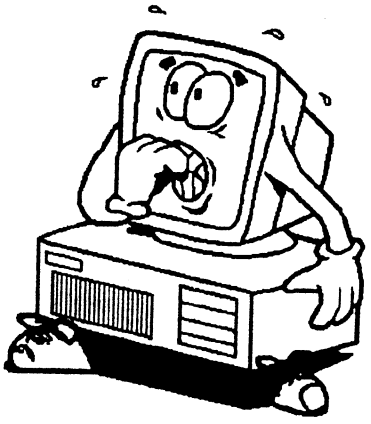
You Can't Do That

By

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W3TI



You Can't do That

A collection of various actions and experiences of an elected official of the American Radio Relay League.

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Acknowledgments

It is with a sincere gratitude and deepest appreciation I owe to my mentor, Anthony "Tony" Sarli W3CMA , now a silent key, who urged me on to put down in writing of my Amateur Radio experience and what really took place behind the scenes of the Section Communications Manager elect for Eastern Pennsylvania between 1959 and 1972. It was by his assistance and prodding that was the tool which got me started in the teaching profession, a change of vocation which turned my life around completely

To my Wife Evelyn, K3NZD, who persevered for over fufty-five years, who was a traveling companion to those many Section meetings and for enduring the many hours when I was engaged with League business.

To my son Allen, W3ZRQ (*formerly K3NYX*) for his many hours of assistance and fatherly companionship. I am grateful

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You CAN'T Do That in Pennsylvania

What started out to be an organizational history which led up to the formation of the Eastern Pennsylvania Emergency Phone and Traffic net has turned out to be an autobiography of one named Allen R. Breiner whose amateur call is W3TI. A resident of Tamaqua, Pa. for over seventy-nine years at the time of this writing.

In 1989 I was approached by James Antonacci WA3EHD, who is the net manager at present. He was interested in the history of the net and basic background on how it got started. This prompt me into getting the gray matter churning and resulted in researching a number of QST's dating as far back as 1960.

If we were to begin this account from the very date of the net's institution would not do justice nor give credit to all those responsible and who did the leg work in getting it organized. We really must go back and research all the "How's and Why's" or let us say, some of the preliminary history and explanations

The Bug

First a bit of history and background about the writer. We got bitten by the "Hammus Virus Bug" as a teenager during the late 1920's into early 1930's during the time of the great depression. I started with a Ford spark coil for a transmitter and an Oat meal box loose coupler crystal set detector for the receiver.

My operating time on Spark was less than a year when I was instructed to QRT. Spark had been outlawed and C.W. was in. So the Spark set was pensioned to the attic junk box. I recently dug those old parts out and reconstructed a prototype of that spark set, including a silver plated helix, I built another Loose coupler crystal set receiver to match my original station and to my amazement, after all those years gone by, the spark station still works. Of course, that does not say what it is doing to the neighborhood AM, FM, and TV sets.

Time Marches On

Retiring the spark station we went on to graduate from Tamaqua Hig School. World War Two came and went, meanwhile we took up the Trad as an Electrician which was an asset in years later. Then the love bug b and we married Evelyn who is now K3NZD. Our family grew and at th time of this writing comprise of a Son, two Daughters, four Grandsons three Granddaughters, one Great grandson and three gre granddaughters.

Following WW 2 I had the financial means and transportation to drive t the Federal Communications Commission district office, 4th floor 2nc and Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. and in April 1954 joyfully walke out with a General Class license and the Amateur Radio station call c W3ZRQ. The reason for the long delay in acquiring the licensed was th great depression of the 1930's at which time I didn't have the train fare t Philadelphia . I might add during that early era you only had to answer dozen questions and the code test was ten words per minute. It wa changed to 13 WPM after WW 2.

The five years that followed found me active on 20, 40, and 80 CW . was strictly on CW at the time because I didn't own a microphone . located a slow speed CW traffic training net on 3610 Khz called th Anthracite net, *designator "A N"* .The net manager was Ed Rittenhous W3PVY . Some of the active stations were Van W3AXA, Sam W3TSY Lew W3ADE. I was soon handed a net control spot and with our cod speed increasing entered the E P A high speed Eastern Pennsylvani Section net also held on 3610 Khz., one at 6:30, the other at 7 p.m.

And Now - A. M. Phone

Up till 1956 we were strictly a CW operator. We didn't even know where the phone portion of the bands were located and by this time we were sporting a National NC-101 X receiver, top of the line, ham bands only and a 300 watt class C home built amplifier. Then came the revolution. As the secretary for the Tamaqua Amateur Radio group I was out of touch with majority of the members because they were all operating on 75 meter AM phone. Then it happened at the clubs annual auction night when there appeared a JT-30 crystal microphone. The bid came close to $ 1.05 when the auctioneer closed the bidding. Ye writer had purchased a microphone and was told that I had no excuse for not getting on AM phone. What followed was a home brew cathode modulator which gave me a healthy 150 watt A M signal. I was later informed by the members the auction was rigged so I would get the Mic.

A Greenhorn and the Phone net

It was the year 1957 by the time I located the phone bands on the National receiver dial. We even found the Pennsylvania Phone net that was operating on 3850 Kc. (*There were no Kilohertz at that time*)

Note, this was a few years before ARRL introduced incentive licensing. Also prior to when the FCC changed the 75 meter band plan to the present setup and 3850 Kc. was still in the General class portion.

While listening to the PFN for a few days I finally worked up enough courage to call into the net. Paul, W3TEJ from Lancaster was net control and after the usual net preamble I called into the net with the following format.

W3TEJ this is W3ZRQ, QNI , QTC, one Allentown, one Philadelphia , break, over .

" D E A D S I L E N C E "

After what seemed like a millennium, Paul came back with the statement " *That new station, W Three Zed Are Que, can anyone in the net tell me what he said* " . Right then and there I knew I had pulled a boner. I also knew that my 150 watt A.M. signal was getting out because he acknowledged me. What actually threw him was the manner and format I used in checking into the net. It was the C.W. net format with which he was totally unfamiliar . This was my debut and introduction into phone traffic operating.

The Beginning

I assume that I was the one responsible for having broken the ice between phone and C W , a system of liaison stations was established between both modes of traffic handlers At the time the Section Communications Manager was Clarence Snyder W3PYF of Easton, Pa. His two year term was coming to a close and wished not to be nominated for another term.

This left nominations open in the E. Pa. section and by October 1958 I had become quite active on both C W and phone traffic nets. Then one evening I was approached by W3PYF and asked if I would consider being nominated for the office of Section Communications Manager .

After thinking it over I accepted the offer and the combined members of the phone and CW nets sent my nominating petition to the ARRL. Since I was the only nominee, on January 1, 1959, I started what was to be a twelve year tenure as Section Communications Manager for Eastern Pennsylvania.

The records received from the previous SCM were few. There were six Official Phone Stations OPS and less than that Official Relay Stations ORS, a Phone Activities Manager PAM, and one Route Manager RM. Four counties had an Emergency Coordinator EC. Prior to becoming SCM, I was the EC for Schuylkill County. There was no Section Emergency Coordinator so I had to scout around for someone interested and qualified for the position. That required someone involved in Civil Defense, *now known as Emergency Management Agency* , Also well versed in the art of emergency radio communications. When questioned, none of the EC's were interested in the appointment.

I discovered that person in the form of a retired United Stated Navy Officer, Emmet Kuehner W3DUI at the time he was acting as Radio Officer for the city of Hazleton, Pa. and lower Luzern County. Emmet served the section faithfully and did a great job organizing and working with the Emergency Coordinators when be became a Silent Key in 1965.

By their combined efforts they designed an Emergency Operations plan which has served as the format during a number of emergency situations. This became the basis under which the present Section Emergency plan is still functioning. Six and two meter bands were utilized for local communications while 75 and 80 meters were for inter-county and long haul emergency traffic. Remember, this was fifteen years before the advent of VHF repeaters. Today the whole section can be linked via two meter repeaters.

After Emmet's passing I was fortunate to get George S. Van Dyke Jr. W3ELI, *now W3HK,* another Navy Officer and EC for the city of Philadelphia to fill the Section Emergency Coordinator position.

The first few years as SCM were spent visiting clubs and attending Hamfests. I got increased interest in nets and traffic operating, in that manner strengthened the National Traffic System. It added more Emergency Coordinators linking county and local nets with the NTS. This also meant more Official Phone and Official Relay Station appointments. The Eastern Pennsylvania Section began to flourish.

Some of the net member station calls at the time were
PAM Phone Activities Manager
K3BHU W3TEJ W3IVS W3SAO VHF-PAM

OPS Official Phone Stations
K3JLW W3HNK K3KNL W3CUL W3VR K3KCT W3GJA
W3EEN K3IMP K3MNT K3JHT K3CAH W3FLP W3ZRQ

RM Route Managers
W3AXA W3EML K3YVG K3PIE

ORS Official Relay Stations
W3RV W3FAF W3UIU W4DVT W3MQU W3EU K3JSX W3BUR
W3BFF W3ADE W3JKX K3KTH K3SGI K3JHF K3MVO
W3ELI (now W3HK) W3ZRQ (now W3TI)

The Pennsylvania Phone net at that time was only operational week days, Monday through Friday and not on weekends. Net control stations were K3CAH, Spring City, K3BHU, W3DGX, Pine Grove, and W3TEJ from Lancaster. There was quite a large build-up in membership of Amateur Radio Emergency Corps between 1960 and 1963. The one thousandth AREC member was registered In May of 1963 and Emergency Coordinators had become very active in the following counties.

Adams, K3EUG followed by K3EWC
Berks, K3KHV
Bradford, W3BKF
Dauphin, K3AIK
Delaware, K3HWX followed by W3FLP
Juniata, K3AKN
Lancaster. W3MZI followed by W3FEY
Lehigh, K3LKQ followed by K3QJU
Lackawanna W3QDW
Montgomery, W3AHZ
Northumberland, K3JSX followed by W3LXN
Philadelphia, W3ELI (now W3HK)
Schuylkill, W3ZRQ, followed by W3LDV
Tioga, K3CKB

An Air of Unrest

1962 and 1963 were the foundation years for the Eastern Pennsylvania Emergency Phone and traffic net. The net was really not organized at that time but it was the beginning of an era of unrest and disappointment among the section's traffic handling people.

It was during that period Mae W3CUL, and Al Burke, W3VR husband and wife team hit an all time high in their monthly total traffic count and would utilize the Pennsylvania Phone net each evening for an outlet to New Jersey and Pennsylvania bound messages. This was cause and result our Official Phone stations and Emergency Coordinators would be put on hold and would have to wait in line to pass their traffic.

The additional traffic was a boon for the Pennsylvania Phone net and liaison to the C.W. nets as well as increasing everyone's monthly traffic count. On the other hand everyone was not cheering, there were those who shown much dissatisfaction. Official Phone stations became uneasy and would show their discontent by entering comments with their monthly reports that expressed complaint and inability for them main stream their traffic. As SCM, I began to question the County Emergency Coordinators. They in turn joined with similar complaints. They inferred that in the event of an emergency the Pennsylvania Phone net would become extremely backlogged and definitely unable to handle the excess overflow of traffic .

That was cause for the Section Communications Manager to follow up with a meeting notice that was sent to all County Emergency Coordinators, Phone Activity Managers, Route Managers, Official Phone Stations, and Official Relay Stations. Bill Overbeck, W3EML Route Manager agreed to have the meeting at his QTH . This gathering was held on July 28, 1962 in Roslyn, Pa. That meeting held in Bill's back yard had twenty-eight in attendance. The Emergency Coordinators seemed to hold the floor. Everyone present agreed we had to come up with some plan or solution to overcome the Pennsylvania Phone Net traffic backlog.

The Section Emergency Coordinator, W3DUI and Emergency Coordinators had previously been exchanging letters and ideas for the organization of a separate AREC net. As the session wore on their ideas and comment jelled into what was the First Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Emergency Corps operations plan and was put into the Blue Print stage. As previously stated, the present Section Emergency Operations plan was designed around that original draft.

The group went one step further and organized an Eastern Pennsylvania Section AREC net which would operate on Sundays starting at 9 a.m. The net control stations would be the County Emergency Coordinators with a back-up system in case one could not keep their appointed net control schedule.

A similar net was also organized on C.W. 3610 Kc. which would begin at 9:30 a.m. The idea behind this was to handle the weeks overload and train new operators in handling traffic. This system didn't seem to be a 100 percent cure-all but for the time being got the Emergency Coordinators and other section appointees to simmer down a bit.

Back Track to 1960

In order for our story to keep in step or on track we must go back in time to the Spring of 1960. when the First Eastern Pennsylvania Section dinner meeting was held at a local Fire Company In Tamaqua, Pa. with 126 in attendance. Not all were section appointment holders, many were just interested amateurs and representatives from amateur radio clubs. This was the beginning for the traditional dinner meetings that were held twice a year up until 1970. One held in April and another in October at various locations throughout the section. For example Broomall, Roslyn, Lancaster, Willow Grove, Coplay, Susquehanna, Harrisburg, Lehighton and others locations that escapes my memory. For summer activity the annual traffikers picnic was held in pavilion number two at Hershey Park

Following dinner the Section Communications Manager and the Section Emergency Coordinator would hear reports from Phone Activities Managers, Route Managers, County Emergency Coordinators, club representatives and anyone who had something to add. The ideas and information expressed at these sessions were excellent and an asset in getting our EPA Section to rank Number One for many years. Credit must be given to the Amateurs at that time for their untiring participation in Section level matters.

Guest speakers at these affairs were Rodger Phelpes and Ken Roberts, both Engineer in Charge of Federal Communications Commission, Philadelphia office. Phelps retired in February 1963 and was replaced by Ken Roberts. Other interesting speakers were F.C.C. Engineer Joseph D. Welsh K3CT, Gilbert L. Crosley W3YA Director Atlantic Division, Charles S. Guy United States Federal Marshal, just to name a few

Again – Back we go to 1963

It was noticed about a year following the formation of the Sunday AREC net that it was not doing the job intended. It was not handling the excessive week end traffic load and some other innovation or idea had to come about. The real quirk came as a stroke of luck when our EPA section officials were informed by the officials from the Pennsylvania Phone net. "They were a State Wide net" and did not come under any calling or jurisdiction of either Eastern or Western Section Communication Managers. That statement was not taken to gleefully by our county Emergency Coordinators.

The time was May of 1963, Emergency Coordinators surrounding the Philadelphia area called for a special meeting. The SCM sent the invitations and meeting notice. Doc K3GAS, north Philadelphia, offered his facilities for a meeting room. Attending that session were Emergency Coordinators K3QJU, W3AHZ, W3FLP, W3ELI and PAM W3SAO as well as Section Emergency Coordinator W3DUI and the Section Communications Manager W3ZRQ.

The Fuse was Ignited

The EC's came right to the point. The Sunday net definitely was not fulfilling the purpose as intended and something different had to be done. It was hinted at that time a separate section phone net be formed and operate weekdays coincident with the Pennsylvania Phone net. The "Seed" was planted, all that remained was time given for it to germinate.

What followed were weeks that turned into months and the unrest was increasing. Section appointees began to falter, interest in traffic began to deteriorate and by that winter section activity and traffic took a terrible slump. It was after the October Section dinner meeting held at the Coplay American Legion when all EC's were notified of a special meeting to be held Sunday March, 30, 1963 at the QTH of Emergency Coordinator K3QJU in Coplay, Pa.

Attendance at that meeting were the following; SCM W3ZRQ, SEC W3DUI, Route Mgr. W3EML, and EC's W3ELI Philadelphia, W3LDV Schuylkill, W3FEY Lancaster, W3GLL Carbon, W3FLP Delaware, K3AKN Juniata, K3IJX Luzern, and K3QJU Lehigh counties. A questionnaire accompanied the meeting notice and if the appointee was unable to attend the questions were to be answered and returned as their proxy vote. Please note - Whenever meeting notices were mailed, the net controls and net manager for the Pennsylvania Phone net were also afforded the same invitation.

Those Emergency Coordinators and Section level officials who were unable to attend that meeting returned their questionnaires and from all indications their answers were 100 percent in favor of organizing another traffic net that would be operational during the weekdays. After due discussion the decision was made that it should not be called an AREC net because the name might dissuade some from joining because they were not an AREC member. The net must be open to everyone, traffic handler or rag chewer. A group of operating rules and net preamble were designed which are still observed and being used today. They have been carried over from one net manager to another. We must have did something right this time.

The chore of assigning a name to the net had to be a cover-all for daily traffic as well as an emergency net. The decision made was to call it The EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY PHONE AND TRAFFIC NET. It would operate seven days a week including holidays. This decision came about because emergencies do not just happen on Mondays through Fridays.

To get the ball rolling the various Emergency Coordinators would act as net control stations until others could be trained. Unlike any RACES net operation, it was also decided in the event of an emergency any radio amateur could call the net to order. This system has worked in a number of actual emergency conditions.

Next came the job of picking the frequency of operation. The ARRL and FCC at the time were in the process of implementing a program known as "Incentive Licensing" and if introduced to the amateur fraternity would change every radiotelephone frequency band plan when put into affect. The FCC's plan changed 3850 to 4000 Khz for General class operators and Advanced and Extra class licensees on the lower portion. With some long range thinking, checking the ARRL net directory, and with this thought in mind, a frequency of 3915 Khz was decided upon. The plan was made, the package complete, all that was needed was to get things started. *The frequency was changed to 3917 khz. Six months later.*

April 1, 1964

Following that meeting, two days later, **April Fools Day** The Eastern Pennsylvania Emergency Phone and Traffic net made its debut and the initial callup was made. The first eight weeks were rough going and participation was low. Emergency Coordinators acted as net control and at times were disappointed, but they stuck to it and kept the net alive.

Within a few months the net took off like a rocket and the Emergency Coordinators were once again happy to have a seven-day-a-week traffic outlet. The C.W. liaison stations found additional outlets on our new net. It should also be noted at the time we were exceptionally lucky in obtaining a few female voices who took up regular net control appointments. There was Ellie, K3TNL from Lake Ariel in the Poconos, Gissel K3WAJ from Secane, and Harriet WA3ATQ a retired Lady Marine in North Philadelphia. They were not only an attraction for the net but a greater asset and attraction when attending those Section dinner-meetings. The net owes these YL's a debt of gratitude for a job well done during those formation years.

No one can go back in time and change history. What you have just been presented is the story in detail, in addition, to the " Hows and Why's " and all the reasoning behind the formation of the Eastern Pennsylvania Phone and Traffic Net. The Section's net managers and County Emergency Coordinators deserve the credit for their patience and fortitude in their achievement over a very extensive period of time. I, on the other hand, Section Communications Manager, was only the tool that pushed the buttons and processed the paper work and finally got the American Radio Relay League to accept this newly organized Traffic Net as part of the National Traffic System.

AND THAT WAS NOT EASY ! !

YOU CAN'T DO THAT

Now comes the good part. It was the duty of the SCM to inform League headquarters about our newly organized section traffic net. A letter to National Communications Manager, Francis E. Handy W1BDI, brought forth all kinds of flack. In bold type, I was informed

" We could not do that "

Because Eastern Pennsylvania already had a phone traffic net, namely the Pennsylvania Phone Net. A few steamy letters were exchanged with my final remarks.

" We started the net and it stays "

Another communication followed from the Atlantic Division Director ,Gilbert Crosley, W3YA who was repetitious with his statement. ***"You can't do that"***, it will bring repercussions from the Pennsylvania Phone net, which it really did. Membership in the Pennsylvania Phone net began fall because they would QSY to 3917 Khz. For their traffic outlet. Incentive licensing came into affect and the PFN had to vacate their 3850 Khz. spot. The organizers of the EPA Emergency Phone and Traffic net did their home work when they anticipated the FCC's new band plan and had moved to a frequency above 3900 Khz.

Our new Section Phone net worked in complete harmony with the C.W. nets. Were indispensable while operating during a number of hurricanes, floods and other emergencies, but those activities would require another volume and additional research.

Time marches on and the net gains momentum and notoriety. The Emergency Coordinator reports reference the emergency activity previously mentioned filters down through the system and the net gets a pat on the back by none other, The American Radio Relay League. Now that we had proven ourselves we were considered as one of the "Good Guys".

However, in the eyes of some I was still the "Bad Guy" and was blamed personally by members of the Pennsylvania Phone net for shaking the bushes, going against the grain so to speak. I was only the tool that organized, got the pieces together and put the machinery in motion. I guess that is what is meant by the phrase "The Buck Stops Here ". The greater percentage of credit should go to those faithful Emergency Coordinators and other section officials who spent hours and traveled many miles to planing sessions and put it all together.

More Changes

The PTTN

During the early 1960's other accountable changes that took place in our section should be recorded. Bill Pearce, K3YVG, Susquehanna, Pa. sent me a letter and wow, did he give me an ear full Our Section was noted in QST as being on top of the heap and asked, "why we had no C.W. traffic training net". I had to agree with him and filled him in obout the history of the Anthracite Training net that was active during the late 50's.

After a few more exchanges in correspondence I made Bill a proposition and he accepted. He was appointed net manager and later a Route Manager. Bill organized a training net during the winter of 1961 and set up a series of training lessons gave He named the net "The Pennsylvania Training and Traffic Net" known as the PTTN held on 3610 Khz. at 6:30 p.m. every day of the week. That training net has been responsible for training numerous traffic operators.

Bill remained net manager long after I declined the position as Section Communications Manager . Listen on 3610 Khz. at 6:30 every evening, the net is still going, and going, and going - - -

Phone Patch Traffic

Another change Eastern Pennsylvania can claim credit is the acknowledgment of Phone Patch Traffic. There was a time when the ARRL would not give phone patch messages credit for the monthly traffic count. We had a retired lady Marine in our section, Harriet, WA3ATQ, who made daily contact with our boys in the Korean battle area. Never a day went by she didn't make a dozen families happy with a patched call from their son in Korea. When I first met her, I suggested she send me her monthly patch traffic count for BPL .A month or two went by and we received another one of those nasty letters from ARRL informing me Phone Patch messages don't count as traffic. I was firm, stuck to my belief and said **" They Do "** and continued to accept Harriet's patch traffic report and issued BPL when applicable. Two years go by and the a League's Communications Department quarterly bulletin gave notice to all section appointees. There it was on the front page in big bold print

Phone Patch Traffic Counts

One point for received, one point for delivery. Now it's Okay because it was the Leagues idea. ***But we did it first in Eastern Pennsylvania.***

The Official Observer

How much do you know about the Official Observer appointment program ? Did you know at one time all one needed to get the OO appointment was a half decent receiver and ask the SCM for the appointment. This did not stand to well with this office because I had experienced a previous conflict with an eleven year old who wanted the appointment so he cite a fellow DX'er living in the next block, because he was blocking out and interfering with the young chaps reception.

During that time all the applicant required was some half decent receiving equipment and no details regarding their technical capabilities. I drew up a few requirements and designed a list of ten technical questions which was sent to any applicants. They had to be General Class or higher and held a license for a minimum of five years. It may not have been the perfect solution but it helped weed out those that were not qualified.

Following the usual procedure I notified League Headquarters of my action. I even sent them a copy of the ten questions. Once again I had shaken the pillars of T.O.M. The response was **" You Can't Do That ".** I said we could and continued to do so. Now for the clincher. Time marches on and three years go by when a big announcement appears on the front page of the quarterly bulletin.

" Future Applicants for the Official Observer appointment must pass a ten question quiz".

Today in order to qualify for the Amateur Auxiliary or Official Observer appointment one must pass a written examination. Would you believe they are the same identical questions designed for that original questionnaire. Naturally, now the quiz was permissible. Now it was Leagues idea. Again, it happened FIRST in Eastern Pennsylvania . It's a good thing those early changes could not have been patented. Boy, would the League have been in hot water.

Ramblings

The wife and I visited League Headquarters a year after the new office complex had been completed at 225 Main Street, Newington,. Upon entering the lobby we were greeted by the receptionist and all I said was "I'm W3ZRQ SCM for Eastern Pennsylvania " The reply " Welcome Mr. Breiner and escorted to the office of the Communications Manager, Francis E. Handy W1BDI. When I questioned him, How did they know my name when all I said was my call W3ZRQ ? I was informed that every department in the building had heard of me at one time or another.

As the years rolled by I was always fortunate to find employment in the field of industrial electrical and electronic trades. In 1965 I was elevated from maintenance department to Supervisor of the department. Three years later I was offered a position as instructor of Electronic Technology at the Carbon County Area Vocational Technical school. I applied and was accepted.

This changed my life style a bit and had to acquire additional college credits and posed a problem for available time in order to continue as SCM . Since having held the office for six, two year, terms I declined another nomination and continued with my college education at Temple University for a Bachelor Degree in Education.

I put fifteen enjoyable years in the teaching profession. At the time of this writing I'll have been retired for more than eighteen years but still teach a Novice and Advanced class for the Tamaqua Wireless Association.

During those years past, as a Licensed Radio Amateur, I had numerous experiences enjoying every minute. I've taken an active part with the Tamaqua Amateur radio group and been the club secretary since 1955. I started as a teenager in the hobby that turned into an avocation and finally a vocation.

While Section Communications Manager I had the honor of working with an excellent group of officials an appointees. I Met and befriended many people, some ranking in high places, such as Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, Philadelphia District FCC Engineer Rodger Phelps, and Joseph Welsh W3CT, FCC Commissioner John Johnston W3BE and many more. Along with friendships one also attains those which we shall call nonconformists. To those who follow in any official capacity please take heed. There shall always be that certain few who will never agree to any changes introduced into our fraternity. However as long as the majority rules and the changes made are made for the good and betterment of our International hobby, then and only then will Amateur Radio continue to flourish. Since having got the Bug I have witnessed the following.

The name Wireless changed to Radio Spark terminated in favor of C.W.

The entrance of Audio Modulation

Radar and Television

A.M.was replaced by Single Side Band

Introduction of VHF-UHF and Repeaters

Digital Transmission replaced RTTY

And the beginning of

The Technology of Space Communications

The Seventh Time Around

I previously indicated having declined the nomination for a seventh term as Section Communications Manager and from 1972 until 1991 kept a low profile in League politics. I did retain the appointment as an Assistant Director given to me in 1959 by Atlantic Division Director, Gil Crosley W3YA, and attended every director called session. By 1989 I was witness to change and induction of four different Division Directors Also four changes in the office of Section Communications Manager.

For the purpose of documentation it should be mentioned during the 1980's the title of Section Communications Manager was changed to Section Manager and a whole new program was developed by the League for the operation of the Section's Volunteer Field Services.

Attending the 1990 Division Directors session at Carlisle, Pa. the Section manager elect Robert Stanhope KB3YS took the Tamaqua club to task with a disclaimer that its members were anti-ARRL and their secretary W3TI was anti-Semitic. Following that session his actions were cause to sever further communications with Tamaqua Wireless Association and even went so far as to cancel every section level appointments held by any Tamaqua Wireless Association members.

The following five years we continued to function as a normal ARRL affiliated club yet continued activity in all ARES and ARRL functions. We made all our reports direct to League Headquarters. One thing Mr. Stanhope could not do was cancel our ARRL club affiliation.

While attending the 1994 Murgas Hamfest at Wilkes Barre, Pa. I was confronted by a delegation of four radio clubs from the Susquehanna Valley and asked to throw our hat in the ring and become a candidate for Section Manager. Their claim was having problems in several area section staff level appointees which was not to their liking and Section Manager, Mr. Stanhope would not assist nor help them to correct the problems.

Petitions in my behalf, from five clubs, were submitted to the League and I was elected. On April 1, 1996 started our seventh term of office. The name was changed from Section Communications Manager to Section Manager which really didn't matter because the job description for both are one and the same.

Stepping into office as the new kid on the block presented a few problems in the managerial area but were soon overcome after the section level officials were affirmed that my style of leadership was not dictatorial but democratic in nature.

I am a firm believer in the Morse Code as a means of wireless communication and for its preservation as a part of our heritage and that it should remain a part of the FCC's Amateur Radio license examination. Over the past seventy years I have witnessed changes in our licensing structure.

Following the end of World War II in 1946, a change was made from the original Class A, B, and C license to Novice, Technician, General and Extra Class. Then during the mid 1960's the intervention of "Incentive licensing" came and the Advanced Class was introduced. With the addition of another license class, room had to be made in the amateur radio frequency spectrum and the general class was the one who suffered the most in loss of operating frequencies.

The real blow came in 1982 with the addition of a No-Code Technician class that was thrust upon us through the pressure and influx of the U.S. Congress. In part it was intended to make it easier for those with physical disabilities to enter the hobby. Instead, it made it much, much easier for the incompetents and lazy to falsify their application to attain an Amateur Radio operators license. The result was a sacrifice of *"Quality for Quantity ".*

As I present my comment for this page in Amateur Radio history, it is as I had previously predicted, just open the door a crack and it will be the beginning of the end for the Morse code requirement and possibly for the future retention of Amateur Radio license exams. The FCC is in the process of another Amateur license class restructuring that will, in time, become another change or revolution for the annuls of Amateur Radio.

Perhaps in the future someone will perchance read the changes that I have witnessed and had transpired in the final three-quarters of the twentieth century. Especially those changes made right here in the Eastern Pennsylvania Section. I can truthfully say, " I'm glad to have been a part of it and the one who sparked those changes and ideas. With the assistance of those who believe in the Hobby, we got them together so it could happen". In so doing, I made my niche in AMATEUR RADIO HISTORY.

Station Call Signs Held

W3ZRQ AA3ZRQ AC3ZRQ W200TI W3TI

Appointments

Volunteer Examiner
Official Relay Station
Official Phone Station
Official Bulletin Station
Emergency Coordinator
Assistant Director Atlantic Division
Communications Director, Tamaqua, Pa.

Certificates of Achievement

A-1 Operator Club
Rag Chewers Club
Worked All Continents
Worked All United States
Worked the British Empire
DX Century Club – CW Endorsement
Brass Pounders League with Madelion
Code Proficiency 30 Words per Minute

Organization Memberships

Old Old Timers Club
Morse Telegraph Club
Royal Order of Wouff Hong
American Radio Relay League
Tamaqua Wireless Association
Quarter Century Wireless Assn.

Personal History

1930 Operated Spark with call letters *8CB.*

1954 April, General class license with call W3ZRQ

1955 August, Emergency radio operator during Tamaqua Flood

1956 First Emergency Coordinator for Schuylkill County

1956 Net Manager for Anthracite C W Training Net

1957 Appointed an Official Relay Station

1957 Appointed an Official Phone Station

1959 Elected Section Communications Manager

1959 First Amateur Extra Class Licensee in Schuylkill County

1959 Appointed Assistant Director in Atlantic Division

1963 As SCM added phone patch traffic to the monthly traffic count

1963 Organized Eastern Pennsylvania Emergency Phone & traffic net

1964 Changed the requirements for the Official Observer appointment

1965 Organized the Pennsylvania Training and Traffic Net

1966 Received the First Class Commercial Radiotelephone license

1968 Entered the teaching profession, taught Electronic Technology

1969 Operated for three days during Wilkes Barre flood
Used 3917 Khz. As the primary emergency frequency

1970 Changed the station call sign to W 3 T I

1975 Graduated from Temple University with Bachelor Degree
In Education

1978 Operated radio for four days at Johnstown, Pa. flood area

1982 Retired teaching at the Carbon County Area Vo-Teck school.

1985 First Voluntary Examiner in Schuylkill County

1996 1998 Elected Section Manager for Eastern Pennsylvania

An
A & B
Production Ltd.