

W600GX

Photographs



W6QGP

W6QGY

Johnson & Johnson

Three knobs on the Johnson & Johnson panel.

One knob on the lower section of the Johnson & Johnson panel.

MODEL 2000

POWER SWITCH

VOLUME CONTROL

Another knob on the receiver panel.

Another knob on the receiver panel.

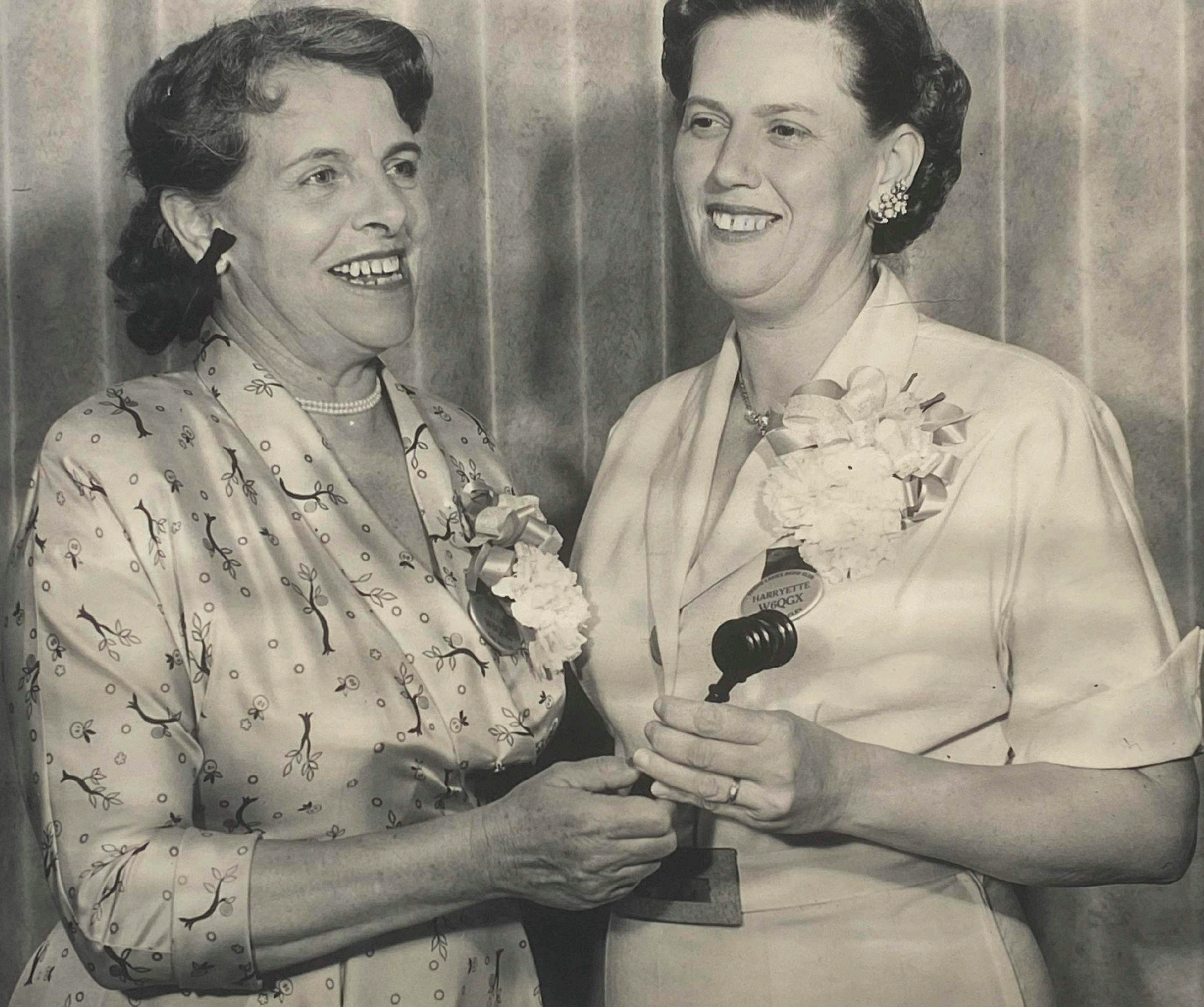
Another knob on the receiver panel.

LA YLRC 1956-57 Officers



W6QOG
Helene

W6QGX
Harryette





Lorraine WGAKE Harriette WGGK Mildred WOPU Gladys WODXI Helene WOGOG



- | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. K6BVD | 13. W6OKH | 25. W6MRO | 37. W6CTJ |
| 2. W6BSD | 14. W6QIW. | 26. KN6END | 38. |
| 3. W6UQL | 15. W6NZZ | 27. W6PMS | 39. |
| 4. W6HMC | 16. W6SEU | 28. W6BKZ | |
| 5. W6EJU | 17. W6QR | 29. W6MSW | |
| 6. K6DBG | 18. W6QGX | 30. K6BWD | |
| 7. K6EJT | 19. W6BSD-Geo. | 31. W6COZ | |
| 8. | 20. W6EVU | 32. W6GRO | |
| 9. W6UUH | 21. W6OQZ | 33. K6ARZ | |
| 10. W6UGO | 22. K6ABG | 34. K6CCZ | |
| 11. W6GDG | 23. W6WAN | 35. W6PIB | |
| | 24. W6THA | | |

AMERICAN LEGION NET PICNIC - AUGUST, 1954



◆
Harryette Barker, W6QGX, Los Angeles Section leader, worked 130 stations on 144 Mc. The 2-meter rig doesn't show in this shot of Harryette at the operating position.
◆

QST for
April 1954

2 meter & Down Picnic - Aug 1954



2 Meter & Down Picnic - Aug. 1954

Top Row - W6CEE, (?), W6PSU, W6QGX, K6CAL

Second Row - K6GMA, (?), W6KYZ, W6JCA, K6EJE

Front Row - K6ANG, W6LBO, K6ACF, K6DRS, K6?, W6DXI,
W6QWC



ALN
FEB. 19, 1955
BAKERSFIELD,

BRY

JET

PIB

DFJ

KMY

ARZ

WJF

EHM

GRO

UQL

Photo by
K6CZU

FEA

QSK

Officers Meeting

Local Woman Radio 'Ham' Contacts Victims of Flood

Burbank Family Okay After Trip To Stricken Northern California

"All is okay here. May be a few days late getting home."

These few words received by a Burbank woman radio operator brought peace of mind to Jerry Clausen, 18-year-old clerk at the Glendale News-Press, whose parents were marooned by flood waters in Northern California.

Amateur radio operators — in-

cluding women "ham" operators — have been performing a great service during the flood emergency of the past week.

The operator in this case was Mrs. Harl C. Word, of 2140 North Valley, in Burbank, who volunteered her services in an attempt to contact Clausen's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Clausen, of 3101 Jolley Drive, Burbank.

The Clausens, visiting relatives in Fernbridge with their other two children, were reportedly evacuated to Eureka. Young Clausen had been unable to contact his family due to disrupted communications in the flood area.

Mrs. Word, who with her husband operates a "ham" radio station from their home, was able to contact the missing family in a half hour by a "little bit of a round about way."

The "numbered message" was relayed to an operator in Puente who established contact with Leland Grannis, a Eureka "ham" operating Station K6BBR. Grannis reached the Clausens at the home of friends in Eureka where telephone lines were still open.

Mrs. Word, one of approximately a dozen women "ham" radio operators in the San Fernando Valley, stressed that there was nothing extraordinary about her handling of the Clausen message. She pointed out that numerous other "hams" in the local area are "doing more" to assist in the flood emergency.

Commenting on the use of "ham" radios by persons in the

local area attempting to locate missing friends and relatives, Mrs. Word said, "It is questionable whether or not they could talk directly to the person they are trying to locate."

She added, "If they want to instigate a written message and wait for a reply, that's possible and very probable."

Both Mrs. Word and her husband, an electronics inspector at Lockheed, started as "ham" radio operators in 1941, and have equipped their home with a 40-foot antenna.

Mrs. Word's "call letters" are W6WRT, and her husband's are W6UT2. They were required to pass rigid examinations in radio code, theory and regulations, given by the Federal Communications Commission, to obtain their radio amateur's licenses.

Mrs. Word belongs to several "ironing board nets" and "rag chewing nets" composed of women radio operators who communicate on a sort of short wave party line from city to city and state to state.



'W6WRT CALLING' — The "ham" radio hobby of Mrs. Harl C. Word, of 2140 Valley Street, Burbank, came in handy this week to locate a Burbank family marooned in Northern California's flood area.

—Daily Review Photo

(Continued on Page 2)

W6QYL Marries W6RDQ

Radio Romance Ends Well For Ill Nurse



ON THE AIR—At her bedside radio sending and receiving set, Mrs. Martha Edwards, 30-year-old registered nurse and avid "ham" operator, relaxes in her home during convalescence from tuberculosis. Martha first met her husband, Noel Edwards, professional and ham radio operator, over the air. They now live at 14281 S. Mar-les Dr., Santa Ana. She discovered ham radio four years ago while attending a radio-minded patient as a private nurse in Yucca Valley. Edwards is with the Federal Communications Monitoring Station in Santa Ana. (Register Photo)

BY HARRY BOYLE

It's an ill wind, as the saying goes, that doesn't blow in some good.

Mrs. Martha Edwards, Santa Ana housewife and avid "ham" radio operator, will nod a vigorous assent to that old adage as she relaxes in her home at 14281 S. Mar-les Dr., Santa Ana, recuperating from a seige of tuberculosis.

The cheerful, 30-year-old registered nurse found a hobby and a husband some four years ago and she attributes both discoveries indirectly to "the ill wind" that blew in the often death-dealing disease.

Attending a private patient four years ago while working as a nurse in Yucca Valley, Martha first became acquainted with the world of the "ham" radio operator when her patient, a devotee of the wireless and headphone indoor sport, taught her the techniques of amateur radio sending and receiving.

First Thrill

Her first big thrill over the air, she says, came "when I learned a good recipe over the air for how to cook chicken."

From that time on, Martha recalls, she was a devoted fan of radio.

Since licensed as a "ham" radio operator in 1952, Martha or W6QYL, as she is called by other business-like "hams," has met many friends over the air, some from as far away as Tahiti and the Canal Zone and some from the more localized "ironing board network."

The finding of an avocation did not come as easily for Martha as it has for some, however. Shortly after she became a "ham" Martha discovered she had contracted tuberculosis and had to resign herself to long, tedious treatment.

Made Known

But before her illness struck, W6RDQ had made himself known over Martha's radio set.

W6RDQ was Noel Edwards, later to become her husband. Their courtship started by radio contact and ended in marriage, just be-

fore Edwards went to sea as a ship's radio officer.

Edwards, with the Federal Communications Monitoring Station in Santa Ana and a follower of radio beams in both business and pleasure, speaks highly of the hobby that "helped Martha pass time in touch with friends during her recovery."

W6QYL and W6RDQ probably keep in closer touch with each other than any non-radio operating hubby and wife. Edwards talks to his wife by means of his portable transmitter-receiver installed in his car, contacting Martha often while away from home.

The pair has some \$700 in portable and home radio equipment.

Less Than \$25

Edwards, after describing in glowing terms how intricate and expensive "ham" operating can get on a grand style, hastens to add, "I don't want to give you the idea this radio work is for millionaires. You can put yourself on the air complete with license for less than \$25.

"There is a lot of war surplus equipment available," Edwards explained, declaring that round-the-world sending and receiving is definitely accessible to the hobby enthusiast who has to save his pennies.

Through not the veteran radio operator that her husband is, Martha is, perhaps, an even more devoted "ham" operator.

"People who are 'hams' are universal brothers, regardless of race, creed or color," says the enthusiastic convalescent housewife.

Up and around again now for most of the day, Martha is assured by her physicians of complete recovery from tuberculosis.

Lately she has been preparing for the International Convention of The Young Ladies Radio League, meeting this weekend in Santa Monica, Mirimar Hotel, which she is attending with Mrs. Earl Griffin (WIPJU) of Santa Ana. Both are members of the Young Ladies Radio Club of Los Angeles, hostess club of the meeting.

Women Radio Hams to Honor Founder

Mrs. Baron Barker (Harrington, or W6QGX, as she's known to fellow hams) will preside at the luncheon meeting at which the Los Angeles Young Ladies' Radio Club celebrates its 10th anniversary October 13, at 720 South Hill street.

Comprised entirely of licensed women radio amateurs, the group will honor its founder, Mrs. James Dishong (she's Clara, W6TDL) as well as past presidents and the 10 charter members. There are now 75 active members.

Organized mainly to further the interest of women

in amateur radio activity, it also furnishes volunteer hours to civil defense and traffic handling.

The October program will be given by Mrs. Harold Scott (Evelyn, W6NZZ) who will show pictures of her trip to the Orient.

Other current officers are Mesdames Lee Eastman (W6DXI-Gladys); Howard Wheeler (W6JZA-Elsa); Harl Word (W6WRT-Ruby), and Marlow Stewart (W6JMC-Mary Kay).

All licensed women radio amateurs in the Los Angeles area are eligible and welcome to join LAYLRC.



name is Gilberte, Gil for short, is French-Canadian. During her long-distance conversations she is K6IKF, the call letters of her amateur radio license.

In Self Defense

Her husband, learned radio when he was 13 and has been at it for 20 years, except during the war when radio amateurs were banned from the air.

To keep from being a ham widow, Gil learned code and technical information necessary to receive her general radio license a year ago.

While her husband hams at night, Gil sends out CQs (I want to talk to somebody) to OM (old men of any age) during the day, if there isn't any QRM (interference). All women are YL (young ladies) or XYL, if married.

Like the Toastmistress

said. A short, energetic woman, Mrs. George is the editor of the Tri County Amateur Radio Association newspaper, QRM. It contains news about other hams, the kind of gear they use, as well as new rulings from the FCC. The paper reaches amateurs in Pomona, Ontario, Upland, Chino and Claremont.

Cards Are Proof

The Georges' radio shack walls are covered with cards from other hams they have talked to in the South Pacific, Europe and the United States. There also are cards from the Breeze Shooters Club, proving that Gil talked to 10 of its members, and from the Rag Chewers, meaning an hour's conversation with the same person.

One afternoon she picked up a CQ with the call letters

than 350 hours as a member of the Ground Observer Corps.

On week ends the Georges take their portable radio equipment in the car and talk by telephone to other hams, often reaching Catalina Island. This summer their boys, 13 and 16, want to earn their novice licenses so that they'll be a real ham family, by George!



YLCOM Valentine Dinner
Feb. 1955



Front Row - Seated L to R
 W6AYF - Mary, W6EHA - Gen,
 W6UHA - Maxine, W6KER - Gilda,
 Guest Speaker - VK, W6PJU - Mildred,
 W6QGX - Harriette.
 Standing - L to R
 (?), W6JZA - Elsa, W6QYL - Martha,
 W6SHR - Lorraine, W6DXI - Gladys,
 (?), W6JCA - Betty, K6INK ex W6ZUR - Jerry,
 W6MES - Al (KER's OM), K6D - - , Ed (6INK's OM),
 K6G , Eileen, (?), W6OEE - Vada

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. W6REF | 11. W6PDU | 21. W7SNP | 29. K6GQW |
| 2. W6NZP | 12. W6DXI | 22. W6NDPX | 30. W6JZA |
| 3. K6CYZ | 13. W6SHR | 23. K6ELI | 31. W6CEE |
| 4. W6KER | 14. K6GMX | 24. | 32. W6WSV |
| 5. K6EXV | 15. W6CBA | 25. W6QYL | 33. W6MFP |
| 6. W6NAZ | 16. K6BKR | 26. K6BBA | 34. K6ELO |
| 7. W6UHA | 17. K6EIA | 27. K6ANG | 35. |
| 8. W6AKE | 18. W6AVF | 28. W6KYZ | 36. W6TDL |
| 9. W6QGX | 19. K6EJE | | |
| 10. W6QOG | 20. W7SNP mother | | |



Installation Meeting - June 1955



Radio Club Will Mark 10th Year

*Mrs. Dishong,
Founder, to Be
Feted at Lunch*

The Los Angeles Young Ladies Radio Club will celebrate its 10th anniversary and honor Founder Mrs. James Dishong, past presidents and charter members at a luncheon Saturday at 720 S Hill St.

Licensed women radio amateurs comprise the club membership, which has grown from 10 to 75 in the decade since it was organized, according to Mrs. Baron Barker, president.

Radio Interest

The group was organized to further interest of women in amateur radio activity. Many of its members have devoted numerous hours to civil defense and the handling of radio traffic as a public service, Mrs. Barker reports.

At the coming session Mrs. Harold Scott will show pictures of her recent trip to the

Orient via Hawaii, Australia and New Zealand.

Officers serving with Mrs. Barker this term are Mmes.

Lee Eastman, vice-president; Howard Wheeler, recording secretary; Harl Word, corresponding secretary, and Marlow Stewart, treasurer.







ANN - CONVENTION - October - 1950
 at the Waldorf Astoria - Los Angeles

Front Row - Seated
 W6UHA - Marine, W6QGX - Harryette, W6PSU - Mildred, W6KER - Gilda,
 W6 ---- Joan (W6QGV's daughter), W6JZA - Elsa.

Second Row - Standing
 W6TDL - Clara, W6MFP - Agnes, W6KYZ - Ann, W6JCA - Betty,
 W6NLM - Bulan, W6LMQ - Eleanor, ^(Louis) W6AYS - Edith

Back Row - Standing
 W6QOG - Helene, W6EHA - Gen, W6GAI - Frances, W6WRT - Ruby,
 W6LBO - Mary, ? , W6QYL - Martha, W6WSV - Carol, W6CEE - Vada



KOEL

WOLBO
KIDNG
WOPCO

WOCV
WEDXI

WIRJA

KOACF

WQGX

WICKER

WDFEA

WOPJU

WQJMC

WQJHA

WQJFP

WQJRT

WQJZA
WQJZX

WQJZY

O.M.L.Y. VALINTINE DINNER

SCULLY'S - LOS ANGELES

FEBRUARY 13, 1954

543-13A
WEAVER
LA

- | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. K6CDB | 8. W6PDU | 15. W6QYL | 22. W6NAZ | 29. K6AND |
| 2. W6PCO | 9. W6KER | 16. K6DPX | 23. K6EJE | 30. K6ACE |
| 3. W6EHA | 10. W6WSV | 17. W6QGX | 24. W6QDG | 31. |
| 4. W6NZP | 11. W6UHA | 18. W6JZA | 25. K6BAX | 32. K6ALZ |
| 5. W6TDL | 12. W6SGL | 19. W6JZA | 26. W6WRT | |
| 6. W6CBA | 13. K6DRS | 20. | 27. W6JMC | |
| 7. W6CEE | 14. W6AKE | 21. W6DXI | 28. W6LBO | |



Installation Meeting
June 1950



SURROUNDED BY MAPS, dials and knobs, Mrs. Maxine Willis contacts distant lands on short-wave radio rig. Her enthusiasm for radio hobby is shared by husband, Ed.
Times photo

BY ALEENE BARNES

From Sherman Oaks to Japan in one afternoon is quite a long jump, but it's not an unusual one for Mrs. Edward Willis. In fact, Mrs. Willis says it's possible for her to go from her home in West Los Angeles to Hawaii, Alaska or Tibet within a few minutes' time.

The secret behind this fast traveling is that Mrs. Willis is a ham radio operator, one who has contacted 216 countries, from Arabia to New Zealand via her short-wave rig.

In the 13 years she has held a license, Mrs. Willis has filled 20 log books, racking up more than 21,600 calls. She estimates that her current monthly radio contacts now average close to 400.

Intriguing Jargon

Television aerials in the neighborhood are dwarfed by the huge 45-foot antenna at the Willis household. Inside the home the radio room appears to be something out of a Superman film, with dials, knobs and meters peering out of large black metal radio receivers and transmitters.

The short-wave jargon is even more intriguing. Common code words are QSL, meaning confirmation cards exchanged by ham operators, CW for code transmission and QRM for interference.

Letter Designation

Letters are also assigned to each operator by the Federal Communications Commission for identification purposes. Mrs. Willis is known as W6UHA.

Mrs. Willis explains that W

stands for United States, 6 for the 6th District, or California. UHA are her own personal call letters. These identification letters are now issued on license plates for cars of amateur radio operators.

Goodwill Created

An active member of the Los Angeles Young Ladies Radio Club, Mrs. Willis is enthusiastic over the international goodwill promoted by club members.

"Through our radio contacts we become well acquainted with other ham operators around the world. The clubwomen also work radio traffic 24 hours a day, picking up emergency messages during floods and other disasters.

Conversations Arranged

"Among the most important services is arranging conversations between servicemen away from home and their families," she said.

Club members often entertain hams they have met through radio conversations. Mrs. Willis recalled a visit from a friend whose home is Johannesburg, South Africa.

Husband a Fan, Too

"During a radio conversation after she returned home," Mrs. Willis continued, "she told me that she was going to marry the man with the beautiful 10-meter beam, another radio friend."

In relating how she became interested in radio as a hobby, Mrs. Willis said, "I couldn't escape being a ham." Her enthusiasm for the hobby is shared by her husband, who as a ham operator (W6TS) encouraged her to study for her FCC license.

Most of the husbands of the radio club members are also

amateur radio operators. "It's a good thing they are, because they don't mind if dinner is delayed while we talk to someone in a distant country," she said.

Many husbands have mobile radios in their cars "which is quite handy," Mrs. Willis added. "If we discover we need something from the market we can call our husbands en route home and ask them to pick it up. Or if they're delayed in traffic they can call that they'll be late."

Not Too Expensive

The main problem between husband and wife radio enthusiasts is rivalry for use of the rig. "Being a ham operator is not an inexpensive hobby," Mrs. Willis confessed. Cost of a good rig can be compared to the price of a good television set, she said.

"Then, of course, no piece of equipment is ever quite good enough. You always want to add something new to increase your receiving and sending power," she said.

What do hams talk about during their radio conversations? Usually they are concerned with the exchange of messages which are occasionally to be relayed to other operators.

When it's time to sign off,

Mrs. Willis bids her radio friends good day by saying, "You're 100% (good reception), here's to your DX (distance contact), 33's (good wishes). This is W6UHA over, off and in the gear."

Mrs. Barker, Ham Operator Combines Fun With Service

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

She is a radio amateur, licensed in 1940 by the Federal Communication Commission with the call letters W6QGX. Known on the airwaves by her given name of Harryette, she is the control station for the statewide amateur network of radio stations called the 2 Meter American Legion Net. This net receives and transmits hundreds of messages each month, many of them from servicemen overseas to their families at home.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Harryette W6QG X



RADIO HAM—Mrs. Gladys E. Eastman, feminine radio ham and deputy communications officer for the Glendale Civil Defense and Disaster Council, tunes in to the "ironing board net."

CIVIL DEFENSE AIDE

Glendale Woman Has Radio Transmitter

In Glendale is a housewife and mother who is enjoying a hobby, which is largely dominated by the male of the species. She is Mrs. Gladys E. Eastman, 735 Glen, a licensed amateur radio operator operating her transmitter under the Federal Communications Commission call letters of W6DXI. Not the only "ham" in her family, she shares her hobby with her husband, Lee Eastman, who is W6AWI, son Ronald, and daughter Frances, all licensed amateurs.

Mrs. Eastman, with her daughter Frances, is a member of the international organization for women radio operators, the Young Ladies Radio League, and both will attend the organization's first convention to be held at Miramar Hotel, Santa Monica June 24, 25 and 26.

Will Conduct Class

After she returns from the convention Mrs. Eastman will conduct a class for the civil defense council in radio teletype.

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

Both Mr. and Mrs. Eastman serve under the civil defense provisions. He is the assistant radio chief of the regional civil defense and she is deputy communications officer of the Glendale Civil Defense and Disaster Council.

Gladys, as she is known on the air waves, enjoys the social aspects of her hobby too, checking in weekly to several networks of fellow club members and women friends. One of these nets is often called the "Ironing Board Net," because so many of the

women complete their weekly ironing between short wave transmissions.

One YL operator (all feminine radio amateurs are called YL for young lady, whether they are 9 or 90, calls the network roll call, then each station checking in takes its turn talking, one at a time, of course. Their subjects for conversation range from the technical, as the construction of a new antenna, to a new recipe, or method for sewing on buttons.

Secretary of Club

Mrs. Eastman is recording secretary for the Los Angeles Young Ladies Radio Club, composed of 60 licensed women radio hams of Los Angeles county, and is the treasurer-elect.

The Eastman family can take its hobby with it whenever it goes on weekend trips or vacations, as a small portable transmitter and receiver go right along. The Eastmans have made "mobile" radio contacts on trips in many locales including the Southern California mountains, Tijuana, and as far south as Acapulco, Mexico, where the entire family attended a ham radio convention of the Mexican radio amateurs last spring.

Ready for World-Wide YL Convention



VADA LETCHER, W6CEE, national president of YLRL, and **Agnes Langevin, W6MFP**, beside the pool at Hotel Miramar, Santa Monica, California, where the YL's will convene for the first international convention of women Hams. Top prize will be the Gonset Communicator shown.

THE stage is set for the First International Convention of the Young Ladies' Radio League at Santa Monica's Miramar Hotel June 24-27.

The Committees have done a tremendous amount of work in organizing the affair and the results of their labors guarantee a Convention that will be long remembered.

Registration and reception is scheduled for Friday the 24th. A luncheon and fashion show will highlight the Saturday program, with a business meeting, technical discussions, and exhibits. The YL-OM banquet with installation of officers and distribution of prizes will be Saturday nite. Sunday will be devoted to scheduled tours to points of interest.

Each YL attending the Convention will be presented with a typically Californian souvenir — a handsome handcrafted copper bracelet.

This First YL International Convention, originated and sponsored by the Los Angeles YL Club, will draw YL's not only from all parts of the U. S., Canada, and Mexico, but also from several other countries. Maxine Willis, W6UHA, is general chairman of the event. Tickets for the YL's, covering all activities, are \$10. OM tickets for the Saturday nite banquet are \$6. They may be had from any of the Gals, from Scott's, and other Ham Shops.

First YL Convention Makes Ham History

From the Atlantic to the Pacific, from Alaska to the Canal Zone, over 100 YL's gathered in Santa Monica June 24-27 to make Ham history with the First International Convention of YLRL.

Alaska was represented by Jeanne H. Collins, KL7RN, of Minchumina, where she and her OM are CAA ops, and from the Canal Zone came Grace Dunlap, KZ5DG, of Balboa Heights.

Stateside YLRL District chairmen attending included W3PVH, W5SYL, W6WSV, W7SBX, W8UAP, W0ERR.

About 150 YL's, their friends and OM's gathered for the Saturday evening banquet which was just another meal until John Reinartz, K6BJ, took the floor to reminisce wittily on the early days of "wireless" and the involuntary but extraordinary co-operation of telephone linemen who kept the budding Marconi supplied with batteries and copper wire.

Bernard Linden, of the Los Angeles office of FCC spoke briefly, welcoming the conventioners, as did Walt Joos, W6EKM, Southwestern Division ARRL Director. Louisa Sando, W5RZJ, of Dulce, N. M., YL editor of CQ magazine, was on hand with her OM to

presented to the guest-speakers were flown in from Hawaii through the courtesy of Jeanette DeLong, KH6AFN, Honolulu member of the YLRL. Jeanette had planned to attend the convention, but found at the last minute that she could not make it.

The featured entertainment was the "Alpine Dancers" in folk dances of the Alpine country, directed by Enid Aldwell, W6UXF.

Vada Letcher, W6CEE, national YLRL president, acted as toastmistress, and Maxine Willis, W6UHA, was general chairman of the Convention.

THE WINNER!



Gwen Rudolph, KN6IHD, who won the 2-meter Communicator donated to the YLRL Convention by Gonset Company of Burbank.

report for her popular monthly column.

The YL's were presented with handsome handcrafted copper bracelets fabricated by Martha Edwards, W6QYL.

Flower table decorations and leis pre-
(Continued on Page Two)

Women Can Be "Hams," Too

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

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

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

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

Why do most women become ham operators?

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

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

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

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

Betty Gillies, W6QOO, is more than a ham operator and homemaker. She's a pilot and a participant in powder puff derbies. World traveler Evelyn Scott, W6NZP, is in charge of all auxiliary communications for the Powder

Why do most women become ham operators?

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

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

What about those call letters?

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

How do they use the YL network?

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

puff derbies. World traveler Evelyn Scott, W6NZP, is in charge of all auxiliary communications for the Powder Puff Derby emanating from Long Beach. W6NZP has put her ham radio to other uses. Before taking a trip to South Africa last year she communicated with other "hams," establishing contact and making arrangements for her visit. And when she and her O.M. husband arrived in South Africa, instead of checking in at a hotel they were the house guests of various other hams.

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

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

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



The Ladies Are Hams

by Jackie Russell

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



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



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

—Independent Photos

ABOUT 7 o'clock every Wednesday night the ladies get together.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the little back room converted into a radio room.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"One thing you can say about our group,"

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

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

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

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

But there is a worthwhile moment for every hard one.

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

The YL's took over.

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