



*URL Scrapbook 1-3*

## Santa Monica Housewife Makes Worldwide 'Contacts'

Mrs. W. A. Letcher Jr., Feminine Radio Ham Is  
National Prexy Of Young Ladies' Radio League

By GLORIA BRECKENRIDGE

Most housewives sit down in the afternoon for a cup of coffee and a chat with their neighbors, but when Mrs. W. A. Letcher Jr., 1214 Franklin Ave., sits down to talk, it's with housewives in South Gate, Nairobi, Honolulu or Tahiti.

Mrs. Letcher is an amateur radio operator ("ham"), and while men have been at the hobby for quite awhile there are only 500 licensed women operators in the world.

A past president of the Los Angeles branch of the Young Ladies' Radio League, Mrs. Letcher has just been elected national president. This is the first time in the league's 15 year existence that a Southern Californian has held the position.

Mrs. Letcher has a lot of ideas for the League, which includes the branches in Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, Canal Zone, Europe, Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

Her pet project will be working for a national convention here in the Southland, so YLs (young ladies) can meet each other in person. In radio jargon YL refers to any licensed feminine amateur radio operator whether she is nine or ninety. Men operators are known as OMs (old men).

YLs speak to each other from all parts of the world and you don't have to know French to speak to a "ham" in France . . . just your Q signals. They have their own language, established for operators several years ago at an international conference.

So if you're a "ham" and want to talk to another radio operator, you switch on your transmitter and

say "Calling CQ," which means "I want to talk."

A CQ call can be answered by anyone who happens to hear it and they will reply with QAV (Are you calling me?).

Of course this is an oversimplification of a chatty "ham" because the hobby has become so popular and radio time so valuable, that not all amateurs can get on the air to receive and transmit messages.

The Federal Communications Commission issues licenses to amateur operators, but only after they have passed a rigid test in theory, mechanics and sending code. The Commission also sets up the bands and frequencies for amateur use.

Mrs. Letcher passed the FCC test in 1948, received her official radio call letters (W6CEE) and now is an avid participant in "net parties."

Local parties are held Monday afternoons and national or international contacts are on Thursday.

At last Monday's party Mrs. Letcher talked to a YL in South Gate, until her baby awakened and started cutting in on the air waves, and then switched to a newlywed in Twentynine Palms, who had just returned from her honeymoon.

She and her husband, both radio "hams," were introduced on the air by another YL, and before she could say QAV (Are you calling me?) they were engaged.

Mrs. Letcher's husband, who works in the electronics division of Douglas, has been a "ham" since he was a boy. One day after they were married Mrs. Letcher turned on the receiver, heard the conversations of other "hams" and decided that "it might be kind of fun" to learn something about this hobby. Night classes at Santa Monica Technical School followed.

The Letchers take their hobby with them whenever they go on weekend trips or vacations. A mobile communicator on which they can send and receive messages goes right in the car along with the luggage.

It was a "ham" with a mobile outfit in his car who sent the first messages out of Tehachapi after the earthquakes there destroyed communication lines.

"Hams" also volunteer their time in relaying messages for the public and for servicemen.



**TUNING UP FOR 'NET PARTY'**—Mrs. W. A. Letcher Jr., a feminine radio "ham," prepares to chat with housewives in Southgate, Westchester and other Southland areas. She has just been elected national president of the Young Ladies' Radio League, which has branches all over the world. (Outlook Photo.)

W6CEE—"VADA"



**MAKING PLANS**—Mrs. Maxine Willis, left, and Mrs. Vada M. Letcher of Young Ladies' Radio League confer with servicemen via radio on Japanese orphans' party. (Times photo)

W6LHA—"MAXINE"

W6CEE—"VADA"

1952

Los Angeles Examiner \* Sun., Jan. 6, 1952

## 51 Jap Orphans Get Clothing, Gifts From Radio 'Ham' Unit

When the Young Ladies' Radio League heard of a needy orphanage in Japan via their "ham" radio operations, they decided to extend a Christmas greeting with some tangible evidence of their goodwill.

Yesterday they were adding up the results, and they were enough to bring an afterglow of the Christmas spirit.

Fifty-one orphans, from 10 to 16 years old, received six large boxes of clothing and 78 individually wrapped toys from the "hams."

Servicemen interested in the orphanage near Yokosuka, delivered the gifts in a helicopter, replete with a Santa Claus.

The proceedings were relayed over "ham" radio and were heard here by Mrs. Edward N. Willis,

11260 Brookhaven street, West Los Angeles, who had picked up the first word of the orphanage and its need.

The Voice of America recorded the proceedings at her home and broadcast them as an example of Americanism.

The radio league is comprised of 25 Los Angeles "ham" operators.

SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 6, 1952



**PARTY BEGINS**—Borrowed helicopter arrives at Japanese orphanage with Santa and gifts for Christmas party made possible by the joint efforts of women amateur

radio operators in Los Angeles and servicemen stationed near Yokosuka. Children and orphanage personnel put Santa right in the middle for this picture of his arrival.



**BIG MOMENT**—Highlight of Ninomiya Orphanage Christmas party was the presentation of gifts, delivered to Santa through the efforts of women radio operators.

## CHRISTMAS STORY LINKS L.A., JAPAN

Servicemen Play Santa Claus to Orphanage With Gifts Sent by Women Radio Operators

If this Christmas story is a little late there's a good reason for it. It happened in Japan.

It happened because an elderly couple in Japan started an orphanage, some soft-hearted guys joined the armed forces and a group of young women became "ham" radio operators.

The story began several months ago when Mrs. Maxine Willis of 11260 Brookhaven St., West Los Angeles, was "swapping traffic" via "ham" radio with Navy Chief Bill Cunniff and Marine Master Sgt. F. A. Martin, who were stationed at Yokosuka, Japan. She learned the men had set up their radio equipment on the grounds of the Ninomiya Orphanage near Yokosuka.

**Gesture of Thanks**  
"While setting up the stuff we noticed some of the kids playing around the equipment, although playing is an overstatement considering the serious mien of these youngsters," Martin said. "We asked a few questions and learned that the orphanage was a private project started by the elderly couple as a gesture of

thanks for the safe return of their three sons from the war. "They now have 51 charges, all boys, 10 to 16 years old. The orphanage is an old family residence with no windows, little or no heat and almost barren of furniture.

"The total allowance for the orphanage allocated by the Japanese government was \$250 a day in our money."

### Collection of \$100

The Americans took up a collection of \$100 and after caulking the building with window glass against the forthcoming cold winter, turned the rest over to the old couple.

That evening at a meeting of the Young Ladies' Radio League, a group of 25 Los Angeles "ham" operators, Maxine told the story to Mrs. Vada M. Letcher, club president, who suggested the group give the servicemen a hand. The response was tremendous. The club decided to adopt the orphanage and promptly went to work. Members collected six huge boxes of clothing and 78 toys which were individually wrapped and shipped to Japan.

On Christmas Day the servicemen engaged a helicopter, which landed on the orphanage grounds with Santa Claus and all the gifts aboard.

### Reported Via Radio

The entire proceedings were sent over "ham" radio from a portable rig set up on the grounds and transmitted directly to Maxine (W6UHA). The servicemen found they had forgotten to bring antennae wire, so they took a ball of twine, soaked it in salt water, strung it up and put an S7 signal into Los Angeles on 20-meter phone.

And Marine Technical Sgt. Homer G. Hammond was on hand to take photographs, which have just arrived in Los Angeles.

But the story doesn't end there. The Voice of America recorded the proceedings from Maxine's home and broadcast them to the world as an example of Americanism, Americanism and then some.

## Mrs. Lora Day Lashbrook, 1953 Fresno Mother, Has Five Sons, Degree In Law

Fresno's 1953 Mother of the Year is Mrs. Lora Day Lashbrook, 54, of 1428 Cambridge Avenue, who is qualified to practice law, but who says "women don't belong before a judge and jury."

Her five sons believe her selection, made yesterday by a committee from the downtown division of the Fresno County and City Chamber of Commerce, from a field of 105 mothers, "is 20 years overdue."

Characteristically, Mrs. Lashbrook had her head buried in a shortwave radio receiver which she was repairing when she was informed of her selection. Radio is her chief hobby, next to her children and her job as a law clerk in the United States District Court here.

### "Why Not Others?"

"Of course I'm thrilled," she said. "I knew yesterday I was one of the finalists, but figured any committee that knew anything at all would select one of the other women for the honor. Heaven knows either of them is more deserving than I am."

It was a letter to the committee from Mrs. Alma Margosian, the clerk in the federal probation office here, that started the chain of events leading to the selection, a round of social and other activities this week, merchandise gifts and other honors.

"Alma said she was going to write a nominating letter," Mrs. Lashbrook said, "but I thought she was joking."

She said: "As long as I can represent the motherhood aspects of womanhood, and not the professional side, then I am happy I was chosen. Not that I am ashamed of my profession. I am not. I believe both the client and a woman lawyer are at a disadvantage be-

fore a judge and jury, but I also believe women are excellent lawyers otherwise.

"They are twice as good at paper work such as preparing briefs, pleadings and such, than are men. For some reason or other, and most men will never acknowledge it, women are at a disadvantage in trial work because of an instinctive prejudice of the men."

Mrs. Lashbrook's legal career started in Indianapolis, Ind., when she received a degree in law in the Indiana University in 1938 after three years of night school preparation. She worked during the days to support her five sons.

### Widowed In 1935

Her husband, the late W. Graham Lashbrook, to whom she was married in Evansville, Ind., when she was 20, died in 1935. That year she moved back to Boonville, Ind., where she had been born December 20, 1898, and worked for a time, then went on to Indianapolis and a job with the federal government.

When one of her former employers, Clarence Manion, was appointed dean of the law school at Notre Dame University, she went to South Bend, Ind., as his assistant, and stayed as an instructor in brief writing, research and office practice.

"As far as I know," she declared, "I was the first, and only woman to teach in the law department at Notre Dame."

### Invited To West

In 1949 she went to Washington and worked in the legal department for the Veterans Administration until Federal Judge Campbell E. Beaumont, then in Los Angeles, heard of her ability and asked for her to come out and help open a federal court in Fresno.

"I came," she said, "and have never regretted it. In fact I can truthfully say I have enjoyed every minute of it."

Her interest in radio stems from the fact local amateur operators used to call her in the middle of the night with messages from three of her sons who were in the navy.

"It was a matter of having an interest in radio forced on me," said the blue eyed woman. "I figured if I didn't want to lose all my friends, I'd better learn and have my own set to handle those calls."

Her oldest son, Graham Lashbrook, Jr., 31, is a navy chief petty officer in communications stationed in Puerto Rico. He plans to leave the service in a year and return to Purdue University for a degree.

Another Son, James, 29, was released from the navy two weeks ago as a radioman, and now is living in Fresno with his wife and two sons. He plans to go to Fresno State College next semester.

### Others In School

Larry, 26, is married and attends the Oakland Junior College; Paul, 25, is single and is at FSC and Richard, 22, also single, attends the Fresno Junior College.

Mrs. Lashbrook's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Day, 92, still lives in Rockport, Ind. There are so many other relatives, the Fresno said, the family has started what they call a "Day Letter" which begins with one of the group and by the time it reaches the last one, and everyone has added to it, there are more than 200 messages attached.

The festivities in her honor will start with a breakfast in the Californian Hotel tomorrow morning when Mayor Gordon C. Dunn and other civic leaders will present her with the keys to the city. Previous Mothers Of The Year also will be guests.

At noon tomorrow she will be guest of the Fresno Rotary Club, then on Tuesday will have luncheon with the Fresno Lions Club. Several radio interviews are planned Wednesday. She will visit the Exchange Club Thursday noon and the Fresno Advertising Club Friday.

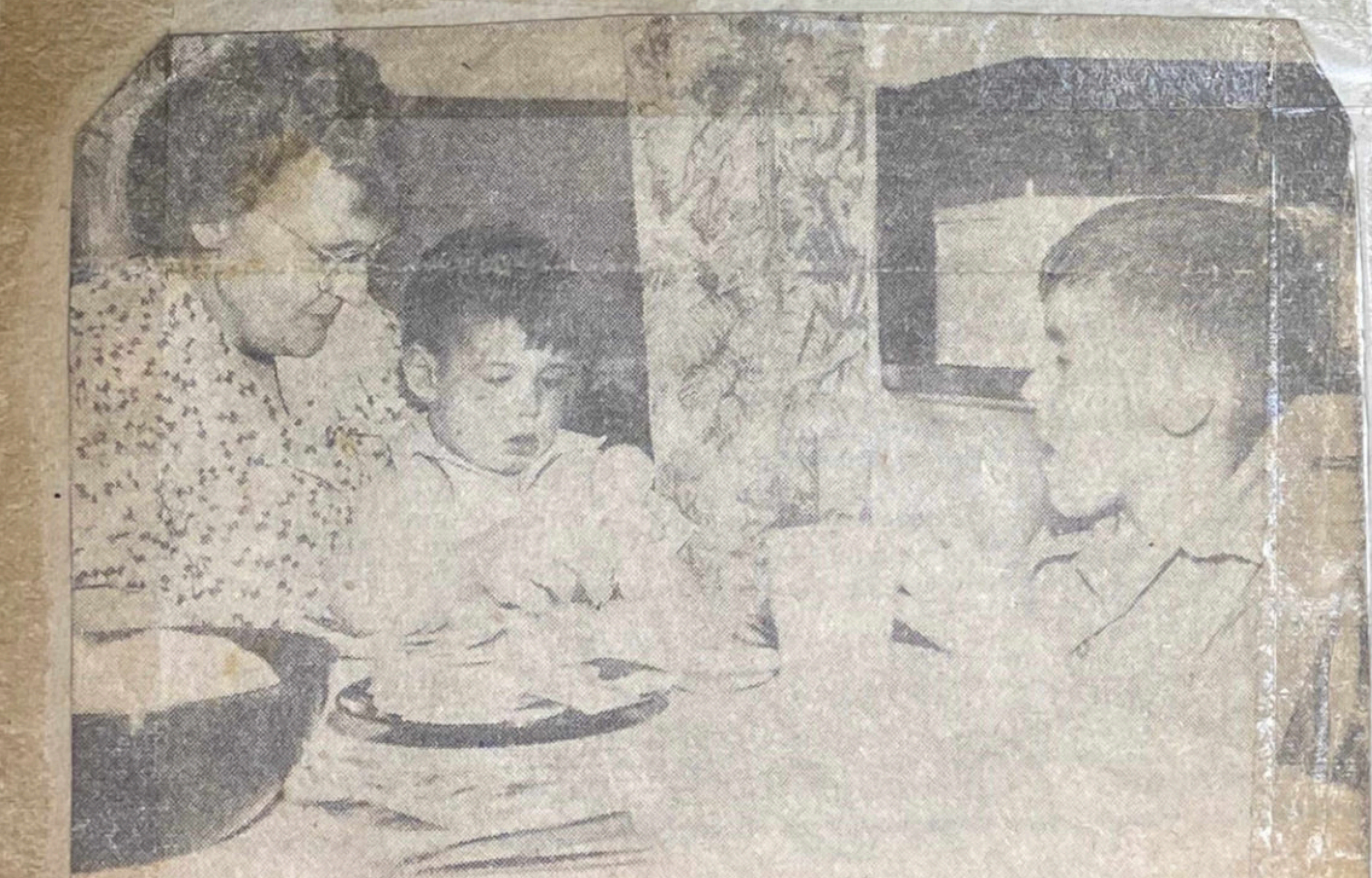
Saturday night she will present awards to winners in the annual West Coast Relays in Ratcliffe Stadium and next Sunday morning will be feted by the Y's Menettes at a breakfast in the YMCA.

As soon as this is all over she plans to start studying again for a Federal Communications Commission examination which, if she passes, will entitle her to full standing as an amateur radio operator. She is so confident of passing, she has her own 60 watt transmitter ready for installation and operation. She explained:

With this rig I can keep in touch with my boys no matter where in the world they might be.



**PET HOBBIES** — Fresno's Mother of the Year is keenly interested in amateur radio sending and receiving, but her chief interest is her sons, three of whom are pictured with her. Left to right, Richard, 22, James, 29, and Paul, 25. Graham, 31, is in the navy, and Larry, 26, is in Oakland. Radio is a means of keeping in touch with her boys. Bee Photos



**GRANDMOTHER** — Some homemade cookies entice Stephen, 2½, in Mrs. Lashbrook's arms, and James, Jr., 8. Her grandsons recently returned from Japan with their parents. They now spend as much time as possible at grandmother's house.

Fresno Mother Of Year Has Five Sons. Is Radio Ham



COMMUNICATIONS in time of emergency is assured by local ham operators like Mrs. Mildred O'Brien who have volunteered their time and equipment for civil defense. Mrs. O'Brien received her license two years ago. Her call letters are W6HTS.

## Women Are Rallying To Defense Cause

Sacramento women now are serving in almost every branch of the local civil defense organization. In addition to those who have enrolled officially in Civil Defense, hundreds of others have been and are being trained in such fields as first aid and home nursing. At least one person in each household should be able to administer first aid, according to Civil Defense authorities.

There still is great need for women volunteers, housewives and career girls who can spare a few hours each week for their community. At this time greatest need is in warden service and ground observer corps.

The air-ground observer post on the roof of Sutter Hospital must be manned 24 hours a day to check on movements of planes in the area. All aircraft sighted are recorded, but only multi-motor planes (four or more engines) are reported to Sacramento Filter Center, where their flight pattern is followed by plotters. Other planes are recorded to facilitate air-rescue operations in case of a crash landing.

**SINCE CIVIL DEFENSE** was formed to operate in cases of natural disaster such as fire or flood, as well as possible enemy attack, the job of the block warden is particularly important. A warden's first responsibility is to familiarize herself with her assigned territory and its residents.

In case of disaster, she then would be able to determine quickly where special assistance is needed, where help may be avail-

able, and how to direct rescue workers or fire fighters.

She also should be able to give first aid and help householders control small fires.

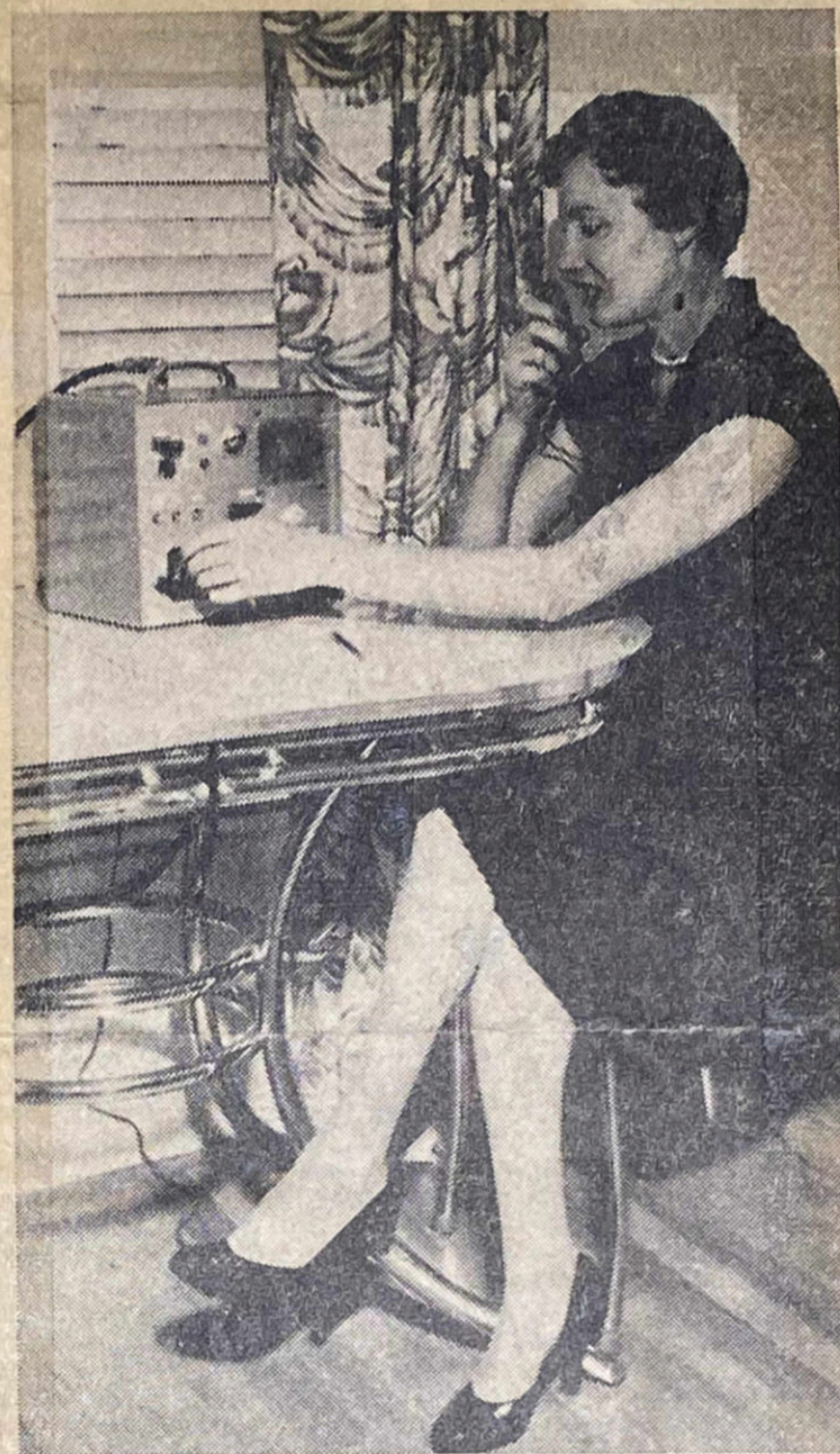
Major problems in any disaster are feeding the homeless and caring for the injured. The Red Cross conducts classes in mass feeding, first aid, home nursing, and also trains nurses aides.

**IN THIS** atomic age, an important branch of civil defense is the radiological division. This division includes teams of trained monitors who can use the special instruments necessary to determine the degree of danger from radioactivity. Findings would

enable rescue workers to give help where it is most urgently needed.

Communications is a vital part of civil defense. Among those most active in this service are ham radio operators who have set up a network of communications throughout this region and are ready to serve in case other communication is destroyed.

Some members of this group also have equipped their automobiles with special radio facilities so that they can be used as mobile communication units.



**LUNCHEON CHAT**—Mrs. Robert Lukenbill, one of an exclusive group of 600 women ham radio operators, enjoys her hobby during the noon hour by engaging in a chat with five other young women at scattered points in the nation by short wave radio. —Daily News Photo

## Local Woman One of Exclusive Group of Female Radio Hams

Here in Inglewood is a young woman who is combining fun with an interesting hobby which is overwhelmingly populated by the male of the species.

She is Mrs. Robert Lukenbill, 3354 West 83rd Street, a licensed amateur radio operator under the call letters K6JCL.

One of 600, she is a member of the international organization for women radio amateurs, the Young Ladies Radio League, and hopes to be able to attend the organization's first convention to be held in Santa Monica June 24 and 25.

Beginning in 1939 with 11 members, the league has attained its present membership, with women hams from the United States, Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, the Canal Zone, England, France, Italy, Africa, Belgium, Nether-

lands, Australia and New Zealand on its rolls.

Mrs. Lukenbill shares her hobby with her husband, WOULM, a former Northrop engineer, who is completing his degree at Kansas City University.

The Lukenbills take their hobby with them when they go on trips or vacations. Their little radio transmitter and receiver are portable, and with an antenna on the car, their mobile station goes right along too. This kind of radio equipment, powered by energy from the car, is of valuable assistance to the community in case of power failures interfering with the usual forms of communication.

Mrs. Lukenbill has a certificate showing she has had two way radio contacts with each of the 48 states.

W6HTS - "MILDRED"

K6JCL - "GENEVIE"

# just plain W6NAZ

RADIO KNOWS NO BOUNDS and apparently no boundaries so far as Lenore Kingston is concerned: her friendly voice spans oceans and continents through her "ham" radio equipment and via her daily outings as the hostess of "Purely Personal" on KFWB her voice has become familiar to Los Angeles listeners.

The "Purely Personal" program is a series of one minute features heard 35 times weekly. The show is a sort of combination classified section and public service program. Lenore manages to run the gamut of almost every human experience, ranging from helping to sell refrigerators to broadcasting appeals for rare blood needed for an operation.

As far as Lenore Kingston is concerned, the many hours she puts into her highly successful "Purely Personal" each day are by no means wasted. And she has fan mail to prove it, thank-you notes from people all over Southern California that she has helped in some way.

But Lenore does not confine her activities to any city, state or even continental boundary. Her fame has spread to almost every corner of the world throughout "ham" radio circles as just plain W6NAZ. At present, her main interest is in keeping schedules with isolated arctic bases where U. S. servicemen cannot communicate with their families other than via "ham" radio.

A 20-year veteran in amateur radio operations, Lenore began communicating at the beginning of the International Geophysical year, three years ago, with Air Force men at various points on the island-continent of Greenland. Shortly thereafter she made friends, again by way of long range communication, with the men on Fletcher's Ice Island, the most northern point now inhabited by man, in the far reaches of the Arctic Ocean. She explained that there are civilians on the island as well as service personnel studying the weather and arctic currents and gathering other scientific data.

When Lenore told KFWB executives of her nightly contact with the men in the north, the station reacted promptly by tape-recording their entire top forty list and air dropping it on the island. Lenore reported that the air drop apparently filled a need because the men have been most thankful.

The feature of the continuing relationship with her northern friends is the telephone patches that are executed by Lenore between the men and their wives and families stateside. She is quick to remark, however, that there are hundreds of ham operators in this country that also help facilitate communications between servicemen in far-off lands and their families.

Although a seasoned veteran of amateur radio, Lenore is no newcomer to professional radio and television. She was a pioneer in Hollywood television, having produced and emceed many shows that all had long runs. Such shows as KTTV's "Classified Column" and "Operation Housewife" were begun by Lenore as well as KRCA's "Key to the Kitchen" and the old KFI-TV's "Mailbag of Household Tricks."

But before tackling Hollywood, Lenore had been on the ground floor of television back east in New York's NBC-TV where she did the first civilian defense shows and first shopping programs in the industry. "In those memorable days it was necessary to endure days of hot and bright lights and small audiences and the sneers of friends in the radio business," she recalls. At the same time, she was keeping busy as



a radio actress with such top network daytime serials as "Against the Storm," "Affairs of Anthony," "Ma Perkins," "Don Winslow of the Navy," and others.

At home, on the side of a steep hill in Sherman Oaks, Lenore Kingston is Mrs. Joe Conn, who steadfastly maintains that the brains of the family belong to her husband, a technical director at NBC. The entire house seems to be built around the fascinating world of electronics, from the huge revolving antenna on the roof to the shortwave radio-aerial set-up in the family automobile, a new white sports car. Inside, in the den, is the equipment used to telephone-tape her "Purely Personal" interviews, along with other expensive tape-recording equipment. In the same room is the amateur radio equipment that's in operation most every night from 11:00 PM on, the time when the area "ham" is more free from interference.

A recently hewn skylight adorns the ceiling of the den. The walls in the room are papered with colorful world maps. Pins spotting the exact locations of each of Lenore's many contacts over the years have been carefully placed at exactly the right point in one of the larger maps. On a shelf are clocks that tell you the time of day at any point in the world.

The wall on one side of the inner corridor leading to the living room and the remainder of the house is lined with plaques, some awards with the words "meritorious service," others merely recognition as a member of various radio organizations. Two stand out. One from some of her young friends at Sondrestrom, Greenland, is inscribed in gold, "for the eternal gratitude of three years phone 'patch' service." The other: The Radio and Television Women of Southern California Merit Award of 1959.



"LENORE" - W6NAZ

# San Diego Feminine Radio Hams' Club To Open 'Ironing Board Net' Classes

By KATHRYN STEFFAN

Classes supplying an introduction to an interesting hobby, important community service and membership in one of San Diego's most unusual woman's clubs will be instituted here today by the club.

Instruction on how to be a "ham"—the radio kind—will be given by the Young Ladies' Radio Club by its education chairman, Mrs. J. Roy Smith, at her home at 2052 Venice St.

Mrs. E. A. Poe, president, announced inauguration of the weekly classes yesterday. They are scheduled to start at 1:30 p.m., and will be conducted for two hours.

"We think we are offering a fine opportunity for women to learn the elements of amateur radio work," she said, "as well as discovering a fascinating hobby."

"Classes cover Morse code and elementary theory of short wave, power currents and other technical phases, as well as rules and regulations of broadcasting."

## NOT UNUSUAL

These subjects are not unusual ones for women, according to Mrs. Poe, whose group numbers 16 women with other interests running the wide range from housewives and mothers to physical therapists and teachers.

"Being a ham supplies us with an opportunity to pursue the activity for which women are best known—talking," she said.

Pointing to a basket of laundry and an ironing board near her radio rigs, Mrs. Poe added, "Most women hams tune in on what is dubbed the 'ironing board net.'"

"Each of us chats for five minutes. Then we iron while we listen to other girls all over the world talk," she said. "No, it isn't hard to find things to talk about for five uninterrupted minutes. In fact, it's hard to stop after that time."

"And it sure beats ironing alone."

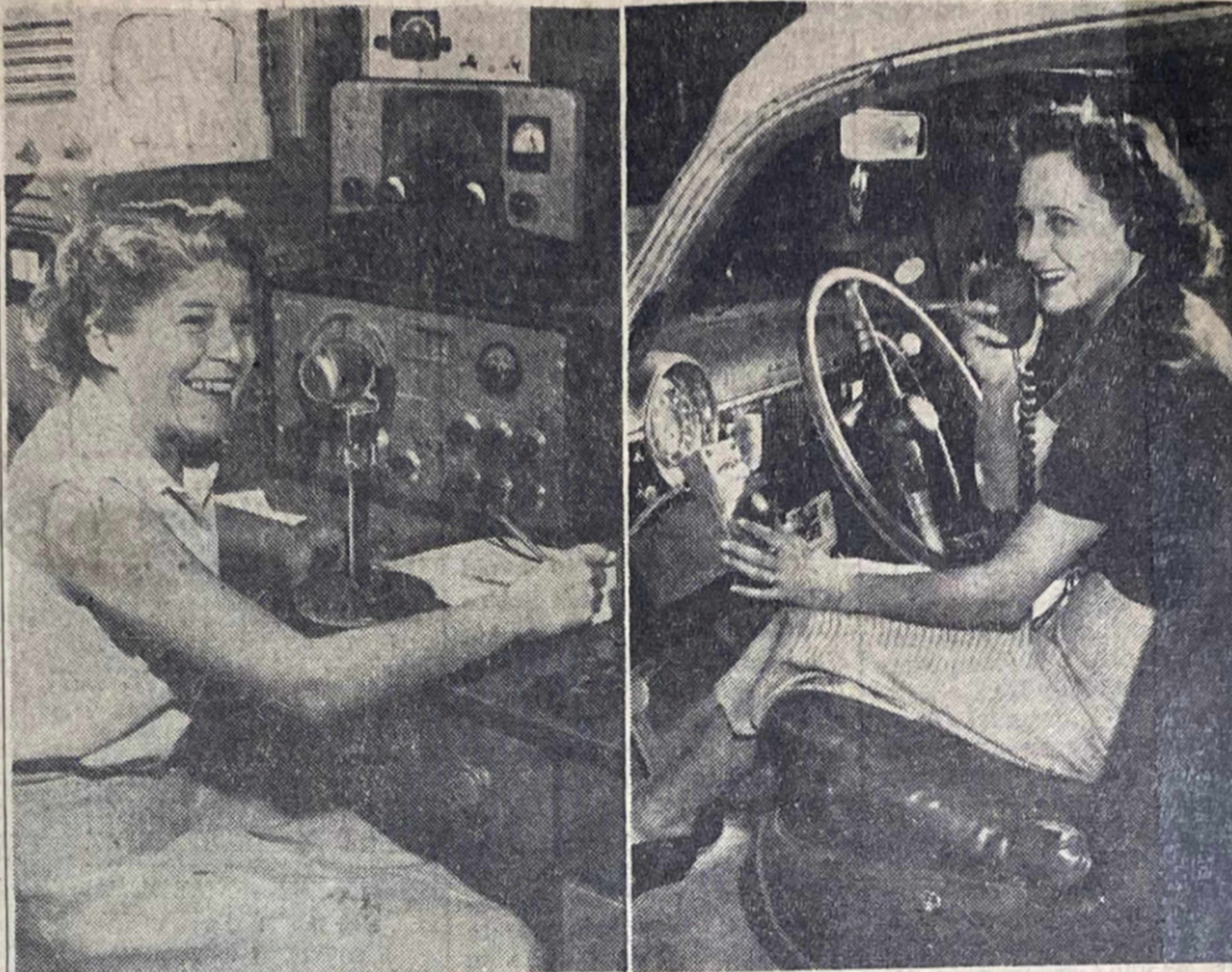
## FEMININE TOPICS

Contrary to conversational subjects of male hams who discourse mostly on their rigs, Mrs. Poe says members of the "ironing board net" pursue the universally favorite morning coffee topics of women—their children, gardens, recipes or similar feminine subjects.

Besides the fun of operating a private radio station, membership in the club supplies

## Radio League

Two films, "Radio Receivers" and "Radio Antenna Fundamentals," will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Friday to the San Diego Young Ladies Radio League at the Red Cross Headquarters, 3650 Fifth Ave. Plans for the Aug. 14 picnic at Golden Hill Park will be discussed. Refreshments will be served.



"Have you a good recipe for beef potpie?" asks Mrs. E. A. Poe, left, by way of her short wave radio to the mobile set in the automobile of her friend, Mrs. J. Roy Smith. Both women are officers of Young Ladies Radio Club.

many other facets of activities around town, Mrs. Poe said.

"We supply radio contact between ship and shore during boat races, we monitor parades, sport car races and air shows and we maintain a round-the-clock contact with the distress call frequency."

## ON CD STANDBY

The club is prepared to serve in the field of civil defense.

Wives of servicemen in the club have the advantage of being able to get in personal contact with their husbands at distant stations. Mrs. Poe said one member of the club, Mrs. Albert Vernon, recently had such an experience.

"Mrs. Vernon's daughter suddenly became very sick," she said. Her husband was on a ship off Honolulu and couldn't be reached by regular means of communication.

"However, Mrs. Vernon contacted him quickly by relaying her call via other hams at Ream Field and Hawaii to the ship."

## TELEPHONE USED

The call was transmitted by Mrs. Vernon's small radio set, but she conversed through her telephone, a practice often used by the radio amateurs.

Mrs. Poe said the average member in her club has mastered elements of the subject in about three months.

"At the end of Mrs. Smith's classes, members are permitted to take the novice test to become licensed by the Federal Communications Commission," she said. "Then they are assigned a call number and become full-fledged hams."

Mrs. Poe said the financial aspects of running an amateur radio station is the best thing about her hobby.

"You can put into it just about what you want," she says. "Some of the girls have made their own transmitters at a cost of no more than \$10. Others have ultra sensitive sets involving more than \$4,000."

Mrs. Poe has built her own sets. She and several other members in the club have several units—some for home and a mobile rig for the family car.

"My husband is a ham, too," she said. "We use the car rig to talk to each other whenever either of us is away from home."

Most of the husbands of other members in the club are

hams and in the case of members with families, many of the children also are licensed.

## ORGANIZED 4 YEARS

The local club was organized four years ago as a branch of the international organization. It meets at 7:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month in the Red Cross Building.

Serving on the board with Mrs. Poe are Mrs. William Kreysler, vice president, Mrs. Vaughn McKenney, secretary, and Mrs. W. Lee MacDonald, treasurer.

Board members are Mrs. James T. Gano, hospitality; Mrs. Gary Chambers, historian; Mrs. James Grimisty, membership; Mrs. W. J. Roberts, parliamentarian; Mrs. Albert Vernon, publicity; Mrs. Frank McCleary, ways and means, and Mrs. Smith.

AUGUST-1955

W6NAZ "Lenore"

W6BUHA "MAXINE"



**REACHING THE WORLD**—Lenore Conn, amateur radio operator, shows Maxine Willis, president of Young Ladies Radio League, where she should place the soldering iron as they work in Maxine's "shack" (radio station) in West Los Angeles. Women operators have a chance to talk over the back fence of the world through their hobby. *Times photos.*

W6CBA - "VIOLET"



**YOUNG 'HAM'**—Violet Sassi, 19, operates her amateur radio station (W6CBA) at her own residence. She became interested in the hobby through her uncle, who is also a ham, and earned her license last year. She is a graduate of Washington High School (February, '48) and is secretary of the Young Ladies Radio League here.

## Women Air Hams Give World Earful on Cabbages and Kings

BY MARY ANN CALLAN

"This is Maxine Willis of Los Angeles to Steve Handley in the Antarctic—"

"Say, Maxine, could I have your best sponge cake recipe? By the way, I'll have to use penguin eggs."

This unusual request was just another occurrence in a full day of visiting by one Southland woman—an amateur radio oper-

ator whose back-fence visiting extends around the world.

Maxine Willis is one of 25 women "hams" whose hobby has brought them friendship in almost every part of the globe. By earning a license they have become members of the Young Ladies Radio League, which nationally has 300 members. The local group is the largest next to New York City's.

Most of the amateur operators

work all day, and about half of them have children. The range of their professions is make-up artist, bookkeeper, nurse, writer of religious books, actress at a television station, a secretary. All of them have one thing in common, however. Whenever they can get a free minute they are in front of their radio sets talking to an old friend or making a new one.

### Useful in Disasters

Biggest satisfaction, they say, is in being able to help contact others by relaying messages from one part of the world to another. During times of disaster, their ability to get through while other communication lines cannot is a boon to a stricken area.

Most popular type of public service these women do is to handle messages between overseas servicemen and their families here. Many of the members have visitors at midnight or before breakfast—wives, sweethearts, or mothers to talk to their men "in person."

### Local Club's Objectives

The extent of the amateur radio hobby is amazing. More than 100,000 men and women own and operate private radio stations all over the world. The national organization has divided the world into zones, and it is the goal of every amateur to make an official contact with someone in each one of these zones.

According to Mrs. Maxine Willis, president of the local club, the members have several objectives. The first is to make a contact in each zone. The second is to contact someone in 100 different countries. The third is to earn a code proficiency certificate, which means that they can send and receive a code message at 35 words per minute. (Average rate is 20.)

### Pays Off in Pleasure

Most of the women members became interested in amateur radio through their husbands or some other relative. It takes about six months, they say, to know enough to obtain a license.

They call their amateur radio station "the shack" but it looks more like a complicated machine room of an industrial plant.

### From Marguerite Bay

The "sponge cake" request is only one among many the girl amateur operators receive during an average day. This recipe request came from a group of English fellows in Marguerite Bay, in the Antarctic. Mrs. Willis hasn't heard from them since, which may or may not be alarming.

Areas in Outer Mongolia and Madagascar are the hardest to contact, the local amateurs say. Russian amateurs have little to say, and all written messages must go through Moscow.

### Friendship by Air Wave

Upon making a contact, the two operators exchange official station cards with their call letters and time, date, and place of contact. With the very friendly contacts, the conversation usually follows up with a letter and perhaps a picture, to solidify the friendship.

Code language is confusing to the layman, but eventually it makes sense. Each country has a prefix followed by the operator's own private letters. Several signature numbers are widely known: 73 means best regards; 33 is the Radio League's sign of friendship; and 88 is simply love and kisses.



# The Ladies Are Hams

by Jackie Russell

PASADENA (CALIF.) INDEPENDENT—SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 1955



BARBARA WIGHT IS A 'GENERAL HAM' NOW  
... one unseen radio buddy gave her a dog



IDENTIFICATION CARDS LINE RADIO ROOM'S WALLS  
... at operator Elsa Wheeler's home in Temple City

W6JZA

**A**BOUT 7 o'clock every Wednesday night the ladies get together.

They don't leave their homes for their get-togethers.

These are women "ham" operators and members of the Young Ladies Radio League of Los Angeles County. They insist it's one of the best ways of making friends.

Take these Pasadena area women for example: Mrs. Barbara Wight, 2021 E. Mountain St.; Mrs. Pat Parillo, 623 S. Michillinda Drive, and Mrs. Elsa Wheeler, 6453 Livia Ave., Temple City.

Although they each have a family and home to care for, they give several hours a week to their hobby of amateur radio operating.

"With most of us it's a hobby," explains Mrs. Parillo. "But I have done some rescue work in the past. Radio sets really come in handy in time of emergencies. My real dream is to set up a contact with an overseas camp for American servicemen so that mothers in this area can speak to their boys."

Mrs. Parillo's idea came to her after the death of her own son while he served overseas.

Mrs. Wight, who only recently graduated from the status of "novice" to the "general" classification, uses her radio set more for fun than anything else. Both she and her husband, Dan, who has been a "ham" since he was nine years old, spend most of their free hours in

the little back room converted into a radio room.

"Probably the most thrilling conversation I have had," Mrs. Wight said, "is the time I happened to connect with my sister in another state whom I had not heard from for 22 years."

"Our Great Dane, Sandy, was given to us by an unseen 'ham' friend."

Mrs. Wheeler is really the local long-distance champ. She recently talked with 273 different people in 41 states and countries during a contest sponsored by the national league. For this she won the California first place position for the two-day marathon.

CSL cards, identification tags, line the walls around her rig. Call letters from Havana, Haiti, Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii, New Zealand and Scotland serve as proof of her world-wide contacts.

Although the league was organized in 1939, the first annual Young Ladies' convention will be held this year, June 24 through 26, in Santa Monica.

The 600 women, all diplomatically called "Young Ladies" over the air and their "Old Men" will spend three days enjoying banquets, fashion shows and dancing.

Two members from Honolulu and one from Alaska will also attend.

The YL's meet every second Saturday of the month in Los Angeles.

"One thing you can say about our group,"

Mrs. Wheeler, laughing, said "we're women who haven't time for petty gossip at our gatherings. Our hobby keeps us so interested that that is all we talk about."

"Ham" operating is not as expensive as one might think, according to the YL's. Second-hand equipment may be purchased. And, although a few of the women are capable of building and repairing their own equipment, most of the time hobbies or friends chip in on that.

There's no age limit in the organization. A girl only 11 years of age was entered in the same contest Mrs. Wheeler won.

The toughest "must" is learning Morse Code. In order to become a "general" operator you must be able to take at least 13 words per minute.

But there is a worthwhile moment for every hard one.

Through a contact in Korea last year, the Los Angeles chapter discovered that U. S. servicemen had adopted an orphanage, but did not have toys or clothing enough to give to the needy children.

The YL's took over.

When 7 o'clock Wednesday night comes around and these women tune in to the "net" of operators for a friendly get-together, they know those few minutes of fun are only one small part in the fascinating possibilities of a "ham" hobbyist.

Calling C. A

1<sup>ST</sup> YLRL CONVENTION

KN6HRW - "WANDA"

W6AVF - "MARY"

## Two Young Valley Women Find 'Ham' Radio to be Intriguing Hobby

By GERTRUDE CRONIN  
Post-Advocate Staff Writer

Looking forward to attending the first international convention of the Young Ladies Radio League to be held at the Hotel Miramar in Santa Monica on June 24, 25, 26 and 27 are Wanda Studer (KN6HRW) of 1033 Geranio Dr., Alhambra, and Mary Klein

(W6AVF) of 502 N. Gladys, Monterey Park.

Mrs. Studer traced her interest in amateur radio to an evening in June of last year when she enrolled in a code class, sponsored by the Alhambra Radio Club.

"My entry into 'ham radio' was somewhat reluctant," she laughed, but my husband, Bob, had had

the 'bug' for some time and had brought home the Radio Amateur's Handbook from the public library many times to study. When Bob decided to join the Code Class, I decided to register, too.

"If Bob was seriously interested in becoming a 'ham', I thought perhaps I had better try it, too. You know . . . if you can't lick

'em, join 'em."

Wanda and her husband received their licenses last September, and since that time Wanda has become pretty well known on the two-meter phone band. She uses a Gonset Communicator I, feeding a drooping groundplane antenna atop a 35-foot pole, and has made scores of contacts throughout the Southland.

### Joined Y.L.R.L.

Wanda joined the Los Angeles Chapter of the Young Ladies Radio League on April 9. At present she is working on her General Class License, the next rung up the ladder of Federal Communications licenses. She is active, too, in the Alhambra Civilian Defense Radio Communications Corps. She has handled net control for the mobile Civilian Defense radio stations twice during Command Post Exercise drills, an emergency type of drill conducted under CD auspices. At the present, she is scheduled for training as a radio teletype operator to handle the six-meter radio-teletype in the Civilian Defense radio room.

### Personal Life

Her personal life includes the raising of two children, Barbara, who will celebrate her eighth birthday on May 11, and Jimmy, who will be three in June. In addition, she serves as corporation secretary for the Hoglund Finance Company in Alhambra.

Miss Klein has held a General Class license since 1947. She became interested in amateur hobby through a friend, a 'ham', who assisted her in getting her ticket. During her more active years in amateur radio in 1947 and 1948, she contacted numerous distant lands. Among those with whom she made contact were Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Hawaii, Okinawa and Alaska.

She serves as a trustee of the Young Ladies Radio League, Los Chapter, which was the call (W6MWO).

When asked how many feminine 'ham' operators were expected to attend the YL convention, Miss Klein said, "About 60 members of the Los Angeles League, as well as 'ham' operators throughout the state. Three are expected to come from Hawaii, and one from Alaska. Reservations are being made with Mrs. Howard Wheeler of Temple City, hospitality chairman.



**TUNED IN** — Wanda Studer (KN6HRW) of Alhambra, and Mary Klein (W6AVF) of Monterey Park, are chatting with members of Young Ladies Radio League, Los Angeles Chapter. Plans for first international convention to be held in Santa Monica on June 24, 25, 26 and 27 at Hotel Miramar, are being discussed over the air by the "YLS."

### Interesting Hobby

Miss Klein finds radio an interesting hobby aside from her duties as X-Ray technician at the Behrens Memorial Hospital in Glendale. She is a member of the American Radio League, and much of her leisure time is devoted to further study in radio.

Her equipment consists of a commercially built transmitter, a Viking II which delivers 120 watts of power. Her receiver is also commercially built. Miss Klein has set up her radio equipment in her "ham shack" located in the living room of her parents' home.

Indicative of the local interest in amateur radio are the statistics that operating in Alhambra are about 75 operators. The beginner's now currently in session under the sponsorship of the Alhambra District Club has 14 students. In the advance class, 10 students are enrolled, six of whom are women.

Amateur radio is an excellent hobby for women, and a wonderful hobby that husbands and wives with a mutual interest may share, both Mrs. Studer and Miss Klein agreed.

# Mother Of Two Boys Finds Time To Become Radio Ham

In this area are several women who join with nearly 700 others throughout the world, as licensed radio amateurs who are eagerly turning their hobby into public service as well as fun.

One is Mrs. Donald H. Freeberg, 7254 W. 90th St., who is known on the airwaves by her given name, Lorraine, and her call letters, W6AKE, issued to her in 1951 by the Federal Communications Commission.

A member of the Young Ladies Radio League, a world wide group of licensed women hams, she is looking forward to attending the League's first international convention next June in Santa Monica. She is also a member of the Los Angeles Young Ladies Radio Club, and is corresponding secretary for that group.

Her husband was responsible for Mrs. Freeberg's unique hobby, for he was so active on the amateur radio bands under his call letters, W6IOD, that she was beginning to feel "left out," she remarked.

The Freebergs' husky sons, Daniel, age 5, and James, age 2, do not keep Lorraine too busy to interfere with her "hamming." One of her favorite radio pastimes is checking in with the 75 meter net, called the "Ironing Board Net" because so many of the women hams manage to get their ironing done between transmissions on their home radio stations.

Mrs. Freeberg says that "women radio amateurs have eternal youth, because they are called YL's (for young lady) whether they are 9 or 90. Their husbands are called OM (for old man)."

Another member of the Young Ladies Radio League in the area is Mrs. William E. McKechnie, 4469 W. 62nd St. Her call letters are W6IWG, and she became interested in the hobby through her son, Rendall McKechnie who is W6ZWS.

Also busy as a home maker and registered nurse, Mrs. McKechnie finds time to check into the Centinela Valley civilian defense radio network, and received a citation in 1953 for her communications assistance during the Tehachapi earthquake.

In the South Bay Area are several YL's including Mmes. Walter Joyce (W6KYZ), E. Milton Brandvig (W6LBO), and Jack Hughes (KN6ISC). Mrs. Hughes, most recent to receive her license, first became interested in radio when



YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH YOU—Is demonstrated by Mrs. Donald A. Freeberg, 7254 W. 90th St., Westchester. As a licensed ham radio operator, she can enjoy conversing with her friends on the air either at home; with a mobile unit in her car, or with this neat little portable transmitter and receiver she is carrying. Helping mother is the Freeberg's oldest son Danny.

she served as a communications specialist in the WAVES, Naval women's auxiliary force.

W6AKE—"LORRAINE"

W6QG-X—"HARRYETTE"



MRS. BARON B. BARKER, of Puente, is shown at her radio as she is a well known hame operator. She is the control station for the statewide amateur network of radio stations called the 2 Meter American Legion Net.

## Mrs. Barker, Ham Operator Combines Fun With Service

Combining fun with public service in an unusual hobby for a woman is Mrs. Baron B. Barker of 16011 E. Fairgrove ave.

She is a radio amateur, licensed in 1940 by the Federal Communication Commission with the call letters W6QGKX. Known on the airwaves by her given name of Harryette, she is the control station for the statewide amateur network of radio stations called the 2 Meter American Legion Net. This net receives and transmits hundreds of messages each month, many of them from servicemen overseas to their families at home.

One of 600, she is a member of the international organization for women radio amateurs, the Young Ladies Radio league, and is busy now planning the program for the organization's first convention to be held at Hotel Miramar in Santa Monica, June 24, 25.

Beginning in 1939 with 11 members, the league has attained its present membership of women

hams from the United States, Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, the Canal Zone, England, France, Italy, Africa, Belgium, Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand.

She is also a member and vice-president of the Los Angeles Young Ladies Radio league, which is associated with the YLRL.

She first became interested in amateur radio when as a girl at home in Kansas City, she listened to Morse code messages on the family's broadcast receiver, and it led to years of enjoyment after she studied for and passed her license.

Among the strange and far away places she has talked to are the South Orkney Islands, Australia and Tahiti.

She shares her hobby with her husband, W6QGP, and has three prospective "junior operators," Susan, age 7; Linda, age 6 and Nancy, who is only 4.

Mr. Barker is a radio engineer for Convair Guided Missile Div., Pomona, and has had his "ham" license since 1935.



**RADIO "HAM" OPERATOR**, Betty Wilson, checks in on one of her radio nets to see if there are any messages to be received or transmitted from this area. Confined to a wheel chair as a result of polio, she maintains her vigil as a public service to the community. She lives south of Oxnard with her husband, Louis, and a son Louis Jr. —Press-Courier Photo

## Oxnard Woman, Polio Victim, Is Expert 'Ham' Radio Operator

By Stan Mandel

Betty Wilson, a licensed amateur radio operator near Oxnard, has managed to turn an interesting hobby into a public service to her community.

The robust, cheerful woman, who once had a hobby of racing and touring the United States on a bicycle, has been a "ham" operator since August, 1951.

The change of hobbies resulted from the encouragement of her husband, Louis, after she was stricken with polio in 1948. She has been confined to a wheel chair since her recovery.

Living in a small house at Strout's Motel and Trailer Park on Highway 101-A south of Oxnard, the Wilsons and their nine-year-old son, Louis, Jr.,

came here Jan. 1 from Sacramento.

### Given Award

It was in the state capital that Mrs. Wilson received a public service award from the American Radio Relay League, Inc., last October for handling messages via the radio during floods in Northern California in January, 1953.

Today, Mrs. Wilson, whose "ham" call letters are W6REF, handles messages from persons throughout the United States and from servicemen around the world.

Seven daily check-ins are made with radio networks by Mrs. Wilson to see if any messages are to be relayed or sent from this area. She is a member of the "nets" and repre-

sents this area for each.

Messages are handled free of charge and incoming ones are either telephoned, mailed or delivered by Mrs. Wilson or a "delegated friend."

Her "nets" include both CW (continuous waves or Morse code) and phone (microphone) ones.

### Busy Day

At noon Mrs. Wilson checks in with the Tri-County (low power stations) network, and at 1 p.m. with the Marine Corps Affiliated Network. Usually listening in on the radio during the afternoon for any messages or radio "chatter", she checks in at 7 p.m. with the Mission Trail Network, a phone net which covers the West Coast from border to border.

W6REF- "Betty"

Other check-ins include the Southern California Network, at 7 and 10 p.m., a CW net covering an area from San Luis Obispo south to Mexico, and at 7:45 and 9:30 p.m. with the Sixth Region Network which covers California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Colorado and Hawaii.

Mrs. Wilson handles an average of 75 messages each month. Since beginning her "ham" operation, she has communicated with other "hams" from around the world and has confirmation of contact cards stacked more than a foot deep for evidence of the two-way communication.

### Set for Convention

From June 24 to 26 she will attend the first international convention of the Young Ladies Radio League at Santa Monica. She is one of the league's 200 members. The organization was formed in 1939.

Mrs. Wilson, who at one time sang professionally for several years in concerts and night clubs, will sing at the convention.

She is a member of the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club.

In her "spare" time she gives code classes free of charge at her home to "ham" aspirants. The classes are held on Sundays, 1 to 2:30 p.m. for beginners, and from 2:30 to 4 p.m. for the advanced.

A second son, Gilbert, is also a "ham," licensed under the call letters W7UVO. He is stationed with the Marines at Camp Pendleton near San Diego.

# Women Can Be "Hams," Too

*YL's, women amateur radio operators from ten to eighty, have invaded a hobby predominated by males. They've just concluded their first international convention at Santa Monica.*

"The "ham" had a field day last weekend when members of the Young Ladies' Radio League held their first international convention in Santa Monica. The YLRL, an organization of women amateur radio operators, was founded in 1939 with a membership of only thirteen. Today they have close to 600 world-wide members in their ranks.

**Eavesdropping on a couple of "hams" is rather confusing. Their conversation sounds like a lot of double talk. But once you become accustomed to hearing them refer to one another by call letters rather than names you begin to get the gist of what's going on. The safest way to get any information from these double-talking hobbyists is to pin them down with direct questions.**

Charter member Lenore Kingston Conn, W6NAZ, and Gladys Eastman, W6DXI, treasurer of the YL Club of Los Angeles, willingly submitted to our interrogation.

**Why do most women become ham operators?**

Most women who pursue the hobby are married to ham operators, or O.M.s—a male amateur radio operator, and to avoid becoming a radio widow they become "hams." Sometimes the only way they could see their husbands during leisure hours was to get a license of their own and share the transmitter and radio shack. (No matter how simple or elaborate a set-up might be it is referred to as a "shack.")

In some cases, girls actually have met their future husbands on the radio waves. Martha Edwards, W6QYL, met her husband on the 75 meter phone band when she was introduced to him by another YL ham. The wedding guests were practically all "hams." And those who could not attend were given a follow-up description via radio. It's interesting to note that Martha credits ham radio with being a life saver during a recent long period of convalescence.

**What about those call letters?**

They are proud of them just as if they were their middle names. California is the Sixth call area, so that 6 places us here. The W or K before the 6 indicates the USA, and the last three letters are their very own. Governor Knight signed a bill recently authorizing them to use their call letters on their auto license plates. They hardly ever know a "ham's" last name but his or her call letters are tremendously important. Other countries have their own prefixes so they know as soon as they hear them where they are.

**How do they use the YL network?**

Some of the members are active in Civilian Defense drills. "Hams" stand

ready to provide auxiliary communications in case of emergency and power failure. Gladys W6DXI, and her O.M. husband, Lee Eastman, keep regular net schedules with Civilian Defense. As a matter of fact, Gladys' children are also ham operators.

Many of the members perform another kind of service. They use their stations to let wives and loved ones of GIs overseas talk to the boys stationed in places such as Guam, Okinawa, Japan and Germany.

The girls in Los Angeles, sixty-five strong, have set up an ironing board net on Tuesdays when they all tune in on the same frequency and gossip back and forth as they iron. This net extends up to Northern California.

**What are some of the unusual things YL members have accomplished?**

Betty Gillies, W6QOO, is more than a ham operator and homemaker. She's a pilot and a participant in powder puff derbies. World traveler Evelyn Scott, W6NZZ, is in charge of all auxiliary communications for the Powder Puff Derby emanating from Long Beach. W6NZZ has put her ham radio to other uses. Before taking a trip to South Africa last year she communicated with other "hams," establishing contact and making arrangements for her visit. And when she and her O.M. husband arrived in South Africa, instead of checking in at a hotel they were the house guests of various other hams.

The general chairman for the first YLRL International Convention, Maxine Willis, W6UHA, made all arrangements for the conclave via radio. Members from Hawaii, the Canal Zone, from almost every city in the States, and other points on the globe most of them meeting for the first time were contacted by Maxine, who holds the record for distance communication.

Coincidentally, Governor Knight issued an executive statement recognizing June 19-26 as Amateur Radio Week.

The fem "hams" had a great time but bet there were a lot of husbands who were glad when the convention was over. It was probably the longest stretch of baby sitting most of them have done since they became papas.

★ ★



**TROPICAL SETTING** of the Miramar Hotel, headquarters for the Young Ladies Radio League weekend convention, proved intriguing to Mrs. Jeanne H. Collins (middle above), who came from Lake Minchumina, Alaska, and who once was stranded in the snows of Mt. McKinley. Mrs. Collins is shown exchanging autographs with Mrs. W. A. Letcher (left) of Santa Monica, international president of the organization, and Mrs. Edward Willis of West Los Angeles, convention chairman. (Outlook Photo.)

W6CEE  
Vada

KL7RN  
Jeanne

W6UHA - MAXINE

### YLRL Convention

As you can see from the accompanying box, plans for the **First International Convention of the Young Ladies' Radio League** are progressing rapidly. The program as outlined above promises to be a full and interesting one. Charge for convention tickets, to include all of the events listed, will be \$10. (OMs will pay \$5 for banquet ticket.) The *Los Angeles YL Club* will make no profit on the convention; all money will be used for the convention.

Members of the *L.A. YL Club* are opening their homes to visiting YLs for those who wish to stay in private homes. Maxine will soon appoint a *Hospitality Chairman* who will handle requests for accommodations in the YLs' homes.

For those who wish to stay at the *Miramar Hotel* (one of the country's finest), W6LBO, Mary, says early reservations are imperative as the convention comes at the busiest season. W6UHA, Maxine, *Convention Chairman*, suggests those who plan to stay at a hotel and have no preference stay at the *Miramar* for their own convenience and through courtesy to the management, which is extending the YLRL their hospitality without insisting on any given number of room reservations.

W6PJU, Mildred, *L.A. YL Club* president, will be official hostess for the convention. Note that all licensed YLs, whether or not members of YLRL, are invited to attend the convention. To date (mid-December) Maxine has had reports from all U. S. call districts and Hawaii that the YLs will be well represented. See you there?

### 1st International YLRL Convention

Date: June 24-27, 1955  
Place: Miramar Hotel, Santa Monica, Calif.  
Sponsors: Los Angeles YL Radio Club  
Chairman: W6UHA, Maxine Willis

#### Program

Friday p.m.: Registration and reception  
Sat. noon: Luncheon, business meeting, exhibits, program  
Sat. night: YL-OM banquet, installation of officers, program  
Sun. p.m.: Family picnic on the beach at Santa Monica Bay  
Mon. a.m.: "Kaffee klatsch," followed by a mobile motor tour of Hollywood



W6KYZ

W6LBO



**YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH YOU**—Is demonstrated by Mrs. Walter Joyce, W6KYZ and Mrs. E. M. Brandvig, W6LBO, of Manhattan Beach, pictured here with Mrs. Joyce's portable short wave radio transmitter and receiver.

South Bay women licensed amateur radio operators will join with fellow club members of the Young Ladies Radio League at their first international convention June 24, 25 and 26 at Hotel Miramar, Santa Monica.

W6NAZ—"Lenore"



**REAL LIVE HAMS**, of the radio variety that is, are Mmes. Mary Kay Stewart, left, and Joseph Conn. They're tuning in on short wave rig installed in Mrs. Conn's automobile to listen to plans for international convention of Young Ladies Radio League.

Times photo by Ray Graham

## THERE'S A KEY TO THEIR HOBBY

# Air Waves Crackling Out Calls to Women Ham Operators' Parley

BY ALEENE BARNES

There's a convention call going out this week, but instead of being issued by mail, the customary method, it's bouncing across the nation by radio waves.

The 600 licensed women ra-

dio amateurs in the United States have their head sets on and are tuned in to exchange plans for the first international convention of their organization, the Young Ladies Radio League.

Convention headquarters will be the Hotel Miramar in

Santa Monica, with sessions opening Friday and continuing through next Sunday. A reception for out-of-town members tops the opening day's schedule.

### Santa Monican to Preside

Mrs. Albert Letcher of Santa Monica, whose call letters are W6CEE, the second Californian to be national president, will preside. She also will install the newly elected president, Mrs. Frank Bowlin, W9LOY, of Chicago. Another Chicagoan, Mrs. Robert Matuska, W9YBC, is the incoming vice-president.

Members of the league's unit in Hawaii have told Mrs. Edward Willis, W6UHA, of Los Angeles, convention chairman, that their delegation will arrive with leis for the new officers.

## Young Ladies Radio Group To Have Convention

Throughout the world, more than 600 licensed women radio operators are looking forward to the first international convention of their organization, the Young Ladies Radio League. Discussion of the convention plans is now underway throughout the USA on the networks of women short wave radio operators.

Convention headquarters is Hotel Miramar, Santa Monica, where the event will take place June 24, 25 and 26.

Beginning with a reception for national radio magazine columnist, Louisa Sando, W5RZJ of New Mexico, in the hotel suite on Friday afternoon, the convention will continue with business meeting and installation of officers from various sections of the U.S. on Saturday morning. Leis from the club members in Hawaii will be presented to the new officers.

A luncheon and fashion show will be held Saturday afternoon, and a banquet for the members and their husbands will be held Saturday evening.

John L. Reinartz, inventor and amateur radio operator since 1908, will speak at the banquet. Reinartz, who published the first and still valid exposition on the "Re-

flection of Short Waves" in 1925, and who kept the 1925 Byrd Arctic expedition in daily touch with civilization through amateur radio, is a member of the American Radio Relay League, with which the women's organization is affiliated.

On Sunday, a coastline bus tour will be enjoyed by the out-of-town guests, and on Monday, a tour of CBS-TV will be personally conducted by a club member, television actress Lenore Conn, W6NAZ.

Due to the great distances many of the members must travel to the convention, there will be some countries not represented, but the western hemisphere will be well represented with members from Alaska, Canada, all corners of the USA, the Canal Zone and Hawaii, present.

The organization of women who find themselves in an interesting hobby which is largely populated by the male of the species, began in 1939 with 11 members and now has a membership of over 600 women from the United States, Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, the Canal Zone, England, France, Italy, Africa, Belgium, Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand.

### Banquet in Evening

A luncheon and fashion show will be held Saturday afternoon, while a banquet for members and their husbands is planned for that evening.

Mrs. Enid Ide Aldwall, W6UXF, of Los Angeles, a charter member of the YLRL, will present her group of Bavarian dancers after the banquet. Dinner speaker will be John L. Reinartz, inventor and an amateur radio operator since 1908.

Mr. Reinartz, who published "Reflections of Short Waves," was in charge of communications for the first Byrd Arctic expedition. He is a member of the American Radio Relay League, with which the women's organization is affiliated.

Mrs. Willis reports that reservations already have been received from YLRL members in Alaska, Canada, the Canal Zone, Hawaii and many parts of the United States.



**TO HOLD RADIO CONVENTION**—Mrs. W. A. Letcher Jr. of 1214 Franklin Ave., Santa Monica, waves goodbye as she boards a plane which took her to San Francisco last week to speak to an anniversary dinner of the Young Ladies Radio Club. The Young Ladies Radio League is having its first international convention in June in the Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica. Mrs. Letcher is president of the club.

## Women Radio Operators To Assemble

### Amateurs Invited To Attend Convention

An invitation to all licensed women radio amateurs to attend the first international convention of the Young Ladies Radio League is being extended by the international president, Mrs. W. A. Letcher Jr., 1214 Franklin Ave., Santa Monica. The conclave will be held June 24, 25 and 26 at the Miramar Hotel.

Mrs. Letcher, who is known on the air waves by her call letters, W6CEE, flew to San Francisco recently to be a guest at the anniversary dinner of the San Francisco Young Ladies Radio Club, where she represented the Los Angeles Young Ladies Radio Club, and extended the invitation to the Northern group to attend the convention.

The Los Angeles group is spon-

soring the convention with Mrs. Edward Willis acting as chairman, and Mrs. Earl Griffin, president, as official hostess.

Beginning in 1939 with 11 members, the League now has a membership of more than 600 women from the United States, including Alaska, Hawaii and the Canal Zone; Canada, England, France, Italy, Africa, Belgium, Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand.

W6CEE-VADA



**LICENSED RADIO HAM**—That's Mrs. John Harmon, member of Young Ladies Radio League and avid radio operator. With daughter, Linda, 8, standing by to learn, Mrs. Harmon practices during day. Popularity of amateur radio operation is growing among women today, despite technical knowledge required. (P. 3 photo)

## Women Radio Operators Prove To Be Avid Hams

In the John B. Harmon home at 919 Olive St., it's a question of who gets at the radio equipment first—Mr. or Mrs. Harmon.

That's because they're both licensed ham operators and anybody who's met a ham knows that there's bound to be a problem of who gets access to the equipment.

Mrs. Harmon, along with Mrs. Raymond George and Mrs. Hillis R. Hauck, Pomona; Mrs. George Dynes, Claremont; and Mrs. Baron Barker, Puente; are members of the Young Ladies Radio League, an international organization for women radio amateurs.

Altho there are thousands of men hams who are licensed to transmit and receive messages via the short wave bands, it's unusual to find many women at it due to the technical knowledge required. But those women who are radio operators are confirmed hams and wouldn't give it up for the world.

Equipment of these amateur radio operators is available to local Civil Defense organizations. The portable transmitters and receivers in many of their cars would be of invaluable assistance to the communities in case of disaster which might

interfere with the source of commercial power for more common means of communications.

Mrs. Barker of Puente is the state control station for the American Legion 2 meter network, which provides practically 24-hour service to the community. Many messages received are from overseas servicemen to their families.

The women hams are planning the organization's first international convention at the Hotel Miramar, Santa Monica, June 24 and 25.

The league started with 11 members in the 1930's and now has a membership in the United States, Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, the Canal Zone, England, France, Italy, Africa, Belgium, Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand.





**CALLING ALL WOMEN HAMS**—Is Mrs. Margery Bennett, K6HVC of Rialto, who is taking part in the discussion of the first convention of her organization, the Young Ladies Radio League, to be held in Santa Monica June 24, 25 and 26. Mrs. Bennett shares her interesting hobby with her husband, Leo, whose station call letters are KN6GKM.

## **GIRL 'HAMS' FORM OWN LEAGUE, PLAN SANTA MONICA CONVENTION**

Throughout the world, over 600 licensed women radio amateurs are looking forward to the first international convention of their organization, the Young Ladies Radio League. Discussion of the convention plans is now underway on the networks of women short wave radio operators throughout the U.S.A.

In the San Bernardino area are several members including Mrs. Leo Bennett, K6HVC, 454 Elm Court, Rialto and Mrs. LeRoy Harris, K6HMP, 225 East F St., Colton, both licensed operators of amateur radio stations under the Federal Communications Commis-

sion of Washington, D.C.

Convention headquarters is Hotel Miramar, Santa Monica, where the event will take place June 24, 25 and 26.

Mrs. Harris points out that the YLRL began in 1939 with 11 members, and now has over 600 women radio amateurs from the United States, Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, the Canal Zone, England, France, Italy, Africa, Belgium, The Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand on its roles.

Due to the great distances of travel involved for overseas members, all these countries will not be represented, but reservations have been received from Alaska, Canada, Hawaii, the Canal Zone, and all corners of the U.S.A.

Beginning with a reception in the hotel suite for national radio magazine columnist, Louisa Sanda, W5RZJ, of New Mexico on Friday afternoon, the convention will continue with a business meeting and installation of officers from various sections of the U.S. on Saturday morning. Leis from the club members in Hawaii will be presented to the incoming officers.

A luncheon and fashion show will be held Saturday afternoon, and a banquet for the members and their husbands will be held Saturday evening.

John L. Reinartz, inventor and amateur radio operator since 1908, will speak at the banquet. Reinartz, who published the first and still valid exposition on the "Reflection of Short Waves" in 1925, and who kept the 1925 Byrd Arctic expedition in daily touch with civilization through amateur radio, is a member of the American Radio Relay League, with which the woman's organization is affiliated.

On Sunday, a coastline bus tour will be enjoyed by the out-of-town guests, and on Monday, a tour of CBS-TV will be personally conducted by television actress and league member, Leonore Conn, W6NAZ.



W6MFP - Agnes"

—Photo by Victor Barnaba.  
 "CQ—CQ—This is W6MFP—come in—CQ." Amateur operator Agnes Langevin, 505 Tigertail Road, "contacts" on progress of the Young Ladies Radio League convention which begins tomorrow evening at the Miramar Hotel. Hams report that some of the girls are coming "mobile" (with senders in their autos) and call in from time to time along the road. Ham operators across the nation cooperate with the Red Cross and Civil Defense to provide valuable assistance in such disasters as the recent tornadoes in the south central states.

## 'Lady Hams' Convention At Miramar Tomorrow

Tomorrow evening will be an exciting milestone for local members of the Young Ladies Radio League, amateur radio operators. The international group will hold their first convention at the Miramar Hotel.

Throughout the world, more than 600 licensed "lady hams" have been "QSO-ing" (ham language for talking) about the big night. It will provide the first personal contact for women who have conversed over thousands of miles for many years.

Brentwood and other Bay Area members will meet the girls behind the voices and call letters that have become familiar through the years. KL7RN, from Lake Minchimina, Alaska, will greet her friends, KH6AFN of Honolulu, T.H. and W6MFP of Brentwood.

Stateside members with "mobile rigs" will drive in to the convention while keeping contact for tips on the best routes and watering holes along the way. These mobile members have overcome some of the problems of suburban living with husband-wife teams checking up on the ice-box situation on the way home from the city.

The YLRL, distaff side of a vast network of ham operators often build their own "gear" and have to pass the same tough qualification examinations as their male counterparts. Every ham in this country is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission and subject to strict regulations.

There are four sides to amateur operations. In addition to emergency communication and service in time of disaster, radio is a great source of enjoyment to the ham. They cast their "DX" (Distance) nets far and wide around the world "just for fun."

The third side is experimentation in techniques. Most of the important developments in radio come from hams.

Hams are doing a job, too, in developing better international understanding. They take every opportunity to create friendship around the world as they discuss daily routine of living with other hams.



**YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH YOU**—Mrs. Albert Letcher of Santa Monica, left, international president of the Young Ladies Radio League, and Mrs. Carl Langevin, Brentwood, demonstrate a portable transmitter and receiver as they plan the first international convention of the organization of licensed women radio amateurs. The convention will be held June 24 and 25 at the Miramar Hotel. Some 600 members will be represented at the conclave. (Victor Barnaba Photo.)



Mrs. Robert W. Gluck, president of the Camellia Capital Chirps, tunes in a station while Mrs. John J. O'Brien, left, logs the time of her ham radio conversation.  
Bee Photo

## These Capital Housewives Have Something To Chirp About

Shacks, monkeys, rag chewers, chirps and hams sounds like a confusing combination of words to the average person but to a group of nine housewives it's just everyday lingo.

Do not mistake them for members of a zoological society, for they are all licensed radio ham operators, and the wives of licensed operators.

This group of housewives is known as the Camellia Capital Chirps, a newly formed club of radio XYLs, or wives of licensed hams. And you would have to search far to find a more talkative bunch, for their over the fence radio conversations have been heard as far away as Siam, Guam, Norway, Spain and even Russia.

### Self Protection

"I guess you might say we formed this club for self protection," laughed Mrs. Robert W. Gluck, president. "For years we were the victims of isolation. Our husbands would come home from work and proceed to spend their entire evenings by their sets. We decided the only way to win them back again was to fight fire with fire.

"We took our Federal Communications Commission tests and became licensed operators. Now our husbands have to fight to get to the sets. But they don't complain, for they are pleased to see their feminine sidekicks take such an avid interest in their hobbies.

"We hope that through the formation of this club we can interest more wives of licensed operators to take up the hobby and gain a better understanding of why their husbands are such enthusiastic devotees. On all our station cards we are going to tell as many foreign and stateside operators about Sacramento the Camellia Capital as we can. We're also looking for single women operators for our group."

In between household chores these wives are usually found in their shacks, or radio rooms, sending out radio signals on their monkeys, or automatic code key transmitters, and getting in as much rag chewing as they can in a day.

"You only gain the title of rag chewer after you have talked continuously for one half hour with another ham," Mrs. Gluck explained. "The most common name we're given by male operators is chirps, which in radio lingo means a bad signal. But with many of us now outdoing our brother operators in transmitting, we are losing that title fast."

### Foreign Contacts

The nine women have reached more than 150 foreign countries with their radios and have hundreds of cards from operators all over the world to prove their contacts. The foreign language barrier presents no problem because of the international transmitting code that is followed by all hams. The wives' current project is exchanging recipes with foreign operators.

K6HDI - PAT  
K6ENK - WANDA  
K6AKR - GERRY  
Dec. 2, 1957

K6ENK - WANDA  
W6HTS - Mildred  
A-21-57



PAT K6HDI WANDA K6ENK GERRY K6AKR  
CAMELLIA CAPITAL CHIRPS—E. A. Combatalade receives a Chirptificate from left to right, Mmes. Eric Grafe, Robert Gluck and Robert Metke, of the Camellia Capital Chirps. These Chirptificates are being sent to ham radio operators throughout the world to acquaint them with the fact that Sacramento is the Camellia Capital.  
Bee Photo

## Camellia Capital Chirps Distribute Certificates

Hundreds of Chirptificates are being distributed this month by members of the Camellia Capital Chirps, Young Ladies Radio Club, publicizing Sacramento as the Camellia Capital.

These colorful green and rose certificates, which the group has penned Chirptificates, are adorned with three camellias and promote Sacramento as the center of camellias.

Each ham operator that is contacted by the club members is sent a Chirptificate to pin on wall of his radio room. Thus far the members have contacted fellow hams in all 48 states, three United States possessions, three provinces of Canada, and several foreign countries, including Russia, Austria, Burma, Italy, Germany, Japan, Latvia and Peru.

The club, which has a membership of 22 women ham operators, participated in the anniversary party contest last month which was sponsored by the Young

Ladies Radio League.

The contest was a test of operating skill in which women operators were allotted a maximum of 72 hours during two weekends in November to contact as many other women amateur radio operators as possible.

Mrs. Francie Huey of Sacramento made the largest individual score by chatting with 78 different ham friends using a microphone. Mrs. Robert Gluck of Fair Oaks, president of the Camellia Capital Chirps, made the largest individual score using Morse code.

Last week the club members presented E. A. Combatalade with an official Chirptificate, for his part in helping to publicize Sacramento as the Camellia Capital.

Members also are engaged in handling messages for civil defense as well as relaying sightings of the Russian satellites. Mrs. J. J. O'Brien has handled messages from as far away as

Little America at Antarctica

Mrs. Iva Kirtley, another club member, is participating in the International Geophysical Year research project. She sends reports of unusual distances achieved with her set, particularly of the very high and ultra high frequencies.



# Chirp-tificate



This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ has been

deemed an official "Chirp-Catcher" and has completed

QSO's with, and received QSL cards from

six members of the

*"Camellia Capital Chirps"*

YL Radio Club since July 26, 1957.



\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chirp-tificate Chairman*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*President*

Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_

1957 K6Hoi

# Ham Operators

have a

# Field Day

A field day in every sense of the word was held by a group of Sacramento women radio ham operators, the Camellia Capital Chirps, last Saturday atop a hill at Folsom Lake. This overnight outing marked the first time a women's group in this area has participated in the annual nationwide ham operators field day exercise to test the effectiveness of amateur radio communications in the event of national or local emergencies. Besides manning their radio stations for a continual 48 hour testing period, these housewives made a family affair of the outing by pitching tents, holding a big barbecue and playing softball with their children.

"Camellia Capital Chirps"

"SATURDAY - JUNE 29, 1957"



Robert W. Gluck strings a large aerial in a tree while his wife checks her radio transmitter. Two portable stations were operated by the group on a high hill overlooking Folsom Lake.

BOB K6BNB OM of K6ENK, WANDA.

KN6ZVX - ROZ

KBHDP - PAT  
AT RIC



Mrs. Raymond Falconer logs the amateur ham stations throughout the valley area which are being reached by Mrs. Eric Grafe as she operates the transmitter.



A highlight of the day was the family barbecue. Mrs. Francis Huey serves heaping plates of picnic food to her family, left to right, Michael, Tommy, Huey and John.

Om-Hues KBPWH - Colleen  
WIGGW



A full day and night of camping were enjoyed by the families of ham operators. Mrs. J. O'Brien, right, helps Linda Gluck unfold a sleeping bag as Judi Grafe, center, gets out the cooking utensils.

KN6PBG - LINDA

KBHHD - JAN

# Mrs. Aldwell Attains What She Goes After

BY NORMA H. GOODHUE  
Times Staff Writer

Last week Enid (Mrs. William B.) Aldwell was graduated with honors from UCLA's College of Letters and Sciences. Thirty years ago she was graduated from high school.

A graduation gift from her husband, who has aided and abetted her ambitions, was a trip to Germany. Arriving there this week, she will launch a research project in the German language, her university major.

## *Mrs. Aldwell Will Work for Her Doctorate*

Mrs. Aldwell has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa and will continue education toward her doctorate.

A hobbyist at heart, Mrs. Aldwell plays the organ, weaves woolens and cottons and fashions her own clothes as well as household decor.

She is a ham operator (W6UXE) with her husband (W6ZD) and both have a deep interest in folk dancing. In fact, they are leaders of a closed group of folk dancers—German, Austrian and Alpine dancers.

Four years ago Mrs. Aldwell decided she was not getting out of life what she wanted, so she quit her full-time office job and started back to school. She is fascinated with her study, she said in an interview, and looks forward to four or five more years of work.

Mr. Aldwell is assistant cashier and loan officer for Union Bank.



MRS. ENID ALDWELL was graduated last week from UCLA, 30 years after she was graduated from high school. Among her many hobbies, Mrs. Aldwell plays organ.

Times photo by Wayne F. Kelly

W6UXE-Enid 1959



WEAVING is one of many hobbies of Mrs. Enid Aldwell, UCLA graduate, who designs, fashions clothes.

# STAR-NEWS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S FINEST EVENING NEWSPAPER

XX

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1959

## Elsa-W6JZA Ends Reign

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Women 'Hams' to Gather Here Tomorrow

By MARGARET STOVALL

The members of Elsa Wheeler's club meet every Friday morning at 9:30 but some of them will be seeing each other for the first time at a convention in Pasadena this weekend.

Elsa Wheeler, Temple City housewife, is president of the largest (80-member) woman's "ham" organization in the world, otherwise known as the Los Angeles Young Ladies Radio Club.

She will be responsible for direction of the ladies activities at the forthcoming convention of the Southwest Division of the American Radio Relay League at the Huntington-Sheraton Hotel Friday through Sunday when some 3000 amateur radio operators are expected to swarm into Pasadena.

"To most of our membership I'm a voice on their receiver known as Elsa-W6JZA," Elsa explained. "Of course, after we've talked for awhile, they also know I'm Mrs. Howard Wheeler and a grandmother."

"Most of us know each other by our first names and call letters. The new president, who will take office after our summer adjournment, is Midge-K6BUS, or Mrs. William Rommel, of Playa Del Rey, while the rest of the 1959-60 slate includes Billie-K6ANG, Mrs. Ralph Blakesley, Fullerton, vice president; Maxine-WA6AOE, Mrs. William Hanberry, Pasadena, corresponding secretary; Virginia-K6MQS, Mrs. Robert Sherrill, San Gabriel, recording secretary, and Anita-K6OAI, Mrs. Major Gilbert, Burbank, treasurer."

Becoming a radio ham for most of the membership was a matter of self-defense, Mrs. Wheeler said.

"For some it was even as serious as saving a marriage," she said. "Personally, I fought it for years before I finally decided to enroll in a course



Elsa-W6JZA Wheeler, president of Lady "hams," prepares to talk to ships at sea.

in Morse code at Pasadena City College. After that, the rest followed in natural sequence and I spend more time at it now than my husband."

Her husband, Hoddy-W6GRW, took it up after their son became an enthusiast.

"Howard convinced his father it would be easier for them to keep in touch by radio than to write letters while

he was away at college," Elsa-W6JZA added. "It was about this time I decided I had better concede."

She has been a licensed operator now since 1952 and, outside of the club meetings every Friday, most enjoys her maritime contacts, and considers the captain and

"HAMS": Turn to Page 25



# Airwaves Strengthen Ties Between Members of 'Ham' Radio Fraternity



DINNER PREPARATIONS are speeded up as Ralph Blakesley, 409 W. Brookdale, transmits message to his wife that he is on way home. Two often converse during day by means of transmitter in

car, receiver in home. Mrs. Blakesley, known as Billie, K6ANG, is vice president of Los Angeles Young Ladies Radio Club, licensed women radio amateurs. (News Tribune Photo)

W6PQK Ralph

K6ANG "BILLIE"

*Especially for*  
**WOMEN**  
 NEWS TRIBUNE, Fullerton, Calif.  
 Saturday Evening, January 30, 1960  
 PAGE 9

"Doleros" - K6JPY K6mic-om

RING REMINDS Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Gustafson, 536 Peach Ave., Brea, of first purchase they made after 1940 wedding—radio receiver—although neither had operator's license at that time. He obtained his in 1954, she in 1955.





**AMATEUR RADIO GALS** — Local and out-of-town members of Young Ladies Radio League shown here practicing for the national YLRL national convention which begins June 17 in Cambridge, Mass., are (left to right) Mrs. Lee Eastman, national president, W6DXI, of Glendale,

California; Mrs. Melvin Rogers, K557N, of Carlsbad; Mrs. Dave Miller, K5GYZ, of Roswell, and Mrs. Baron Barker, W6ZGX, of La Puente, California. Not shown is Mrs. Al Hargett, K5DAB, of Carlsbad. The group entertained with a picnic Tuesday night at the beach. (Staff Photo)

Three out-of-town members of Young Ladies Radio League stopped over briefly in Carlsbad this week enroute to the national YLRL convention which begins June 17 in Cambridge, Mass.

Women were Mrs. Lee Eastman, of Glendale, California; Mrs. Dave Miller of Roswell, and Mrs. Baron Barker of La Puente, California.

The visitors were entertained with a picnic at the beach during their stay here.

This organization, which has thousands of members all over the world, use their knowledge for a hobby as well as for public assistance. They participate in Civil Defense, disasters, and their specialty is helping servicemen overseas talk to their families in America. One operator in Pennsylvania helps several thousand servicemen each month contact their families.

Enroute to the convention the women talk daily to their families using the transmitters and receivers in their cars.

Members at various relay stations across the country keep the world posted on the Powder Puff Derby each July. The derby is a group of women flyers who make this annual cross-country flight.

The YLRL call letters are assigned to the women by the Federal Communication Commission. The men's organization is called Old Man's Amateur Club.

The sign-off signal is "33" meaning "Love Sealed With Friendship Between One YLRL and Another."

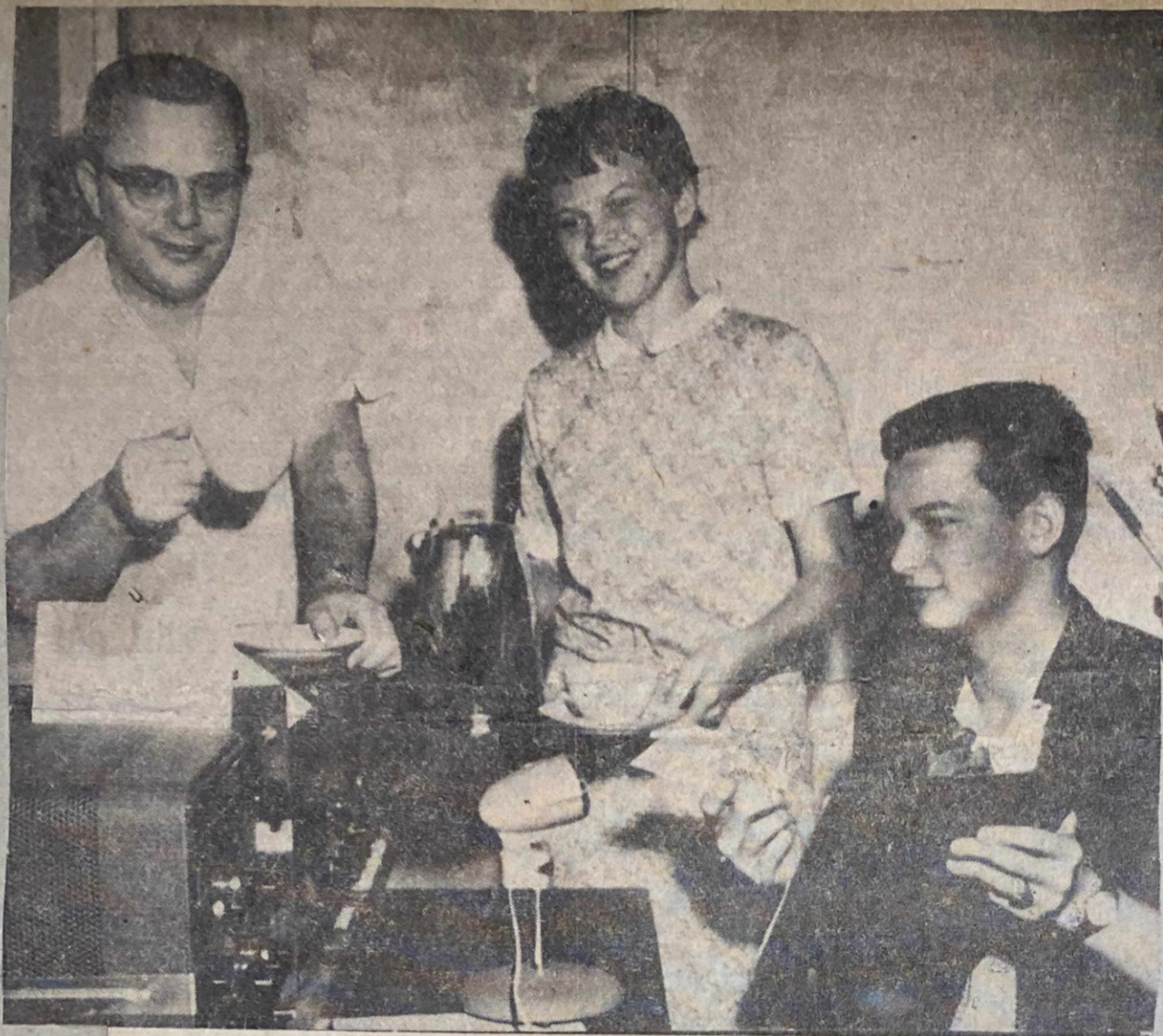
## Women Stop In Carlsbad Enroute To YLRL Convention

JUNE - 1960 - ON WAY TO Cambridge

L to R - W6DXI - Gladys; K5STN - Betty

K5GYZ - Lucille W6ZGX - HARRYETTE

W6DXI - Pres. YLRL - 1960



**EVEN BUSY** radio operators such as Dr. Robert G. Hampton and Joel Heise take moment to relax with cup of coffee, served by Joel's sister, Ann, a Fullerton Union High School sophomore. Joel, 17, is member of Fuller-

ton Radio Club, currently working on civil defense project. Dr. Hampton's interest in radio work also dates back to teenage days.



**GRANDFATHER CLOCK** dating back to 1929 housed early model radio which George Beard, 232 W. Brookdale, adjusts for better tone. Equipment which fills room is combination of early experiments, latest

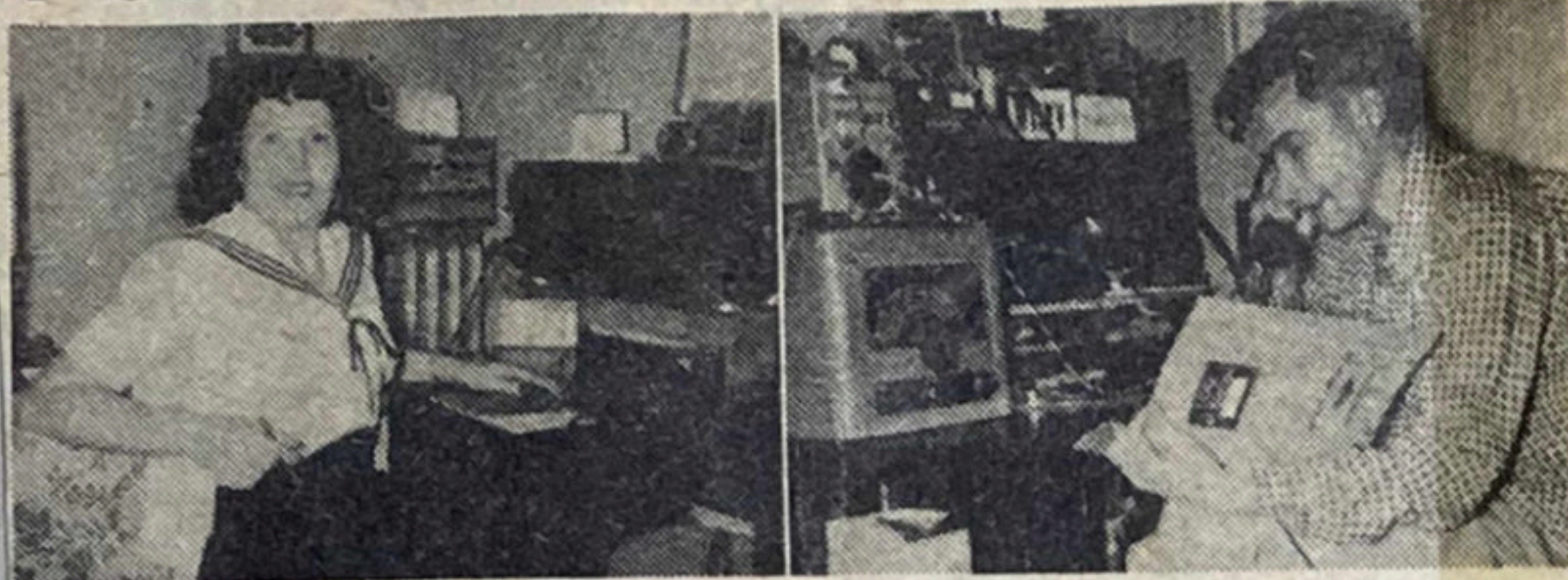
achievements. Mr. Beard is organizer and a board member of Fullerton Radio Club which was incorporated in 1950. He is also originator of code and theory classes held each week in Amerige Park. (News Tribune Photo)



## HOBBY CORNER



### Seattle Couple Share Mutual Enthusiasm For Amateur Radio



**T**AKE it from Mrs. Toddy Nye (W7LCS), Seattle, Wash., you can't be married to an amateur radio operator without getting interested in radio, yourself. Mrs. Nye found that out when she married Bill Nye (W7IYV), of I.A.M. Lodge 761, Seattle, and caught his enthusiasm for his hobby.

Nye had an eight-year start on his wife, but when she decided to take up radio herself, she learned fast, and now this husband-and-wife team are the live wires of the West Seattle Amateur Radio Club. Here is how Mrs. Nye tells their story:

"Bill became interested in ham radio while in grade school when he heard some amateurs on a crystal set he built. His first license was W9GPI issued in 1931. When I met him in 1939 I had never heard of an amateur radio operator, but he got me started on the code. I went to radio school at the YMCA and received a second class commercial license first, then took the exam for my amateur license in 1947.

"When Bill made a trip to South America several years ago, he made it a point to visit amateurs while there so he could contact Seattle, and I got to talk to him by radio phone on five different occasions for over an hour.

"We both have advanced class licenses and most of our operating is code. My best distance is Auckland, New Zealand, with about 25 watts.

"Bill is an experimental ham and is interested in the ultra high frequencies. He is now working on a 420 megacycle pulse-modulated radio control system. His other hobby is writing and he has had articles published in the *Turf and Sport Digest*."

Here are some other I.A.M. members who are hams:

John N. Weaver, Lodge 1064, Athens, Pa., W3CDJ  
John Pendell, Lodge 1413, Portland, Maine, W1DNA  
Lee D. Johnson, Lodge 1413, Portland, Maine, W1QIQ  
Steve White, Lodge 1413, Portland, Maine, W1RSX  
Edward Valente, Lodge 1413, Portland, Maine, (now in army) W1SMR  
Stanley Plotrowski, Lodge 1976, Falls Church, Va., W4UXU

The Hobby Corner will be glad to publish the call letters of any I.A.M. members. Send them to: Hobby Editor, 206 Machinists Bldg., Washington 1, D. C.

W7LCS - Toddy

### 11-6-51 Girl, 10, Has U. S. License As Real Ham

ONTARIO, Ore. (AP)—Just about the youngest voice in some 90,000 going out over the air from amateur radio stations in this country comes from this eastern Oregon city.

When WN7PWY is calling, the voice is that of Cheri Ann Westcott, who was 10 years old last May.

She is licensed, just like all the other "ham" operators. That means she passed a test in international Morse code, in radio theory and in communications law, and then the Federal Communications Commission mailed the license to her.

Her first talk-fest after being licensed was with a 16-year-old boy in Cody, Wyo.—WN7TVL.

One of the reasons Cheri Ann **ON THE AIR**—Cheri Ann Westcott, 10, is licensed to operate her own amateur radio station.

got off to an early start: Her father, Ray Westcott, has been a ham operator himself for a number of years.



WN7PWY - Cheri  
1951

### Newly-Licensed Radio 'Ham'



Cleo Marie Hood, 13, has become the youngest Arizona woman to qualify for an amateur radio operator's license. She received her training through the Kilowatt club at Amphitheater high school.

### Amphi Student Is Youngest Girl to Win Radio License

Cleo Marie Hood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Hood, 1011 East Mitchell street, has become the youngest woman in Arizona ever to win an amateur radio operator's license.

Cleo is 13 and an eighth grader at Amphitheater junior high school. She has it on the word of Gladden Elliott, assistant director of the Southwestern division of the American Radio Relay league, that she is the youngest of her sex to win such a license.

Her permit is a class B amateur license; her call letters are W7PEF. In "ham" language she is known as a YL—that stands for young lady. Married women are known as XYLs.

She uses a Hammerland 4-20 transmitter and an S2OR receiver operating on a 10 meter phone band and 80 and 40 meter code bands.

She received her training in code and radio theory in the Kilowatt club at Amphitheater high school. The club's advisor is Elliott; it meets daily after school hours.

In its membership are 11 boys and Cleo. She is the first girl and seventh member of the organization to win a license since the club organized two and a half years ago.

And here is the joker: Cleo got interested in radio because her father was interested. Both of

them took examinations at the same time last Jan. 22; the results were announced this week.

Papa Hood didn't make it.

W7PEF - Cleo  
1951

# 'Ham' Operators Offer Vital Service In Emergency



**TUNING IN**—Mrs. Lou Liddiard is seated here at her shortwave amateur radio station. At her left, the section of the set shown behind her microphone, is the transmitter. The center is a ten-meter converter. The section at the right is the station receiver. The Lewiston-Clarkston valley area's 14 licensed amateur operators have equipment ranging from simple home-built sets that cost \$100 to those that represent investments of \$700 to several thousands. Mrs. Liddiard's call letters are shown at the left and Liddiard's at the right. (Tribune photo.)

By **BONNIE C. BUTLER**  
Tribune Staff Writer

Are you interested in amateur radio operations? Or have you thought you would like to see how it works when you've heard about "ham" operators receiving and sending messages around the world?

If not, don't expose yourself because enthusiasm can be as catching as the measles. Only it's easier to catch measles than it is to get into the "ham" airways as an operator licensed to use a transmitter.

If you were a "ham" operator, for instance, or had access to a "ham" receiving set you might have heard Fred E. Bowers of Lewiston tell Mrs. Lou Liddiard how he was sitting barefoot and in summer shorts at his transmitter while he visited with her via the airways.

Rounding up interesting tidbits, Bowers told how he was going to relay messages that evening for a group of wives of service men, from Honolulu to Okinawa.

This scheduled sending, termed a "sked" by amateurs, was one of the examples of the service "hams" give anyone without charge.

#### Wives Get Together

Bowers told how one of his neighbors, a wife of a serviceman on Okinawa, had talked to her husband over his station a week earlier. "The other fellows at Okinawa asked us if we couldn't get their wives together so we arranged it. There'll be eight of them at the transmitter here. Some of these couples haven't heard each other's voices for months, you know."

Then Bowers described the naval reserve where he is living—although he is in civilian service, he explained—and said she was the first "waheenie" he had talked with in more than a year. Originally from Peoria, Ill., he has been operating since 1929 when he was 14 years old, he said.

Mrs. Liddiard guessed right

that waheenie is the Hawaiian's word meaning woman. (She is one of the few licensed women amateur operators in this area and with her husband, Lou, also a licensed operator, form one of the few husband-and-wife teams).

The "ham" operator's language is extended into the use of phonetic aids to make some words more intelligible. And then, to save time and breath, alphabetical abbreviations are used.

Women operators, if they are single, are YLs and if they are

married, XYLs. Letters of the alphabet that might be confused are extended into words. When she switched from her receiver to her transmitter to let Bowers know he was being received at Lewiston, Mrs. Liddiard first gave her personal call letters: W 7 O O V, but in the language of "hams," she said: "This is W seven oboe oboe victor; this is W seven oboe oboe victor," repeating the call several times and then, preparing to switch back to her receiver to get his reply, added: "Go ahead, Old Man."

Just as women operators have a special term, all male operators are "Old Man."

And when Mrs. Liddiard identified herself, she said: "The handle is Helen." Amateurs use only their first names in first introductions. They explain this keeps things on a more personal and friendly basis among their world wide clan.

As for the YLs, the letters simply stand for Young Lady. If she's married, she becomes the X-variety.

#### All Calls Logged

Contacts between amateurs have been far more sensational and important to those involved than the conversation between Mrs. Liddiard and Bowers but it represented more than a simple pleasantry of that day.

As they talked, each logged the time and technicalities and added another "QSO" (contact) to their lists.

According to recent statistics, the United States now has 87,000 licensed active amateur operators, an increase of 6,000 during 1950.

And although the Lewiston-Clarkston valley has but 14 licensed "hams" operating fixed stations and eight operating mobile units, each is an enthusiast and might be of invaluable service to the community in case of disaster or other emergency, according to Gene Wilson of Lewiston.

Wilson, chief engineer at radio station KRLC, takes his technical knowledge or radio home with him. He is the emergency coordinator at Lewiston for this area's members of the American Radio Relay league, and a past president of the Lewiston-Clarkston Amateur Radio club.

The club meets twice a month at the Zimmerly Air Transport where U. S. navy shortwave transmitting and receiving equipment has recently been installed.

The league will hold an emergency drill in this area Feb. 19, Wilson said, to test equipment

and individual abilities to meet a series of simulated emergencies.

Mobile equipment will be set at strategic spots in the area and the coordinator will direct cars, carrying the equipment, to respond as they might under a real emergency.

Wilson has been operating shortwave equipment 16 years, he said, and has had contact with all states and all continents.

#### Aided In Searches

The majority of this area's operators, he said, have participated in emergency work here in the past, including searches for lost planes and floods.

"Hams have always worked in close cooperation with the Red Cross disaster committees," he said, "and can be called into service on a moment's notice."

Harley Steiner of Lewiston, once the youngest licensed amateur radio operator in the state of Washington at the age of 14, had much to say in defense of the amateur's existence.

"Amateur radio operators at Lewiston date back to days of World war I," he said.

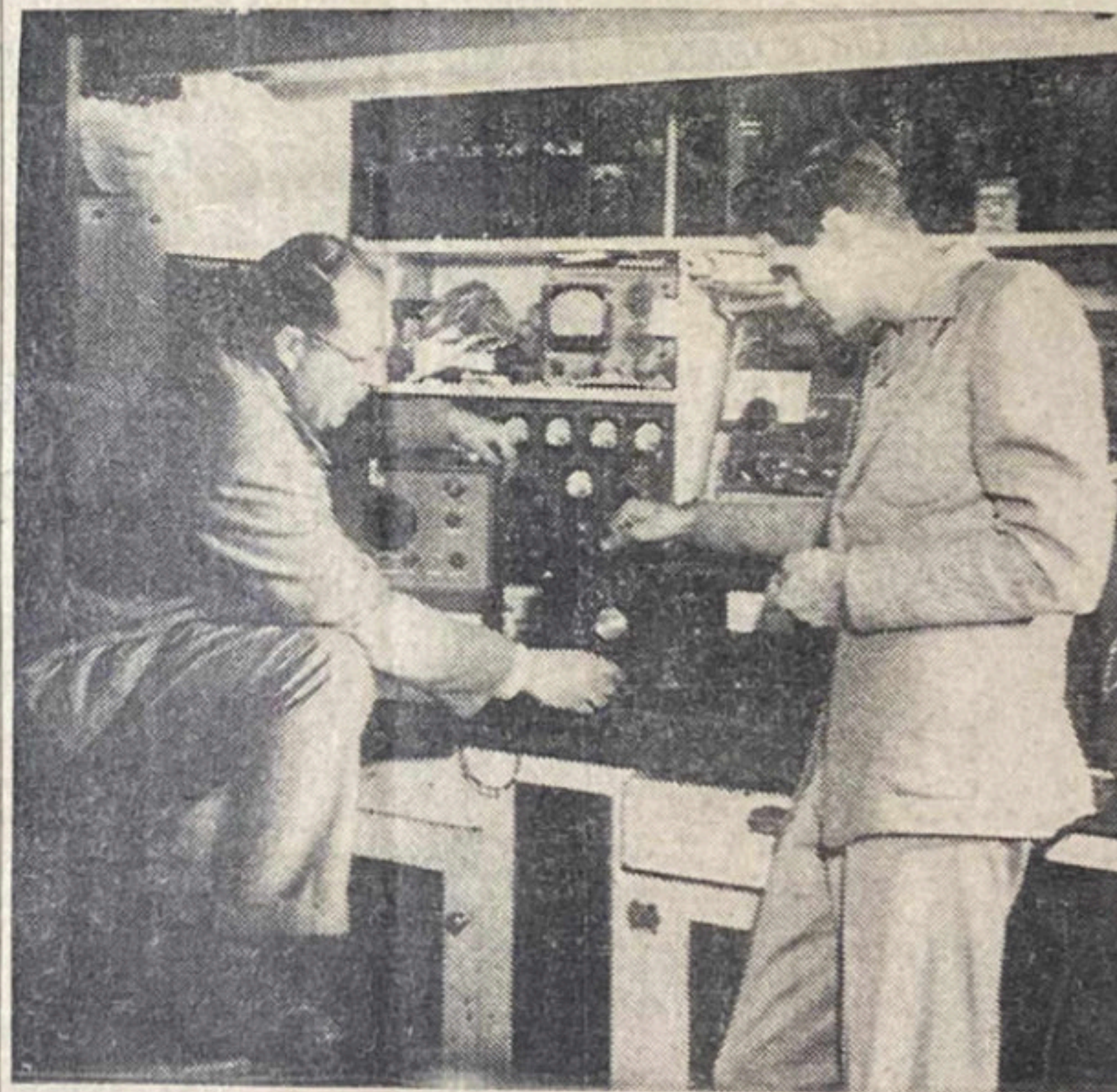
"During the last 25 years, there's always been several hams here and we now have more than we've ever had before."

"This self-appointed crew of highly efficient technicians can provide the community with a complete emergency communications network and it is available without cost to all those it might serve in event of a disaster."

"The armed forces drew heavily from America's pool of trained amateurs for instructors at the outset of World war II. These men were invaluable in the manufacture and use of military communications equipment."

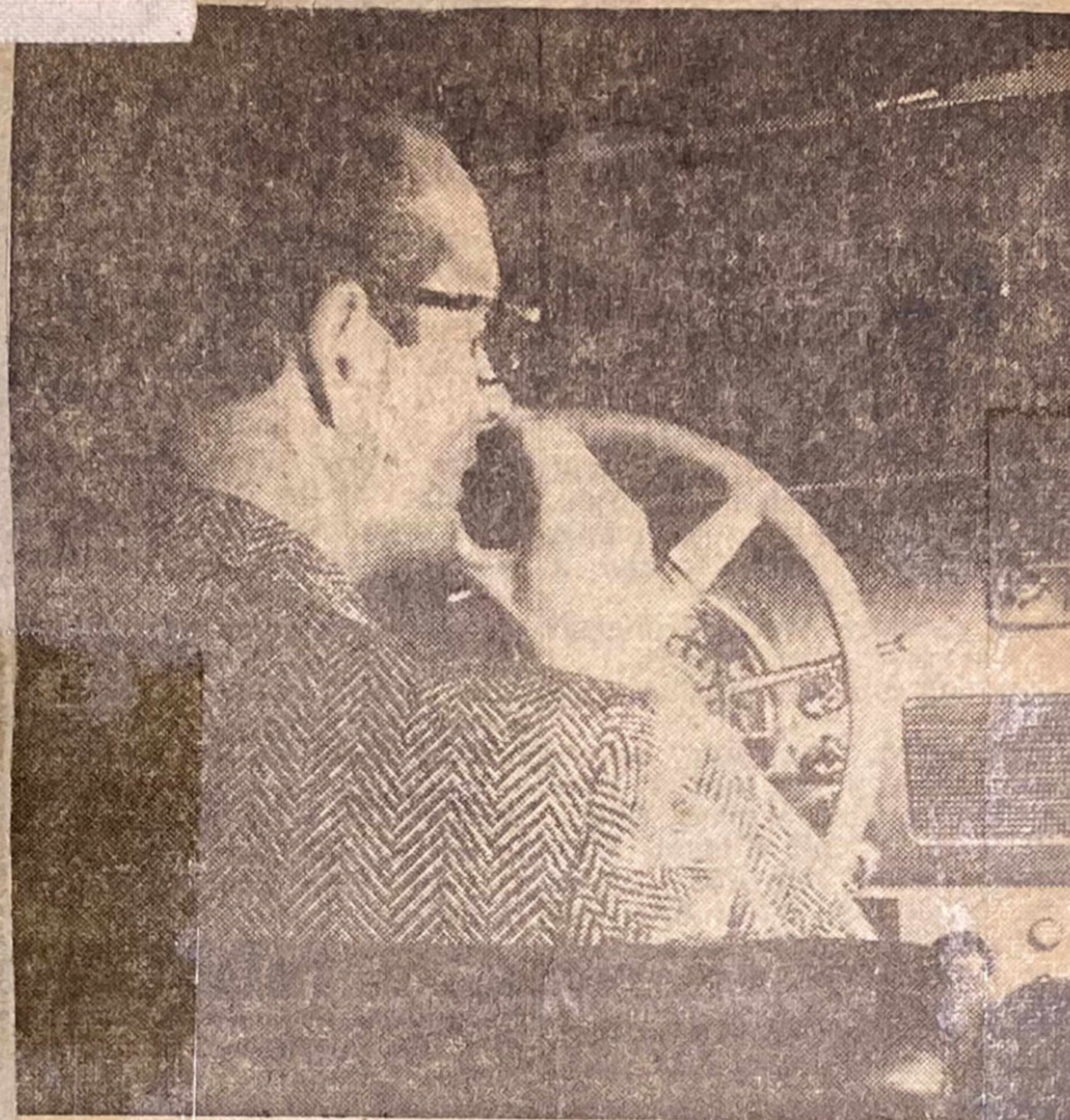
"This alone justifies their existence in spite of the fact there has been and still is a good deal of criticism of hams from commercial interests (regular broad-

(Continued on page five)



**LISTENING IN**—Harley Steiner, at the left, and Don Heinen, right, are shown here with shortwave radio equipment that will provide communication for the community in an emergency. Lewiston-Clarkston Amateur Radio club members would be called into immediate service, if other communications were unavailable or had failed. Their work would be coordinated by Gene Wilson, coordinator of emergency operations for this area appointed by the American Radio Relay league. (Tribune photo.)

W700V-



**RADIO IN MOTION**—Here is Lou Liddiard, organist and shortwave radio enthusiast of Lewiston, speaking into a microphone installed in his car. He is operating on his licensed call, W7OOW, and talking to Mrs. Liddiard at her fixed station, W7OOV, at their residence, 1019 11th St. This could be an operation of more importance than a family visit in time of emergency. Able to take his station with him, Liddiard could be directed or direct others to any spot in the area. (Tribune photo.)

## Radio 'Ham' Operators Ready To Serve Area In Emergency

(Continued from page one)

casters) and some listeners with inferior receivers who complain about interference.

"On the whole, shortwave reception at Lewiston is excellent and the community can be assured it has a great group of amateurs well able to respond if they are needed."

He told of how operations were carried on to aid in a way no other communications could have served when planes went out daily from Lewiston into the Moose creek area to search for the lost flyer, Joe Rosenkranz, during October of 1948. Amateurs again aided in locating the plane crash near Pullman that took the life of Bert Zimmerly in February, 1949.

### Search Delays Avoided

Steiner operated a fixed station at Lewiston, during the Rosenkranz search, to keep in contact with portable equipment in the areas where planes were searching. Many delays and futile trips were avoided by the direct and expedient amateur radio operations, he said. Steiner instructed the University of Idaho's extension course in fundamentals of radio here several years as well as a communica-

tions course for the navy cadet training program at Northern Idaho College of Education.

If an amateur is simply listening in on others, he is "reading their mail."

Signing-off terms can be anything from: "We'll be seeing you," to "We'll say 73" and "F B O M — C U L" which means: "Fine business, Old Man. See you later."

Other numerical terms for signing off are: 73 which means "best wishes;" 88, "love and kisses," obviously originated for persons of closer acquaintance than the average pair of hams might be; and 33, used between two YLs (young ladies—remember?).

PORTLAND, OREGON, OCTOBER 18, 1953



SSBE TRANSMISSION (above) interests Mrs. William Allingham, who was one of Portland's first woman hams. She's had her call letters, W7FXE, since 1935. Her husband, daughter are also hams, and the Allinghams really kept things buzzing between Eugene and Portland in late summer this year, waiting for baby to arrive for Mrs. Howard Ramey of Eugene, their daughter. Offspring, a boy, finally made appearance Labor day.

W7FXE "Lucile"



SOLDERING IRON (above) is essential tool for putting together a ham transmitter, as demonstrated by Mrs. Allen N. Davis. Although she's been licensed 20 years, she's found less time for radio lately since building a house in southwest hills is keeping the Davises pretty busy.



W7KAW "MARIE"

PINS ON MAP (right) locate hams across world with whom Mrs. Frank G. Clark, W7KAW, has talked. Mrs. Clark is something of a rarity among women amateurs; her husband is not a ham. She got interested during World War II as a hobby to fill the evenings while her husband worked the night shift in a local shipyard.





# Hiawatha's Dizzy Squaw Will Send Vet Patients' Messages to Ham Net

BY JOSEPH E. RAY  
W7HDS CALLING WYOMING HAMS!

Next Monday night, if conditions are right in the code world of the radio amateurs, something besides shop talk will crackle out over the Shepherd network. Patients at the Veterans hospital here have been invited by Mrs. Lizette Wolf, W7HDS to the ear-phone fraternity and a Cheyenne ham since 1939, to give her their personal messages for relay to the folks at home, and the bedridden ex-GI's have responded with glee.

Mrs. Wolf's offer, extended to patients through the hospital special services division, brought immediate response from men, like Fred Bryant, who intends to message his wife in Lusk that he's doing fine and will be home shortly. Most are personal messages of encouragement, not emergencies, which are routine to all hams—the Texas City disaster being a recent example. Hundreds of amateur operators throughout the nation have cooperated into getting messages into the devastated area.

According to Mrs. Wolf, dubbed Hiawatha's Dizzy Squaw because of her call letters, seventeen Equality state amateurs hold a regular bull session every Monday night and at the next "meeting" she intends giving the veterans' messages to her brother operators for relay

to the addresses. And if the vet's correspondent resides in a town lacking a ham the message will continue via duller and more prosaic communication. At least one patient intends to test Mrs. Wolf's official reach—he wants to invite a sister in Los Angeles to come and see him. Mrs. Wolf and W6IQE, an old friend, expect to have the message through in a jiffy!

A class A operator, Mrs. Wolf is one of 28 hams in Cheyenne, and one of 189 women operators in the United States. Wyoming, she explains, is the seventh district, accounting for the 7 in her call letters. The W is for United States. Hams are well organized, operate under federal regulations and feel that theirs is more than a hobby, which, in truth, it is. All hams went off the air on Pearl Harbor day but were constantly lurking near their keys ready on an instant's notice to play a well-rehearsed role in the event of bombings land attack, etc.

Mrs. Wolf has talked with hams in South Africa, Java and other remote places and thinks nothing of it. English is the accepted language, and before the war it was not unusual to hear a doctor in Mexico City conversing pleasantly, if not fluently, with a Jap in Tokyo.



Mrs. Lizette Wolf, owner and proprietor of amateur station W7HDS, accepts a message from Mrs. Maureen Ellis, Veterans hospital director, for relay to a veteran's family in Wyoming. Mrs. Wolf is one of 28 Cheyenne ham operators now back on the air after a war-enforced silence. (Photo by Brammar).

W7HDS "Lizette"



W7QKU "Donna"

KITCHEN is setting for the David A. Gettmans' radio transmitter in their Oak Grove home. Above, Mrs. Gettman, whose call is W7QKU, serves an afternoon snack to children Sherrie, 4, and David Kent, 6.

WPKLD 1/26/54  
**Radio Hams  
 Help To Get  
 News Out**

The news of Grays Harbor storm conditions yesterday and today was relayed to the rest of the state and the nation through a special amateur radio schedule set up for the convenience of The Aberdeen Daily World and the Olympia bureau of the Associated Press.

Transmission was handled at this end by Elmer Newell, 2416 Aberdeen avenue, who operates radio station W9AVM. At the Olympia end was radio station

W7FWR - MARY ANN  
 1954

W7FWR, acted as NCS  
 es kept things moving  
 for six days.--area  
 was isolated completely  
 for three days.

**Thanks For Help**

**N**EWs of Grays Harbor's distressing snow-storm, which completely paralyzed communications, reached the outside world through Harbor radio "hams" or amateur operators. By the same channels Grays Harbor learned it was the hardest hit community in the Northwest.

Operator Elmer Newell organized the set-up yesterday to relay Grays Harbor information to the Associated Press bureau in Olympia from where it was spread across the state. Newell and his brother "hams" also helped with private emergency messages, including the city of Aberdeen's search for a new part for its damaged road grader. The hams did Grays Harbor a real service yesterday, and were still on call today insofar as the normal means of communication were still not restored.

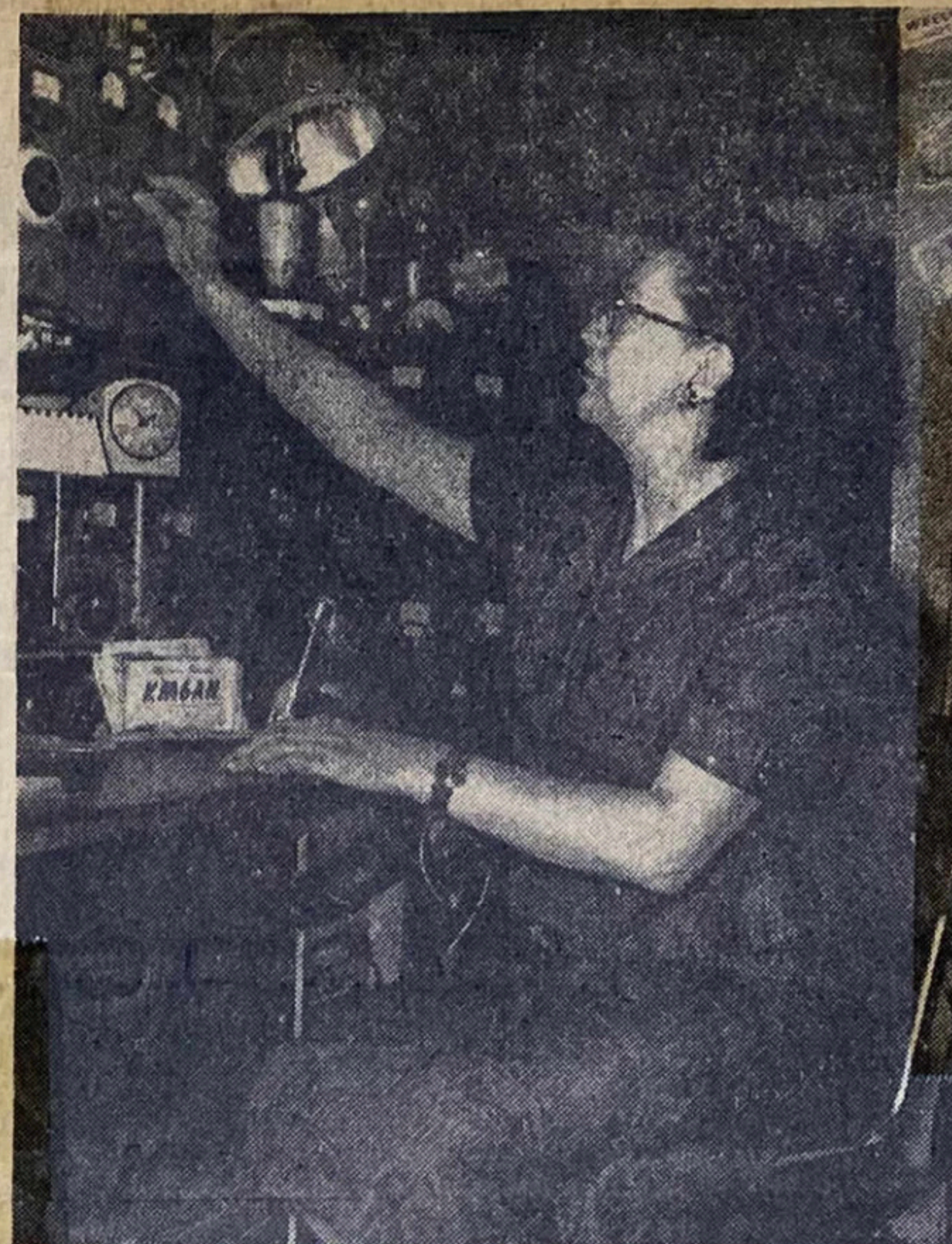
In the same way the Washington state patrol was of inestimable service to this newspaper in getting messages through to the Daily Olympian in Olympia and the Centralia Chronicle in Centralia. We had to send out an urgent call for press service wire copy because our own teletypes were silent. The two newspapers responded immediately, placing duplicates of their wire copy today upon Grays Harbor-bound buses.

All around it was a fine display of cooperation, and deeply appreciated.



Thanks to W7HYW, their 7th grade teacher, these girls mastered radio along with their readin', 'ritin' and 'rithmetic. L. to r.: W7TQR, Georgia, and W7TQP, Carol.

W7TQR - GEORGIA W7TQP - CAROL



**UNUSUAL HOBBY** — Mrs. Carl Austin finds in her ham radio activities, opportunities for fun and community service. (Bend Bulletin Photo)

**Bend Housewife Has Hobby  
 Usually Dominated By Men**

There in Bend is a housewife, who finds herself enjoying a hobby which is overwhelmingly populated by the male of the species.

It is Mrs. Carl Austin of 1127 Central street. She has been finding both fun and community service through her hobby since 1939, when she was licensed by the Federal Communications Commission with the station call letters of W7HHH.

One of 600, she is a member of the international organization for women radio amateurs, the Young Ladies Radio League, which is planning to hold its first convention in Santa Monica, Calif. June 24, 25 and 26.

Beginning in 1939 with 11 members, the league has attained its present membership of women hams from the United States, Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, the Canal Zone, England, France, Italy, Africa, Belgium, Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand.

"Bea," as she is known on the radio waves, shares her hobby with her husband, whose call letters are W7GNJ.

Mr. Austin issued a challenge by telling his wife, jokingly, he knew she could never learn the Morse Code to meet the rigid specifications for an amateur license. His wife, who is, as she puts it, a "show you" girl, went on to get her license. She has a code speed proficiency award to show she can send and receive at 20 words per minute, and has certificates to prove she has had two-way radio contacts with each state of the 48, and with each continent.

No matter how long Bea may continue her ham operations, she will always be known as a "young lady" to her fellow amateurs. In the queer jargon of amateur radio, a woman operator is known as YL, or "young lady" whether she is nine or ninety. The men operators are called OM for "old man."

One of her favorite radio activities these days is as net control for a YL radio network which meets each week. She serves as the mistress of ceremonies, calling the roll of women hams, and then letting them talk to the rest on their own transmitters (one at a time, of course).

Both members of the "Austin" radio stations are active in civil defense, with Austin serving as network manager for the Oregon Emergency Net.

They can take their hobby right along with them on vacation trips, or while Mrs. Austin does the family marketing, for there is a short wave transmitter and receiver in their car. This type of mobile equipment is of great value to communities, in the event that a disaster of some kind should interrupt the power source for the more common modes of communication. Mrs. Austin has received three awards for public service work in communications.

W7HHH - "Bea"