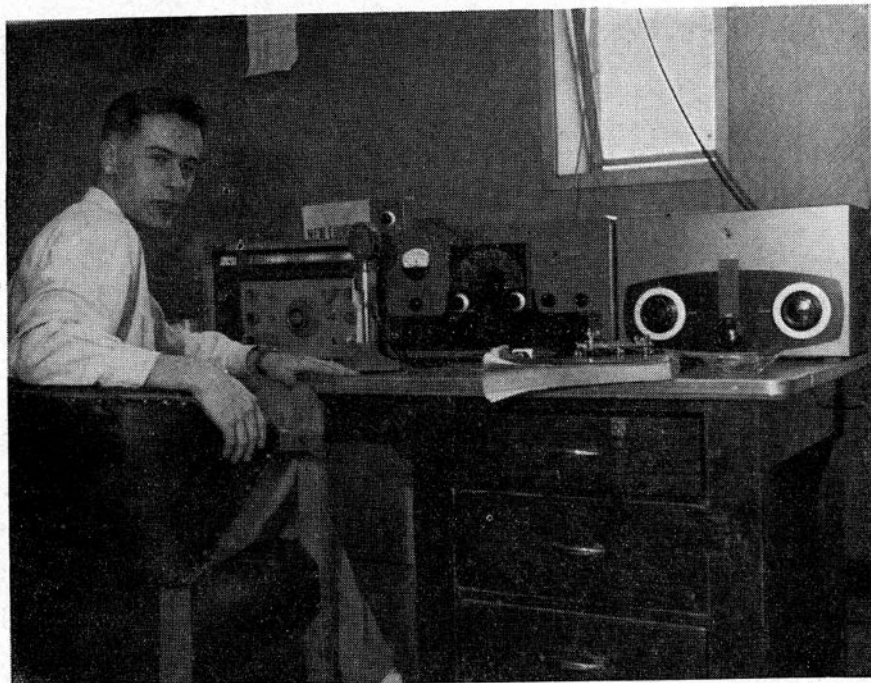
We were greatly honoured when we were asked to give an article to be printed in the first issue of this new Canadian amateur radio magazine.

To begin with we will try to give a little bit about the history of the club. The club was first organized in 1933 by the Electrical Engineering class. In 1935 the club was reorganized and the first transmitter was installed. It used a pair of 46's at 20 watts in the final, modulated by a pair of parallel 50's in class A. An off-center Hertz antenna coupler was used. The first receiver was a Radiola 33 with a short wave converter. The call at this time was VE5DB. Contacts noted in the log for

this time are: VE5's; DL, BY, JO, JE, JB, BJ, CE, IN, HQ, DW, BK, HY, NG, JF, FN, DD, EP, LA; W7's—ETT, DIJ, DOC, GSK, EKW, EHU, AIU, CQJ, DCB, DZX. A strange VE9CY from Prince George was also in the log. Early in February 1937 the call was changed to VE5UR and such "rare DX" as W6NII, and W6JSG in Sacramento; W6LCJ in Reno, Nevada; and VE4LH in Winnipeg, were worked. In 1939 the call was again changed, this time to VE5ACS and an 80 watt transmitter and a SW3 receiver were used. During the war our licence was cancelled and the club was inactive. After the war the call of VE7ACS was obtained and



The First Ham Station at U.B.C.—VE5DB



U.B.C.'s present set-up with Bradley Hanson, VE7AQR at the controls

very little could be found on the history of the club from then until a few years ago. At this time the equipment was a DX-100 and an Eddystone. Two years ago this equipment was stolen and the present equipment was purchased on the insurance money and a loan. The thief has been caught since then and Thank God he was not a radio amateur.

This year the club consists of 55 members, nine of which are licensed amateurs, VE7AIN, VE7AQR, VE7AJI, VE7ACE, VE7ASY, VE7APU, VE7ABH, VE3DXP, W6OVZ. The other members take code and theory lessons or experiment with amplifiers, transistors, etc. We are also starting a code class for some students from a school near the university.

Our clubroom is a suite of four rooms located in a new building on the campus. We have a workshop, office, operating room, and a general gathering and theory room. The suite is located on the top floor of the building and the antenna is on the roof above.

Equipment consists of a Viking Val-

iant, NC300, Viking K.W. matchbox, Johnson matchstick vertical, Heathkit SWR meter, and an Eico scope. A three element triband beam is planned for next year.

Quite a lot of our operating activity is concentrated on DX or working towards DXCC and WAZ, but every Thursday at 12.30 PST we meet with other universities on any convenient frequency between 14150 and 14200. We call this the University Net and take traffic, rag chew, and also provide a valuable means of communication between other clubs and services in the universities. So far only four universities have been checking in. They are, University of Alta.—VE6RR, University of Sask.—VE5US, University of Man.—VE4UM, and University of B.C.—VE7ACS. Any university club or technical school club is welcome and greatly desired. We would like to see a cross-Canada hookup in the near future, so we would like the other clubs to make a point to try to check in.

We understand that some of the uni-
(Continued on Page 12)

The Mt. Fairweather Story

By George R. Kitson, VE7ALE

Celebrating British Columbia's hundredth birthday, has this 1958, been evident on every hand, but having a group of Canadian alpinists scale B.C.'s highest mountain to commemorate the event, was, beyond all doubt, the most outstanding accomplishment attempted. The highly successful expedition must give a large share of credit to the radio amateurs who kept the world informed of the progress of the group. VE7ALE, George Kitson, in charge of the expedition's only means of contacting civilization, Amateur Radio, did an outstanding job. George, and his right-hand man VE7AEW, Ken McMillan, had an experience they will never forget. We are indeed proud to publish this, their story of the part Amateur Radio played in the Centennial conquest of Mount Fairweather.

This is the story of the part played by Canadian Amateur Radio, in what is believed to be the biggest project of its kind ever to be undertaken in Canada. Plans had been carefully formulated by members of The Alpine Club of Canada and The B. C. Mountaineering Club, for a projected assault on Mt. Fairweather. The year 1958 was chosen, that it might be an event held in conjunction with B.C.'s Centennial—the year of our 100th birthday.

The name "Mt. Fairweather Expedition 1958" had been selected, and plans were well along the way by April '58. Then the thought of communications entered the picture. On April 16th letters were received by Jack Sibson VE7BQ, President of the British Columbia Amateur Radio Assn. and Jim Hepburn VE7KX, SEC B.C.A.R.E.C. from Roy Mason Co-chairman of the expedition (Roy, by the way is now VE7AKZ) asking for help in locating an Amateur who would be willing and able to spend a full month away from home and job, to handle the communications end of the expedition.

That was when ALE entered the picture. As Secretary of B.C.A.R.A. it was my job to pass along the request from the expedition to members of the organization and the Amateurs of B.C. The request was also put over the B.C.A.R.E.C. Net that applications would be accepted from Amateurs who wished to apply.

Who would the fortunate Amateur

be? This was the chance of a lifetime. The thought that possibly runs through every Amateurs mind, that someday he may be able to participate in such an expedition. That I might be able to answer more fully questions as to qualifications, gear to be used etc. etc., I phoned Roy. He suggested we get together and chew the thing over. "When could we do this," I queried. Being a man of action, he replied, "time is short—why not tonight?" So, at 8 p.m. Roy walked into the shack. He was accompanied by Paddy Sherman and Bus Buswell VE7ABD. Bus, a member of the Mountaineering Club was acting as liason man for Expedition communications, but said sadly, he would be unable to go with the expedition. Paddy was Captain of the team of climbers who had been selected to go. After introductions and my shack and gear had been given the once over, we got down to business. Roy outlined what they needed. The sum and substance was, they wished to establish a radio camp on the beach at Lituya Bay, Alaska. This would be the main link with the party of climbers who would be carrying portable gear. The duty of the station would be to keep daily schedules with the climbers and receive from them climb progress reports, and retransmit such traffic to Expedition Headquarters through amateur stations. Maps and photographs of the area were produced.

Yipe! One look at the pictures was

enough to chill ones blood. I know they did mine. Mountains 10-12-15,000 ft. high and base camp site was pointed out. It appeared to be tucked away behind a hunk of rock some 6,000 ft. high. The thoughts flashed through my mind. How about skip — wave propagation — mountains being a notorious hazard for communications work. — What frequencies would work out best, etc? However, my mind came back quickly to what Roy was saying. They did not have any gear at all, and as this part of the expedition was in its exploratory stages, nothing had been formulated. As the talk went on, I became more enthusiastic. I then told Roy I entertained the idea of putting my own application in for the opportunity of going with them. Quick as a flash he asked what gear would I be able to take? Nonchalantly, I waved my hand at the station behind me and said, "why this of course." Inwardly I shivered, thinking of what could happen to such gear — Bumps during transportation — Dampness, etc. My thoughts were once again brought back to the present, when Roy said, "George, as of now, your application has been accepted." There, just like that I was committed. After more talk and many notes of required things to do, were jotted down, the fellows left. It was then that I became aware of the enormous responsibility resting on my shoulders. This was a challenge to Amateur Radio. Was I sufficiently qualified to handle any situation that might arise, minor breakdowns in rig and receiver? Yes, I knew I could handle that O.K. Then the responsibility of getting help, should accident befall any of the party. This was a secondary but vital part of the proposed radio section. Dazedly, I went upstairs and broke the news to my XYL, Lilian. She congratulated me on my good fortune. We talked until late that night, on such subjects as food, clothing, bedding and the many other things that would be needed. Boy, how many other Hams are that fortunate to have an XYL like mine? The thought has

just struck me, maybe she was just plain tickled to get rid of the Old Goat for a whole month. Mmmmm. However it all fitted into the family plans for the coming summer.

Then started weeks of preparation. Roy informed me that it had been decided by their Committee, that another Amateur should go with me. I would have the final choice. This was joyfully received by me. The thought of spending a month in the wilderness alone had raised some concern. From the applications received, I selected Ken McMillan VE7AEW. Ken is a member of my own club The North and West Vancouver Amateur Radio Club. Knowing Ken personally, I knew we could get along well. He is well qualified as an Amateur, having followed the Hobby for years. His first call was VE5NC when B.C. was VE5 land. He is an exceptional outdoor's man, being an Ex B.C. Policeman, and also spent several seasons as Municipal Patrolman on the Ski grounds of Hollyburn Mountain. And last, but not least he possesses some fine radio gear.

So on we went with our preparations.

(Continued Next Issue)

NEED SUPPORT OF VE3 LAND

We are getting a lot of interesting mail from VE3 Land, this makes us feel particularly good, because with the live-wires of Ontario on our side, we got it made brother, we got it made!

Among our VE3Land correspondence, we find a warm note from VE3ATU, Steve writes a very interesting letter, and threatens to start something with a letter to the editor, subject, "Why fone men can't read CW!" This should really get us off to a flying start. We dare you, Steve!

SAY YOU SAW IT
IN THE
"CANADIAN AMATEUR"

W7ADS - Glenn Lay, Yakima, Wash.

Our First "Foreign?" Correspondent



"No dear, it's not a new one, I've got a dozen of them!"

Introducing one of the world's best known, best liked DX men, through the pages of the Canadian Amateur magazine, is a pleasure we had not anticipated. Having met Glenn several years ago the writer has since visited with him and his lovely XYL, Helen, at their home in Yakima, and enjoyed their return visit over a spot of tea. He is not satisfied with QSOing remote corners of the earth but confirms these contacts with a personal visit! He recently returned from a trip around the world, and even though he was footsore and weary from travelling, he accepted an invitation to the first convention meeting of the Vancouver DX club. The showing of his beautiful

colored photographs and the very interesting way he described his trip, was definitely the high-light of the meeting. Glenn's terrific country score would indicate that his first love, (after Helen, that is) was digging out the rare ones, but this is not the case. His mechanical and electronic skill coupled with an insatiable curiosity about the mysteries of radio, has just about made Glenn the, "Mr. Do-It-Yourself," of Amateur Radio.

Even ready to help those less gifted, Glenn will pull a side-cutter and a soldering gun from his pocket, with almost no excuse, and start rebuilding some poor, confused guy's station, namely mine! Glenn is going to hate

me for this, but some day that conversion story is going to be told.

Now, entirely, and completely without Glenn's permission, we submit, what could well be our first, and last gasp

Dear John and Edna:

It was sure nice, talking to you on Short Skip'. I am sure glad to hear about your new magazine, the Canadian Amateur, coming out soon, and wish you much success on the venture. I believe the time is right for such a magazine, particularly, because you hope to interest the Amateur who builds and experiments, more power to VE folks.

The days of exchanging ideas on Technical subjects seems to be on the wane and if it keeps on I think Amateurs radio will become a large network of mostly operators. It is refreshing once in a while to run across a fellow who can discuss building various pieces of gear and ideas he has on making it better. Usually I hear something of interest and maybe an idea to try out. maybe we will swap a piece of gear and both benefit.

Here are a couple of ideas that have worked very good at W7ADS. I use selsyns on my prop pitch motor for my beam and direction indicator. I bought two old Junk Bosch Magnetos that have in each a large brass gear for the distributor and one gear was machined out to fit around the '2 inch' mast and the other one was fitted on the selsyn motor. The selsyn motor was fitted on to half of a large barn door hinge so it could swing in an arch. The other half of the hinge was bolted solid to a bracket. The gears are held in mesh by a pull spring and always stay in mesh no matter if the mast wobbles around. At the other end the selsyn in the shack behind the 360 degree scale, there is a blunt pointed cam fitted over the selsyn shaft and when the Beam is south the cam actuates a micro-switch that breaks a circuit and stops the beam. To get it started back there is a push button switch connected across

U.B.C. HAM RADIO—Cont'd

iversity clubs are not receiving much co-operation from their universities. Perhaps if the authorities in those universities read this article they will see how a good club and club station is beneficial to every university and provide a bit more co-operation.

It could be said that VE7ACS has quite a costly and elaborate set up. This is the product of a lot of years and a lot of work, good active members, a strong executive and co-operation from the university and clubs council. We believe that any other university club with these qualities can build up a nice set-up. VE3UOT is another university with a very good set-up. Come on you guys, join the net!

We hope that this little article will stir up some action and provide some food for thought. This is all for now but you will be hearing from us again in future issues of this magazine.

"73" from VE7ACS

The woes, moans and groans to be heard on almost every piece of the spectrum allocated to us about crowded bands, terrible conditions, selfish operating practices, power-mad operators, etc., etc., will sound like the Whispering Chorus compared to what we will hear if we don't make preparations to meet head-on, the troubles we can expect from the thousands of cheap, inefficient television antennas that have been leering down on us since the Lord knows when. Who's for having them checked once a year, or maybe that wouldn't be cricket!

the micro-switch so power may be applied while micro-switch is being held open. This way the feeder wires will not be torn loose by forgetting the beam is turning. This has never given any trouble in 10 years.

Our best wishes to you all for a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year.

Glenn, W7ADS

Helen 'The Typist'

Thanks a million Glenn, and forgive it please. The editor.

Transistors

By Earl Kyle, ZL3FP

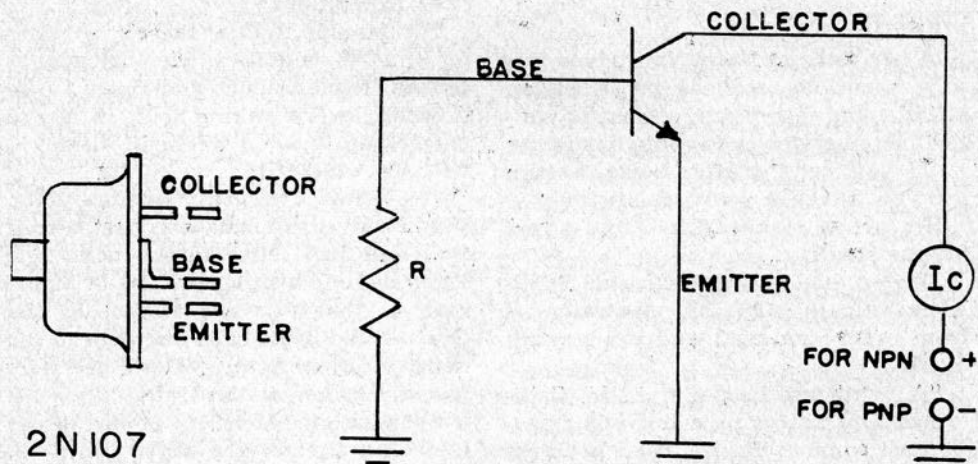
The transistor is a very new device in the technological and radio amateur field and has a big future in electronic circuits. Its greatest advantage is first its size and second it does not require power for heating a cathode and thus operates very economically. The transistor differs very much both in construction and fundamentals from the vacuum tube. In vacuum tubes the charge carriers are free electrons which are emitted from the cathode. In transistors the charge carriers are partly electrons and positively charged holes.

The explanation for the transistor effort can be found in the theory of metals. These metals which are called semiconductors have a resistivity intermediate between that of an insulator and a conductor. In the crystal structure of these solids, the atoms are packed tightly together and therefore the energy levels of the individual atoms expand into bands. In insulating mater-

ials there is a wide forbidden region between the conduction and the filled electron band, therefore the electrons cannot move and cannot produce a current. In the semi-conductors this band is much narrower than in insulators and besides this there are different impurities called donors or acceptors which diminish the forbidden band so that the forbidden region may decrease. If we apply an electric field to these materials the electrons can escape from the filled band to the conducting region and then current flow starts.

The most important point of the transistor is the Junction because the Junction makes possible the current flow. This junction consists of N-P-N or P-N-P combined material, the fundamentals being the same. If we use the P-N-P junction we can consider two different phenomena: if the first P is positive to the base (N) we inject

(Continued on Page 28)



OUTLINE DRAWING & METHOD OF CONNECTION FOR TYPICAL TRANSISTOR

Saudi Arabia Just Over Ham's Back Fence

Her "Neighbors" Live in Ketchikan, Kashmir

By Ruth Pinkus, Vancouver Sun Reporter

"Calling CQ . . . calling CQ . . ."

Like to talk? Want to exchange recipes with a housewife in Outer Mongolia or have an Arabian prince drop in for lunch?

If the answer is yes, you'd probably like being a "YL" — the radio amateur term for women radio hams.

"It means young lady, but that can carry you right through to 90 plus" explains one of the world's leading YL's, Mrs. Maxine Willis of Los Angeles.

Mrs. Willis was here on the last leg of a cross-Canada trip during which she visited radio hams from Montreal to Vancouver.

A self-styled "jabberer" she's used her talent for talk to contact radio hams in 253 countries. That's the world record for any YL.

FIRESIDE TRAVEL

In her room at Hotel Vancouver this tiny, vivacious redhead, wife of an MGM sound technician, set out to convert her interviewer to radio hammy:

"If you can't travel, being a ham lets you travel in your imagination."

Her hobby makes Mrs. Willis a real internationalist:

"We've had visitors from South Africa, South America, Australia — from every continent and every walk of life.

"A lighthouse keeper from St. Catharines, Ont., visits us every winter.

"Last summer Prince Talal of Saudi Arabia came to lunch with his wife, Princess Mona."

(The prince's call letters are HZ1TA, if you should want to give him a dingle sometime.)

Her close friends include a Czech couple who live in Ulan Bator, Outer

Mongolia, and a housewife in the Belgian Congo.

FARAWAY NEIGHBORS

"We know more about habits and life in other countries than about our next door neighbours. With a good transmitter you can talk any morning to South Africa. There are lots of YL's there.

On a typical day Maxine spends "a couple of hours at breakfast time" contacting new stations.

"In late afternoons I get on with visits with my friends."

"But we even set alarm clocks for the middle of the night if there's going to be a new country on. Sometimes hams go along with expeditions. We often work the international geophysical expeditions."

For Maxine Willis, there's no time for outside activities. Her friends in Alaska, Johannesburg and Buenos Aires occupy every waking hour. If they're not calling in for a weekend visit.

GREAT VISITORS

The hams are great visitors. Mrs. Willis' stay in Canada was just a trek from one call letter to the next. She began in June visiting VE2HG in Montreal — that's Gerard Hudon of the CBC — and went from one ham to the next. In Port Arthur, Ont., her ham friend met her at the train.

Showing off batches of photos of her Canadian friends, she says,

"We live for amateur radio—it's the best part of our lives."

And with that she signed off. On the air she'd have "73" —best regards— or even "88" —love and kisses. But away from the mike she just said good-bye. ●

Asia's First Sideband Station

JA2MB/KA2MB

By Thomas H. Holtby, VE7VP

VE7VP, another of the real old-timers in amateur radio, goes back beyond 1923, when in Saskatchewan he signed VE4IG and cut quite a swath with his new and fancy spark gap. Tom's early work with SSB marks him as a pioneer in this field and having him accept "The Canadian Amateur" SSB editorship was another break for us. Watch for his articles because he knows his sidebands.—Ed.

How many present day amateurs are familiar with the call JA2MB or later KA2MB? Probably not very many. If they were active in the period from 1950-1954 and spent some time on 20 meters they might have heard the signals from that station. Only if they tuned in Single Sideband after April 1951.

To a lot of amateurs in 1951 the single sideband signals of JA2MB were just some more QRM on the high end of Twenty.

To a lot of other people they were a number of different things.

To a few amateurs on Twenty in 1951 who were using SSB those signals were a milestone. The first SSB from Asia. A good husky 1 KW SSB signal that they could compare with AM signals from the same region.

To traffic men it was also a comparison. MARS activity was high at the time. JA2MB was on the air with messages and fone patch traffic six days a week. The system was immediately in competition with other MARS stations in Japan using AM.

To MARS it immediately proved increased reliability and greater traffic handling capabilities with traffic speed limited only by the typewriter speed of the receiving operator.

To East Coast operators they were a revelation. Signals from Japan to the East Coast of North America travel over or close to the North Pole and are bothered by Arctic flutter just as are Northern European signals to the West Coast. The improved readability of the

SSB from Japan on the East Coast was apparent from the start.

To the thousands of users of the MARS services of JA2MB it meant an improved and more reliable service and to the fone patch users in particular, a more intelligible and accurate conversation.

JA2MB liked his DX also and to many twenty meter stations around the world his SSB signals were the first they had heard.

To the writer the SSB signals from JA2MB represented the greatest satisfaction in his radio career.

They represented to him both an accomplishment and a contribution.

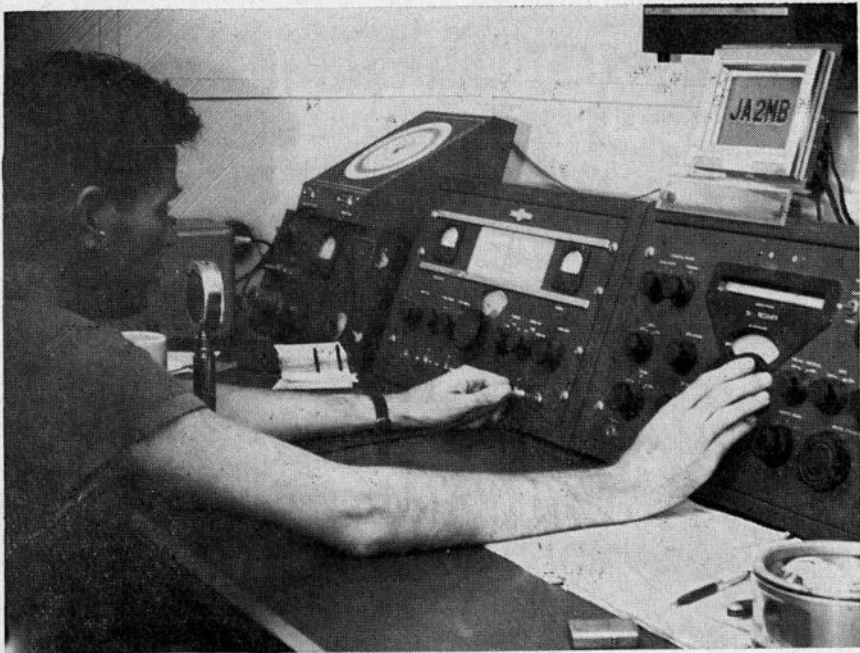
Because the single sideband generator that produced those signals from JA2MB had been made by him here in Vancouver, B.C.

To Fenton Martin the operator of JA2MB, I am not sure what they meant but I think he was happy with them. In a few months he had discarded his AM transmitter.

Fenton Martin, operator of JA2MB is a soldier's soldier and a ham ham. A career soldier prior to World War II he was a Master Sgt. of the U.S. Marine Corp. at JA2MB. He had operated stations at various locations in China prior to the Japanese invasion. He built and maintained his own stations. He was an excellent operator. In occupied Japan he operated JA2MB as a MARS station from the Marine barracks at Yokosuka. His wife Vera

— See Pictures Overleaf —

(Story Continued on Page 38)



The first SSB Transmitter can be seen directly behind JA2MB's profile.



JA2MB's Sky Hook, imposing to gaze upon, imposing was the word for its performance. One of the first successful inter-laced parasitic arrays.

Flash from Bermuda !!!

VP9DC Reports

"The Contest of the Century"

Bermuda's 350th Anniversary Contest

Sponsored by the Radio Society of Bermuda

THIS ONE WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY . . . LOOK
AT THE PRIZES AND AWARDS !!!

FIRST PRIZE:

The winner, with a guest of his choice, will fly to Bermuda, spend one glorious week at one of the most fashionable hotels, and receive from the Governor, a certificate signed by him, and be flown home—all for free!

A certificate will be awarded to the leader in each VE and W districts. (This is a VE, W, VP contest only).

CONTEST TIMES: (Logs must be in G.M.T.)

0001 G.M.T. April 25th to 2359 G.M.T. April 26th 0001 G.M.T. May 9th to 2359 G.M.T. May 10th.

BANDS USED: 7, 14, 21 and 28 mcs.

NUMBER OF OPERATORS: One only.

MODE OF OPERATION:

Fone to Fone. CW to CW. Fone to CW. CW to Fone.

Only one contact per band per station will count.

W and VE stations will give RS and/or RST only. VP9's will give RS and/or RST plus their Parish.

POINTS: Each contact counts three points.

MULTIPLIERS: For each contact on each band. For each Parish worked.

SCORING:

Total number of Parishes worked on all bands, times the number of points (contacts).

CONTEST SUGGESTIONS:

CW operators call 10 kcs. higher or lower than VP's frequency.

Contestants must compute their own logs and double check their own logs for duplication of contacts. Print name and call on each log.

Logs can be had by writing the Bermuda Radio Society, P.O. Box 275, Hamilton, Bermuda.

ALL LOGS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 15th, 1959.

We will tell you all about the joint when we get back !!!

WHAT WILL BE, WILL BE

R.C.C., D.X.C.C., W.A.S. and so;
Certificates, awards and such,
These things I'll never know,
'Cause I lack that DX touch.

Q.S.L.s, I've sent out lots,
Received but just a few,
So please, old man, answer me
For the one I sent to you.

"I Q.S.L. 100 per cent,"
That's what they always say.
I'll not say they were not sent,
But were lost along the way.

I care not how long I live,
Or how that I may die,
As long as 20 phone is clear,
In the Kingdom in the sky.

I care not where they place me,
When with this life I'm through,
As long as from that resting place,
I still can call "C.Q."

— KR6LP

The YL Page



LOIS GILLESPIE, VE7AUF — Canadian Amateur YL Editor

Lois has taken on a most difficult task, even if there were a surplus of lovely creatures available, it would take exceptional skill to bring the shy, delicate dears within branding range. But with the shortage of femininity, such as we have in Canada, a dogged persistence and determination, plus a lovable disposition and personality, are also required. Lois fits the position perfectly and we predict her YL Section will become an outstanding contribution to the Canadian Amateur magazine. No introduction of VE7AUF would be complete without a word about her wonderful management of the British Columbia Amateur Radio Emergency Corps net. She can be counted among the net-control leaders in America. Her current weakness, after eight years of isolation on barren Spring Island, is learning to drive the new car. — The Editor.

Ham radio, as we have heard so often, is many things to many people. This wonderful hobby offers a variety of interests, to suit the varied tastes of all the ham fraternity—be it DX, Net operation, traffic handling, rag chewing or experimenting. YLs, being people, they are an integral part of each group, as evidenced by their activity in nets and traffic handling, in DX contests, or just plain rag chewing—where they are popularly supposed to be in good form to hold their own!

Under such happy circumstances, with no discrimination against women rearing its masculine head in any quarter (we hope), it may not appear

necessary to have a separate section for YLs. But the YLs have also special interests of their own, and even special problems—ones that they can hardly share with their OMs, or even confide in them with any hope of receiving understanding or sympathy. The OM might offer some consolation when the YL tells him of the rare DX contact lost when the baby's audio QRMed him out. Or of the interesting round table discussion she had to leave when junior got into a fight (provided he was not impatiently waiting to chase some DX himself). But his sympathies will be conspicuously absent if she explains that the cake was burnt because she

(Continued on Page 37)



You Can Win

by ente

THE CANADIAN AMATEUR MAGAZINE WANTS THE B

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION CONCERNING

Do you feel it is time we got out of a rut?

Do you think it is a fitting name for our hobby?

For the best letter, for or against a change,

We will give away a Grand Prize

All you have to do is write a short letter, 300 words or less, expressing your viewpoint on the subject and mail to:

"THE CANADIAN AMATEUR"

10328 Trans-Canada Highway,
North Surrey, B.C., Canada

..... **WATCH FOR PRIZE LIST**

in a Valuable Prize

ering this **CONTEST**

THE BEST ANSWER TO A VERY CONTENTIOUS QUESTION
REGARDING THE WORD "AMATEUR?"

CONTEST RULES:

Entrants must be amateurs to win Grand Prize.

A consolation prize will be awarded for the best letter to anyone not licensed but interested in ham radio.

All letters will become the property of "The Canadian Amateur" and this magazine shall retain the rights of publication.

All letters will be judged carefully by a panel of three prominent amateurs whose decision shall be final.

All letters must be eligible and contain 300 words or less.

Contest closing date will be announced in the next issue of this publication.

SEE THE ANSWERS IN A LATER EDITION



Jinglebells

By JIM HEPBURN
VE7KX

If you have ever watched a teletype machine merrily clicking away, recording automatically stock market reports, newspaper headlines and news, you have, I'll wager, marvelled at the amazing exactness of this electronic masterpiece. Those of us who have been lucky enough to see Jim's installation, have been most impressed with his nonchalant mastery of this phase of Amateur Radio. Jim promises to give us a series on the operation of the teletype in easy to understand language. Watch for his most interesting articles. — The Editor.

AMATEUR RADIOTELETYPE

The use of Printing Telegraph equipment goes back to the very beginning of electric telegraphy. Samuel Morse's original invention employed a moving pen to record the dots and dashes of his code on to a moving strip of paper tape. Following Morse inventors for half a century struggled to develop a machine that would record telegraph signals in written or letter form but they were beat by the Morse Code itself. When you consider that the letter "J" is thirteen times as long as the letter "E" you will see the mechanical headaches involved in trying to translate these signals into alphabetical signals. It was not until a Frenchman named Baudot came up with a code in which the letters were all the same length that Telegraph Printers became practical. Many Radio Hams believe that a teletype machine will copy CW signals, it will not. It uses the Baudot Code or as it is now known "International Telegraph Alphabet No. 2."

A teletype machine consists of a printer and a keyboard both driven by a single constant speed motor. Mechanically it is a fearsome thing consisting of some three thousand parts and like a camera or watch, best left alone. Electrically it is very simple consisting of an electromagnet and a SPST switch in series. The magnet controls the printer and the switch is controlled by the keyboard.

SINGLE MACHINE OPERATION—Known as "Local Loop"

A current of 30 MA DC flowing through the magnet coil and keyboard contacts allows the machine to operate from its own keyboard on "Local Loop." A resistance of 5K is required in series with the local loop power supply or else the movement of the magnet armature will induce surges in the local loop and cause distortion.

MULTI-MACHINE OPERATION:

Machines are connected in series by wire lines. Only one power supply is required and the same minimum circuit resistance is required.

RTTY:

Radioteletype as far as the machines are concerned is the same as wire teletype. RTTY, therefore, is a technique for converting wire operation to RF

and RF back to wire. All teletype operates on a make-break, on-off, or mark-space, whichever you choose to call it. A most obvious way, then, would be to just key the RF via the keyboard contacts. At the receiving end allow the output of the receiver to actuate a relay, which in turn, would key the printer "Local Loop." This system is being used at the present time and is known as "Mab" (make and break) operation. This system has one big fault and that is that during the break, off, or space condition the system is wide open to noise and interference which might be seen by the machine as a marking impulse.

AFSK—(Audio Frequency Shift Keying):

Here two audio tones are transmitted either by AM or FM modulation of the RF carrier. One tone represents the mark condition and the other tone the space condition. At the receiver the tones are separated by filters, rectified and used to operate a keyer tube which controls the printer magnet. In amateur operation a tone of 2975 cycles is used for the mark signal and a tone of 2125 cycles for the space signal, this is so we can all read each other! This system is very successful for short distances and is mainly used on two meters although it is also legal on eleven and six meters. Phase distortion and fading make AFSK unsuitable for long distance RTTY.

FSK:

Carrier shift frequency keying proved to be the answer for DX RTTY and is the most widely used method today. Here an RF carrier is transmitted for the mark signal and for the space signal we "shift" or move the carrier to another frequency. A standard shift of 850 cycles has been adopted as many commercial stations use this "shift" and we can copy them for many interesting things as well as adjustments etc. To generate this shift in our transmitter the DC signals from the "Local Loop" are fed into a reactance modulator on our VFO, same as for NBFM. Assume that our transmitter is on 7140.000 Kcs transmitting a space signal it will move to 7140.850 Kcs for the mark signal, (we hope). to receive this FSK we set the BFO on the receiver to obtain a 2975 cycle audio beat note on the 7140.000 Kcs signal and when the signal shifts to 7140.850 Kcs the audio beat note changes to 2125 cycles, provided, we have set our BFO to the right side of the received signal! These two audio notes from the receiver are fed into the "convertor." Described in the AFSK section above, the same as an AFSK signal to key the printer magnet. The FSK signal can also be converted at the receiver I.F. frequency by very sharp filters but amateur practise at present is to use the audio frequency "convertor" so that we can copy AFSK with the same equipment.

On the air, Ham band RTTY will put through good copy with signal strengths that a really good CW operator can use. QRM does not bother it, but a fast DX "flutter" really chews it up! Outsanding RTTY stations seem to prefer vertical ground planes for transmitting and good receiver AVC, product detection and audio clipping all help at the receiver end.

Subsequent articles will describe the Baudot Code, the Teletype machine functioning, a typical FSK Keyer and a simple three-tube AFSK "Convertor."

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Bearing in mind the cost of printed material, we have designed a simple two-color Card as illustrated full size, which we feel, will fill the need for the average Canadian Amateur. The Maple Leaf, with large, bold call letters will identify your location immediately throughout the world. We offer you 1,000 of these cards printed in any two colors of your choice and on any color paper for \$16.95 with a one-year subscription to "The Canadian Amateur" which is \$3.00. Your total cost \$19.95. Price includes 10 per cent Federal Tax and also includes printed log data on reverse side of card.



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A Handy DC Bridge-Audio Amplifier and Tone Generator Pocket-Size Tester

By Don Hings, VE7BH — Pres. and owner of Electronic Labs of Canada Ltd.

This transistorized tester is easily assembled and will serve several needs around the rig including signal monitor, tone for modulation checks, calibrated DC microvolts for remote field strength readings and remote pre-amplifier.

There are no delicate meters, tubes or power supplies as it runs off a couple of flashlight cells.

The size we made up is $1\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2} \times 8$ inches including battery space. The schematic shows tone generator at top left corner, using a transformer feedback circuit with a type 2N107 transistor. This generator is made to produce a relatively good sine wave with low output at 800 cycles.

Variations in frequency may be made by changing the values of the 10 meg. resistor and the .0035 condenser. The transformer is an interstage miniature type. The terminals 6 and 7 are on the high impedance side.

The Bridge consists of two transistors fed in parallel from the tone generator through the decoupling resistor 470K and the 2 coupling condensers .003. The output is in push pull and does not produce any output in the secondary if the bias on the transistors is equal. A load across the Bridge Input (A-B) is balanced by the calibrated rheostat which indicates the DC voltage when the output from the bridge is set at zero or nulled.

The four transistors along the bottom of the schematic are the four stages of the audio amplifier from the input or bridge output connections.

All circuit conditions and component values are derived from information supplied in the excellent transistor manuals published by the General Electric Co.

Extra terminals and switches would

make the tester more flexible for individual uses of the three parts described.

Figure 1 shows the schematic diagram of the tester and also includes a remote field strength tuner suitable for field strength measurements into any type or length of 2 conductor cable.

Calibration of the balance control can be made with a battery and tapping at known values of a load resistance for millivolts and microvolts.

Figure 2 shows a chassis layout—top view on left, side view in centre, and exploded bottom view on the right.

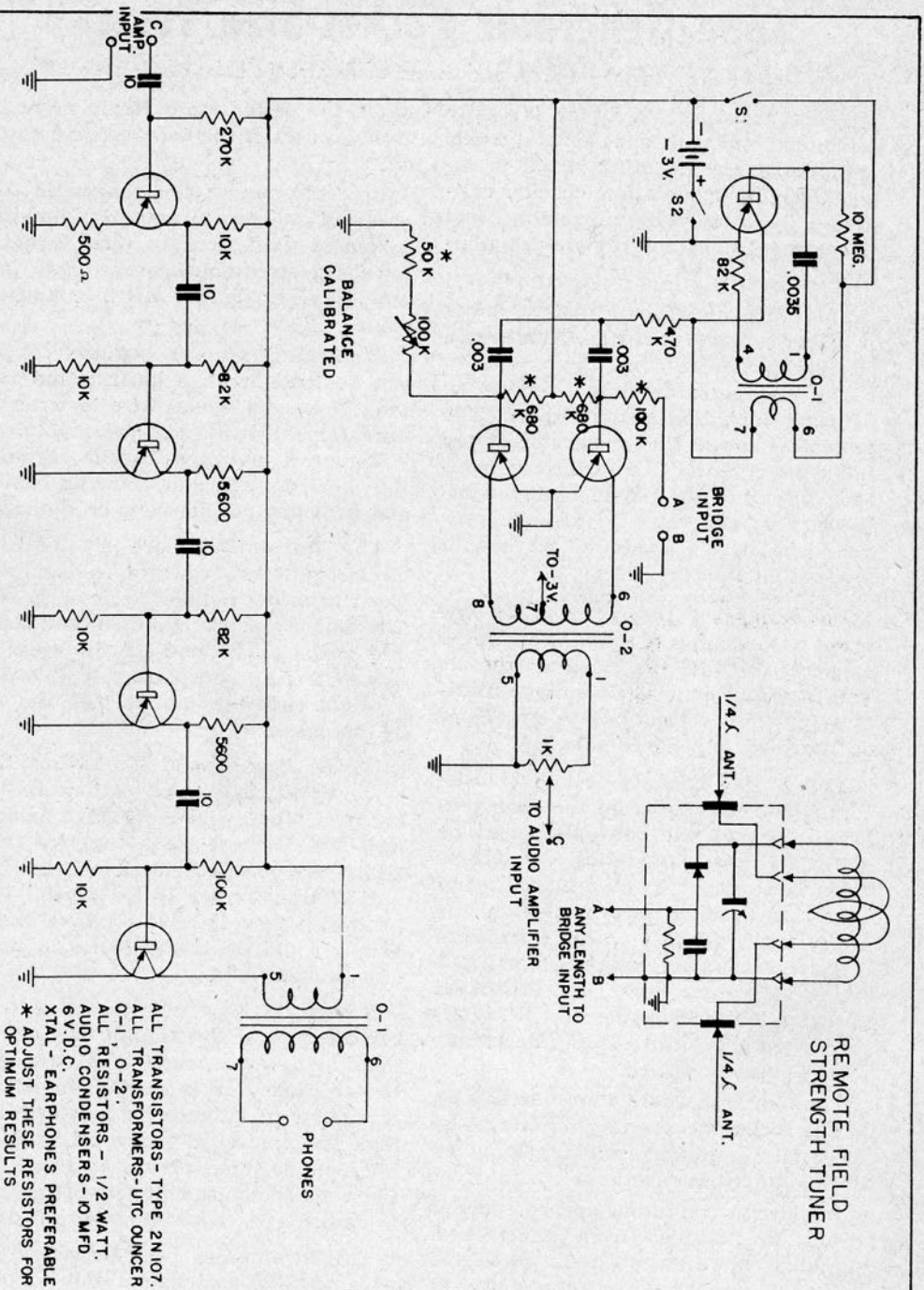
The transformers are signified by circles with two rows of contacts and the transistors double circle with slot. The transistors are mounted on 2 bakelite strips that stand-off the sides of the chassis by approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The penlight cells are mounted in the top of the chassis.

It has been found in testing that some transistors make better oscillators than others and the Bridge balance null will be best when the two transistors are of equal characteristics. The output transformer is for crystal earphones, however, 1,000 ohms or thereabouts could be used directly in place of a transformer.

Switch "S1" permits the tone to be cut off and the entire unit be used for monitoring even when it is connected to the tuner. It is recommended the bridge be off balance for best monitoring. The input "C" may be used for microphone input or any audio amplifier requirements. The gain of the audio amplifier is approximately 60 db.

This circuit has been presented not as a specific instrument but to offer as an idea that might be found useful around the rig. ●

TRANSISTOR DC MICROVOLT BRIDGE.



- * ADJUST THESE RESISTORS FOR OPTIMUM RESULTS
- ALL TRANSISTORS - TYPE 2N107.
- ALL TRANSFORMERS - UTC OUNCER
- 0-1, 0-2
- ALL RESISTORS - 1/2 WATT.
- AUDIO CONDENSERS - 10 MFD
- 6V.D.C.
- XTAL - EARPHONES PREFERABLE

FIG. 1

CHASSIS LAYOUT

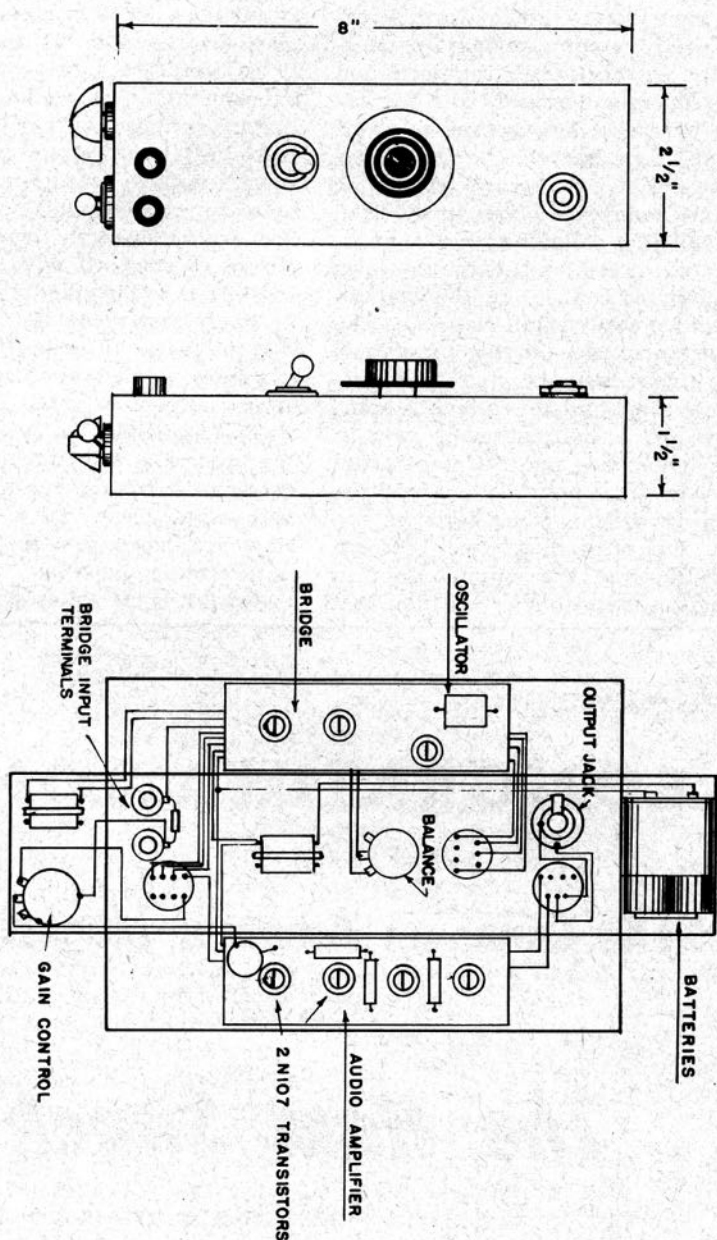


FIG. 2

TRANSISTORS—Cont'd

holes into the junction. This means the current begins to flow at low voltages. When low voltage current flows, this means the resistance of the junction is low: this is the forward direction. Now if we connect negative voltage to the emitter it fills the holes and thus the current decreases and the resistance increases. This is the backward direction. If we operate the first junction forward and the second backward, we get the transistor effect in that the second junction collects from the emitter-injected holes and current flows across high resistance. In the transistor effect we apply small signals on the low resistance side and we get signals on the high resistance side. The current is the same but the voltage is higher so we get amplification or gain in voltage. There are two different types of transistors, the point contact and the junction type. The characteristics are similar, the only difference between them being that the current gain in the junction transistor is less than that

in the point contact type. Therefore the so called power transistors are usually of the point contact type. Transistors are capable of long life if operated within their ratings. Unfortunately small excesses in power and voltage may destroy the transistor instantly. It is therefore most important when experimenting or testing new circuits that the utmost caution be taken. Care must be taken that the polarity of the supply voltage is correct, as incorrect polarity can damage the transistor. It is advisable when first testing a new circuit to start off with lower voltage until it is ascertained that the device is operating correctly. Another important factor to watch is temperature extremes as temperature can have a severe effect upon the life of a transistor, especially a power amplifier. Mechanically transistors are rugged devices so undue concern about reasonably rough treatment is not necessary. However, care should be taken that no extreme bending or twisting of transistor leads takes place. ●

REG. DAWSON, Mgr.

MU. 4-6815

CONGRATULATIONS

To

The Canadian Amateur Magazine



The Ham Shack

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Outstanding Events . . .

This page will record only those happenings which are breath-taking, clock-stopping or tidal-waving. The following wing-ding amply fills all these requirements.

The Point Grey Amateur Radio (and Railroading) Club Annual Dinner and Dance

One hundred, (and one, VE7ALR got in without a ticket, un-noticed) lucky, and I am sure, grateful guests spent another unforgettable evening with that fine group of gentlemen, who are, the Point Grey club. They have earned a most enviable reputation for supplying an evening of fun that cannot be equalled on this, or any other earth!

To record the event without elaborating on the sumptuous dinner, would be as unfair as saying, "The VE7DZ's danced," or, "The VE7RV's cavorted," or, "RM set through the whole evening with VE7OT! It just wouldn't give you a clue.

To forever silence a couple of previous belly-achers, the head chef was flown in from the Waldorf-Astoria, (while I didn't actually see him, the flavor of his food, once tasted, can't be mistaken!) and he out-did himself, his meat-balls, in brown gravy, (Thoreau mistook them for giant mushrooms!) those curried shrimps! The turkey, the ham, the roast beef, so tender it crumbled! The salads, the cheeses, the olives, and lastly, the out-of-this-world cakes and pastry.

Many of the daintier, I-must-be-careful-of-my-figure types, were heard to say, "WHO CARES!" as they headed again and again to pile the succulent morsels onto their aching platters.

As is their custom, the Point Grey Club endeavors to pay tribute to the Amateur, who they believe, is most deserving of recognition for his, or her particular accomplishments throughout the year.

To help them find the candidate most fitting for the award they had selected, a number of clubs were ask-

ed to send letters, with their choice, and stating his or her qualifications. Upon opening and reading the contents of all the letters, it was found the selection had been unanimous, VE7JB was the lucky man. Ask JB???

Mr. Cec Sawyer, the master of ceremonies, then introduced Mr. Marvin Thoreau, who after a most fitting speech, presented John with a beautiful loving cup, appropriately inscribed.

After the applause had subsided and 7JB had expressed his gratitude, the happy guests danced into the early morning, reluctantly breaking up only after repeated requests from the nearest neighbours, just a mile down the road.

Another year, another triumph, thanks from one hundred, (and one) highly satisfied customers.

CW WHIZ BACK

Remember that contest wizard VE7HC? A few years ago, Gordie Wightman used to take everything in sight and no one seemed to have a chance against him. You would understand if you saw him in action. Gordie's bug and ears became one, the rest of him just went along for the ride.

Seems old HC is back in the groove again. After a couple of years lying dormant, we find him with Canadair, working out of Montreal.

In the last CQ magazine CW contest, Gordie teamed up with VE2WW to run up a paltry 300,000 points. Maybe the long lay-off slowed him down a little! Wonderful to hear you're still able to knock 'em off, Gordie. Best wishes from the old gang of VE7 land.

TERRIFIC VALUE INSIDE

By JACK SIBSON, VE7BQ

Jack Sibson, VE7BQ, as president of the British Columbia Amateur Radio Association, seldom finds time to experiment with his beloved VHF, chiefly because he has developed a TVI elimination committee that is doing a grand job for B.C. Amateurs, and has the whole-hearted approval of the Department of Transport. — The Editor.

The problems of TVI have no starting point, it comes in a thousand different ways, some are actually funny, some simplicity itself, but most of them are difficult indeed, to overcome. I would like to tell you about a case that must be placed in the comical file.. .. I received a call from a certain VE7, who reported that his next door neighbor's Hi-Fi Amplifier, Hammond organ, television receiver, AC-DC broadcast receiver, were all blaring forth, "VE7, VE7, VE7!! Naturally, this is making one sad amateur very unpopular with a very nice neighbor!

My next free time being Sunday, I hustled over to the VE7's shack, bright and early, with the necessary equipment, to attempt my good deed for the day. After a cursory inspection of VE7's equipment, and finding nothing obviously wrong, I next visited the complainant's home, and found them to be very nice people, whose only desire was to bury VE7 - - face down, six feet deep.

It seems, for some unexplainable reason, that these people prefer the New York Symphony on their Hi-Fi, Beethoven's Moon-light Sonata, on their Hammond organ, Hop-a-long Cassidy on their television receiver, and the CBC news on their AC-DC broadcast receiver—in preference to, "This is VE7, VE7, etc!!

While discussing the situation with the good people they mentioned the fact that they would feel less hostile

about the whole affair if the VE7 would refrain from talking to a certain Aussie every Sunday morning, they were sure the character was in Australia, they could tell by his accent!

I dumbfoundedly asked, "Do you mean to tell me you are hearing both sides of the conversation? When they answered, "We most certainly do," I knew I should have stayed in bed! Suddenly a little light appeared through the darkness, I called the VE7 on the hand line, told him to turn the transmitter on and then cut the carrier, sure enough, both he and his Aussie friend were still over-riding everything in the neighbors home that had tubes in it!

I then told the VE7 to disconnect his antenna from the R.F. amplifier, leaving only his speech amplifier and modulator screens with applied voltages, only to find we are still able to hear our "down under freind and the VE7 coming from every part of the house!

I am happy to report that when I left for home and dinner, the VE7, and his Australian friend, were able to continue their weekly personal visit together, without having a lop-sided three-way at the same time!!!

Next time we meet I will tell you how I solved the, "The Case of the R.F. Voice.

"73" Jack, VE7BQ

Artificial Satellite Tracking New Challenge For Hams

By Don Hings, VE7BH

Let's stand back and take a long look at ourselves, maybe a thirty year look, if you're an old timer.

We have seen spark, and L.F. IWC, bow out to the long range short wave CW (the ham's heyday) then the phone era came in and the great influx of new amateurs that followed required us to improve our gear continuously to beat the QRM. The present congestion has disheartened all but the infinitely patient, the die-hards, or the "kilowatters." We have spread our operating to ever higher frequencies especially in the larger centers and turned to technical gymnastics such as SSB and voice control, but fellas lets face it; aren't we in a bit of a rut when TVI continually moves in on us along with all the other problems.

It would seem our efforts are being plagued with so much opposition we are jamming ourselves into a stalemate. Let's assume our numbers will continue to increase proportionately with all other growth around us, the future for hams will become more discouraging when considered as an enjoyable pastime or hobby.

What we need is to enter another field that will challenge both our competitive spirit and our amateur radio experience. Don't get me wrong fellas, this proposal in no way should retard our present activities but would give those who are interested a chance of diversifying their time and relieving some of the over-congestion.

If we sketch a few outlines perhaps you fellas will help fill in a picture that may be colourful enough to start a new amateur radio era.

First, we would want to use our present gear to the limit; second, we would want to record and confirm our individual performances similar to a

DX contact. Third, and perhaps the most important, we would want this new amateur endeavour to be recognized as pioneering effort and essential to our future welfare in a manner that can only be done thoroughly by communicating with radio amateur organizations in their respective countries. These terms seem acceptable and unrestricting, so here is the thought, which you all may have had in some form recently.

The ever increasing artificial satellite activity has set the stage for skilled observers to determine and report the time and place where the satellite passes.

This is not a proposal to enter into a radio telescope program or to record the electric storms on mars, but to pick-up with good receivers, antennas and close frequency checks, the existence of satellite signals originating from either initial battery operated satellite transmissions and reflections of earth originated signals from the dipoles of the satellites.

The amateurs interested in this proposed program would exchange technical info on their gear along with results.

This magazine and any others that enter into such activity should print the orbit data from government supplied schedules. The observations and techniques should be published with call signals of the submitting and recognized amateurs in each issue.

You know fellas this can be very interesting if you visualize the excitement of a predetermined sked that will only last a few minutes and reach a nine signal strength and can be recorded for confirmation, also the younger members of the family may spot it

(Continued on Page 33)

Stay South Young Ham

By John Gilbert, VE3BOH, ex VE8OW, ex op. VE8MA

When I became interested in Amateur Radio the one thing that attracted my attention was the ability to work DX. My one dream was to have a wall plastered with QSL cards from far away places, and certificates to cover up the larger holes where the plaster and the wall had parted company. My first few months as an amateur were spent on 40 CW, where the DX is heavily competed for but where the demand far exceeds the supply. Thanks mainly to my ignorance of gentlemanly practices on the DX bands I managed to work some 20 countries throughout the summer, a time when 40 is at its worst. The Fall found me temporarily QRT due to a change of location, but the Spring of 1956 found me at Resolute Bay, N.W.T., where a 2-element 20 meter beam graced the skyline and a wall full of SWL cards attested to the performance of the station, VE8MB. It began to look as though my dreams of DX were coming true. One slight drawback was the fact that the beam was frozen in place, but some eager soul had ensured that it was pointing South before it had froze, or so I was informed.

April is a fair month for DX on 20 meters, yet something seemed wrong at Resolute, the VE's and W's seemed very weak and the U's very strong (this was a month before the U's started to talk to us). A strange phenomena, yet one which I in my ignorance attributed to strange propagation conditions. After a month of receiving 559 reports from W's and SRI or NIL from Russians who took pity on me calling them, the strange phenomena was explained. It appeared that the beam had originally been a three element beam, but one element had fallen off. The party who had pointed the beam South assumed that it had been the reflector which had fallen, this was not the case.

Subsequent re-orientation of the beam put things right, but our reports were little better than they had been before. A new antenna seemed to be called for and a vertical was decided upon as the best radiator that could be erected in the area. The vertical consisted of a 20 foot piece of pipe, tied to a piece of wood at the top of a 20 foot mast with 4 radials running out haphazardly from the base. By some unaccountable twist of fate it worked. Two months from the erection of the vertical I had 55 countries on the books and 48 states worked. Things were just starting to look good for a fast DXCC, when I moved again, this time to Eureka N.W.T., on Ellesmere Island, 600 miles from the North Pole.

Eureka proved to be as choice a DX location as one could wish for, placed conveniently within equal distance, radiowise, from the States and Europe, there was seldom a time of day when all five bands would not be open. Fifteen, and often ten meters, would be open all night to Europe, Asia and Australasia, and we got so used to being asked if we were genuine VE ("You're the only DX on the band OM") that we came to regard Eureka as a place apart, a veritable Utopia for the DX man. By early October I had 90 odd countries and 35 zones crossed off without having made any great effort and started to plan for an all out effort in the CQ DX Contest. We had planned to enter VE8MA as multi-operator on phone and I was entering Single op on CW, and we had visions of gracing the number one spot in the top ten. Fate decided against us however, the first day of the phone section found us tuning the receivers and listening to the hollow hiss that is characteristic of an Arctic blackout. Morbid interest made us try again on the Sunday and a few entries were

STAY SOUTH YOUNG HAM—Cont'd

made on the log sheet, but the old spirit was broken. It was small consolation that we made the highest Canadian multi-op score, we were the only entry.

As went the fone, so went the CW section, this time with the good part coming on the first half and the blackout on the second. In that one I finished up with the Canadian high score on Single op, but the thought of "What might have been" dampened my joy considerably. These two contests seemed to have set a pattern for those to come, with two exceptions. The first exception was the BERU test, I was disqualified in that for not sending a statement of fair play, and the 1957 CQ test when the bands opened to the States only with a result that I had the highest number of contacts, and the lowest multiplier that I had ever made. By the Spring of 1958 I had given up the ghost, and when, in the A.R.R.L. DX test a blackout struck on the second weekend I did not even bother sending in a log. Too bad, nor did any other VE8.

Between contests I managed to add a little to the DX tally with a final score of 40 Zones and 130 countries, of course the cards still have to come in to prove it. Its only been a year since I received the last card, one should not give up, should one? All being well I hope to get back up in VE8 land for the 1959 contest season, surely the fates cannot have blackouts planned for the contest weekends that far ahead.

As a final blow to our contest endeavours, I read some remarks in the April DX Contest results asking "Where were the Canadians?" I can vouch for the VE8's who are up there tuning the bands and listening to the hollow hiss of a blackout and swearing that they will give up contests for ever. They won't though, there is always the chance that the bands might open, then watch whoever is up at Eureka hit the top ten. ●

Artificial Satellite Tracking — Cont'd

going by on a clear night. Sort of a date with a satellite that the XYL can be in on.

With the use of one non-directional antenna and one swivel beam antenna the excitement of checking bearings with time, etc., would add to the luster of locating new satellites as they keep increasing in number.

Some of the mobile boys could drive to vantage points to improve their DX records. This would also make the remote and isolated stations valuable contributors.

What say fellas, send in your ideas to the (S.S.S.) Satellite Signal Sniffers.

How would you like an R.O.S. (Received Orbiting Satellite), or a H.A.P. certificate (Heard All Planets) or even an R.R.R. (recorded rocket report) DX from 50,000 miles out?

In all seriousness, let's have your thoughts in founding the Canadian effort in this direction.

Send your letters to S.S.S. Canadian Amateur ●

CONGRATULATIONS . . .

We would like to take this opportunity to drop a little bouquet where we fell it rightly belongs.

Congratulations to our active Radio Inspectors, Jim, VE7KN, Nellie VE7DF, Bill, VE7VR. With the three of them lousing up the spectrum, creating TVI, spending the XYL's fur coat budget on lo-passes and subscriptions to the Canadian Amateur, that takes courage fellas, that takes courage! Incidentally, another one of the lads is just about to join the, "Abandon all hope, ye who enter here," group. Brian, VE7JH was seen stringing some No. 4 wire from the power poles to his basement! This puts our Dept. on top, across Canada, nice going fellas. ●

DX

By Bill Wadsworth, VE7ZM

Introducing the top man in any field is always a difficult job, if one tells the truth about him, it begins to sound a little far-fetched. If one skimps on his accomplishments, others come to mind who appear better equipped to sit on his throne.

This is especially true of Bill Wadsworth, VE7ZM — one of the world leaders, and top man by far in Canadian DX circles. Bill has made a deep study of DX and how to hook it, and a visit to his "shack" and a look at his awards and unheard-of confirmations, will convince the most skeptical that his work has not been in vain.

Bill has volumes of fascinating experiences, contacts and material that will thrill the DX-minded. Watch him as he tells how, when and where.—The Editor.

Fellas, I am sure the choice for a DX editor could have been a much better one, but if you can withstand the early shortcomings of a green member of the fraternity and bear with me, I'll do my best to make it of interest.

Firstly, let me point out that DX and the working of such is radio's greatest challenge. It has to be taken seriously and above all, was originally founded as a sporting part of our activities. It is with regret that we see this slowly being reduced to ruin by the gang tactics, QSL purchase, and other evil omens that have descended upon us. Let us all turn over a new leaf and realize we are spoiling our greatest challenge and sport, the working of D.X.

I have just received an interesting letter from a personal friend, Eric Dowdeswell, better known to many as ST2AR in the Sudan. Eric enjoys a great privilege, being the only Britisher still operating in the Arab States, boys, I implore, please give Eric every break on the air as he is a rare one always found on 15 meters c.w. between 2000 and 2400 G.M.T. almost every day. His usual spot is around 21040 or 210090 kcs. with your beams pointed due south.

Jan Mayen Island — All rumors or activities by any stations signing any calls are strictly phoney. Earliest pos-

sible activity will be June, '59 — even this is doubtful.

Juan Fernandez Island — CE0ZA-CW; SSB - CE0ZB, AM, Jan. 10. operator, our old friend Louis CE3AG.

Revilla Gigdos Islands (Socorro)—XE4? will be operated courtesy of the San Deigo DX Club.

INDIA—VU2CQ, Mickey, is going to the dogs. He will be on SSB soon!

MALAYA—As of Jan. 1, 1959, the call VS2 will be replaced by the call 9M2, but VS1 will remain as is.

FRENCH TOGOLAND—9G1CF and perhaps 9G1CX are planning an expedition to FD8 land, Jan. 10 and 11, 1959. A KWM1 furnished by W2KUW will be used. —Courtesy W.G.D.X.C.

ZANZIBAR—VQ1ERR is still planning activity Jan. 9 to 13 on 15 and 20 mtrs, SSB. QSL's go via W4IYC.

VQ9ERRR plans activity on Seychelles Aug. 20—AM and SSB on 15 and 20 mtrs.

Czechoslovakian world DXpedition operated by OK1HZ will be delayed indefinitely owing to an unfortunate accident that has caused OK1HZ to lose one arm and may cost him the other. His condition is very grave.

Hearty congratulations to our W6 friends for their efforts in arranging to have special drugs delivered to attempt to save OK1HZ's life. Bada, OK1MB, is also to be congratulated for his efforts in this connection.

An Iceberg Romance

This story can and did actually happen to a certain VE7. Only the names have been changed to protect the author!

Contact had been established between a weather station far above the Arctic Circle, and an amateur near Vancouver. The amateur operator in the far north is transmitting as we tune him in . . .

"Say bub, have you got a fone — (whups, we almost said patch!) in that pile of junk down there?—break."

"Yea, I think so, just a minute, I'll clear off a little of this stuff from my table . . . Yep, here it is, who do you want to annoy down here?—break."

"Oh, I met a dame down there a couple of years ago. Thought I would give her a thrill and say hello—break"

"What was her name and address?—break."

"Ah, heck, I never got her name, she was kinda blonde, about my height, —kinda cute, too, as I remember—break."

"Did you take her home? That might help! Better make this legal, this is VE7 - - , over."

"Yep, but it was dark as heck, and besides I wasn't taking much notice which way we went, somewhere in New Westminster, I think.—Me too! This is VE8 - - , over."

"Well that narrows the field down a lot, there ain't many cute blondes in New Westminster your height, you being a good four foot six from the neck down! Got any more clues? Over."

"Yep, she liked to swim. Oh boy! I can see her now in that skimpy, silky—hey, hurry and fone her will ya?—break."

"Hold it! Hold onto yourself, lad! I know you've been up there for two years. I know how you feel—with nothing but polar bears, seals and blubber to look at. Hold on! I'm ringing a little trick that fits the description you gave me, almost. Hold on! Hello, hello!

Say, this is VE7 - - , I have a friend of yours on the line. Says he's seen a lot of you, once—What's his name? I'll let him tell you himself. Hold on! Take it VE8 - - ."

"Hi, Marlyn, 'member me? Been swimming lately?? Take it VE7 - - , I want to listen to Marlyn — VE7 - - , from VE8 - - , over."

"How did you make out, Marlyn, could you hear Louie?"

"Say, what's going on here, and who and where is this guy?"

"Oh, he is up at the North Pole! Hey, wait, don't hang up, it's the truth, so help me! Listen, this is a ham station and I got your friend hooked up at another station, way up among the icebergs, get it?"

Half an hour later . . .

"Say, Marlyn, how about coming out to VE7 - - 's shack? We could have a real rag chew,—break."

"Marlyn says she'll be here next Sunday. We better knock it off! We've been on this six-party line for an hour. Someone might want to use it! We'll look for you next Sunday. Tie the ribbons on it chum, and don't wander too far from your igloo. VE8 - - this is VE7 - - for your final,—over."

"Huh, funny boy! OK Marlyn, I'll be awaitin for you, don't go out to that VE7 - - 's shack alone, 'cause if you do, he will get right down to showin' his - - - log books! !! So long, Marlyn, 88's, see you Sunday. VE7 - - , this is VE8 - - signing and QRT, adios."

"OK, Louie, try and keep cool until Marlyn comes out here. What did you say Marlyn, what's 88's? Oh, that's Ham lingo for "be seeing' you." Bye now. OK Louie, so long, VE7 - - clear." **Next Sunday Coming up . . .**

"VE8 - - , calling VE8 - - , on sked. You around Louie? over."

"VE7 - - , VE7 - - , this is VE8 - - , calling and returning . . . Yep, boy you are sure chippin chunks off the

glaciers up here with that signal. Is Marlyn there?—break.”

“OK Louie, well your 5 and 9, with a little flutter but a FB sig. Hold on!” “Hello Louie, this is Marlyn. What have you been doing since I last spoke to you?” “OK Louie, give us the latest news from the ice-fields. VE7 - - over.”

“Well you couple of dopes, I’ve been a sittin’ on an icicle ever since waitin’ for you Marlyn. Tell me about yourself—Have you put on any weight, and if so, where?—break.”

“Say, you big lug, I found out what 88’s mean. I bet you say that to all the girls! No, I’m still 42-24-34, just the same as when you saw me. Remember?—over.”

“Gee Marlyn, you catch on fast! VE7 - - will have to teach you the code! Keep talking Marlyn, it’s so wonderful to hear your voice, I got my eyes shut, that way I feel I can reach out and touch you, please say some more, VE8 - - , over.”

“OK Louie, here’s Marlyn again . . . I didn’t realize how lonely you must be up there VE7 - - is showing me on the map, where you are, gosh, almost on top of the world! Say, you know, this is fun, Louie do you remember the nite you took me home from church, it was a beautiful, starry night, member? OK Louie, back to you, VE7 - - , over.”

“ Do I remember? Every second, every step, the time just seemed to race past, when we got to your place, I remember you had a lilac tree right by your gate, it was in full bloom, you could smell it a block away. We stood just staring at each other, then you said, awful low, good night Louie, and I stammered, “Can I kiss you goodbye, I guess you thought I said, good-night, ’cause you just stood still, with your blonde hair . . . Holy Smoke, I just remembered, the whole world might be listening! . . . VE - - -

“Hi, Hi, Hi, you really got carried away, Louie, . . . Say you do remember . . . that was a lilac bush, by the gate, Gee, I never thought you would remember all that, like I did, . . . VE7 - -

says I can come out next week, I’ll see you then, bye dear, and 88’s to you Louie VE8 - - from VE7 - - .”

“Wonderful Marlyn, like I said, I had my eyes closed all the time you were talking, thanks a million for making my igloo a lot warmer, and easier to stand, OK I will be here, same time, same station, next Sunday, bye, and 88’s VE8 - - is clear with VE7 - - .”

“Bye Louie, and be careful you don’t fall through the ice, bye OK Louie, ole pal, Wow! Don’t fall through the ice, how thick did you say it was? About 30 feet!! Marlyn must think you are putting on weight! See ya, fella, VE8 - - , VE7 - - is clear.”

Another week has fled.

“Louie, Oh Louie, this is VE - - - , with Marlyn at the mike, are you listening, over.”

“Here I am Marlyn, sitting on the same icicle, in the same igloo, with that same terrible longing to hold you close, Marlyn I want to ask you a question, with the whole world listening, may I Marlyn, please take it VE7 - - .”

“Oh Louie, you sound awful serious, kinda low-like, are you feeling OK you haven’t been out and got your feet wet, have you? You will have to be more careful, there is no one to take care of you up there . . . I wish OK Louie it is yours, over.”

“How you copyin me Marlyn, you gotta hear what I want to say, and please don’t be mad at me, but I hafta get this outa my heart, are you copyin OK, break.”

“Oh yes Louie, please hurry and tell me what’s botherin you, I’m worried, over.”

“ Marlyn Marlyn WILL YOU MARRY ME!”

“VE8 - - , VE8 - - , you OK Louie, sounds like maybe you did fall through the ice after all! ! Louie, Louie dear, this is Marlyn, are you OK dear, you better be, cause the answer is, YES! over.”

“ VE7 - - , Maryln? I mean, VE7 - - ! Ah to heck! . . . I’m sittin on top of the world!” ME? I

never felt better in my life. Oh Marlyn you have just made me the happiest man from this North Pole to the South Pole!"

Well that's about it folks, except, Louie came out of the frozen north, married Marlyn, (I got to kiss the lovely bride too!) took her back with him, into the land of the eskimo, to live happily ever after, oh yes, in case your interested, a year later Marlyn came south to be sure Louie's son and heir got the best of care, when He arrived, that's about three years ago, I seen the little rascal last time the folks came to town, he has got the loveliest blonde curls, and, it's the truth, believe me, eyes exactly the same color as mine . . .

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FOR SALE—3 element — 20 MTR. "Plumber's Delight" beam, tower, Coax, control cable—Prop-pitch motor—Selsyn indicator. Complete \$50. C. Sawyer, VE7DD. 6650 Balsam, KE. 0343L.

FOR SALE—500 Watt Transmitter at a give-a-way price. Contact Mel, VE5JG, Swift Current, Sask.

I WILL SWAP my HQ160 Rcvr. and 150 Watt (4-125A) Transmitter, 100 Watt, 75 Mtr. Mobile (with slight modification becomes all band) for a Collins 75A4. In original condition. Roy Tjelta, 3399 Garden Drive, Van. Phone HA. 7344R.

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YL Page — Cont'd.

forgot it while passing traffic, or excuses the overdone roast on the grounds that she could not leave the net.

In such cases, it is obvious that only another YL can share her woes, and help her in solving the perennial problem of how to do two things at once. Or should we say three things, since most YLs are already adept at managing two things at a time!

But, seriously, we think a YL section can contribute a great deal to our magazine. How much, will depend on our Canadian YLs. We are sure that each and every one of you has something worth-while to offer, and we are confidently hoping to hear from many of you before our next issue.

No doubt there are many topics you would like to see discussed on this page — things you have thought or wondered about, thoughts and ideas you would like to pass on, and we hope you will write to us about them. Here are some ideas about which we would like suggestions from you:

Do you think the time is near when the YLs should be organized? Do you think they would like to be?

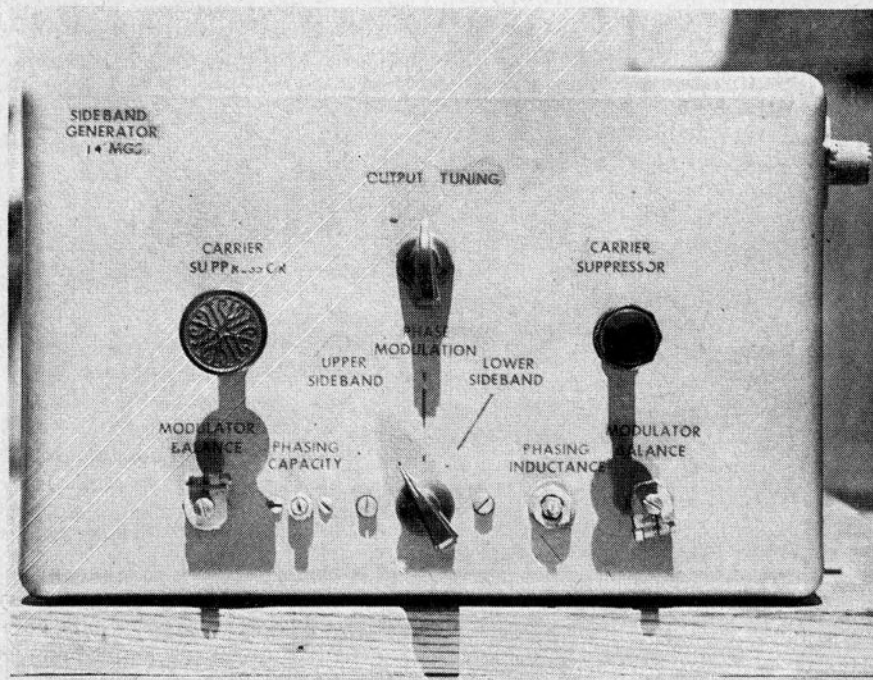
What do you think about a certificate for hams who have worked a specified number of Canadian YLs?

What, specifically, do you think YLs could contribute to ham radio, or what assistance would they like to receive, through this magazine?

We are also hoping to receive reports from you regarding any YL activities or interesting bits of information about YLs throughout the country.

As far as we can discover, YL acquaintance with other Canadian YLs seems to be very limited, and this, in our opinion, is a loss for all concerned. Not all can work the DX bands, and conditions are not always too good for working across the country in any case. Perhaps through this page we will be able to become better acquainted, to the mutual advantage of each one of us, and share the pleasures and responsibilities of ham radio. ●

Asia's First Sideband Station—Cont'd



The clean, uniform panel lay-out on the first Far East SSB Transmitter is typical of VE7VP's projects.

is a White Russian whom he met in China.

When the writer gave up 10 meter SSB in Feb. 1950 as a bit premature and went to 20 one of his most frequent contacts on that band soon became W6DMN of San Francisco. W6DMN was very interested in SSB. Mrs. Vera Martin was living in San Francisco at that time while hubby Fenton put in his tour of duty at JA2MB. W6DMN used to often run fone patches for JA2MB to let Martin talk to Vera. And now and then a 3 way would occur with VE7VP on SSB and W6DMN and JA2MB on AM. JA2MB was also interested in SSB. W6DMN got on SSB during the summer of 1950. JA2MB was still interested in SSB. In the fall of 1950 Vera Martin came to Vancouver to visit her sister who was living there. So the job of keeping Fenton Martin in touch with his wife became the lot of VE7VP.

Martin decided that he would like to

try SSB but how to get on was a problem. At that time manufacturing in Japan was just getting started again and parts were hard to get. So it was decided that VE7VP would make him an exciter and he would build his own amplifiers and power supplies.

The exciter had to be small and light as the only possible way of getting it into Japan was by aircraft. It had to use tubes that were in supply at JA2MB. It was decided not to do any experimenting but to make a copy of the writer's own version of the W2UNJ exciter stripped of everything that Martin could supply at his end.

It developed into a little steel box, a Hammond 1402-C to be exact that contained an xtal osc. at 7mc. a doubler to 14mc. A 4 tube balanced modulator complete with RF and AF phasing and 2 audio modulators. It required 6.3 ac and 200-250 vdc regulated from a supply that Martin would make and audio about one watt level at 5000 ohms

which he could obtain from the equipment he had in use. Its output was enough to drive an 807 class A.

In about 2 months after a thorough on the air test it was sent on its way by air. Almost in a matter of hours it was in the hands of Martin at Yokosuka. How this was accomplished must remain a mystery to all but a very few people.

Then followed a period of trial and error, of getting amplifiers stabilized and loaded, of fighting poor voltage regulation and trying to keep up skeds at the same time. Martin got the SSB transmitter on the air in mid April 1951. In a few days it was in use handling the traffic.

During the winter of 51-52 Martin decided that he would like to rebuild his station, changing his final to ground-to-grid and rebuilding his power supplies to improve the regulation. Since he would be shut down for about a month I suggested that the exciter should come back to Vancouver for a check up and a few modifications.

So back across the Pacific the little exciter came by air and after about 3 weeks in Vancouver back to Japan it went again by air. Going on the air again with the rebuilt station it kept the by now KA2mb SSB signal on the air until Martin returned State side to do a tour of duty in Calif. Most of the equipment was left behind in Yokosuka but the little exciter went to Calif. again flying the Pacific this time by a different route.

In Calif. Martin was assigned to a unit where the MARS station had already been converted to SSB. The exciter saw service at Martins home station. A converter was added with a 10mc. xtal which produced an output signal at 4mc. so Martin could operate on either 75 or 20 meters.

After about a year in Calif. Martin again returned to Japan. He took the little exciter with him and again it was flown across the Pacific. By this time TVI was beginning to catch up with the writer and VE7VP was becoming rather inactive. Consequently very few con-

tacts were made with Martin during his last tour in Japan.

When he came back to Calif. in 1955 Martin left the little exciter in Japan for the use of those who took his place. When my wife and I visited Martin and Vera at Laguna Beach Calif. in 1956 he told me that so far as he knew it was still in Japan and still in use.

Since the end of occupation in Japan MARS activity there has declined to a fraction of what it was. I doubt that the exciter is in use or even exists. Whatever its fate I think that it has served its purpose. If it has been dismantled for parts I have no regrets.

So that is the story of the little Single Sideband Exciter that was made in Canada, that put the U.S. Marine Corps on single sideband at one of their key MARS stations and that flew across the Pacific Ocean five times.

Unfortunately some people who made it possible to happen must remain anonymous. I hope this story brings to them some degree of satisfaction.

Speaking of coincidences, try this one for size.

VE7 Able, Able, Able, (how able can a guy get!) is Arthur Andrew Abrahamson!

A few months back it was noticed that there was a considerable increase in the activity in Amateur Radio around the Abrahamson domicile. A new, 80 foot, straight as an arrow, pole, is lying in the driveway, and Art has been seen, lovingly employed, attaching a track that will carry a tri-bander aloft. Incidentally Art's son and heir, Elwood, is VE7APA and is the CW whiz of the family.

We are still trying to figure out why that new stick is going to be stuck in the middle of the back-yard lawn, when just a short while ago, if anyone stepped on a blade of grass therein, they got konked by, "I-run-this-set-up, Irene, . . . Say! Could it be, we heard a South American calling frantically, VE7, Northa Westa, VE7, Northa, Westa, Pleeza, Irene We will have to look into this! ●

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