

The RARA RAG

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APRIL 2nd MEETING - - - OLD TIMERS NITE

Young and old alike will enjoy Friday evening's A.W.A. show telling about one of the last truly great radio and aviation pioneers, Elmo Pickerill, who died in 1968. Reproduced inside is copy from a New York newspaper telling of a celebration in his honor. Pickerill's radio associates include DeForest and Marconi while his aviation friends were such celebrities as Arthur Godfrey, Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh and Orville Wright, who taught him to fly in 1910. Photography by Linc Cundall, W2QY, with Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, providing the sound interviews. Meeting place data: Monroe County Farm & Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue, 8 p.m., Friday, April 2.

Guatemala Aid

by Julio Ahumada, LU7AEC/LU7BD/W2

In the last issue of the RAG, information was requested about the activities relating to the help given during the Guatemala tragedy. I was able to help to a degree by relating medical supply messages to and from medical personnel of the U of R (Dept. of Anthropology) and medical doctors in Guatemala.

With the help of S.I.R.A. Sociedad Internacional de Radio Aficionados (International Society of Radio Amateurs), all the priority traffic was coursed with the assistance of net control stations HK3CEM/W4, WA4ZZG, VE3DPQ/W4 in Miami and TG9LL, TG9MP in Guatemala City.

Incoming and outgoing welfare traffic from Guatemala (I personally handled more than 150 messages) was coursed with the help of TG9DF, TG9RS, TG9LL and others.

The operators in Guatemala are to be highly commended for their dedication, some of whom worked around-the-clock shifts. TG9MF, Jose Manuel, lost his voice for hours and slept in his station wagon.

Beside the normal fatigue developed by long hours of work, one of the main problems was a QRM the first weekend of the DX contest. Some with a confused sense of values complained because of the emergency nets QRM on a DX station. Oh well!!!

The nets were overloaded to say the least, and in order to put anything through, it was necessary to spend hours. The Guatemala

ROCHESTER HAMFEST - MAY 22

The Rochester Hamfest, now combined with the New York State ARRL Convention will be here the weekend of May 21-23. A copy of the program will be in the mail to you very soon.

Registration this year will be \$4.00 at the gate, \$3.50 in advance. Banquet tickets are \$8.50. Because of the limited space available for the banquet, it will be a sellout before Hamfest day. If you plan to attend the banquet be sure to get your ticket in advance.

As a special gesture to RaRa members only, registration tickets will be available for only \$3.00 to those who purchase them in advance at the club meeting. In order to qualify, you must show your current membership card to ticket chairman, Ed Gable, W2MPM. The special price is a 25% discount over regular prices.

While the Hamfest principle activities will be at the Fairground, there will be many things to do at hotel headquarters, the Rochester Marriott on Friday evening and Sunday morning. Friday evening is when the Funfest happens with an opportunity to meet your friends and enjoy some entertainment. Some of the exhibitors will have open house in their suites.

On Sunday morning, programming is scheduled at the Marriott. The most important is the ARRL Forum scheduled at 11 a.m. After lunch a giant transmitter hunt is slated for 2 meter FM buffs.

For those who will be making reservations at the Marriott for their friends, please be sure to tell the reservation clerk that your party is with the Hamfest so special rates can apply.

Main points to remember: FCC exams on Saturday. Applications go to FCC, Philadelphia with \$4 fee marked for examination at Rochester Hamfest. Flea market - Saturday only. Banquet at the Marriott at 7:30 p.m.

telephone system was practically inoperative, and in order to obtain priority return messages in some instances, it was necessary for them to send a messenger to deliver and obtain information. During the first two weeks there was no operation on two meters. (TGs were not equipped with 2M, FM gear.) This was a handicap.

Above is a brief description of the days following the earthquake. I must say that the Multi Language feature my station is equipped with helped me and others to a great degree.

APRIL 2nd MEETING - - -

OLD TIMERS NITE

NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM AND SUN.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1961

Five Groups Will Fete Air Veteran Pickerill

Elmo N. Pickerill;

● First man to operate a radio in flight;

● First man to make radio communication from a plane with stations on land and sea;

● First man to effect a rescue at sea by radioed information;

● First man to present a singer on radio;

● First man issued a radio operator's license by the U.S. government;

● First pilot for RCA's early flight research;

● First wireless operator through the Panama Canal on a toll-paying ship;

... will be honored guest tonight at a banquet and dance at the Hotel Edison.

Mr. Pickerill, 76, is probably the first man to discover that three—not one but three organizations were planning to surprise him with a banquet and dance.

A Practical Man.

Finding out wasn't too difficult for Mr. Pickerill, since he is president of all three groups—the Veteran Wireless Operators Assn., the Long Island Early Fliers Club and the OX-5 Club.

Being a practical man, he coordinated the separate parties into one gala occasion. Since then, the Aviation Historical Society, of which Mr. Pickerill also is president, and the Antique Airplane Assn. have joined in the plans to honor him.

Mr. Pickerell, of Mineola, got into radio even before the vacuum tube.

Here is as good a place as any to drop in that Mr. Pickerell is the only living man taught to fly by Orville Wright.

Flew Bamboo Plane.

His first task for Dr. de Forest, the man who did most for radio, was to try to send a wireless message from a plane. After Orville Wright taught him to fly, Mr. Pickerell took a bamboo plane aloft and talked with ships and stations in a solo flight between Mineola and Manhattan Beach on Aug. 4, 1910.

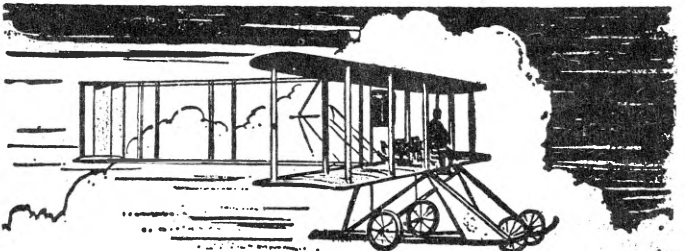
Dr. de Forest invented the vacuum tube in 1906, and in 1907 Mr. Pickerell led opera star Geraldine Farrar to a microphone and she sang, heard only by wireless operators on ships in New York harbor.

During a hurricane the night of Oct. 18, 1910, a man named Walter Wellman was trying to fly from Atlantic City to Europe in a balloon. Mr. Pickerell sent out a series of messages on the probable plight of Wellman and crew of six, and at day-break a ship spotted the balloon. The crew let out gas, floated down and was rescued.

In 1911, when the government saw the need to license wireless operators, License No. 1 was presented to Mr. Pickerell.

On Feb. 2, 1915, the liner Kroonland beat the Great Northern to the entrance of the Panama Canal, paid the first toll ever collected, and passed through. Mr. Pickerell was the operator aboard.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS



**ELMO N. PICKERILL BUILT HIS OWN
RADIO TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER,
THEN LEARNED TO FLY TO INAUGURATE
THE FIRST RADIO COMMUNICATION
BETWEEN AN AIRPLANE IN FLIGHT
AND THE EARTH!**

*-Mineola, Long Island,
Aug. 4, 1910-*

CBers, beware; Charlie's there

by Stephen M. Aug (C) Washington Star
From Nittany ARC (PA) Newsletter

WASHINGTON-- Hey, there, CBers, better watch out, cause Uncle Charlie may be out there listening to you -- in person.

That's right, the old wardens are really there in person -- and have been for more than a month.

For those who are not Citizens Band addicts, about a month ago all seven members of the Federal Communications Commission (alternatively known as Uncle Charlie or the Warden -- which oddly enough, also means "wife" in CB jargon) -- got their own CB sets, which are on loan to the commission.

The purpose, they say was to give the commissioners a first-hand opportunity to find out what CB radio -- the FCC's fastest-growing service, and its fastest-growing enforcement problem -- is really all about.

Unfortunately, however, only two of the seven commissioners actually have been on the air, and one of them -- chairman Richard E. Wiley -- apparently hasn't been heard outside his own backyard.

"I've just made call checks," said Wiley -- whose CB call is KFP2242 -- "I have not actually transmitted other than to ask for a radio check and nobody's ever heard me because I have an indoor aerial. Nobody's ever answered."

Nevertheless, Wiley says, he has listened extensively in the few weeks he's had the equipment -- which is on loan to the commission from Radio Shack. Wiley is most impressed by the CB vocabulary. "What I've learned is there's a whole different jargon out there."

The only commissioner to get on the air and talk, however, has been Robert E. Lee (KFP 2241). Lee says he listens frequently and usually hears CBers violating one commission rule or another. The most frequent violation is failure to give one's call letters.

"Every once in a while I get on with my call sign and say, I don't hear any call letters, fellas.

I don't tell them who I am, but it still gets very silent for a few minutes." Apparently, just a reminder from somebody is sufficient to halt the chatter while CBers ponder whether they are hearing from Uncle Charlie.

None of the commissioners has paid the \$4 fee that the agency charges for a CB permit. Nevertheless, it's all legal, Wiley reminded reporter.

"All the commissioners are operating on special temporary authority, and no fee is required," Wiley said. The special permits are good for six months, but Wiley already has lost interest.

"As far as I'm concerned, little KFP2242 is going to be off the air because I've had enough. I'm not myself interested in pursuing the thing as part of my own lifestyle," he said. "But it's good for my official duties."

As for the other commissioners, none has used the radio, for a variety of reasons. Benjamin Hooks, (KFP2239) is too busy and James H. Quello (KFP2238) hasn't gotten around to it, according to an aide.

Glen O. Robinson (KFP2237) says he's "reluctant to put it in my care because I'm afraid it'll get ripped off." But he says his engineering assistant "keeps telling me I ought to set it up to monitor all this chatter on the air."

Charlotte Reid (KFP2240) says her car is too small to accommodate the radio, and Abbott M. Washburn (KFP2236) says he really intends to use his, but "I've got to get an aerial for it."

And what about the man who thought up the experiment, how does he assess the result?

Charles A. Higginbotham, chief of the Safety and Special Radio Services Bureau, which regulates CB radio, concedes he's a little disappointed. "I had hoped that all would listen to them to get an idea of what's going on out there," he told a reporter.

Higginbotham, who borrowed the sets so they could be checked out by the commission's Laurel Laboratory for potential electronic problems, said he still has hopes the commissioners experiment will be a success.

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welcomes you to the following Hamfests:

April 3 — Tompkins County Radio Club Auction, Ithaca, N. Y.

April 10 — Southern Tier Hamfest, Johnson City, N. Y.

April 23-25 Dayton Hamvention, Dayton Ohio

May 22 — Western New York Hamfest, Rochester, N. Y.

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RaRa Donates for Library Week

by Bill March, WA2CER

As you know, the amateur ranks are not exactly swollen with new members. Last year, ARRL publications were given to several libraries to observe Library Week and help encourage new amateurs. The club donated two complete sets of the publications to the Rochester Public Library. Members donated other sets to the Macedon Library, the Hilton Library, the Pittsford Library, and the Greece Library.

Several members expressed an interest in doing it again. Well, the time has arrived as Library Week is in April. The board has decided to donate three sets of publications this year. A set costs about \$17. Those wishing to donate a set of publications or contribute any amount towards their purchase should give their money to the club treasurer, Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, no later than the April club meeting. When the ordered books arrive, bookplates will be inserted with the donors names and information on RaRa meetings. Donors can then deliver the books.

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