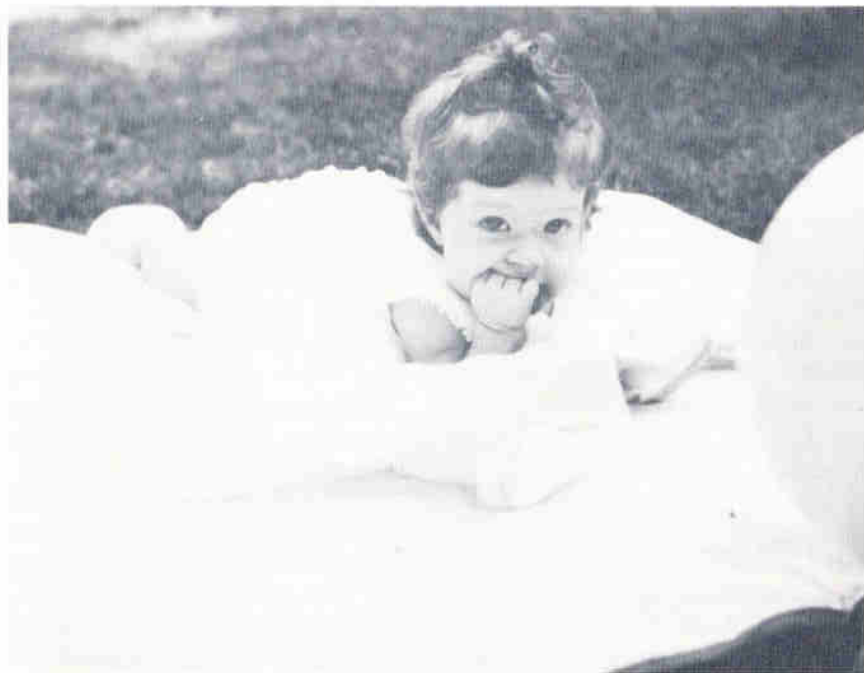




# HAM HUM

October 1962

Vol. XII  
No. 10



Jr. Op. of WOPHW  
(youngest in attendance  
at annual picnic.)

See pages 5 thru 8 for article  
and additional photos.

**HAM HUM** is the official organ of the Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club, Inc., of Omaha, Nebraska, mailed monthly to all members and to others upon request.



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## OCTOBER MEETING - AUCTION

The annual auction of the Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club, Inc. will take place October 12th at the 4-H Building, Ak-Sar-Ben Field, at a meeting of the members which starts at 8:00 P.M. The auctioneer for the evening will be Earle Olson, WØJKE. Earle has been practicing for a couple weeks now with the gavel so that he can get the timing right on the pounding of the gavel and hollering "sold" at the same time. He has also been talking to some of the members as to what kind of gear they might be bringing to the auction and it makes quite a list. It seems there will be a couple of tape recorders - even a wire recorder; code machine; six-volt dynamotor; 12-volt dynamotor; a 12 AV Hygain verticle; 18 feet of aluminum antenna tower; various and sundry transformers, condensers and other components; TV sets, including an ancient Halli-crafter T-54 with 13 channels and in working condition (working - not good, but working); a VTVM; a VOM; a premax verticle; a novice transmitter and antenna coupler; and what else we get will depend upon you. This is the time to search the old

shack and find those pieces of gear that you no longer need and would perhaps like to realize a little money rather than to hang on to the gear any longer. So, bring your gear to the auction, bring your pocketbook or checkbook, as the item someone else wants to get rid of may be the very thing you are looking for.

The rules are the same as before - the Club gets 10% of the sale price - you get the 90%. Each item should be marked with your name and if you wish to place a minimum on the item you may. The minimum should be plainly in view with your name card.

Following the auction will be the usual refreshments and the eyeball QSO's will go on all evening. Be sure to be there yourself and bring your friends. Guests are always welcome, especially those guests with gear to sell or money to buy with. We'll promise you we will do our very best to get you more money for your gear than you can get a where else and we will also promise you some real bargains if you want to buy.

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The photo above shows Royal Enders, KØLYO, President receiving the plaque from Stuart C. Humble, Chapter Chairman.

The BOARD of DIRECTORS of the Omaha Chapter of the American Red Cross presented an award to the Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club for their public service in Omaha and Douglas County, and particularly for having voluntarily manned the radio communications system in the Red Cross chapter house. This communications system is used to relay information on blood inventories from one Red Cross center to another, for disaster communication, and for communication between servicemen overseas and the families at home.

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September 19, 1962

Dear Sirs,

You've been doing a fine job on Ham Hum and I was especially interested in the very complete MARS net schedule in the past issue.

Would like to see more info. on local nets for Omaha and Nebraska areas published (including RACES and AREC).

I also want to mention the new Nebraska storm net (daily on 3983 7:30 p.m. CST - 6:30 p.m. in the winter) which is in addition to 5 other fine daily nets already on 25 in Nebraska.

73, Larry KØJXN

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**OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 865  
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS  
WEST HARTFORD CONN SEPT 13  
1962 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT**

In a partial reorganization of FCC, jurisdiction for the amateur service has been placed in a new department, the Amateur and Citizens Division. Chief of the division is Ivan H. Loucks, W4GD, former chief of the amateur branch some years ago. William S. Grenfell, W4GF, another former amateur branch chief, is chief of the Rules and Standards Branch in the new division AR

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# Direction-Finding

By A. Hitchcock, G3ESB

de--Derby and District Amateur Radio Society

Three or four years ago, or so it seems, the writer was introduced to another branch of Amateur Radio in the shape of Direction Finding. Nothing was known on the subject except that it was simply a matter of obtaining two "fixes" from a hidden transmitter, plotting them on a map and at the intersection, there he was hidden.

That, of course, is the theory.

As far as can be remembered, using the simplest superhet receiver possible, the bearings were at least a mile out! More equipment was constructed, fresh ideas and a collection of different compasses were tried in an attempt to improve the situation. It was during this process that one of the "this is it" receivers finished up in disgust in a hedge-bottom a few miles from town!

It became obvious that Direction Finding was a team enterprise and with the co-operation of Mr. D. Sadler and Mr. L. Hazlehurst, our present team was formed. Derek, infuriating other road-users with hair-raising tactics, and Len being responsible for navigating us up the most obnoxious roads which bristle with power cables and water mains. It is unnecessary really to point out that they in turn can relate some of my performances, including one "spectacular" effort at giving compass bearings 180 degrees out!

However, nothing could stand in the way of a growing enthusiasm for the sport and eventually quite pleasing results were achieved culminating this year in participation in the National Finals.

Many miles have been covered searching for the elusive transmitter. Much sweat, bad language, threats and arguments have ensued but the fact remains that Direction Finding is one of the most interesting and exciting ventures that can be undertaken.

\*\*\*\*\*

September 22, 1962

Hi, OM

The latest activity of the Pittsburgh gang consisted of the September VHF QSO Party.

WØROYIØ operated at KOAM-TV about 12 miles south of Pittsburgh: Equipment consisted of a Gonset Communicator III, Ameco 6CW4 pre amp, International Xtal FCV-2 converter and an S-76. The antenna was an RCA 12 section super turnstile 573 feet high, feed line was pressurized air dielectric copper coax. Antenna was cut for operation on TV channel 7. All operation was on 2 meters. (Antenna courtesy of KOAM-TV.)

Operators were WAØAIF, KØIRL, WØROY, K8UTY, WØVLD, and a couple of SWL's.

We made 59 contacts in 4 areas (states). All of you 2 meter fellows look for us next contest as we need lots more contacts.

We appreciate and enjoy receiving Ham Hum.

73

Ken WØVLD

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# Annual



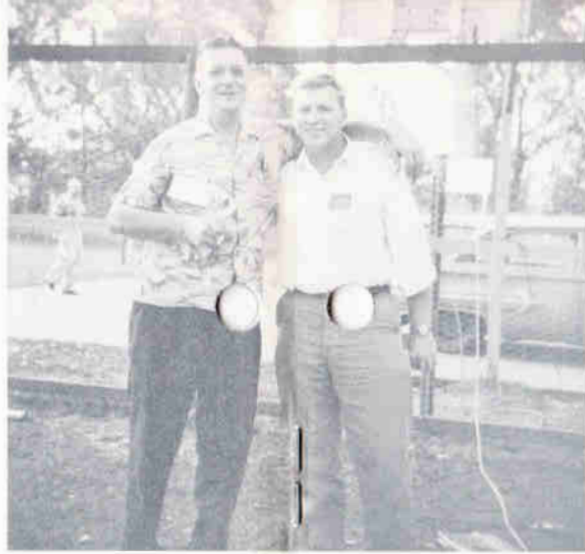
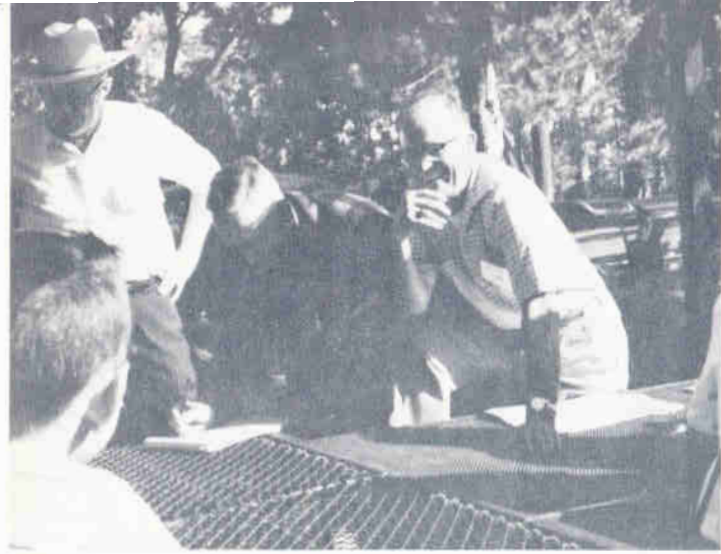
# Picnic

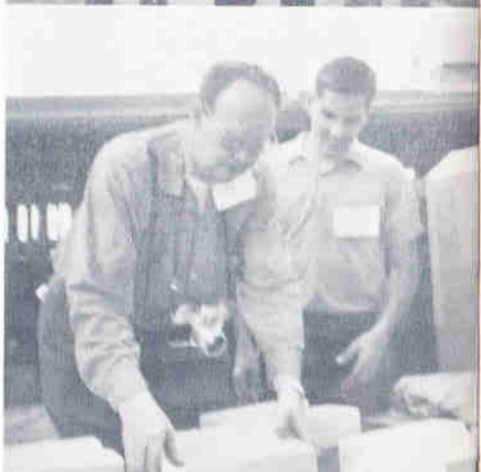
Ak-Sar-Ben Radio Club has finished another picnic, an annual affair with us, and again a most enjoyable time was had by those present. We suffered a little bit in attendance because, if you recall, the weather was pretty bad lookin' all morning on the day of the picnic. At precisely one o'clock, the time of the starting of the picnic, the sun came out and we had a most beautiful afternoon. Joe Berounsky, KØQDB, was in charge of the weather and whereas the timing was a bit too close, he is to be commended for bringing the sun out. The attendance was about 150 and the guests came from various places - from Broken Bow, Nebraska on one side to Marshalltown, Iowa on the other.

The picnic started off with greetings at the gate followed by the usual extraction of the nominal fee with Ed Donze, WØYEV, in charge of the reception desk. Ed Gutmann, WØCQX, was in charge of the games and there was something rolling all the time. Lots of stuff for the kids to do.

After the games we adjourned to the food department where Jerry Armstrong, WØNKG, picnic general chairman, supervised the broiling of the hot dogs. The assembly line in the kitchen was supervised by many willing and able XYLs. In fact, might go so far as to say they are the making of the picnic. Somehow that food always seems to taste better when it is served by a bunch of good lookin' gals. How could we get along without them?

After the eats we went into the prize department where some of us got a chance to go home with some loot. Prizes were donated by the Lions Club, Ladd Electronics, K.B. Brake Company, World Radio Laboratories, Ray Sahler and World Insurance Company. If I have forgotten anybody, I am certainly sorry. I am also sorry we cannot list the full committee under Jerry Armstrong. Perhaps he will give us the names of all of them at the next meeting. There were many more than those listed herein because it takes a lot of bean cookers, food gatherers, gear toters, prize gatherers, etc.





# Dear Mabel

(de--Florida Skip)

I couldn't wait to write you the good news! I'm just so excited about it all, I could die!

Here's what happened. I was busy getting ready for the 4th of July and George came in with two boxes. (He had been to another hams house to see his set). Naturally, I was curious I could hardly wait to see what he had. All he said was we're going to have a bang up 4th and me and the kids all got around him. Now with a statement like that what would you think, Mabel?

One box was firecrackers with wire wicks at both ends, and the other was full of spit devils. Do you remember those, Mabel? You step on them and spin around and they sizzle and pop on the sidewalk smell real good too, real 4th of July smell.

I could hardly wait to try one so I helped myself and went out on the patio to show the kids how they worked. (Poor kids sure don't have 4th of Julys like we used to.)

Believe me, Mabel, that was a mistake--me helping myself, etc. You should have heard George holler when I threw it down and tramped my heel on it! He was the maddest I had ever seen him and besides nothing happened with the spit devil.

George kept running around saying terrible things like I had stepped on his foot or something. In front of the kids, too. Oh, it was awful!

When he did get calm enough to say something sensible he told me I was some kind of nut maybe, (that was hard to take) because I had just ruined one of his new transistors. Well, I did feel pretty awful--and come to think of it I wondered about those two little wires on that spit devil. Actually I thought it was "Progress." I didn't have to touch the explosive with my fingers, just held it by the wire handles.

Gee, were the kids ever disappointed. They really expected something to happen. Of course, something did--but it was only George.

It took most of that day to get him calmed down and it was then he told me he wanted to have a serious talk with me.

When George says he wants to have a serious talk, Mabel, I always know its about the kids or money or something worse, but NEVER about Ham Radio. So I pour a cup of coffee for myself and opened George a bottle of seven up--ha' ha' seven percent--and we sat down in the ham shack, of all places.

He told me my stupid-(well he didn't say exactly that, but I caught on he wasn't too happy with me) he told me all this had gone on long enough and gave me a book to study. The License Manual, I have it right here beside me, now. That's the book you study questions and answers in if you're going to be a Ham, Mabel!! And George says I am going to be a HAM!! He said some other things too and he feels

(Continued on page 10)



his things in the shack will be a lot safer when I am a ham. Like guard duty maybe.

The more I think of it Mabel, the more excited I get about the idea. I can tell everybody who my OM is and do a lot of talking to men like he talks to some of those ladies.

So Mabel, if you don't hear from me for awhile you'll know what I'm very busy doing. I'll even have to take a "test" just like old school days, again.

I'll tell you this much tho Mabel, when other hams come to visit me they're going to see a nice clean pretty ham shack. I picked up all the new color charts this morning, also some drapery and rug samples. When I'm not studying I can work on my plan for redecoration. I also had an interview with a

woman today to come in and do my washing and cleaning so all I will have to do is study and take care of the kids.

Well Mabel, I must get to the job in hand. I'm going into the shack right now and clean all the things off George's desk so I have a comfortable place to study, and guess I'll empty those two top drawers of his into a box. Since we are going to share the shack now I need a place for some of my things that I like to keep handy, books and pills and of course all the QSL cards I'm going to get.

98's for now Mabel. That's the percent I always got in school on my tests. That's what I tell the kids anyway. Ha! Ha!

Love,  
Gladys

\*\*\*\*\*

## MEMORIES

by Harvey R. Pierce, WØOPA  
de Splatter (Mpls)

Can you remember the first sounds you ever heard over your radio? The first station you heard? Or even the first AMATEUR radio station you heard?

Today radio is so much a part of our lives that the above events are not remembered or even noticed at the time. But it wasn't always like this. There was a time when those events were tremendously exciting, things to be remembered as important steps in your progress toward being an amateur radio operator!

You had to BUILD your receiver. Unless you were very wealthy, it took a lot of building, too, for radio parts cost a lot of money, and were hard to get. Oh, the E. I. Co. and Drake catalogues had just as many goodies for the radio experimenter as today's catalogues, but they were dream books to the beginner, who usually settled for a few chunks of "guaranteed active" galena crystals and a pound of bell wire for his receiver, and maybe a few antenna insulators and as much "hard drawn" antenna wire as he

could afford. His biggest investment was for earphones - or at least one. Some borrowed the telephone receiver, but it was awkward and not too sensitive. You bought your earphones by the ohm, you might say, the higher the ohms, the more sensitive the headset. You could buy 2000, 3000, 4000, 6000, and 8000-ohm sets at increasing prices. 2000 ohms was the standard.

You built your receiver. You wound the bell wire on an oatmeal box for the coil. You made binding posts from hardware store bolts and drycell knurled nuts. You made a gadget to hold a chunk of galena crystal, with a cat-whisker of fine wire to find a sensitive spot with. You made tap switches from brass headed tacks and tin. And when it was done you listened, moving the cat-whisker over the crystal carefully. You were thrilled to hear static, even, for at least you heard something on your receiver!

I did all that. Then I rigged a test buzzer to my set. The buzzer acted like a spark transmitter so you knew when you had the best spot on the galena crystal for your cat-whisker. I spent more hours exploring that hunk of crystal. I

found many good spots and heard static but no signals. (There were no broadcast stations then, and few Twin City amateurs).

Then one Sunday it happened! I heard some code, loud and clear! Feverishly I began to copy the slow sending. It was 9GH, at the White Bear Lake High School, a mile away. What a thrill! I was actually receiving a station on my wireless!

For the present day engineers who might argue that you can't receive code on a crystal set, let me explain that the transmitter at 9GH was a half-kilowatt Thordarson SPARK with a rotary sparkgap to give it "tone." It used an oil-filled capacitor, and was tuned with a large spiral helixes of 1-1/4" copper ribbon. The antenna was a 6-wire flat-top about 50' long and 15 feet above the school roof. The modulation was 60-cycle and rotary gap . . . and well over 100% by today's standards.

Later I built my first two-tube receiver, heard my first DX, my first broadcast (from KDKA), my first amateur phone, I had, naturally, a first QSO on phone and CW, a first DX contact. I barely remember them, but I'll *never* forget 9GH, the first signal I heard!

\*\*\*\*\*

## NOTICE

WØTXN is brewing up a new batch of R. F. grease. Now is the time to drop your antenna and grease up for the long winter months. It comes in large and small plastic bags. Phone 553-5275 or 342-8084.

Tnx

Bert, KØCFQ

\*\*\*\*\*

**PREXY SEZ** - inasmuch as he was required to be out of town because of business for most of this month, Prexy will save his comments until next month except for "BE AT THE AUCTION."

\*\*\*\*\*

He wanted to be a ham  
 license manual he did cram  
 took the test  
 and did his best  
 many long weeks passed  
 the ticket arrived at last  
 he finally had his call  
 going to have a ball  
 impatiently he couldn't wait  
 to work every state  
 with a small jitter  
 fired up the transmitter  
 it is sad to tell  
 high hopes fell  
 the signal didn't rate  
 HE NEVER LEARNED TO DIP  
 THE PLATE!  
 de--The Technician

\*\*\*\*\*

**FOR SALE:**

- 1 - Hy-Gain Hi-Tower all band vertical (new)
- 1 - 40' Hvy duty tower (4 legs) (used)  
 W0UEV  
 Phone: 553-7066

My new address is:  
 E. Q. Hansen  
 3226 So. 44th Ave.  
 Omaha 5, Nebraska

\*\*\*\*\*

**FOR SALE:**

- 3 el Hy-Gain Tri Band Beam, 50 ft. tower, Collins 75A2A, slicer, CE20A and VFO. 5 ft. Collins rack, Globe Linear, SSB 10 Min. timer.

Thank you.

Don Bousquet, K0BES  
 201 W. 24th Street  
 South Sioux City, Nebraska

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW ADDRESS:**

William W. McDonald, K0YDJ  
 7525 North 7th Street  
 Phoenix 20, Arizona

\*\*\*\*\*

Our compliments to OMARC for putting on the successful demonstration of amateur radio at the Hobby Show held in conjunction with the Western Electric plant picnic. K0ETA, Fred Kujawa, ran the rig, answered the questions, and no doubt carried the gear.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Dick, W0YZV,

For your information, the Pine Ridge Amateur Radio Club headquartered in Chadron, Nebraska will commence their meetings September 27th in Crawford, Nebraska.

We find the Ham Hum very informative and interesting in these parts and would appreciate being kept on your mailing list.

73

Tony, K0OAL  
 (Editor of the  
 PRARC Feedback)

\*\*\*\*\*

**FOR SALE:**

- Globe chief - 90 transmitter \$35.00
  - Heath VFO with external power supply \$25.00
  - Globe antenna matcher \$ 8.50
- Ray Henders  
 K0LJS  
 Morrill, Nebr.

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