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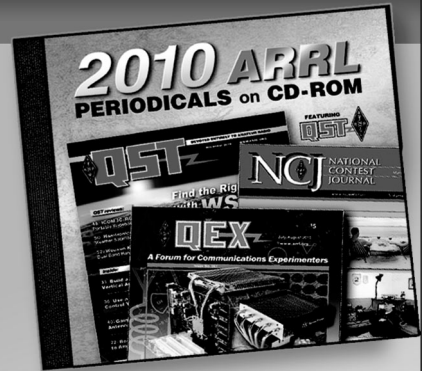
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THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



F. E. Handy, Communications Manager
E. L. Battey, Assistant Communications Manager

OUR section reports have required increased editing for the past three years to take care of the great growth in interest and activity in all branches of amateur work — experimenting, traffic, 'phone, etc. Only four years ago SCMs received an average of six or seven hundred reports (of all varieties of amateur communication) monthly, and felt that amateur work was flourishing. In the early months of *this* year our reporting section contained over 3000 independent reports on different amateur activities!

In spite of the steps taken to list reports more concisely the situation became acute early this year, and it was necessary to somewhat curtail the space devoted to sectional reports. Section Managers followed an editing plan that eliminated duplicate sentence-mention of part of the amateur stations already mentioned in the traffic summaries. This step was required not only to introduce a printing economy but to assist in maintaining the proper balance of technical articles and material on all phases of amateur communication, operating, and experimentation. Effective with April *QST*, new space limitations were adopted. At present we are following a sliding-scale of space determination for section reports which gives 8½ pages to 12 pages per month to activity reports from all amateurs, depending on seasonal considerations. We sincerely hope that every amateur appreciates the space problem and the necessity for S.C.M.s and Headquarters keeping these reports concise. Thru a complete monthly summary of reports it is possible to get a truly national picture of amateur activity. Your S.C.M. (see his address on page 5 of *QST*) invites and welcomes your postal-card report of what you have been doing in radio, on the 16th of each month. July 16 reports appear in September *QST*. This is one way to take part in your A.R.R.L. organization; we also suggest that you find out from your S.C.M. about the appointments as Official Relay Station, O.B.S., R.M., and O.O. and get your station lined up now for fall activities.

Are you an A-1 Operator? Excellence in stations has often been emphasized. Yet, station performance, equipment, adjustment, etc., are but part of the story. The operation of the equipment, knowledge of procedure, and general communications technique are of very great importance in determining the results of any station. To bring attention to good operating as a paramount issue, and give it something of the importance it deserves we are this month announcing in these columns the launching of a club for A-1 operators. From month to month we expect to mention the additions to the club membership which will be made only by election or on nomination of qualified members. A little study of operating pointers and the business of "operating a station" which is discussed in detail in the *Radio Amateur's Handbook*, coupled with regular use of the recommended procedure will improve results at many an amateur station. Look into it. All amateurs should strive to be first grade

operators. See the announcement of the new "club" and determine to be such a really-qualified operator.

— F. E. H.

U. S. N. R. Active in Southern California Earthquake

SINCE publication of our story on the Southern California earthquake in May *QST*, the Navy Department has forwarded some pertinent information relative to the activities of members of the Naval Volunteer Communication Reserve during the period of that disaster. It is probably not generally appreciated that the Naval Communication Reserve is kept in constant training to meet just such emergencies. Again in this instance, as it had often done in the past, the Reserve functioned instantly and completely, due to its preparatory training and organization.

In the various reports received from U.S.N.R. officials in the quake area amateur operators of the following stations are mentioned as being of invaluable service during the period of the disaster. The majority of these amateurs, practically all of those in the sixth district, are also members of the Naval Communication Reserve, and conducted communication in line with Naval procedure: W6ABB, W6ADE, W6AIS, W6AOA, W6AWC, W6BAM, W6BCT, W6BEX, W6BOE, W6BPC, W6BSV, W6BVD, W6BYF, W6CAH, W6CQM, W6DBB, W6DEP, W6DER, W6DYL, W6EC, W6EDW, W6EFE, W6EGQ, W6EOP, W6EQW, W6ETJ, W6ETM, W6EZG, W6EZZ, W6EZK, W6FGT, W6FFY, W6GXM, W6HAQ, W6HEB, W6HEG, W6HT, W6MQ, W6NR, W6QA, W6RO, W2BGO, W5YH, W7RPO, W7CRH, W8IW, W9CSY, W9CVE, W9ERS, W9EYN, W9GBP, W9LFX, W9OIL.

Perhaps the greatest service rendered by the Volunteer Communication Reserve was during the week following the first shock. Numerous stations maintained practically continuous watch and handled many thousands of dispatches regarding relief activities for the Red Cross, National Guard, various city officials and personal messages regarding safety of residents of the stricken cities. At W6EC alone a total of 3683 messages were handled during a seven day period.

The big thing to remember about this U.S.N.R. emergency work is that it is "organized endeavor" and that it is carried out as nearly as possible in standard Naval style. The Naval Volunteer Communication Reserve stands ready at all times to repeat its excellent performance displayed during the California earthquake.

Ohio Valley Flood

THE U. S. Naval Communication Reserve again stepped in to furnish emergency communication when, on March 18 and 19, a sudden flood emergency developed at Cincinnati and points above and below that point on the Ohio River and its tributaries. The Reserves were mobilized by radio and telephonic communication. Both