

**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**

## From the Editor's Desk...

*Rick Murray, K6WXA*

At the top of the list, I'd like to extend a welcome to Sam Burnes-WY8V, who joined the club at our last meeting on March 3rd. Sam resides in Kempner and holds an Extra Class license and is also a VE. I know his services in that respect will be most welcome; if you hear him on the air, be sure to say Hi.

For the past 2-1/2 years, Mark McGraw-KF5HUG, has been the club's Webmaster and has been a Director on the club's board. Mark recently announced that due to work and family commitments, he feels that he cannot render proper services to the Board of Directors and so is stepping down from that position. Mark assures me however, that he will continue to be active in the club and will continue in his services to the club as our Webmaster. Gerald and I have discussed some likely candidates to fill the Director's position on the board, and we'll discuss that at our next meeting as well as accept any nominations from the floor.

The big news this month is **HamExpo!** on Saturday, April 18th at the Bell County Exposition Center - new and old toys to buy, and VE testing. More on this further on in the newsletter.

April 21st is a state holiday in observance of San Jacinto Day - some offices may be closed or at reduced staffing, so be sure to include that in any of your plans.

April 3rd marks the 155th Anniversary of what might be called the first "trans-continental communication" with the formation of the Pony Express in 1860, as the first rider departed St. Joseph, Missouri. The service lasted less than two years, ending on October 26, 1861, two days after the trans-continental telegraph reached Salt Lake City and connected Omaha, Nebraska and Sacramento, California with the completion of the overland telegraph.

Much more going on in the newsletter, but I'll let you read-on to find it all for your selves.

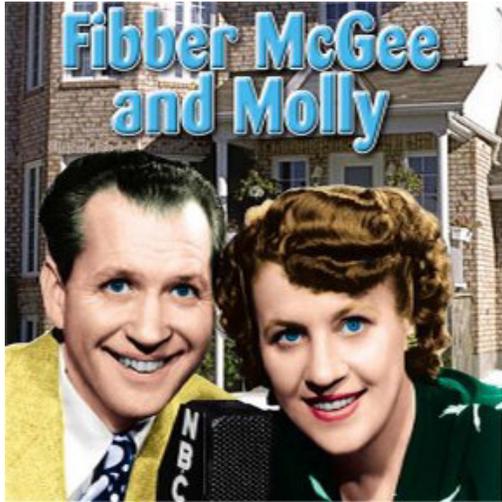
That's it from my end, our next meeting is on Tuesday, April 6th, at 7:00 PM at the Bell County Communications Center and I hope to see you all there.

- 73 de Rick, K6WXA





"The Johnson Wax Program, presents  
Fibber McGee & Molly."



*Fibber McGee and Molly* - one of the longest running radio sitcoms, aired over NBC from April 16, 1935 until October 2, 1959, long after radio had ceased to be the dominant form of entertainment in American popular culture. The stars of the program were real-life husband and wife team James "Jim" Jordan and Marian Driscoll who were natives of Peoria, Illinois.

This show is one of the cornerstones of the old time radio experience, and was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in 1989. The show spans several decades in time, but remains timeless. It is a great achievement in American entertainment. For the lucky ones who heard it on radio, *Fibber McGee and Molly* keeps a place near and dear to the heart.

Many believe that 1940 was the best year of their radio show, and so, here's a chance for you to step back in time and enjoy the antics of Fibber McGee and Molly by listening at:

<https://archive.org/details/FibberMcGeeandMolly1940>



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!

### April NCS and Back-Up NCS Schedule

April 2nd:	April 9th:
Net Control: KE5ISN	AD5SK
Back-Up: AD5SK	N5JLL

April 16th:	April 23rd:
Net Control: N5JLL	KF5OHR
Back-Up: KF5OHR	W5VEX

April 30th:  
Net Control: W5VEX  
Back-Up: K6WXA



## Skywarn Training



**Williamson County** (*Basic Spotter Training*) Wednesday, April 1st, 6:30 to 8:30 PM, at the East Williamson County Higher Education Center, 2nd Floor, 1600 Innovation Blvd., in Hutto.

**Williamson County** (*Basic Spotter Training*) Saturday, April 11th, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, at the Public Library, on the 2nd floor, 402 West 8th Street, in Georgetown.



Mineral Wells, Texas - mid 1930's



## Texas State Parks On-The-Air Contest

Sponsored by the Northwest Amateur Radio Society-W5NC, the contest period is from 14:00 UTC, April 4th through 01:59 UTC, April 5th on all authorized amateur frequencies excluding 60, 30, 17 and 12 Meters. For more information on this contest, please visit:

<http://tspota.com/site/page?view=rules>  
and for more information on our Texas State Parks, visit: [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us).



## West Gulf Division Vice Director at TARC

John Stratton-N5AUS, will be speaking at the Temple Amateur Radio Club's monthly meeting, on Thursday, April 9th, at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be at the Western Hills Church of Christ, 210 N. General Bruce Dr., in Temple.



## Rookie Round-Up

This event runs from 1800 UTC to 2359 UTC, Sunday, April 19th. This six-hour event is aimed at amateurs who have been licensed for 3 years or less. Rookies work everybody; non-rookies work only rookies. For further info on this, visit: [www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup)

## The Army Marathon III - Recap -

*Robert Shoemaker, KE5WVC*

On March 1st, several amateur radio operators from the Temple Amateur Radio Club, the Central Texas Amateur Radio Club and the Cove Repeater Association, provided amateur radio communications support for The Army Marathon III.

Net Control was handled by Gerald Richmond-N5ZXJ, with Gil Rymer-W5GLR assisting him. John Hobson-WD5BFS manned the starting point, while Warner Johnson-WB4J, Terry Evans-KF5OHR, Myron Mesecke-N5TFK, Mark McGraw-KF5HUG and Robert Shoemaker-KE5WVC manned water points along the route.

During the event the temperature held around 35° to 38° with a north wind and mist, sometimes turning to a light rain. 427 runners, ages 18 to 70, participated in the full 26.2 mile run; while 559 runners ran the half-marathon.

Coming in First Place over-all, was 28 year-old Matt Buchhorn of Sherman, with a time of two hours, 53 minutes and 25 seconds.

There will be a post-marathon debriefing on April 8th at 3 PM, at the Bell County Sheriff's Office to discuss what went well, and what can be improved upon. Attendance at the meeting is not required for the ham radio volunteers, but if you have any comments, contact Robert Shoemaker - KE5WVC, and he will pass along any comments. He can be reached at: [robert1867@embarqmail.com](mailto:robert1867@embarqmail.com)

**The Army Marathon IV** has already been scheduled, and will take place on Sunday, March 6th, 2016, on the 180th anniversary of the fall of the Alamo.

# HamEXPO!



Sponsored by the Temple Amateur Radio Club -W5LM, *the Belton Hamfest* returns to the Bell County Exposition Center in Belton, **Saturday, Apr. 18th** 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 Jan Gregg - W5GNK at: [jang5@yahoo.com](mailto:jang5@yahoo.com), or you can contact her by phone at (254) 217-3791.

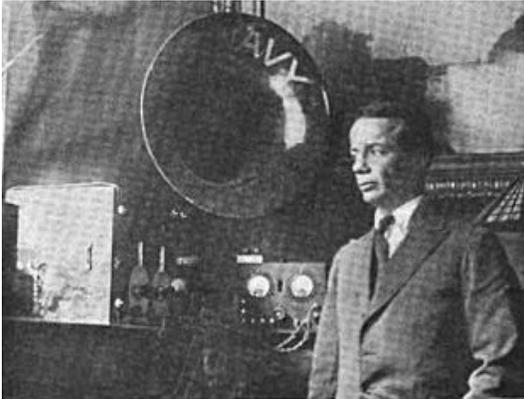
People taking the test do not need to register before hand, just show up at test time. A photo ID and one other form of ID is required. The test fee is \$15.00.

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### For Sale

Kenwood TM-D700A/E 2M/440 mobile transceiver. This radio was inherited by Edward Burris who is not a ham, and wishes to sell the radio. You can contact him at: (254) 563-4069 or by email at: [edward\\_burris@yahoo.com](mailto:edward_burris@yahoo.com) He says he also has an antenna and the hook-ups for the radio. More info on the radio itself can be found at:

[www.kenwood.com/i/products/info/amateur/tm\\_d700ae.html](http://www.kenwood.com/i/products/info/amateur/tm_d700ae.html)



Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt has installed a receiving set in his home, and with his family enjoys the broadcasted concerts. *"The Wireless Age" - April, 1922*



### *Our Favorite Radio Recipe*

First you take a good-sized carp and nail it to a board and set it out in the sun for two days. Then rub coarse salt thoroughly into the carp and cook slowly before the fire. Then throw the carp away and eat the nail and the board. *"The Radio Home" - April 1926*



### **End of BBC World Service on 1323 KHz**

The BBC World Service announced that it's Eastern Mediterranean English language operation will end medium wave radio services on 1323 kHz on April 25th. The region affected includes Israel, much of Lebanon, Cyprus and southern Turkey.

## **Fort Hood Radio Goes QRT**

Fort Hood Radio aired its final broadcast Friday, February 27th in the radio studio located at the III Corps and Fort Hood Public Affairs Office, inside the III Corps and Fort Hood Headquarters. The closure is due to budget cuts.

The final segment of "Brunch with the Baron," hosted by Sgt. Josh Stoffregen, the on-air disc jockey, included thanks and well wishes to current and former employees at the station.



*Sergeant Josh Stoffregen*

Stoffregen played his usual up-beat mix of songs, both past and present and shout outs were sent to certain individuals whom played a role in keeping Fort Hood Radio going through the years.

"Before we head out for the day and call it goodbye this is 'The Dog Days are Over' by Florence and the Machine. It's a really awesome song. I guess the 'Dog Days' reference the times of summer and this is definitely the best job I ever had," he said in his final remarks.

After the song, 'The Dog Days are Over,' by Florence and the Machine played, a mainstay for nearly five years on Fort Hood ceased. Sgt. Stoffregen removed his headphones, and Fort Hood Radio signed off for the last time.



Special event station **TC1ØØGLB** will be active from Turkey, until April 30th to commemorate the Battle of Gallipoli 100 years ago. QSL via TA1CM.

Special event station **W1N** will be active April 18th & 19th, in remembrance of the flood of 1965. Frequencies will be 7.21965, 10.11965, 14.31965 & 21.31965. QSL via WØNE.

**F5MNW** will be active **stroke FR** from Reunion Island, until April 14th. QSL via his home call.

A group of hams will be active from Nauru as **C21EU**, until April 4th. QSL via DL2AWG.

GM4YXI and GM3WOJ will be active from Truk Island, until April 9th as **V6Z**. QSL via N3SL.

**NK8O** will be active **stroke PJ4** from Bonaire, through April 13th. QSL via his home call or via eQSL.

A group of hams will be active from the Spratly Islands as **DXØP**, April 1st to the 30th. QSL via WA6LOS.

**F8DVD** will be active **stroke JW** from Svalbard, April 9th-15th. QSL via his home call or LoTW.

MMØNDX will be active from the Cayman Islands 25 April- 2 May as **ZF2CI**. He is also planning to operate from Little Cayman Island as **ZF8/ZF2CI** and Cayman Brac as **ZF9/ZF2CI**. QSL via IW7EGQ.

**ON5SM** will be active from Mindanao Island in the Philippines through April 25th, signing **stroke DU9**. QSL via his home call.

A group of Brazilian hams will be active from Trindade (Trinity) Island, 3 - 6 April as **PQØT**. QSL via PP5BZ. (*The last time Trindade Island was activated was in 2011, with PPØT.* -Ed.)

LU1FM will be active from San Andres Island through the 4th of April as **5JØB**. QSL via his home call.

JA1KJW, JA1JQY, JA8VE and JA3MCA will be active from Samoa, 9 - 15 April as **5WØKJ**, **5WØJY**, **5WØVE** and **5WØMA**. QSL each via their respective home callsigns.

ON4EI will be in Ireland through the end of April as **EI8GQB**. QSL via his home call.

Special Event Station **N4V** will be operating between April 30th, and May 3rd, to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. QSL via W4SKB.

Special Event Station **YE533KC** will be on the air from Indonesia April 2nd on 21.250, 7.060, and 3.860 MHz. QSL direct.

JAØRQV will be active from Efate Island, Vanuatu 21 April - 5 May as **YJØMT**. QSL via his home call.

**DM4TK** will be active from Namibia through the 9th of April signing **stroke V5**. QSL via his home call.

G3USR will be active from Grand Bahama Island 22- 28 April as **C6AGM**. QSL via his home call.

DL1RNT will be active from Embudu Island, Maldives through the 2nd of April as **8Q7NT**. QSL via his home call.

**WJ2O** will be active from Nicaragua 22 - 30 April signing **stroke YN**. QSL via N2ZN.

5TØJL will be active from Mauritania 17 - 20 April as **5T2MM**. QSL via PY4KL.

**OK1NG** and **OK1IEC** will each be signing stroke TI7 from Costa Rica until April 6th. QSL via their respective home callsigns.

A group of hams will be active from the Chatham Islands 3 -15 April as **ZL7E**. QSL via ZL1ALZ.

# Editorials

## HF Whackerism

*Editor's Introduction...* Recently there was a "rant" posted by a well meaning, but uninformed member of our radio community on a popular ham website. His rant is based on myth and the responses from others, are on fact, and are a good lesson to individuals / organizations, who believe they own or have a priority to, a particular ham radio frequency. The ranter and the respondents call signs have been omitted to protect the oblivious.

**The Rant:** "14.300 MHz which has been recognized as the international emergency call frequency, was totally trashed by contesters with splatter. Some of them were only 1-1/2 kHz off of 14.300. As everyone knows, the gentleman's agreement is 3 kHz from an adjacent frequency which is in use. These rude contesters don't care about anyone else. All their worried about is a 5x9 signal report. I don't understand, "You're 5x9 in Illinois. You're 5x9 in Texas", then they move on to another station. What good do they get out of that? What if a maritime mobile was in trouble in the gulf of Mexico and his vessel was sinking. No one could hear his distress call. People could die and the contesters would keep saying "you're 5x9". The Maritime Mobile Service Net has been operating on 14.300 over 40 years and these contesters don't give a damn. I know the ARRL sponsors these useless contests "You're 5x9, I'm 5x9" and these morons totally wipe out a National Emergence call frequency. It was on my test.. "How far should you be from an adjacent frequency in use"? Answer: at least 3 kHz."

**The Responses:** The usual Butt Hurt entitlement post from those that think they own a frequency. Guess what? You don't. Presumptuous and wrong on so many counts. Let's start with a discussion based on fact, and not self important puffery.

Here is an excerpt from the IARU Region 2 Band Plan - 14.300 is listed as a "Center of Activity". It is not a single frequency. Activity occurs around that frequency. 5 kHz, or 50 kHz it's not dedicated. It is not a 'reserved' distress/emergency frequency. There is no reserved window. Note that all other modes are prescribed up to and including 14.300 from above and below.

There are reserved, dedicated Maritime Distress Frequencies, that the navies and coast guards of all maritime nations are obligated by international treaty to monitor and guard. 14.300 is not one of those.

The USCG HF Frequency Distress Plan doesn't even list 14.300 and the USCG "Radio Information for Boaters" does not even list amateur radio as an alternative means of distress/emergency assistance.

While well meaning and dedicated to a purpose, the Maritime Mobile Service Net is not an officially recognized emergency organization, and the frequency they operate on is not a designated distress/emergency frequency. The Maritime Mobile Service Net does not own the frequency. They are not 'owed' any sort of clear window of operation.

Lastly, one respondent chimed in with these words which are most appropriate: "The problem with America is stupidity. I'm not saying there should be a capital punishment for stupidity, but why don't we just take the safety labels off of everything and let the problem solve itself?"

### Latest for Housewives: Radio in the Kitchen Cabinet

*Modern Mechanix - April, 1932*

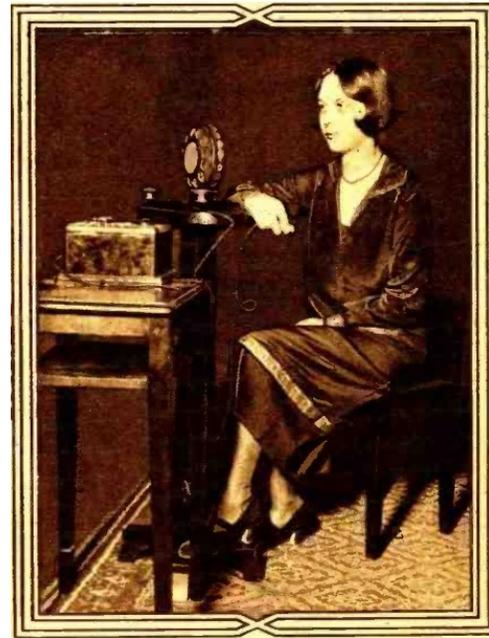
The last word in modern equipment for the kitchen would make Old Mother Hubbard turn over in her grave. This modernity is nothing less than an all electric broadcast receiver built into a kitchen cabinet, as shown in the accompanying photo.



Concealed neatly just behind the table, and finished in harmony with the rest of the cabinet, the set is easily accessible, always ready to tell the housewife the latest cooking recipes and the latest song hits to keep her cheerful on the job.

The apparatus is of the latest design, reproducing the programs with the utmost fidelity.

### Youngest Regular Announcer



Nancy Clancy, 16 years old, who attends school during the day and announces at broadcast station WAHG, Long Island, N.Y., each evening for three hours. *"Radio News" - April, 1925 (If she were alive today, she'd be 106 years old. -Ed.)*





## Crime and the Weather

After being stuck inside all winter, many people anxiously await the arrival of the warm spring season weather. But, there are some who dread the potential increase in crimes caused by rising temperatures.

The Chicago Justice Project, says there is a correlation between rising temperatures and violent crimes. Violence increases, especially street violence, muggings, assaults and battery. Across the boards, most crimes against persons increase.

Speculation is that the spike in crime may be due to the increase in the number of interactions that people have with one another during the warmer months. Warmer weather can bring together potential wrongdoers, victims, and belongings all in the same place. This rise in social interactions may be a factor.

Along with the factor of heat, it may just be that we are all active more during this time, and that people may experience a form of heat aggravation in warmer weather that causes them to lose their temper more easily.

However, it may not be the weather, but the academic summer break that leads to a spike in violent crime. Juveniles are the most likely to commit crime in general, so it seems almost obvious that crime may peak during summer months when students are off from school with idle hands.

That is unless the addition of school children to the mix of individuals out and about in a given neighborhood somehow exacerbates pre-existing tension, which is again, hard to measure.



According to the Oak Park Police Department, in Oak Park, Illinois, they have seen an increase in crimes that could be attributed to warmer weather, in the case of crimes against property such as bike thefts and auto break-ins. With warmer weather, people tend to start bringing out and leaving out valuables - such as bicycles, lawn furniture, etc. This creates more opportunities for would-be criminals to commit theft.

While crimes against persons are more numerous in the summer and crimes against property are more numerous in winter, according to "The Influence of the Seasons on the Crime Rate" from the Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

In the spring quarter, the crimes against the person increase and reach a maximum in the summer, while theft culminates in the winter.

During the winter as temperatures decrease and winter brings shortened days, human behavior changes coincide with opportunities for property theft and other common crimes.

There are several hypotheses as to why it seems like there are more property crimes in the winter. One popular idea is that human needs increase due to escalated pressures to find shelter and reliable transportation during the cold, snowy winter months when it is harder to survive outside. This leads to car theft, food theft and other property theft becoming a more common occurrence.

Secondly, seasonal unemployment reaches its peak in winter. Expenses for heat, clothing and electricity tend to increase in the winter, making it harder for people to pay for the same things they had been able to afford in the warmer months of spring and summer. This can lead to more monetarily motivated crimes being committed such as burglary, especially by those who do not have a stable income.

According to Atlanta Crime Stoppers, crime rates may change in winter because it gets darker earlier and people are more likely to commit crimes at night as opposed to during daylight hours.

In addition to shorter days, fewer people are usually out and active during the winter months which means there will be fewer witnesses to these types of crimes. These are both appealing conditions for people considering committing a theft of property.

Changes in weather to either hot or cold extremes creates an increased discomfort and causes emotions to run high, thus creating a more hostile environment that can lead to increases in crime.



Researchers stress that weather is just one of a myriad of factors that influences the crime rate. Police strategies, economics, demographic and cultural shifts, even according to more recent lines of research, the prevalence of abortion and children's exposure to lead.

People confuse the weather with the seasons, there is a difference. The weather is an influence on crime, but it doesn't cause, nor does it prevent crime.

Regardless of the season, law enforcement officials advise people to always take safety precautions. Always be aware of your surroundings; when possible avoid unfamiliar or potentially unsafe situations; don't leave valuables outside where they can easily be stolen; and never hesitate to call 911 if you observe anything suspicious.

## ***"The Swiss Spaghetti Harvest"*** **- The Biggest April Fool's Prank on Radio -**

**April 1st, 1957...** *Panorama* was the flagship news program of the British Broadcasting Company, boasting an audience of ten million. It aired every Monday night at 8 pm, and was anchored by Richard Dimbleby, whose authoritative, commanding presence had made him one of the most revered public figures in Britain. If Dimbleby said it, people trusted that it was true. Which is one of the reasons why the spaghetti harvest hoax fooled so many listeners. His participation lent the hoax an air of unimpeachable authority.

The decision to include an April Fool's Day joke in the *Panorama* broadcast was kept a closely guarded secret, fearing superiors would veto the idea. Only the editor along with the director of the program - Leonard Miall were in on it. Almost no one else at the BBC knew about it, and the segment was not mentioned at all in the pre-transmission publicity handouts.

The line-up for the evening's broadcast included a segment about Archbishop Makarios, leader of the Greek Cypriots; news of the Duke of Edinburgh attending the premiere of the war film *The Yangtze Incident*; then there was a segment about a wine-tasting contest, then the last three minutes of the program's broadcast covered the spaghetti harvest.



*Richard Dimbleby*

Without a flinch in his voice, Dimbleby read from his script:

"It is not only in Britain that spring, this year, has taken everyone by surprise. Here in the Ticino, on the borders of Switzerland and Italy, the slopes overlooking Lake Lugano have burst into flower at least a fortnight earlier than usual.

But what, you may ask, has the early and welcome arrival of bees and blossom to do with food? Well, it is simply that the past winter, one of the mildest in living memory, has had its effect in other ways as well. Most important of all, it's resulted in an exceptionally heavy spaghetti crop.

The last two weeks of March are an anxious time for the spaghetti farmer. There is always the chance of a late frost which, while not entirely ruining the crop, generally impairs the flavor and makes it difficult for him to obtain top prices in world markets. But now these dangers are over and the spaghetti harvest goes forward.

Spaghetti cultivation here in Switzerland is not, of course, carried out on anything like the tremendous scale of the Italian industry. Many of you, I am sure, will have seen pictures of the vast spaghetti plantations in the Po valley. For the Swiss, however, it tends to be more of a family affair.

Another reason why this may be a bumper year lies in the virtual disappearance of the spaghetti weevil, the tiny creature whose depredations have caused much concern in the past.

After picking, the spaghetti is laid out to dry in the warm Alpine air. Many people are very puzzled by the fact that spaghetti is produced in such uniform lengths. This is the result of many years of patient endeavor by plant breeders who succeeded in producing the perfect spaghetti.

Now the harvest is marked by a traditional meal. Toasts to the new crop are drunk in these *boccalinos*, then the waiters enter bearing the ceremonial dish. This is, of course, spaghetti -- picked early in the day, dried in the sun, and so brought fresh from garden to table at the very peak of condition. For those who love this dish, there is nothing like real home-grown spaghetti."

When it was all over, Dimbleby said, "Now we say goodnight, on this first day of April." He emphasized the final phrase.

Soon after the broadcast ended, the BBC began to receive hundreds of calls from viewers. The calls came in incessantly. Some were from viewers who had enjoyed the joke - including one from Bristol who complained that spaghetti didn't grow vertically, it grew horizontally. But mainly the calls were requests for the BBC to settle family arguments: the husband knew it must be true that spaghetti grew on a bush because Richard Dimbleby had said so and the wife knew it was made with flour and water, but neither could convince the other. Others, however, were so intrigued they wanted to find out where they could purchase their very own spaghetti bush.

Part of the reason for the puzzlement was that spaghetti was not a widely eaten food in Britain during the 1950s. Although its popularity had been increasing since World War II, many still considered it to be an exotic, foreign dish. Its origin was evidently a real mystery to some.

The calls continued to come in. The BBC operators eventually came up with a standard reply to those seeking information on how to grow their own spaghetti tree: "Place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best."



*Sir Ian Jacob  
Director-General of the BBC*

Among those fooled were Sir Ian Jacob, the director-general of the BBC. A note had been sent to him, informing him in advance about the broadcast, but he had not received it. Therefore, when he heard the broadcast, he did not know what to expect.

The next day Jacob cornered Miall in the hallway of the BBC and said, "When I saw that item, I said to my wife, 'I don't think spaghetti grows on trees,' so we looked it up in *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Do you know the *Encyclopedia Britannica* doesn't even mention spaghetti."

Jacob himself, despite having been taken in by the hoax, became a big fan of it. He sent the staff of

*Panorama* a congratulatory note: "The spaghetti harvest was a splendid idea, beautifully shot and organized. This item has caused a great deal of delight one way and another. Thank you very much indeed."

In the days that followed, there was a scattering of criticism. A few complained that the BBC had taken liberties with the trust of their audience. But overall, the response was very favorable.

## April Fool's Day on the Radio

**1940** - Radio station KYW announced, "Scientists predict that the world will end at 3 P.M. Eastern Standard Time. This is no April Fool joke. Confirmation can be obtained from Wagner Schlesinger, director of the Fels Planetarium of this city." The public reaction was immediate. Local authorities were flooded with frantic phone calls. The panic only subsided after the Franklin Institute assured people that it had made no such prediction.

**1961** - The BBC promised radio listeners that they wouldn't want to miss the concert of the "distinguished continental pianist" Lirpa Loof. But when the scheduled time arrived, there was no concert. Lirpa Loof is April Fool spelled backward.

**1976** - BBC Radio 2, astronomer Patrick Moore revealed that at exactly 9:47 a.m. Pluto would pass behind Jupiter, and that this alignment would result in a stronger gravitational pull from Jupiter, counteracting the Earth's own gravity and making people momentarily weigh less. He told listeners that if they jumped up and down while this was happening, they would experience a strange floating sensation. When 9:47 a.m. arrived, BBC-2 began to receive hundreds of calls from listeners who claimed to have felt the sensation.

**1986** - WHJY in Providence, Rhode Island, announced that the 'Providence Labor Action Relations Board Committee' had decided to close the city for the day. She gave out a number for listeners to call for more information. The number was that of a rival station, WPRO. Hundreds of people called WPRO, as well as City Hall and the police.

**1991** - KISW, a Seattle rock radio station, changed its format to what it called 'classical rock' for a day, playing a selection of classical music and rock. It advertised itself as "Seattle's best mix of the 1600s, 1700s, 1800s and today." It also promised a no-repeat Monday, saying that "you won't hear the same sonata twice."

**1992** - National Public Radio's *Talk of the Nation* reported that former-President Richard Nixon had declared his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination. Accompanying the announcement were audio clips of Nixon delivering his candidacy speech and declaring "I never did anything wrong, and I won't do it again." Listeners reacted emotionally to the announcement, flooding NPR with calls expressing shock and outrage.

**1993** - KGB in San Diego, announced that the space shuttle Discovery had been diverted from Edwards Air Force Base and would instead soon be landing at Montgomery Field, a small airport located just outside of San Diego. Thousands of commuters immediately headed towards the landing site, causing enormous traffic jams that lasted for almost an hour. Police eventually had to be called in to clear the traffic. Reportedly the crowd swelled to over 1,000 people. Of course, the shuttle never landed. In fact, there wasn't even a shuttle in orbit at the time. The police were not amused by the prank. They announced that they would be billing the radio station for the cost of forcing officers to direct the traffic.