

The BEAM

Amateur Radio
Missionary Service



Volume 42, Number 1

Spring, 1998

ARMS is now online

ARMS now has its own World Wide Web site. It may be accessed at:

<http://www.tenforward.com/arms/>

The site is designed with two audiences in mind. First, it will give ARMS members some insight into the organization. Second, it tells a non-member what ARMS is all about and how to join if the person is interested.

The site has a number of sub-sites. From the home page the user can go to a history of ARMS, background on the officers of ARMS, information about the various ARMS sections and fellowship nets, a copy of the doctrinal statement, and membership information.

So, if you have full internet access, check it out. It's not fancy, but it does the job. —♦♦♦—

The 1998-99 Directory

The 1998-99 ARMS Directory is included with this issue of The BEAM. We publish a directory every two years. This year, because so many members have e-mail and internet access, we decided to incorporate e-mail addresses into the main body of the listing, so all the information on any given member is in one place.

Please check your listing. If there are any corrections or additions to be made, please make a note of them on your membership renewal form. —♦♦♦—

It's dues time again

June 1 marks the beginning of a new fiscal year for ARMS. That means that our annual dues are now payable. Enclosed with your BEAM is a pink membership renewal form. Please fill it out and return it to our treasurer, and remember to enclose \$8.00 for your dues, if you're not a missionary. —♦♦♦—

JAARS celebrates its fiftieth anniversary

The following article was condensed from a section of the book, Into the Glory, by Jamie Buckingham.

It was 1947. Cameron Townsend painfully pulled himself up on his homemade crutches and hobbled over to the window of the guest quarters of the SIL jungle training camp in southern Mexico. But it wasn't his broken leg and mangled hip that occupied his thoughts. For years he had harbored the idea that airplanes were needed to support missionaries located in remote jungle villages. Now, events in recent months had brought that idea to a head. It was time to act!

He looked across the spartan grounds of the camp. It was here that Wycliff Bible translators came for the last hurdle of their intensive training program, to prepare them to go into remote jungle areas to live among the native

—Continued on page 15

Inside this issue

ARMS Officers and Sections	2
ARMS Christian Fellowship Nets	2
From the Treasurer's Desk	2
Missionary Reports	3
Flight into China	6
New Members	7
The 20-meter ARMS Fellowship Net	8
Member profile: Ken Wilder, AL7AX	11
Section Reports	12
Silent Keys	14

THE BEAM

Published by the
AMATEUR RADIO MISSIONARY SERVICE
95 Prawn Road, Port Angeles, WA 98363
E-mail: dshortess@tenforward.com

Editor..... Dave Shortess, W5PQL
Associate Editor..... Charlie Cox, K7AQ
Tape Editor..... Wally Westoby, KE6ELL
Historian..... Chuck Brockmeyer, WØETA

OFFICERS

President..... Charlie Cox, K7AQ
Vice President..... Jay Sudenga, KØGAZ
Secretary/Treasurer..... Bob Hambly, WA7BYD

SECTION DIRECTORS

Eastern..... Larry Hodge, W2PT
Central..... (vacant)
Southeast..... Denis Parker, WD4ACH
Midwest..... Arnie Kopischke, WAØDFT
South Central..... (vacant)
Rocky Mountain..... Everett "Lash" LaRue, WØRQI
Northwest..... Bob Hambly, WA7BYD
Southwest..... Dan Hough, KA7BHS
Central Canada..... Jim McAuley, VE4ID
Western Canada..... Gordon Pearce, VE7GHP

ARMS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP NETS

Eastern.... Mon.-Thurs., 7:00 AM, Sat., 9:00 AM..... 3.907
Central..... Sat., 8:00 AM..... 3.922
Southeast..... Sat., 9:00 AM..... 3.900
Midwest..... Sat., 8:30 AM..... 3.905
Rocky Mountain..... Mon.-Sat., 7:30 AM..... 3.893
Northwest..... Thurs., 7:00 AM..... 3.984
20-Meter... Mon.-Sat. 1500 Z (ST), 1400 Z (DT)
(10:00 East., 9:00 Ctr., 8:00 Mtn., 7:00 Pac.).. 14.3075
Halo Net..... Every day, 1800 Z.. 21.390

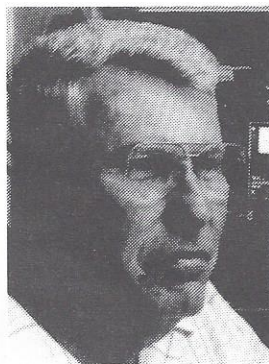
ARMS SECTIONS



ARMS Motto

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.
Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

From the treasurer's desk:



The other day I took the opportunity to look over the material that Dave, W5PQL, put on the ARMS web site. I could not help but notice that service to missionaries was the prime purpose of ARMS when we organized in 1957.

As we all know, modern technology has made such modes as e-mail, fax and satellite telephone

more reliable than amateur radio for overseas traffic handling. However, another aspect of our radio fellowship can be easily overlooked. That is the opportunity we have to "plant the seeds" of Christianity as we read our Bible verses dozens of times each week on the air. I know we have many hams listening to us. We also have people who are short-wave and casual listeners, too. This has been verified by requests received for QSL cards and for information on ARMS.

It is my feeling that this process of "seed planting" is quite worthwhile. It more than justifies our dues, labor and time spent on behalf of our fellowship.

Speaking of dues, may I use this opportunity to thank everyone for their full cooperation as we raised our dues to \$8.00 last spring. May I also express my appreciation to so many of you who were able to help with additional gifts. As a result, we are well in "the black" again. A full financial report will appear in the fall BEAM.

And last, many of our faithful supporters are active in section nets. It is there where a closer, more intimate fellowship exists, reinforced by personal, "eyeball" contacts. This is where a Christian presence really shines. If you can't get into the 20-meter net, try your closest section net. You will be more than welcome and find friendly, interested people there.

73 & 99,

Bob, WA7BYD,
Treasurer-secretary



The BEAM is published twice a year to provide information and inspiration for the members of the Amateur Radio Missionary Service (ARMS). Anyone desiring to submit material for publication in The BEAM should contact the editor, Dave Shortess, W5PQL, at 95 Prawn Rd., Port Angeles, WA 98363. Submission deadlines are 3/15 and 9/15.

Regular membership in ARMS is open to any licensed radio amateur who can subscribe to the ARMS doctrinal statement. Further information about membership in ARMS can be obtained from the secretary-treasurer, Bob Hambly, WA7BYD, 1516 Lawnridge Ave., Grants Pass, OR 97526.

Annual dues for membership in ARMS is \$8.00. The dues year runs from June 1 through May 31.

Missionary Reports

Christine Grotendiek, DU/KC7GUA —the Philippines

What is the thing that we expect the most out here at Malaybalay in the Philippines? For the unexpected to happen! Here are just a few examples.

Werner had just successfully completed his landing at a remote tribal strip when the tail wheel broke off. After hiking out and flying in on a JAARS plane with a new part on board a few days later, he was able to fix the rest of the damage temporarily and then fly home.

All of our partners here in Malaybalay had to leave because of sickness or death in the family. Two other families, one of whom had been working in a tribe, and the other one who was planning on going into a tribe, are covering for them, taking care of the supply-buying and the mission home.

The other day that nice Continental IO-520-D engine on the Cessna 185 Werner is flying decided to quit—in flight. It appeared that air had gotten in the fuel injection system. What to do? The system needed to be purged by using the auxiliary fuel pump. He did that and the engine revived in a matter of seconds. This made him very happy, and not to mention the four passengers on board.

One of our tribal missionary couples was away from their station at Kamalangan for a week, and when they got back, they were told by the people of the village that a lady, a single mother named Naytayud, had become very sick. It turned out that all she had was diarrhea, and a simple hydration-drink would have helped her. However, since it is thought by the people to be impolite to do something against a person's will, and Naytayud did not want to take anything, they did not force her to drink anything.

The missionaries called in a medical emergency flight as soon as they knew about Naytayud being very sick. However, she was already in such bad shape that when Werner saw her, he did not give her much of a chance. She died on board on the way to Malaybalay. She was a believer, but she left her two young children behind, and they don't know Christ yet. Most of the people of Kamalangan are believers, and quite a few of them are mature believers. Some of the people are actually trained medical helpers, but this is a prime example of how the old culture can and in many cases will override the newer, better ways.

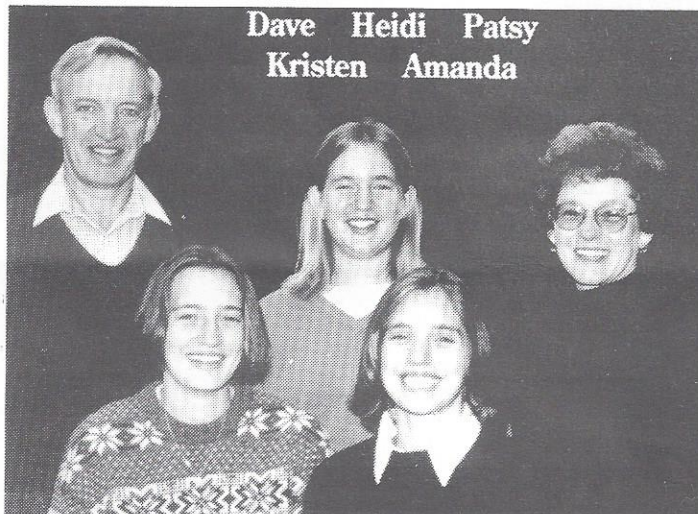
But life goes on, and we continue to persevere, looking always to Jesus for strength and peace in the face of constant frustrations.

—Christine, DU/KC7GUA, with Werner and the children

Dave Immel, KE4EW—Waxhaw, North Carolina

Take just a minute and think back. What were you doing ten, twenty or for some of you who are seniors, fifty years ago? For us, our mission journey with Wycliffe and JAARS began twenty years ago this past September. Where has the time gone? Looking back, it wasn't easy leaving our friends and family in Denver and moving to North Carolina. The concept of living without a guaranteed income was a bit scary, but seeing God provide for us over the past twenty years has been a blessing and so encouraging.

The times have not always been easy. We took one step at a time and the Lord met each need as it arose. Whether it was funds for buying a ticket to get us to Peru, obtaining a car, or the need for new friends in a far away place, the Lord worked it all out. He has blessed us with good health both while serving overseas as well as at home, which has al-



lowed us to stay on the job. We are thankful for our girls. He gave us families that are supportive and encouraging. As we look back, it has been twenty years well spent. Many of you have been a significant part of our lives during this time.

Another significant anniversary that affects us takes place this year. In 1948 JAARS was born. We have the privilege of celebrating what God has done these past 50 years. And it is right that we should do so. We also have the responsibility to continue the task that is not yet finished. After all, we're still on that mission. What an exciting mission to be on!

Thank you for faithfully praying for us over the years. We covet your prayers especially in the coming months. Kristen will be graduating this year and feels the Lord is leading her into a teaching career in elementary education. Lots of decisions need to be made concerning a college, finances, and all that goes with it.

—Dave, KE4EW, with Patsy and the girls

Missionary reports, continued

Herman Hartzler, EA/K9YOE— Spain

God is teaching us some rather basic truths. Sometimes we wonder why we haven't learned these lessons well already. Maybe it's a bit like facets of a gem: each time around, God comes at it from different angle and teaches the lesson more intensely. Here are some of the lessons He has been working on with us: everything is in His hands; nothing can happen without His permission or volition; to God my problem is no problem; live one day at a time; trust Him and do my best; don't be bitter; "in acceptance lieth peace" (to quote Amy Carmichael); and then to take and to make opportunities and work with them for His glory. Do any of those fit your situation?

Mary Ann still has to cope with headaches. How we had hoped to get that adequately cared for during the summer! She has also had some problem with her knees, and the doctor has her on exercises for that. So, we're showing a little wear!

She has five good students this year in grades 1 to 6. But the family from which three of them come will be moving away next year, and the remaining two will be off to junior high. So it looks as though we will close the school for awhile. Mary Ann will be fitting into other niches of the work.

This year's summer Bible school worked out well. There was a shortage of teachers, but a warm, positive atmosphere prevailed in the five schools in Morocco and Algeria. Plans are in the making for schools during the winter and spring breaks.

Our three radio programs continue to go out each week, and the funding for them is encouraging. Radio is changing. Next year, a satellite system is to be in place which will make it possible to broadcast radio directly to hand-held sets, the price of which should eventually get down to \$30 or less. Using very little power, long distances and vast areas will then be covered with perfect quality. Whether the people will go for it is the question, but we want to keep alert to changes like this and make good use of the opportunities God gives.

Scripture portions, Bible correspondence course lessons, and letters are being sent out continually, too. In-country mailing is working well. Several of the new people on our team are getting involved in visiting the students who have requested it. Such good opportunities these face to face contacts bring! Many are committing their lives to Christ and are joining fellow-

ship groups. Several Christian weddings have recently taken place in Morocco. Please pray for these Christians. They are under great pressure, and unemployment continues to be a crisis situation for many.

One of the Christians we met on our first visit to Morocco in 1972 was Hafdaoui. A month ago he died of cancer leaving behind a Christian wife and young child. They need your prayers, too.

Yes, your continued prayers for us all are appreciated. God's victory over Satan is sure; it is no contest. But yet, God allows spiritual warfare here on earth, and we feel it. Victories can be won, and God will be glorified.

We are now set up with e-mail at home and would enjoy your messages. If you would like to receive our quarterly letter by e-mail, let us know. Our address is:

hermhart@senda.ari.es

—Herman, EA/K9YOE, with Mary Ann

Jeff Johnson, KO4TS—Waxhaw, North Carolina

Many of you know that my helicopter training has taken a new route. My instructor left Wycliffe, so my flight train-



ing is currently "on hold" until my new teacher gets his instructor's rating. (I did fly with my first instructor for a week, and also made a flight up to Virginia in October.) I hope to resume flight training soon. At this point we don't know if this will delay our return to the Philippines or not.

In the meantime, I am working on my maintenance training, overhauling transmissions and other helicopter components. But I would much rather be in the air than in the hanger. Please pray with us not only for the training, but also for our encouragement as we continue to learn the discipline of waiting.

Deb continues to slowly improve. Some days she feels better than others, and that probably depends on how much sleep she has had and what she's trying to do. She has a couple of friends here who have cancer, so she likes to spend time with them.

Our trip to Minnesota in January went well, except, that Deb and I both learned that we may be getting too old for ice skating. Deb fell and broke her ankle, and I fell and threw my back out. Ah, the joys of middle age!

—Jeff Johnson, KO4TS, with Deb and the girls



**Gospel
Missionary
Union**

Missionary reports, continued

Orbra Bliss, W9GEK— Elkhart, Indiana and Quito, Ecuador

As we looked ahead to our return to Elkhart on January 15, we did so with real mixed feelings. We looked forward with joy to seeing our family, but we also feel sorrow at leaving our new friends.

Sometimes a lot of unrelated problems can turn up all at once. On New Year's Eve, I had just arrived at the house for supper, when I heard the diesel generators start. Though it wasn't my night to be on call, I headed across the compound to see what the problem was. It was just the beginning of a very unusual start of the new year.

We had just lost power from the Papallacta hydro plant. At that same time a blower motor failed in the 500,000 watt transmitter, shutting it down. In addition, the telephone was out, since the phone circuits are carried on the power line, but we contacted Papallacta by radio. They were having trouble with the small emergency generator there and

asked that we feed power back up the line from Pifo. When we tried that, it brought the diesel generators down, so there was something loading the line down. The next day, a wire was found that had broken and dropped down against a wet pole and was shorting to ground. Also, with the power line down, the radio repeater was operating on battery.

After we got things stabilized in Pifo, Steve went up to Papallacta and found a worse situation than we could have imagined. At about the same time as the power line broke, a section of the pipeline feeding water to the smaller turbine, split open and caused the collapse of the two sections above it. We were able to correct the power line problem, and the blower motor has been replaced, but the pipeline problem remains. We are generating power using only the larger turbine, difficult to manage at a time when there is not a lot of water.

There are broadcasts going out around the clock and millions of people around the world need the message they carry. To make this happen it takes a lot of work to keep the necessary equipment running. The regular staff here is still

below strength. Pray that the Lord will call engineers to this tremendous place of ministry. Also pray that the Lord will sustain those who are already here. Thank you for being our partners in this ministry.

—Orbra, W9GEK, with Sally

HCJB antenna farm update

In the last issue of The BEAM we reported on the impending move of the Quito airport and the necessity of HCJB having to move their antenna farm. Orbra Bliss, W9GEK, reports that the situation is basically unchanged. Those in direct charge are determined to go ahead. However there are some important people who are opposed.

"We have to proceed with our planning with the idea that it will happen," writes Orbra. "But, we can pray that the plans will change. Whichever way it goes, we know that the Lord is in control and will either cause them to change the plans or provide the means to accomplish the move." — ... —

Parks Squyres, W7PKS —Medford, Oregon and Lima, Peru

Wanda and I have had a great stay in Peru, but we look forward to getting back to a more simple life and cooler weather in Oregon. It has been the hottest that I have ever seen here. One day it got up to 107° in Pucallpa in the jungle.

They have had less than 1 inch of rain since the first of the year in the jungle while Lima has had over 7 inches. This is the effect of El Niño. My Peruvian friend Felix, who is the manager of the radio station in Pucallpa, has a sister that lives in Nasca. Her house was washed away by a flash flood. Nasca's normal rain fall is less than 1 inch per year!

We have been very busy in the past two weeks. We have flown over 2000

miles in Peru on three different airlines and taken an all-day trip by train to the famous Inca city of Machu Picchu.

We took part in the 15th anniversary of Radio Maranatha at a jungle resort called La Cabana on Lake Yarina. I had



helped them get started 15 years ago. I was also interviewed in Spanish by the manager over the radio. They really do things up in a big way down here.

The station now covers a radius of 150 kilometers here in the jungle. The local Indian Church helped raise the

funds for an all-solid state transmitter so they are doing things first class. It is located in Pucallpa, which is still a frontier town. In spite of the fact that the population is over 300,000 people now, mostly Indians, it still has dirt roads here in the Amazon jungle.

We went by Pequi-Pequi canoe down river, four hours with a guide, to a Shipbo Indian village. I got some good videos of some of the Shipbo's Indians and their homes. We passed out 20 of the GO-YE radios tuned to Radio Maranatha. These people have no electricity but they live less the 75 kilometers from the radio station. I tested the radios in their village and got excellent reception. It was a great experience except for the bugs!

We are both pretty red from sunburns and a lot of bug bites but we have really had a great time down here.

—Parks, W7PKS, with Wanda

FLIGHT INTO CHINA

by Dave Newell, WA4DUP

It was Friday, April 18, 1997, and I was at Hong Kong's airport with Cathy Yang (not her real name), just about ready to board a China Southern Airlines 737. Our destination was Zhengzhon, a city in east-central China. I just prayed that the Lord would protect us and the things that were carefully packed in our luggage—Bibles, Bible reference books, and Chinese Bible study courses! As we boarded the plane, I had peace in my heart that everything was going to be all right.

That morning, knowing it was the day of our flight into China, I had asked God for some special verses from His Word. He gave me Psalm 89:20-22. God was saying in these verses that David (His servant) would be anointed for a special purpose (to be Israel's second king) and that He would be with him. God would give David strength and boldness, and the enemy would not alter God's purposes for him. The "son of wickedness" would not be able to harm David. My name is David, too, and I was also God's servant and had been set apart for this special opportunity of taking the much-needed Bibles and Bible lessons into China. I had the assurance that God was not going to permit Satan to create problems by hindering or harming us.

I was grateful for Cathy, the Chinese staff member of a ministry in Hong Kong who was traveling with me. The day before, we had sorted the precious materials we were carrying to believers in China. Now, we were on our way.

When we arrived at our destination, we separated after getting off the plane as a precaution to lessen any suspicions. The first hurdle was to get through immigration control. They really scrutinized my passport, but no questions were asked as it was handed back to me. "Thank you, Lord!" Then I went to claim my luggage. Cathy had already gotten her suitcase and was moving out of my view into the customs area. "Lord, please keep her safe."

I found my luggage and was getting in line with some of the other passengers. But I couldn't understand the Chinese on the paper that an official was handing to everyone. She began looking for someone who could deal with me, but soon was moving on to other passengers. I later learned it was a customs declaration form.

Now I was in the customs hall, where things could really get sticky. I saw the customs officials directing some passengers to take their luggage to the x-ray machine for inspection. "Lord, I do need your protection!" Off to the side a customs agent was motioning to me. He directed me to go on through the door directly into the greeting area. No x-rays! "Praise the Lord!"

I found Cathy, who had already passed through the crowd without incident. She gave me a big smile as I joined her with my unopened luggage. We were safely in China with our goods intact! I smiled, too!

It was later that evening when we unpacked the materials (including *New Life in Christ, Course 3*, just printed a couple of days before in Hong Kong). In addition to my personal items and the Bible materials, I had two pounds of Folger's coffee and a couple of packages of chocolate chips in my bags.

The printed materials will be carefully used in house churches to disciple new believers, and they will be used to share the Gospel with unbelievers. I wish you could see and hear the expressions of joy and appreciation from those who will use these things. Even the chocolate chips were put to immediate use. Following the Bible study on Sunday afternoon, a meal was prepared by and for the 20 or so people who attended the evening service. A huge batch of chocolate chip cookies was served, and they disappeared fast!

On May 12, the day after I returned to the United States, I met some good friends from Florida who stopped by the offices of Source of Light. They told me that on Friday, April 18, between 8:30 and 9:00 AM, a group of 250 missionaries at Bradenton Village in Florida was very concerned about me and specifically prayed for my protection. The time in east-central China was twelve hours ahead of the eastern United States. The time that Cathy and I were going through immigration and customs at the airport in China was Friday night between 8:30 and 9:00 PM—exactly the same time they were praying! I had assurance that others were praying, too. God certainly did answer prayer!

"The Lord was my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord was the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1) — • • • —

Dave Newell, WA4DUP—Source of Light Ministries, Madison, Georgia

I received my amateur radio operating license in late 1961 while a student at the Philadelphia College of the Bible where the ARMS club station, K3CBM, was located. ARMS had been founded just four years earlier, and I was involved in getting it incorporated.

After graduating from P.C.B. in 1963 with a major in missions, I attended the Philadelphia Wireless Technical Institute from 1963 to 1965, studying radio electronics. In November 1965, my wife, Anna Gay, and I were appointed missionaries with Trans World Radio (TWR). I was ordained to the ministry by the Cheltenham Baptist Church in February, 1966, and we began our service with TWR in May, 1966 on the island of Bonaire, off the coast of Venezuela.

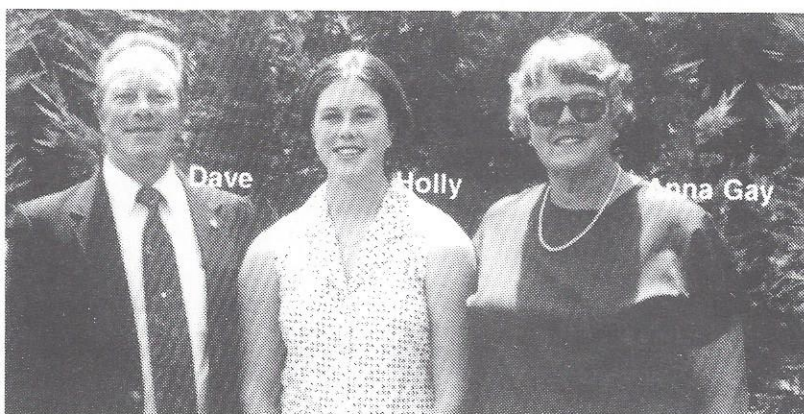
I completed my electronics training by correspondence with the Cleveland Institute of Electronics, and received my diploma in May, 1974. I was licensed by the FCC in 1975 with a First Class Radiotelephone license (now the General Class license). While on Bonaire, I operated my ham station with the calls PJ4BG and PJ9BG. We lived on Bonaire for

nine years. Two of our children, Gaylene and Philip, were born there.

In May, 1975, we were transferred to the island of Guam where we helped build AM and shortwave stations for TWR. We stayed there for nine years, and our third child, Holly, was born there. My call on Guam was KG6JFW. In January, 1984, we were transferred to TWR headquarters in Chatham, New Jersey.

After three years, in 1987, we changed mission agencies and began our service with Source of Light Ministries International (SOL) in Madison, Georgia. SOL prints, publishes

and distributes Bible correspondence courses in the USA and 90 countries overseas in English and many foreign languages. Our courses, available for pre-school through adults, are used by missionaries and church leaders for evangelism and discipling. They are available from our headquarters,



through our 14 overseas branch offices and through over 2500 associate schools. Just recently I have been named Assistant to the General Director of SOL.

I have had the opportunity of visiting most of our branches, and am overseeing our Chinese outreach ministries. Currently we are printing our Chinese materials in Hong Kong. (See related article on page 6.) Please pray for our work in southeast Asia. With the uncertainty of the situation since Hong Kong became part of China, we are opening a branch in Singapore, which will be a distribution center for the whole Asian-Pacific region. I plan to return there this summer, and am trusting the Lord for wisdom and for the travel funds needed.

My mom and dad (Earl Newell, WA4ZIZ) have served with SOL for over 25 years. Through the encouragement of my dad, I recently completed the installation of an 80-meter dipole, and it has been a blessing to check into the Southeast ARMS net on Saturday mornings. Our two oldest children are now married, and our youngest, Holly, is a freshman at Liberty University.

—Dave Newell, WA4DUP, with Anna Gay and Holly

We welcome our new members!

Marty Avina, KB5MJC
1027 Avant St.
San Antonio, TX 78210

Roy O. Hinger, KA6NFL
7844 S. Milna Ave.
Whittier, CA 90606

Bruce Ives, KC8HHU
254 E. D Ave., Lot 33
Kalamazoo, MI 49004

Correction

New member Paul Berggren's call was incorrectly listed in the last issue of The BEAM. His correct call is KBØOWW. We regret the mistake.

The 20-meter ARMS Fellowship Net

All you ever wanted to know about the 20-meter ARMS Net

Every morning except Sunday a group of dedicated Christian hams get together on 20-meters for the ARMS Christian Fellowship Net. They meet at 14.3075 MHz from 1500 to 1700 Zulu. During the summer, when daylight savings time is in effect, the times are 1400 to 1600 Z. In case you are not comfortable with Zulu time (Coordinated Universal Time), that translates into starting times of 7:00 AM in the Pacific time zone, 8:00 AM mountain time, 9:00 AM central time, and 10:00 AM eastern time, regardless of the time of the year.

The purpose of the net is several-fold. Primarily, it provides a daily means for ARMS members to keep in touch with each other. Skeds can be made and information can be exchanged or relayed on the net. In addition, a prayer list is maintained by the net manager and posted from time to time. A regular feature of the net is the sharing of scripture verses on the air. These are read as the Lord leads. We will never know in this life what effect these verses may have had, not only on the members checking into the net, but on other hams or SWL's who might be listening. We trust that the Lord can and will use them for His glory and honor.

When ARMS began in 1957, it was localized in the eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York area. The first ARMS net was on 75-meters. As the organization grew, more nets were added. By 1959, there were additional ARMS nets on 40-meters, 10-meters and 6-meters. The roots of the 20-meter net go back to the establishment of the Midwest Section in 1960. They soon had a net at 14.270 MHz on Friday mornings with Francis Finck, WØQCB and Forrest Milliken, WØQKI as net control stations. Francis continues to be a regular check-in on the net today. By 1970 the net had expanded to daily, nation-wide operation on its present frequency and was called the "Transcontinental Net." While that name has not been officially dropped, it is more familiarly known today as the 20-meter ARMS Christian Fellowship Net.

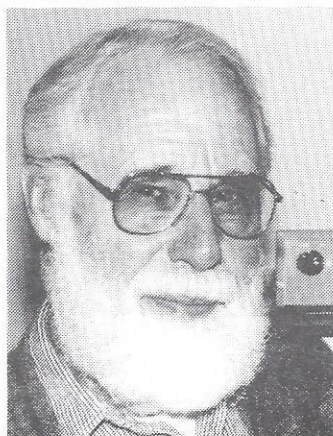
While the net is maintained as a service to ARMS member, net manager Harold Jones, KI5KF, of Artesia, New Mexico, is quick to point out that any licensed ham is welcome. We encourage any ham who is interested in enjoying Christian fellowship on the air to check in. If you can't hear the net control station of the day, give a call anyway. Someone will gladly relay you in. There is a different net control station for each day of the week. A biographical sketch of each is given at the right.

Net control stations

Mondays—Dave Shortess, W5PQL, Port Angeles, Washington

This year marks 40 years in hamming for me. I was first licensed in Pennsylvania in April, 1958, as K3EDR. When we moved to New Mexico in 1966, I was given my present call.

I have been a teacher most of my adult life, starting with junior high in 1955. In fact, it was some of my students who



convinced me to get my ham ticket. In 1959 I picked up a master's degree, and in 1961 I moved into college teaching. In 1966 I got a Ph.D. in genetics from Penn State, and took a faculty position with New Mexico Tech in Socorro.

In 1977-78 we spent a year in Amman, Jordan, where I lectured in biology at the Jordan University. I

took my rig with me and operated with the call JY9DS. What a blast to be able to work all of Europe with ease and to be on the receiving end of pile-ups from the U.S.!

I retired from New Mexico Tech in 1991, and we moved to six wooded acres outside of Port Angeles, on the Olympic Peninsula, where we built our retirement home.

My wife, Wealthy, and I were married in 1949, and we have four children, three girls and a boy, all grown and married. Two are in California and Texas, and the other two are here in western Washington. We have seven grandchildren.

We are active in the Joyce Bible Church, a few miles west of us. I edit the church newsletter and direct the choir, and my wife is the treasurer of the Women's Missionary Fellowship. In addition to hamming and church work, I enjoy constructing crossword puzzles and wood working. I just completed the a 13-foot wood kayak. We both garden and enjoy our woods and stream.

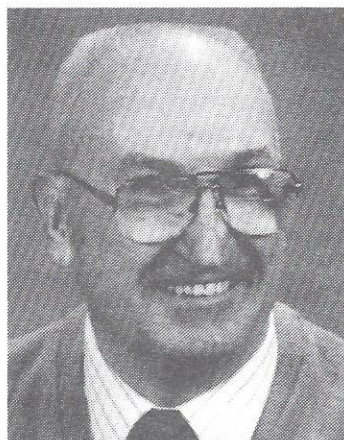
Tuesdays—Ora Gifford, KE7BF, Grandview, Washington

I was born in Kansas City, Missouri, but we lived in eastern Kansas for about nine years before we made the trek west to Grand Coulee, Washington where my father got work on the construction of Grand Coulee Dam.

Continued from previous page—

When I was in the tenth grade, my father got work in construction at the Hanford Nuclear Site in the tri-cities area, and we moved to Kennewick, Washington. We have remained here in central Washington since that time. My eleventh grade of high school was at the Prairie Bible Institute in Three Hills, Alberta, Canada.

Following graduation from high school I spent three years and eight months in the U. S. Air Force during the Korean



Conflict. My military training was in weather forecasting, analysis and pilot briefing. I served in Rapid City, South Dakota and in the Alutian Islands, Alaska.

After I was released from the Air Force, I went to work for the General Electric Company at the Hanford Nuclear Site. I spent 41 years there as a meteorologist, first with GE, and then with the

Battelle Memorial Institute. I retired in May, 1995. I continued to work part time for Battelle until March of 1996.

I have been married for 43 years, and my wife's name is Connie. We have four children, three girls and one boy. They are all married and are actively serving the Lord in their churches. We have twelve grandchildren. Our two middle kids are in the fruit business here, and I do the bookkeeping and payroll for their operation since I retired.

My interest in radio goes back to the late 40's when, in high school, I got a Hallicrafter radio and spent a lot of time listening to short wave broadcasts. I did not become licensed as a ham until 1980. My association with ARMS began somewhere around 1990 or 1991 and has been a real blessing through the years.

Wednesdays—John Racz, KA9000, Lawrenceburg, Indiana

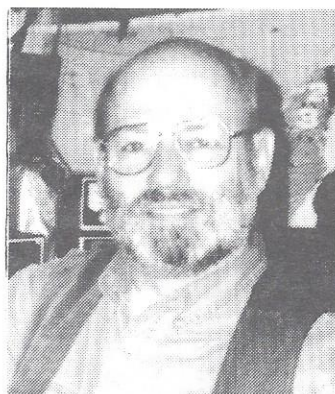
I'm a 55-year-old (semi-) retired aircraft technician. I have worked in the aviation industry for 34 years. I starting in the U.S. Air Force in 1961, first as a mechanic, then a crew chief, and finally as a flight engineer. I flew on C-141 cargo aircraft during the Viet Nam war. After I left the Air Force, I spent 25 years with Delta Airlines, taking an early retirement in 1995. God has blessed me with a great wife and kids, and now grand-kids.

Since I have been retired, I have developed a small business making and selling Christian artwork and custom designed Bible verses and quotations under the name Wisdom

Graphic Arts. My web page is:

<http://www.wisdomgraphicarts.com>

Somewhere along the line I formed an interest in electronics. It came along with my job with Delta, but it also sparked an interest in radio, first CB, then ham radio. I found the ARMS net when I was still living in the Chicago area. I moved with my job to Cincinnati, Ohio, where I am still located. However, I reside on the Indiana side of the Ohio river in Lawrenceburg.

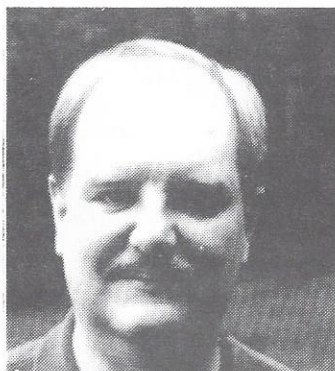


I became a net control several years ago. I gave it a

try when John, NØDRE gave up his Wednesday net control slot. Well, I have been the Wednesday net control ever since. I sincerely consider it a privilege to serve such a great group of Christian ladies and gentlemen. And thanks for all the relays; you all make me look good. (Isaiah 55:11)

Thursdays—Denis Parker, WD4ACH, Knoxville, Tennessee

I was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, and have lived here all my life. I started working at East Tennessee Baptist Hospital as a nursing assistant in 1970 when I was a senior in high school. After a year and a half, I began training as a respiratory therapist and was certified in 1974. In 1975 I transferred to the East Tennessee Tuberculosis Hospital, but in 1978 I went back to ETBH when ETTH was phased out.



I was saved in 1978, and in 1980 I was called to preach. I trained through a local Bible institute and Liberty Bible Institute. From 1983 to 1985 I was in full time ministry as a youth director. In 1985 returned to

ETBH and continued until 1990 when I went to work for a pediatric home health company. I continued with them until I started having trouble with walking and fatigue. Throughout this time I was involved in a very active prison ministry.

It was at ETBH that I met Andra, a beautiful registered nurse and the girl who was to become my wife in 1972. Andra continues to work at the hospital. In 1982 God graced us with a wonderful daughter. Her name is Kristin. October 23,

—Continued on the next page

Continued from previous page—

1998 is our 25th wedding anniversary. Lord willing, we are going on a Caribbean Cruise.

I had been interested in ham radio off and on for a while, but in 1976 I got my novice license. Two years later I upgraded to the general class, and in 1990 got my advanced class ticket. My first rig was a crystal-controlled HW-16 that I rented from the Knoxville Radio Club. In 1977 I got my own TS-520. I first heard about ARMS in 1977, but didn't become a member until sometime after that.

In 1992 I was diagnosed with hereditary spastic paraparesis, a degenerative neurological disease that attacks the spinal cord. It causes extreme stiffness, muscle spasm and fatigue. It progresses slowly and eventually leads to paralysis. As a result I have had to stop working and have curtailed much of my church work.

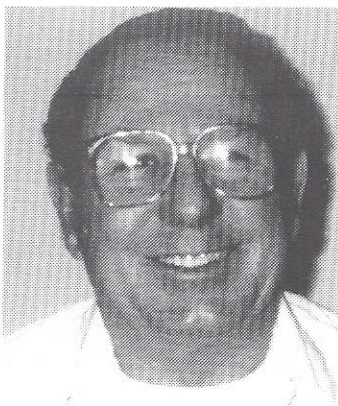
Thus, I have a lot of time for ham radio which I enjoy very much. I am also very active in helping Haitian missionaries, providing patches for them that have no access to telephones.

Fridays—Harold Jones, KI5KF, Artesia, New Mexico

I was born in eastern Louisiana, along the Mississippi River, during the depression when times were tough. But we survived. One day I found a Bible out in the ditch, which my mother allowed me to keep. Reading that Bible led me to accept the Lord when I was ten years old.

I first became interested in radio in high school, and I got my first license in 1954 as W5YAY. Over the years I drifted out of hamming and let my license lapse. However, in 1989 I got back into it and was re-licensed as N5PJG. When I upgraded to Advanced Class, I got my present call of KI5KF. Since then I have done a lot of DXing and working satellites. I have 314 confirmed countries worked as well as five confirmed Space Shuttle astronaut contacts.

After high school, I attended Bible college and followed the Lord's leading into the pastoral ministry. In 1959 I met and married my wife, Carolyn, and we served several churches in Ohio and Texas. Later I went to Arkansas to work as a farm manager, and eventually came to Artesia, New Mexico, where we now live. I worked in the oil fields before



I retired and Carolyn works here as a dental assistant. We have four children and three grandchildren.

I really enjoy serving as the net manager for the ARMS 20-meter net. With the band conditions improving almost daily, it is a pleasure to hear all of the stations checking in from around the country and the world. I want to say a big THANK YOU! to all the faithful net controls and to all who help out with relays during the net operation. We couldn't get along without you.

Saturdays—Jay Sudenga, KØGAZ, George, Iowa and Mesa, Arizona

I was born and raised in George, Iowa, where and my brother and I operated a farm equipment manufacturing business for many years. The business, known today as Sudenga Industries, was actually started in George by my grandfather, a German immigrant, in 1888 as a blacksmith's shop. Eventually, my father took it over, and in 1945 my brother, Floyd, and I picked up the reins. At that time we began manufacturing farm equipment.



Dottie, my wife of 57 years, and I maintain our home in George to this day. However, since my retirement in 1977, Dottie and I spend our winters in Mesa, Arizona. We have two daughters, one in Houston and one in Seattle, five grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

I got my ham license in 1956 as KØGAZ. Several years later I happened to hear Francis Finck, WØQCB, on 20-meters, running the ARMS net. I joined ARMS in 1962 and have been an active member ever since. I have held various positions in the ARMS Midwest Section, served as ARMS president and am currently its vice-president.

My interests over the years have included flying and missionary support. I began flying in 1946 and have owned several planes over the years. Today I limit my flying to radio-controlled model airplanes. I have had a long-standing interest in missions, and have supported a number of missionaries in many ways, including by phone patches and with equipment.

I count it a real privilege to be a part of ARMS. It's a great bunch of guys and gals, and I think it's wonderful that we can read our scriptures and be a very audible Christian presence on the ham bands.

— . . . —

Member profile:

Ken Wilder, AL7AX, Colbert, Washington

I can hardly remember a time that I wasn't interested in electrical/radio/electronics. At the age of 5 or 6, while other boys were playing with toy trucks and lead soldiers, I was putting together old batteries, switches, lights, doorbells, and playing with an old telephone system. At 10, I was building crystal sets and tearing apart old radios (sure wish I had some of those now!), and at 11, I constructed my first "AC/DC" (you old timers know about those) 5 tube superheterodyne broadcast receiver. I don't think I ever got it to work right, but I sure learned a lot.

At 14, I became quite interested in ham radio, and took a night school class taught by a local ham and commercial radio engineer. Getting over the "10-word hump" in code speed was a problem, but about the time I was getting up to 13 wpm, I went away to school, and ham radio fell by the wayside. After high school and a year of college, the Korean War came along. I entered the Coast Guard, and became an electronic technician. During a short break before being transferred to Alaska, I got my first ham ticket—K6AIW.

In Alaska I spent nearly 18 months of isolated duty (with 12 other guys) at a Loran transmitting station with a 1 megawatt transmitter operating at 1950 KHz. Unfortunately, there was no ham station equipment, and the Loran power would have made it difficult to operate. There was so much rf in the building, you could walk around with a lighted fluorescent tube in your hand.

After the service and college, I worked for two years overhauling 5

megawatt radar systems, then 5 years as a field service supervisor working with large computer systems, bringing the computer age from vacuum tubes into transistors. Then it was on to being the field service manager of a company that manufactured computerized scales. This required much travel and teaching training school classes.

My wife, Darlene, will tell you that she can't remember a time when she didn't know Christ, although she grew up in a non-Christian home. With two growing children, we became very active in a local church. I was a deacon and teaching Sunday school, but some-

Board of the Covenant Church to see what doors would open. We had thoughts of going to Colombia where the denomination was very active, but instead was called Nome, Alaska as a short term (approximately 1 year) volunteer—to work in their radio station, KICY. This was the first time that the mission had ever accepted a family with children to take such a position, but it opened the door for several families thereafter.

This was a self-supporting mission position, but the two local churches and my employer pledged their support. My employer also gave me a leave of absence, allowing us to keep our health insurance active and with a promise of a job at our return.

In late August of 1974, we loaded the family into our van and headed from our home in Illinois to Anchorage, Alaska—a distance of about 3850 miles, with about 1500 miles of gravel road. The Lord provided many marvels and reassurances during the 10-day car trip. A 400-mile airplane flight from Anchorage to Nome found us arriving on Labor Day.

Although I thought my calling was to work in the radio station (I did have a first class commercial license), I found that my first project was to install a hot water heating system

in one of the mission's houses (the one we were to live in!). I had experience in this area and proceeded not only to install the heating system, but to do extensive remodeling to the house as well. The Lord provided exceptionally warm weather (only one or two nights below freezing, and this was mid-October in Nome!) up until the very day the heat-

—Continued on the next page



Ken and Darlene Wilder

thing seemed to be missing. It was then, at age 38, that Christ entered my life as my Lord and Savior.

That knowledge of having attended church, and being very active in the church for several years, without actually having acknowledged Christ as my Savior, has been an active force behind my burden for missions. Within a couple of years, we had applied to the Mission

Continued from previous page—

ing system was fired up. That day turned cold and blustery, and Nome had winter weather for the rest of the year. We returned to Illinois in mid-July, 1975. It was on a Saturday morning while traveling through Wisconsin and almost home, that I first heard Jay (KØGAZ) and the ARMS group on the mobile rig. At the end of a very long and tiring trip, it was a tremendous blessing and encouragement to hear scripture being proclaimed on the ham bands.

The following year, we attended the ARMS convention in Boone, Iowa, and it was there that we met many of the fellowship and joined the ARMS membership roles.

We continued to look for mission opportunities, but all doors seemed closed. In the summer of 1979, a missionary friend and ham from Soldotna, Alaska suggested that I contact a local, privately owned, Christian radio station that was looking for a chief engineer and director for the Christian programming. In late September, leaving the family so that our oldest daughter could finish high school in Illinois, I again headed up the long road to Alaska. Charlie (K7AQ) kept me company on the radio for many hours and days during that trip, and his contact was always something to look forward to. Darlene and the girls joined me in Alaska the next summer for a 10-year residence on the Kenai Peninsula.

In the early 1980's, Moody Broadcasting began installing satellite downlinks and translators in our area, and the owner of KSRM/KQOK decided to leave Christian programming. For a year or so, I worked as a contract radio engineer for a couple of radio stations, and eventually found employment with a Christian businessman who owned an electrical contracting business and avionics shop. The company did a lot of oil field instrumentation work, installing telemetry systems, and maintaining the avionics shop.

Business was slowing in 1989, and it seemed like the time was right to move back to the "lower 48." In the fall of 1989, we moved to the Spokane, Washington area and joined in a small environmental investigation business. In 1996 and much of 1997, I taught digital electronics, communication, and operational amplifier subjects at the Spokane ITT school, and finally retired in the summer of 1997.

These days, I keep busy with "honey-do's," gathering fire wood, doing a little woodworking and metal working, and puttering with electronic "things," computers, and, of course, ham radio.

Where do we go from here? Darlene, an RN working half days, expects to work another year until reaching Social Security age, then perhaps we'll do a bit of traveling to the eastern United States to renew old acquaintances. In the meantime, we continue to look to the Lord for perhaps another ministry in which we might participate. — • • • —

Section Reports

Central Section—

Erick Frank W9OVY, who faithfully served as Central Section director for many years had to resign recently so the section is now "leader-less." I was fortunate, while living in the Chicago area, to meet with Erick and his lovely wife for dinner one evening when in Rockford, Illinois for some work-related training. Thanks, Erick, for your many years of faithful service to ARMS!

Although leader-less, the Central Section still keeps its net sked on Saturday mornings at 8:00 AM local central time on 3.922 MHz, for Christian fellowship. The following members have been known to check in regularly: N8RO-John (net control), KAØDSF-Bruce (net control), N8TNR-John, KF9JC-Wayne, N9OHT-Bruce, KA9EIZ-Dale, W9AOK-Dave, KA8OMP-Jim, KA9KLZ-Art, NZ8H-George, WB9GGK-Dave, and myself, KA9OOO-John.

As the Spirit moves, we pray that someone will step forward to take over where Erick left off. In the mean time, you will still find us here on the Central Section ARMS net on Saturday mornings.

—John Racz, KA9OOO

Southeast Section—

The Southeast Section of ARMS will hold its annual get-together on May 9, 1998, at the Mount Mitchell State Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway, 35 miles northeast of Asheville, North Carolina. We will gather at 11:30 AM at the Mount Mitchell Restaurant.

We are looking forward to our meeting. The restaurant has a fabulous view of the summit of the mountain. The elevation is 6,684 feet. We have so much good fellowship at these meetings. It is completely informal, so just come to have a good time. I would like to encourage all Southeast Section ARMS members to be there.

—Denis Parker, WD4ACH

Midwest Section—

The ARMS Midwest Section annual meeting is tentatively set for Saturday, August, 15. We'll meet first at the QTH of Jay Sudenga, KØGAZ, at 2034 Kingbird Ave., George, Iowa. Jay is one mile north and then one mile east of George, phone 712-475-3515. The coffee pot will be on by 9:00 AM.

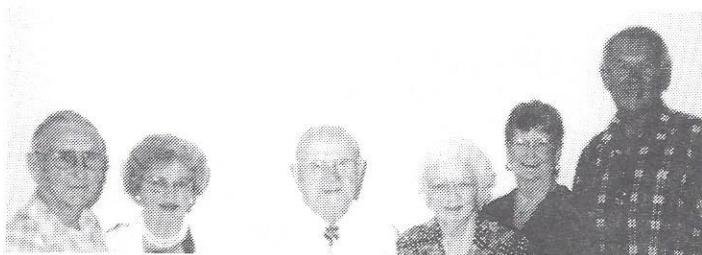
Then there will be a lunch at noon at John's Cafe in George, followed by our annual meeting and program. We invite all the Midwest Section members to come on out.

—Arnie Kopischke, WAØDFT

Southwest Section—

The Southwest Section of ARMS met for a brunch on Friday, February 20, 1998, at the Royal Cafe in Sun City, Arizona. Twenty-two hams and wives attended for a time of food and fellowship.

Those in attendance were: K7AQ, Charlie and Emily Cox, Sun City Arizona; KA7BHS, Dan and Dare Hough, Glen-



Charlie and Emily Cox, Howard and Ethyl Stump, and Leone and Gordon Tiessen

dale, Arizona; N7ESD, Howard and Ethyl Stump, Sun City, Arizona; AA7HX, Ted and Ann Willis, Tucson, Arizona; W7KAP, Al and Ivie Folden, Sun City, Arizona (and



Ted and Ann Willis, Eva and Ed Polmanteer, and Bernice and Harley Sykora

Newfolden, Minnesota); KC7OCS, Don and Ellen Hagerman, Mesa, Arizona; KB7VPY, Harry and Peggy

Akers, Glendale, Arizona; W8ED, Ed and Eva Polmanteer, Eloy, Arizona; KØGAZ, Jay and Dottie Sudenga, George, Iowa (and Mesa, Arizona); KØLNJ, Harley and Bernice Sykora, Windom, Minnesota; and VE7BQA, Gordon and Leone Tiessen, Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada.



Harry and Peggy Akers, Ellen and Don Hagerman, and Ivie and Al Folden

The program was a presentation of e-mail reports from W7PKS, Parks and Wanda Squyres of Medford, Oregon, who had just returned from a mission trip to Peru and Ecuador. Parks is an electronics engineer and for many years has gone to the mission field to build, install and maintain radio sta-



Jay and Dottie Sudenga, and Dare and Dan Hough

tions for HCJB, TWR and JAARS. He also keeps in touch by ham radio to provide technical support for the radio engineers on the mission field. See page 5 of this issue of The BEAM for a more details of their trip.

After the program, the attendees paused for photographs before heading home.

—Charlie Cox, K7AQ

Rocky Mountain Section—

On February 21, the Rocky Mountain Section met at the Country Buffet in Aurora, Colorado, to welcome Mike (AAØAO) and Mary Rafferty of Easton, Pennsylvania, who were back in the Denver area for a short visit. Ten amateurs were in attendance. In addition to Mike, there were WØRQI, Lash Larue; NØKYB, Steve Swearingen; WAØNJZ, Don Helling; KØQBA Dick Schroeder; WA7GVT, Dennis Howard and XYL Ruth, N7HII; WAØNRH, Al Stewart; AL7GQ, Geno McGahey; and WØLVE, Lowell Martin. Eleven family members and friends made it a very enjoyable occasion that spilled over into the parking lot and continued for two hours.

The Rocky Mountain Section continues to meet six days a week on 3.893 MHz at 7:00 AM mountain time. Members and other stations check in daily for a morning rag chew to discuss matters of the HIGH CALL and prayer requests. The band has been a little more favorable lately but we look forward to help from the sun spots.

—Don Helling, WAØNJZ, via Lash Larue, WØRQI

Silent Keys

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Psalm 116:15

Glen Peterson, WØEYL

Glen F. Peterson, WØEYL, went to be with his Lord on February 21, 1998. He was born April 16, 1908 and lived virtually all of his life in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is survived by his wife, Maybelle, and two daughters. He worked for many years for the Soo Line Railroad.

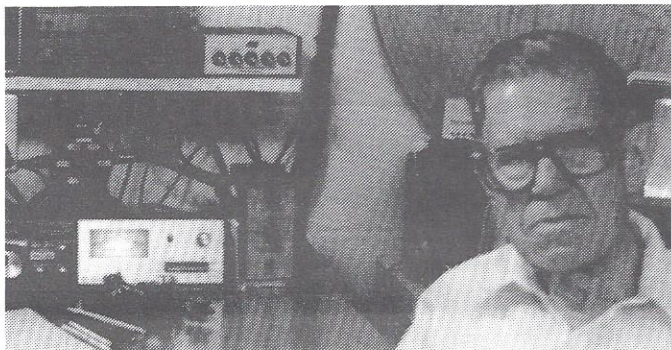
Glen was first licenced in 1928 as 9EYL. When Minnesota was put into the Ø call area, he became WØEYL. In 1928, Glen joined ARRL, and at the time of his death, he had a complete set of QSTs dating back to 1928.

Glen's affiliation with ARMS goes back almost to its beginning. The November, 1961 issue of The BEAM contained a report from Francis Finck, WØQCB, of the establishment of a Midwest branch of ARMS in October of that year. He noted that there were eight members in that initial group. Three months later, in the February, 1962 BEAM (The BEAM was published quarterly in those days.), there was a directory of members, and it included Glen, along with 13 other "Ø's". So it looks like Glen joined ARMS almost immediately after the Midwest Section was formed, in late 1961 or early 1962.

The next year, Glen is mentioned in the May, 1963 BEAM in connection

with a rather unusual 15-meter contact he made. He had set up a schedule with HC1DL in Tulcan, Ecuador. Here is the report in The BEAM:

"WØEYL, Glen Peterson, a member of the Minneapolis, Minn. Mission Covenant Church and Midwest ARMS, arranged a 15-meter sked with HC1DL to exchange greetings between the Minneapolis and Tulcan, Ecuador congrega-



tions during their respective missionary conference sessions on April 27th. HC1DL phone patched greetings from the Minneapolis Mission Covenant Church to Rev. Dean Erickson's church in Tulcan while the congregation listened over the church PA system. WØEYL taped return greetings from the missionary conference in Tulcan, which were enjoyed five minutes later by the congregation in Minneapolis. One of the missionaries stationed at Tulcan, Ecuador is Marie Nelson of Minneapolis."

In the years that followed, Glen was

mentioned frequently in The BEAM, holding offices at both the sectional and national levels of ARMS. Perhaps most frequently he is mentioned in connection with regular schedules with overseas missionaries, for whom he ran countless phone patches.

Within the past couple of years, Glen's health had deteriorated to the point that he could no longer maintain their home in the house he and Maybelle had lived for so many years. They were forced to move into an assisted living apartment. It was very hard for Glen to give up his beam. But in order not to be off the air completely, Arnie, WAØDFT, ran a "stealth" antenna of fine wire up the outside wall of the apartment building for him. Inside he connected it to two home-made tuners, one for 75-meters and one for 20-meters. They worked pretty well, and

Glen was able to check into the Midwest Section ARMS net and well as the 20-meter ARMS net occasionally. We thank Arnie for giving Glen that opportunity in his last months with us.

As Arnie said, "I was more than happy to do it for Glen. He was a friend of hams and non-hams alike. I wish I could have visited with Glen more than I did.

"Maybelle and his sister always said Glen came to when one talked about ARMS and ham radio! I will certainly miss him."

Bob Henry, W4PFQ

We have received word that long-time ARMS member, Bob Henry, W4PFQ, of Belleview, Florida, became a silent key on November 11, 1997.

Bob is survived by his wife, Adis, W4PFJ.

Dorothy Kopischke, XYL of WAØDFT

Just before this issue went to the printer, we received word that Dorothy Kopischke, of Mankato, Minnesota, passed away on Friday, March 13. Dorothy was the XYL of Arnie Kopischke, WAØDFT, Section Director for the

Midwest Section of ARMS.

Dorothy was very active in the work of the Midwest Section, co-hosting with Arnie their annual meeting several times in their home. She had suffered from cancer.

people, learn their language, develop a written form of the language, and finally, translate the Bible, bit by bit, into that language. For three months these prospective translators endured the camp, including being thrust into the jungle virtually empty-handed, hiking the rugged terrain, living off the land, constructing shelters from bamboo and leaves, making rafts, and coping with the wild animals and insects that abounded there.

Cam Townsend thought back over the years. In 1917 he had set out, a wide-eyed 21-year-old with a trunk full of Spanish Bibles, and headed for Guatemala. The trip was to transform his life. He found that there were many natives who spoke only Cakchiquel, their native tongue. The Spanish Bibles were useless to them. Furthermore, their's was strictly an oral language. It had no written form. Cam saw the challenge and accepted it. He spent the next 15 years living among the Cakchiquel people, mastering their language, reducing it to a written form, and developing a method for teaching *any* phonetically written language. In 1931 the Cakchiquel people received the entire New Testament in their own tongue.

At that point, Cameron Townsend had developed a plan—to teach others the methods he had developed and train them to do what he had done. Out of this beginning evolved the Wycliffe Bible Translators with its Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL). Little by little the effort bore fruit as people from all walks of life came to SIL, learned, and went into the jungles to give native peoples God's Word in their own language.

From almost the very beginning of the work, Cam realized that to make the best possible use of his people, he had to use all of the resources available. One of the big problems with the work was getting the translators to and from their assignments, and keeping in touch with them after they were there. He had thought about using airplanes and radios as early as 1933, but the time was not right. There was no money for such "frills." It was all he could do to keep his basic operation solvent. He patiently waited.

By the early 1940's, word of Cam Townsend's achievements had spread to South America. In the summer of 1945, at the invitation of the president of Peru, Cam spent several months touring the Peruvian jungles. He was developing a program to expand the work there. While on this tour, he stopped in Iquitos and asked his Peruvian guide how to get to one of the tribes which seemed nearest to civilization. The guide smiled.

"That tribe is easy to reach," he said. "You go down the Amazon River from here to the Nanay River by launch, then up the Nanay for two days by motorboat, then two more days by canoe, and from there it is only a day's hike through the jungle to the village. It's quite near."

He knew that the village was, indeed, close—by air. He knew that there were dozens of similar villages located along the vast river system that fed the mighty Amazon. The old dream surfaced again—move people and supplies by air and keep in touch with them by radio.

Now, in 1947, as Cam sat looking out over the grounds of the jungle training camp, he felt God pushing him forward with this idea. The year before, twenty-five eager linguists had come to the camp, completed the training, and gone on to Peru. The first pair of girls to go spent 17 days in a canoe on the treacherous Urubamba River, traveling through water inhabited by alligators and boa constrictors. Another couple and their daughter had spent 21 days on a raft, traveling a distance that the government plane covered in two hours. Others reported exhausting trips by canoe and by foot, fording

swollen streams, struggling along meagre trails. Cam had wept as he heard the reports. His linguists would spend all their time going and coming—or simply trying to stay alive—and would never have time for translating the Bible. The need for air transportation was acute.

Three months after setting up the Peruvian program, Cam had been in Lima when a phone call came from a young U.S. Army Air Corps lieutenant who was there training Peruvian pilots. He had heard of an old Grumman Duck, a single-engine amphibious biplane that the Marines wanted to sell for \$3000. Was SIL interested?

Cam now smiled as he thought back about that plane. SIL desperately needed the plane, but SIL was broke. However, God provided the \$3000, and they had bought the plane. They didn't have much else, such as pilots and hangers and maintenance personal, but God did provide the plane. However, it was old and required a lot of repairing. Every time it was needed in the field, it seemed, the plane was in some makeshift hanger in the jungle with a Peruvian mechanic standing over it scratching his head.

The matter had reached a crisis point in 1946 when Titus and Florence Nickel went to the Aguaruna tribe in Peru's interior, expecting the Duck to keep them supplied. After they spent eight months with the tribe, the Duck, constantly in need of repair, had failed to appear and they had become

—Continued on the next page



desperate. Florence was expecting a child and was in need of medical attention. The Nickels did the only thing they could—they started out of the jungle on foot.

They tried to get the natives to take them to a trail head by canoe, but they refused because it was too far, and it was the rainy season and the river was high. Fortunately, God sent a Peruvian trader by, and he agreed to take them in his motor-driven canoe. After two weeks of rapids, portages, and broken motors, they made it to the trail head. They had to hike for four days over very difficult terrain, after which they rode on mules for another two days. When they reached a road, they found a truck that took them to the coast, arriving on Christmas Day. The entire trip had taken 21 days.

Cam was devastated by the news. As he grieved over the situation in Peru, he left Lima to return to California with his wife, Elaine and their six-week-old baby. Their first stop was the jungle training camp in Mexico. After a good visit there, he radioed Tuxtla for a plane to take them to Mexico City where there would be many friends waiting to see them.

The Mexican pilot arrived in a little, three-place Piper Super Cruiser. Cam and Elaine squeezed into the back seat and held a diaper-lined basket containing their baby on their laps. The pilot had arrived in an empty plane and as he took off, he misjudged the additional weight. Before he had attained sufficient altitude and speed, he attempted a left turn. It was a tragic mistake. The plane dropped and caught the trees. It hit the ground, bounced and came to rest in a ravine, one wing ripped off and the plane tipped on its side. Fortunately, there was no fire, and all the passengers survived, but all three adults had serious injuries. Only the baby escaped the accident unscathed.

The pilot suffered severe internal injuries, Elaine nearly lost her foot, and Cam suffered a broken leg and mangled hip. As he had waited by the wreckage, alone with God, for two hours for help to take him back to camp, a concept was born. It was not enough just to own an airplane, he realized. They needed to have pilots thoroughly trained in jungle flying, they needed to have their own, well-trained maintenance personnel, and they needed to take care of their own radio equipment. They needed a separate, support division of Wycliffe. They needed a Jungle Aviation and Radio Service—JAARS.

Now, as he and Elaine recuperated there in the camp, he was making definite plans for the formation of JAARS. He could hardly wait to get back to California and present his idea to his six-member Board of Directors.

But, when he laid out his vision for an aviation division for Wycliffe, the Board would have no part of it. They were linguists, and they were not the least bit interested in “establishing an airline.” However, Cam was adamant.

“It is impossible do the job without planes—properly run

and serviced,” he said, slamming his hand on the table. “If you insist on your approach, you can just find someone else to take charge of our advance into the Amazon jungle. I shall not be responsible for the hardships you are forcing on these men and women who are giving their lives for Christ.”

When a vote was taken, it was four against to two in favor of the proposal. So, the meeting ended without the Board’s support, but Cam did not give up. Several months later, he called another meeting, and this time the vote was four in favor to two against the proposal. JAARS was official.

A short time later, Larry Montgomery, as one of his first official duties as chief pilot for JAARS, flew the Nickels and their new-born son back to their home among the Aguaruna tribe. The trip in the Duck took one hour and fifty-five minutes.

Today, after 50 years, JAARS maintains an excellent headquarters and training facility at Waxhaw, North Carolina, just south of Charlotte. It has expanded its mission to include not only aviation and radio support for missionaries, but computer, purchasing, shipping, trucking, construction and maintenance as well. In other words, it provides the support that the Wycliffe missionaries need. Here are a few statistics to give you an overview of the scope of the current work of JAARS:

- **Aviation:** From that one Grumman Duck, the JAARS aircraft fleet has grown to more than 45 planes and helicopters. Last year they logged over 1.9 million miles, carried 36,500 passengers and 4.6 million pounds of cargo.

- **Communications:** Throughout the world there are over 800 translation teams supported by 29 JAARS communication centers. These centers are equipped with 250 two-way radios, 70 fax machines, and 20 e-mail centers.

- **Computers:** In 1948 personal computers didn’t exist. Today the computer has become an indispensable tool in the hands of a translator. JAARS has more than 2500 personal computers in the field, supporting more than 1000 translation projections, impacting 50 countries.

- **Construction and maintenance:** JAARS maintains 44 centers in 30 countries where 2,842 Wycliffe people live and work. Construction and maintenance includes everything from driving nails to installing air conditioning.

- **Purchasing and shipping:** JAARS headquarters receives more than 7,900 purchase requests a year. These result in over 9,000 shipments annually with a total insured value of \$3.2 million.

- **Trucking:** Materials, personal belongings and supplies need to be transported throughout the U.S. and Canada. JAARS trucks log over 223,000 miles a year, carrying 2.5 million pounds throughout North America, most of it destined for shipment overseas.

— • • • —