

K at the PRIZES !

g offered in this Contest!

—
IENT

TER BEAM!

3-element, 10 mtr
uty. It's built like
d is hot as a fire-

A Beautiful —

VOLT - OHM
METER!

The V-O-M will do everything but
mix the batter for you — It's a
honey!

A Johnson

SIGNAL

SENTRY

Taylor Pearson & Carson have
added a Johnson Signal Sentry
to our list. A read handy gad-
get!

CONTEST RULES:

Entrants must be amateurs to win Grand Prize.

There will be other valuable prizes awarded to runners up.

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

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

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

Contest closes June 22, 1959, and winners' names will appear in the July issue.

All letters to become property of "The Canadian Amateur" who shall retain the rights of publication.

More

Prizes

Coming!



Jinglebells

By JIM HEPBURN
VE7KX

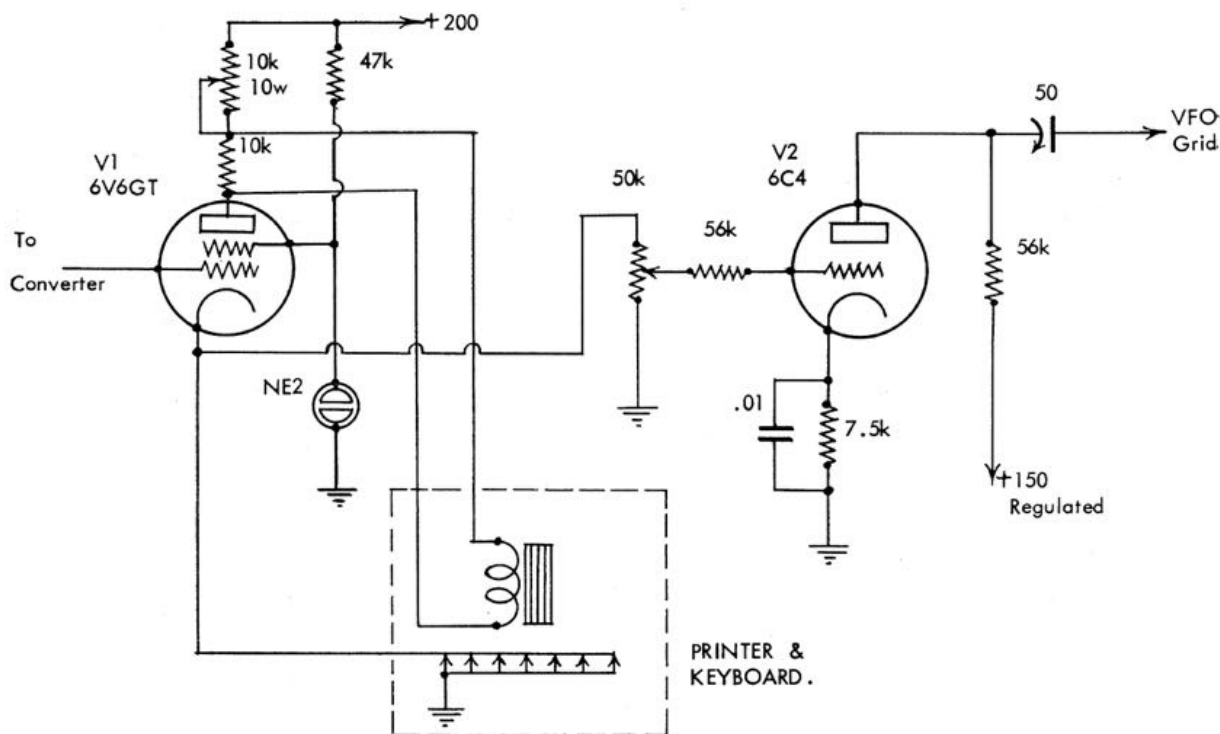
AMATEUR RADIOTELETYPE

In an earlier article describing a simple "Converter" unit for the reception of RTTY transmissions, mention was made of a connection brought out from the printer keyboard for the control of frequency shift keying of a transmitter for the transmission of RTTY Signals.

Referring to the accompanying diagram, V-1 is the output or keyer stage of the "Converter" unit described earlier and the cathode of this tube is brought out through the keyboard contacts to ground. Operation

of the keyboard keys the current passing through this stage; and through the printer magnet coil; and at the same time a regulated D.C. voltage of approximately 50 volts appears across the open keyboard contacts

This keyed voltage is applied across a 50K potentiometer in the grid circuit of a reactance modulator V-2, which can be added to any conventional amateur station V.F.O. In this case, a 6C4 triode is used, this could be any medium amplification



triode, the 6C4 was selected because it is small, rugged, excellent for R.F. work and can be tucked away on a small bracket or added to the chassis of any small V.F.O. without space problems.

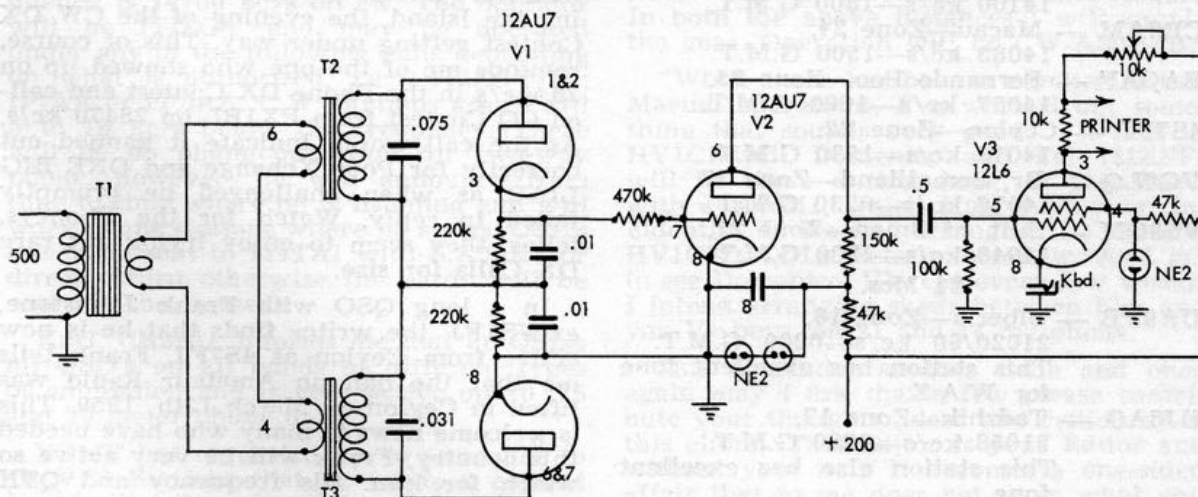
This reactance modulator is in effect a variable condenser connected across the V.F.O. grid coil and it moves the V.F.O. frequency when a D.C. voltage is applied to its grid. This simple reactance modulator is not linear in operation, but fidelity in the audio sense is not necessary, we are only concerned with two positions, on or off. The installation of this modulator in the V.F.O. should follow good construction practices necessary with any part of the V.F.O. tuned circuit, the modulator is part of the frequency determining circuit, rigid

mounting, short leads and adequate ventilation are required for good frequency stability.

On the application of a positive voltage from the keyboard to the reactance modulator grid the V.F.O. will shift to a lower frequency. The amount of shift will be determined by the grid potentiometer setting and the setting of the 50 PFD coupling condenser. This condenser should be set at the minimum capacity required for full 850 cycle shift at the low end of the lowest frequency band, and will seldom require readjustment. As any frequency multiplication in the transmitter following the V.F.O. will also multiply the shift in the same ratio it is necessary to reset the shift potentiometer control when changing

Alternatively the receiver beat frequency oscillator control can be calibrated to

The transmitter output should not change when keying the F.S.K. reactance modulator, if a difference does occur then the V.F.O. is on the ragged edge of oscillation and improvement badly needed. Components in the transmitter should be operated at ratings similar for phone operation, steady R.F. power is being generated for considerable periods of time. RTTY is guaranteed to quickly weed out those overloaded or old tired components that have been getting by on c.w. for years! ! !



The Canadian Amateur—April, 1959 23

Spring has arrived, but the DX, as usual, held back by poor conditions in general on all bands, still manages to produce it's share of good ones, even though they are not as frequently to be found so far this year as in the past.

The conditions during the last PHONE and CW week-ends of the ARRL DX Contest were extremely good despite the propagation reports of radio storms forecast for the two week-ends. The higher frequency bands produced the most, especially 21 and 28 Mcs. On 3.5 and 7 Mcs conditions were only fair, although the activities of KS4BB on 3.5 Mcs (worked by the writer with 150 watts in a mad throng of W's) and KM6BL were two brighter moments. Ten meter conditions showed typical one-way transmission and if one were to select a weak signal and call it he invariably came back with a strong report.

Our tip for this month is for CW Operators. A very short call will raise twice as much DX as an ARM BREAKING CALL such I have heard by many VE Operators. Survey yourself when you hear the DX Station answering one of your friends and see if perhaps you wasted needless calling power, to say the least created Needless QRM.

A list of good catches are herewith as follows for the many who still need them:

14 Mcs.

- FB8ZZ — Kerguelen Islands—Zone 39,
14030 kc/s—1700 G.M.T.
- UG6AG — Armenia—Zone 21,
14130 kc/s—2000 G.M.T.
- HS1E — Thailand—Zone 26,
14165 kc/s—1630 G.M.T.
- HS1C — Thailand—Zone 26,
14100 kc/s—1300 G.M.T.
- CR9AM — Macau—Zone 24,
14085 kc/s—1500 G.M.T.
- EAØAF — Fernando Poo—Zone 35,
14057 kc/s—1600 G.M.T.
- 4S7FJ — Ceylon—Zone 22,
14018 kc/s—1530 G.M.T.
- VQ6LQ — Br. Somaliland—Zone 37,
14076 kc/s—0230 G.M.T.
- VS9OM — Sult. of Oman—Zone 21,
14048 kc/s—1300 G.M.T.

21 Mcs.

- UA9VB — Siberia—Zone 18,
21020/90 kc/s—0200 G.M.T.
This station has excellent fone for W.A.Z.
- UJ8AG — Tadzhik—Zone 17,
21058 kc/s—0230 G.M.T.
This station also has excellent fone.
- VP8CX — Falkland Is.—Zone 13,
21245 kc/s—0200 G.M.T.
- CR8AC — Port. India—Zone 22,
21180 kc/s—0230 G.M.T.

- AP2AD — Pakistan—Zone 22,
21195 kc/s—0300 G.M.T.
- XZ2SY — Burma—Zone 26,
21210 kc/s—0330 G.M.T.
- PX1YR — Andorra—Zone 14,
21215 kc/s—2030 G.M.T.
- FM7WS — Martinique—Zone 8,
21207 kc/s—0200 G.M.T.

28 Mcs.

- XW8AL — Laos—Zone 26,
28442 kc/s—0200 G.M.T.
- 9M2GA — Malaya—Zone 28,
28350 kc/s—0000 G.M.T.
- DU7SV — Phillipine Is.—Zone 27,
28392 kc/s—0030 G.M.T.
Volt. is Crystal controlled on this frequency.
- ZS8I — Basutoland—Zone 38,
28305 kc/s—1900 G.M.T.
- VQ5DM — Uganda—Zone 37,
28255 kc/s—1830 G.M.T.
- VU2CQ — India—Zone 22,
28328 kc/s—1700 G.M.T.
- 9K2AZ — Kuwait—Zone 21,
28410 kc/s—1730 G.M.T.

The Serrana Bank expedition finally got under way after delays due to various reasons. They were on c.w. and s.s.b. on all bands, although W9JUV gave considerable time to 28650 kc/s on s.s.b. and W4KVX spent much time on 21050 kc/s, c.w. As is usual all such expeditions are preceded by jokers who persist in trying out the new call ahead of the scheduled appearance, but due to the considerable publicity given this station one immediately appeared on the first day at the appointed hour on 21 mc/s, c.w. and worked a goodly number of stations. The gang were delayed due to no sextant and running out of fuel and therefore were late in starting after finally finding the Island, the evening of the CW DX Contest getting under way. This of course, reminds me of the one who showed up on 28 mc/s in the Phone DX Contest and called CQ Contest from PX1BL on 28470 kc/s. As the call would indicate it panned out correctly for Poor Xchange and ONE BIG LIAR as when challenged he promptly failed to reply. Watch for the Phoneys, fellas, they seem to enjoy trying out rare DX Calls for size.

In a long QSO with Frank Johnstone, ex-VS1FJ, the writer finds that he is now active from Ceylon as 4S7FJ. Frank tells me that the ban on Amateur Radio was lifted in Ceylon on March 15th, 1959. This is welcome news to many who have needed this country. Frank will be very active so watch for him. His frequency and QTH appear in this issue.

Danny Weil is active from Grenada as VP2GDW and he has finally reached his final destination despite the tragic loss of

Yasme II. Regardless of the loss let us all bemoan the fact that had we given Danny a bit of sleep instead of so many after him, he would have been awake at the helm and Yasme II would now have been on its way to rarer Pacific Islands, which we regret must now await further DX-peditions.

Two VK boys will operate from CRIØ at the end of May or early June for a two weeks period. They promise lots of action and their operation will be mainly on 21 mc/s. Frequencies and times will be advised when final details are worked out.

VK9NT informs me that he has again put up his 6 meter Quad and would like the 6 meter DXers to watch out for him on 50040 kc/s.

From Paul, VQ8AD, comes an outline of what to expect from VQ8 land. VQ8AJC of the Chagos Islands is now in Mauritius. VQ8ASR, whilst still on Rodriguez Island is QRT owing to pressure of work and the lack of a rig, however VQ8AQ has to frequently go to Rodriguez and is going to arrange activity as VQ8AQS. VQ8AH and AV are active daily from Mauritius on 21 mc/s phone.

If you work VS9OM, adhere to the QSL instructions and DO NOT send your cards direct. His position is difficult, to say the least, and his QRT permanently will be hastened by ill advised sending of cards other than by the proper channels.

The Editor General has been quiet this month, and this Editor suspects that he is snowed under with your subscriptions and other attendant duties. It is quite a treat to neither hear complaints nor ill advised remarks that he usually casts my way. All the kids like Jelly Beans and John is such a loveable fellow, especially amongst the YL fraternity.

The Pelagic Islands will be on starting at 2000GMT April 24th to 27th. If all goes well ARRL may see fit to award this new country status so don't pass it up. The frequency is 14100 kc/s on cw. The operator will be ITIZGY and may be operated under any of the following calls depending on what is authorized, i.e.:—ITIZGY/IP; IPIAA or ITØAA. C.W. Stations are to call 5 to 10 kc/s below the frequency. There will be no phone operation for two-way phone, however, he will announce from time to time where he is listening and will work phone stations where he states. QSL's are to be sent to ITITAI with S.A.S.E. for direct return otherwise the cards will be sent via the bureaux.

Karl, UR2BU, informs me that he QSL's all QSO's on all bands or different types of emission and is very active on 10, 15 and 20 meter phone daily.

VS1JF has requested me to announce to all VE8 Stations that he needs a contact for his W.A.Z. and will be on daily on 21 mc/s on or near 21050 kc/s between 1600 and 2000 GMT looking for VE8s or VO2s. VQ4AQ of Nairobi, Kenya is making up

a complete broadcast on world amateur activities for a special program to be broadcast over the C.B.C. in Canada. Further details of this outstanding event and boost for Amateur Radio will be announced shortly.

MP4BBW will visit Trucial Oman for a 2 day stand with S.S.B. so please watch the high end of 20 and 15 for him as it must be a rush affair and may not be able to give much notice. My informant, MP4BCC tells me it can happen anytime after the 12th of April, 1959.

MP4DAA of Das Island is readying action for 21 mc/s and will be available on the band shortly with A.M. Phone so this one should become a little easier for the phone gang.

A wonderful break for the Canadian Amateur magazine has appeared in the form of Maxwell "Santa Claus" Meyers, W2BIB. Mack is God's gift to the DX man and the following scoops have just been received from him.

EA9 DX-pedition is official. The operators will be Jose, EA4FU and Angel, EA4GA. The call EA9NNJ has been applied for to favor the North New Jersey DX Association. Both the operators are official members of the Spanish Military. It is planned to ship gear to Ceuta and then air-lift it to Ifni by the Spanish Military for use by Jose and Angel. Everything is all set for Mid-May or early June dependant upon Angel's return from the States, where he is now located (Fort Monmouth Radar Training School), and he arrived from Spain April 5th. Frequencies to be used have not been decided upon as yet. A special V Beam will be used to give the VE-West boys an opportunity to snag this luscious morsel. More details to follow.

Mack writes further, "I have arranged the DX-pedition for 9NA in Nepal. This is being established presently and one of the operators will be I1ZFF, Fel, of Rome, Italy. This is scheduled for mid-August. In both the above instances I will supply the gear. Operation will be CW-AM-SSB."

"While there has been a number of San Marino operations, I've worked out something that sounds very good . . . that is, HV1CN/M1. Domenico and Fel (I1ZFF) will be there during June, at the latest, with a KWM1, which I am supplying. Incidentally I have arranged to handle HV1CN's QSLs, details to follow. As I get to see Domenico, HV1CN every few weeks, I intend arranging skeds between him and you Ve boys, on 21 and 14 mc phone."

This concludes another issue and once again may I ask that a few please contribute your thoughts, ideas and criticisms of this column. This Editor is your Editor and without your help it becomes a one-sided affair that to me does not show what you really are thinking.

How about some pictures, stories and otherwise of some of you DXers in VE

land so that I can have the Editor show you off to our subscribers and let them see what they have been fighting in their efforts to keep on top!

DX Addresses for those in need:

I1EZZ/M1—Via I1DFC.

ZS5RO/ZS7—Via W8UMR with S.A.S.E.

4S7FJ—Frank Johnstone, R.A.F., Katunayake, Ceylon.

HH6OG—Box 14, Aux Cayes, Haiti. (This is a Catholic Mission and your donations will be in an excellent cause).

PY7HS—Eduardo Jorge Silva, Avn., Duque de Caxias, 1154 Maceio, Alagoas, Brazil.

EL2G—Walter Upshur, Dept. of Justice, Monrovia, Liberia.

VK9NT, VQ3HH, ZB2I, VQ3CF, JZØHA, 9G1BQ and VK9BW—all via W2CTN with S.A.S.E.

VP2GV—Brandon Hall, St. Andrews, Grenada.

VK9LE—Via VK6MK.

PZ1AP—Arnold Polsbroek, Box 547, Paramaribo, Surinam, S.A.

ZD7SE—Via W4ML with S.A.S.E.

VS6DO—QSL via the Bureau ONLY.

As a final parting may I tell Martin Rosenthal, VE3MR, that he has finally won a convert and Martin I will join the ranks of S.S.B. fraternity before the end of the month.

Best regards and good DX, VE7ZM.

CANADIAN DXCC STANDINGS AS TO FEB. 15, 1959—Incl. CW/FONE TOTALS

269 VE7ZM	183 VE2NV	143 VE1NH	118 VE7EH	108 VE6GD	101 VE1CU
241 VE7GI	180 VE4XO	142 VE1EK	117 VE7ZZ	107 VE1ZZ	VE1OK
237 VE2WW	VE7VC	141 VE2WA	116 VE7CE	106 VE3AHV	VE1OM
230 VE3RE	173 VE7VO	VE5KG	115 VE2CK	VO1B	VE2ATD
220 VE1EP	172 VE3IJ	140 VE1EX	114 VE3BZ	105 VE3ANH	VE5DR
214 VE6NX	VE3ES	VE2YA	113 VE1DB	VE3IG	VE6JR
212 VE3DIF	170 VE7MD	136 VE7AIH	VE2BK	VE3KE	VE6MN
210 VE3QD	164 VE1HG	131 VE1PA	VE3ACS	VE3YV	VE6MZ
VE1PQ	163 VE5RU	130 VE3BHS	112 VE3XY	103 VE1BK	VE7YE
209 VE7HC	162 VE2YU	VE3SR	111 VE2APH	VE3BWY	VE1EA
202 VE3AIU	160 VE3IR	VE3TB	VE3EHR	VO6U	VE1GJ
200 VE3AAZ	156 VE3DKY	126 VE3EU	110 VE5TK	102 VE1BV	VE1NE
VE6VK	153 VE3ZW	125 VE5GF	VE7EH	VE3BUR	VE1YB
VE3JZ	VE6KX	123 VE3KP	109 VE4DB	VE3QE	VE2AFC
VE7SB	152 VE3ADV	W1LRK	VE7AHG	VE3RM	VE2KZ
199 VO1DX	151 VE2BV	/VO1	VE7KJ	VE6FK	VE3ARS
195 VE8AW	147 VE3HB	120 VE3AGC		VE7OJ	VE3BMB
193 VE7YR	146 VE5JV	VE2BR		VE8OW	VE3QB
190 VO6EP		119 VE7KC			VE3OR
187 VE7JB					VE5VL

CALL AREA LEADERS

VE1EP	VE4XO	VE7ZM
VE2WW	VE5RU	VE8AW
VE3RE	VE6NX	VO1DX

Civic Officials Present At Opening of Sydney Clubroom

By Cyril Boudreau, VE1RJ

"Just hold on a while, boys. The mayor and the other dignitaries are coming in the door now," came the voice over the speaker.

The audience, one that could not possibly all be seated in one room, was scattered from Bathurst to Halifax and Yarmouth to Glace Bay!

"Impossible!" you say.

Not at all. The audience consisted of amateur radio operators (and many "short-wave" listeners) from the three Maritime provinces, listening in on the Maritime Network frequency (3,750 kilocycles) to the official opening of the new Sydney Amateur Radio clubroom on Bridget street in Sydney.

Civic dignitaries were present along with fellow amateurs from the surrounding area close to 50 in number. Several contacts were made with operators throughout the Maritimes and highlights of the evening were contacts made with the Lieutenant-Governor of Prince Edward Island, Hon. Walter Hyndman, (well-known operator of amateur radio station VE1BZ), His Worship Mayor Edwin G. Johnston, Charlottetown; Mayor Russel Urquhart of Sydney, present at the Sydney Club.

Rev. C. H. Boudreau, operator of VE1HY sent congratulations to the club and to the two mayors and Lieutenant-Governor from

Halifax Mayor Charles A. Vaughan who was unable to listen in due to civic duties.

WELL-KNOWN HAM

The master of ceremonies for the evening at the clubroom was Murdock (Mac) MacLean, well-known in ham radio circles as the operator of amateur radio station VE1FR.

The officers of the Sydney Amateur Radio Club, which by the way is licensed under the call VE1AEP, are: president, Howard MacKay, VE1WI; vice-president, Richard Foote, VE1ST; secretary, Hector MacKinnon, VE1HT, and treasurer, Howie McPhail, VE1LA.

A Radio Operators Restricted course designed to train personnel enrolled in Civil Defence as Radio Operators will be held in the lecture room (302) at the Police headquarters, 105 Brunswick St. on the four Thursdays in March starting at 8 p.m.

This course is sponsored by the Halifax Amateur Radio Club and is being set up to train candidates to the standard required by the Department of Transport, to enable them to obtain the certificate "Radio Operator Restricted", commonly known as ROR. This certificate will permit the holder to act as a Civil Defence communicator on specific commercial Radio Frequency bands, and to operate certain types of radio equipment on behalf of civil defence. It will also train another group as telephone operators in procedure and correct message writing.

Instructors for this course will be: Major E. J. Vickery, director of Civil Defence for Halifax; S. E. Frederick, Communications officer Halifax Civil Defence; Ray W. Wilson, Radio Officer, Halifax Civil Defence and president of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club; Norman Weedmark, CD instructor and Ian MacLeod, H.A.R.C.

The course will cover such subjects as the participation of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club in civil defence, requirements for "Radio Operators Restricted", CD message forms, a review of Phonetic Alphabet (NATO), microphone technique and many other subjects leading to the ROR certificate.

Albert Duberger, operator of amateur radio station VE2HB in Quebec City related this story of cooperation among hams and police patrols which took place earlier.

A Montreal couple had left that area for a vacation trip to Florida, when one of the family at home passed away. Police were notified and immediately a search was started for the Montreal car.

Highway patrols in the U.S., along with

Bouquet Department

Marv, VE7AKD, and his XYL Katy, have just returned from Palm Desert, where they were enjoying a well deserved rest. Marv recently retired from active business, (my inside information is that Katy insisted that he give up his work and come home to help landscape their acreage in British Properties, the amount of rock and dirt that has to be moved would cost something unbearable, and no one knows better than Katy that Marv has moved a lot of it in his day.) Welcome home folks.

VE7AKD has earned a spot in this column, that should fill the whole magazine. It was Marv who supplied the first kick in the pants to your Editor. It was he who said. "QUIT-UR-BELLIACHIN, take this, get the H- - out of my office and do something with it! While the dream of a national Canadian Amateur Magazine had been with me for many years, I will never forget the push that Marv supplied that helped to make it a reality.

police of several cities were asked to help in the search for the Montreal car.

Mr. Duberger, with other Quebec and Montreal area radio amateurs, put their stations on the air and called the neighboring states of Vermont, New York, North Carolina, down to Florida.

"We finally ended up getting in contact with the couple in Orlando, Florida," said Mr. Duberger. "They were notified of the death of their relative and returned immediately."

"We appreciate the help that we received from all concerned in locating them. Operators of amateur stations W2BFH, K2ARU and W4BFC along with Canadian operators of VE2AAH, VE2AG, VE2AJS and VE2CX

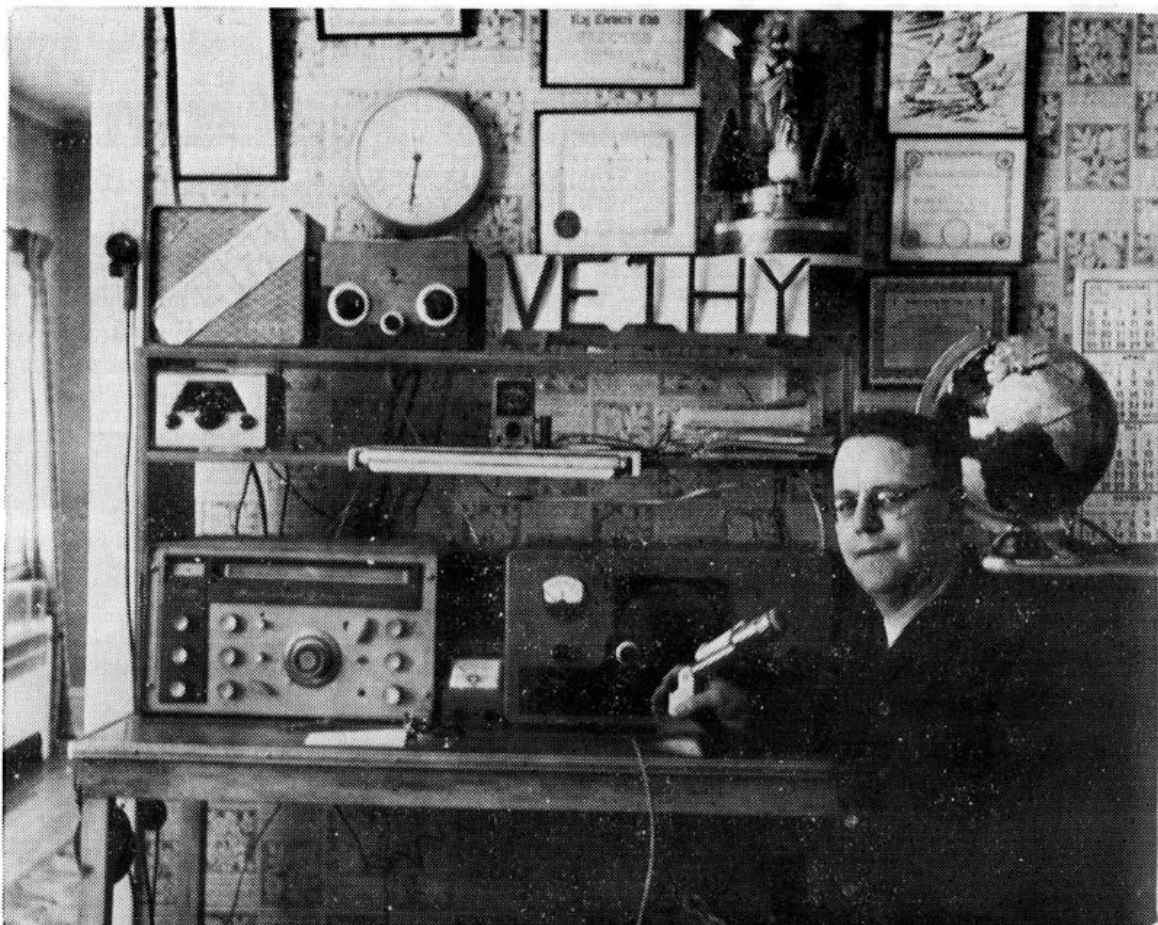
(many stations on the frequencies used were also very helpful) are to be commended for a job well done."

And to wind this up, keep in mind that this is "Hamfest" year. Amateurs from Eastern Canada and many parts of the U.S. will be in Halifax on Labour Day weekend. Final arrangements and further plans will be discussed later.

A reminder here to please keep the frequency of 3,750 kilo-cycles clear between 1830 (6:30 p.m.) hours and the end of the Maritime Network. The Newfoundland Net at 6:30 and the local net at 7:00 p.m. find it easier to conduct traffic (messages) when the frequency is clear and thus can speed up roll-call and the transfer of formal or informal messages. "73"

"DO THOSE FELLAS KNOW IT'S 3 A.M. HERE?"





"It's the hobby of hobbies"—So says amateur operator Rev. C. H. Boudreau, D.D., assistant at St. Stephen's Church, shown above at his station.

Radio Hams Strive For Various Prized Awards

By Cyril Boudreau, VE1RJ

"We are situated about 20 miles from the closest glimpse of civilization and amateur radio is our only connection with the outside world," came the voice over the radio speaker.

The voice was that of one of two Roman Catholic missionaries, at a Benedictine monastery in Puerto Rico.

The words were addressed to local amateur radio operator Rev. C.H. Boudreau, D.D., assistant at St. Stephen's Church, and Rt. Rev. W. Leo Murphy, P.P., D.P., St. Stephen's, who was listening in with Fr. Boudreau.

"You might be interested to know that you are also talking to two Canadian Roman Catholic priests," said Father Boudreau in return. . . and thus was the beginning of a pleasant "rag-chew" between Halifax and Puerto Rico.

Fr. Boudreau, known to many over the airwaves as "Henry", (all amateur oper-

ators address each other by their first name, be they company executives, doctors, priests, princes or school boys) has had his amateur radio license since January, '57. He was awarded the call letters VE1HY after passing the required examinations by the Department of Transport.

Since then he has communicated with over 3,000 "hams" in 79 countries from Baffin Islands to Santiago, Chile; Hawaii to Moscow; and from Melbourne, Australia to Capetown, South Africa.

Father Boudreau is presently working for two awards issued by the American Radio Relay League in West Hartford, Conn. One is the WAS (Worked all States) certificate and the other is the DXCC (a certificate showing that an amateur has made, and confirmed, contact with 100 countries).

Of the former, Fr. Boudreau says "I still
(Continued on Page 34)

Youthful Ham Operator Boasts Unique Station

By CYRIL BOUDREAU, VE1RJ

Ever wonder what it's like to carry on a direct conversation with a fellow in Belgium, chat about weather conditions with a worker on the DEW (distant early warning) line in the Yukon Territory or just find out what's new in San Diego, California—all without leaving the comforts of your own home? It's done every day all over the world! Who pays the long distance rates? Nobody, because it's done by amateur radio, or more commonly known as "ham" radio.



Bob Schultz, VE1HF, chats from old abandoned Hudson bomber.

LINKED IN DISASTERS

This fraternity has existed ever since the end of the First World War and is increasing yearly as more people become aware of its importance as a link in communications during times of disaster, floods, etc.

and of the enjoyment derived from it when used as a hobby.

Of all the "ham" operators in Nova Scotia, 18-year-old Bob Schultz of Lower Sackville, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl W. Schultz and student in radio and television

at the Halifax County Vocational High School, carries on with his hobby the same as any other ham in the province, with one difference. That difference is in the location of Bob's station—it is situated in an old abandoned Hudson Bomber, formerly a roadside canteen, off the Sackville highway.

Bob received his license to operate an amateur station in November, 1957.

An amateur radio station, such as that owned and operated by Bob Schultz, consists primarily of a transmitter (to the uninitiated this is a piece of radio equipment that sends your voice or the dots and dashes of the International Morse Code over the airwaves), a shortwave communications receiver, a microphone, a telegraph key and an antenna—the latter being anything from a long wire to a more elaborate (and expensive) "beam".

It should be mentioned here that any person may listen to any conversation on any frequency, but if it is desired to operate a transmitter and thus take part in these conversations, an examination must be written and the station must be licensed with the Government.

Depending on the type of receiver a person has, he may listen to standard broadcast, shortwave, police, marine, amateur and many others. The amateur "band" is the one on which Bob and all other hams operate.

EARNs HIS LICENSE

To obtain his license, Bob had to learn the International Morse Code (the receiving and sending of code at a speed of not less than 10 words per minute), study basic radio theory (have a knowledge of the Canadian and international regulations governing the operation of an amateur station. Regulations require one to be a British subject and to be 15 years of age.

On having passed his examination, Bob was awarded a Certificate Of Proficiency In Radio (Amateur Class) granted by the Minister of Transport under the provision of the Radio Act and a license to operate his station.

Bob was given call letters by which he identifies himself "over the air", the same as any other radio station. In Canada all call letters awarded the amateur begin with the letters VE. Following the letters is a number determining the region from which the licensed amateurs operate. Number 1 designates the Maritimes; Number 2 is for Quebec; 3 for Ontario, etc. Again following these two letters and numbers are the operator's own letters issued by the Department of Transport. Bob's call letters are VE1IF. (Every country has its own prefix. G for England, F for France, K and W for the United States—all included in a list of approximately 200 prefixes or more).

There are radio men, engineers, doctors, lawyers, politicians, members of the clergy, students, janitors and even housewives who have their amateur radio licenses.

A few notables among hams are such

men as General Curtis LeMay, cigar-chewing former head of the U.S. Strategic Air Command, and popular U.S. radio personality, Arthur Godfrey.

Under Canadian regulations, a newly licensed ham must remain on Morse Code (restricted to the use of his telegraph key) for one year. Then after another set of exams he may make use of his microphone. Bob at the present time is at this stage and plans to take his second exam "as soon as I can copy the Morse Code at a speed of 15 words per minute" (the speed required for the second exam).

The maximum power output of an amateur transmitter must be under 525 watts. In the U.S. the maximum is 1000 watts.

The cost of such a station?

A neat little station, one that will possibly limit operations to within the North American continent, due to low power, can be had for anywhere between \$150.00 to \$200. A newcomer is advised to try to build his own transmitter if possible and thus have a better knowledge as to its operation and care.

Bob has a commercially built receiver, a medium powered transmitter, five different antennae and scores of radio parts and tubes. The station is neatly laid out in the mid-section of the aircraft and behind the door upon which are the words "Amateur Radio Station VE1IF". Bob talks to newly made friends—whether they be in Europe, South America, or just a few miles away in Sackville.

Celebrates 31st

How many of you have found yourself trying to describe the thrill of your first QSO? Particularly to a SWL! It just can't be done. Oh, you can talk about it, wave your arms and grow misty-eyed, but there is something indescribable about the first time you hear your call sign come back at you, whether it be from the next block or from Tibet!

Two old timers met on the air a short while ago, to relive that wonderful moment. . . "This is my first time on the air. . . Ah, my name is Dave, and, ah, my call is VE4GO. . . How do you copy me?"

"Fine business Dave, and I am very happy to be your first contact, welcome to the Amateur fraternity, my name is Charles and you have my call rite, VE4 Able Charlie. I hope this is the beginning of many more QSO's in the future."

Dave was experiencing that unforgettable something Amateurs anticipate and then proceed to blow apart when it happens!

It was a birthday of 31 years that Charles was helping Dave to celebrate, March 11th was the date. Dave is now VE5GO and Charles is VE3GS, now in Port Arthur. Congratulations kids, hope we are around to hear you celebrate your "Golden Anniversary."

Early Amateur Radio—Continued

nights were the following: 2KF, Mr. Part-ridge of London, 2SZ, Mr. Goyder, Mill Hill School, 5BV, Mr. Ryan of Wimbledon, and 2SH, Mr. Hogg of London. I cannot remember any others at present. All the above should have their names placed high in the hall of amateur radio fame, and heading the list should be 2OD and 2NM who by their untiring efforts pushed their signals through here every night for months without missing a single night and encouraged us to try night after night to connect with them.

By March, 1924, five out of ten amateur stations in Halifax district had held two way communications with the Old Country and as a mark of distinction we formed a society called the Royal Order of Trans-Atlantic Brasspounders, or R.O.T.A.B. for short, into which only those who had held two-way communication across the Atlantic could become members. Each member was allowed to put the word ROTAB on his cards which were sent to stations they have had two way communication with or have heard and it was not long before the idea took on and today there are many cards going all over the world with the word ROTAB printed on them.

Night after night the whole ten stations in Halifax would come on and call such as the following: CQ, CQ, CQ, gc, 1DD, 1DD, to try and hook an English station. It will be noticed that in between the CQ and the station call of 1DD that the letters gc were used. This was a scheme that turned out to be very useful. All Canadian stations had, in those days, the letter "C" before the call and all English stations had the letter "G" before their call and by sending c.g., all English stations knew that it was a Canadian station calling CQ and trying to get in touch with England. By this system we were able to recognize what countries were on the air among amateurs and if we had any tests or messages for any special country we could immediately get attention in the direction we wanted.

From these first two way tests with England many friendships have sprung up. G2OD and C1BQ were like brothers in a very short time and it was very interesting to listen to them discussing technical details of different types of transmitters, receivers, etc., over a distance of nearly three thousand miles, just as many of the readers of this magazine do in the morning on the train or bus in to the city to work.

In addition to the many friendly chats and tests that we held by radio, we would send letters following up some point that had been mentioned by radio, and nothing did more to create a feeling of comradeship than these two-way tests.

In these early days I often wondered what the fellow at the other end looked like and it has been my privilege since then to see most of these early English amateurs in person since that date. By constant

working we got to know what each man thought about different subjects in radio and it was surprising how near to my imagination the different English amateurs turned out to be, from the idea of them I had formed from contacts by radio. It was very funny of course at times. I would get the idea that one would be old and another young and I must say that in this point I often got the wrong idea. Whatever I thought however, it made me all the more anxious to see them and one night in contact with G2NM I suggested to him that I would like to see him in person and a few nights afterwards when I called CQ-GE 1DD, great was my joy when I got hold of 2NM again and he announced that he was sailing for Canada in a couple of weeks time and would call to see me.

The story of how we met and how we went to visit some famous USA amateurs and further work accomplished by the ROTAB's is another story in itself. In the meantime I would advise all interested in radio, that if they want a real thrill, to learn the International Morse Code, get a license and give us a call. As the amateur says in radio telegraphy, QRV QTC? After around forty years of amateur radio, the same thrill and interest is ever present in this wide world hobby—Boy, and what a difference in gear used today from that of yesteryear!

NEW GEAR DEPARTMENT

RME's New 4350A COMMUNICATION RECEIVER

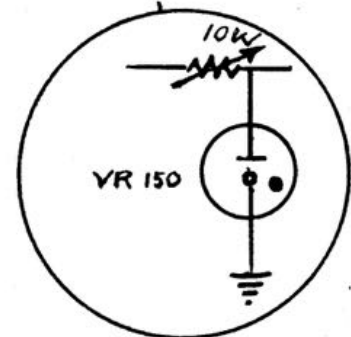
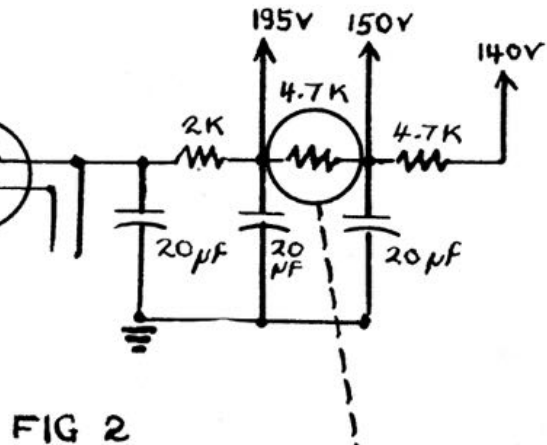
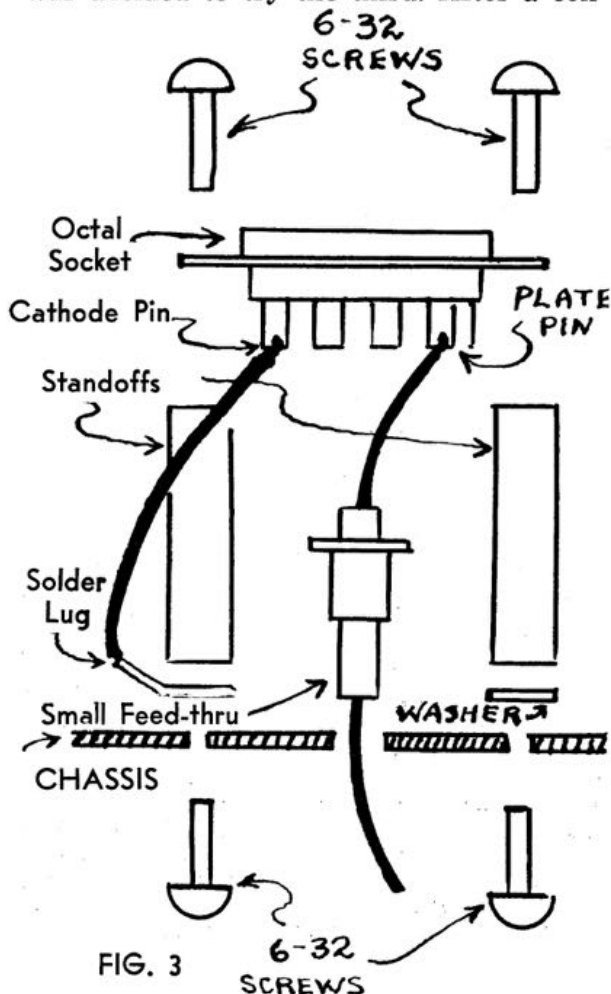
This new column starts off with a bang! I am as thrilled to tell you about the 4350A, as you will be to win it! ! !

Yes, that is the contest first prize! And I can truthfully say it is a honey, because I have had it on my operating table long enough to become acquainted with it. It is just jam-packed with value and will do just about everything!

THE ECONOMY RECEIVER—Cont'd

was followed. A Heathkit QF-1 was used, and the phone jack on the rear panel of the receiver came in handy here. It happens to be near enough to the mixer to utilize for coupling the VF-1 to the NC-88. The .01 mfd. condenser coupling the jack to the 1st audio stage was removed, and in its place a short length of small dia. coax was run to the mixer plate. It was decided that the necessary addition of an octal socket to the rear apron to supply plate and filament voltage to the Q Multiplier stage would not detract from any trade-in value the receiver might have.

STABILITY: With the increased selectivity afforded by the Q Multiplier, the drift of the receiver soon became apparent. Although not especially noticeable before, the drift would now cause the received signal (especially on CW) to move off the peak of the IF response curve. The result was that the receiver required tuning every few minutes. The three most widely used methods of stabilizing an oscillator are; use of temperature-compensated capacitors, isolating the tuned circuits from heat-producing components, and voltage stabilization. The first method might be tricky to apply, the second would involve major changes in the layout of the set, so it was decided to try the third. After a con-



siderable amount of experimenting, a VR 150 voltage regulator tube was working on the "Breadboard", connected by haywire leads to the squawkbox. It was found that WWV would remain zero beat to the BFO for a much greater length of time with the VR tube than without it. The VR tube would have to be incorporated, but I was reluctant to punch the chassis for another socket - - besides, there really wasn't much room on the power-supply end. Figure 3 shows how the socket was mounted by drilling only three small holes in the chassis. Figure 2 shows the minor circuit changes necessary. The resistor shown in the small circle was removed and the resistor and VR tube shown in the larger circle hooked up in its place. The resistor used was a 10K 10-watt unit with a slider. It is adjusted until the maximum VR tube current flows with no external load. (Usually 30 or 40 mills).

The above changes have effected a marked improvement in reception. Possibly they can be used to advantage by others with this type of "hearing aid." More important, they may give someone a better idea. Getting the most from your receiver will help your QSO's as much as adding a kilowatt. "You can't work 'em if you can't hear 'em."

(Footnote 1) It is generally agreed that the buyer of a piece of Ham gear prefers it to be in original "factory" condition. Unmodified circuitry and unmarred cabinets are most desirable if gear is to be traded in on new equipment.

The Scotsman's Wee Corner

Wee, sleekit, cowrin', tim'rous Beastie,
Oh what a panic's in thy breastie,
For ma wee story lies in ruin,
Crushed by ane that's close pursuin'.
If ye wud ken why aem au agley
Take a look along the way.

TRANSLATION — The Scotsman regrets to announce that (so and so's) article "x x x x" has stolen (och!) all his thunder on stabilizing the Scotsmans Special converter and in fact, describes the modifications more completely. As McSqueak blawed his way out the door however, he did announce that the A.V.C. would have to be removed from the mixer tube of the receiver to permit the I.F. feedback to work right on c.w. reception.

He also added that a good 12 volt power supply for testing mobile equipment could be built around a Heathkit transformer part no. 54-25 (about \$8.00).

Next month—A twa Meter Converter.

REV. BOUDREAU, VE1HY—Continued
need Vermont, Wyoming and Nevada for WAS and for 100 countries, I have 79 contacted and 66 confirmed."
(All ham operators have cards upon which are their call letters and other information relative to proof of contact with another station—these cards, in radio telegraph abbreviations, are known as QSL cards).

One other certificate which Fr. Boudreau is working on is that of the Flamingo Club. This club comprises 10 amateur operators from, in or around, Miami, Florida. Upon contacting (and confirming) these 10 members, an amateur receives a certificate and a crate of oranges.

Displayed on the wall of Fr. Boudreau's office, in which his station is located, are numerous certificates—one issued by the Communications Department of the American Radio Relay League nominating him Assistant Emergency Co-ordinator for Halifax County, a certificate from the Radio Society of Great Britain, electing him a member, and a Rag Chewers' Club certificate. This last one is awarded any ham operator who carries on a conversation for one-half hour with any other ham and the same reported to the ARRL headquarters in West Hartford, Conn.

Shortly after receiving his license, Fr. Boudreau was appointed vice-president of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club.

Asked what he thinks of "ham" radio, Fr. Boudreau says "It's the hobby of hobbies. I've had many of them in the past years and this one is the most enjoyable and satisfying."

"I WAS THERE!"—Continued

name for a while! Then the exam was finally over!

I had passed! I had passed!

Coupled with the fact I had just ordered myself a brand new National NC-300, I felt like Walt Disney when he sold his first cartoon!

The calibration part of the xmtr was done by another good friend, VE1HC, Howie Wyman. Why didn't I do it myself? Well, now that, my friend, is a long story. I'm no whiz when it comes to fixin' things and especially calibrating. The fact is I trusted ole Howie exactly umpteen times more than myself.

Ah, as every ham knows, that period of waiting for the call sign . . . that was a long wait!

After two weeks of waiting and waiting I started to call home every day at about the time the postman would be in the vicinity of our house.

February 6th, 1958! That was the day!

My call was VE1RJ!

I found out at 11:48 a.m. and at 12:07 (I go to lunch at 12:00 noon—the seven minutes are the time it took me to get there) I was in the local printing shop ordering my QSLs! Is this a record?

With the help of VE1HY and many local other ham friends, I had my first honest-to-goodness QSO with VE1UQ, Fred in Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Well, there you are! All hams know the rest of the story.

You get a call from further and further and when a fellow in Honolulu answered my CQ . . . well, I got to work at 9 a.m. instead of 8:30, bragged about it all month and, as I say, you all know that wonderful feeling of accomplishment! After all, the guy was in Honolulu and I was in Halifax! (Let's see, he gave me 569!)

Due to space, or I should say lack of the stuff, my antenna is only a windom. Only a windom? The thing only cost me roughly \$3.50 but I worked 56 countries and 44 states all in about 800-plus contacts. It's not the best antenna, but it works. And I've had fun. Isn't that the important thing?

CYRIL BOUDREAU—Born in Port Hood around 1934, first born son of Dr. Gabriel Boudreau, then a young struggling physician in his first years of practice. Five years later, the Boudreaus moved to Belle Cote, Inverness County and then to Cheticamp, where Cyril went to grammar school and spent his boyhood days.

Cyril went to St. Mary's University for a few years, followed by a draughtsman course and a radio course. He finally found a job at the Herald & Mail as proofreader.

He became interested in ham radio mostly through his uncle, VE1HY, and after a while managed to pass brilliantly his exams for his license as VE1RJ. His interests in radio led him to write several stories on ham radio and radio operators, finally accepting the position as correspondent for the Canadian Amateur.

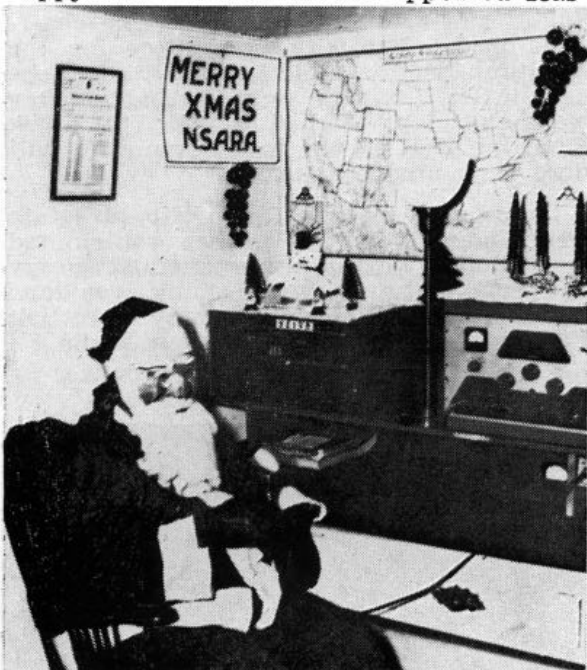
The Nova Scotia Amateur Radio Association—Continued

when you consider the fact that quite a percentage of call letter holders are not active.

We became incorporated and received our By-Laws on April 17, 1957.

Our first objective for the betterment of amateur radio was a great challenge and called for a great deal of work as you might have guessed by this time it was: Call sign plates for Nova Scotia amateurs.

This project was started in earnest early in 1957 and a committee of 6 members was chosen to compile statistics and material for a brief to be submitted to the Hon. G. T. Smith, Minister of Highways for the Province of Nova Scotia and on December 3, 1958, the association was informed by the Honourable gentleman that he was happy to inform us that it appeared feasible.



A party which is gaining favor in Nova Scotia is the annual visit of Santa Claus to net control of the NSARA. He arrives the Sunday before Xmas in all his splendour and talks to all the harmonics within hearing distance who are fortunate enough to have amateur XYLS or OMs. (Wonder who enjoys the party the most—the harmonics or the OMs!)

able to grant our request for call sign plates to all amateurs in Nova Scotia having pleasure cars registered in their own name.

A total of 160 amateurs have made application for call sign plates for the year 1959 and we hope to be displaying them by the time this issue of "The Canadian Amateur" is distributed across Canada and all amateurs in Nova Scotia sincerely appreciate the privilege that has been granted them by the Province of Nova Scotia.

The present slate of officers are: Pres., Hugh H. Corkum, VE1VN; 1st Vice-Pres.,

Murray Banks, VE1GA; 2nd Vice-Pres., Mac McLean; Secy-Treas., Jim Carr, ADM; Our annual meeting is held at Ham Fest time over the Labor Day week-end during the Maritime Section ARRL Convention at which time we elect our officers for the year, also every Sunday afternoon on 3750 kc/s at 4 p.m. a regular meeting is held. An important function of the weekly meeting is the swap shop, under the capable supervision of VE1AAR, Lou Darres who has information at his fingertips on anything from an 807 tube to a Globe King transmitter.

All our members have dedicated their stations to assist in Civil Defence and in any emergency that may arise at any time throughout the Province. Also we do encourage the youth of our Province to become interested in amateur radio.

Several other worthy projects are appearing over the horizon, so although the history of the association is young we do look forward to the future with the thought and confidence that the Nova Scotia Amateur Radio Association will have a worthy part to play for the betterment of the "King" of hobbies—Amateur Radio.

Hugh H. Corkum, VE1VN.

If you notice a VE5 with his call sign car license plates, don't blow a gasket. It just happens to be one of the four VE5s who live in the town of Lloydminster, half of which is in Alberta and half in Saskatchewan.

As the world now knows, the Alberta Government recently awarded the VE6s their special license plates. You know those four lucky stiff, running around with VE5 plates might create a lot of interest in the right places in Sask!

To VE4TT, Ted, in Winnipeg, an orchid or two for his tremendous spirit, Canadian that is. He must accept a bucket full of credit for whatever success your little book has had. Through his efforts the Canadian Amateur Magazine now has a lovely YL correspondent, VE4PE, Peggy, who incidentally is entitled to wear her corsage for having recently acquired her class "A" license. Peggy will soon be stealing a lot of the spotlight a certain very smooth operator has been basking in for many years. Don't feel too badly about it mother, you will have your memories!

A SILENT VOICE

Della, VE3DMX, XYL of Pat O'Shea, passed away rather suddenly on April 10th. We grieve with you Pat in your Sadness.

"THE NORTHERN MESSENGER"—Continued

and, the RME 9 D also became a legend. With it he was able to hear VE8 signals that no one else in VE1 land was able to do. He used the RME receiver until the last two years when he acquired a Collins 75A3. It must have been with great misgivings that Brit retired the RME as he did the national SW-3. He still has possession of these receivers.

When Brit began his skeds with the Northland the only people up there were the Dept. of Transport operators manning the weather stations, a few scattered R.C.M.P. and the Hudson Bay Co. men. There was no Dew line—this came into being in recent years. At first people travelled from far and near to Brit's ham shack to be able to talk to relatives in the North. Later, Brit was to have the first workable phone patch in the Maritimes. He used the phone patch to enable those in the North to speak as far South as Florida and California. He spared no effort and expense to allow these phone patches to go through. Day after day, week after week and month after month VE1FQ could be heard on 20 meter phone working the VE8's. He has handled so much Northland traffic that he has been dubbed "The Northern Messenger". What would have been work for anyone else was for Brit Fader a great source of pleasure.

Some of the places which Brit has had regular contact include Lake Harbour, Resolution Nottingham and Baffin Islands. Some of the personage who were operators in these remote spots like Dick Vaughn, Al Wilson and Mic McWilliams have since become successful executives in their respective businesses.

In addition to his 20 meter work, Brit also found time for 75 meter phone. In the late forties and the early fifties Brit used a BC-696 command set running 8 watts. With this low power he has been heard all over the Maritimes, always Q5 and at times up to 20 B over 9. It was always with a great deal of surprise when he informed the ham on the other end of the low power he was using.

When time from his work as a postal employee allowed (he works on a shift) Brit always called in on the Maritime phone net on 3750 kc, which meets nightly at 1900 hours AST. He became the acting net controller of this net and for the past three years it's net control.

He has a wealth of information at his finger tips and cheerfully undertakes all requests. He was one of the original members of the Air Force Amateur Radio System which constituted the start of organized net operation in the Maritimes.

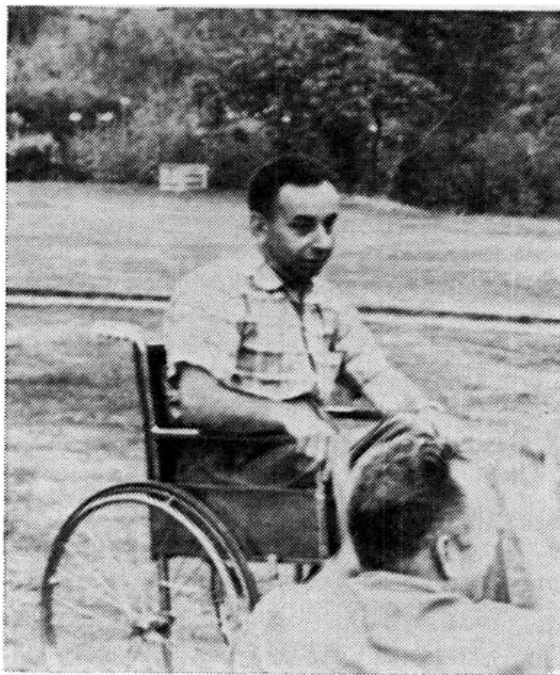
Some of the awards which Brit acquired through the years are Royal Order of Trans-Atlantic Brass Pounders (pre-war award when working across the pond was really something), DXcc, WAS, WBE OPS,

Old Timers Club, RCC and many other meritorious awards. He's been offered the position of SCM, Maritime Section but has turned this down due to his many other activities. He is a charter member of the Nova Scotia Amateur Radio Association and a staunch supporter of the American Radio Relay League.

Last August 1958 the crowning point came to the career of Brit Fader. Always considered a confirmed Batchelor, he took unto himself an XYL in the charming person of Gwen. They set up home at Sackville, Nova Scotia and now the VE1 district is very fortunate not only to have a QSL Manager but a very efficient assistant QSL Manager.

You will be hearing further from Brit Fader, as he has undertaken to be chairman of the Publicity Committee for the Maritime Section, ARRL convention to be held in Halifax, N.S. over the Labour Day week-end Sept. 5th, 6th, and 7th, 1959. Knowing Brit as we do we know he will do a bang up job as usual.

Canadian Amateur Radio should salute Brit Fader, VE1FQ. He has contributed much that is worthy of his time and energy to ensure that a job worth doing, was done and done well. We can use many more Brit Faders in the hobby of Amateur Radio.



We were very fortunate in getting this snap of Aaron Solomon. He seldom stays in one place long enough to permit anyone to get him on film! The well-formed crown in the foreground belongs to VE7PS, Bob Shaw.

Nova Scotians Receive Special Call Sign Car License Plates

BY J. KEITH YOUNG

If perchance an unwary pedestrian may notice an automobile passing with licence plates of the correct color but an odd mixture of letters and numbers, let him not call a policeman, for these plates are in order. But those letters? Merely the call letters of an ardent "ham" radio operator, possibly a member of the rapidly growing Nova Scotia Amateur Radio Association.

Formed in 1956, this association became incorporated in May, 1957. One of its first big projects was to obtain special call sign plates for members' automobiles. Many of the States in the U.S. as well as the provinces of Quebec, Prince Edward Island,

New Brunswick and Alberta already have issued such plates to be used only by such amateur radio operators.

Nova Scotia has followed suit this month. Presentation of the first set of call letter plates were made by Hon. G. I. Smith, minister of highways, to Hugh H. Corkum, VE1VN, Lunenburg. Mr. Corkum is president of the Nova Scotia Amateur Radio Association.

Amateur Radio Operators are always ready to step in and help in communications whenever disaster or emergency demands their aid. In order to obtain an amateur licence, the operator must pass examinations and obtain a certificate of proficiency in radio granted by the Minister of Transport under the provisions of the national Radio Act. Then, providing all rules and regulations are complied with and the annual licence fee is paid, the licence to use radio is issued annually. Of course only certain airwave frequencies are allocated to the amateur bands.

A network of these amateurs stretches from Cheticamp to Yarmouth, thus covering the entire province. There have been many times when amateur radio has been put to good use; times when lines were down and other communications were inefficient. Remember the Moose River disaster many years ago? The many 1957 storms such as Hurricane Edna? Civil Defence and military searches for downed planes? Literally dozens of examples could be brought to mind in which the importance of the "ham" operator has been recognized and heeded.

Now they have been granted the privilege of having call letter plates issued for pleasure cars and registered in their own name.

All administrative work in connection with obtaining this privilege was done within the association, the president, Mr. Corkum, acting as association registrar. Each member wishing to have these call letter plates had to pay a fee of \$3 over and above the regular registration fee.

VE4 Published Early Canadian Magazine

Did you know that a certain VE4 published a magazine back in the 1920s? He called it "Canadian Wireless." Did you know that I am going to twist his arm until he screams, "OK, OK, I'll give you permission to use them!" Did you know, say, I'll wager there's a lot of things you didn't know in those wonderful old books that Darby, VE4EI used to publish! -----

ANNOUNCING !!!

A NEW TRANS-CANADA CW NET ON 40 METERS!

It is efforts such as this that help justify our existence. Let's assist these boys in every way possible. Good luck, fellows.

Starting Monday, April 20th, at 1900 Pacific Standard Time, on 7110 kc/s, the following high powered stations will commence handling traffic for all parts of Canada. For British Columbia, VE7TF; for Alberta, VE6WG and VE6XG; for Saskatchewan, VE5AJ. The call of the Manitoba control will become available in a few days. These boys are top-notch traffic handlers—You can't throw too much at them... Try it! Their motto, "WE WANT TRAFFIC!" More details next month.

—7JB de 7TF.

We Got To Go Where The News Comes From

During a recent QSO (something of a rarity now for me), I was asked by a rather slow speaking buddie, "Why do you jump all over like a jack-rabbit — wouldn't it be better to take each area in turn?"

I hope my answer explains my jack-rabbiting! I was definitely going to do just that—introduce "The Canadian Amateur" magazine to each province in turn, until all had received their dedicated copy. But the little book has to go where the news is! The provinces that are co-operating most, must receive their copy first.

—The Editor.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK!

(Continued from Page 3)

- you rather lose—300 kc/s from 40 meters or 300 from 20 meters?
- (d) Region two (Canada and the U.S. and the South Americas) could refuse to agree to a world wide change and leave 40 and 20 meters as they are today but wouldn't 20 be lonely without the Gs, KAs, KR's, SMs, ZSs., ZLs, etc., etc.

If the DOT were forced to ask "What'll it be boys, 40 or 20" where do you stand? Have you ever told anybody? No! Why? Who should you tell? Well the National Canadian Representative for Canada is Mr. Alex Reid of the ARRL. He is the only National Representative. We do not have a Canadian organization. The closest is this magazine which boldly says "The Canadian Amateur." All right, then get behind it. Send your letters to the Editor. Send him a subscription also, the magazine is not printed free. Send him some technical articles—write from Halifax to Vancouver and from Aklavik to Windsor. Make your voice heard on paper before you lose it on the mike or key.

73, A Canadian Amateur.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE 1.4 MC BAND OF AMATEUR FREQUENCIES

Gentlemen:—

With respect to the above, we the undersigned, after careful consideration feel that the prime objectives to be achieved by increasing the American (U.S.) telephony privileges to cover that portion of the 1.4 Mc band from 14,200 Kc to 14,350 Kc will only result in severe hardship and a deterioration of international goodwill.

As it is apparent that the basic aim is to protect the 1.4 mc allotment for North American amateurs when these frequencies come up for review at the Geneva Convention this year, we feel that the suggested move or increase of phone privileges for U.S. amateurs is not justified at this time in the manner put forth.

We would propose that this basic protection could be achieved by the complete revision of the various emission allotments for the 1.4 Mc band in the following manner:

14,000 kc/s to 14,350 kc/sA1

14250 kc/s to 14350 kc/sA3

And that the above be the operating frequencies allotted to U.S. amateurs.

In the above change as suggested all international relations will remain amicable; and further, it is noteworthy that this proposed basic principle of allotment has already been used in the 2.1 mc and 2.8 mc bands. Thus a unified system would result on the higher frequencies if this proposal was implemented.

The FCC must give thorough consideration to the fact that the 1.4 mc band is the most used international amateur band in

existence and that the high power privileges of U.S. amateurs more than offset all the combined allowable power limits of all other countries' amateurs.

It must be borne in mind that any increase in phone privileges for high-powered stations is only going to restrict the low-powered members that operate at present. Thus we feel, that the suggested change is no solution to amateur frequency problems.

Yours Sincerely,

R.F. Stephenson, VE7VA
Secty. for Cowichan Valley Radio Club
(VE7ANK)

Dear Sir:

Every now and then, someone offers criticism of the c.w. operator, and, on some occasions, has gone so far as to suggest that he be denied the use of the so-called "Phone bands."

To a certain degree, I am in accord with the phone man. There should be a band set aside for the exclusive use of those who prefer to telephone to each other, for that is all it really is. There should be International agreement on such a band, and c.w. men denied the use of it.

I feel that if this were to be done, the phone man would have to think of some new suggestions which would shield him from other phone men. One hears carriers thrown on the air without any check whatever being made as to whether or not there is already an occupant of that frequency. It is far from pleasant to go to extra trouble to make contact with a friend on a certain frequency, and to then have an ethereal whistler kill all conversation with his nonsensical chirpings, puffings, and "Hallo-o-o-o-o. test," not bothering to give his call, until he has assured himself that he is going out on the air, no matter how or where. Then, he will retire from the air waves, and leave his victims fuming. No c.w. man can mess up a frequency in such a manner, unless he is a local, with a powerful transmitter. The opponent of c.w. will also have to devise schemes to correct the fellow who, on phone, waits until the exact second one is getting a vital piece of information, and then slams his carrier on the frequency, and shouts, "Break! Break! Break!" It would never do for him to wait until he knows one operator is turning it over to the other, and then do his dirt.

When an emergency arises, as is far from probable, the c.w. man will be of just as vital importance as the phone man, and can be depended to throw himself into things with as much sincerity of purpose as anyone. It is a bit funny to note how popular the c.w. man is when contacts are wanted, during some contest! After it is over, he should be relegated to another band, however.

I would like to see suggestions from sensible operators as to how what may turn into a nasty situation can be remedied, thus keeping careless and unfeeling c.w. men from getting the remainder of us into a situation where we are considered

to be nothing better than a nuisance to anyone and everyone. We are not ALL bad.

A. E. S. Whittaker,
(VE1RT, on c.w.)

The Editor:

The article by Verne J. Read, VE7EH, on page 9 of the March issue of the "Amateur" that we have read from cover to cover, is alarming. Why it is necessary to even think of chopping the ham bands is a mystery to me. This assumes that that is what the European block is aiming at.

Just for ducks, when I read the article, I went to the receiver, which is an SX-25, and is in very good condition, to see how cluttered the spectrum is outside the ham bands. I carefully tuned the whole spectrum from 1.7 mcs to 40 mcs, and it took a good hour and a half. There are spaces of a hundred or more kc/s that had nothing but cosmic noises and the mutterings of radio stars, sewing machines, electric shavers, etc. Anyone that doubts this statement should try the tuning bit sometime. Incidentally, while I was on this hunt, there were plenty of DX stations on the ham bands, particularly on the 14 mcs band. I heard a UA3, a YO, and others, so that if signals like that were getting through, anything commercial with I assume, much more power than hams use, should have been all over the spectrum if they think that they are so crowded that they need more spectrum. But friend, there were very few of them.

Let us remind one and all that in this half of the world the hams are using the ham bands all around the clock. Even on 80 meters in the daytime. When 10 meters is out for skip contacts people are using it for what it will allow on ground wave.

So Western Hemisphere Hams, let us raise our voices against any chopping of the ham bands.

Wm. Douglas,

VE3BRI

Dear John:—

After reading the DX column (by Bill Wadsworth) I have come to the conclusion that DX exists only from 14 mcs and higher. This is definitely not so. I enjoy chasing DX on 80 and 40 meters, even if it entails sitting up in front of the receiver all night without making a contact. On 20, 15 and 10 meers its not "is my signal gtting there," its "can I overpower the QRM." I have only had my license 18 months and my new DX-40 transmitter for 8 months. The receiver is a NC-88 and QF-1, so I have had only one winter's DX chasing, but I am very pleased and proud of the results.

For example (using dipoles for 80 and 40 meters) on 80 meters c.w., countries heard, 22; and countries worked. KH6AFI, KV4AA, VP5FP, KP4CC, VP7BT, KM6BL, VK2APL, VP9CR, EA8BF and PY7AN.

On 40 meters c.w., countries heard, 34; and countries worked were PY1, 2, 4 and 7, G3, VP5-Trinidad, KP4, ON4, YV5, VP3, VP7, VP2, VK2 and 5 and ZL1.

I agree wholeheartedly with Bill's advice that to listen is to catch DX. This

philosophy netted many a DX station, by using a well timed short call. Most of the DX listed was worked during January, February and March, 1959. So possibly in the future, his DX column might include some low frequency catches.

I am not a member of one of the large Toronto ham clubs, but I do belong to the Skywide Amateur Radio Club (Mimico) with its thirty members.

So three cheers for the Canadian Amateur Magazine and hope to receive many more interesting issues in the future.

Henry Ostrowski, VE3CGL

Message from the SCM of Ontario

First of all a comment on the use of the phonetic alphabet. From an enquiry made by ARRL, of it's officers, it was shown by actual replies that the ICAO list (Bravo-Whiskey-Fox-Trot etc.) has only a twenty percent or acceptance thus far, in amateur Radio currently free to choose between word lists. One only has to listen to the 75 meter phone band here in Ontario and the percentage is less.

In another vein, we refer to the license plates for Hams in Ontario. Over a year ago your SCM instigated a move to approach our Provincial Government. In this regard, after obtaining over 700 names, all licensed operators and with the help from a committee that was formed, and with the assistance of many MP's and MPP's we approached Queen's Park and paid a visit to the Registrar General, Mr. McNab. All our efforts were in vain. The number of protests that this gentleman had, would take hours to write. They have their system (it's numeral) and they will not repeat **NOT** change for hams, Firemen, Civil Defence, or any other group whether they deserve it or not. That is according to Mr. McNab, who incidentally, is a very fine gentleman, and gave us a chance to place our requests on his desk. That's as far as it got. Now after a year has passed, the Department is making some change. What they are we cannot say other than Mr. McNab's office has been broken into five sections and that is all we know. There are some indications that the department concerned was considering the IBM system similar to that of Quebec. If this is the case, it might be possible to obtain our plates. Several groups are beginning to get together and attempt to do as we were trying to do. It is to be hoped that someone may reach the peak some day, I hope so. I trust that whoever gets the green light will not forget the work attempted by previous groups. Other committees headed by Bill Choat, VE3CO, and another by Keith Russel, VE3AL, all reached the same block as ours did. That gentlemen, is the situation regarding the plates.

We read that our lucky cousins in Alberta, have the green light for VE6 plates. That's three provinces so far.

May I wish all you and yours the very best of Health and Happiness. It's a pleasure to serve as your SCM.

Dick Roberts, VE3NG, SCM, Ontario.

SWAP and SHOP

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THIS IS A STEAL—DX100 in beautiful shape, 225.00 cash. Call or write "The Ham Shack"—See address in ad on cover.

ANYONE having an extra copy of Vol. 1, No. 1, would you please forward to J. H. Brownell, VE4BU, Box 24, Pointe du Bois, Man., and advise this office.

Walt Burdine, W8ZCV Sets World Record

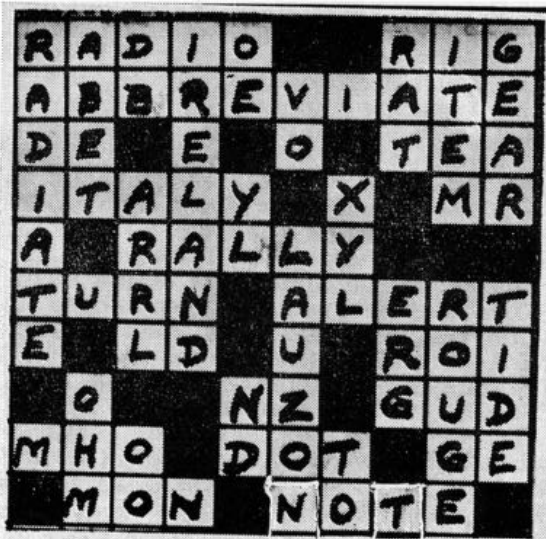
Walt Burdine, W8ZCV, of Waynesville, Ohio, and former editor of the Novice column in CQ magazine, has been on the air on 6 meters for 1427 days as of 27th of February, 1959. On April 2, 1959, he will start his fifth year on the VHF bands and he is going to try to make contacts on 50, 144, 220, and 440 mc/s to start his 5th year. We believe this to be a world's record now and it will take some doing to break it.

Submitted by Theodore W. Midlam Sr., K8GKF, Editor, R-F Carrier, Dayton Amateur Radio Association.

South American Is Eager Stamp Collector

Ike, VE7AQQ, wants us to make known the fact that HK3FV, Tino, Box 10519, Bogota, Colombia, South America, is an avid stamp collector. Tino would like very much to hear from similarly stricken addicts . . . silly, isn't it? . . . Just a minute, say, don't I hear 7U2AA in there? The louse—wonder what I have to do to get a QSL out of that guy???

Answer to Crossword in Feb. Issue



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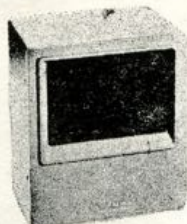
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