

# WLRJ Scrapbook 1-4

*Emerald Empire Edition  
Aug 12 1957*



VENETA—Mrs. John M. (Bessie) Jeans listens in on the "ham" radio network while preparing dinner in the kitchen of her home. The lady radio operator, who holds a FCC amateur radio license, installed the communications receiver in the kitchen to listen in on the "shop talk" of her many friends on the airwaves.

"W7DIC-Bessie"



VENETA—In the "ham shack," Bessie Jeans talks to a friend at Grants Pass. The lady operator makes many friends through her hobby and feels that she is helping to spread the word about the Veneta community. Mrs. Jeans is a member of the Oregon Emergency Net and participates in roll calls every evening, when the state's "ham" operators exchange information concerning disaster plans.

## "Ham" Radio Makes Friends, Is Fun for Veneta Housewife

By MRS. BEN CAMPBELL  
Register-Guard Correspondent

VENETA — A telephone in a woman's kitchen is quite common these days, but a communications receiver for a "ham" radio set is most unusual.

Mrs. John M. (Bessie) Jeans of Rt. 1, Veneta, has such a receiver in her kitchen so that she can carry on her household duties and yet listen in on the "ham" network. Bessie must use her radio transmitter in the "ham shack" to send messages, however.

Bessie became interested in "hamming" about two years ago through her husband's interest in the subject. She states that in order to be a "ham" you have to pass an examination given by the Federal Communications Commission, requiring proficiency in the sending and receiving of code, plus certain technical knowledge. Bessie says that there is no fee necessary for the license, however.

This spring Bessie joined the Oregon Emergency Net, and now comes in on the two roll calls held every evening at 6 and 7 p.m. Bessie says that during these roll calls "hams" report in from all over the state, giving mes-

sages to other "hams" to deliver. When she first joined the state net she said many of the "hams" had never heard of Veneta, but she has now put Veneta on their maps.

"Ham radio work is a wonderful way to make friends," Bessie says, "and is an excellent hobby for shut-ins and handicapped people." Three women that Bessie has met through her "ham" hobby recently surprised her with a birthday cake and party at her home. The ladies were: Ethel Moore (W7CQW) of Junction City; June Truax, (W7RAX) of Albany, and Greta Tompkins, wife of "ham" operator W7PUH of Corvallis.

Through her membership in the National Amateur Radio Relay League, and the Young Ladies' Radio League, Bessie has made many other friendships.

The Oregon Emergency Net meets regularly and holds a state convention each year. Mr. and Mrs. Jeans recently attended a picnic of the group at Cape Lookout State Park near Tillamook.

During an afternoon interview with this correspondent, Mrs. Jeans made three contacts with fellow "hams." She contacted "Betty" (W7CPV) at Grants Pass,

"Bob" (W7OLU-Portable) at Empire, and "Ed" (W7HDN) at Portland. "Hams" use given names most of the time, as they are contacted by their "ham" call letters.

Although Bessie does not have the equipment at present to reach great distances overseas, she has contacted Alaska, Hawaii and a "ham" (VE3DRO) in Dryden, Ontario, Canada. Bessie keeps a card file on her radio friends, which includes their families and their other interests.

"Work parties" are often set up by lady "hams" who do their sewing or ironing while visiting over the air waves, Bessie says.

The hobby of "ham" radio operation is suited to women, since they are usually near their sets during the day and may be reached while most men are at work. This factor also makes the lady "hams" handy in emergencies. Bessie points out that the "ham" gets a feeling of accomplishment as well as satisfaction in being in a position to render valuable service.

Bessie also explained some of the "ham" shop talk concerning "33" and "73" which appeared in her contacts during the interview. The "33" is a sign of friendship between lady operators, while "73" greets men operators. "Hams" also must identify their station every 10 minutes. Bessie's call number is W7DIC, and it is used to identify her station.

As one of the "hams" said during the interview: "Look things over, but watch carefully that you don't get the bug."



# These 'Minnows' Take To Airwaves

By BARBARA DUNKELBURG

Fish caught in the MINOW net are tasty dishes, indeed, and probably among the most exclusive throughout the world.

All feminine fish, either YL or XYL, they are never seen on a dinner plate.

The only two in Walla Walla, both XYL, are Barbara Wilson, 655 Canary, and Esther Engelhardt Carter, 1237 University, both of whom, for several years, have held conditional Federal Communication Commission licenses as amateur radio operators. YL is "Q" language for Young Lady (single). XYL is a married woman, X for ex.

In keeping with "togetherness trends," YLs and XYLs have formed clubs, with members generally referred to as YL. One of the newest was instigated here by Mrs. Wilson a year ago, comprised of 38 members in Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Washington—hence the club name, MINOW Net (for network).

**Roll Called "Out Yonder"**  
Meetings are held Fridays at 9 a.m., with each member seated before her home AM or Sideband transmitter tuned to 3880 kc and ready with choicest bits of info for her allotted three minutes.

As MINOW net president and control center, Mrs. Wilson calls each YL by her station letters to check the roll and each makes her report. Additional time is allotted for comment after the first round. Elections and other more prosaic details are handled by mail.

At the May 29 session, a former school teacher at Kent, now raising blue-berries, reported a terrific thunder and rain storm; Sue in Tacoma told of attending a YL meeting in Seattle; Jerry in Fairfield, wife of a school-teacher minister, reported vacation plans and that her seven children were well; a northern Washington ranch wife, women in Bend, Ore., Portland, Spokane, Richland and Pollatch were among others commenting at this most unique of club meetings. MINOW members' ages range from 11 years to great grandmothers.

**Has Feminine Touch**  
Current business is assembling favorite recipes of MINOWs into books to be presented at the YL Radio League, Inc., national convention at Columbus, Ohio June 17-19. Even more important will be the scrapbook sent along, containing pictures of MINOWs, eagerly sought by YLs everywhere who have long conversed with "unknown" faces across the airwaves. Mrs. Carter is handling cook book details.

YL Nets have been organized in all sections of the U.S. and 300 members will be attending the convention. MINOWs first met in person at the 1963 annual fall Hamfest of OMs in Walla Walla. (Any male with an FCC license is an Old Man.)

While Mrs. Carter, a Wa-Hi and Whitman College graduate who met her radio technician husband while she was working in the late 1930s as a receptionist for commercial station KJ, is content to "read the mail" (listen). Mrs. Wilson is an avid collector of certificates.



**XYLS ON THE AIR**—Although membership is wide-open, few women qualify for inclusion in MINOW Net of the Pacific Northwest. The only two local members are Mrs. Ed Carter, left, and Mrs. H. M. (Bud) Wilson, both licensed amateur radio operators. The latter

formed the first YL club locally a year ago, after moving here from California. She is District 7 chairman for YL clubs which are affiliated internationally. Meetings are held weekly, with each member "tuning in" from her own home radio "shack".

each Monday, 10 a.m., with MINOWs in Fairfield and in Potlatch, Idaho. Between 11:30 and 12:30 p.m. each day, MINOWs, as well as OMs, listen for Washington net relay messages.  
**Public Is Served**  
Along with increasing general knowledge of electronics, purposes of amateur radiomen and women are to provide a public service, through a traffic net relay system, which can forward messages around the world, and to enhance international goodwill.

These are issued to those making contact with five or more members within a particular net. The Walla Walla certificate is designated "Pea Pickers." In addition, a special certificate is issued for a net member who makes 25 contacts with members who have more than 25 certificates. This can get complicated and takes years of listening and practice, says Mrs. Wilson, who is District 7 (eight western states) chairman for YLRL.

**Oversea Talk Liked**  
She added that in her eagerness to establish contact for a certificate, she almost missed her only conversation with an amateur in the Far East. While scanning the airwaves a year ago, she heard two OMs calling almost simultaneously, both with what she heard as KL7 and zero identification, Alaska. She asked "K-zero" to stand by until she completed transmission with "K-L7." When she finally tuned to the other OM, she was startled to re-identify him as "JA zero," a Mr. Taki speaking from Japan.

This was the almost indispensable service involved following the disastrous Alaska earthquake. A Tacoma MINOW, emphasized Mrs. Wilson, was the first person stateside to learn of the full enormity of the quake. Through her quick efforts, an airliner bound for Anchorage Airport was alerted in time to land at Fairbanks.

Mrs. Wilson relayed messages sent from Anchorage to Seattle, to Walla Walla and thence to California, during the earthquake crisis. No personal messages were put on the air until "general welfare" requests were completed, she added.

**Air Base Contacted**  
Mrs. Wilson did make direct contact with Elmendorf Air Force Base during the disaster, to relay messages locally. Amateur radiomen on military installations, including ships at sea, often are called upon for message relays. Mrs. Wilson is working for a navy certificate—awarded those who have made five contacts with OMs at sea on U.S. Navy ships.

Although radio calls are identified with station letters and numbers, the actual person can be identified by national and international directories, which list station locations such as a telephone book. There are 250,000 licensed radio amateurs in the United States.

Both women admit that most YLs initially become interested in radio through a family male relative, usually a husband, as they both did. Ed Carter now operates a radio and TV service; H. M. (Bud) Wilson is district foreman of Pacific Gas Transmission Co., at Wallula. Cost of an AM transmitter and receiver varies from \$100 to \$2,500.

Want to become a MINOW? Just transmit QRV (I am ready) to K7RAM (Bobbie) or WULXR (Esther) and they'll have your RST (readability, strength and tone at 9 (blasting) in, well, say a year's time.

Walla Walla, Wash., Sunday, May 31, 1964  
Union-Bulletin

IDAHO SUNDAY JOURNAL

Sunday, January 15, 1961

## City Woman Gets Radio League District Office

Mrs. L. P. Mailet, Johnny Creek Road, has been elected chairman of the seventh district and a member of the Board of Directors of the Young Ladies' Radio League, a national organization of licensed women amateur radio operators. Mrs. Mailet's chairmanship duties will be to gather news of members living in the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and Arizona. She will submit the news to the editor of the League's bi-monthly magazine, "YL Harmonics". The League promotes ham radio activities among its members and offers contest prizes and achievement certificates. Mrs. Mailet, who is more familiarly known as Helen, W7GGV, on ham radio, will serve as chairman of the nomination committee seeking League officers for 1962.

# Portland 'Roses' Are Really

Sunday Journal  
*For Miss and Mrs.*

Portland, Oregon, Sunday, March 17, 1957 C1  
SOCIETY / WOMEN'S CLUBS / FASHIONS  
TRAVEL / BOOKS / OJJ / RADIO-TV

## They Handle Traffic Or Just Plain Gossip

By Mary Law Bennett  
Journal Society Editor

When the women shown here this Sunday want to have a little chat they sit down to a radio set and contact another woman ham operator. . . . Sometimes as many as eight girls will be exchanging gossip and chit-chat all at once on what is called, in the ham parlance, a "net." The conversation may go on for hours and each girl gets her turn to talk.

**HUSBANDS** of these girls are hams also; hence their participation in the world of transmitters, Morse code, call letters, etc. They are all licensed operators, in fact must be, to sign a call letter to a message and to work a transmitter.

Some use their sets as means of social relaxation and some like Donna Gettman handle "traffic" or messages to be relayed to other people throughout the state or even further afield.

**HELEN WISE** and her husband, George, like to contact other operators on a world-wide basis. She has even talked to women in the Belgian Congo and estimates she has had conversations with about 150 other women operators.

Helen was first president of the Portland Roses who were organized in July of '55. They and their husbands like to get together for potluck dinner and ham talk and the girls also like to meet other newly-licensed girls in this area.

One member of the original group, Beth Taylor and her husband, Bill, now live in Manzanita. But it's no trouble for Beth to find out what's going on. She gets on the air and talks to her Portland friends.

**MARYANNA** and Ty Kearney also used to live here and now call a trailer in Vancouver home. Maryanna belongs to a mountain rescue unit where her operating talents could save a life.

Most of the girls have children so their time on the air must be sandwiched in between changing the dipes, mixing formula, going to PTA and helping with Brownie or Cub Scout groups. But they do it and love it and think anybody with telephinitis is crazy.

So it's 73's (best wishes) to the Portland Roses and also, Good Luck!

# Ham Radio

# Operators



CALL LETTERS for each operator are as important as their names. Here are Portland Roses and their call letters. Standing from left are: Jean Lucas (W7SPC), Dee Wilson (W7ZKY), Lois Flint (W7TVU), Dorothy Mallison (W7REU). Seated in front are from left: Jene Houston (W7CCF), Donna Gettman (W7QKU), Helen Wise (W7RVM), Eileen Averill (W7QXH), Maryanna Kearney (W7WFO). Maryanna and husband live in trailer in Vancouver, Wash. Ex-member, Beth Taylor, and husband live in Manzanita.

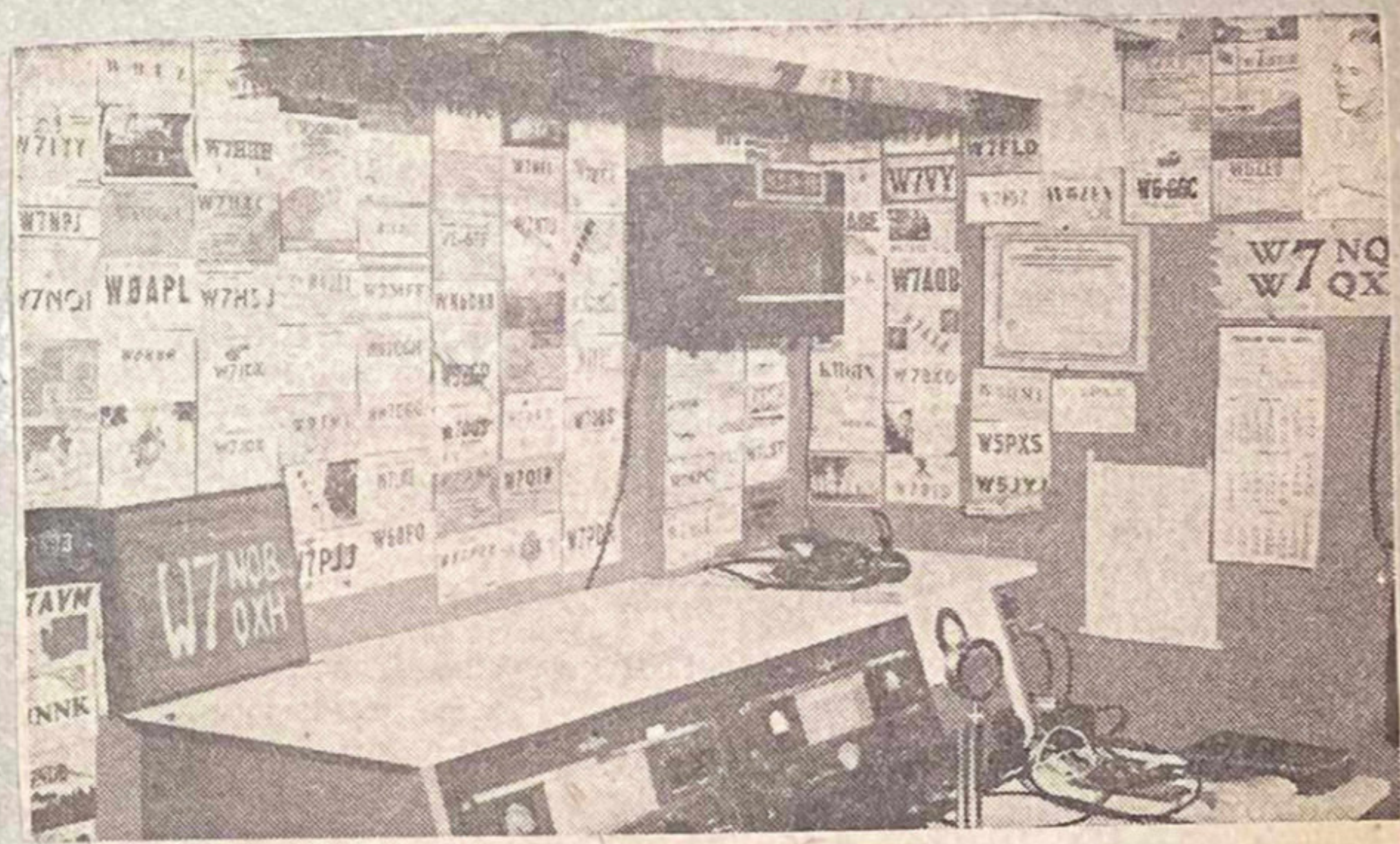


W7DXH-Eileen

"W7ZKS-DEE  
at Mike



EILEEN AVERILL watches Dee Wilson at Wilsons' set in their basement. They own single side-band type. Dee, tranquil even with four children to take care of, still finds few minutes to talk over radio. Eileen has father in Corvallis and they talk over radios as means of communication. Averills bought their set; most of others in group have husbands who have built their own.



WALLS OF Robert E. Averill basement are covered with QSLs, cards sent by hams to confirm radio conversations. Eileen Averill has card from Capt. Kurt Carlsen of Flying Enterprise fame sent from Flying Enterprise II which he now commands. She talked to him while he was down around Canal Zone on his new ship.



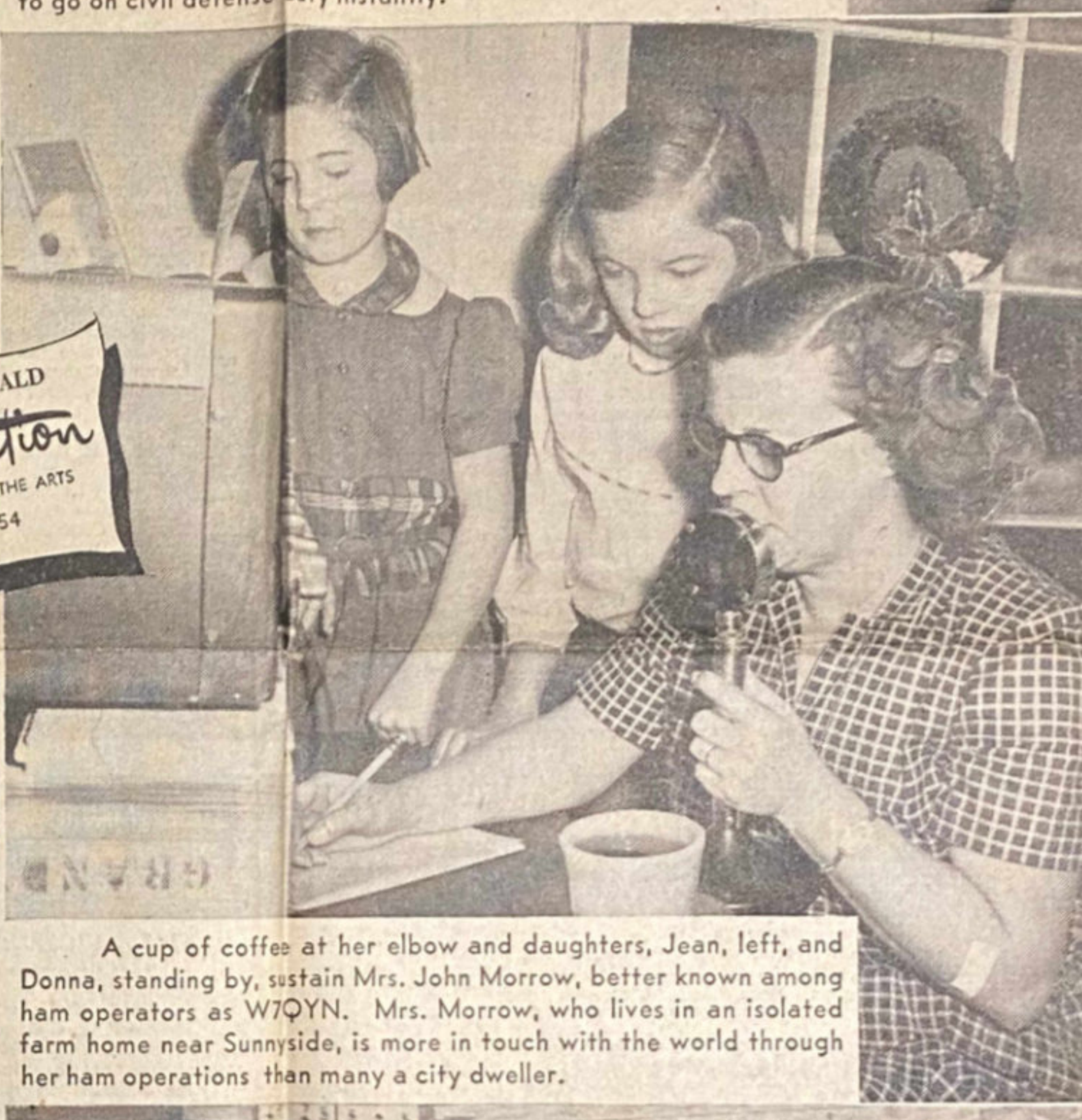
"Look at the time!" says Mrs. J. H. Humes as Dr. Humes stays up until the wee small hours listening to interesting conversation from faraway lands.



This is station W7PQE calling—and at the microphone is Paul Bowden with Mrs. Bowden standing by. All ham operators are able to go on civil defense duty instantly.



Repairing a coil for a transmitter can be a mighty fascinating business, especially if your name is Michael and the man doing the repairing is your father, Louis Roberts.



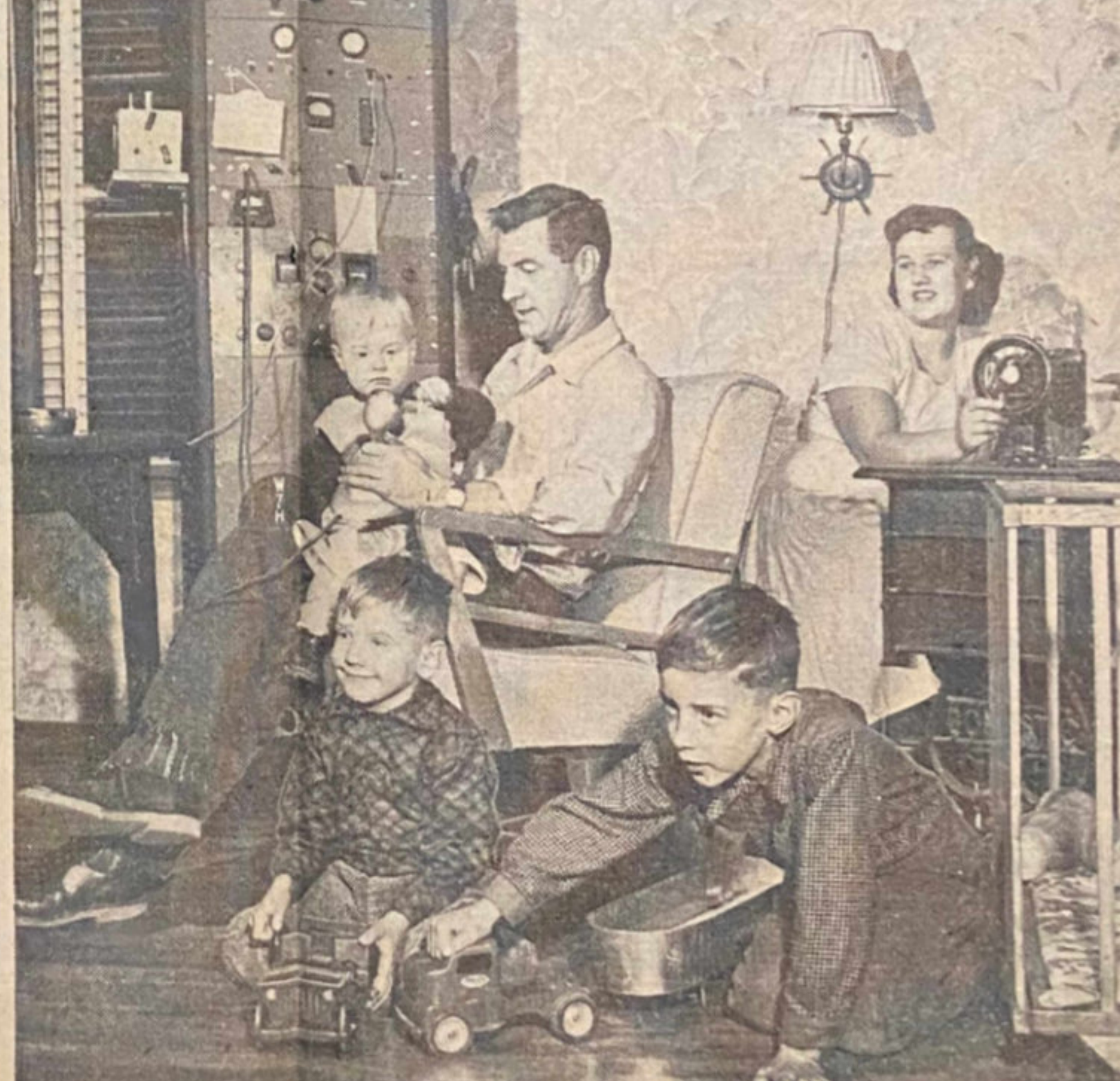
A cup of coffee at her elbow and daughters, Jean, left, and Donna, standing by, sustain Mrs. John Morrow, better known among ham operators as W7QYN. Mrs. Morrow, who lives in an isolated farm home near Sunnyside, is more in touch with the world through her ham operations than many a city dweller.

# "Ham Operators"

A globe with Yakima for the center is used by Glenn Lay to determine the direction of his aerial. Mr. Lay looks on as he indicates where he is transmitting a message.



Ham radio operation fits right in with family activities in the George Collins home. Collins holds Douglas while George, left, and Jimmy play with their toy trucks. Mrs. Collins catches up on the mending.



"Story on Back"

the story is on the back





## Woman 'Ham Operator' Combines Hobby, Homemaking in Ranch Near Sunnyside

By BARBARA ATHERTON  
Herald Correspondent

SUNNYSIDE—Three miles from Sunnyside in a small farm home, Mrs. John Morrow, with no telephone and few trips to town, is never lonely.

"A ham can't be lonely," she explained, and a brief visit would lead one to agree!

Arriving early one afternoon we found Mrs. Morrow finishing the family ironing. She had one ear tuned to the radio apparatus which held a place of honor on a small table in the living room. Telling a "ham friend" that she would have to sign off for awhile since company had come, she explained that she had been talking with a ham operator who was traveling through Oregon and operating a "mobile unit" in his car.

Mrs. Morrow had become acquainted by amateur radio with this operator who is employed by the Alaska Communication Service and had discovered that they had attended grammar school together in Los Angeles. He and his wife were coming to visit the Morrrows the next day. Many friends, one gathered, had been made "via radio."

Before sitting down to visit, Mrs. Morrow suggested that she would like to contact her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Corson of Richland, to give them a family message. Her mother is a piano teacher and her father, employed by the Atomic Energy Commission, has adopted amateur radio as a hobby and is now studying for his "ham license."

He has a smart receiving set and can hear Mrs. Morrow deliver messages. She talked with a ham friend who telephoned her father to listen. Mrs. Morrow then relayed her message and learned incidentally that relatives were coming for lunch one day that week and others for the weekend. In a matter of minutes she had completed plans by radio that would have cost another housewife much more time or expense by letter or telephone. Telephone is the "land line" in ham jargon.

HOW DID A BUSY wife and mother become interested in this fascinating hobby? Through her husband who had been interested in amateur radio "since he was a kid" her interest was first aroused. Five years ago, she explored the possibilities in commercial radio and enrolled in a correspondence course. This was dropped when investigation indicated little opportunity for women in this line. In 1931 Mr. and Mrs. Morrow switched their interest to amateur radio and began studying for a license. In January, 1932, both took the "novice exam" and obtained licenses. In 1933 they received "general class" licenses.

Morrow, whose call letters are WTQY, has his rig on two meters set up in the bedroom. He prefers the higher frequency set and is interested primarily in talking to local hams and in construction of gear.

Mrs. Morrow's set in the family living room is a 75-meter transmitter on which she is able to talk directly to Pacific Northwest operators, or transmit messages overseas or all over the U.S. by relaying them through other amateur operators.

Although one cannot miss the fact that Mrs. Morrow is deeply interested in, and has a contagious

enthusiasm for amateur radio, she was soon telling about her first love "my family." Her husband is a mechanic at a Sunnyside equipment company. Their three daughters, Jean, 14; Donna, 12; and Verle, 8, are in school.

"No, the girls aren't much interested in radio. They want television!" Jean, a ninth grader, and Verle, a good student, in the seventh grade, loves her violin; and Verle, third grader, is artistic. A golden cocker spaniel, Blondie, was happily resting in a box by the stove and Wilbur, the cat, also a favorite completes the family circle.

THE MORROW FAMILY moved to Sunnyside in 1947. In 1952 the Morrrows literally went "to the grass roots," taking on the job of improving 5½ acres of stubble, and putting up a home, where they now live. For two years they lived in a 10 by 24-foot house and in April, 1953, added a 20 by 24-foot section. Tomatoes and sugar beets have been the main farm crops.

The whole family helped dig a good share of digging and the girls help with the barrows. The interior of the home, unfinished as yet, has also claimed much of Mrs. Morrow's time. She learned to use a power saw loaned by good neighbors, and has helped to put up framework around the windows. Welding a brush to paint the house exterior has been another activity.

Housewives who feel neglected without an automatic washer, electric dishwasher, etc., should visit Mrs. Morrow who has no washer and does not complain. They carry water in 10-gallon milk cans from a neighbor's home. Mrs. Morrow goes to Sunnyside once a week to the family washing in a commercial laundry. Plans to dig a well will soon be on the agenda, they hope!

To augment the family income and secure more capital for building the home, Mrs. Morrow held a job for 2½ years driving a school bus for the Sunnyside district. Morrow was bus supervisor and mechanic. In the summer of 1952 they went by train to Ohio, and each drove out a new school bus. No small job for a woman!

ONE BEGINS TO WONDER what other accomplishments or hobbies Mrs. Morrow might have. Just for variety there is one more hobby—collecting salt and pepper shakers. There just isn't much room for them now but they are accumulating and eventually a special shelf will find its way into the home.

And now back to Mrs. Morrow—"ham operator"—with the call letters WTQY. Does being in the country eliminate the chummy morning coffee hour enjoyed by the feminine sex in close neighborhood groups in town? Far from it! Mrs. Morrow and her feminine ham friends "meet" each Wednesday morning. What do they talk about?

"Why you know, — everything any woman talks about — husbands, kids, houses, recipes, cars, clothes, sickness, weddings, —. Well, we just visit, or in ham jargon, engage in 'rag chewing.' Of course it's harmless chatter. There is an unwritten law in amateur radio that one does not gossip." Much enjoyment from the hobby

is gained from a sense of comradeship built up by hams. The Morrrows through radio, have acquired friends all over the Pacific Northwest.

"We know their troubles—their joys."

Mrs. Morrow feels that a person makes better friendships via amateur radio than face to face. "All you have to go on is the voice, and a false impression is not gained by superficial appearance and characteristics. From a person's voice and manner of speech one can tell quite well what type of person he is."

One phase of radio activity most hams enjoy is the so-called "round table," when four or five hams get in on a "round robin chat," or a sequence of transmissions. A "beep-beep" in ham language is translated "let me in" and another voice joins the group. On each Tuesday morning and Saturday afternoon when Mrs. Morrow does the family baking, she asks to be "counted out for a couple of rounds" while she gets her bread and cinnamon rolls mixed and set. She will hear another ham remark, "Well, Lois is in the dough again!" and soon she is back with her "beep-beep" to join the gang.

PERHAPS THE AROMA OF FRESH HOMEMADE BREAD can penetrate the ether waves. At any rate other hams have visited the Morrrows and manage to arrive on baking day.

Ham friendships have brought visitors from many Northwest cities including Seattle, Edmonds, Bremerton, Bothell, Bellingham, Astoria, Vancouver, and Kennewick. One from Alaska has visited and Mrs. Morrow hopes to have a guest book soon to keep a record of these wide friendships.

Lest one think that Mrs. Morrow's radio talk is all fun and idle chatter, we must explain that much of her time is spent on "traffic" in handling messages to or from persons. She can reach most any northwest locality direct, but in going overseas transmits through an amateur operator at McChord Air Force Base and in transmitting to eastern states through a Seattle operator. At one sitting she took 46 messages.

Her most interesting traffic item concerned a Sunnyside serviceman who was on a South Pacific island at the time of a severe hurricane. The boy sent a message that he was "o.k." and the message, picked up by a Seattle ham, was relayed to Mrs. Morrow, who drove to town and left the message for the boy's parents. They had been very concerned and were deeply appreciative.

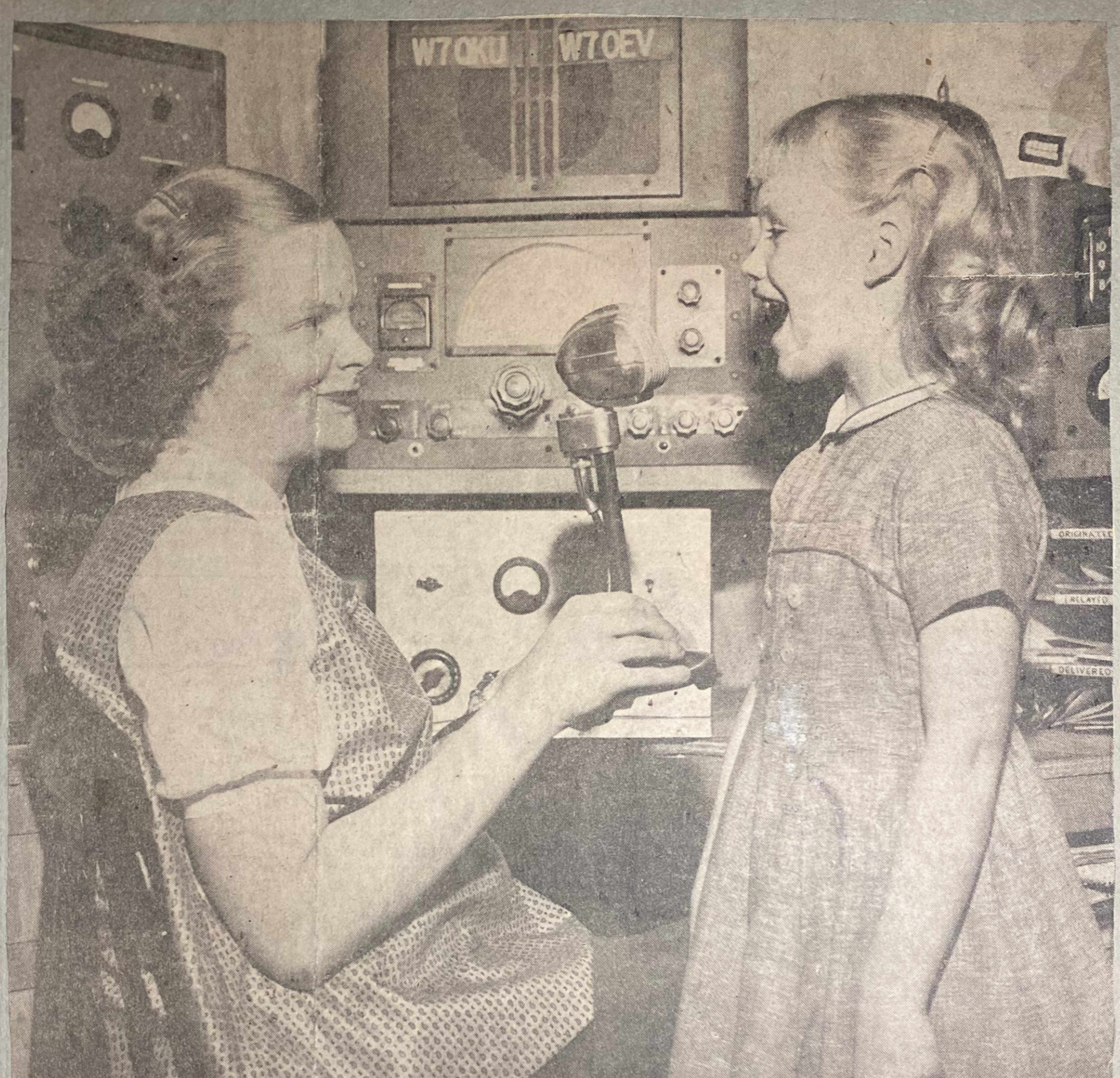
Relaying messages from lone-some servicemen at Christmas is a satisfying and yet sad experience. The contents of messages are not revealed by hams as required by the law of the Federal Communications Commission. Mr. Morrow displayed her license which is renewable each five years.

LOWER VALLEY HAMS have banded together as the Lower Yakima Valley Radio Amateurs, Inc. The group includes members from Prosser through Toppenish. Officers are: Tom Nelson, president; Ray Wolfe, vice president; Elmer Fronek, secretary, and Ben Lyons, treasurer. Hams in the Valley, realizing the importance of communication in event of disaster or emergency, are working on "walkie-talkie" units.

The Morrrows are looking forward to higher power and to assembling parts for a larger "rig." They are now running a 27½-watt rig and the goal is a 55-watt outfit to enable direct transmission overseas.

As we reluctantly left Mrs. Morrow and the fascinating and baffling (to us) apparatus in the corner, we were glad to have had the opportunity to glimpse the strange, interesting, and exciting world of the "ether." We were certain Mrs. Morrow would soon be saying "WTQY calling — beep-beep—let me in!"

Portland Roses LowT.  
"1957"



DONNA GETTMAN (left) is president of Portland Roses, group of women ham radio fans. Donna and husband, Dave live in Oak Grove in barn-red house with window filled with African violet

plants. Sherrie, shown here, who's 7, and brother, David, often talk over short wave and some day may turn out to be operators themselves. Donna has medal given her by American Radio Relay league.

WTQY - DONNA



1965  
"PORTLAND ROSES"

PORTLAND, OREGON, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1965

K7UER Ready For Any Crisis

Call Letters Of Portland Roses Go Round The Globe

By VELMA CLYDE  
Club Editor, The Oregonian

"Women should be seen and not heard," 'twas once said. Whoever said it didn't dream of the women who would be heard and not seen. At least, not seen by their conversationalists.

They are the women ham operators. YL's or Young Ladies is their identification on the air. Portland Roses is the name of their club. Club call letters are K7UER—assigned by the Federal Communications Commission.

Members of Portland Roses must have an active ham license and be at least 18 years of age. To hold an amateur radio operator license one must pass a FCC examination. To pass the test each person must be able to receive and send messages via Morse code at the rate of 13 words per minute; must know radio theory and all regulations covering amateur radio operation. Every license holder remembers the tense moments of examination time. "It's nerve racking and tough," they say.

In times of emergency and especially when communications have been knocked out the women perform a vital service. Frequently husbands and wives are ham fans, but each has his or her own call number.

Storm Aid Given

During the Columbus Day storm, the Alaskan earthquake, the recent Christmas flood, and innumerable times when children or adults have been lost, the women pictured on this page, along with other Portland Roses, have been a critical link in the communications chain.

"The most wonderful experience of all is when I have had the opportunity to inform parents or relatives that a lost child has been found," said Mrs. Donald (Cecil K7VFC) Thomas.

Mrs. Thomas, who is president of Portland Roses, has served as the Portland station (the official station through which messages are transmitted and returned to the field) on a number of mountain search and rescue operations. Ham operators work with the volunteer Mountain Rescue Safety Council of Oregon, known as MORESCO. They do not use the same frequency or radio bands used by civil authorities, such as police, sheriffs, etc.

Hams Well Disciplined

On the air a ham operator uses her first name and call number. Their lingo is esoteric but accurate logs of conversations and contacts are a requirement. Amateur radio operators (not to be confused with citizen-band radio) have an intense loyalty to the regulations and code of ethics. Although regulated by FCC they adhere strictly to self-discipline, one learns by even a casual conversation with licensed operators.

YL is the term meaning Young Lady used for all women radio amateur operators, young or old. QSL is the name of the postcard sent from one ham to another to confirm a radio contact. QSL cards are coveted almost as collectors items, especially those from distant countries around the globe.

Photographs by Leonard Bacon



DONNA W7QKU is Mrs. David Gettman's name and call letters on the air. During an emergency Donna had to repair a wind-damaged antenna. She is the only woman in the Northwest to hold the trafficker's award, Brass Pounders League medallion, for handling at least 500 messages a month for three months. The award is presented by ARRL (American Radio Relay League).

PORTLAND ROSES "1965"



PORTLAND ROSES are pulling Oregon's amateur radio operators' names out of U.S. Call Book to catalogue them by city, name and call letters to speed action in emergencies. (From left) Mrs. W. M. (Ruth K7ADI) Donnelly, who worked many hours in Red Cross emergency station during Christmas flood; Mrs. Gordon (Edith K7PEE) Bennett; Mrs. Alfred (Pat W7NOK) Ziegler.

AUTO LICENSES may be issued in the call number of an amateur radio operator. Mrs. Gordon (Edith K7PEE) Bennett says it is handy to call her husband Gordon K7PED in his ham equipped car and ask him to stop by the grocery store on his way home. She is secretary of Portland Roses.



BETH (W7NJS) TAYLOR has held an amateur radio operator's "ticket" or license for 16 years. Off the air she is Mrs. William Taylor. She and her husband met through their mutual hobby at a national ham convention in 1951. She alerted authorities to Christmas flood conditions that led to evacuation of homes along Willamette River below the Taylors' home in Oak Grove.





Portland Roses - 1965



"THE RIG" is ham operators' name for transmitter, Mrs. Donald (Cecil K7VFC) Thomas is president of Portland Roses. QSL cards on wall show contacts Cecil and other members of the family (all hams) have made with other amateur radio enthusiasts around the world. Teenage daughter Linda launched family of four on hobby.



WADE K7PHP HULL is co-ordinator for the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps. His station is in Portland. Along with fellow ham operators he has worked on many rescues. He is the owner of an automotive service but is ready whenever called on an emergency. "Roses" often take his field calls.

CLEVELAND, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1940

Young Ladies Radio League Wins Honor by Their Efforts



Members of the Young Ladies for themselves in amateur short-Radio League are making a name wave radio. Lenore Kingston Conn-ville Hospital nurse, Carol Conrad operates Station W9CHD, Chicago. Anita Bien (in circle), publicity here. Mildred Wildman (upper right), also of Cleveland, operates W8PZA.

WBNAZ - Lenore

W9CHD - Anita

W8UCY - Carol - Lower Right  
W8PZA - Mildred Upper Right

Air Waves Tingle for Women Radio 'Hams'

There is a feminine touch in many a message speeding by short wave from soldiers in camp to the folks at home. For the hand that rocks the cradle has now manifested equal dexterity in tapping a radio key.

In every one of the nation's nine short-wave districts, women amateur radio operators are operating their own "ham" stations as licensed short-wave experts. Nationally organized a year ago as the Young Ladies Radio League, 100 women in 40 states, ranging in age from 14 to 74, are making amateur radio their hobby.

Last June Mrs. Anita Bien, 1062 E. 78th Street, publicity director of the league, established its first chapter here.

The Y. L. R. L. membership, comprised of radio actresses, business girls, housewives, shut-ins, nurses and teachers, follows its short-wave work without interest in financial gain.

Romances Frequent  
But there is another kind of gain, in coin of the feminine realm, that they welcome with open arms. The Morse code may sound like an unlikely medium for the language of love, but through it many girl "hams" begin air-wave romances. Marriages between "hams" are frequent and happy.

Romance, however, is not the sole interest of Y. L. R. L. members. In the Ohio flood and other disasters some of them have won as many as three public service certificates for their heroism in maintaining communication with stricken areas.

Canadian girl operators are now teaching code to air corps members. Many American girls are relaying messages for army stations and performing monitor duty, a form of radio police work which consists of detecting outlawed or unlicensed stations. Others are experts in decoding secret messages.

War overseas has caused the United States government to forbid all amateur operators to exchange messages with other countries, under penalty of losing their licenses. Even so, American "hams" have cause to rejoice; few nations allow amateurs as much freedom as they enjoy here.

Several long-treasured masculine beliefs have been fatally jolted by Y. L. R. L. members. The supposed helplessness of women confronted by complicated machinery is thoroughly contradicted by the ease with which they learn code and master the intricate tricks of radio construction.

Just to scotch the tradition that women are gabblier than men, three-fourths of the Y. L. R. L. hams prefer code work to talk. "Rag chews" certificates, sent to operators who talk more than a half hour straight on the air, are awarded to men and women in about equal proportions.

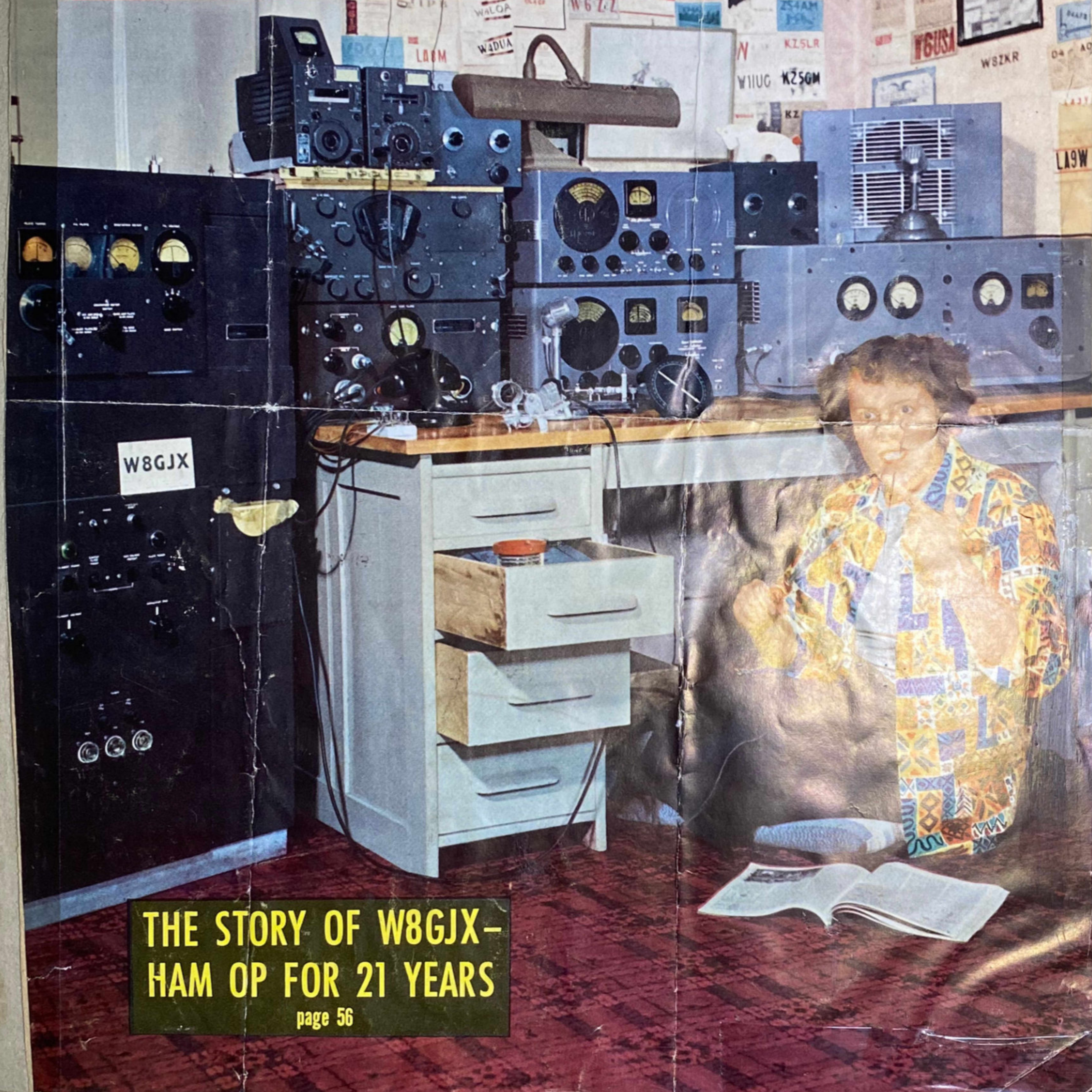
Mrs. Bien, one of the eight Cleveland Y. L. R. L. members, is a former dancer and professional publicist. Now employed at the Union Bank of Commerce, she reports that the Y. L. R. L. expects to hold its first national convention in Chicago next fall.

The Year 1940  
Do You Remember?



# RADIO & TELEVISION NEWS

SEPTEMBER 1950  
35¢  
In Canada 40¢



**THE STORY OF W8GJX—HAM OP FOR 21 YEARS**  
page 56

"1950"

*A youthful hobby has paid big dividends in fun and friendship for this amateur.*

## 21 Years A HAM

*HELEN CLOUTIER, W8GJX*

**A** STORY to go with the cover picture," the Editor suggested, "on how you got into ham radio."

After writing for 10 years, this has been the hardest yarn I've ever attempted.

Perhaps it was the strange noises, the dots and dashes sprinkled with an overdose of QRM or, remotely, it might have been the fact that we were supposed to be hearing the Byrd Expedition, but most probably it was plain, old-fashioned curiosity that made me decide to study radio.

I know that my desire to understand the dots and dashes and to know what they meant hurried along my eager study of the code. Note-throwing in high school may have had a place in the pattern too.

During the summer of 1929, I managed a beauty shop in Frankfort, Michigan and was able to attend a radio school each evening. By September I had my class "C" license and the call W9GJX.

Operating the low-powered transmitter at the school gave me plenty of practice in procedure and plenty of helpful (?) advice from the rest of the students. The instructor, then chief operator of WFK, gave the students a chance to operate the commercial station and learn all the fine points of commercial operating.

When I returned to Manistique, W9GJX went on the air. My first station consisted of a Hartley circuit with about 15 watts c.w. on all bands, a Silver-Marshall receiver, and a doublet antenna. With it I worked all states and plenty of DX.

Not satisfied with class "C," theory was the next step. Always difficult for me, schematics, Ohm's Law, and the intricacies of elementary electricity were slowly and painfully digested with the tenacity of a billy goat eating the proverbial cans. Finally, though rather hesitantly, I decided that I could pass the Federal examination.

The train trip to Chicago, our nearest examination point, was a flurry of drawing diagrams, reading the Amateur's Handbook until I was sure I knew nothing at all about any of it. Until the day I received my new class "B" ticket I reviewed the questions and diagrams in my mind and wondered whether I'd answered any of them right.

For the next few years I remember vaguely that I worked and I remember, much more vividly, the many QSO's I had with new-found friends throughout the country. I also recall the hams that suddenly and without warning, knocked on our door and asked for the radio operator.

I am sure that many times during those first years of ham radio my mother wondered what sort of offspring she had been blessed with and perhaps, secretly, wished that I had been a dish-washing, cake-baking kind of girl.

I know she especially wondered about my sanity when, at any hour day or night, I would dash from my bedroom transmitter room and yell frantically that I had just talked to Belgium or England or some other equally remote place.

Mother, at that time, was operating her beauty shop and I was supposed to be working with her. Between appointments and every spare moment I was at the transmitter.

From time to time new additions were made to the station equipment and various visiting hams adjusted the transmitter or suggested changes, some good, some bad but always more expensive, until, before the war, I was running about 200 watts on c.w. and using a Stancor 20-P as experimental phone.

Many other interests, playing pipe organ at the local theater, a job I had filled from my freshman year in high school, teaching dancing, operating in Mother's shop kept every minute filled to the brim. But hamming was my relaxation, my recreation, my traveling with the least exertion. I became a member of the ARRL, was net control alternate for the AARS in the ninth district, was made route manager in 1931, ORS in 1931, and was elected to the A1 operators club in the same year.

When I married, strangely enough a non-ham, and moved from Manistique, Dad decided to become a ham so that he could talk to me every day. He studied and passed his class "C" and was ready to go on the air. His call was W9UTY and, after letting his license lapse during the war, later W8ZKR. From 1932 on Dad and I kept two daily schedules on 80 meter c.w., and after the war we worked ground-wave on ten meters.

The years after leaving home were filled with running a beauty shop, operating my dancing school, raising a family of two boys, photography, and hamming.

Then came the war and a request that I teach radio for the AAF.

I was glad to have the opportunity of putting my radio experience to some good use. While teaching, I took the ground course along with the classes and did a bit of flying. When the war ended CAP asked me to teach for them, and W9GJX went back on the ham bands as W8GJX.

It was good to be back on the air, good to renew acquaintances with old c.w. friends and the new experience of working on ten meter phone was thrilling. Exposed as they had been for years, Jack, Jack Jr., and Chuck had never shown any interest until I swapped my dream of a mink coat for a BC-610 transmitter and an SX-25 receiver and pre-selector plus a ten meter beam and Premax "Roto-Mount." Then, when they could hear voices instead of dots and dashes, their interest perked up.

The whole family could enjoy it now and that, in itself, made my hobby more enjoyable to me. Now they could listen in, could take the mike and talk for themselves. Unconsciously they learned the "slanguage" of the phone bands.

Ham radio has given me many wonderful leads for stories for another of my hobbies—writing. After one develops a "nose for news" and an ear for a likely story, it is only another way to learn about the unusual, a new way to conduct an interview.

One such story started with a chat with W4OB in Tampa, Florida. Pat is a ship's pilot for passenger boats and freighters coming into Tampa Bay from the Gulf of Mexico. We drifted into many lengthy conversations about his duties as a ship's pilot and after daily QSO's I decided that here was material for a different sort of a story. On a later trip to Florida I contacted Pat, took pictures on the island where the men live between trips to the mainland and I had a story that made the front pages of 23 Florida newspapers.

Through radio I met Nat McKelvey of Tucson, Arizona, a prominent non-fiction writer, and we talked shop. The net result of some of these almost daily chats was collaboration on several stories that sold to national magazines, and a fine friendship.

I met His Honor Mayor Earl Mead of Huntley, Montana, became an "official Dogcatcher" by appointment and another story was born.

I have certificates that prove I'm a member of the WAA (Worked All Alamogordo, New Mexico—the home of the A bomb), that I'm a member of the Black Eyed Pea Net of North Carolina, and a member of the Rag Chewers Club, the YLRL, and that I've worked so many stations in Orlando that I not only got the promised box of delicious fruit from them for working 15 stations but am now working on a key to the City Hall. Incidentally, I received the second box of fruit sent out by the Orlando Radio Club, the first box was sent to a KZ station.

My latest project is to get a "Polecat Certificate." I've exchanged insults with some of the W7 polecats but have not yet contacted the required number to entitle me to a full-fledged membership in that exclusive fraternity.

The author in her ham shack. This modern ham station has developed over a period of years from the original Hartley circuit with 15 watts c.w., a Silver-Marshall receiver, and a doublet to a fully equipped shack with a BC-610 transmitter, a SX-25 receiver and pre-selector, a 10 meter beam, and a modern antenna rotator.

Somewhere toward the end of 1949 an idea began to incubate. The little red man began to needle me. "You've been class 'B' for 20 years, why don't you start out 1950 right. Or maybe you're too dumb anyway." This red gremlin promoted a trip to Chicago, the class "A" examination and, on February 2, two weeks and a half after taking the examination, my class "A" ticket arrived.

All this, in turn, promoted me to that popular niche on 75 meter phone, a huzzard on the "Buzzard's Roost Net," and to the Michigan Emergency Net.

The present routine of the day includes, operating my beauty shop, managing a 10-room home, three meals a day for the three men of the family, writing non-fiction and working on my seventh book of fiction, hamming, chasing BCI, and photography.

Yes, the old adage holds true, "To be a ham, you don't have to be crazy, but it sure helps!"

Ask any ham!



## Radio Is Their Telephone



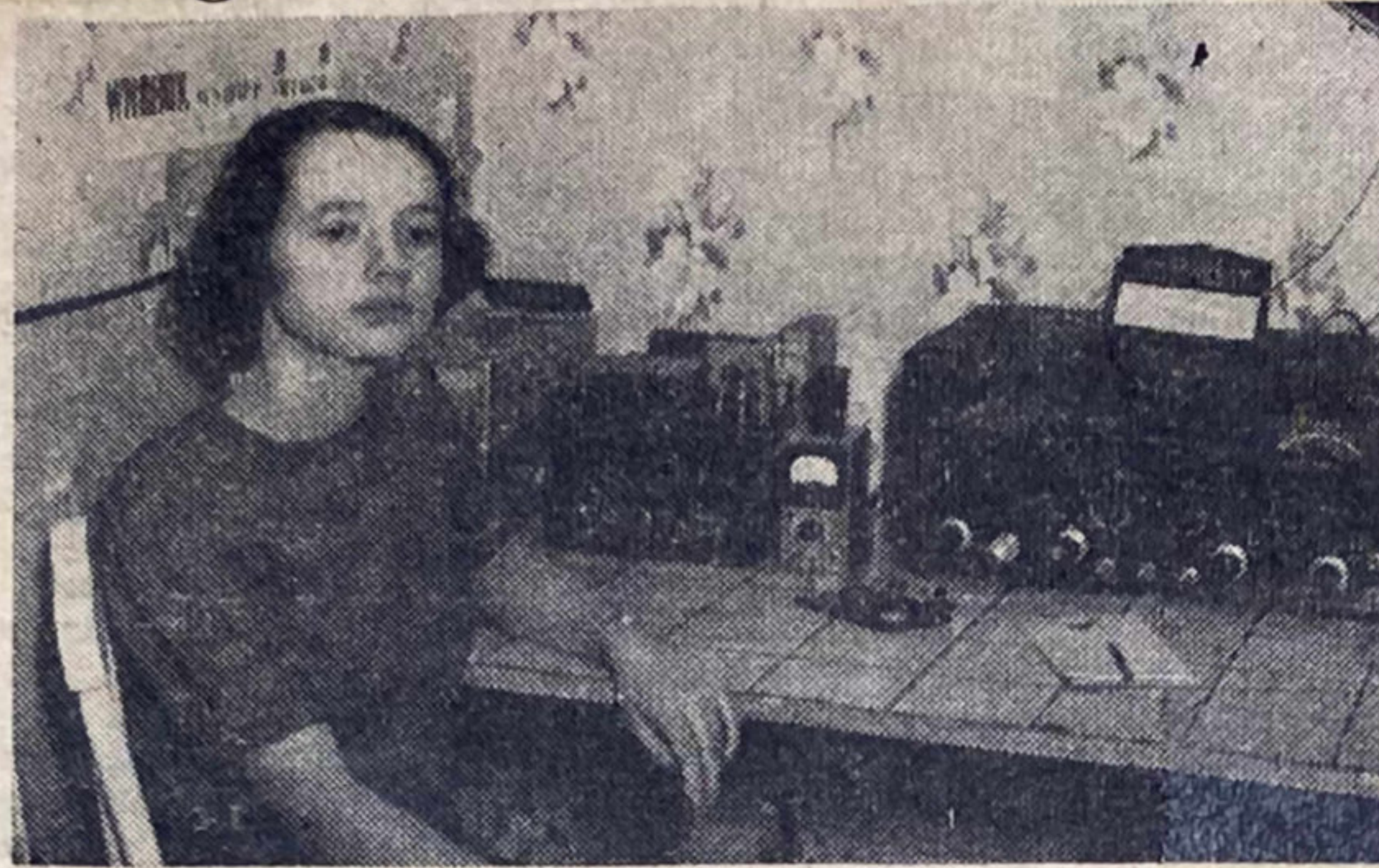
1. When radio ham George Toppe interested his wife in his radio hobby they found they needed two radio stations. While Mrs. Toppe and daughters, Joan (left), 8, and Jennet, 13, sit by their station in their home at 5523 W. Washington Blvd., they are able to talk with the head of the family, who has a station in his automobile.



2. Toppe, treasurer of the Quality Biscuit Co., carries on his conversation from the car. He takes part of his lunch hour every day to converse with his family and tunes in again on his way home for another chat.

Sentinel photos by Tony Neuman.

## Young Radio Operator and Equipment



ONE OF THE YOUNGEST young ladies in the country to obtain a radio operator's license is Reta Bryan, of Gloucester, pictured above with her short wave sending and receiving equipment at her home on Taylor Ridge—Photo by Harold Vaughn.

## The Name "HAM" Is Certainly Not A Title For This Young Lady, Age 13

Amateur short wave radio operators, after they pass strict Federal Communication Commission Tests and obtain their licenses, are commonly known as "HAMS".

We think they could have found a more becoming nickname, or perhaps even provide one special in this instance. For the title of "HAM" certainly is not appropriate for Gloucester's young radio operator, 13-year-old Reta Bryan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Bryan, Route 3, Gloucester.

But she doesn't seem to mind the title and is mighty proud of her Novice Radio Operator's License. Over the airways Reta is known as WN8HPP, Gloucester, Ohio, Taylor Ridge Road, and she operates her station on 37.31 kilocycles.

### Everything In Code

All the transmitting and receiving on Reta's little radio station is done in code. Dots and dashes, that is. You know how it is when you turn your radio on to short wave bands and hear something like "Dah-dah-dit,

dit-dah-dit-dit, dah-dah-dah, dit-dah, dit-dit-dit, dah, dit, dit-dah-dit". To most of us that sounds like a bunch of mixed up mumbo-jumbo and makes a rather annoying racket. But to Reta, the above "dahs and dits" spell out GLOUSTER.

Reta can send and receive 25 words a minute. Twenty words a minute is the requirement for the highest class radio operator's license. Not bad for the eighth grade student at Jacksonville school, is it?

### How Did She Become A Radio Operator?

How did she happen to become a radio operator, and one of the youngest in the country too? She just became interested in the dots and dashes, and with help from Fred Heffken, of Jacksonville, his station is WHCRS, began to learn the code and operation of the radio transmitter and receiver. Then she studied the F.C.C. regulations and soon became proficient enough to take a test for

## THE NAME HAM IS CERTAINLY NOT A TITLE FOR THIS YOUNG LADY

(Continued From Page One)

the radio operator's license, which she passed with flying colors last fall, October 2, 1951 to be exact.

She operates a BC-457 40-watt transmitter, which can be seen at the left of the picture accompanying this story, and tunes on a Hallierater S-76 receiver, the large unit at the right of the picture.

### Talked To Detroit and Uniontown

The first question most people will ask Reta, is "how far away have you made contact with another operator". We asked her the same question and she answered Detroit, Michigan, and Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

Every night at a certain time she contacts Mr. Heffken for a chat via the "dit-dit-dah" medium. She said that she has recently contacted Fred Sanders, of Trimble, who is back on the air with a new license. Then Orville Bingham, Gloucester's old-time amateur radio operator, has also been contacted over the airways.

"How do you go about calling someone over short wave radio?" we asked Reta. She said it is all very simple. First you send out the letters "CQ" followed by your call letters. The "CQ" we understand, means "seek you", just what it sounds like. From that point on it got too deep for us. But it must be simple, at least that is the impression you get after a chat with Reta.

Yes, Gloucester people can be mighty proud of their young radio operator. It takes practice and study to qualify as an amateur radio operator.

But we still think there should be a more appropriate title than "HAM" for young ladies like Reta Bryan when they become radio operators.

**HAM DELEGATES**—Two Flint women will attend conventions of the Ladies Radio League, ham organization.

Mrs. Martin Bees, 2039 E. Whittemore Ave., will go to the first international convention of the LRL at Santa Monica, Calif., June 24 to 27. Mrs. John Stuewe, G-4098 E. Atherton Rd., will attend the Midwest convention of the LRL May 20 and 21 in Chicago.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 1952



THERE'S NO SIGNAL fading when "Lady Hams" in the Dayton area transmit from their short wave stations. Joy Self, left above, who is studying for her radio amateur's license, takes the mike over from her mother, Lil Self, in the family "ham shack." Next, Louise Rippe listens for a call in

the MARS station at Wright-Patterson Air Force base. Only duly licensed amateurs over 21 years of age who possess short wave equipment of their own are allowed to operate at the base. At the right, Eleanor Haburton taps out a message about the forthcoming Dayton Amateur Radio Association's convention. Asked how much short wave equipment

costs, Mrs. Haburton said most hams don't keep track because they would rather not know. Some of the men operators don't keep a record of expense, she says, because they'd hate to tell their wives. A national magazine recently set \$589 as the amount spent by the average amateur short wave operator for his equipment.

"1952"



## World In Ear-Shot Of Lady Hams Here

BY HELEN WARREN  
Daily News Staff Writer

"I DON'T try to work a lot of DX . . . too much trouble getting through the QRM. I'm a rag chewer," Mrs. Ralph Haburton of 1335 Oakdale av., cocked an eye at dinner cooking on the stove as she answered our question.

Mrs. Aaron C. Self opened the door of her home at 711 Liscom dr. as she gave us her reply. "The OM hasn't put our beam up yet, so we don't get out too much. I conflag on the net once a week, though."

Young-voiced Mrs. Herbert Rippe of the Thomas trailer court near Fairborn answered by phone. "Oh, yes," she responded eagerly, "we pick up a lot of QSL's with the rig in the MARS shack at the Field."

I led into this double talk recently with one innocent question—"Do you talk to many foreign places over your short wave radios?"

Answers were Young Lady hams, a term used for female short wave operators regardless of age, rank or marital status.

**SELF-STYLED RAG** chewer Eleanor Haburton shot another glance at the stove as she translated.

"DX is long distance, QRM is interference and this is my rig," she pointed to a radio receiver and transmitter on what in any other household would have been the breakfast table.

"This is the ideal hobby for a housewife. You can sit and gab all day without bothering to get cleaned up and go over to the neighbors," matter-of-fact Eleanor pointed out.

"What's more, my rig is in the kitchen, so I can chew the rag and cook at the same time. Only disaster I ever had was burning a chicken," she added as she turned off the stove.

**LAST YEAR** Eleanor decided there was nothing in being a "ham widow," so she took up her husband's hobby of short wave radio.

Former editor of a Trenton, Mo., daily newspaper and reporter for an Air Force magazine, Eleanor explains that she had no particular aptitude for radio work. Nevertheless she passed her license examination, and is now the only "YL" member of the Dayton Amateur Radio association.

At present Eleanor is busy with plans for a "ham-vention" March 22 for amateurs from Southwestern Ohio. Her job is to provide entertainment for the

ex-YL's who will accompany their husbands.

Wives of amateur shortwave operators who don't have licenses themselves are ex-YL's. Men operators are OM's—old men; but in the chivalrous short wave world no woman ever becomes an OW.

On the technical side, Eleanor operates on CW (telegraph key rather than microphone) operates station W8GJP and has a bug, or electric key, but hasn't quite enough skill yet to keep up with it.

"The dits go too fast for me with the bug," she says. Incidentally, dots and dashes of the Morse code have turned into diddy-dada-diddys (spelling strictly phonetic) in the new method of learning the code by sound.

**INTERIOR DECORATORS** might take note that homes in the short wave fraternity don't have studies, rumpus rooms or libraries—just ham shacks.

It was in the family ham shack that Lil Self, W8YFT on the air, explained that her husband hadn't put up the proper antenna for her 20 meter phone yet, so she doesn't get a great deal of long distance. However, she and several other YL's hook up on a network each Thursday and have a gossip session that would make old-fashioned party line listeners green with envy.

How do the OM's like the YL's butting in on the short wave bands?

The vivacious brunette answered by opening her switch and going through a line of short wave double talk that sounded more complicated than a Pentagon buck slip. A Kansas farmer named Lee answered her call and she relayed the question to him.

"There are so few YL's on the air it is always a pleasure and an honor to 'meet' one," came back the operator of "W, Zero, Y, Cee Zed." (If these hams are as diplomatic off the air as on, we need them for the State department!)

**THE RIPPES** had to saw an arm off a chair to crowd Louise's short wave equipment into their trailer.

This crowding is one reason Louise does much of her short wave operating at the Military Amateur Radio System station at Wright-Patterson. The system is sponsored by the Department of Defense to train civilian short wave operators in case of military need.

The QSL's Louise said they picked up at the MARS shack are postcards confirming conversations with stations all over the world.

**ONE OMINOUS** item picked up in my rounds of the local YL's is the 10 meter mobile unit in Self's car. Lil says she can follow her husband over it for 30 miles.

Look, gals, your glorified party line hookups are fine and you amateurs are invaluable in case of emergency. But please, let's leave man his last stronghold of privacy—his automobile.



HEROINE of Ohio floods is Mildred Wildman. Kibitzer is her husband, also a ham

W8PZA—"Mildred"

## "It's A Tidal Wave!"

That radio warning saved a town. In such emergencies girl "hams" find excitement between short-wave gabfests

**A** MAN ran down the snow-banked streets of Naknek, Alaska. He pounded on the door of a small cabin.

"Come in," a girl's muffled voice said. "I'm washing my hair."

Two minutes later, a scarf wrapped around her damp curls, the girl was racing to an airfield hangar at the edge of town.

"Thank God you're here," said a mechanic. Morse code was crackling into a short-wave receiver. "It's something about a tidal wave."

Verna St. Louis, amateur radio operator, sat down at the transmitter. Her fingers twitched the brass telegraph key.

"CQ ANCHORAGE. CALLING ANCHORAGE," the signal flicked out into the air. "THIS IS KL7AX, NAKNEK."

By now most of the village was clustered anxiously outside the radio room. Inside,

Verna strained to catch the faint answering dots and dashes.

"A ninety-foot tidal wave," she said finally. "Due here in three hours. We've got to get out—fast!"

When the waters hit Naknek, all its people were inland. Verna's work had saved scores of lives. She's typical of the 2,000 women ham-radio operators steadily invading a "man's field."

Known as YL's—young ladies—female hams range from schoolgirl to grandmother. One of the country's first YL's is still active at 80; and a nine-year-old girl was a world's code speed champion.

### New Way to Gossip

NORMALLY the YL is busy at her unique form of back-fence gossip, rag-chewing over the short waves about skirt lengths or crystal oscillators. Her lapel pin or license plate carries the "73-88," ham language for "best wishes, love and kisses." Her call letters are appliquéd on bedspreads and blouses.

But in time of emergency the YL's telegraph key or hand microphone is often the only means of communication for a flooded or

### BY NORMAN AND AMELIA LOBSENZ

fire-stricken city. Every major catastrophe sees YL's at work. Those with portable sets operate from the center of the danger zone. When current is cut off, those with battery-powered equipment handle messages for police and fire crews, Red Cross units, government agencies.

**Mildred Wildman, W8PZA, of Cleveland, flashed emergency messages during Ohio floods and a Cleveland Heights gas explosion in 1944.** In the Texas City disaster, W5IZL, Ruth Brown, operated 24 hours a day to speed messages to and from the stricken area.

And when a child was lost in a Maine forest, W2HXQ, Kay Kibling, won national acclaim by handling radio contacts with the searching parties.

The Federal Communications Commission doesn't let chivalry soften its rigorous licensing exam. A YL, like any ham, must send and receive 13 words a minute in international Morse code, know radio theory and laws, and diagram such things as amplifier circuits and wave traps.

Feminine interest in ham radio usually occurs simultaneously with interest in a ham. Alice Stewart is one of hundreds of girls who met

their husbands-to-be on the short waves, got their marriage licenses along with radio licenses.

YL's are often members of "ham families." Mary Ann Tatro, Olympia, Wash., practiced by putting a telegraph key on the dinner table and asking her husband and son for "more salad, please" in code. And Maude Phillips, VE6MP, of Alberta, Canada, turned ham after years of vainly trying to get her husband to meals on time. Now she has to tear herself away from the transmitter to get the meals ready.

### Usually a Hobby

To most YL's hamming is only a hobby, but for some it leads to engineering careers. Take Elizabeth Zandonini, for instance. She's a radio-wave refraction expert, has been a U. S. Bureau of Standards engineer for 25 years, and is a member of the jealously masculine Institute of Radio Engineers.

Hundreds of YL's go into aviation communications and broadcast work. One with an unusual job is Dorothy Hall, radio control

operator for the New York City Fire Department. She alerts mobile units—rescue squads, ambulances, fireboats—and keeps in touch with portable transmitters at fires to relay requests for extra men or equipment.

On her own amateur station Dorothy has aided half a dozen sea rescues, served as "home base" for expeditions, once short-waved a corn-bread recipe to the hungry crew of an ice-trapped Arctic survey boat. She made the most famous contact in ham history when she picked up an appeal for food and medicine from starving Pitcairn Island and got a relief ship there within 30 hours.

YL's figured importantly during the war. They taught code to Air Force trainees, worked in Signal Corps labs, staffed assembly lines in electronics plants.

But mostly the girls are riding their hobby for the fun of it. One YL is playing Cupid. An Alaskan amateur, unable to get mail out during the winter, telegraphs his letters to the YL, who writes and mails them to his sweetheart in California.

But all YL's are sending out their CQ in search of old friends, and in hope of finding new ones. For to the YL, ham radio is, above all, a combination coffee-klatch, town meeting, afternoon bridge club. It's a personal window on the world.

The End

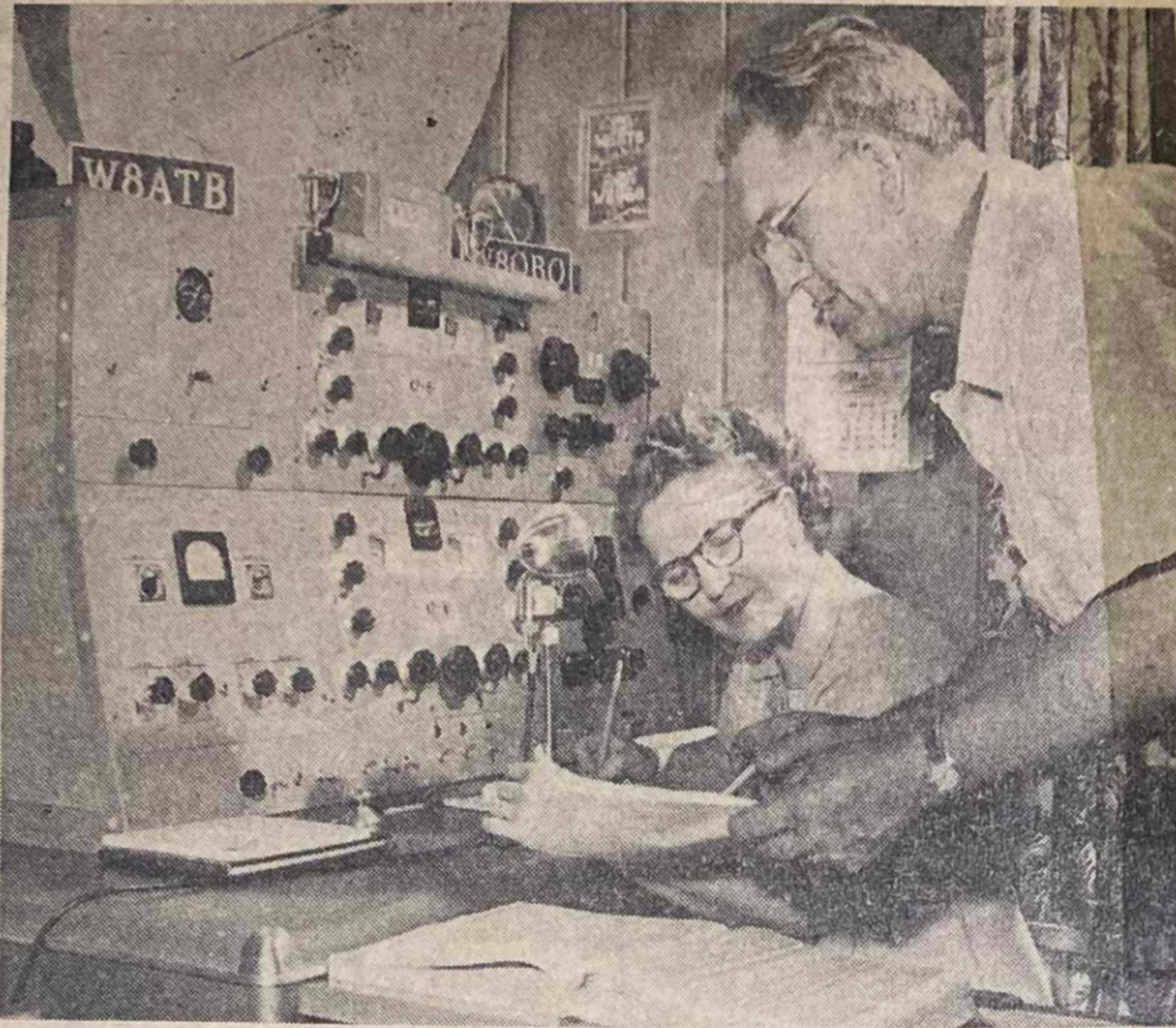


Verna: "We've got to get out fast!"



# 'Ham' Couple Weary and Happy After Long Hours Relaying Tornado Messages

By Marjorie Olson  
 One tired couple in this weary and torn city were content today, knowing that they had done everything in their power to comfort worrying friends and relatives all over the country.  
 The couple, John and Esther Stuewe, 4098 E. Atherton Rd., kept constant vigil at their ham radios and their telephones for 19 straight hours relaying messages and assurances from the tornado victims and relatives far and wide . . . all over the country including both coasts, and even overseas.  
 They estimated they had between 2,500 and 3,000 inquiries and messages completed, and had made contacts with about 600 radio stations throughout the country during 65 hours of operation.  
 Mrs. Stuewe stated Friday morning, while still at work, that they expected to be through sometime over the week end. "There are only a few last messages trickling through now," she said. "I'm so tired that it's hard for me to think straight."  
 "We have had very little sleep since 10 P. M. Monday, and haven't had time for a decent meal since then. My husband has been in his mobile unit with telephone along with many others who have similar sets, working in co-operation with the Red Cross getting messages to and from the disaster area. I have stayed at the set, using his call numbers, because they are better known than mine. My husband received his license in 1936 and I've only been licensed since 1947."  
 "We had calls from radio stations throughout the state, many of them asking about certain streets in the city. I could tell them right away if the street was or wasn't in the disaster area, and if it was, I took the names of persons about whom they were concerned and did my best to check on them. We weren't the only ones working though. There are lots of others that have sets and licenses, and several friends helped me here."  
 "I've been so busy . . . the whole thing is just like a dream to me."



In the Emergency, the Stuewes Stayed with Their Ham Radio 19 Hours

"  
 W8ATB-Esther  
 W8QBO-John"

See letter  
 "From FCC"

6-8-53

## Flint Woman Radio Ham Boon to Boys Overseas

By John Flint  
**T**HE ONLY woman amateur radio operator active in the hobby here conducts what might be called, "The Voice of Humanity."  
 Mrs. John H. Steuwe, G-4098 E. Atherton Rd., opens amateur station W8ATB at 8 A. M. every day. She sets her dials for Korea or Japan or relay points in between and starts "Operation GI."  
 Before the day is finished, she may have delivered a dozen messages from parents to Flint boys in Korea. Or maybe she's brought together in conversation loved ones living thousands of miles apart. And if things were kind of slow, there may have been time for a chat with "the girls."  
 Mrs. Steuwe has been a radio ham for five years. Her husband operated a station before her and after 11 years of kibitzing she decided she might as well take up the hobby herself.

TODAY, Mrs. Steuwe is much more an active operator than her husband. While the men are at work and many women are occupied by the soap operas of commercial radio, Mrs. Steuwe is on the air herself, endlessly plugging away at getting messages to

and from Flint-area servicemen overseas.  
 Ham operators usually count as their big thrills picking up the signals of distant stations. Mrs. Steuwe was elated when she talked to Australia one day.  
 "But my biggest thrills come from the overseas net," she says, referring to her GI service.  
 In December alone she received or sent 134 messages, most of them on the overseas network. Typical are inquiries by parents on why their boys aren't writing home, and answers from the boys that war conditions have disrupted mail service.  
 Recently, she helped a serviceman's wife prepare for her trip to the Orient by relaying advice from the husband on what to bring, ship sailings, what to do with the family automobile, and the like. Frequently, she informs GI's that they've become fathers.

SHE FELT she was amply repaid for all the time she's spent on the project when she played an important part in reversing the death notice of a Detroit soldier.  
 A GI told her over the airwaves that he was well and would be home soon. Would she please inform his family in Detroit? She relayed the message to a Detroit operator who typed out the supposedly routine information and had it delivered to the Detroit address.  
 When the messenger knocked, he was met at the door by a crest-fallen mother and father. They had received a telegram from Washington that morning that their son was dead.  
 "My only regret is that I could not have delivered that message in person," Mrs. Steuwe said. But knowing how such utter sadness must have changed to instant joy brought tears to her eyes.

Frequently, her contacts with GI's on foreign soil are made through servicemen conducting ham stations in military hospitals. More than once their messages have been to her personally—words of appreciation for the job she's doing.

THE "GIRLS" she talks with when there are no urgent messages are members of the Young Ladies Radio League. She is chairman of the group's District 8. Last Summer, the Steuws took a trip West and en route she stopped to see 18 woman operators she had talked with over the years.  
 "Although I had never seen them before, I felt as if they were personal friends," she said.  
 When the B-29 bomber crashed near Flint recently a radio ham sped to the scene with his mobile transmitter. The Steuws picked up a message he transmitted for one of the crew members. The Steuws relayed the message to its destination.  
 The day of a ham's surprise at hearing a woman's voice over his set has about ended, Mrs. Steuwe says. But she still produces a note of wonderment at times. She thinks amateur radio operation ranks with the best of hobbies.  
 "It gives you so much satisfaction for being able to help others," she said.

Letter "W8ATB - W8QBO"

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
 FIELD ENGINEERING AND MONITORING BUREAU  
 FIELD OPERATING DIVISION

June 10, 1953

ADDRESS REPLY TO:  
 Regional Manager  
 Great Lakes Region  
 1029 Federal Bldg.,  
 Detroit 26, Mich.

Mr. John H. Stuewe (W8 QBO)  
 Mrs. Esther E. Stuewe (W8 ATB)  
 4098 East Atherton Road  
 Flint, Michigan

Personal monitoring observations covering six to eight hours impel me to congratulate you on the superlative job you are doing in handling Flint disaster area message traffic on 3910 kilocycles.

The job you and your aids are doing is well deserving of the many "thank yous" that have been overheard directed to your station and is the finest example of disaster communication handling that I have ever had the occasion to monitor.

Sincere congratulations and 73.

*Emory F. Rice*  
 Regional Manager

EHL 1m





—Blade Photo  
ESTHER STUEWE AND MRS. ERNEST HELMINSKI  
... guest from Flint and convention chairman

## Ham Talk Is Tops

By MARY ALICE POWELL  
Blade Staff Writer

WHEN WOMEN go to a convention, what jewelry they pack is a prime concern. But with one group that met in Toledo this weekend, it was no problem. Their earrings, necklaces and pins had a similarity.

Women amateur radio operators attending a convention here wore jewelry inscribed with their call letters. To forget such identification is to be an unknown delegate, for ham radio operators know one another by their call letters rather than by sight or name.

Arrival of the 50 delegates at the 8th Midwest YL convention at the Mid-City Motel Friday morning was like a joyful family reunion.

But, happy as they were in friendly embraces, many of the women had never seen one another.

When W8ATB arrived from Flint, W8HWX of Toledo was delighted. They had been talking to one another for six years, but it was the first time they had met in person.

In ham radio talk, YL stands for young ladies but the young has no reference to their ages. Women from brides to grandmothers are hams.

Although being a ham is a fun hobby, and one requiring an examination and license from the Federal Government, the women also offer valuable assistance in their communities.

An example was Esther Stuewe of Flint, who was here for the meeting. She sent 3,000 messages at the time of the 1953 tornado there and hundreds during the 1956 storm.

On the social side, ham radio makes good friends. The women know one another's children's names, their ages and transcribe advice on illnesses and homemaking.

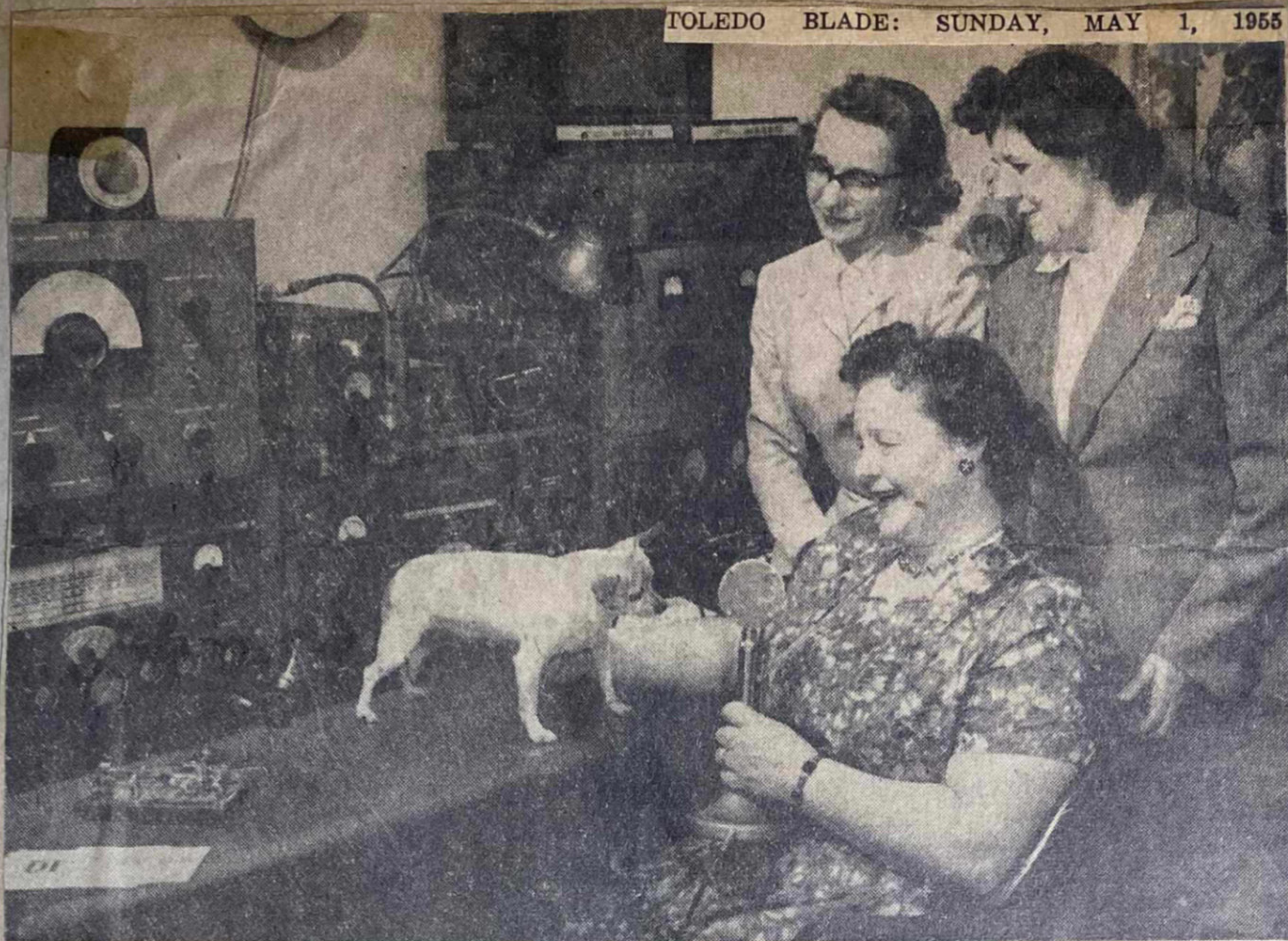
Many exchange recipes over the air and demonstrate friendship by mailing plant slips, quilt blocks (with call signs embroidered) and gifts.

The majority of women hams became interested in the hobby because their husbands are hams. But with Mrs. Ronald Hall of Toledo it was different.

Now 20 years old, Mrs. Hall studied ham operation when she was 16. It was on a radio contact that she met Mr. Hall and they spent their honeymoon at a ham convention.

Mrs. Henry G. Meyer, Brookfield, Wis., reported she is the lone operator in her home. "My husband has absolutely no interest in it," she said.

TOLEDO BLADE: SUNDAY, MAY 1, 1955



Three of 11 Toledo-area women who talk a language of their own—the radio ham code plus operators' slang—added to feminine interpretation of both. Mrs. Marvel Sines is seated at her quite-ultra radio control board while lady hams standing.

—Blade Photo  
Mrs. Dorothy Higgins, left, and Mrs. Marie Helmin, await turn. At the moment the women were trying to convince Mrs. Sines' pet, Rosita, she had to be licensed to be a ham.

## Ham Talk, Feminine Variety, Is Code-Slang Combo

Reporter Finds YLs W8HUX, W8RZN And W8MBI Busy Discussing FICYLRL

By LORD LAWRENCE

ONE WOMAN quite often can leave a man's mind in a whirl. But three of them, if they are radio hams, can send you reeling into the bright sunshine of a spring afternoon not only talking to yourself but not understanding a syllable you're saying.

For these YLs, meaning any woman licensed as a ham radio operator, speak a language of their own, a mixture of established radio code and operators' slang, also in code, combined with some codes the ladies made up themselves.

One found this out almost immediately on entering the home of Mrs. Marvel Sines on Brock Dr. where she and Mrs. Dorothy Higgins of Mettler St. and Mrs. Marie Helmin of Concord St. had gathered to discuss the FICYLRL. (That

means First Annual Convention of the Young Ladies Radio League.)

"I am Lord Lawrence," I greeted a woman who answered the bell, and this is Lloyd Ransom, a Blade photographer."

"Won't you come in," the woman said. "I'm W8HUX and these ladies are my very dear friends, W8RZN and W8MBI."

### Eleven Lady Hams

The first impression was that Mrs. W8HUX, who turned out to be just Mrs. Sines to her neighbors, was being facetious. But the lady hams—there are 11 in Toledo—have become so engrossed in their hobby that talking in code has become second nature. Also that they even refer to themselves and one another not by name but by their call letters.

And as Mrs. Higgins said to Mrs. Helmin, it sometimes is embarrassing when you landline the grocer and tell him you are Mrs. W8RZN. A helpful Mrs. Sines saw our puzzled look and said, "Landline means telephone."

While radio hamming is a hobby with the 11 Toledoans, it also has its serious aspects. All use it as civil defense adjunct and only recently Mrs. Sines received an award for getting blood transfusions and other aid to Mt. Vernon, O., when an explosion in a telephone exchange had disrupted communications. "Our use in case of war is obvious," Mrs. Higgins said.

### Other Toledo YLs

Mrs. Sines listed the other Toledo YLs as Helen Holloway, River Rd.; Carolyn Coven,

Evansdale Ave.; Jeanne Schwiebert, Rockingham St.; Patricia Hardy, 121st St.; Phyllis Holmes, Case St.; Lillian Richardson, Starr Ave.; Louise DeLisle, North Haven Ave., and Rita Cunningham, 123rd St. Some of this group will attend the June convention in Santa Monica, Calif. Most of them have husbands, who were hams first. Over the nation there are 700 YLs, some blind, others wheel-chair users who find hamming a great boon. YL is a code term for any woman, no matter what her age.

There are approximately 100 YLs in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, and being women they have formed a club that meets over a special network every Tuesday morning.

"And it is just like any club," Mrs. Higgins explained, "only in our club only one woman can talk at one time and the other 99 have to listen until somebody asks to break in. We exchange recipes and household hints and talk about women things in general, including our operations. One woman, whose son and daughter had gone away to college, always feels quite blue on rainy days and it helps her to get on the air and chat her blues away."

### Widespread Conversation

Mrs. Helmin said just the other day she learned from a woman in Indiana of a new way to iron around buttons. At other times the YLs try to get any ham, anywhere. Mrs. Sines has talked with South Africa. She has talked also

with someone in all of Ohio's 88 counties and is a YLWAS, which means Young Lady Worked All States. Each ham reached sends a certificate, with which some operators paper their walls. YLs who have husbands with mobile receiving sets in cars, ask them to pick up a loaf of bread on the way home. All have picked up messages from soldiers to be relayed to parents or wives.

One YL, Arlie Hager of Orange, Va., said she intended to make a patch quilt. Her sister YLs each sent her a patch with their call letters on it and that's what the quilt is made of. While your befuddled reporter was having the foregoing translated from the ladies' code expressions into his own language, a young man came in and Mrs. Sines said, "I would like you to meet W8TDDV, a good friend of ours."

### "How's OM?" He Asks

Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. Helmin also greeted him by his call letters but none of them could think of his name. I finally browbeat W8TDDV into identifying himself as Gary Horton, of 4838 Bowser Dr., a University of Toledo student and a ham. "How's OM?" he asked Mrs. Sines, who explained OM meant Old Man and was ham code for any male operator but also meant husband to YLs, whose mates were operators.

The OM in this case was Perrin (Zip) Sines, who was in bed recovering from a minor illness. Mrs. W8HUX and W8TDDV took me back to Mr. Perrin's room and said "This is my OM, Mr. W8BBO."



# W8YKU: That's Mrs. King's Station

## South Sider Has Fun with "Ham" Radio Friends

Mrs. Thomas King of 2906 Glenwood Ave. is one woman who admits she likes to talk at length.

Mrs. King even has a "Rag-Chewer's Certificate" to show that she talked to someone for at least a solid hour. "It wasn't hard at all for me," she said.

All this talk comes about through Mrs. King's experiences as a radio "ham." She is believed to be the only woman in Youngstown who is a licensed amateur radio operator.

The 42-year-old housewife's license was issued to her and she was given her call letters, W8YKU, by the Federal Communications Commission in 1946. She is known on the air waves by her given name, Lura.

### Began in Civil Defense

Mrs. King became interested in amateur radio when she worked for Civil Defense during World War II on operations of a defense control station. Some of her CD instructors were amateur radio operators, who helped her and three other Youngstown women get their third-class licenses.

The others did not follow through in "ham" radio, but Mrs. King kept her initial permit, by going on the air within five years and thus was given her general license. She calls it "putting my rig on the air."

Her station operates on 100 watts of power and she talks with other hams from all over the United States. She has had no contacts with other countries yet, but she wants to try to make contact. She talks with fellow "hams" in Texas and California and has made several friends, also female "hams," in Michigan and Arizona. She talks to them regularly.

### Talk at Length

The conversations go on at length. When two "hams" get together, they're pretty gabby. Mrs. King explained. Sometimes contact is made in the early morning hours and she has talked with others as late as 3 and 4 a.m. "It keeps you up late at night, but it's lots of fun. I'm certainly glad I kept it up," she said.

Mrs. King, whose husband, a bricklayer, isn't a bit interested in amateur radio, spends her spare time, at her set. But she doesn't have too much spare time, for in addition to her duties as a housewife, she works as a saleswoman and she spends anywhere from three to 35 hours a week doing volunteer work at the Civil Air Patrol as a communications officer. That is in addition to the weekly meeting of the CAP, of which she is a member.

She is one of nearly 700 women throughout the world who are turning their hobbies of amateur radio into public service as well.

Mrs. King is a member of the Young Ladies Radio League, a worldwide group of licensed women hams. YL is the radio ham's slang for any licensed woman operator, just as "om" or "old man" is the term used for the male operator. The YL league is planning its first international convention next month in Santa Monica, Calif., but Mrs. King is going to skip this one.

The "Rag-Chewer's Certificate" Mrs. King holds was awarded to her after she talked with another ham for a solid hour, a requirement for the citation. "Ham operators always find something to talk about," so winning the award wasn't hard, she said.



LADY "HAM": Mrs. Thomas King, 42, of 2906 Glenwood Ave., sits in the control room of the 100-watt amateur radio station at her home. Mrs. King is believed to be the only woman in Youngstown who has a general license as an amateur radio operator. She received the license and her call letters, W8YKU, in 1946 after becoming interested in ham radio through Civil Defense work during World War II.

## WELCOME

to

TOLEDO, OHIO

for the

## 8th MIDWEST YL CONVENTION

at the

MID-CITY MOTEL

MAY 23-25, 1958

sponsored by

TOLEDO RADIO CLUB INC.

Chairman - Marie Helmski W8MBI

### COMMITTEE

Marvel Sines W8HUX  
Lillian Richardson W8HWX  
Dorothy Higgins W8RZN  
Jeanne Schwiebert W8IAA  
Doris Flick W8ADI  
Rita Hall W8VJO

AMATEUR RADIO EXPERIMENTERS



# SHACK GOSSIP

VOL. II NO. VII

Editors: W8HWX & W8HUX

July 1952



It was a tired but happy group working under the Call Letters of W8WIT/8 in Mich section, that broke up field day activities this year. Considering the static conditions on a couple bands, we felt real pleased with the results and not too much effort on any one individual.

At a little after 7 a.m., Saturday, W8GRJ and brother, W8BBO and XYL W8HUX, W8TWD and XYL W8HWX took over the set up activities. W8GRJ, with the assistance of his brother put their bow and arrow to work getting the antennas up in the trees, with Ivan and Zip string antennas and getting the generator and electric lines prepared. Marvel and I started putting up tents and our Mess Hall, which was a large tarp, with mosquito netting sides and not even a fly got a taste of food this year. W8DQR and W8BN also came out in time to help.

The coffee pot was kept full and with pork chops, fried potatoes and Sauerkraut for dinner, along with pies that Marvel and I had prepared the day before, it kept our strength up for what lay ahead. In the evening W8GRJ's XYL brought out a large roaster of City Chicken Legs and prepared our evening meal which left us free to operate. Sunday A.M., after most of us had eaten our breakfast, W8HXF, the guy that was supposed to be the chief cook and bottle washer, showed up. He did waken a couple of the gang that had just gotten to sleep and tried to convince them that a pancake would be better for them than some shut eye. But after that he forgot how to cook and operated. At 12:30 a potluck consisting of fried chicken and all the trimmings was enjoyed by all, with other XYLs coming out to share it. And although it poured rain, off and on, all Sunday A.M., it was the first field day for a few of us and as dirty and tired as we all were we all hope to be there again next year.

W8HZP and W8SISS had an 80 meter tent and both boys were grand troopers in helping out on anything they were asked to do.

W8GDE had to get a baby field mouse from an old tree Ivan had pushed over and try to see which one of the women he could make squeal the loudest.

We had several visitors during the 24 hour period. Among them was an ex-Toledo ham who several of you should recall, W8UFN, Jack Camp. He has been in service for quite a spell and was stationed out through different parts of the West. He is now located at a camp up in Mich.

Due to the many requests we have received, we have planned another basket picnic to be held at Peason Park, Sunday July 13. Our plans are to eat at 12:30 P.M. There are amusements for the small fry. So won't you bring your families and join us. Everyone welcome whether you are a ham or not.

W8OZS had a nice article on 160/mobile in the July issue of QST. He comes out and says what a lot of you boys have been thinking, so why not send them some of Toledo's good view points on 160/M also?

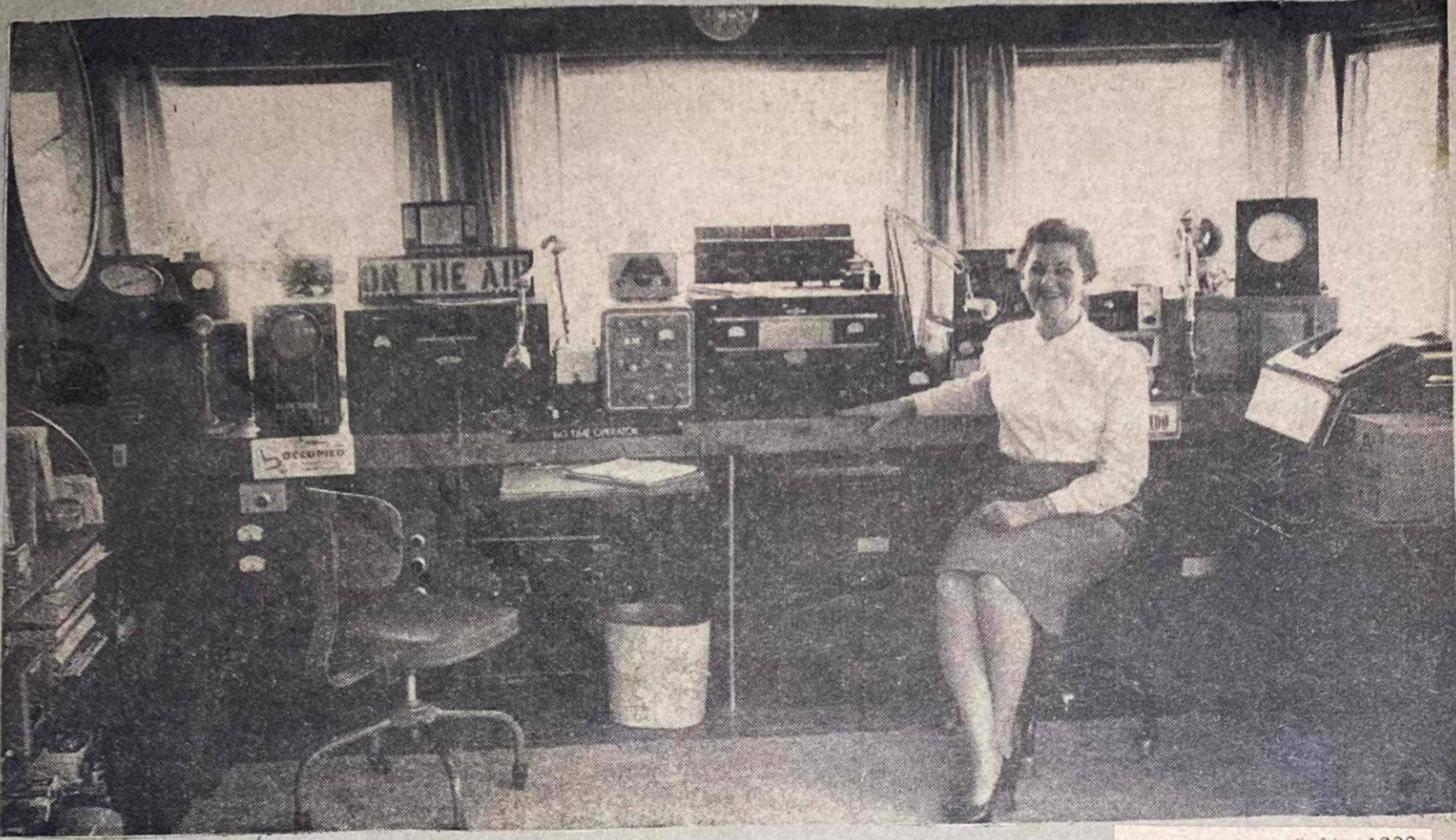
W8BN finally got on 160 mobile and is putting out a very nice signal too. W8WIT, W8VSB and W8YAZ are working on their mobile rigs. Hope to hear them before too long.

W8JCR was certainly putting a signal out our way Saturday night from his little 6 watt



THERE'S A MODERN VERSION of the old-fashioned party line. The gals are still gabbing, but they're using the air waves instead of telephone wires. Ohio's distaff ham radio operators have their own organization, the Buckeye Belles, and they meet regularly "on the air." It beats the coffee break as a relief from housework!

# BUCKEYE BELLES



**JOY CORNELL** (left), 1888 Baldrige Rd., has one of the most elaborately equipped "shacks" in central Ohio. Her call letters are K8GWF. At right is radio teletype machine. Large dial at left indicates direction of beam antenna.



**HUSBANDS' INTEREST** in ham radio sent these wives into the wonderful world of radio communications. Looking over a radio teletype machine in the C. W. Cornell home are (standing, from left) Mrs. Ruth Rickett, Worthington; Mrs. Cornell and Mary Ann Kries, Delaware, and (seated) Toni Chapman.—Star Photo.



**EMBLEM** of Buckeye Belles appears on identification badge (above) as well as membership cards and certificates.



**LOUISE GAMBILL**, K8CEN, 329 S. Weyant Ave., Bexley, started to paint her 50-foot tower. When she got above the peak of the roof, the tower began to sway and she decided the ground was safer. Her husband finished the job.

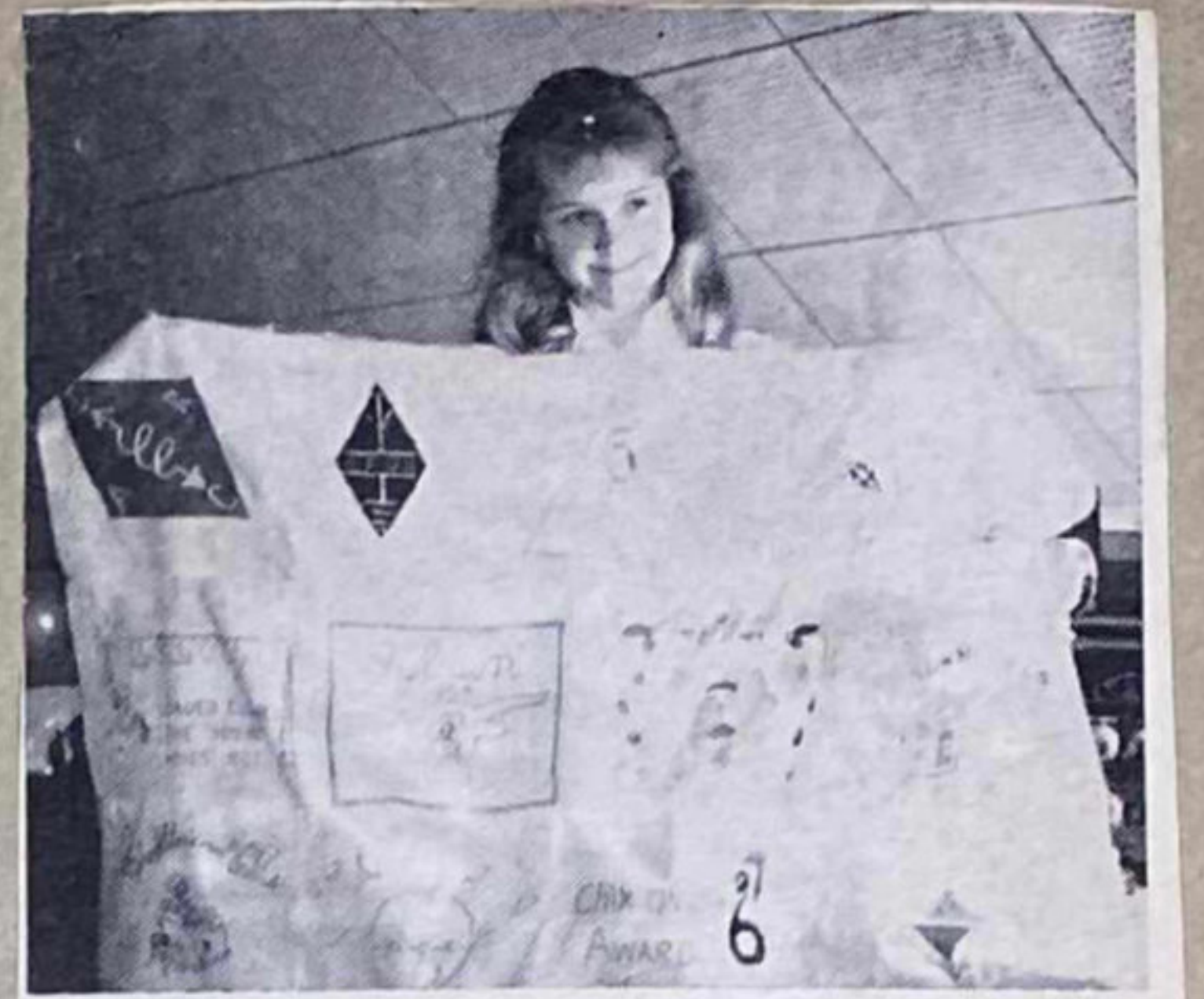


Surprises and fun for YLs who attend the YLRL 5th International Convention in June are being planned by this Buckeye Belle committee in the Committee Suite of Nationwide Inn, Columbus, Ohio. Left to right are K8UKM, K8MZT, W8LGY, K8CEN, and W8CJIP.



Shirley, K8MZT (left), chairman of YLRL's 4th International Convention, greets Toni, K8PXX, president of Buckeye Belles, hostess club, at Nationwide Inn, Columbus, Ohio. This is the very spot where YLs attending YLRL's 25th Anniversary celebration, June 19-21, 1964, will be greeted as they pick up their ID badges. These, and other personalized gifts are now being made by the Belles, so get your registration in soon to K8UKM, Libby Isham, 474 Darbyhurst Rd., Columbus, Ohio.

CONVENTION 1964



Margie Ann, jr. YL of K8ITF, displays some of the embroidered sections for the bed cover, main prize at YLRL's 25th Anniversary Convention in June.



**DOROTHY NESSER**, K8DPB, 1244 Twenty-Fourth Ave., built her own equipment. Her brother got her interested in ham radio. Her station is part of the Navy MARS net. (That stands for Military Amateur Radio Service).



# Calling K8CEN! You Better Not Miss Tonight's Ragchew

## Translation: Gals on Ham Radio Are Raring to Talk

By MARY JOSE

Splatter in YLRL vocabulary doesn't mean grease from a skillet.

Skip is not a dropped stitch in knit-two-purl-two, nor a band something to be worn on the fourth finger or pinned tautly around the baby's middle.

Serious conversation in the world of YLRL is in meters, megacycles, kilocycles and even ionospheres in this developing Space Age but the members will just as happily settle down to two-hour "ragchews" about weather, menus, measles, mumps, problems or a new cookie recipe that begins: cream 1/2 cup butter and 2 cups sugar, add 2 eggs, etc.

YLRL is the quaint Victorian title for the Young Ladies Radio League. They can be housewives, career women or growing girls, but there is one common bond . . . ham radio. All are licensed operators.

**THEIR FAVORITE** corner in the house is not the living room but the "shack" housing radio equipment. It can be upstairs, downstairs or the guest bedroom on the first floor.

These are all happy-faced females with broader vistas than the average housewife or business woman. Through the magic world of communications they have friends throughout the country and ten over the world.

Most of them got into amateur radio through their husbands. Some advanced so rapidly in steps of licensing that they sped

on to get their general, leaving the men stalled at the technician post.

"Red used to tell me," says Louise Gambill, 329 S. Weyant Ave., "We've got all that expensive equipment in the shack going to waste during the day. Why don't you learn to use it? It was a challenge. I learned code, got my license to operate on code, then went up for my technician license. Now I'm working on my general."

"It's scary when you go up before the Federal Communications Commission inspectors for your general license," warns her neighbor, Marge Waldschmidt, 914 S. Chesterfield Rd. "You get nervous, your heart starts pounding and you go blank for a minute."

"MY HUSBAND HAS had his general for eight years," Marge continues. "He got interested through a friend who had a mobile rig (car radio). I used to wonder what was so interesting that he could sit in that little room for hours listening to dots and dashes. Now I know. My husband sends beautiful code. I'll be jealous until I get up to his speed and clean quality. He has steered me in a lot of things. It's not like teaching a wife to drive a car. Husbands have patience to

burn when the subject is radio."

There's another code, too, for the children in a ham household.

"We have no qualms about keeping expensive equipment around the house," Mrs. Waldschmidt offers. "The children have been told this is not a toy, and must not be touched. They honor the trust."

During the interview Mrs. Gambill warmed up her set, picked up a CQ, another ham asking for contact. K8JDU was calling. Louise answered: "K8JDU, K8JDU, K8JDU this is K8CEN calling and standing by."

K8JDU came in loud and strong to K8CEN. "I get you clearly," she said. "What's your QTH (location)?"

K8JDU: I'm at Livingston and College, heading west. K8CEN: Then you're on mobile.

K8JDU: Right. I've been in Reynoldsburg getting tractor equipment. Have another stop and will head home to Sabina. Do you use mobile?

K8CEN: Yes we do. K8JDU: I have whip. What do you use?

K8CEN: Halo. K8JDU: I've had whip but I don't think my reception is as good on halo.

K8CEN: We've had both. There are pros and cons either way. You're coming through clear but you're only about half a mile away.

K8JDU: I'm at Ohio and Livingston now.

K8CEN: Good trip home and 73's. This is K8CEN signing off and clear.

TO THE WOMEN HAMS



W8GWF, W8GWF, this is K8CEN. Go ahead. . . . This jargon is everyday language to a ham radio operator. Here Mrs. C. W. Gambill, 329 S. Weyant Ave., picks up a signal from Mrs. Cliff Cornell, 1888 Baldrige Rd., and they proceed to discuss plans for the international convention of the Young Ladies Radio League to be held here next year.—Star Photo.

this may go on at intervals during the day.

"This ragchewing is better than a coffee break. Very relaxing from household chores and the children," they agree. "Get on the air and start talking and you forget your tensions. Of course you'll still get interruptions. You may have to QXR your party — meaning got to pause, stand-by—till you change the baby, answer the phone or help junior with an algebra problem."

There are other expressions that belong only in the language of the ham, such as:

- XYL—Married lady
- YL—Unmarried lady
- OM—Old man, any age
- WX—Weather
- FB—Fine business
- QRT—Quitting, have no more to say
- QRM—Queen, Roger, Mary—interference

In the same realm call letters are more important than last names. In fact they speak of one another as K8CEN Louise, K8DPB Dorothy, K8YFB Rosie, K8QEF Skipper, W8LGY Ruth, W8EQU Bar-

bara, and may have to consult the roster for the family name.

Few women would put their telephone numbers on their license plates but in ham operation this is an honor. Strange men and strange women talk to each other and neither spouse objects in this honorable world of ham communications.

"You make friends all over the country," Louise explains. "Hams traveling on vacation or business will go miles out of the way to stop and see you any hour of the day or night. They're always welcome. They seem more like relatives."

"You visualize the people you talk to on the air," adds Marge, "but when you Eye-ball QSO (meet face to face) they're entirely different. If an OM asks your age on the air you know they're under 15."

**THE MAJORITY** of hams collect QSL cards, a written postcard receipt that contact was made, conversation held, and on what band. Ham clubs in each state have certificates granted for 25 contacts within the state, for 10 out of state and for 5 foreign.

Red Gambill, for instance, has contacts in 86 of Ohio's 88 counties. Louise has 85.

Ohio femme hams encourage certificate gathering. "Every well-dressed shack," they say over the air, "should have a Buckeye Belle certificate on the wall."

This is press-agentry for the Ohio organization of women hams. The insignia is a girl in white, pink and green Colonial dress. Ohio boasts of a 212 state membership. Thirty-five of these are in the Columbus area.

chew and transact club business.

At designated hours during the day and week they can contact Belles in other areas of the state. Once a year there's a state meeting Eye-ball QSO.

Right now much of the business centers on the international convention of YLRL which the Belles will hostess June 19, 20, 21, 1964, at Lincoln Lodge, Columbus. There will be a station, W8YL, licensed at the Lodge for the duration of the convention. There are area family get-togethers during the year for picnics or potluck and there are usually 25 or 30 Belles at district hamfests.

The Belles, now two years old as an organization, was primed by K8M2T Shirley Rex of Canton, who also is editor of "The Buckeye Burr," the monthly business sheet. K8ITF Marge Sarinet, Dayton, is president; W8LGY Ruth Rickett, Worthington, vice president; K8HGD Louise Long, Carthage, secretary; W8OTK Alice Geib, Van Buren, treasurer, Q8MBI certificate custodian. OMs sometimes cut into the girls' Thursday night ragchews. At a recent Sunday brunch at Lincoln Lodge

Continued on Page 10A

Picture K8CEN-Louise

" Buckeye Belles "1963"

ARTICLE CONT ON BACK

This is woman's club operation in an up-to-date fashion. There are no meetings in homes or club rooms, but every Thursday evening the local girls get together at 7:30 from the comfort of their own shacks for a rag-

## More About . . . BUCKEYE BELLE RADIO HAMS

Continued from Page 3A

when the Ohio Belles started plans for the international convention husbands at home got the word on the air as soon as the meeting broke up by virtue of mobile equipment in some of the cars. One husband told another: "They're on the way home now. I just picked them up. Pass the word along to the rest of the OMs."

"Hams have happy marriages," one of the Belles states. "If your husband is a ham you'd better get with it."

**THEY DON'T DENY** they'd forego an Easter hat or new outfit to buy a piece of radio equipment. Birthday anniversary and Christmas gift exchanges between husband and wife is always some form of gear.

"You make your first set fit your needs," explains Louise Gambill. "Most couples start with an investment of a couple of hundred dollars. After you work with it awhile the receiver isn't quite good enough, the antenna could be higher and so on. But every penny is worth a sacrifice on the budget."

K8PXX Toni Chapman got into radio when her husband, Bob, Plain City, and son, Bob Jr., went to code and theory school.

I went along for the ride," she relates. "All of a sudden I got interested in code. On June 23, 1960, I got my novice license and seven months later, my general. When I was boning up for theory I holed up in a room for eight days. I told the family and neighbors: 'You won't be hearing from me until this is over.'"

"I talk every day to my brother-in-law in Tucson. This morning I picked up conversation with a flyer in Jamaica. He'd just flown in from Gitmo. Was stationed at Lockbourne a couple of years ago."

Transmitting calls from hams in other states and even other countries come into the every-day experience of hams. Toni tells of picking up a CQ recently from Lima, Peru, wanting contact with a patient in a Washington, D.C., hospital.

"Phone service was fuzzy and they turned to radio. Because of the skip (caused by a sun-spot cycle) I couldn't get into Washington. I called my brother-in-law in Tucson, he got hold of a traffic handler in Muskegon, Mich., who put it on a traffic net to Washington. "The patient contacted home by telephone. Outgoing calls are clearer. A day or so later the family sent a thank you."

but you're picking up Little America. One morning around 10 I took a CQ from a woman in New York, wife of a noted symphony conductor who also is a ham. She wanted to contact their daughter at Ohio State University. From then on the girl talked to her mother a couple of times a week. The two families have become friends and visit back and forth every year.

Mary Anne Kries K8VJK (Very Jolly Housewife) lives up in Delaware County in an independent telephone company area. Her husband, Bob, who works in Columbus, has a mobile unit in his car.

"I had to get into it," she says, "for the sake of communication. Without radio I'd have no contact with my husband during the day. He calls me on the set at noon and late afternoon before he leaves work. Our son, Bob Jr., an eighth grader, also is a ham."

One of the youngest Belles is Reeva Ackison, 15, a student at the Ohio State School for the Blind. Reeva is specializing on organ at the school, plays also sax in the band. She learned radio at the school, got her novice license in 1961 and now has her general.

Reeva calls herself the "24-hour amateur." She's at the set as soon as she gets home from school and stays until bedtime. Reeva, who has collected over 500 QSL cards, and who prefers code to fone or voice, is up to the high speed of copying 50-53 words a minute.

K8DPB Dorothy Nesser emphasizes the importance of housewife hams in event of emergency. "No one knows the scope of the ham in case of emergency," she reiterates. "You're handy and ready if you're living up to FCC standards."

MRS. NESSER'S brother, CWO D. F. Kesser is in Air

Force communications. When he started going distances he urged his sister so get into radio so they could keep in touch. Dorothy not only got her general but built her own set, guided by books and technical information from other hams. She's accredited in Navy MARS, the Military Amateur Radio Service set up on a frequency outside the ham bands for transmission of messages for families of military personnel at home and abroad. Procedure is strictly military and there is no idle gabbling.

On DX (foreign countries) Dorothy has left very little of Europe uncovered and has contacts in 46 states, all accounted for by 500 or 600 QSL cards. She belongs to the Columbus Astronomical Society and bugs the libraries for the latest publications on developments in high frequencies.

"We hams," she believes, are on the threshold of an entirely new world of communications that is opening up in the Space Age.

Mrs. Rickett and Mrs. Chapman concur.

Says the former, who is co-chairman of the International Convention with Shirley Rex; "I feel we're just beginning to solve the mysteries of the ionosphere. What wonderful knowledge is ahead of us."

"My husband flies a Cessna and belongs to the Flying Ham Club," says Toni. We've talked to Arthur Godfrey in the air. He's a Flying Ham, too. Bob wants me to become a pilot but I draw the line there. I don't like flying. I'll concentrate on the ground set. I've gotten so I can tune my ear to one signal and blot out the rest. Hearing tests show that I go up to 15,000 cycles. I'd like to go beyond that."

"If you do, Toni," a Belle quipped good-naturally, "you'll be hearing the unrecorded sounds of the birds!"

**WHEN CLIFF** Cornell, an electronics engineer, went in for code he told his wife, Joy, it would be easier if he had someone to help in code practice. "He hasn't been able to shut me up since. That was five years ago," she adds. "It's fascinating. One day you can't get past New York

PLAIN CITY, OHIO  
UNION COUNTY

# K8PXX

Toni

Xmtr-----Rcvr-----Ant-----

QSL CARD is mailed to acknowledge new radio contacts by Toni Chapman, K8PXX, of Plain City, O. Every day she talks with her brother-in-law in Tucson, Ariz. She also has talked with Arthur Godfrey, K4LIB.



MARGE WALDSCHMIDT, K8TLG, 914 S. Chesterfield Rd., helped her husband, Lee, build their transmitter from a kit. Just now she is trying to get her code speed up to Lee's fast pace.



REEVA AKISON, K8DMU, 293 W. Kanawha Ave., is a student at Ohio State School for the Blind. She operates her equipment by touch, and here she is tuning the receiver by feeling the notches and numbers on the dial. A Braille tab is pasted on each plug-in crystal for the transmitter so she can read the frequency.



# African Expedition Chief Tells Plans

## Gatti Interviewed by Sentinel Via Radio

Shortly before dawn tomorrow a small group of explorers, including a Milwaukee man, will begin the final stage in the ascent of Mt. Kilimanjaro, highest peak on the African continent.

The assault of the 19,310 foot snow covered rock, which is less than 300 miles south of the equator, is the first important undertaking of the Gatti-Hallcrafters expedition.

Led by the famous Italian explorer, Com. Attilio Gatti, veteran of 10 African treks, the group has been in Africa since December. Errol C. Prince, 710 E. Mason St., a photographer with the Cramer-Krasselt Advertising Co., is one of two photographers with the expedition.

### RADIO CONTACT MADE

In an effort to learn, first hand, the expedition's objectives, the Milwaukee Sentinel yesterday enlisted the aid of Mrs. Jackie Toppe, 5523 W. Washington Blvd., a local "ham" radio operator.

Mrs. Toppe, who has reached the expedition before with her 500 watt transmitter, succeeded in contacting the group at 1:15 p. m. Sentinel Reporter Henry Garvey received the following information from Com. Gatti during a short wave conversation:

**GARVEY:** "Com. Gatti would you please give us your position at this time?"

**GATTI:** "At the present time we are establishing our base camp 6,000 feet up the south slope of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanganyika Territory."

"We spent the last three days traveling extensively throughout this area searching for a proper base. Yesterday we were 5,800 feet up, but moved to this location today. This is about as high as we can go with our base camp and remain comfortable for a long period of time."

### WEATHER IS FINE

**GARVEY:** "How is the weather at that altitude?"

**GATTI:** "The jungle is very warm, but at our altitude the days are comfortable and the nights cool."

**GARVEY:** "When do you intend to begin the long climb?"

**GATTI:** "I took a trip to Moshi (a small town connected by railroad with Mombasa on the Indian Ocean) yesterday and picked up necessary equipment and made last minute arrangements. We will begin the final ascent early Friday."

**GARVEY:** "What do you expect to do or find during your climb?"

**GATTI:** "We are interested in studying plant and animal life in the higher altitudes and expect to make a recording of our trip when we reach the summit."

"During the ascent and descent we will be constantly in touch with our base camp via radio. Everything we say will be recorded for future use."

"I have already informed Mrs. Toppe we will give her a blow by blow description of our trip when we talk to you people again Monday. If possible we will include the recordings that were made."



Interested followers of the Gatti-Hallcrafters African expedition check their maps while "ham" radio operator Mrs. Jackie Toppe, 5523 W. Washington Blvd. (seated at microphone), talks with members of the expedition. Mrs. Errol C. Prince, 710 E. Mason St., wife of the expedition's photographer, is seated at the left. Leaning over are James Powers (left), Chicago, a friend of the Prince family, and Hugo Biersach, vice president, Evinrude Motors. Standing (left to right): Dave Malec, Paul Godfrey and Tony Crossman, all of Cramer-Krasselt Advertising Co. Sentinel Photo by Tony Neuman.

### LAKE REGION NEXT

**GARVEY:** "Will you describe your future plans?"

**GATTI:** "The next few weeks should tell the story of how successful our expedition will be. From here we will head northwest toward the lake region and Lake Victoria (the world's fourth largest lake located on the borders of Tanganyika and Kenya Territories)."

"We intend to visit lakes few others have ever seen. Most of our traveling will be by water. Incidentally, we are using a Milwaukee product for our water travels. Evinrude Motors has furnished us with three outboard motors."

"From now on we will be taking pictures constantly. We have a floating island and underwater cylinder for photographing marine life. Prince will play an important part in this operation."

"Later we will continue to our main objectives, a search for a gorilla-like beast called 'Mulabu' by the Nambutu pygmies and a trip into the Mountains of the Moon (Ruwendori Mountains located between Uganda Protectorate and the Belgian Congo)."

Hugo Biersach, vice president of Evinrude, was on hand to inform Gatti that three complete motor repair kits have been sent to facilitate operations in the jungle. He said arrangements had been made with African oil companies to expedite oil shipments to the group.

# Africa Photographer's Paradise, Milwaukeean Reports by Radio

## Kin Here Again Talk With Explorers

For nearly an hour the small group sat quietly while the attractive "ham" operator repeated the words:

"W9AIX Milwaukee calling VQ4EHG Gatti-Hallcrafters Expedition in Africa. Come in please."

Finally at 1:15 p. m. the static and interference subsided slightly and a distorted voice replied:

"This is VQ4EHG Africa. come in Milwaukee."

So for the second time in less than a week, Mrs. Jackie Toppe, of 5523 W. Washington Blvd., and her 500 watt transmitter yesterday succeeded in contacting six white men and a woman who are exploring the unknown regions of Central Africa.

Distortion continued to play havoc with reception for several minutes, but gradually the voice of Errol Prince, a Milwaukeean, and official photographer for the expedition, became loud and clear.

"It's after 10 p. m. here in the jungle," Prince said. "I was in my dark room when your call letters came through, but my work can wait."

Mrs. Errol Prince and her son, Wayne, were seated near the receiver listening to his voice. Mrs. Toppe switched from receiving to sending and Wayne took over:

"Hello daddy, I'm fine. How are the monkeys down there? Is the weather hot. Let me hear your voice again."

By that time all production at the jungle camp had ceased and Prince informed Milwaukee that



Wayne Prince, 9, gives out with a broad grin after telling his daddy he skipped school to talk with him by short wave radio. Sitting with Wayne is his mother, Mrs. Errol Prince, who waits her turn to talk to the African expedition. Behind them is Mrs. Jackie Toppe, 5523 W. Washington Blvd., an amateur radio operator who contacted the expedition last week. Sentinel Photo by Clarence Leino.

every one was crowded about the speaker listening to the voices from home.

He said the food was good, but that water had to be filtered before it could be used. "We're in a photographer's paradise," he said. "We expect to reach the mountain lake region soon and will send stories and pictures from there."

Mrs. Prince appeared relieved when he told her he was eating good and had gained 20 pounds.

On hand to talk with Commander Attilio Gatti, leader of the expedition, was Paul Godfrey, whose company is handling many of the details for the trip.

Gatti was ready to declare a camp holiday when Godfrey informed him that Evinrude Motors is air expressing two outboard motors to the group for use on large inland lakes.

The Sentinel reporter and photographer standing by to record the occasion, spoke briefly to Reporter James Powers, who is recording the jungle expedition for International News Service.

By LOIS CLAUS  
Enterprise Feature Writer

This weekend Mishawaka will be host to a ladies convention, but it's not the usual kind of club convention, because all the ladies attending will be amateur radio operators in their own right. Some 17 feminine "hams" are expected from the ninth call area, including Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana.

The YL's (Young Ladies) will check in at the Hotel Mishawaka on Friday. At 7:30 p.m. an address of welcome will be given by a representative of the Chamber of Commerce. The day's activities will end with an Open House. Several operators will bring mobile gear and conduct a Transmitter Hunt.

A tour of Mishawaka and vicinity is planned for Saturday morning, conducted by the Welcome Wagon Hostess of Mishawaka. A luncheon and business session will follow in the Club Normandy. At 8:30 p.m., the "QRM" hour will commence, with dance music by a band of "hams" from South Bend.

It's a very select group, since the ratio of men operators to women operators is about 500 to 1, according to one of the lady radio experts who lives in Mishawaka. She is Julie Morgan. She and her husband, Charles, also a "ham," came here recently from Bourbon.

Mrs. Morgan, who repairs radios in a South Bend hardware store, is looking forward to seeing many of the people with whom she has communicated when the third annual convention opens tomorrow.

When she isn't working, Mrs. Morgan spends hours at her transmitter, keeps in constant contact with a woman in Barrington, Ill., and a brother-in-law at Langley Field, W. Va.

As a member of the Air Force Military Amateur Radio System and the Overseas Traffic Net, she has picked up many messages from soldiers in Korea and relayed or delivered them to families in the middle west. For two years, she and another girl operator monitored a certain frequency at all hours. Once she picked up a call from a southern Illinois town at 7 a.m. The family of a man badly hurt in an accident wanted to get word to a son in Korea immediately. Julie Morgan sent the message to Korea, and by 9 a.m. the message had reached the front line.

Another girl operator, by spending hours at her transmitter, was able to locate on a ship a boy missing in action, and send a message from him to his parents. Girl operators are active in this kind of work, said Mrs. Morgan, because they have more time than the men. There is no financial remuneration. It is a hobby and a service.

Many girls have arranged for mothers to talk to their sons in overseas countries.

Although the amateur radio hobby requires a rather high initial expense, says Mrs. Morgan, the upkeep is not expensive. She started her own amateur radio career 15 years ago. She keeps all the equipment in a room of her home and can hear a signal from anywhere in the house. She and Mr. Morgan, who works at the Bendix electronic plant, plan to stay in Mishawaka because "it is so pretty and the people are so congenial."

OM's - YL's To QSO  
And QRM On Friday

THE SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE, SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 24, 1953.

## WOMEN 'HAMS' END SESSIONS

### Ninth Call Area Learns Modern Techniques.

Women amateur radio operators of the ninth call area concluded their third annual convention of Friday and Saturday with a dinner and dance Saturday night in Mishawaka's Club Normandy. Mrs. Julie Morgan, of Mishawaka, was convention chairman.

High lights of the convention were a "transmitter hunt" Friday in which operators sought a "ham radio" station in operation in Mishawaka; a conducted tour of South Bend, Mishawaka, and the University of Notre Dame, Saturday morning, and a "key to the city" luncheon in the Club Normandy Saturday noon.

Welcome Wagon hostesses led the amateur operators on the tour of the two cities and Notre Dame, and Ferd H. Krueckeberg, executive secretary of the Mishawaka Chamber of Commerce, gave the welcoming address at the luncheon and presented the conventioners with a key to the city. Krueckeberg also presented picture slides of Mishawaka's industries.

### Learn Modern Methods.

In the final session of the convention Saturday afternoon members were given a lecture and demonstration on modern radio transmitting techniques.

Those who attended the convention, their call letters and home cities, are: Chairman Mrs. Julie Morgan, W9LRT, Mishawaka; Mrs. Jackie Poppe, W9AIX, Barrington, Ill.; Mrs. Grace Ryden, W9CME, Chicago; Mrs. Chris Bowlin, W9LOY, Chicago; Mrs. Peggy Libby, W9MLE, Elkhart, Ind.; Mrs. Marge Bremingan, W9SPI, Homewood, Ill.; Mrs. Gloria Matiska, W9YBC, North Riverside, Ill.; Mrs. Eleanor Engbertson, W9SEZ, Chicago; Mrs. Helen McKeral, W9FZO, Chicago; Mrs. Berniece Schmidt, W9SJR, Chicago; Mrs. Virginia Marske, W9KQC, Cicero, Ill.; Norma Dance, SWL-W9, South Bend; Pete Marske, W9KMG, Cicero, and Charles Morgan, W9LRM, Mishawaka.

Mrs. Morgan, chairman, and Mrs. Poppe are members of the U.S. Air Force Amateur Radio Operators Network.

9th District Convention

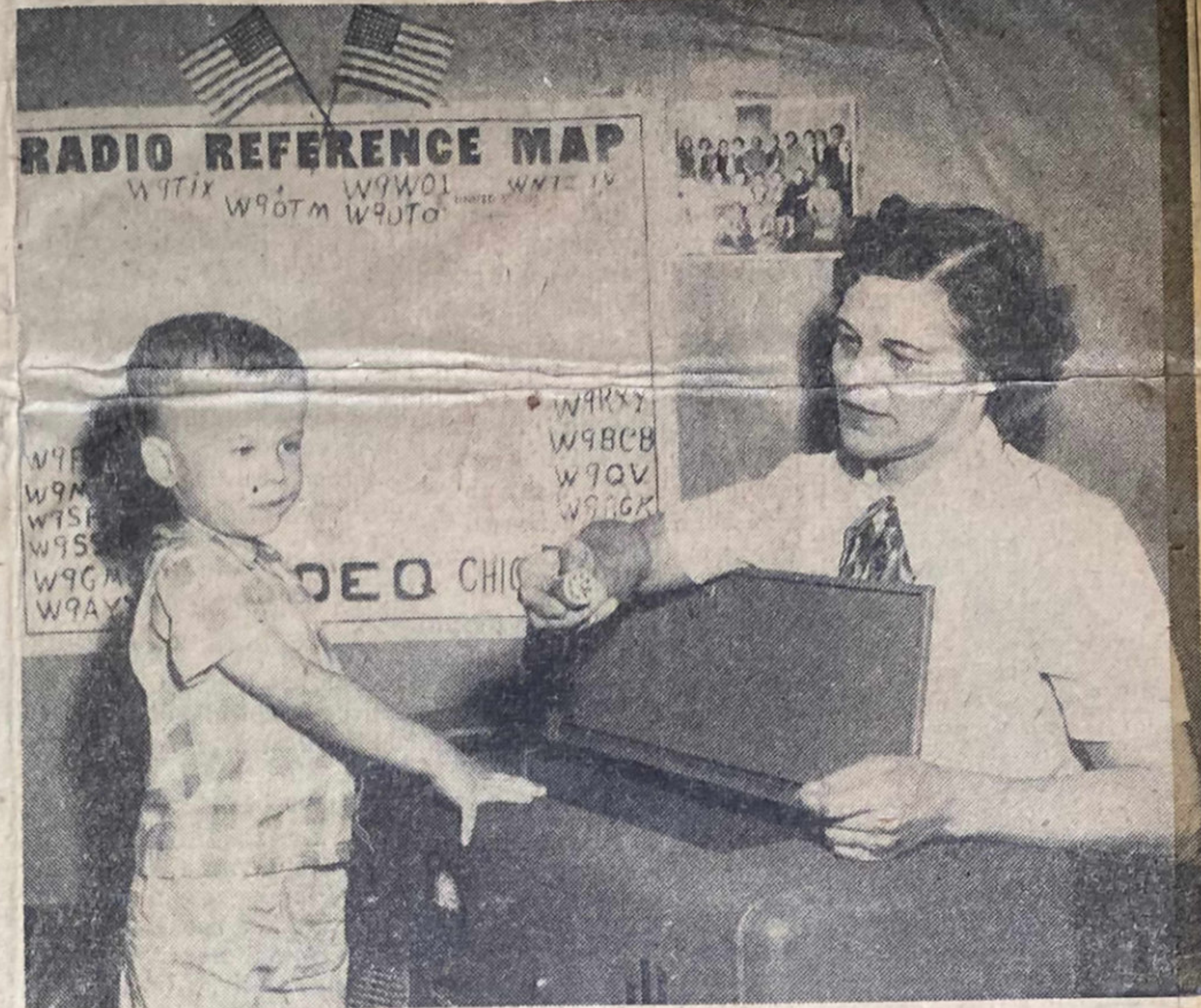
The third annual convention for YL's in the 9th call area is being held on May 22-23 at Mishawaka, Indiana. Plans call for the YL's to check in on Friday, the 22nd, at the Mishawaka Hotel, where special rates will be given to all YL conventioners. A transmitter hunt is scheduled for that day, and it is suggested that all YL's planning to attend who have mobile gear make provision to operate on 29620 kc. There will be open house in the evening. Saturday a.m. calls for a tour of South Bend and vicinity, including a trip to Notre Dame University. This will be followed by luncheon at the Club Normandy, and at 1:30 p.m., a lecture and demonstration of SSB by W9OHM. OM's accompanying the YL's will be welcome at all these events. The period from 4 to 8 p.m., however, will be for YL's only, with a meeting and banquet at the Club Normandy. A dance will start at 8:30 p.m., music to be furnished by the "Moblairs," an orchestra composed entirely of members of the Mobile Amateur Radio Club of South Bend. Any and all Hams are invited to attend the dance. The YL's of the 9th district extend an invitation to all licensed YL operators from other districts to attend their convention. There will be a registration fee of \$1.00. For further information contact the chairman of the convention, W9LRT, Julia Morgan, 188 Monmore Ave., Mishawaka, Ind.



## Women Take Over the Air Waves at Gompers Park



"W9DEQ—9 Dark Eyed Queen is calling." Mrs. Eleanor Engebretsen, 4303 N. Avers av., a licensed radio operator, contacts another operator with station calls as Mrs. Virginia Maurus (right), 6312 N. Richmond st., and her daughter, Carol (center), aspiring radio operators, observe. All are members of the Young Ladies Radio league, which has its radio station at Gompers park fieldhouse, 4222 Foster av. (Story on page 8)



The curious world of the radio is shared by youngsters who are sometimes brought to meeting. Tommy Mattox, 3, of 4244 N. Mozart st., scrutinizes the activity of Mrs. Grace Ryden, 2054 Lincoln av., as she replaces a burnt out tube in radio transmitter. In addition to learning the Morse code and radio theory, most licensed operators are capable of repairing the sets.



Training to become licensed operators (from left), Miss Geraldine Eastman, 726 S. Euclid av., Oak Park, and Miss Virginia Gunther, 327 Pine av., brush up on their Morse code sent by Mrs. Ryden, club founder. Licensed operators must pass federal communications commission examination to qualify.



Contacting distant relatives is one of the pleasures of being an amateur operator. Mrs. Betty Darsch, 5322 Winthrop av., pin-points location of a relative to be contacted on radio map.

### WOMEN 'HAMS' GIVE CHIT-CHAT MODERN TOUCH

BY RAY TUDOR  
(Pictures on page 1)

Women's small talk has taken a modern turn at Gompers park fieldhouse, 4222 Foster av.

Not content with back fence chitchat, 20 housewives and business women operate an amateur radio station and con-

tact "hams" within a 100 mile radius of the city. Thirteen are licensed operators, permitted to use the radio transmitter, and seven are aspiring hams, preparing to apply for a license. Ham is the term used for amateur radio operators.

#### Gives All a Chance

The club was formed in February, 1953, by Mrs. Grace Ryden, 2054 Lincoln av., a licensed operator for six years with a set in her home. "The club was organized so women who didn't have sets at home would have an opportunity to operate a transmitter, and to

give aspiring operators a chance to learn," Mrs. Ryden said. The club is open to women thruout the city.

Club members with operator's licenses are free to operate the station, W9DEQ, until 11 p. m. Monday thru Saturday. The room was donated to the club by the park, and the radio transmitter by Motorola, Inc., 4545 Augusta blvd.

While most of the women became interested in the hobby after their husbands or boy friends became operators, Miss Geraldine Eastman, 726 S. Euclid av., Oak Park, wants to be able to talk with her family

in Plymouth, England. She has not seen them in seven years. Miss Eastman is waiting for her citizenship papers so she can apply for a license.

To qualify as a licensed operator, women must learn the international Morse code and radio theory, both of which are taught at the club.

#### Helpful in Emergency

In addition to enjoying a hobby, amateur radio operators can be of service in time of a national or community emergency. When a license is issued, operators pledge to devote themselves to any civic emergency. At the request of

civil defense officials, they could transmit messages to vital points outside the city, and as a medical net can contact hospitals or outside sites for supplies and equipment.

Many of the women have sets at home where they contact foreign countries on high frequency. In April and November of 1951, Mrs. Ryden contacted Capt. Kurt Carlson aboard the Flying Enterprise, she said, before his famous stand with the weather beaten ship in December of that year. Capt. Carlson operated station W2ZXMMM aboard the ship.