

The Central Texas Amateur Radio Club
meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the
Bell County Communications Center, 798 West Avenue O, in Belton

The President's Rant...

Gerald Richmond, N5ZXJ



Greetings everyone! I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy.

March is upon us, The Army Marathon is this weekend on Sunday, the 2nd. Our next Club meeting is Tuesday evening on the 4th; Daylight Saving Time goes into effect on the 9th; Saint Patty's day is up next after that on the 17th; the first day of spring is on the 20th and HamExpo! rounds out the month on the 29th.

We had a great turnout for the club luncheon at Papa's in Harker Heights back on the 15th of February, and our next luncheon is planned for the 15th of March at 12:30, at the German restaurant in Walburg, located at 3777 FM 972, just north of Georgetown.

On behalf of the entire CTARC membership, I want to extend a welcome to CTARC's newest member **Donald Sandlin-KF5ZQD**, out of Harker Heights. Donald joined the club at our last monthly meeting in February and has since been active on the weekly nets with us.

ARRL is rotating the special event stations each week across the country. Get on the HF bands and work them. I have collected contacts with each one since the event started.

This time of the year is hard on those with seasonal allergies and I have found myself to be not immune this go around, so forgive me if I'm not always up to snuff.

This coming Tuesday on March 4th, is our monthly club meeting and we'll be going over programming the area repeaters and simplex frequencies that we may all want to have in a similar common setting for our program.

Lastly, I'd like to ask that everyone keep Marty-KF5IXZ and Susan-KF5OHM Godfrey in their thoughts. They went through a house fire last month that severely damaged their kitchen area. If you'd care to help out in any way there is a website you can visit to make contributions at: <http://www.youcaring.com/help-a-neighbor/house-on-fire/138561>

That is all I have till next month. See everyone on Tuesday evening.

- 73 de Gerald, N5ZXJ



RICHMOND INDEPENDENT RADIO
 radio for the rest of us

‘This Moment in Radio’

Jack Binns, March 30, 1922

Editor’s Introduction... Jack Binns was the wireless operator of the RMS Republic, which, during the early morning hours of Saturday, January 23, 1909, collided with the SS Florida. For eighteen hours he stayed at his post sending out distress signals and is credited with saving the lives of over 1,500 people before the vessel eventually sank. He was later offered a position as the chief wireless operator of the RMS Titanic, but instead resigned from the Marconi Company and became a newspaper reporter. Jack would later pass away on December 8, 1959, in New York of a stroke. His words, though penned in 1922, are just as valid for the new person entering the amateur radio hobby today, as they were back then.



John Robinson ‘Jack’ Binns

It is very appropriate at this moment when radio has taken the country by storm, and aroused an enthusiasm never before equaled, that the possibilities for boys in this art should be brought out in the interesting and readable manner as shown in the series of books of ‘The Radio Boys’.

Radio is still a young science, and some of the most remarkable advances in it have been contributed by amateurs--that is, by boy experimenters. It is never too late to start in the fascinating game, and the reward for the successful experimenter is rich both in honor and recompense.

Just take the case of E. H. Armstrong, one of the most famous of all the amateurs in this country. He started in as a boy at home, in Yonkers, experimenting with home-made apparatus, and discovered the circuit that has revolutionized radio transmission and reception. His circuit has made it possible to broadcast music and speech, and it has brought him worldwide fame.

He had no elaborate laboratory in which to experiment, but he persevered and won out. Like the stories of the ‘Radio Boys’, he was confronted with all kinds of odds, but with true American spirit he stuck to his task and triumphed.

The attitude of the government toward the wireless amateur is well illustrated by the expressions of Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, and is summed up in his declaration, “I am for the American boy.”

No other country in the world offers such opportunities to boy experimenters in the radio field. The government realizes that there is always a possibility of other important discoveries being made by the boy experimenters, and that is the reason it encourages the amateur.

Don’t be discouraged because Edison came before you. There is still plenty of opportunity for you to become a new Edison, and no science offers the possibilities in this respect as does radio communication.



“The House of Squibb presents: ‘Academy Award’. Every week, Squibb brings you Hollywood’s finest -- the great picture plays, the great actors and actresses, techniques and skills chosen from the honor roll of those who have won, or been nominated for, the famous golden ‘Oscar’ of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.”



Academy Award Theater began its full 39 week season on March 30, 1946 and aired until December 18th, 1946. These 30 minute programs consisted of dramatizations of movies whose pictures, players, techniques, and skills won or were nominated for the coveted golden Oscars. The movie stars recreated their Academy Award roles for the show, or in other cases, fine actors played the parts and gave it a different character. Both ways made for great radio drama and first class Hollywood motion picture star entertainment.

You can listen-in again to all 39 episodes of this radio show by visiting: https://archive.org/details/OTRR_Academy_Award_Theater_Singles

“This is Hugh Brundage bidding you good night until next time when you’re invited to listen again to ‘Academy Award’ -- presented by the House of Squibb, a name you can trust!”



The Central Texas Amateur Radio Net meets every Thursday at 8:00 PM on the N5ZXJ repeater, on 145.310(-) PL 123.0
Join Us!

March NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule

March 6 th : Net Control: AD5SK Back-Up: K6WXA	March 13 th : K6WXA W5GNK
March 20 th : Net Control: W5GNK Back-Up: KE5ISN	March 27 th : KE5ISN W5VEX



ARRL International DX Contest

Contest period runs from 0001Z March 1st to, 2400Z March 2nd on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters SSB phone. For more information on this, please visit: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>



Skywarn Training

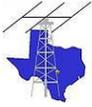


Erath County (*Basic Spotter Training Only*) Thursday, March 27th, 6:30-8:30 PM at the Science Building, Room #102, Tarleton State University, 1333 West Washington St., in the city of Stephenville.

Lampasas County (*Basic Spotter Training Only*) Monday, March 3rd, 6:30-8:30 PM at the Lampasas County Annex, 501 East 4th St., in Lampasas.

Mills County (*Basic Spotter Training Only*) Tuesday, March 4th, 7:00-9:00 PM at the Goldthwaite VFD, 806 East 4th St., in Goldthwaite.

Williamson County (*Basic Spotter Training Only*) Wednesday, March 5th, 6:30-8:30 PM at the Jester Annex, 1801 East Old Settlers Blvd., in Round Rock.



Williamson County Swapfest

The Williamson County Amateur Radio Club will be holding their annual swapfest on Saturday, March 8th at the Community Center in the San Gabriel Park, 445 East Morrow Street, in Georgetown. Doors open at 8:00 AM.

Talk-in frequency is via their repeater on 146.640(-) PL 162.2 and call for **N5TT**.



WEATHERFEST

Get blown away by Texas Severe Weather Awareness Week at the Bob Bullock Museum, 1800 North Congress Avenue in Austin, Saturday, March 8th with a full day of weather science and fun. While there, representatives from the National Weather Service will also present a 2-hour Skywarn storm spotting class from 10:00 am to Noon.

Daylight Saving Time Begins



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, **March 9th at 2:00 AM**. Be sure to set your clocks one hour ahead before going to bed the preceding Saturday night.



Greater Houston Hamfest ARRL South Texas Convention

The Greater Houston Hamfest and ARRL South Texas Convention is on Saturday, March 22nd at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4200 Highway 36, in Rosenberg. Admission is \$10.00. Talk-in frequency is 146.940(-) PL 167.9 and call for **KK5W**.

More info is at: www.houstonhamfest.org



CQ World-Wide WPX Contest

Contest period runs from 0001Z March 29th to 2400Z, March 30th on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters SSB. For more information on this contest, please visit: <http://www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm>

What's New?



K6STU '220' Repeater in Lampasas County

Your Editor has long been whining and complaining that there's no activity on the 1.25 Meter Band, between 222 and 225 MHz here in the Central Texas region. Well..., that's now all changed thanks to Mike Tyler-K6STU.

Mike recently installed his new '220' repeater about 1-1/2 miles West of Topsey, which puts the repeater just inside of the Lampasas County line. He reports that it's an 'open' repeater and though it currently doesn't have a PL tone, he says that if and when he installs a PL in it, it'll have a tone of 88.5.

If you've got '220' capability, give the repeater a try – it's on 224.300 with a minus off-set.



DL7BC will be on the air **stroke FH** from Mayotte between March 21st and April 4th. Operations will be on 20-10 meters with 40 meters also a possibility. He also plans to participate in the 2014 CQ World Wide WPX SSB Contest signing **TO7BC**. QSL via his home callsign.

DJ9RR, **HA5AO**, **HA5UK**, **IV3YER**, **K3EL**, **K5GS**, **KE4KY**, **VK3HJ** and **W2LK** will be active from Mellish Reef (Heralds Beacon Islet) 28 March - 9 April as **VK9MT**. QSL via **MØURX**.

OE2SNL will be active from Chatham Islands 13-26 March signing **stroke ZL7**. QSL via his home call.

AA9A will be active from Sint Maarten Island through the 16th of March as **PJ7AA**. QSL via his home call.

G3XAQ will be active from Kampala, Uganda through the 16th of March as **5X1XA**. QSL via **G3SWH**.

KFØRQ will be active from Uganda as **XU7ACQ**, through March 21st. QSL via his home call.

A group of British amateurs will be active from Raivavae Island, in the Austral Islands 20 March - 1 April as **TX6G**. QSL via **G3TXF**.

F6ITD will be active through the 25th of March from Basse Terre Dehales Island and from La Desirade Island as **TO6D**. QSL via his home call.

ON4AVT will be active from Surinam as **PZ5VC** mainly on PSK, March 1st - 28th. QSL via his home callsign.

F5VHJ will be active as **TO5A**, from Martinique on March 1st and 2nd. QSL via his home call.

K7CO and **K7CXN** will be active from Christmas Island, 1 through 11 March as **VK9X/K7CO**. QSL via **K7CO**.

YF1AR and **YB3MM** will be active from Wangi Wangi Island in the Wakatobi Islands, 26 March - 2 April as **YF1AR/8** and **YB3MM/8**. QSL **YF1AR** via **N2OO**; QSL **YB3MM** via his home call.

WS5K will be active from Bonaire Island through the 9th of March as **PJ4F**. QSL via his home call.

W4VKU will be active from Andaman Islands 23-30 March as **VU4K**. QSL via his home call.

KQ8Z will be active from the Bahamas through the 4th of March as **C6AZZ**. QSL via his home call.

Russian special event station **UE8ØHS** will be active during the entire month in observation of Russia's first astronaut Yuri Gagarin's 80th birthday. QSL via **RW6HS**.

JF1CCH will be active as **8Q7TS** from Hulhumale Island in the Maldives from March 20th to the 31st. QSL via his home call.

WA2NHA will be active March 2nd to the 17th **stroke P4** from Aruba. QSL via his home call.

V47JA and his wife **V47HAM** will be active from St. Kitts Island through the 25th of March. QSL via **W5JON**.

The Psara Island Lighthouse in Greece will be activated March 29th - April 1st as **SX8PSR**. QSL via **SV8GXQ**.

KT1K will be active **stroke TF** from Iceland during the month of March. QSL via his home call.

Special event station **RØØØØOR** will be on the air through March 31st in celebration of the 2014 Winter Olympic Games being held in Sochi, Russia. QSL via **UA1OJL**.

KN4KL and **W4WV**, will activate **W1AW/KG4** from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba February 26, through March 4. QSL via **W1AW**.



Spring Outlook

A wise old man once said, it truly *is* darkest before the dawn. After the Winter Solstice, the light slowly begins its inevitable return, and the days begin to grow blessedly longer, flipping the switch to 'ON' for the inevitable countdown to Spring.

What we want is warmth, sun, no more snow and ice and cold. We've had enough. While cold and snow will linger in the Northern states, spring will get an earlier start in the southern half.

Forecasters also believe that after a below normal severe weather season in 2013, this year is forecast to follow suit. While the severe weather season is anticipated to be below normal, it is expected to be more "eventful" than 2013.



A few episodes of severe weather are possible in the Gulf Coast, where some severe tornado outbreaks occurred last year, and concerns are there again for this year.



Forecasters at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a three-month U.S. Spring Outlook, stating that odds favor above-average temperatures across much of the continental United States, including drought-stricken areas of Texas, the Southwest and the Great Plains. Spring promises little drought relief for most of these areas, as well as Florida, where below-average precipitation is expected.

However, seasonal forecasting is known to be significantly less reliable than short-term predictions, so take that with a grain of salt.

Vernal Equinox

Punxsutawney Phil in his Groundhog Day forecast last month, may have predicted six more weeks of winter, or an early spring – either way – for those of here in Central Texas, say goodbye to winter and say hello to spring with temperatures slowly rising to greet the Vernal Equinox on Thursday, March 20th, at 11:57 AM CDT bringing the first day of Spring.



CTARC Weather Nets

The CTARC Weather Net provides information to the National Weather Service Regional Office located in Fort Worth and various local authorities. The goal is to help protect the people of Central Texas and provide ground truth data to the National Weather Service.

With storm season quickly approaching, I thought it appropriate to re-visit the basic operating guidelines of our CTARC Weather Nets and to list the back-up frequencies of where to tune to in the event a weather system takes out a particular repeater or repeaters.

Operational Guidelines:

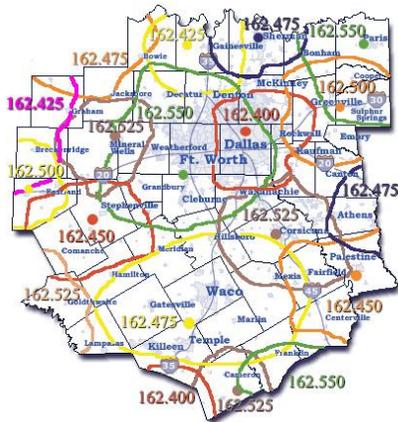
Standby Mode - The repeater is free for use. However, a CTARC Weather Net Control Operator will be standing by for any severe weather reports.

Active Mode - The repeater is under the control of the Net Control operator. All traffic should be directed through the NCS operator. Severe weather is occurring within our coverage area.

Emergency Mode - The repeater is under the control of the Net Control operator. All traffic is restricted to emergency traffic only. Extremely severe weather is occurring within our coverage area.

Weather Net Frequencies:

Primary Repeater W5BEC - Eddy, 147.140 MHz(+) PL Tone 123.0
Secondary Repeater N5ZXJ - Eddy, 145.310 MHz(-) PL Tone 123.0
Alternate Repeater W5AMK - Gatesville, 146.960(-) PL Tone 123.0
Alternate Repeater KB5SXV - Lampasas, 147.220 MHz(+) PL Tone 88.5
Alternate Repeater W5ZDN - Lacy / Lakeview, 145.150 MHz(-) PL Tone 123.0
Alternate Repeater KE5URD - Cameron, 147.020 MHz(+) PL Tone 123.0
Alternate Repeater W5BCR - Clifton, 147.180 MHz(+) PL Tone 123.0
CTARC Simplex Frequency 147.550 MHz



Another good idea is to program in to your scanner or memory channel in your HT, the frequency of the nearest NOAA Weather Radio transmitter in your area.

The National Weather Service Office in Fort Worth operates 13 Radio consoles broadcasting from 13 transmitters located across North Texas. While several NOAA transmitters may be easily heard, for most of us, the principal frequency to tune to for our area is **162.475**, station **WXK35**. More info is at: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/?n=radioinfo> and: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/stations.php?State=TX>



HamEXPO!



Sponsored by the Temple Amateur Radio Club -W5LM, *the Belton Hamfest* returns to the Bell County Exposition Center in Belton on **Sat., March 29th** from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Getting there is easy; from U.S. Highway 190 take the exit for Loop 121 and follow the signs to the Exposition Center. Plenty of free parking!

Talk-in frequency is 146.820(-) PL 123, and call for W5LM.

General admission for the public is \$5.00 at the door. Admission price includes one free raffle ticket for various door prizes raffled off during the event. Winners must be present to collect their winnings.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo>



Ham Expo Amateur Radio Test Session

In conjunction with the HamExpo, amateur radio tests will be given in the main building of the Expo center, sponsored by the Central Texas Amateur Radio Club. The testing will begin at 9:30 AM and end when all applicants have been tested, probably around 11:00 AM.

Since the test session is in conjunction with the very popular Ham Expo, we expect between 25 and 50 people taking the tests. This requires at least 10 Volunteer Examiners to properly staff the event. The VE's participating should be on site by 9:00. Both General and Extra VE's are needed since all test levels are being made available.

This is a 'Ham Community' effort and all area VE's are needed and most welcome to participate. If you will be able to participate, please send an email to Joe Dorn - W5VEX, at: w5vex@arrl.net, or you can contact him by phone at (254) 939-5918 or (254) 721-0829.

People taking the test do not need to register before hand, just show up at test time. A photo ID and one other form of ID is required. The test fee is \$15.00.



Radio in 1931

If you were listening to radio in 1931, you probably had a lot on your mind besides music. Sixteen percent of the country was unemployed, and the Great Depression was in its second year. President Herbert Hoover was being blamed with increasing frequency, which may be one reason why Alka Seltzer was invented that year. 1931 was the year the Empire State Building was formally opened on May 1st. Organized crime figure Al Capone was sentenced to 11 years in prison on October 17th for income tax evasion and on the following day, October 18th, the great inventor Thomas Edison died at the age of 84. RCA Victor's Talking Machine Company picked the wrong year to introduce the 33-1/3 rpm plastic records. Unfortunately, they were of poor quality and few people could



1931 Philco Model 90

afford the new record players necessary to play them; the plan to popularize them could not be implemented. The same problem beset experimental television. There were 15 stations on the air – none were in Texas – and few Americans had the money for a TV receiver, especially when programming was so limited. CBS did begin doing some experimental television broadcasting starting on July 21st, 1931, (their station was W2XAB), but by and large, the nation's loyalty still belonged mainly to radio.

In 1931 there were 618 radio stations on the air in the country, of which 34 were in Texas. The census of 1930

said that 12 million of the country's 30 million homes owned at least one radio. In 1931, newspapers reported a loss of advertising revenue, while despite the Depression, radio showed an increase. NBC, which in November of 1931 celebrated its fifth anniversary, was profitable, as was CBS; and if you lived in New England, John Shepard III was expanding his Yankee Network. But the President-Elect of the National Association of Broadcasters, Harry Shaw, owner of WMT in Cedar Rapids, warned the Federal Radio Commission that while a number of large stations were making good profits, more than half of the stations in the U.S. were either barely scraping by or were losing money.

Radio Digest named the Mills Brothers the “vocal find of 1931”-- these four young men, who would become stars on CBS, were perhaps the first black group to win what was the equivalent of today's “best new group” Grammy. Speaking of CBS and ‘vocal finds’ of 1931, a new singer made his debut over CBS radio on September 2nd – Bing Crosby.



Harry Shaw

If you listened to radio in 1931, you could hear two great news commentators - Lowell Thomas and H.V. Kaltenborn. In addition, as of March 6th, a new and unique news show had appeared – “The March of Time”, which every Friday night at 9:00 PM, re-created and dramatized stories from *Time Magazine*; the show's signature line “time marches on” became a catch-phrase of the early 30s.

Other radio dramas were increasingly popular--perhaps you heard Richard Gordon portraying *Sherlock Holmes* on NBC. For kids, *Little Orphan Annie* debuted on April 6th, 1931, one of many shows to use the characters to sell the sponsor's products. (By 1931, the majority of the network shows were controlled by powerful advertising agencies, which helped to write the shows and book the talent for them, as well as assuring lots of product plugs.) And *Myrt and Marge* debuted on November 2nd, 1931 - the show's theme song was "Poor Butterfly." July 27th, 1931 was the last broadcast of the popular variety show, *Roxy and His Gang* on NBC-Blue, with Samuel L. Rothafel - better known as Roxy.



Vaughn De Leath - circa 1928

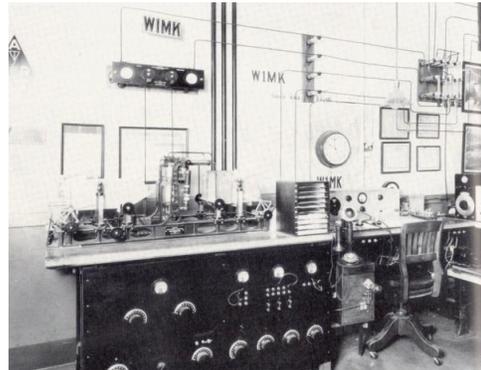
Among the female vocalists you might have heard in 1931 was "The First Lady of Radio," contralto Vaughn De Leath, whose career included singing for Lee DeForest's experimental station circa 1920, and being one of the few women program directors in New York in the early 20s at station WDT.

One of the most popular male vocalists was comedian and vaudeville star Eddie Cantor; he began doing a show for NBC in 1931, having done numerous guest performances on radio as early as 1923.

1931 was the year when controversial and bigoted radio priest Father Charles Coughlin had a parting of the ways with CBS, which tried to place restrictions on his network programs.

Another controversy involved the popular show "*Amos 'n' Andy*"-- an irate black journalist Robert L. Vann of the Pittsburgh Courier started a petition drive to get the show cancelled on the grounds that it was racist; his efforts failed, but an estimated 750,000 signatures nation-wide were gathered before the drive ended.

In Amateur Radio, hams were experimenting with a new band they had just been given privileges to a few months before - 20 Meters. If you had a "permanent-portable station" such as a mobile installation, you had a '1x4' callsign such as "W5AAA" and the ARRL Headquarters was in Hartford, CT and operated under the callsign of W1MK, instead of the call W1AW that we're all familiar with today. If you lived in California, your callsign started with a "W6" but if you lived in Hawaii, it began with "K6".



ARRL Headquarters Station W1MK - 1931

On the Shortwave bands, Vatican Radio began broadcasting as station HVJ on February 12th and the Netherlands went on the air October 14th as the Dutch Radio Peoples University.

If you had the money, a new car cost about \$530, a gallon of gas was 10 cents and a loaf of bread was 8 cents. A new home was right around \$7,000 and in the depression era, that new Philco radio was quite costly at \$50.00. But it was an era that would come to be known as radio's Golden Age, when so many stars were born and it seemed an entire country was depending on radio.



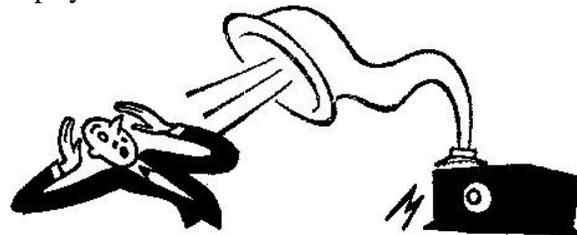
Radio's Real Uses

E.E. Free, Science Editor
"The Forum" — March, 1926

Radio broadcasting is spectacular and amusing but virtually useless. It is difficult to make out a convincing case for the value of listening to the material now served out by the American broadcasters. Even if the quality of this material be improved, as it undoubtedly will be, one must still question whether the home amusement thus so easily provided will sufficiently raise the level of public culture to be worth what it costs in time and money and the diversion of human effort.

It is quite possible to argue, indeed, that the very ease with which information or what-not reaches one by radio makes it just so much the less valuable. In educational matters, as in commerce, men usually value things by what they cost. Culture painlessly acquired is likely to be lost as painlessly — and as promptly.

Is the whole radio excitement to result, then, in nothing but a further debauching [morally corrupting] of the American mind in the direction of still lazier cravings for sensationalism? I believe not. There are at least two directions, quite different ones, in which radio has already proved its utility and its right to survive.



Showy but worthless

One of these is its practical service as a means of communication. The other is its effect, continually growing more evident, in stimulating the revival of that exceedingly useful and desirable creature, the amateur scientist.

Tomorrow's Telephone

Peacetime Applications of GI Portable Communications

Sergeant Georg Meyers, YANK Magazine Staff Writer
March 30, 1945

There are jobs waiting in the post-war world for your old combat friends – the walkie-talkie, the handie-talkie and the tank intercom. Civilians are already eager to put these battlefield devices to peacetime use, and after some hesitation the Federal Communications Commission has told the big telephone outfits they can prepare to peddle “general mobile telephone service” after the war.

The Bell Telephone Company, which would like to sell or rent and install radiotelephone equipment for New York City's 500 ambulances, 100,000 commercial delivery jobs, and 20,000 cabs and busses, thinks that before 1955 at least 10,000 vehicles will have mobile transmitter-receivers.



The Bell engineers have made with the slide rule and figured that office-to-truck or dispatcher-to-cab communications would save enough in fuel, wear-and-tear on tires and dead mileage to pay off quickly the \$500 equipment cost (that's the present price; it's expected to come down later) and toll charges on calls.

If the FCC were moving as fast as Bell thinks it should, there would soon be a land-line relay station every 17-1/2 miles on main highways. By dialing central and giving the approximate position of your company's truck, you would be able to talk to the driver and tell

him that Mrs. McDade in Hoboken wanted only one case instead of two, and please come back by way of Yonkers and try to shuck off the extra on Old Man Peebles. Your voice would travel by standard telephone line to the relay station closest to the truck and then spray out via radio waves to the driver's receiver.

The telephone people see special value to physicians in this kind of communications service. They say the mobile phone will enable Doc Jones to start out on his rounds in the morning and keep in touch with his nurse back at the office at all times, in case of emergency calls. The FCC doesn't share Bell's enthusiasm, probably having a sneaking sympathy for the harried big-city sawbones who in pre-war non-intercom days was able to duck out to sun

himself on a park bench or go for a furtive drive to Blue Creek for a half-hour of fishing.

If Bell has its way, Doc will be a gone gosling. If he rips the phone out of his car or stealthily tosses his handie-talkie on a Salvation Army tambourine, his nurse can still send out a book message, or general alarm: “Call for Dr. Maw-riss. Wearing a pin-stripe suit and a blue tie with potassium permanganate spots. Look for him. He is wanted in sur-jurry.” Then somebody else with a handie-talkie can be counted on to spot the doctor and turn him in to his patients.

There are 15,000 doctors in New York City alone, and there and in Boston this mobile telephone arrangement is already in operation on a limited experimental and emergency basis. If the idea catches on, Bell foresees the post-war day when doctors in many cities will be



demanding the service. The company also proudly reports that several large business concerns in various parts of the country have written to say that they hope to see this mobile phone stuff in operation.

For several reasons, however, it hasn't been easy for Bell's engineers to sell the FCC on the idea. The commission has felt that the additional aid to communications was planned almost entirely for large metropolitan areas without regard for the greater needs of rural and remote regions. But the big rub is technical.



Wartime advances in electronics have opened up a lot more space in the radio spectrum, but when it comes to passing out frequency allocations to standard broadcasts, FM, television, police calls, aviation communications, coastal radiophone, etc., the FCC is still some what in the position of the manager of a 100-room hotel trying to satisfy

1,000 would-be guests. One factor that helped persuade the FCC to allocate space to the telephone people was the belief that servicemen returning to civilian life would be used to handie-talkies and such.

“That’s one of the things that’s going to give us the biggest headache,” said Lawrence L. Fly, then FCC chairman, at a hearing called to hash over allocations of radio frequencies for post-war broadcasting. “Those fellows are coming back from abroad thinking they are going to have radio communications in their vest pockets.”

“I feel,” spoke up F.M. Ryan, radio engineer for the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, “that a lot of our men in the service who have experienced the utility of radio in mobile situations abroad will be rather surprised not to find the same convenience over here.”

That did it. Or, at any rate, Mr. Ryan’s crack about the surprised and presumably indignant veteran seems to have helped spur the FCC to set aside 31 channels for ‘mobile situations.’ The FCC, however, didn’t go all the way with the telephone industry, which had asked not for 31 channels, but for 200.

Under the FCC’s ruling, several frequencies were specifically assigned to something called the “Citizen’s Radio Service” which is to occupy a space in the broadcast spectrum reserved for the “General Mobile Telephone” experiment.

As we get it, this service will eventually handle things like enabling a farmer to call in the hired hand from the plow without resorting to the banging-on-the-dishpan method of signaling. The hired hand is presumably to carry a transmitter-receiver about the size of a plug of chewing tobacco in his hip pocket.

The assignment of even 31 frequencies was plainly regarded by the FCC as a major concession to the spirit of Buck Rogers. Chairman Fly, for example, made it clear that he was not convinced that the need for vehicular telephones and personal handie-talkies was important or urgent enough to justify the use of valuable radio frequencies, particular in cities where there’s a drug store with a pay booth on every other corner. To one engineer who kept harping on the convenience of mobile communications, Fly said: “I’m not talking about *convenience*. I’m talking about *urgent need*.” Anyway, eventually the FCC dug up those frequencies for the telephone people.

