



ON THE AIR

By mid-afternoon on Saturday, June 23, the teenage hams had their equipment completely assembled for national "Field Day." Testing the efficiency of one of the stations is Chip Williams, seated at the controls. Ready to receive contacts on the official log is Pat Humphreys. A portable generator provided "juice" for the stations and the electric lights.



We're Having a FIELD DAY

By **GINNIE ERDMANN**
Press-Gazette Society Editor

GUGLIELMO MARCONI and the Weatherman had better run for cover! Marconi is the real culprit; he discovered the wonders of the wireless many years ago . . . the happenstance which was almost solely responsible for complicating the lives of five Green Bay hams last weekend. Then the Weatherman came along completely unannounced and thumbed his nose at the weekend warriors.

Members of the local Mike and Key Club are still shaking their heads, and parents of the adventuresome five are finally getting up off their knees. To Marconi we say "rest in peace" . . . and to the five boys we say "rest in pieces."

And that virtually summarizes what started out to be a fun weekend planned by the fivesome, namely Pat Humphreys, a junior at East; Chip Williams and Dan Servais, juniors at Fremont; and Pete Zawasky and Bruce Hanna, sophomores at Fremont. Their parents are Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Humphreys, 535 S. Van Buren St.; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Williams, 516 S. Van Buren St.; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Servais, 1490 Biemeret St.; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Zawasky, 2005 Bourdain Lane; and Mrs. Margaret Hanna, 516 S. Van Buren St.

Their original goal was to participate in the 24-hour "Field Day" sponsored each year by the American Radio Relay League. The communications exercise, covering the entire United States and Canada, tests the ability of ham radio operators to handle messages for police, Red Cross, Civil Defense and similar agencies when storms, fires or enemy action knock out normal communications.

The national "Field Day" drill began at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 23, at which time ham operators all over the nation went on the air to establish as many contacts as possible and enter them

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**GREEN BAY
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Press-Gazette Color Photo by Emory Kraeplin

SETTING UP CAMP

It took the five boys a long time to haul in their gear and set it up . . . two days, to be exact. They are shown as they rig antennas on the hilltop site near Point Stuebe. In the foreground are, from left, Dan Servais and Chip Williams. Testing to business in the background are, from left, Bruce Hanna, Pat Humphreys and Pete Zawasky.

MUSCLE MEN

Doesn't this photo look faintly reminiscent of the Mount Suribachi flag-raising scene? These of the teenage hams raise their own kind of banner on abandoned farm property eight miles out of the city. Pictured from left are Dan Servais, Pete Zawasky and Bruce Hanna, who ready their equipment for the "Field Day" exercise.

SHARP CHIEF

Pete Zawasky was named "king of the kitchen," and kneels in front of his camp stove which perches precariously atop a log. Here he readies a sausage for the pan. The sausage was accompanied by such substantial fare as beans and cookies. One of the new "pop" tents, seen in the background, was used by the five teenage ham operators for sleeping quarters.



Teenagers Ham It Up for National 'Field Day' Drill

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on an official log. National awards are presented each year to the most successful amateur operators, and visions of trophies were dancing in the heads of the local fivesome.

Other members of the local Mike and Key Club conducted "Field Day" operations from stations set up in a building at the Brown County Fairgrounds, but the scheming young mavericks set up shop eight miles out of the city . . . high atop a hill on abandoned farm property near Point Sauble where reception would be ideal.

According to the Master Plan they would camp out until Monday, so along went five sleeping bags, several tables and chairs, a camp stove, two huge coolers full of hot dogs and hearty fare, three cases of pop, and umpteen-jillion packages of cookies, popcorn and other highly-touted teen food to last the three-and-a-half days.

Hauled By Hand

They picked a rugged spot about three blocks in from Nicolet Road, which could be reached only by a footpath . . . more accurately described as an obstacle course. It was a long haul, but thanks to handy-dandy parents it only took them two days to drag everything to the site and rig their equipment. Up went two wall tents, one umbrella tent and one of the new "pop" tents to house their gear. Up went a little pup tent to protect their 1,500 watt gasoline-operated generator. Up went five antennas cut to frequency for 80, 40, 20, 15 and two meters.

They worked like Trojans all day Friday and Saturday to be able to get on the air at the start of national "Field Day." Inspiration was undoubtedly provided by the three cases of pop—72 bottles in all—which were polished off in the first 24 hours.

Pete Zawasky was unanimously elected as the official

chef, and presided at the camp stove to produce culinary masterpieces such as beans (out of a can), chicken noodle soup (out of another can), and fried eggs (on the sunny side, if you please).

The only crisis up to this point was classified as minor. A stray water spaniel and an equally stray black Labrador retriever came to pay a not-so-proper call, and the K-9 marauders helped themselves to a pound of bacon, a pound of porkies, a few hot dogs and a loaf of bread before they were discovered.

On The Air

At 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon, as golden sunshine blanketed their hilltop site overlooking the bay, the five youthful ham operators went on the air to enter competition with other hams across the nation. They were so absorbed with the beep-beep-beep of their stations that they failed to notice ominous black clouds looming on the horizon. A vicious wind suddenly started to lash at their tents, and before anyone had time to say "Guglielmo Marconi," torrents of rain swamped the youths and soaked them to the skin.

A funnel-shaped cloud was spotted off Point Sauble, and within seconds the tents were flattened, their power was out, trees were twisting down, and the lads were leaning into the wind trying to salvage their precious equipment. Fun, you say?

Groaning Group

"We're ruined!" moaned the boys, who were stranded without a car, without a telephone. There they sat in a sea of mud: five hams primed for a "Field Day" exercise to learn how to help others in distress . . . suddenly unable to help themselves.

"A more dejected, bedraggled string of five boys you've never before seen," said Mrs. Humphreys, who was the first one on the scene when the violence subsided. The storm in town was nothing in comparison to the blast experienced

by the boys, and Dr. Humphreys was "quite indignant that I should even consider driving out. After all parents aren't supposed to hang around."

By borrowing a tractor, the boys were able to get their damaged gear back out to Nicolet Road to be loaded into the cars of anxious parents. Five trips to town later, the site was finally cleared. All week long the boys have been working to repair their stations, and as one mother said: "Things weren't quite normal around here until the equipment worked again."

Licensed Hams

Four of the five lads are licensed amateur radio operators: Chip has the call letters K9WRD; Pat has WN9EEP; Pete has K9AGC; and Dan has WN9AJW. They are members of the Mike and Key Club, which meets the second Thursday of each month at the Wisconsin Public Service building.

The ham radio hobby is an absorbing one for the teenage lads, and captures their interest for long hours each day. They are at their sets before breakfast, and sometimes far into the night. And when they're not at their sets, they spend half their time on the roof rigging their antennas.

"Calling CQ" is their password to adventure around the world . . . and the contacts they make are recorded on QSL cards sent by other hams at home and abroad which they use to paper the walls of their rooms.

Believe it or not, the boys are already starting to plan for "Field Day" next year. Since they are determined to "rough it," Chip's parents advised them to abandon the tent scheme and rent a cabin up North instead.

All five agreed.