

The Newark News Radio Club

RADIO clubs are born, not made—at least ours was. Nobody had to do much ballyhooing to get it underway. An army of DX bugs was flapping around New Jersey, waiting for a chance to land on the radio page of the Newark Evening News. When a paragraph appeared in our radio column to the effect that a meeting would be held at the News office in Newark for the purpose of founding a DX club, more than fifty eager dial twisters were present. Before two hours had passed, we had the first draft of our constitution, a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, several committees, and were set to go. We've been going ever since—and how!

In those early days of broadcasting, when local programs were poor and distance savoured of the miraculous, DX captured our imagination. We rambled all over the place on our home-made set and some of the rambles got in the column. Other ramblers began writing letters. Pretty soon they demanded the formation of a club. The afore-mentioned meeting resulted.

Right on the spot at the historic first meeting was our present president, Irving Potts. With a gleam in his eye and a ring of determination in his voice, Irving declared: "This club is going to grow way beyond New Jersey. Why, it may be an international organization one of these days."

"Irv's got some imagination," we said, but the dream wasn't so wild and the fulfillment not so long in coming. We have members pretty much all over the world, held together by the power of that vision of Irving's which he has never relinquished and which serves as the spur of our endeavors.

Although our part in the club was principally to provide a parking space in the column for letters and comments, we feel pretty happy when one of the boys declares that we started it all. It may not be exactly true, but it's nice. The idea was theirs, the work has been theirs and, if they generously give us a chance to participate in the glory, we're appreciative and proud.

There's a hint of winter in the air, the keen winds blow,
The smell of burning leaves abounds, the smoke hangs low,
But soon the air grows crystal-clear and you and I
Can sit before the hearth and reach the far and nigh.
We'll hear the soft-toned Southerner,
Atlanta's voice,
We'll hear the folks of Texas speak and we'll rejoice
Because, though we must stay and tread the old home ways,
Our hearts will go a-travelling these winter days.

Charlotte Geer, Radio Columnist,
Newark Evening News.

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The Courtesy Programs Committee

The most important committee of a radio club is the CPC. Its members use all of their spare time without any remuneration to contact stations all over the United States, Canada, Cuba, Mexico, South America and Europe in an effort to have these stations dedicate special programs to the members of the club.

The club members are increasing their DX logs from season to season, in addition to experiencing the thrill of hearing a small station in some remote corner of the globe. The stations themselves derive a far more valuable benefit. Not only will they find out how far their signals will reach, but they can determine the territory to which they can render good service.

I took charge of the CPC of the Newark News Radio Club in 1932 and, thanks to the fine co-operation

and hard work of the committee members, over 1950 programs have been dedicated to the club. I have been particularly fortunate in having Bill Applegate, Art Foerster and James J. Hart working on the committee. Bill has been in charge of the Canadian stations for the past three years and not only has he created a fine spirit of good-will between the broadcasters of the club, but he has scheduled DX programs from stations which never before broadcast such specials. Art Foerster arranged over 150 specials last season and already has almost passed that mark this year. Jimmy Hart has done some splendid work among the South American stations.

The first spectacular broadcast took place in February, 1931, when Major William Cookson, then owner of the 7½ watt station at Hamilton, Bermuda, dedicated a program to the NNRC and received 68 reports from 13 states. Last season, Station KSL, Salt Lake City, received hundreds of reports from Japan and China on an NNRC special, which was also re-broadcast over KGMB in Honolulu. The present DX season promises to become the banner year, with 210 specials already scheduled a week before the official opening of the DX season. *Louis Hahn, Chairman.*

"Creating Possible Catches"

C. P. C. in the NNRC stands for Courtesy Programs Committee. These three letters may also stand for the work involved—Creating Possible Catches. What the DXer wants, the CPCer strives to obtain. One cannot succeed without the other. The CPCman must work alone, his efforts must bring returns, and the response to the stations must be pleasing.

In the past eight years of CPC work, the Newark News Radio Club has made great strides forward. The committeemen have brought to the air many new and elusive catches for the benefit of NNRC members in particular and DXers in general. I



William H. Applegate

doubt if there are any listeners who cannot credit the NNRC with a list of valued catches which otherwise would have been missing from their logs. *William H. Applegate, Vice-Chairman.*

No Postage; No DX

Being a member of the CPC of the NNRC has been a source of combined work and pleasure. Naturally, when you are assigned to seven channels, one of which is the 1210 "graveyard," there is plenty of writing to do. Each program that I arrange requires at least three letters and sometimes as many as six or seven. Last season, I scheduled close to 100 programs, so the amount of correspondence required is apparent.

One of the real thrills in CPC work comes from the fine spirit of co-operation between committeemen and stations. WEDC of Chicago, one of



William Vornkahl, Jr.

the all-nighters, is on one of my channels, so it was foolish to attempt to schedule a program on that frequency. I got in touch with Bill Applegate and he went around to see the manager. Every DXer knows the outcome of that interview—WEDC has kindly consented to remain silent every Tuesday morning.

As I always try to do the right thing by all stations, it is rather hard to get a letter like the one I received from WFAS recently. I had been writing the station for over two years, but never received a reply. Finally, a rather personal letter to the manager, Mr. Seitz, brought a reply stating that the station would go on for us during my December Frolic. However, he said that he was disgusted with the present-day DXer, that very few requests for verifications included return postage and that it has sometimes cost him as high as \$50 for postage on a single DX program. He said that he would like to co-operate with DXers, but

doesn't feel that he should spend that much money just to please some selfish listeners. Perhaps a real response on the December 17th special will bring him back to our side. *William Vornkahl, Jr.*

It's Up to the DXer

Through contacting broadcasters for special DX programs, I have found a variety of attitudes varying almost as much as the localities which they represent. These opinions are of as much importance as interest, and an analysis of them is necessary to the CPCer who wishes the continuance of such early morning programs.

It is usually the program director who makes the decision on the question of a special. In arriving at his decision, he considers many things. Perhaps the most important points are the question of finances, the convenience to the personnel, and the response to past programs of a similar nature.

The latter is probably considered first, and if previous broadcasts have brought too few reports, the station is reluctant to favor the DXers once more. If thanks have been profuse, if reports have been clear and have contained information of value, the



J. Kenneth Vetter

chances are that the station will agree to further special programs.

The smaller stations must consider the expense of such programs and, while they might want to co-operate with the listeners, they are often obliged to refuse our requests.

A few stations just aren't interested and there is little that we can do about them. However, it is interesting to note that many of the indifferent broadcasters don't last very long, and they either go out of business or have a change in management. *J. Kenneth Vetter.*

Wrong Reports Kill Interest

Next to being a DXer, there is nothing more interesting than serving on the CPC of a radio club. Besides obtaining a comprehensive view of the reaction of stations towards DXing, the CPCer is able to make many pleasant personal contacts with broadcasting officials.

Most DXers remember the trouble in obtaining replies from KLPM. Not so long ago I received a letter from Leslie E. Maupin, Chief Engineer, in which he said that all correct reports would be verified in the future.

KGFX was another difficult station to verify, but a letter from Mrs. Dana McNeil, the program director, stated that they had received many requests for verification before they went on the air. No wonder they didn't pay much attention to letters, and it is gratifying to learn that the station will confirm future reports as soon as possible.

There is a certain amount of satisfaction in receiving a letter which advises that a station is glad to co-operate with a radio club, while the knowledge that reports on specials which I have arranged have been of value to the station itself is ample payment for the work involved. *Carroll H. Weyrich.*

The Baltimore Chapter

To be worthy of our self-applied title, "Pride of the NNRC," is the sole ambition of the Baltimore Boosters.

To help keep our club at the head of the parade is our earnest desire. To have other groups within the club derive the same pleasures of get-togethers is our fervent wish.

The idea of friendly gatherings was conceived more than four years ago, and since then we have averaged ten meetings a season at which the mutual exchange of DX achievements and tips has served to enhance our pleasures in this fascinating hobby. We usually count on ten members of our own



Carroll H. Weyrich

gang at these meetings and have had as many as seventeen.

Every year we try to attend the club's May entertainments en masse. In 1933, sixteen of us made the trip up from Baltimore. Last year, a tribe of Indians from the Hoosier state, headed by the intrepid Art Foerster, swooped down on us. The nine of them doubled up with us over night and then headed for Newark in the morning. After the meeting, we were



Lloyd S. Hahn

among the 57 NNRCers seated at one large table in a restaurant for a final blow-out. Many states were represented. To have been present at this gathering was to be convinced that there is a very tangible something about our club that makes membership desirable. Call it a spirit of *Camaraderie*, if you will.

Briefs 'Bout Baltimore Boosters: *Carroll Weyrich*, tall and blond, married to another club member, the former Ruth Wherley, uses a Scott receiver, snoozes around midnight at meetings and has a pet peeve at the BBC for not verifying SR and WR; *C. M. Falconer*, whose duties as president of the Maryland Automobile Club have hurt his DXing, has many fine catches which have fallen before his wizardry of the dials and is peeved because XEW moved to a crowded channel; *Robert Base* has DXed his way through the last three Scott creations and has plastered the walls of his DX den with more than 700 BCB veries; *Louis J. McVey*, living in a veritable DXer's paradise, where WELI, WAAT and WHEB are R6-7 at noon, has taken us Boosters on air raids all over the world, but still has his troubles with KGBU; *Martin Howard*, the boy wonder secretary, holds

two veries from KGBU for McVey's particular benefit and can't like having to get out notices of a meeting when he has a heavy date; *George Doyle* and *Paul Ruppert*, DX buddies of Sparrows Point, have logs which are growing rapidly; *Dixon Russell* divides his time between radio and duckpins, has won high honors in several short wave contests; *Clinton Sevier*, a postman, is plenty peeved when he has to deliver a verie to *Howard Muhl* when it does not grace his own log, while Howard, a barber, refuses to shave Clint after a session with an electric street car switch at his corner; big brother *Philip S. Hahn* has had amazing success with a 4-tube Philco, boasts veries from KGMB and Poste Parisien and gets plenty riled after listening to a faint signal for an hour and then discovering it to be a harmonic of a local; *Bill Smith*, *Bill Bauer* and *Elton Krider* are newer members who are making rapid strides.

Lloyd S. Hahn

The Indiana Chapter

With an initial membership of six, the Indiana Chapter was organized two years ago. At first, growth was small, but the small group of NNRCers refused to give up and we now have 23 members.

The Baltimore Boosters challenged us to obtain one new member for every three for them. We took them up on this and proceeded not only to match them member for member, but actually gained on them.

Then they had the audacity to dare us to think up some new publicity stunt or novel method of obtaining new members. Once again we arose to meet the challenge and brought the largest state delegation from a distance ever to attend the final club meeting in Newark. Nine Indiana members made the trip, while Baltimore, several hundred miles closer, was able to muster but seven.

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The Newark News Club

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We have made an excellent start with several new members added this fall. In addition, we persuaded WIRE to give us a tip period every week. Finally, we are publishing our own semi-monthly DX sheet and have received many favorable comments from DXers all over the country. We believe in letting our actions speak for themselves and do not resort to the blatant crowing of a rooster.

Arthur E. Forester.
