

RADIO'S ROMANCE DOMINATES HOME

(Continued From Page Three)

The game went along nicely enough. Paul even goes so far as to affirm the game progressed just about as rapidly as if the two had been sitting across the table from one another.

To Gain Distinction

Buck Joiner is thumbing through the daily stack of letters the mailman brings with a new impatience these days. That's because he is momentarily expecting a letter which may give him a distinction possessed by no other "ham" in the United States and by only two other "hams" in the entire world.

If you know anything about this business of amateur radioing, you know that the world is divided into exactly 40 zones. It's the ambition of every "ham" to talk with amateurs in as many of these different zones as he can.

Buck had already "poked up" amateur stations in 39 of those zones. But efforts over a period of years to make contact with someone in that bleak, god-forsaken stretch of snows and wasteland which is marked "Tibet" on a map of Asia, had always been in vain.

The other night Buck was talking with a "ham" in China, and this chap told Buck that a friend of his had pushed west into the region with a small amateur set. He suggested Buck try to contact him.

Picks Up Tiber

Buck made careful notes of the general area in which the fellow was to be found and the next night began to work that section of the dial. Sure enough, he picked up a station which identified itself as situated in the heart of Tibet. But before Buck can claim official recognition of having penetrated into that far-off region—and of having been in contact with every zone in the entire world—he must receive a card or letter from the man in Tibet, verifying the fact that he has talked with him.

If and when that letter arrives, Buck will take his place alongside an Englishman and a Belgian who also have succeeded in talking with every part of the world.

The mailman is a very welcome visitor at Buck's radio shop these days. Many of Asheville's amateurs have established friendships in more foreign countries than the average college student could list on a geography examination paper. Often these friendships spring from the two "hams" immediately concerned to all members of their families.

The Rudolph Gibbs family is an intimate team with a whole community of families in South Africa. There is one in particular with which they hold almost nightly communication. Rudolph discusses politics and the weather with the man of the household. Mrs. Gibbs chats with the wife on matters of knitting, crocheting and other domestic occupations and the children compare their school work and keep each other posted on the outcome of ball games on the vacant lot next door.

Extra Celebration

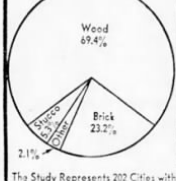
Thanks to these frequent conversations over a distance of 7,000 miles, the man in South Africa has enjoyed three extra New Year's celebrations during the past trio of years. It's breakfast time down there when Rudolph begins tinkering with his dial after supper, and if it's Monday night here it will be Tuesday morning there. When the whistles and bells begin ringing out the old year and welcoming the new, Rudolph adjusts his sending set in such a way as to pick up the zone. And the man down in South Africa, who has heard the same sort of commotion in his own city more than a half day earlier, thrills all over again to the advent of another year.

It rumored that Major Bowes, the much-respected perpetrator of amateur radio broadcasts, raised his baby eyebrows an extra notch a short time ago when voices began flowing in for a program on which two Asheville performers took part. In the match was a telegram from an unheard of village down in the heart of quaking Chile nominating the two Asheville amateurs as top performers of the evening.

It didn't happen by chance, though. Buck Joiner the night before had been talking to the Chilean chap in question, and had mentioned, more or less casually, that the Asheville pair was slated to broadcast for the Major the following evening. The

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man in Chile had promised to give them his vote—and did.

Dollars Are Saved

Hundreds of dollars in long distance telephone calls are saved annually by persons in this section as a result of the amateur radio sets. It's a rare evening that one or more of Asheville's "hams" do not find themselves paying host to friends or neighbors who would like to swap a few words with someone back home.

Mrs. Phillip B. Hall of the Monroe apartments left the Union of South Africa 30 years ago. Behind her left a cousin whose voice she had not heard since that day of departure.

Recently she visited Gibbs' home and renewed, oral acquaintance over the airways. Now the conversations are almost as frequent as letters had been before.

Occasionally boys or girls will talk to their absent sweethearts via the amateur radio sets. But such conversations are definitely in a minority. There may be a very good psychological reason for that, too.

For, not so long ago, a chap who had found it necessary to leave his home in Seattle, Wash., for a trip into the frozen heart of Alaska, arranged to share sweet nothings with the girl he left behind over the radio each night. The girl being "himself," the young swain arranged for her to talk with him over the set of a masculine friend of his back in Seattle.

The Warm Turns

The tele-aleks were satisfactory enough at first. Then the girl's end of the conversation began to grow more and more restrained—and shorter and shorter. About a month later the girl revealed in one of her occasional chats that she had become engaged to the chap whose sending set she was using. She had not even been acquainted with him until her lover had introduced the two in order to further his own romantic ends.

Being a practical scientist himself, Paul Sutton of course considers all this business of mental telephony as so much speculative bunk. But he had a bit of fun with the thing recently as a result of his amateur radio activities.

Aboard a ship on Lake Superior a psychologist at Northwestern university was making an experiment in mental telepathy with a "subject" in New York city. Paul picked up the broadcast and sent in his own answers to the professor. He's got a very nice letter thanking him for his interest.

Many of Asheville's "hams" find their sets far better mediums for the acquisition of knowledge on current happenings than all the books and newspapers in the world could be. They followed scientific marches of Donald B. MacMillan, and Admiral Richard E. Byrd on the North and South poles through mighty communications with "hams" in the explorers' parties. Joiner also maintained a series of conversations for some time with a young chap in Peru who had set out on another of those never-ending expeditions to rediscover the lost island of Atlantis—a place which may never have existed but which persons with an imagination never grow tired of wondering about.

Boles In Emergencies

Pleasant and informative are only two of many values "hams" derive from their sets, however. But the most important of their functions is the role they play in times of such major catastrophes as floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and the like.

Several Asheville "hams" have received heavy thanks and congratulations for service they have performed during such tragedies. From lines and telegraph facilities are frequently put out of working order in these misadventures of Mother Nature and it is even the amateur radio but when converting his hobby into humanitarian force of work, message to send through important message which may be the means of saving hundreds of lives.

growing habit in some circles for government aid for the transportation industry is not far distant.

Demand for low-yield mortgages meanwhile kept the higher priced in line, pointing steadily upward. The group in the Associated Press also show want to see high ground.

1938-39 at 111.8, up two-fifths of a point. Figures were \$104.46 as a 199. Union Pacific 4 1/2 at 114. Standard Oil of New Jersey 3 3/4 at 107 1/4 and Brown Shoe 3 3/4 at 107 1/4.

Principal activity in other groups centered in New York city traction issue which opened to life in the final half hour of the brief session and closed around the day's best to set ratio of 1 to 2 of more points. Included were bonds of the Interborough Rapid Transit and Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit and some of the surface lines.

U. S. governments rarely appeared on the tape but the few transactions that were made were at generally higher levels.

Foreign dollar bonds did little either way. There was some demand for a few South American loans, including Argentine 4 1/2.

Transfers of \$1,735,500 face value compared with \$2,817,500 last Saturday.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

City	Rate
NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—The New York stock market closed at 107.14, up 1/4 point from 106.80 on Friday.	107.14
London 149.10, up 1/2 point from 148.60.	149.10
Paris 104.46, up 2/5 point from 104.21.	104.46
Bombay 223.00, up 1/2 point from 222.50.	223.00
Calcutta 223.00, up 1/2 point from 222.50.	223.00
Rangoon 193.00, up 1/2 point from 192.50.	193.00
Manila 104.46, up 2/5 point from 104.21.	104.46
Cebu 104.46, up 2/5 point from 104.21.	104.46
London 149.10, up 1/2 point from 148.60.	149.10
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The Asheville Amateur Radio club to which most "hams" of this section belong is busy now perfecting in elaborate outfit of equipment especially designed for use in times of crisis.

But regardless of the end it serves—regardless, in other words, of whether it be for pleasure, information or service—Asheville amateurs are so fond of their radio sets as proud papa of his now-born babe. And while you're spending the evening in conversation with Aunt Sarah or Uncle Oscar they're spending it gossiping with equally chatty though unseen, friends in every quarter of the globe.

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