

The Other Man's Station

G4FN



FOR the guidance and information of those who may wish to know, we are told that the lady in the photograph in the centre of this picture is indeed La Munroe. The identity of the exotic creature in the pin-up on the left (and we *don't* mean G4FN) has not, however, been revealed!

Anyway, here we have the station of G4FN, owned and operated by C. T. Wakeman, Broadwater House, Clifton Terrace, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, who is well known on the amateur bands, and particularly in the DX world. He became interested in Amateur Radio in rather a curious way—a desire to hear at first-hand the ring-side broadcasts of the big fights from across the Atlantic. Being in the early days, this compelled him to build a short-wave receiver, and on this he was able to get the amateur transmissions to be heard at that time. The AA (“artificial aerial”) call 2DZS soon followed, and the full call G4FN at the beginning of 1939.

Early work was experimentation with aerial systems, and that is still the main interest, although it

is at present difficult to indulge it because the location of the station is actually a flat.

From left to right in the photograph, we see the AR88 receiver, on top of which is a Variac with a wide-scale voltmeter, for keeping the mains just so; next to this is an aerial tuning unit for 160 metres, to an early SHORT WAVE MAGAZINE design; this, says G4FN, “has been a boon since its inception.” The two cabinets centred on the bench will be familiar to readers as the Labgear LG.300 assembly complete—the modulator and power unit on the left, and the all-band transmitter on the right. The transmitter feeds into the aerial tuning unit on the QSL filing cabinet, this ATU being designed for 10-80 metre operation. On the lower shelf there is a 6SJ7-6V6-807 transmitter for 160 metres; this is modulated by an ex-Navy “loud hailer” unit modified to accommodate a crystal microphone pre-amplifier, the output from the “loud hailer” amplifier then being sufficient to plate-screen modulate the 807 PA in the 160-metre transmitter; these items are powered from

a 300-volt pack standing between them.

There are three keys on the desk—a straight pump-handle, an ordinary bug, and an electronic key to the design by OZ7BO. Other items of equipment include a B2 Tx/Rx unit, a transmitter built into a 2-oz. tobacco tin (used for playing with QRP) and an Avo multi-range test meter. The aerial at present in use, for all-band operation, is a 14 mc dipole radiating E/W, and tuned against ground on the ATU's when operated off the fundamental.

G4FN is a keen member of the F.O.C., winning their marathon contest two years running, and has also gained a number of achievement certificates for DX work—including our WABC, obtained in 50 hours' operating, evenings only. However, his interest in DX work as such has waned somewhat, and G4FN is now happy to spend his time on the air working whatever may come his way, whether it be stations in distant parts, or a local wanting a gossip.

THE MONTH WITH THE CLUBS

By "Club Secretary"

(Dead-line for May Issue: APRIL 13)

NOTHING is more important to a Club (apart from a good secretary, and him we mentioned last month) than a permanent headquarters of its own. It is all very well to call a handful of amateurs together, to discuss forming a Club, and even to meet for the first year, in a café or "small back room"; but for continued existence and expansion there is nothing like having your own headquarters. A room in which a work bench and cupboard are provided, which can be locked up from one meeting to the next, is all that is wanted.

Sometimes a member owns, or knows of, such a room; sometimes one has to chase round the town to find one; but there is always one there, *somewhere*. Enterprising Club members should go to almost any lengths to persuade their fellow-members that something of the sort is essential, and then things can really go ahead. From the weekly building of simple gear by members to the communal building of a complete amateur station, installed and

to Sutton Coldfield is envisaged in the near future; interest is keen all round and there are plans to get a live TV camera under construction. The next meeting of the **Chelmsford** Group of the same Club will be on April 12 at 10 Baddow Place Avenue, Great Baddow, when Mr. M. Morgan will talk on 465-mc Television Links. The last meeting took the form of an interesting demonstration by Ivan Howard with his Telecine equipment. He showed a number of 16-mm. films and transmitted the pictures to the Royles (G2WJ/T) at Dunmow.

Next two meetings at **Bury** are on April 10 and May 8. The first will be a Questions and Answers session, with G3QV, G3BQT and G3DQQ as The Brains. The second will take the form of a talk on VHF Gear, by G3EPW. Both meetings are at 8 p.m. in the George Hotel, Kay Gardens, Bury.

At **Chester** the meetings will, in future start at 8 p.m. sharp with the business proceedings. At 9 p.m. there will be the usual tea break, which will split the