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YOUNG 'HAM'—Anthony "Bud" Sarli, 15-year-old Tamaqua amateur radio operator, sits at his favorite spot in his home—his radio den—where he spends many hours contacting stations throughout the United States. The youngster is believed to be one of the youngest radio operators in Pennsylvania.

Haunt Air Waves

Tamaqua Father and Son Join Area's 'Ham' Radio Operators

A Tamaqua father and son combination is the latest addition to the frequency bands haunted by "ham" radio operators.

Anthony "Bud" Sarli, 15, and his father, Anthony Sr., a teacher in the Tamaqua Junior High School, are both licensed operators and members of the Tamaqua Amatuer Radio Club.

"Bud" was the first member of the family to be bitten by the radio bug and was licensed Sept. 30, 1954, when only 14 years of age.

He is believed to be one of the youngest licensed ham operators in the state.

Anthony Sr. watched with interest and soon was busy studying Morse code. He successfully completed the necessary requirements and was licensed several months ago.

Both use the same equipment and alternate at the sending and receiving chores.

Young Sarli can't remember when he first became interested in amateur radio. "It must have been something I read someplace," he explained.

The explanation seems logical since he is a former carrier-salesman for The Morning Call in Tamaqua and used the earnings from his route to buy his first radio equipment.

"Bud," whose call letters are WE-ZXF, now has a Hallicrafter S-76 receiver and has graduated to a semi-automatic transmitter he refers to as a "bug."

A typical 15-year-old, he has an interest in radio, was a model airplane enthusiast. He is a sophomore in Tamaqua High School and played the half-back position last year on the school's JayVee football team.

His most distant contact has been with another ham in St. Paul, Minn. Other radio contacts have been made with operators in New York, New Jersey and other parts of Pennsylvania.

Displays Call Cards

Prominently displayed are call letter cards "Bud" has exchanged with operators he has contacted.

Is he interested in girls? Well, we just don't know, but while he was being interviewed, he was also in contact by radio with another ham and when he was asked, "What is he saying?," he grinned and replied, "He just said, 'What is your girl's name?'"

A message went back. The click of the bug was sure and steady but only "Bud" knew what he said--it was in Morse Code.