



YLRRL Scrapbook 2-1



KIIF - RUTH

WRONE PRES. 1965



WRONE SPRING LUNCHEON - 1965
WIPRT KIIF KIICW KICML KIDYM
JACK RUTH MARY MIG FAY



WISVN MILLIE



WIPRR and WA1Y1J - Janie



NYC YLRL JUNE '68

2nd Row: ALMA W2MUV, KIT W2TBU,
MAE (ASSOC.), VI W2JZH, CATHERINE
W2RAQ, FRIEDA (GUEST), SUE W2HLQ,
LIL W2IQP, RUTH W2OWL
SEATED: AMY W2EUL, SALLIE W2UXM,
DOT K2DPN, JEAN ex-W2PZA, and
an unidentified guest.



TUNING IN—Gretna Longware shows how her ham radio gear works during a recent visit by math students from Moriah Central High School.

'Young Lady' enjoys her ham

ELIZABETHTOWN — On Tuesday, eight boys from grades 9 through 11 of the Moriah Central School, accompanied by math teacher Frank Dembrosky, visited ham radio operator, Mrs. Gretna Longware. **WA2WHE**

Gretna, whose call letters are WA2WHE, explained how she got started by operating a Citizens Band radio to send messages to her husband's fleet of oil trucks. Through Civil Defense she got interested in ham or amateur radio

and is now an assistant radio operator in that organization.

Unlike most women operators she prefers to send in international Morse code and can send better than 35 words per minute, using a key she calls the "bug".

Gretna explained, "Women operators of any age are called Young Ladies (Y.L.) and men of any age are known as Old Men (O.M.)." She has recently been elected chairman of the Young Ladies Radio League of the second district which takes in New York and New Jersey. "In this area there are 37,000 amateurs of which 1,009 are women," stated Gretna. "In the United States there are 290,429 operators of which 9,625 are women."

In explaining why she likes radio Gretna said, "It is one of the nicest hobbies there is. You make wonderful friends over the air. We even swapped daughters for a couple weeks with a couple from Richelieu, Quebec, with whom we got acquainted over the air." Gretna learned braille so she could write to a blind operator from

Maynard, Mass. Operators only use their first names.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued Gretna's first license in 1960. Since then, she says "I have made well over 2,000 different contacts. I have made contacts in all states but Hawaii and 45 countries. This afternoon I made two new ones, Quito, Equador, and Nairobi, Kenya."

Gretna made over ¹⁹⁰ 200 contacts in one day last year in a contest in which Y.L.'s see how many O.M. they can contact in 24 hours and vice versa. Sonia from Sau Paula, Brazil, won the trophy.

Operators have a lingo all of their own. Microphone is a phone; distance is DX; noisy is QRM; move in frequency is QSY; and Morse code is CW.

Some of the places Gretna has contacted are Japan, Bahrein Island in Arabian Gulf, Union of South Africa, Ukraine, Latvia, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Columbia, India, Peru, Lebanon, Finland, Netherlands, Denmark, Austria, Poland, Guatemala and many others.

P R O C L A M A T I O N



State of New York
Executive Chamber

The members of the Young Ladies' Radio League make important contributions for friendship and harmony among widely separated people. They are constantly expanding the channels of communication between individuals all over the world, as they contact members in other countries via shortwave radio.

The YLRL, as it is known in International Morse Code, makes radio tapes for the blind, provides operators in times of emergency, helps servicemen talk to their families via a voluntary wireless network, holds competitions that increase radio knowledge and skills, and sponsors girls in many countries who want to participate in electronic communication.

The State of New York is proud of our members in the YLRL, and especially pleased that this year, for the first time, the League's president is from our state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nelson A. Rockefeller, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim the week of November 1-7, 1971, as

YOUNG LADIES' RADIO LEAGUE WEEK

in New York State.



G I V E N under my hand and the
Privy Seal of the State at
the Capitol in the City of
Albany this twenty-third
day of July in the year of
our Lord one thousand nine
hundred and seventy one.

BY THE GOVERNOR

Robert R. Douglas
Secretary to the Governor

Nelson A. Rockefeller

Radio operator Rose Bills talks to kings and stars

By ANNE SKINNER

PENNSVILLE—In a comfortable den at the rear of her Valley Park home, Rose Ellen Bills converses with people from all over the world.

Mrs. Bills is an amateur radio operator—and not just an ordinary ham. She is Salem County's only licensed female ham radio operator.

On one wall hangs a picture of Mrs. Bills, just after she received her radio operator's license from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), 20 years ago.

Now Mrs. Bills not only participates actively in ham radio communications, but also teaches others to operate the complicated equipment at Tuesday night classes in Salem.

"A ham radio station consists of a

receiver, transmitter, linear (amplifier) and speaker," she says, indicating a series of metal boxes atop a heavy wooden desk.

"Then I have several telegraph keys and microphones," she adds, pointing out a brightly curtained window to a 60-foot metal tower with a T-shaped top.

"That is my tower and beam. It works like an antenna—you adjust the beam to the direction you're contacting," she says.

Mrs. Bills is one of five Salem Countians who possess the amateur extra class operating license. She explains that this is the most advanced license available and, to earn it, the radio operator must pass an FCC examination on electronic theory and be able to send and receive Morse Code at

the rate of 20 words per minute for one minute.

Mrs. Bills says she has had many interesting contacts on her ham radio. In fact, it was in ham language that she met her husband.

Each ham radio operator has a "call number," which is used for identification over the radio in place of a caller's name. Hers, for example, is "N2RE."

In 1962, while living in the Cherry Hill area, she was contacted by a man who called himself, "W2CDZ." He was from Pennsville. A mutual friend in Woodstown, "W2QWC," invited them to his house for their first "Eyeball QSO," which is ham lingo for a face-to-face meeting.

"Within a month's time, we were married and I moved to Pennsville," she says.

On the wall above her radio station, Mrs. Bills has 500 postcard-like "QSL cards." These are sent by hams to confirm previous contacts and each has a call number printed on it.

"Half the time you're not sure who you've talked to until you get the QSL card," Mrs. Bills says.

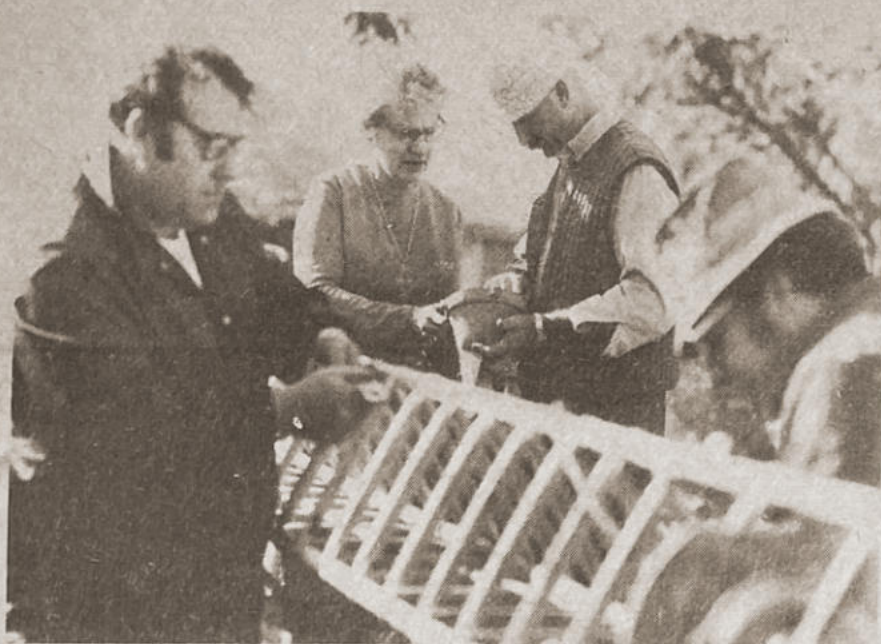
Once she made contact with someone who mentioned that his name was Art, and later she received a QSL card which revealed that "Art" had been Arthur Godfrey, the noted radio and television entertainer.

On another occasion, she spoke with King Hussein of Jordan, who is one of the world's only royal hams. He was planning a trip to the United States and while he was here, she says, American hams held a banquet in his honor.

She has cultivated several long-standing friendships over the radio, one of which is with a woman from Rio De Janeiro.

"Two of her children came to visit on weekends while they went to school at Annapolis Naval Academy," she says. Mrs. Bills is sorry, though, that more

(Continued on page 3)



Staff photo by Chuck Haupt

GETTING HELP TO REPAIR her radio tower from members of the Salem County Radio Club is Ellen Bills of Pennsville. Members are, left to right, Ray Quann (WA2BQJ), Bills, Rocky Fithian (WB2KMP), and Frank Newkirk (WB2KMR).



Staff photo by Chuck Haupt

OPERATING HER HAM RADIO—Rose Bills is the only licensed female ham radio operator in the county. QSL cards from fellow ham radio operators line the walls.

★ Radio

(Continued from page 1)

women are not involved with amateur radio.

"Out of the 365,000 hams in the world, about 7,200 are women," she says. "That's not a very big percentage, is it?"

"When I go to a radio club meeting and am the only woman, I think if some wives or girlfriends of these men could take an interest it would be the greatest thing in the world," she says.

With her female contacts, Mrs. Bills exchanges recipes, compares sewing patterns and even sews while they talk. She just leaves the radio on while she is working.

An active member in many radio clubs, Mrs. Bills is the assistant director of the Atlantic Division of the American Radio Relay League, treasurer of the Young Ladies' Radio League, Treasurer of the Gloucester County Radio Club and a trustee and librarian for the Salem County Radio Club. She also belongs to the Society of Wireless Pioneers and is secretary for the Wilmington Repeater Organization.

Often, she says, members of an organization tune in to one frequency and hold a "round robin" conversation involving several individuals. Salem County hams do this for an hour on Tuesday nights, as a civil defense service.

"The purpose of this is to test out our equipment in case of an emergency. Then we meet at a local diner for a 'rag chew' (group gathering)," she says.

"The most wonderful thing about radio operating," she adds, "is that you have contact with people in all walks of life and you may have contact with them many times before you even know their profession."

Mrs. Bills works as a secretary at DuPont's organic chemicals department. She also gives private organ lessons.

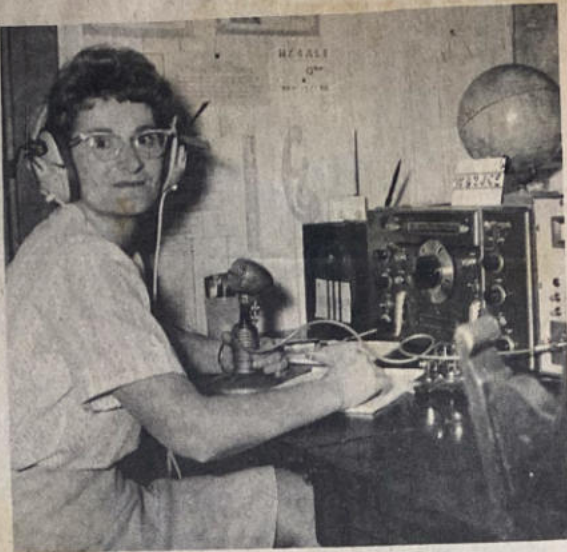
A person of many interests, Mrs. Bills received the 1976 Toastmistress of the Year award for her expertise in public speaking. She is president of the Brandywine Toastmistress Club.

It is apparent, though, that her most absorbing hobby is ham radio.

"It's been my way of life," she says. "It has given me something to look forward to every day of my life for 20 years."

Gouverneur Tribune Press

Nov. 16, 1971



JANICE R. FONTANA

Newton Falls woman receives national acclaim

By EVELYN McCARTHY
Janice Robertson Fontana received national acclaim last week when CBS Arthur Godfrey went into great length about "Young Ladies Radio Relay League Week" proclaimed by Governor Rockefeller for Nov. 1-7.

In his Proclamation, Gov. Rockefeller called attention to the lady "hams" for their contributions to friendship and harmony among widely separated people, and for constantly expanding the channels of communication between individuals all over the world as they contact members in other countries via shortwave radio. The Proclamation also states, "YLRL, as it is known in the international Morse Code, makes radio tapes for the blind, provides operators in times of emergency, helps servicemen talk to their families via a voluntary wireless network, holds competitions that increase radio knowledge and skills, and sponsors girls in many countries who want to participate in electronics communications. The State of New York is proud of our members in the YLRL and especially pleased that this year, for the first time, the League's President is from our state."

Janice Robertson Fontana is President of the YLRL with 900 licensed women radio operators of which more than 60 are in New York State and Jan the only licensed XYL (married lady) in Schuyler County.

She is the daughter of Mrs. Hazel Robertson of Star Lake and the late Clyde Robertson, was born in Newton Falls, N.Y., attended and graduated from Clifton-Fine Central School in 1950. She married Alfred Fontana, who is a graduate of Wanakena Ranger School, and presently resident manager of the Cornell University Conservation Research Forest. They live in the Arnot Forest, about 5 miles west of Van Etten near Ithaca, and have three children, Robert, Carol and Annette.

feminine woman and proof of this point is in the headset she wears adorned with bright colored ribbon bows, making pretty the otherwise unattractive piece of equipment.

The Godfrey program last week devoted to YLRL and paying tribute to Jan was quite by accident heard by her sister, Jane Santimaw of Cranberry Lake. Their brother, Don Robertson, lives in Star Lake, as does their mother, Hazel Robertson.

2 SALEM SUNBEAM, Salem, New Jersey, Monday, June 5, 1972



RADIO officer for Salem County Civil Defense, Mrs. Rose Ellen Bills, Upper Penns Neck, has just advanced to an Extra Class Amateur rating. The new license requires extensive training in electronic and electrical theory.

Today's Sunbeam, Salem County, N.J., April 25, 1978 7



Photo by Bill Gallo Jr.

WOMAN OPERATOR—Mrs. Rose Ellen Bills, addresses members of the Salem County Radio Club at their buffet dinner at the Centerton Golf Club last week. Mrs. Bills is the only woman ham operator in Salem County.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Fontana are amateur radio operators, making contacts all over the world, with their stations set up in their home. She acquired interest in radio from her husband who has been a ham since 1956. Her call letters are WB2JCE.

She has made contact with all States, the Dominican Republic, Columbia, South America, and Australia, to name a few, and she has accumulated "wallpaper" in the form of QSL etc. Hams always address each other by first names, rarely knowing the last name of their friends on the air but instantly remember the call letters. Jan is addicted to c.w. (telegraphy) rather than talking on the microphone, and her proficiency in using the key to attain 30 words per minute put her in possession of her most prized certificate from the American Radio Relay League, among the numerous certificates she has received. Her goal is 35 words per minute for next year. Jan states, "Copying it in my head is easy but getting 35 words per minute down on paper with a pencil is another thing!" Her pet project this year has been the YLRL Tape Topics program for circulating tapes to the League's ten sightless YLs. As president of the League this year she has appointed a second Tape Librarian which has enabled them to add to the list of blind tape recipients.

Jan became licensed in 1963 and joined YLRL and found herself a member of the Vice President's Committee in 1966, and in 1967 was elected Second District Chairman which encompasses the states of New York and New Jersey. In 1969-70 she served as Disbursing Treasurer, and this year was elevated to President.

Jan is known as a very efficient wife and mother, spending about two hours a day on her radio, often times while ironing or sewing or doing other household tasks. Also she is known as a very



CHRIS

WB2YBA
1975 PRES.
YLRL

VK3AKB - VK3KS
VI
MARIS

VK3YL
AUSTINE

VK3AYL
NORMA



Let's Get Acquainted

MALCOLM (MAC) WILLIAMS, W2EH
Route 1, Box 193, F-6,
GERMANTOWN, MD 20767

The masthead on the column for this month is really superfluous, because anyone who isn't acquainted with our subject is either very new in ham radio, or hasn't been around much in the Washington area.

What amateur radio group can boast of a YL who is not only a member of Quarter Century Wireless Ass'n., but the Secretary of its Washington Chapter, And also the #2 YL of the Old Old Timer's Club? Also a past president of the Washington Radio Club and the WAYLARC, not to mention secretaryships in several other radio groups. Add to all these, the ROWH, the A-1 Operator's Club, the National Geographic Society, and the ARRL.

We are talking about Elizabeth (Liz) Zandonini, W3CDQ. Liz, or "Emzie" as some of us prefer to call her, was born in New York City, but migrated to Washington at an early age, where she attended grammar and Tech High School.

The mysteries of radio communications first intrigued her while in high school, where she joined the school radio club, and hasn't stopped since. That was in 1917. Five years later, in 1922, she obtained her first license, with the call of W3CDQ, which has been hers ever since. Forty-four years with the same call! Not too many other old timers can make such a claim.

Emzie's one and only job was with the National Bureau of Standards, dating back to 1921. In spare time, she majored in languages at George Washington University, becoming fluent in Italian, Spanish and French that we know of. Her knowledge of these tongues was not only of great assistance as Radio Aide, and later as an administrative clerk in the Propagation Section at the Bureau but also in her travels.

Besides ham radio, W3CDQ has two other hobbies: travel and photography. With passport, camera and plenty of film, she has toured

England, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Balearic Islands, the Caribbean, and Cuba, B.C. (before Castro). Back in her early days with the Bureau she had a hand in some of the first WWV transmissions.

The end of WW I saw her teaching code to veterans as part of their rehabilitation program. Guess that is why she is partial to CW, at which she is very proficient. WW II found her in the Propagation Section of the Bureau.

Liz likes people — and you are sure to find her wherever there's a group of hams, whether it's the WRC, QCWA, a hamfest, the Foundation, the WAYLARC or a Convention.

Naturally her favorite facet of amateur radio is ragchewing, and the YL/OM contacts. Her most impressive experiences were being able to meet the VIPs of radio at the Bureau from 1921 to 1940, and visiting foreign hams, particularly IIER in Italy, and G2YL, Nell Corry, England's best known YL, both of whom are close friends. On several occasions, Emzie has qso'd back home from their stations. After a dozen or more trips to Italy, she is probably as well known in "I" land as some of their own stations. The accompanying photo was made on the plaza at the Vatican.

Our No. 1 YL retired from the Bureau last June, but like most of us retirees, she finds plenty to do, especially "pounding brass." We wish her many long years of happy and healthy retirement.

Mac, K3AC.



Emzie at the Vatican



Emzie at W3CDQ

W3CUL



SENDING AND RECEIVING servicemen's messages keeps Mrs. Mae Burke busy eight hours a day.

This Is W4PFC Calling W3CUL— Good Morning, Mae!

Couple Tunes In On Tragedy and Laughs

By HARRIET ELDREDGE
Of The Bulletin Staff

"THIS IS W3CUL calling W4PFC on schedule."

"W3CUL, this is W4PFC—and good morning, Mae! It's raining like crazy here in Quantico. How's the weather in Philadelphia?"

"Good here, W4PFC. I have a lot of traffic for you today—100 messages on teletype."

And at 8 A. M., from a basement in Morton, the messages from relatives and families start ticking their way to servicemen stationed in Vietnam, via the Marine Corps Base relay station in Quantico, Va.

"Your money's on the way," a mother wants her son to know. "Congratulations on your promotion!" comes from proud parents of a young officer. "The mortgage will be higher than we expected. What shall I do?" pleads a bride.

Seven Days a Week

FOR MRS. Mae Burke (W3CUL) and her husband Al (W3VR)—both licensed ham radio operators for more than 35 years—handling "traffic" between servicemen and their families is an eight-hour-a-day job, seven days a week.

It's grueling work, involving transmitting and receiving by voice, teletype and Morse code. But nothing can keep this vigorous pair from meeting each day's schedules with operators throughout the country.

"It was Al who first got me interested in ham radio, years ago before we got married," recalls Mae. "In fact, he built my first rig for me and courted me by short wave. If I didn't answer his call at night he'd get very suspicious, and insist on knowing, next time he called, where I'd been!"

Al taught Mae theory and helped her bone up on code for her FCC examination which she took and passed in 1932, receiving her general license. Part of that exam required an operator to be able to copy 13 words of code per minute—Mae now can transmit a steady 35 words per minute, which she slows according to the ability of the other operator to receive.

Today both Mae and Al possess "advanced" licenses and are permitted by the FCC to operate on all shortwave frequencies.

Hams Everywhere

IN THE COURSE of their radio career the Burkes have established contact with hams everywhere from Russia and Germany to Italy, Denmark and Australia.

"When we're talking with foreign colleagues," remarks Al, "we try to steer clear of politics and concentrate on things like what we do for a living, what the weather's like, and would they like to exchange photo-

fluct, they discovered the rewards of working on preset schedules, relaying the thousands of messages sent monthly between servicemen and their families.

Mae will never forget the day during World War II when a communique arrived for a local resident, a widow from California. The message was from the widow's son, who had been presumed dead overseas.

"I am OK, Mom," it read. Mae delivered the news with joy—and asked if the mother would like to shortwave a reply. "Send the Twenty-third Psalm," she said, and Mae complied.

Funny Moments, Too

BEING a ham operator has its funny moments, too. Mae and Al still recall with delight the message that came from a young naval officer stationed in the China Sea during the Korean war, via WO/1c Bill Keim, (EX-JA2KW), stationed in Japan.

The officer had two tickets to the Army-Navy game and wanted his two girl friends (one in Philadelphia, the other in the South) to attend in his stead. Would somebody in Philadelphia arrange to have the tickets duplicated, and invite the girls to the game?

Mae received the message three

Continued on Page 5.



HAM RADIO OPERATORS Mae and Al Burke work with voice, teletype and Morse code in basement of their Morton home.

Bulletin Staff Photos by Francis Leung

This Is W3CUL Calling

Continued From First Page

days before the game. She called a captain who was in charge of things like tickets, and explained the situation. "The captain burst out laughing," Mae remembers. "He told me he thought he'd heard every trick in the book for crashing an Army-Navy game but this beat them all. He told me, though, to put it all on paper. 'If you can get me the ticket numbers I'll go along,' he said.

"So I radioed Bill in Japan, got the ticket numbers, and forwarded the information to the captain. Then I called the girls, being very careful not to let either one know the officer had invited the other!

"Believe it or not, three days from the time I received the initial message, both girls were attending the game—sitting next to each other, but without any idea of who the other was!"

Mom Suspicious

THEN there was the time not long ago when the Burkes received a routine request from a serviceman, asking his mother to forward \$200.

It came by radio just before the weekend—when transmitting schedules are curtailed—which meant that the chances of its being received by radio in West Virginia before the following Monday were slim.

So Mae put the message on a form delivery card, air-mailed it off to the serviceman's mother, and forgot about it.

Next thing the Burkes knew, a state trooper was knocking at the door. What kind of an interstate racket are you people running? he demanded.

Receiving a request for \$200—reputedly from her son but from a woman signing herself Mae Burke—the mother had become suspicious and reported the whole affair to local police. Over official teletype came word to Pennsylvania—check out this Mae Burke.

It took only a few minutes to explain the situation to the trooper and to reach the serviceman's mother by phone in West Virginia. She heaved a sigh of relief, chuckled, and told Mae, "Well I thought you were a new love and I didn't know what my son was up to. But I did think it was funny he'd never mentioned you in any of his letters!"

Mae adds, as a postscript to the incident, that the mother came through with the \$200—but not before delivering an outraged lecture on her son's extravagance.

Many Awards

SINCE acquiring her FCC license in 1932, Mae figures her "traffic total" is close to a million—and she's still going strong. Stacked in filing cabinets in the Burke basement are more testimonials than they can frame.

Public Service Awards from the American Radio Relay League, Inc., cite Mae Burke for service during the Alaska earthquake of '64, hurricane work in '55, and scores of

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Public Service Awards from the American Radio Relay League, Inc., cite Mae Burke for service during the Alaska earthquake of '64, hurricane work in '55, and scores of other voluntary efforts.

But of all the awards, Mae and Al are proudest of the one she received from the Electronic Components Division of the General Electric Co. in 1956.

It is the Edison Radio Amateur Award, presented annually to the radio amateur whose service "was of greatest public benefit; and who displayed the most self-sacrifice and ingenuity in performing this service."

This recognition, in the opinion of the late Benton White (W4PL) of Chattanooga, Tenn., officially marked Mae Burke as "the best 'traffic man' in the United States."

Now that Al Burke has retired from his job as marine electrical supervisor for Sun Oil Co., the couple is sharing the daily schedule on an equal-time basis.

Mae admits that her husband does the cooking in the Burke household. But when it comes to their amateur radio commitments, she declares, "we work as a team."



WABHUP - MARY ANN



WABFWI



Group of Wayhars
Bottom: Martha; W6QYA/4, Betty - W3UXU
Jane - K4BNG, Claire - WHTVT, Helen - W30LY
Vi - K4EAM. Top: Irene, W3RXT - Ethel K4LMB.

75- My new address is same as WA3BLZ call
 Lake Watouga Box 173 Gouldsboro Pa 18424.
 It can be used anytime for we had that
 address for 9 yrs. I will change to WA3ATQ
 once we sell here & move. Then drop the
 2nd Sta call BLZ - OK - 33.

Freedoms Foundation to Honor Woman 'Ham' for Messages to GIs

Mrs. Harriet Creighton, operator of a "ham" station in Bustleton, will be honored Saturday at Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge for her short-wave radio communications service to servicemen and their families.

Mrs. Creighton, who operates from her "radio shack" at her home at 2202 Murray st., will receive the foundation award at a luncheon of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of Women Marines Association.

Three times weekly Mrs. Creighton is relaying messages to and from servicemen stationed at the Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba. During the holiday periods she provides communication over her station WA3ATQ.

Twice weekly, she is in communication with the hospital ship HOPE, stationed at

Kingston, Jamaica, delivering messages of doctors and ship personnel to families at home. She operates a daily service to the Delaware Valley Eye Bank.

Mrs. Creighton and her husband, Harry, have been "ham" operators since 1964. She served in the Marines during World War II, 1943 to 1945. She received boot training at Camp Lejeune and later drove a truck at the Marines' Quantico base.

Garden Award

Wissahickon Garden Club won the Founder's Fund Award at the 58th annual meeting of the Garden Club of America at St. Louis, for its work with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to bring horticulture to inner city children. The club is turning the \$4500 award over to the soci-

ety to further its work. The fund was established in 1934 as a memorial to Mrs. J. Willis Martin, of this city, the Garden Club of America's first president.

Law Week

Heavyweight champion Joe Frazier will have his day in court at noon today. He will receive an "Award of Excellence" in Room 196, City Hall, from Municipal Court Judge Joseph R. Glancey as part of Law Week observances. The award honors Frazier for excelling in his field and bringing credit to Philadel-



JOE FRAZIER

Righters Mill rd from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M. Saturday. The fair offers items for the garden and the home, art works, plus games, palm reading, and luncheon. Mrs. Frank S. Harrison Jr., Mrs. Lemuel B. Line and Mrs. C. C. F. Spahr Jr. are cochairmen.

Memorial

The Rev. Bernard C. Krimm, C. S. S. R., assistant vice postulator, makes the principal address Saturday at the annual banquet in memory of Blessed John Neumann's beatification at the Benjamin Franklin. The Rev. Francis J. Litz, C. S. S. R.,

Dateline... Delaware Valley

vice postulator at the Blessed John Neumann Shrine, 5th st. and Girard ave., presents the Community Service Award to Fire Commissioner James J. McCarey, Catholic layman, to mark the Philadelphia Fire Department's centennial year.

Fairs

Spruce Hill Community Association conducts its 13th annual May Fair in Clark Park, 43rd st. and Baltimore ave., on Saturday. Rain date is Sun-

day. . . The Millay Club of Southeast Catholic-Bishop Neumann High School Alumni Association conducts its 18th annual lawn fete on the school grounds, 27th and Mifflin sts., Monday through May 15.

Other Events

Colonial Playhouse, Aldan, presents "The Owl and the Pussycat" Friday and Saturday and May 14-15 and 21-22. . . The Mendelssohn Club performs a pops concert of music by Rodgers and Hammerstein at Philadelphia Girls' High School, Broad st. and Olney ave., at 8:30 Saturday night

The 20th annual spring historic tour of Springfield, Delaware County, starts from the municipal building, 50 Powell rd., at 10 A.M. Saturday. A free bus is provided on a first-come, first-seated basis. Commissioner James M. Davis is tour guide.

By C. ALLEN KEITH

Appeared in Phila Sunday Bulletin May 9, 1971

When Being a Ham (Operator) Pays Off

A CHANCE radio contact with a ham radio operator at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 1965, led to a Freedoms Foundation Award for Mrs. Harriet Creighton, of Bustleton.

The award was presented during a luncheon at the Valley Forge Freedoms Foundation yesterday.

In 1964, Mrs. Creighton received her license as a ham radio operator. A year later, she happened to hear a call for the Philadelphia area.

"We have some messages we would like to transmit to people in that area from the Marine Base here," was the request from Cuba.

Mrs. Creighton, who has a special interest in the Marines because she served in the Women's Marine Corps from

1943-45, agreed and since then has had daily scheduled calls to operators at the base.

Through her ham radio, Marines wishing to contact persons in the Philadelphia area can do so—and they don't get a bill from the telephone company at the end of the month, either.

Mrs. Creighton is involved in other ham service operations too; she sends to servicemen all over the world during the holidays, is the area contact for eye-banks and maintains daily contact with the S. S. Hope, a floating medical training hospital now in Jamaican waters.

The luncheon in her honor was sponsored by the Women's Marine Association and was attended by women Marines from throughout the Delaware valley.

'Ham' Sandwiches GI Calls

SERVICEMEN around the world have talked at length with Mrs. Harriet Creighton, of 2202 Murray st., although they have never met her in person and may not even know where Philadelphia is.

Mrs. Creighton is a "ham" radio operator, one of the thousands of amateur broadcasters who work the short radio frequencies with chatter from around the world.

For Mrs. Creighton, however, "hamming" has its practical applications, not the least of which is relaying radio messages from soldiers at foreign posts to their families in the States.

She has a daily schedule with the Guantanamo Naval Base, in

Cuba, where a "ham" station, tuned in to Mrs. Creighton's, puts servicemen on the air.

Mrs. Creighton then telephones the soldier's family (or sweetheart). By "patching" the radio call and phone together, the serviceman can talk directly with his party.

"I have a daily schedule with Guantanamo," said Mrs. Creighton in the "radio shack" at her home. "The operator at the base calls me and tells me the number of the person the soldier wants to contact.

"I dial the party and ask them to accept charges on a collect call from Philadelphia to talk with the caller in Cuba. Sometimes there's some confu-

sion, but I have completed 4000 calls like this in the past four years."

Purpose of relaying the radio call through the telephone serves two purposes, said Mrs. Creighton. For one thing, a call from Philadelphia is less costly than a call from Cuba.

For another, the land cable telephone lines pass through Havana. Many times calls from Guantanamo via the telephone cables are deliberately "jammed" (made unintelligible) by Cuban operators.

Guantanamo radio is a regular schedule, but Mrs. Creighton, assisted by her husband, Harry, provides similar radio-

Continued on Page 36A, Col. 1



Mrs. Harriet Creighton, of 2202 Murray st., works her ham rig, relaying message and phone calls from servicemen around the world to their families. Her pace is now increasing with the holiday rush.

'Ham' Links Servicemen to Families

Continued from Page 29

phone links for many other "ham" stations, including ships at sea, the South Pole and Canal Zone.

"There's some question about the legality of patching in a radio to a telephone," Mrs. Creighton admitted, "but the problem's never been solved. Until the practice is specifically prohibited, I plan to keep on patching."

Mrs. Creighton explained that it is as easy to patch a call from Antarctica as from within the United States. There have been instances where a person in Florida has called a "ham" near his home town to patch in a call. The purpose would be, of course, to beat the regular phone rate from Florida.

"Put I don't handle calls like that," said Mrs. Creighton. "Mine are limited to stations where direct phone contact is just not possible."

One of her most exciting calls, Mrs. Creighton recalled, was a contact with the USS Essex, the aircraft carrier detailed to pick up the astronauts from the recent pre-moon shot test.

INTEREST in radio as a means of communication, rather than entertainment, started early for Mrs. Creighton.

"Whenever I got a radio, I made sure it had a short wave band. At one time, you could pick up ship and police calls on a home radio, before they moved to other frequencies," she said.

The "ham" radio bug really bit the Creightons about six years ago when they got a set which could be tuned to worldwide frequencies. From there, interest grew into a hobby and then into an avocation as the Creightons started assembling their own station.

"We were pretty slow at first," Mrs. Creighton said, "but we soon got the hang of it."

"Ham" is a term from the telegrapher's world. A "ham" telegrapher was one whose work at the key was clumsy or incompetent, hamhanded. The term carried over to the amateur radio field when communication was by means of code, not voice, transmission, sent out in dots and dashes with a telegraph key.)

Considering that the Creighton's radio rig can pull in "hams" in Pennsylvania as easily as the South Pole, the size of the set is deceiving. Most of the works are in four fairly small cabinets across a desk top.

"Everytime I see a picture of an operator with a wall full of equipment, I can only wonder how old it all must be," said Mrs. Creighton.

Since the Creighton's station, W3ATQ, went on the air four years ago, "hams" around the world have become familiar

with the call letters. Mrs. Creighton has certificates on the "shack" wall which attest she has "worked" all the states and continents.

"One of the things about amateur radio work is that you get to know a lot of people you will probably never see," said Mrs. Creighton. "It's sort of strange to think that you've been talking to some person for years and probably know him pretty well but have no idea what he looks like."

Part of the mystique surrounding "ham" radio operators is that last names are not used on the air. A broadcaster comes on with the introduction: "This is W3ATQ, the handle is Harriet," and nothing more except the geographical location of the station.

MRS. CREIGHTON participates in networks of stations that group together for a specific purpose. For example, she represents Delaware Valley in the Eye Bank Net which locates corneas for transplant operations.

If Wills Eye Hospital, say, needs eyes for a corneal transplant and none are available locally, the request would be referred to the net.

The "hams" in turn, would relay the request throughout the Eye Bank Net until a hospital responded with the needed organs.

Every Christmas, Mrs. Creighton's radio time is given over to transmitting messages from families in the area to servicemen around the world.

Residents of the city can write 20-word messages to their servicemen which Mrs. Creighton, and other "hams," then relay for eventual delivery.

None of these will be handled by phone patching, however.

"Patching in a phone call and radio transmission would take too much time," said Mrs. Creighton, "so the holiday service is limited to messages only."

MESSAGES to some countries cannot be sent directly by her. Vietnam is one of the countries with which hams are forbidden contact.

"I relay the message to the Military Affiliate Radio System which retransmits the message to Vietnam," said Mrs. Creighton.

While radiogram message forms are available from the city's Office of Information in City Hall Room 121, Mrs. Creighton prefers getting the messages from the family over the telephone.

"Many times, in making out the message form, the serviceman's number or company designation is forgotten. Without that, he won't be located and the message is useless," she said.

Mrs. Creighton prefers calls from message senders through the week. Her number is OR

3-4579 and the service is free.

"Hams" can't charge for any message or patching service they provide," Mrs. Creighton explained. "They would lose their amateur rating."

Other "hams" who are accepting messages by phone are Lt. Col. George S. Van Dyke, Jr., NE 7-8329; Charles Monahan, MA 4-4643, and Paul R. Behrmann, TR 7-0562.

The
Trustees and Officers
of
Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge
announce with pleasure
the selection of
Harriet Creighton
by the distinguished National & School Awards Jury
to receive

The Honor Certificate Award
for
Operation Free Radiogram

1970

An outstanding accomplishment
in helping to achieve a better understanding
of the American Way of Life

Kevin McCann
President



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE BARRACKS, U. S. NAVAL BASE
BOX 32
FPO, NEW YORK 09593

In Reply Refer to:

19 FEB 1971

Mrs. Harriet Creighton
2202 Murray St.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19115

Dear Mrs. Creighton,

On behalf of myself and the members of this command, both past and present, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the outstanding service you have rendered to all Marines here at GTMO.

During the past five years, your call sign WA3ATQ has become familiar to the MARS radio operators stationed here in Guantanamo Bay. During this time you completed over five thousand phone patches for Guantanamo Marines. Multiply this figure by just five minutes, and it is noted that you have donated over four hundred sixteen hours of your time. This is indeed a very generous gift. As a former Marine, you know just how important the morale of our Marines is to the accomplishment of our mission.

Your completely unselfish donation of time, skills, and equipment has immeasurably added to the overall efficiency of this organization, and is greatly appreciated.

Van D. Bell Jr.
VAN D. BELL JR.
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding



WB3CQN

Ruthanna Pearson



Since starting bowling in 1952, Ruthanna "Div" Pearson has become one of the outstanding bowlers of York County, and holds many local, state and "600" Club titles. Some of her achievements in the game are: State Class "B" All Events 1957; State Class "A" Doubles 1965; York County All Star Champion 1959; York County Singles Champion 1961; "600" Club Scratch Champion 1961; Women's Semi-Pro Bowling Association finalist, Wilmington, Delaware and Allentown Open 1962; Quad City "600" Scratch Champion 1964; and York "600" Club Scratch Champion 1964.

Her bowling has earned her the 165-185 and 200 award pins from the York County Women's Bowling Association and she has participated in all State "600" Club Tournaments, as well as most State tournaments.

Bowling three nights a week, Div holds an average of 178. Her highest single game has been 278 and her high series 664.

For many years, she was a member of the Tri County Bowlers Association. In the past, she has been Secretary and Treasurer of the York Area Proprietor's Association; held an office in the local Women's "600" Association; served on the Board of Directors of the YCWBA and the Women's Eastern Bowling Association. Since 1963, Div has been on the Board of Directors of the AJBC and also held the office of President and Vice President of that organization. She is currently a member of the York, Quad City and State Associations.

Among her many achievements, Div helped organize the Ladies Sunday Traveling League, has attended the Brunswick Management Clinic, the AMF Instructor Forum and taken college courses in business administration. Being a certified instructor, this energetic young woman works with the junior bowlers at Suburban Bowlerama and also the Spring Garden Township Juniors.

During World War II, she served her country as a Wave and, in 1949, graduated from the Hospital Corp School NTC, Great Lakes.

Since 1960, she has been employed as Manager of Suburban Bowlerama. In addition, she holds a general ham radio operator's license and is currently studying for her advanced license. She is a member of the York Amateur Radio Club and Young Ladies Radio League. When Div wants to "get away from it all", you can find her on a golf course.

It is with pleasure that we honor her for her accomplishments and bestow upon her the recognition she so richly deserves.



TUNING IN—Mrs. Charles M. Sturkey, jr., catches a signal from a distant ham operator on the amateur radio station she and her Naval officer husband operate in their Falls Church home. She usually signs off with "73s", traditional ham greeting for "good luck and best wishes."—Star Staff Photo.

SERVICE SCENE

Chipper Navy Wife Talks Around World

By RUTH DEAN

When you walk into Mrs. Charles M. Sturkey's home in Falls Church, you're just as apt to hear her talking to a Scot, a South African or a South American.

For the red-haired, Irish-born wife of an American naval officer is a ham radio operator.

There is nothing dearer to the heart of an Irishman than conversation just for the joy of talking, so for Mrs. Sturkey talking to the whole world from her living room is a picnic.

One day she's catching up on the news in the little town of Crieff in Scotland from her old radio friend Frank, whose burr-inflected voice comes through the transmitter as clearly as if he were in the next room. The next day, it might be Eva in Casablanca, filling Mrs. Sturkey in with a progress report on the twins born to her recently.

Mrs. Sturkey became interested in amateur radio operation through her husband, an engineering officer on duty here with the Bureau of Ships and a veteran of the air waves since he was 15 years old.

Followed Husband

A licensed operator for the last five years, Mrs. Sturkey couldn't resist taking it up after seeing hubby talking to the rest of the world while she listened in.

"I guess I'm just a born talker, especially since I've kissed the Blarney Stone," she says with a gay laugh. Mrs. Sturkey was born not far from Blarney Castle in County Cork and spent her early years on the farm where her father raised champion stallion horses.

Schooling in England and a subsequent job with the War Ministry in London during the war led to her meeting with

her future husband, an American naval officer on duty there.

After a three-year courtship they were married in New York, and by that time too, she'd become an inveterate radio fan. After getting her FCC rating, there was no stopping her. She and Comdr. Sturkey are "Charley and Mary" to hundreds of fellow hams throughout the world.

Station in Home

They have a 150-watt station installed in their rambler, with an additional transmitter capable of 600 watts. In addition they have a mobile radio installed in their car which

gets quite a bit of use on vacations.

Once on a trip to Canada they contacted a ham in Quebec who took them on a guided tour of the city by radio.

Most exciting chapter in Mrs. Sturkey's ham experiences was the period she and Charley spent in Turkey two years ago when he was with the American Military Mission for Aid to Turkey. She was the only licensed woman amateur radio operator in Turkey.

"We couldn't contact any stations in Turkey," she recalled, "but we got quite a few in Europe, and later on vacation trips we met some of the people we'd been talking to. It's fun to meet them. One was a Lebanese operator in Beirut and another was an American Army officer in Salzburg, Austria. He and his wife took us on an automobile tour

of the Austrian lake district and Salzburg."

Taught English

While in Turkey, Mrs. Sturkey also put her talkative talents to another use. She taught English to Turkish naval officers' wives there. She was just as proficient in speaking Turkish, too, having learned it by diligent study on records before they left the United States. She has also studied Gaelic although she admits she's a little rusty at speaking it.

Operating a ham radio station is not all fun and play for this alert musical-tongued service wife. She and her husband have put their sparetime hobby to emergency use more than once. They received a commendation a few years ago when they assisted in evacuation of flood victims in Staten Island.

Mrs. Sturkey is active in civil defense and Red Cross work here. She's communications manager of the Air Force's MARS (Military Affiliated Radio System) program. She is also treasurer of the Washington Area Young Ladies' Amateur Radio Club, which numbers 50 members.

Setting Up Program

Right now Mrs. Sturkey is assisting in a program local hams are setting up to bring regular words of cheer to the Antarctic expedition. Part of her regular daily schedule also includes relaying of messages from servicemen from all over the world to their families here.

Her hobby has brought her fun, friends and cooking recipes. "We always have a stream of friends coming

through here," says this hospitable Navy wife, "so I'm always baking a cake or preparing Turkish coffee." The friends include former service people the Sturkeys knew in Turkey as well as the many hams they've contacted through the years.

The usual day for Mrs. Sturkey begins at 7 a.m. and ends at midnight. "I think life's more interesting that way," says this born talker with a lilt in her voice.



K4HSC - MEG

The Gaylarks

'YL Calling OM—Wash the Dishes!'

BY EVELYN MANN
 Chronicle Correspondent

ARE the "Gaylarks" happy birds? Well, not really. They are gay and happy as larks, but they aren't birds. They are "happy hams."

The happy hams are amateur radio operators who communicate with each other and with hams around the globe through call letters. Full names are never used. And every woman, regardless of age, is known as "YL," meaning Young Lady, and every man, regardless of age, is known as "OM," meaning Old Man. The women love the "YL" moniker. Some of the men are mute on the "OM."

The name Gaylark stands for Gulf Area Young Ladies Amateur Radio Klub. It was organized almost 13 years ago by Mrs. Kirby Woehst, 3511 Linkwood, receiving its charter on Jan. 28, 1958, with 14 members.

How Club Was Born

Mrs. Woehst had gone to Fort Worth in June, 1957, to visit her brother, Bob Roden, who had been a ham operator for six years. While there, she participated in an all-YL operator field day. She was so enthusiastic about the YL organization there that she came home intent on starting a club here.

She was given a District 5 Call Book for Ham Operators. District 5 includes Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Mississippi. She went through every page underlining feminine names in the Greater Houston area, and her first letter to each woman was mailed on Oct. 9, 1957. They were invited to attend a meeting on Oct. 29, 1957, at Bill Williams



GAYLARK EMBLEM STITCHED ON DRESS
 This One Belongs to K5BJU (Mrs. Woehst)

Chicken Shack. Seven licensed hams showed up. At that first meeting Harriett Woehst was elected president and Yette Matthias (Mrs. Dick), 2107 DuBarry, vice-president.

Those present discussed a name, wanting it to have reference to the Gulf Coast area, so Gaylarks was adopted.

Gaylark Emblem

At a Christmas party at the Woehst home that year, the centerpiece had a little bird perched on a tree branch. The bird created so much conversation that it was adopted as the insignia or the emblem for the new club. The club colors are turquoise and white and the Gaylark is stitched on every member's dress or used as a patch on a collar. There is also a Gaylark flag which is flown under the American flag on field day. And the perky little bird preda on 55

ery, picnic napkins and what-have-you.

There are still 10 charter members in the club. Margaret Pearre (Mrs. Bill), 7011 Sharpview Dr., is president, and Martha Flukinger (Mrs. Kenneth), 6015 Hogue, is secretary-treasurer.

Family Affair

Ham radio is a wholesome, fun hobby the whole family can enjoy. This is true of most Gaylarks and their OMs. But in the early marriage of the Kirby Woehsts, this was not the case. He had been a licensed operator since 1951 and she was not the least bit interested in his hobby. After 14½ years of being a "ham widow," she delivered an ultimatum: "I feel like an old fire-ax hanging on the wall to be used only in an emergency. Either ham radio has to go or I go." She was surprised when her

It's been nice having you around."

In self-defense, and to save their marriage, Mrs. Woehst decided to become a lady ham. She took lessons from her OM and received her novice license in 1955, with call letters K5BJU.

She became so enthusiastic after talking with interesting people everywhere that she became the mama of the Gaylarks.

Also, the Woehsts' son, Kirby, received his novice license when he was 11 years old. He is now first lieutenant and pilot instructor stationed at Keesler AFB, Miss.

Today there are more than 425,000 amateur operators in the world; approximately 275,000 are in the United States, and about half that number are lady hams.

What It Takes

Classes in Houston have been taught by Kirby Woehst and Glenn Smith, OM of YL Annie Smith, 6122 Wister Lane. The theory classes are courses in basic electronics, including formulas, schematics, diagrams and radio circuitry. After four or five months, a student should be ready to take the FCC written examination, which consists of about 90 questions, and also sending and receiving Morse Code messages at the rate of 13 words per minute.

It's a great day when the YL receives a letter from the FCC with her novice license and her first call letters. This is usually within six weeks after the examination.

Then there are more examinations to receive the general class license and more still

(See FUN HOBBY, Page 4)



Photo by Orie Collins, Chronicle Staff

YL HARRIETT WOEHST (MRS. KIRBY) IN HER "SHACK"
 Founder and First President of Area Women Ham Operators



Photos by Orle Collins, Chronicle Staff

GAYLARKS AT WORK

The happy hams of the Gulf Area Young Ladies Amateur Radio Klub (Gaylarks, for short) enjoy their hobby chatting around the world. At left, YL Audrey Bayer (K5PFF) mans a walkie-talkie perched on her car. Walkie-talkies are used by the Gaylarks on field day exercises and in emergencies. In the center photo are four YLs with their field day equipment. Left to right, Mary Jo Turner (K5DJS), Frances Smith (WA5MPM), Lillian Beebe (WA5WZF) and Betty Sutton (W5ERH). At right, YL Nancy Manning mans the mike at the underground Civil Defense center.

Ham Radio a Family Affair

Fun Hobby Is Serious Work During Emergencies

FROM PAGE 1

to obtain an advanced license. After the general class license is received, the initial

"N" is dropped from the call letters. YL Alverta Look (OM Fred), 6215 Hurst, was KN5MIZ when the Gaylarks were chartered. When she passed her second exam, she became K5MIZ. Thirteen of the Gaylarks hold advanced licenses. Two hold a DX license which permits them to make foreign contacts. These are YL Harriett Woehst and YL Mrs. Lillian Beebe, 9906 Summerlin. They have made ham contacts in Greenland, the Arctic Circle, the Marshall Islands. All YLs receive confirmation cards from points contacted and the cards adorn the walls of the "shack" (radio room) of each member.

Emergency Work

In emergencies the Gaylarks and their OMs work as a team to deliver messages for vital supplies. During Hurricane Carla, the base station was at the Woehsts' home. The OMs worked in the mobile units with the YLs manning the mikes and delivering messages. They worked four days and nights, in shifts, working with hospitals, doctors, the Salvation Army and the Red Cross.

During Hurricane Audrey in Cameron, La., YL Lillian Beebe delivered welfare messages, made appeals for blood donations, and worked around the clock with other Gaylarks in providing aid to the devastated area.

YL Audrey Beyer (OM Alvin E.), 6202 Reed Rd., monitored the FCC emergency frequency during the Alaskan earthquake several years ago.

Helping Others

Many of the Gaylarks have had moving experiences in helping to save someone's life.

In the case of YL Audrey Beyer, it was the life of a baby in Guatemala. She picked up a call for help from a priest there who said he was holding a baby on his lap and that it would surely die if he could not talk to a doctor immediately. YL Audrey located a doctor, explained the situation and then put him on a phone-patch so the doctor could talk directly to the priest and give him step-by-step instructions to help him. Because of this quick service, the baby lived.

Also through phone-patch, YL Audrey has helped students from South America, who are attending school here, keep in touch with their families.

YL Harriett Woehst, who works for a neurosurgeon, has had many experiences talking with relatives of someone critically ill and making arrangements for ambulances to meet planes to take the patient to the hospital here. Many times the relatives will stay with the Woehsts so they can report to

the people back home the progress of the patient.

At the recent Cancer Congress held in Houston, the Gaylarks gave free international message service to the delegates and members attending from more than 70 countries.

YL Nancy Manning (OM Bill), 3937 San Felip Rd., operated the message desk daily in the Albert Thomas Convention Center lobby. Messages were limited to 25 words. YL Deanna Mercurio (OM Sam), 6022 Belmark, assisted in sending the messages. Her knowledge of Spanish helped in many instances as most calls were made to South America.

The messages were sent with the aid of the Civil Defense shortwave radio in the basement of the Convention Center.

Helping the Young

YL Annie Smith and her OM Glenn were licensed in 1961. A first grade teacher at Cooley Elementary School, she has demonstrated amateur radio to her own class as well as to sixth graders. The Smiths' two daughters, Sue and Martha, also are licensed Gaylarks.

YL Sue Hutton (Mrs. Karl), 1222 Prince, became more interested when her OM was in the service stationed in Labrador and she could talk to him by phone-patch.

YL Martha Flukinger (Mrs. Kenneth), 6015 Hogue, and her OM are also licensed, making this a complete family hobby.

YL Annie was president of the Gaylarks in 1966 and passed the gavel to daughter YL Sue in 1967. YL Annie is the only woman ham to hold the office of South Texas Emergency Net. YL Martha is secretary-treasurer of the Gaylarks.

YL Mary Jo Tunner (Mrs. Jack), 3406 Las Palmas, is one of the few Gaylarks whose husband does not share her hobby. She became a ham about nine years ago because she liked to talk, and still does. She attended a summer class with some junior and senior high school boys in preparation for her FCC examination.

YL Mary Jo teaches ham radio and science at Kinkaid Lower School. The class has talked with ham operator Barry Goldwater, among others. She just got her master's degree in science education but will pursue her fun hobby.

Retirement Hobby

YL Frances Smith (Mrs. J. R.), 8011 Richmond, retired July 15 as principal of Emerson Elementary School. She was principal of Cooley Elementary School where YL Annie Smith taught first grade. The unrelated Smiths found a common interest in ham radio and YL Frances took lessons from OM Glenn Smith. She and her OM both

hold licenses. They decided on ham radio mainly because they wanted a hobby which they could enjoy during retirement.

YL Frances enjoys talking with people in all parts of the world and one time talked with a ham station in a Russian school. The conversation was in English.

Other Gaylarks

Real estate broker YL Betty Sutton (OM Robert) had been exposed to ham operations for years as her father had had his license for a long time. Then when she married OM Robert, chief transmitter engineer for KTRK-TV, her interest increased and she took the course to get her license.

"Making friends you will never see through helping someone in need" is a gratifying part of being a ham for YL Betty. But she also considers it a fun hobby.

YL Lillian Smith, 11030 Sagemark Lane, is a former FCC examiner for the Canal Zone; now a Houstonian, she is a secretary at NASA.

Friends and ham operators in Kansas, Kay McCulloch and Deanna Mercurio, were recently reunited in Houston when the McCullochs moved here, which gave the Gaylarks a new member.

Another new recent member is Lasca Jeffrey, 2223 Bissonnet.

Other members are Jean Beuchner (OM Bob), 6210 Waltway Dr., Bea Boyett (OM Tom), 5434 Indigo; Grace Tracy (OM Bob), 3207 McElroy.

Ann Beadel (OM Bob), of Beaumont and Mary Ann

Leveridge (OM Aubrey), of East Bernard, are also active Gaylarks.

Field Day

The Gaylarks practice emergency evacuation drills by having a field day annually. The first one was just six months to the day after the club was chartered. It was held on the farm of Dr. and Mrs. Ross D. Margrave near Bryan. He has been a ham operator since 1954 and his wife, Nina, has just received her permanent call letters.

The OMs put up the tents, antennas and the radio equipment and do all the cooking.

On the first field day, the Gaylarks made 550 contacts, worked 41 states, three sections of Canada, Hawaii and the Canal Zone. The YLs are required to operate on a 24-hour basis on field day, which is a contest activity. The contests are sponsored by the Young Ladies Radio League and the American Radio Relay League to encourage the YLs to broaden their scope of operation. There are international contests and points given for contacts in the United States as well as foreign countries. YL Audrey Beyer, vice-president of the YLRL, sets up the contests and checks the results.

Club Affiliations

The Gaylark organization is a member of the Young Ladies Radio League, incorporated in California. This year YL Audrey Beyer, a past president of the Gaylarks, is vice-president and on the slate for District 5 chairman for 1971.

The Gaylarks, as a club, have taken over publication, for this year, of the "YL Harmonics," the YLRL magazine. YL Harriett Woehst is managing-editor-publisher for the six issues per year.

Meetings

The Gaylarks meet the last Friday of every month except July and August. At the September meeting plans will be made for the Texas Young Ladies Roundup Net to be held here the first weekend in November. The Gaylarks will be the hostess club.

13 Attend Orientation

Thirteen Harris County residents participated in the second 1970 pre-college conference at North Texas State University.

Aimed at giving prospective freshmen a preview of campus life, the two-day orientation period included counseling, testing, registration, recreation and tours of the campus.

Houston area students who participated were Mary Elizabeth Cook, 7332 Fauna; Dianna Ingram, 10031 Ella Lee; Eileen Head, 319 E. John Albers; Robert Bell, 13169 Apple Tree; Wayne Auzenne, 4818 Hoffman; Danny L. Knoff, 8200 Broadway; Lionel Stroud, 6930 Burgess; Tommy Tinner, 7614 Cayton; Suzanne Talbot, 1741 Wakefield; Sharon Rouze, 5943 Dumfries; Roger Helm, 5104 Valerie, Bellaire, and Barbara Ann Morgan, 124 Lazy Lane, Baytown.

'Let's Ragchew'

When the Gaylarks send out over the air waves, "Calling CQ, Calling CQ," somebody is bound to be listening. In ham language, "Calling CQ" means, "Does anybody, anywhere, feel like talking—about anything?" Somebody usually does—perhaps just to ragchew (a ham word) about grandbabies, the weather or favorite recipes.

DEANNA WASKRI at map - KSMIZ, Alverta transmitting



The Gaylarks have had a busy week at the Cancer Congress. Your last chance to send a message is this afternoon — the booth closes at 6 p.m.

Gaylarks Transmit Messages Of Cheer to Families at Home

Home may be thousands of miles away for some UICC delegates in Houston, but several volunteer lady ham radio operators are at least trying to make it seem a little closer.

The Gaylarks — 22 members of the Gulf Area Young Ladies Amateur Radio Klub — are offering a free international message service to the Cancer Congress members, who represent more than 70 countries.

"Transmissions can take from 12 hours to several days depending upon the country," says Mrs. Nancy Manning, one of the club's members who operate the message desk daily in the main lobby of the Albert Thomas Convention Center.

Messages are sent with the aid of the Civil Defense short wave radio in the basement of the convention center.

"We have to limit the messages to 25 words," Mrs. Manning adds.

Through the first few days of operation, most calls have been sent to South Amer-

ica. Most European countries, unfortunately, have had to be excluded from the hook-up due to an international agreement on third-party calls (the use of a relay, or third party).

The message service will continue through 6 p.m. today.

Radio Message Service Operated By Gaylarks At Convention Center

Registrants of the Tenth International Cancer Congress may send messages to their homes anywhere in the free world without charge.

This service is offered by the Gaylarks (Gulf Area Young Ladies Amateur Radio Klub), an organization of "ham" operators who will send messages via short-wave radio from the Albert Thomas Convention and Exhibit Center today through Thursday.

The organization has prepared in advance a variety of messages from which the delegate may select. All selections are made at the Gaylarks' booth, located in the east lobby of the convention center near the registration area.

Gaylarks may be identified by their turquoise and white outfits and their call letters, WA5ZDI.

↑ NANCY MANNING
WA5ZDI
Each GAYLARK's call is on her "uniform"
the writer didn't realize each had her own call!

Agnew Calls Cooperation

icians; physicians must be bet
ed to recognize cancer in its ea
s; and highly sophisticated care co
must be available to patients once
se is recognized."

e Vice President explained, he
that the improvement in medi

Hams 'Patch' Sailors to Homes

From Norfolk newspaper.

Written up in *4 Harmonics* March 1961

NORFOLK — "KC4USV, this is K4TGA. Do you have any traffic for us?" An exuberant feminine voice enunciates into the mike.

The voice belongs to Mrs. Alice Ginsburg of 425 Pepper Mill Lane, Poplar Halls, one of 850 or so ham (amateur) radio operators in the Tidewater area.

Ten thousand miles away is ham station KC4USV—more commonly known as "king-charlie four, uncle sam's the victim"—at the Navy's antarctic base at McMurdo Sound.

What Mrs. Ginsburg and other dedicated hams all over the country are doing is bringing joy into Navy homes by arranging "phone patches" between sailors "wintering over" in the antarctic and their families.

The calls across more than 10,000 miles derive from the ham's instinct to be a nice guy while enjoying a "marvelous, marvelous" hobby, as Mrs. Ginsburg enthusiastically calls her work.

The phone company probably would have the law on its side if it ever wanted to stop this, the North American Newspaper Alliance reports. But the Bell System probably figures this service for isolated men couldn't possibly cost the phone company a nickel. There are no commercial circuits to Antarctica.

About 16 operators have regular working hours with KC4USV. During these hours they are given priority over other hams who would like to tune in McMurdo.

"Prime time" is between 4

p.m. and 11 p.m., Monday through Friday, antarctic time, which is 17 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. When prime time begins at 4 p.m. Monday in McMurdo it's 11 p.m. Sunday in Norfolk.

It's not unusual for Mrs. Ginsburg to man her one-kilowatt radio between midnight and 3 a.m. to complete a patch.

But atmospheric conditions have been "very, very poor" this year and getting through

once weekly, as she tries to do, has not worked out. It's been three weeks since she has talked to McMurdo.

Antarctica isn't the only far-away place Mrs. Ginsburg has contacted. Guantanamo Naval Base sailors put in calls to their folks here. A man in Quito, Ecuador, regularly calls his wife here. Last week, four calls were made from Alaska.

Hams are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission and are forbidden to charge any fee for their services.

Mrs. Ginsburg, mother of two daughters, has been on the airways six years. Her husband, Martin, who has been a ham for 15 years, got her interested in the hobby. "He's never had a chance at the mike since," Mrs. Ginsburg said jokingly.

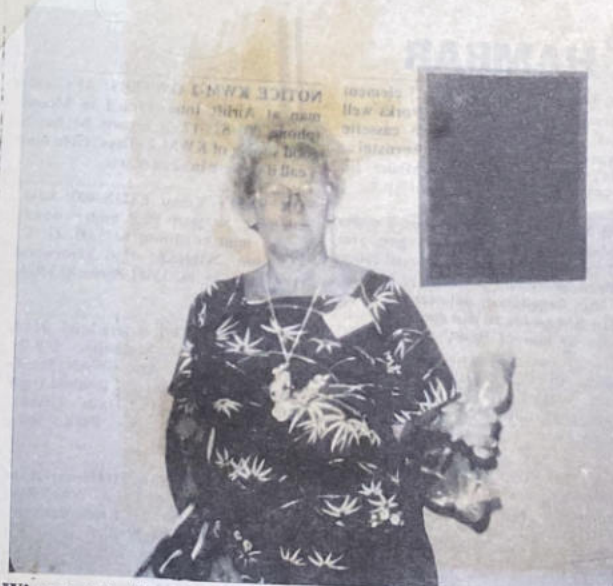
Many others in Tidewater belong to this "one big happy fraternity." Tidewater Mobile Amateur Radio Club — just one of several groups in the area—brings about 40 or so hams together twice a month.

Hams provide mobile units for Civil Defense emergencies, parade coordination and hurricane reporting and evacuation, to name a few services.

President of the mobile group is W4QDY; vice president is W4BGP; secretary is K4RPT; and treasurer is K4MRX, names which any ham will quickly recognize.



Mrs. Alice Ginsburg of 425 Pepper Mill Lane, Poplar Halls, is one of 850 or so ham radio operators in the Tidewater area. With the equipment here, she can call up the ham operator at McMurdo Sound in the antarctic.



Winner of the "Left Foot C.W. Contest" was won by Lynn Welliver, WB4RVW, at the Melbourne Hamfest. The prize, a beautiful mike. (Photo by W4BAV.)



Staff Photo by Nancy Finke

Nancy Hickman Helped Keep Airways Open To Get Toccoa Injury Reports

Local 'Ham' Operator Referees in Disaster

By TOM PUCKETT
Staff Writer

Part of the drama of a disaster such as the collapse Sunday of a mud dam near the sleepy North Georgia town of Toccoa is the interminable waiting of relatives for news about the dead and injured.

Some Savannahians went through that wait Sunday to hear if a family member or friend made it out of the flood waters in time.

They and other persons with loved ones in Toccoa waited to hear news from an area cut off from the outside by downed telephone lines and washed out roads.

And as the hours passed and rescue workers moved through the muddy college town hoping to save the injured and recover the dead, a crew of unseen radio amateurs also waited.

Forming an unbreakable chain from the site to the homes of relatives across the state, these "hams" leaped at the first word of disaster and rode out the agonizing waiting.

Among them was Nancy Hickman of Savannah who acted as an important link in the chain that crossed broken telephones lines.

Visually handicapped from birth, she is the emergency coordinator for ham radio operators in this area.

As she explained Monday, in situations such as the Toccoa disaster, she "referees" radio operators around the state to insure that information from the site can flow smoothly to homes around the state through neighborhood hams.

She said she was called about noon Sunday by Carroll Baker, chief engineer of the local ham repeater station, and told that the news media and relatives needed information routed in and out of the Toccoa area.

So she got on the volunteer job and kept broadcasting until about 2:20 a.m. Monday.

Acting as a referee, Miss Hickman kept operators from trying to talk all at once.

"People from all over the state were putting in inquiries," she said. Some were from the news media, but most were from anxious relatives and friends of persons in the disaster area, she said.

One by one, she routed the information to the right ham in the right area, allowing these hams to pass the information on to the waiting person.

She used the state ham networks, called the "side ban" and "cracker" nets, to gather and pass out information, and the local network to get information to receive inquiries from local hams.

In case of an injured or dead person, she passed information on to the Red Cross and police.

"Thankfully there weren't any Savannahians killed or injured, and with all the people cleared out, it looks like that won't change," she said Monday.

Four Savannahians reported in the area escaped uninjured during the flood that ripped through the campus of Toccoa Bible College early Sunday morning.

Miss Hickman received information about the Toccoa situation from ham operators in and around the small town, located about 80 miles northeast of Atlanta.

In a disaster situation, information concerning dead or injured persons is passed along by ham operators to police and Red Cross authorities because "this isn't a game," she said.

"We just don't call someone up and say 'did you know your son died? . . . we just don't do that,'" she stressed.

In another development, a disaster fund to help families who lost their houses and belongings in the Toccoa Falls flood has been started by Bloomingdale Christian Missionary Alliance Church.

The Rev. Ken Otto, pastor of the church, said Monday that donations can be sent to the First Bank in Pooler in care of the Toccoa Falls Disaster Fund.

Otto said the money will be collected at the bank, and then sent to the Toccoa Bible College for distribution by college officials.

Happiness Is a Lady 'Ham'

By Cliff Sewell

Nancy Hickman is living proof that blindness precludes interesting activity and a full life, only if you let it. Having a positive rather than a negative view, she explained that she can see even though it is with the limited perception of a person looking through fog. In the same breath Nancy mentioned a totally blind, brilliant student who had graduated with honors from a local high school.

She was born in Savannah. Her mother gave this medical history, "Nancy has congenital cataracts due to lack of pre-natal nourishment caused by my poor health. Then there was a hospital accident after one of her many operations, but she has some usable vision in one eye."

Everything runs together when I try to read," Nancy explained. "But I don't use glasses. I was educated in the Illinois School for Sight Saving and Braille. I also graduated from the Florida State University with a degree in social work."

Mrs. Hickman mentioned her daughter's marvelous sense of direction — "she found her way around in the city with ease" — and her altruistic urge, a spirit of thoughtful consideration for others. "I think it's wonderful she is able to do so much and gets real joy out of doing for people. Nancy taught Braille to a colored woman over the phone because she couldn't come to her. She also worked at 37th Street School for seven months in resource teaching free of charge."

Matter-of-factly Nancy stated, "There is a trend away from using handicapped teachers for the blind. The reason given for this is that youngsters are living in a sighted world and should have sighted teachers." She laughed without bitterness, "I've sold hose and lingerie from door to door! I also worked for Doorstep Savannah as Director of Audio and Visual Aid Services, and in various other capacities from 1965 until it closed out here."

Mrs. Hickman said, "We've never tried to limit Nancy. She wanted a bicycle and we gave her one which she could use in certain areas. We also gave one to a child at 37th Street School who could read Braille." "I needed exercise," Nancy remarked. "When I was a child I went away to school, so I wanted to help the blind children who do stay at home."

She could hardly wait to leave the subject of herself and tell of her consuming interest, radio and being a ham (amateur) operator. "People on radio are far more important and interesting than what happened to me. I've been interested in radio and what made it work since childhood. I got into the amateur field through Carl Williams, secretary of the local club, when I was employed by Roz Frame at Doorstep. He delivered printing for her and one day he mentioned he was going to a meeting."

When Nancy evinced great interest Mr. Williams told her that the Amateur Radio Club of Savannah was having a learners class, first in the city to have this distinction. She attended; studied code and theory and passed the examination for an apprentice license. "You have to pass that to get on the air, and be able to receive code at five words a minute to have a novice call." Nancy continued her study and won a technicians license. Her call was WN4NTW. The N was dropped after she had radio privileges and won her license as a general class operator. "My call is WB4NTW, now and forever," she stated proudly, as well she might.

Working and obtaining the right to become a general class operator separates the men from the boys, or rather in her case the women from the girls. Required speed is 13 words per minute. She is aiming for the



The door of her 'Ham Shack' is covered with call cards of numerous friends.

highest rating, Extra Class, and 20 words per minute. "A radio announcer has to have a first class license. Our designation is ham operator. I would like to take commercials but would want to be classed as an amateur always."

The way was not easy for Nancy. She was often frustrated but forever determined. With full sight, becoming

ing a general takes plenty of work and know-how. Nancy possesses astonishing ability, so with her mother to read to her, she made the grade. She was permitted to use Braille for ham reports and records.

Truly for Nancy, ensconced before her "rig," happiness is being a lady ham. Through her own efforts she enlarged the small measurements of her life; entering the mainstream of an activity in which she could meet a great number of people. The radio world has been fertile with rewards; she has made many helpful friends and been given the opportunity to serve in return.

There are 100 hams in Savannah and Chatham County. Nancy is local club membership custodian of the "Hostess City of the South Award" for working five amateurs. Air wave language requires explanation! This means a ham from another city talks to five in Savannah at separate times. They exchange call cards (instead of pictures they bear radio call signs, names and addresses) which show proof of a two-way conversation. Savannah club members submit proof of ten such two-way contacts. Nancy has a framed certificate showing she has accomplished this. Her newest confirming card does have a picture on it of the two Savannah ships, the NS and the SS.

Her radio life often keeps her busy from early morning till late at night. During this time she has the whole world in her hands, and old and new friends to converse with ("Rag chew" is an informal talk with another ham), and often the chance to serve. "I am alternate net control for the Georgia Radio Association," she said. "I preside over the net. This is a service. I might talk to someone in Atlanta who doesn't want to send a telegram. I get on the net and send his message to the designated person. As a public service I also meet the South Carolina net and preside on Thursday. I call the roll and keep records."

Nancy said the Georgia Peaches is an organized net for women and any female is eligible to join. She explained that there were two national organizations for men and women, and then gave the meaning of some of the abbreviations: YRL for young ladies; XYL for married lady; OM is a man; YL is for all women. Nancy is secretary for the Georgia Peach Regional Net (Southern States) which is primarily a social

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Thursday is Nancy's busy day. She conducts the Thursday morning Coffee Club starting at five in the morning.

Photos by Richard Sommers

Happiness Is. . . .

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cup or rag chew, but if anyone needs help they give

Among her many membership certificates is the Country Cousins, a Thursday night NCS (net control station) which encompasses the South; a service group dedicated to helping their fellowmen, the handicapped and the underprivileged. Their motto reads: "Service and help to mankind. When in need, call a Country Cousin." The president is blind. "We carry on several projects," Nancy said, "We supply audio tone comparers to those who need them, for cost of the parts. If a cripple needs a wheel chair we do the welfare work to arrange for one. By virtue of being a net control station I am on the Country Cousin Board. Meetings open with a prayer and our chaplain is from Augusta."

Mrs. Hickman commented on MARS (military affiliate radio service) a net for civilians carrying military traffic (messages) of which Nancy is a member. Then Nancy told about the Southern Coffee Club, a long established ham organization. "I conduct the Thursday morning net control station starting at five which makes Thursday my busy day. This is a social club. It's like a great big family where you meet new people who are friendly and helpful. I know a couple who will get in their car and come from Charleston if I need help with my rig. We are all Coffee Club members. We also belong to YL International, single sideband communication system and refer to each other as sidebanders. This is definitely a service net concerned with medical service overseas; the purpose is to carry distress traffic."

Mrs. Hickman said, "Nancy has time and a willingness to work. She is conscientious and is recognized for her efforts. Things have worked out for her. She has expensive equipment that those with much more money don't own."

"Lynn and Jeannie (the Carolina couple) built the tower that holds my 20 meter beam," Nancy explained, "and it is 40 feet high. They procured, reconditioned and installed it. Mother and I helped. We used a block and tackle. It was an exciting experience. A card-carrying iron rigger said it couldn't be done but we did it! "Hams tease each other. They have fun besides being helpful and they have certainly helped me."

"You never know who is listening," Mrs. Hickman marveled. "Once a ham heard Nancy say something was wrong with her line. Soon after the door bell rang and he had come to help. Another time a man drove from Port Wentworth, diagnosed her trouble and corrected it."

When part of Nancy's equipment needed repair, a ham lent her the most expensive equivalent to use till hers was fixed. She told him, "You had better trust in the Lord because you can't trust me not to blow a fuse!" Mrs. Hickman is her number 1 assistant. "Mother does all of my reading, and she is one million per cent behind me in whatever I do."

One door is covered with call cards from numerous friends in many places. Judging by their number, they share with Nancy the sentiments of the YL International motto: "Dedicated to the building of friendship among all people of the earth through amateur radio; and to be of service to our fellowmen where ever they may be. Our yesterdays follow us. They constitute our life. They give character and force to our present."



CB never fails with Mr. H.

REACT

By CAROL MATHER
Virginian-Pilot Staff Writer

NORFOLK—Margaret Williams says she is not a CBer in any sense of the word. "I never talk on the radio."

Yet her citizens' band radio is usually on and she spends hours monitoring Channel 9, the official CB emergency channel.

Miss Williams is president of Tidewater REACT—Radio Emergency Associated Citizens Team—a worldwide public service organization that sends help to people in distress.

"We're not a CB club, we're a volunteer group. The same as a volunteer fire department, except our members have to pay \$12 to join and have to maintain their CB equipment," she said.

Miss Williams, also a licensed pilot and ham radio operator, became interested in CBs two years ago. "Then I heard REACT on the radio, and I thought what they were doing was necessary, so I went to a meeting."

When she was elected president last year there were only seven people present. There are now 100 members, the majority married couples.

"Each member is required to monitor the channel at least 20 hours a month, and the group makes sure it is monitored 24 hours a day in Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, and Chesapeake.

But before a member is allowed to monitor on his own, he must take three to four hours of instruction followed by a minimum of 20 hours of supervised practical training with a radio. After that he is monitored by his instructor until ready to go it alone. "We want our people to know what they're doing. A lot of times 10 calls will come in at once, and we want them to be able to handle them all," Miss Williams said.

She monitors the channel from 5 to 7 every morning, except Saturdays, but has stood additional watches. "We still need more people—especially during the day and from midnight to 6 a.m.," she said.

The popularity of CB radios has not surprised Miss Williams, a science teacher at Northside Junior High School. "This is an affluent society. Any new electronic gadget becomes a household word. Just look at the calculator," she said.

"The CBs give people the opportunity to communicate from their houses, boats, and cars—they're just great."

But she is adamant about consideration on the radio. "There are thousands of people for each channel. Sometimes it seems like everyone is talking at once," she said. "And they are grossly misused by some—people will use excessive power, obscene language, and too much time."

With the proliferation of radios, she believes people should be more con-

cerned with "adhering to rules instead of trying to break them. Radios are for the benefit of everyone."

There have been instances when the emergency channel has also been misused. "Some people don't realize that's what it's for and will get on just to talk, or others will test their microphones," she said. (Testing prevents any other calls from getting through.)

The worst misuse Miss Williams remembers was when a man with a small three-channel unit went to the aid of a woman whose car had been weaving down one of the interstates. The woman was in labor and trying to drive to a hospital.

The man had no Channel 9, so he called Channel 19 and asked someone to call 9 for him. "Our monitors (there were three on at that time—a registered nurse, a former policeman, and a volunteer fireman) went to 19," she said. "but the people kept telling them to get off, and said that emergency calls should go to 9." The people on Channel 19 finally keyed their mikes which cut out communication, so the monitors never did find out where the woman was, she said.

"That," Miss Williams said, "was not only a misuse of a CB, but a misuse of humanity."

Another pregnant woman's call for help ended more happily.

She went into labor in her car in a downtown parking lot. Three minutes after calling for help on her CB, paramedics were at her side.

The channel also gets its share of quacks. "But we're beginning to recognize their voices, and the FCC and the city police are helping," she said. "These (fake) emergencies could jeopardize the lives of others who really need help."

The Virginian-Pilot

Tidewater Living

A10 Monday, June 28, 1976