

Radio Hams Take Their Hobby Seriously, and in Large Doses

By CONRAD G. FRANGE  
Staff Writer, The Statesman

One of the few groups of Salem residents not lying awake these nights wondering where its next television set is coming from is the local radio hams.

These men (and women) breathe and live in the heady atmosphere of talking over great distances via radio waves. They thrive in Salem and have contributed greatly to the city's hobby and social life.

According to Duane Hewitt, secretary-treasurer of the Salem Amateur Radio Club, there are about 80 licensed hams—or amateur radio operators—in Salem. Of these, he guesses, about 40 are "active." That is they do a lot of work with their sets.

"Most of us hams handle traffic everyday," says Hewitt. Translated that means he and other hams are at their sets almost every night receiving and sending messages, local and long-distance, for fun and necessity, by voice and by key.

An exciting evening for Duane, for instance, is for him to come home from his job at Western Electric, and get on the "board" and start sending messages. Sometimes, he says, he eats his meals at his set, which occupies "darn near one whole side of our bedroom."

"We even work our hobby into our recreation," Hewitt noted. "Some of us have sending and receiving sets in our cars. So when we go on picnics, for instance, we have a great time talking from one car to another. And when a ham goes deer hunting he can always contact his family back home with his car set."

Orval Nunn, another ardent radio ham, is president of the Salem Amateur Club. The club meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at West Salem Legion Hall. Most of the club's current efforts are bent towards setting up the state amateur convention in Salem next summer.

Most club members are closely plugged into the state Civil Defense set up. That means in the event of any sort of an emergency, and especially if other lines of communication were clogged, the radio hams would take to the air.

Part of Defense "These hams would be an extremely important part of our communication set for necessary messages if a disaster struck this area," said Wallace S. Wharton, county defense director.

"Local hams are connected with a state-wide network of communications," said Wharton. "And the Oregon net is in turn connected with other states, so that, if necessary, a message could easily be sent from Salem to, say, Japan or England."

And that happens occasionally, Hewitt will tell you. One night he received a message from Japan for a Salem woman. It was from her husband and had been relayed from ham to ham halfway around the world until it finally hit Salem.

"We enjoy receiving and sending these messages," said Hewitt. "It gives us good practice. Sometimes people think they're bothering us but we don't mind. And we can't accept money for these services either."

"We're strictly amateur."

Pharmacists Aided A-Bomb Research

WASHINGTON (AP)—Major contributions to the development of atomic energy were made by two pharmacists working 150 years apart, says the American Pharmaceutical Association.

Martin H. Klaproth, pioneer pharmacist and scientist, first identified the element uranium in 1789. In 1939 Dr. H. A. B. Dunning of Baltimore, excited by the possibilities involved in the development of the theory of uranium fission by German scientists, underwrote special research at Johns Hopkins University which hastened development of the atom bomb. Dunning is a life member of the pharmaceutical association.

VISIT CAMPAIGN ST. PAUL (INS)—The Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company literally is bringing the mountain to Mohammed. Top executives are visiting company salesman in the field as part of a new inter-company public relations, sales and educational campaign.

Farm areas lean heavily toward the general, lumbering, mining, railroad and industrial districts edged toward Stevenson.

Most of the Eisenhower skidding is expected in the State's two largest counties, where newsmen slashed earlier estimates of GOP strength. The counties still are considered overwhelmingly Republican.

OREGON (6) The only Western state to go Republican four years ago looks like a repeater in 1952—and by a bigger margin.

Stevenson gains, including those that may come from Sen. Morse's backing, aren't shaping up as big enough to erase the Eisenhower advantage. But an estimated 15 to 20 per cent of the voters are on the fence and the way they jump could turn the election.

Some editors say Stevenson is on the upgrade because of the Eisenhower-Taft association and the general's endorsement of such controversial senators as Joseph R. McCarthy of Wisconsin. Some figure Eisenhower made headway as a result of the Nixon affair and his own stumping tour in the state.

Indiana City Loses Whistle Timepiece

ROCKVILLE, Ind. (AP)—Folk here have been arriving late to work and for appointments recently and children have been tardy at school.

The Rockport Republican explains everybody had depended on a lumber company steam whistle that could be heard all over town at 7:30 and 8 a.m. daily. The town clock has stopped long ago.

But the lumber company installed a new electric whistle that can't be heard outside its immediate neighborhood.

The Gulf Stream is more than 6,000 miles long from the Gulf of Mexico to the seas north of Norway.



BEST MODEL — Frank A. Taylor (left), U. S. National Museum; Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy (center), and Karl E. Krumke, Jr., Washington Ship Model Society president, inspect frigate "Arabella," best in a Washington contest.

WEDDING VEIL USE FOUND GREENCASTLE, Ind. (AP)—The Putnam County Graphic reports a housewife here finally found a practical use for her old wedding veil. She hung it over the baby's crib as a mosquito netting.

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Nancy Leaper, Lewis and Clark College senior, will reign as honorary queen of Oregon Commercial Canning Week Oct. 25 to 31. Miss Leaper is shown holding the 10 billionth can produced for Oregon food products since the state's canning industry started in 1869. The container will be mounted on a plaque commemorating the growth of canning into a \$20 million a year business in Oregon and presented to Gov. Douglas McKay at a luncheon Oct. 31.

Newsmen Offer Predictions

West U.S. Said Moving Away From Eisenhower

Editor's note: This is the second of a series of five stories on the political outlook as newspaper editors and political writers see it, as of now, in all 48 states.

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL

NEW YORK (AP)—Editors and political correspondents in the Mountain-West Coast region believe gains by Gov. Adlai E. Stevenson in five of 11 states have tightened the presidential race in the last six weeks.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, listed early in September as leading in 10 of the 11 states, now is considered ahead in eight of the 11.

The cobined view of newsmen who took part in a second, mid-October survey of political prospects for the Associated Press is that Democratic nominee Stevenson now might get Utah and Washington by a hairline margin if the election were held at this time.

These are the first apparent switches to turn up in the survey. The two states were regarded as leaning slightly toward Republican candidate Eisenhower around Labor Day.

Small Margins In Utah and Washington, as in many other states, margins favoring one candidate or the other are so wispny as to leave the outcome on Nov. 4 very much in doubt. Silent voters — people who have taken no position or who prefer not to discuss their stand—could be the decisive factor in the election.

Other elements are at work, too, in the political cross currents sweeping through the West.

For the most part, editors say the rocking, socking campaign President Truman has carried to the whistle stops has backfired against Stevenson. A few think the President got in telling blows on Eisenhower.

Aided by Nixon Most newsmen say Eisenhower got a boost from the airing of the financial affairs of his vice-presidential running mate, Sen. Richard M. Nixon of California. Only a couple called the affair a "fiasco" or anything of that sort.

Stevenson is regarded as scoring with his own campaign, particularly with attempts to persuade the people that Eisenhower has surrendered the GOP rains to Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio. Editors in Oregon, New Mexico, Colorado, Washington and Idaho mention the Eisenhower-Taft tie as hurting the general.

In the main, the same old issues stand out—peace, prosperity, time for a change, and all of them lumped together with corruption, communism and Korea.

The way newsmen see things in the West, California, Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, and Oregon probably would go Republican if this were election day.

Those six states have 54 of the 79 electoral votes for the whole area. Oregon is believed safe for the GOP regardless of the formal endorsement given Stevenson by the state's independent Republican senator, Wayne Morse. Morse's action was no surprise and therefore lacked the impact it otherwise might have had. As things stand, both Stevenson and Eisenhower stock have risen as more Oregon voters made up their minds, but Eisenhower's rose more.

New Mexico, Idaho Classified as doubtful but with some advantage for Eisenhower are New Mexico and Idaho with four electoral votes each.

Arizona and her four votes remain probably Democratic, while the 13 votes of Washington and Utah are regarded as inclined at the moment toward Stevenson.

The up and down, roller coaster tendency in the West seems to have brought the region a little closer to its traditional voting pattern. Down the years, for two decades, these states have stood by the Democratic Party in presidential elections almost as firmly as the South.

All have gone consistently Democratic from 1932 on, except Oregon in 1948, Colorado in 1940, and Colorado and Wyoming in 1944. On the other hand, all of the states but Montana now have Republican governors.

Seek Change But despite Stevenson's apparent gains, editors who have been feeling political pulses now report

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