Panther Valley — Carbon County
Monroe, Schuylkill Counties

Contact Over 900 Stations

Area 'Ham' Radio Operators Join In Nationwide Field Exercises

Severe electrical storms played havoc with the weekend field day exercises of ham radio operators in the Lehigh Valley and Carbon County-Panther Valley areas.

The exercises were held in conjunction with a nationwide simu[l]ated emergency drill sponsored [by] the American Radio Relay [L]eague, National Assn. of Ham [O]perations.

The storm knocked out several operations in the area for three to six hours.

In Bethlehem two positions went off the air when transmitters were flooded by three inches of water. In the Carbon County — Panther Valley area, electrical interference forced the Carbon County Amateur Radio Club to disrupt service between 10 p.m. Saturday and 4 a.m. Sunday. Lightning struck within 100 feet of the club's headquarters.

More than 900 stations were contacted during the 24-hour drill. The most distant point contacted was California.

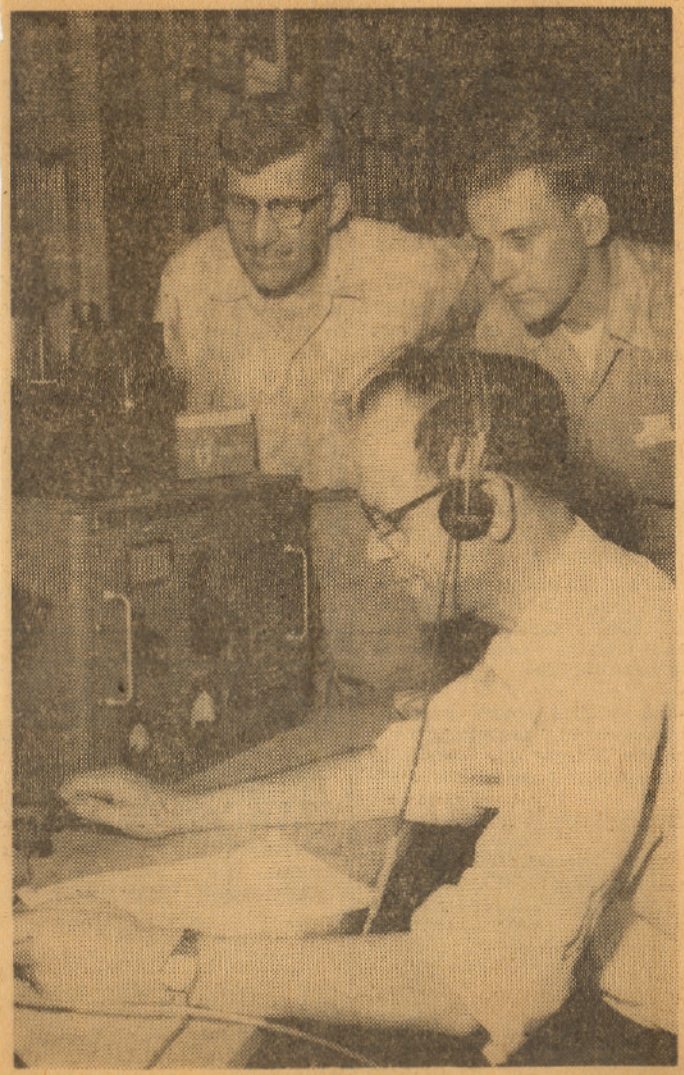
Thirty-five radio operators of the Delaware - Lehigh Radio Club reached 512 different stations in the 24-hour drill. Saturday night's storm prevented them from breaking last year's record of 582 stations.

Tamaqua Amateur Radio Club, with headquarters at Teter's Grove, New England Valley, near Tamaqua, made more than 250 contacts.

The Carbon County unit, set up in Flagstaff Park, Jim Thorpe, was able to reach more than 150 stations across the nation.

Maximum participation was e[n]couraged by the league by conduc[t]ing contests between groups of th[e] same size. Last year, the Del[a]ware-Lehigh Club placed seven[th] in the nation.

Purpose of the operation is [to] prepare amateurs for operation[s] during civil or national disaste[rs] such as the floods of last Augus[t]





FIELD EXERCISES—Amateur radio operators from the P. V.-Carbon County area participated in field exercises over the weekend, contacting over 400 stations in a nation-wide operation. (Above) The Rev. Henry G. Russell, (seated) president of the Carbon County Club, Amateur Radio contacts a station, while John Naratil (left), activities chairman, and Bert Rex, Lehighton, look on. At right, equipment is stowed by Allen Breiner (left) and Dr. Joseph Flanigan of the Tamaqua club at the completion of operations.