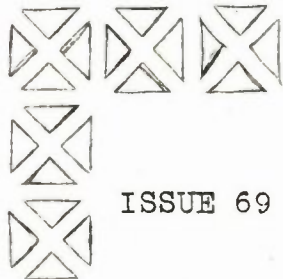


**JOURNAL OF THE
Q R P
RESEARCH SOCIETY**

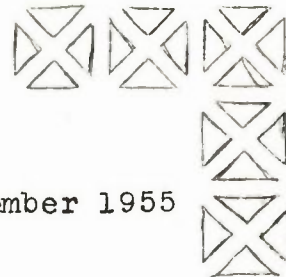
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ISSUE 69

Q R P



September 1955

JOURNAL OF THE Q R P SOCIETY

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THE ONLY SOCIETY IN THE WORLD CATERING EXCLUSIVELY
FOR THE LOW POWER AMATEUR RADIO ENTHUSIAST.

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.....: SOCIETY NEWS & ACTIVITY :.....

NORMAN BASON (Peel, I.O.M.) will remember 1800/1900 hrs on Sept 7th for a long time. He found Twenty wide open and says he could have duplicated his C-Z score if he could have written fast enough. In that hour he logged FB8BS, VS1GX, SU1DD, ZS6WJ, ZD2HAN, ZS2OR, ZS5KA, ZS6KK, VQ4EO, EL1FT/MM, CR6AI, ZS6EA, KH6AJ, HELKU and loads of SM, OK, OH, W, F, VE, 4X4 and even G stations. Norman has heard from our old friend Arthur Looney who is still interested in QRP though very tied up with work and swatting for RAE.

C.E.GAUNT (Folkestone) has come through a really very rough time having had a period in hospital followed by a long convalescence during which he did not feel up to much -- not even equal to carrying out the constructional programme he had laid out for himself -- and then back to hospital again for a major operation! We are glad and extremely relieved to report that he is now on the mend and has actually got well on the way towards completion of that all-dry O-V-1 which has taken the place of his originally planned 1-V-1. (All the best to you, OM, and we do all hope that your recovery will be a permanent one this time).

GEORGE HAYLOCK, G2DHV (Lewisham, SE 13) -- or perhaps we should say G2DHV/A/P/M -- has been in operation in London, Kent, Staffordshire Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Flintshire, Caernarvonshire and Worcestershire recently and hopes to continue such County operation in the near future He is building the VS6CQ Tx described in the October 1955 SW Mag for operation on 1825 Kc/s.

CLIFF LEAL, G3ISX (Welling, Kent) has found himself a new pastime in the form of Archery. (We have a sneaking idea that he may be working on a QRPP system for radio controlling arrows but will not admit it until he has the job perfected). On a rather larger scale he is carrying out mods to the W8JK antenna, making it one wavelength long instead of half-wave. Claimed advantages are low angle radiation with four lobes instead of the usual two.

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TED JONES, G3EUE (Norbury, SW16) was active during NFD and managed to dish out a few points for the contestants. He got in a few hours on 80 during RSGB LP Field-day as well and gathered the impression that there was considerable /P activity which made him wish that he was out there himself in that lovely weather. Ted is trying to convert an R1084 Rx (battery) to mains operation and is having difficulty with high hum level on the 2v 2A LT line.

ALLAN WILLIAMS (Ipswich) is a new member to whom we extend a very sincere welcome this month. He is a Top Band only enthusiast, claiming 33 counties and 3 countries for this year to date. The Rx is a 1-V-2 (yes, UNDER $1\frac{1}{2}$ watts!) and the antenna 134' N/S very much bent twice. Allan is in the process of moving to Chelmsford so we shall not expect to hear much activity for a little while (but we shall not let you off for long, OM!)

E.W.GARDINER (Diss, Norfolk) seems to have been forced out of radio by extra work all through the summer, but the hobby is getting a little attention again now and we are glad to see a new C-Z score at last. E.W.G. is one of our oldest supporters of SWL contests and we do hate to see such old friends going QRT (so best of luck for a busy radio season, OM.)

JOE STEPHENSON (Shipley, Yorks) is finding the claims of his allotment less exacting now and is airing the 1-V-1 and the SH Rx in turn now. He is getting the better of the high noise level of the SH at last but still cannot decide which is the better all round job as whatever real Dx he hears on one of them he finds he can get just as well on the other.

FRANK STRINGER (Southwold, Suffolk and Acton W3) is an old-timer to whom we give a hearty welcome to the Society this month. Frank operated QRP pre-war as G2CSQ and was RAFVR as W/OP/MECH on W/T fitting parties during the war. He is now coming into the hobby again as SWL with 0-V-1 to 1-V-1 types and will be pleased to devote special monitoring sessions on behalf of anyone who cares to ask for them.

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GEORGE TILLET (Homchurch, Essex) has passed his RAE and is hoping before long to get through the Morse. He already has two Txs waiting for the day his call comes through. He says that he found back copies of "Q R P" of great help both in his studies for the exam and in construction of the two rigs.

RONALD STRICKLAND, G8KB (Worrall) has been QRT during the past 12 months owing to lack of any "shack" but he has now completed the conversion of the "roof space", complete with loft ladder, benches, etc & hopes very shortly to be active again. He says that he has greatly enjoyed "Q R P" even though he has not been able to make practical use of it and we think that his letter, part of which we reproduce elsewhere in this issue, is proof of his interest and enthusiasm.

J. BERNARD FOSTER, G3IIT (Trumpington, Cambridge) has gone for an expedition into the realms of semi-QRO (75 watts to an 829B on Two) but says that the only time the extra power seems to make any difference is when you touch the PA coil with your bare finger! J.B. says that he would like to see more VHF matter in "Q R P" and we have taken the remark as the text of a little homily later in this issue (We should like to see it, too, J.B.)

PETER HUNTSMAN, G3KKB (Hexham-on-Tyne) is running a single 807 on 80 but is finding the very bent 100' antenna a problem. He is getting all over Europe and most of England but cannot seem to work the London district and would much appreciate reports from Southern Counties and GC, GI and GW (all cards will be answered direct if 1½d stamp is enclosed). Peter has been going up to 25 watts max and has come to the conclusion that high power raises the cost far more than the efficiency. He is going to modify the Tx to work 80 and 160 at 5 watts to a TT11.

J. McMANUS, G3KKA (Thame, Oxfordshire) gets yet another "big hand" for a new member this month. Mac, who is a fugitive from Paisley and has come "south for sunshine" is at present working a Bendix TA12B with about 45 watts to the final but his ambition is to cover all bands from Top to Ten on QRP. He would appreciate any advice to further this ambition, both as regards Tx and Rx -- the present Rx is a

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pre-war Hallicrafters "Sky Challenger" (550 Kc/s to 35 Mc/s) which is going to take some beating we would think.

TRANSISTOR GROUP NEWS ::::::::::::::: REPORTED BY R.C.TAYLOR, G3JAL

PAREC must be the reason for the lack of correspondence on Transistory -- all the experimenters working behind locked doors with their families and friends sworn to secrecy

My activities this month have included an O-T-O which is rather a mess of pots and variable condensers slung together on a baseboard using a Mullard OC51. On it I have heard DM2ABL -- which I presume is a new German amateur callsign -- and several Gs on 80 and also on Top, though surprisingly it seems more lively on 80.

I have also been amusing myself with a Mullard OC71 (the price is down to 30/-, by the way) making it work as an LF oscillator using such power supplies as a penny in a milk bottle top, and pieces of copper & zinc stuck close together in MOIST ground (Yes, we have had some rain in Surrey at last, Hi!).

POSTSCRIPT BY ED (Some say Big-Ed!):-- Now look, chaps, Roger is trying very hard to make a success of a section of the Society which is bound to be of tremendously increasing importance in the future. It is obviously a necessity that we of the QRP Society are not left behind like "also rans" as Transistory advances, and there must be a lot of members who are actively engaged in TTX and TRX experimenting. Do come out of hiding, OMs, and give Roger the backing he deserves. I am just waiting for the day when someone writes in that they would like more transistor news in the mag -- I'll flay 'em alive!

We are preparing a CERTIFICATE FOR SWLs WHO HAVE HEARD 10 TTX stations and have had veries from one or more -- more of that next month. In the mean time do write to Roger Taylor, G3JAL, 67 Colliers Water Lane, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

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STRAIGHT FROM THE STATES ::::::::::: REPORTED BT BUD RUGEL, WØPRM.

This month we want to welcome three new members into our Society. "Sam" Zaayer, W8EA, of Columbus, Ohio who has been licensed since 1919 and is now Senior Assistant Fire Chief of Columbus. Lyle Godwin, WØYSQ, of Newton, Iowa who says that he is very interested in QRP and uses a Central Electronics 10-B exciter and SX-96. This Tx is a 10 watt SSB phone rig and 75 metres is the favourite band. Our other new member is Douglas McCain, W9UKG, of Delphi, Indiana. Doug's Tx uses a 2E26 final running 28 watts input into a 3 el beam on 20. In four months operation he has 56 countries, 22 zones and WAC. The Tx is unique in the fact that power is continuously variable below 28 watts. W1AW was worked with $\frac{1}{4}$ watt input (S7 report) and G3GRL was worked with 5 watts. Doug is also very interested in TTX work but bemoans the lack of any 160 metre activity here. Doug's father is also an amateur, his call being W9LZP. From recent QST we see that Al, W6NIF/4 has had 14 Mc/s contacts with CE7ZT, EA8BP, EA9DF, FM7WP, FY7YE, HA5KBN, HZ1HZ, OQ5GU, SV1AB, VQ2HR. We also note that Al will soon be on from VP5 land. Hank, W1ZPA/5 who has just enlisted in the US Air Force is now at Keesler AFB in Mississippi and now has permission to operate a QRP station on 15 metres. Hank says he may be going overseas soon. Two big Dx contests coming up in the near future, one spons red by CQ, the other by DARC. This is a good time to try for those elusive countries and states.

73, Bud. WØPRM.

EDITOR'S NOTE:-- Wonder how many W members have read my comments at the foot of the Transistor Group News, this issue page 5. None? Look back will you, OMs? Same thing applies here. Bud is doing a vy fb job of reporting W activity on QRP, but he is not getting as much backing from you as he deserves. We have not had a single descriptive article submitted from you on any of your gear. Our G members would be interested. Doug, 9UKG, could start us off with a most interesting description

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of his Tx and variable power pack -- what about it Doug? You must all understand that we cannot run this mag or any section of it without you all cooperate by sending in gen on the things that interest YOU. If any subject of QRP interests you it will interest others too. Let others share your interest. You'll get no fabulous writer's fees, you'll get no world-wide glory or fame -- you'll just get the thanks and very sincere appreciation of all your fellow members of the Society. Does that count for anything with you?

.....: EXPEDITION TO NORFOLK BROADS :.....

During last May G2DHV took his gear on holiday to Suffolk and surrounding areas of Norwich and Great Yarmouth.

On May 18th G2DHV/A contacted G3FYZ/M (of Blackpool) when both were at Burgh Castle Yacht Station, Suffolk, on 80 & 40 metres. After a personal QSO and tea they moved off upstream to St Olaves, Suffolk, where G3FYZ/M in the auxiliary yacht Twilight VI, on the Norfolk side of the river Waveney, had a contact with G2DHV/M on the Suffolk side of the river with the sailing dinghy Helene on 7.1 Mc/s phone. Therefore they claim first mobile QSO vessel to vessel on inland water! G3FYZ was using a ZC Mk2 NZ Tx with 15 watts and 20' antx up the mast. G2DHV used a 38 set with 1 watt to an 8' whip. He also operated /P in several areas up there.

George also had a B2 Minor A Mk3 at Burgh Castle running 8 watts to 120' antx and made contacts on 80 with G3CQE (Blofield, Norfolk), G3HRW (Acle, Nk), G3EMI (Birmingham), G3KAR (Surrey), G3AJP (Fritton), and on 40 with PAØNOL, DL2WA, DJ1YR, DJ2HV. He was informed that 1.8 was the band most used up there so he went to pay a visit to G3AJP and contacted G5PP (Coventry), G8RL (Rugby), G5QI (Oxon), G3JWI (Hull) on 160. He found plenty of BC QRM on 40 and "fishfone" on 80 which did not help his QRP efforts. So next time he sails the Broads he will be on 160! He also worked /M on the train on the way up!

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V. H. F. GROUP NEWS :::::::::::::::::::: REPORTED BY TED STONESTREET

GEORGE STOKES (Ruislip, Middx) reports a VHF contest during the weekend of 4th/6th September during which G5KW/P was on the air continuously from 1800 Sat to 1500 Sunday with only 3 QSOs between 1000 and 6000 hrs. George also says he has had QSL returns from G6AG, G5TZ (IOW), and G8SC with G3DVQ for a new one heard.

J. BERNARD FOSTER, G3IIT (Trumpington) worked OZ1PL on phone on 20th July on Two metres using 10 watts to an 832. This contact, says '3IIT, was "of course entirely due to conditions". It was 5/8 both ways

GEORGE HAYLOCK, G2DHV (Lewisham, SE 13) reports contacts during the recent spell of good condx on Two with G6XM (York), G5YV (Leeds), and GC3EBK (Guernsey). He was using 25 watts to his 832 Tx and 4/4 elt yagi indoors. His log for July/Aug includes contacts with G2RD, 2VB/P; 3DVQ/P, GZJ, JMA, JQN, JXN, JMA; 5KW, KW/P; 6XH; 8UQ/P, KW. For stations heard he logs G2AIW, ABD, AHY, AHP, BDP, BBW, BAT, BDP, DVW, BTO, DSP, DVD, FSX, FNW, FTS, JF, WJ; 3ABA/P, BJQ, BA, CLS, CAS, DLU, DGI, DMU, FGT, FUL, FNL, FAN, FSD/M, GQR, GSN, GDR, GH0, GSE, GOZ, GCX/P, GWB/P, GWD, HBW, IUA, IVE, ION, INU, IKW, JHM/P, JDN, KEQ; 4JJ/P, KD, IB/P, PS, 5CR, DS, KW/P, LK, MR, TZ, RO, YV; 6CH, NB, OU, OX, NE, RH, TA, WF, WM, YP; 8AL, IL, PX/P, UQ/P; DL1EY, 3VJ; EI2W; F3CQ, 3LT, 9JY, 9CQ; GD3UB; GM2FHH; GC3GDP/P; GI3GXP; GW3GWA; HB9IV; ON4UD, BZ, IE; PA0QF.

We publish the above by way of encouragement to those members who are "thinking about Two" but feel there is not enough activity to make it worth while (and thanks for the letter, George, we should like to hear from you more often, OM).

EDITOR (Yes, here's that man again!):-- All right, I'll say no more if you have read my comments on the Transistor and the W Sections. If you have not then do turn back to pages 5 and 6 and take the gist of those remarks as applying to the VHF Group as well. Ted asked me if I thought we should bury the Group and say no more. No, Ted, the only trouble is that they don't realise that our efforts are dependent on them. Write to Ted, OMs: 29 Chaplin Rd, Willesden Green, London NW2.

.....: ONE & TWO VALVES ON TOP BAND :.....

In our August issue Bob Kenyon mentioned his experience that his O-V-0 and O-V-1 receivers, while giving satisfaction on all other bands would not function on Top Band. A number of comments have come in about this peculiarity.

Joe Stephenson writes:-- "I also notice Bob Kenyon can't get his O-V-1s to work on Top. I don't know whether he is using mains or batteries, but I once had this trouble with a battery receiver. I took the grid leak to LT positive (an often recommended connection) and the Rx was a failure on 160. Changing it to LT neg brought the set to life and did not make any difference on the other bands."

Ron Strickland, G8KB, says:-- ". . . This agrees with my experience with that type of receiver. . . . The reason why the average O-V-0 & O-V-1 type falls down on 160 is, I think, first because transmitter power is lower there to start with and secondly because attenuation on other than ground wave radiation is higher. The answer, I found, in employing a two valve circuit is to make it 1-V-0 not O-V-1. HF amplification really works well on the Top Band and makes all the difference in the world to a small set. Modern valves, of course, make it easy to get amplification at the higher frequencies and at the time of which I write this was much less the case. Nevertheless I feel sure Bob would be surprised at the difference a swap from LF to HF amplification would make. I used to use a tetrode (I hardly dare say screened grid) valve as HF amplifier followed by a small economy AF pentode detector. Reaction was series fed throttle controlled CAPACITY varied, taken from the SCREEN of the detector (you don't vary the volts here, they are quite critical) and the HF stage could also be made regenerative by a very small condenser between detector plate and HF grid (I used a neutralising condenser). Aerial coupling, which is important, was by differential condenser across the grid coil of the RF stage."

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.....: THE HEART OF THE Rx :.....

(Ed:- We feel that it is well worth reproducing as a separate item a paragraph which Ron Strickland added to his letter mentioned on the previous page)

If you can manage with a O-V-O receiver (and a good regenerative detector will pull in -- as distinct from sort out -- anything that is going) there seems to be little point in adding a note magnifier (if it is CW you are after mainly) unless you make it frequency selective by means of some type of audio filter or feed back. There is a lot to be said for getting a really good detector stage going on its own anyhow because it has got to be good to get much. If it is good, with the aerial properly matched, with smooth reaction and a good pair of phones (Brownes type "A" are a really sound investment at any time) you have the heart any first class straight receiver and can add to it, if you wish, with the knowledge that the foundation is well laid.

(Good logic, that! Sound advice to any QRP SWL or to any newcomer to the hobby. And please may we add that additional stages need not be restricted to TRF type. A good regen detector stage makes a first class second detector when a mixer and IF layout is put in front -- Ed.)

.....: YOUR TOWN :.....

Do you happen to have one of those official town guides lying around the XYL's part of the house (or maybe propping up the front of the scope in the shack?). If so it can serve a good purpose. Ted Stone-street has been telling Al Vasko, W8FRD, all about London and Al (who has not yet been in G) is asking for more gen on our towns which seem to interest him. Ted wants to send him a few of our local guides. So if you have one spare send it off to Ted -- 29 Chaplin Rd, Willesden Green London, NW 2 -- and he will pass it on, Tnx, OMs! Nice work, Ted!

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.....: GRP SOCIETY SPARES SERVICE :.....

(Write direct to SPARES MANAGER, G3CED, 17 Ethel Rd, Broadstairs, Kent. Enclose PLAIN stamped envelope. Do NOT send money.)

WANTED:-- Miniature dual pot for BC342N (50/500K).

VALVES -- 6AK5, 6J5M, 6C4, 6V6M, U52, 5R4GY.

100 Kc/s oscillator or similar, band edge marker

Mod gen for Hallicrafters S20 -- Also for RF24 unit to cover 14, 21 and 28 metres.

FOR SALE:-- J.B. Caliband Drive, complete, 17/6. J.B. two gang

.0003 uF midget variable, 7/6. One pair Wearite

M800 IF transformers, 465 Kc/s, 10/- the pair.

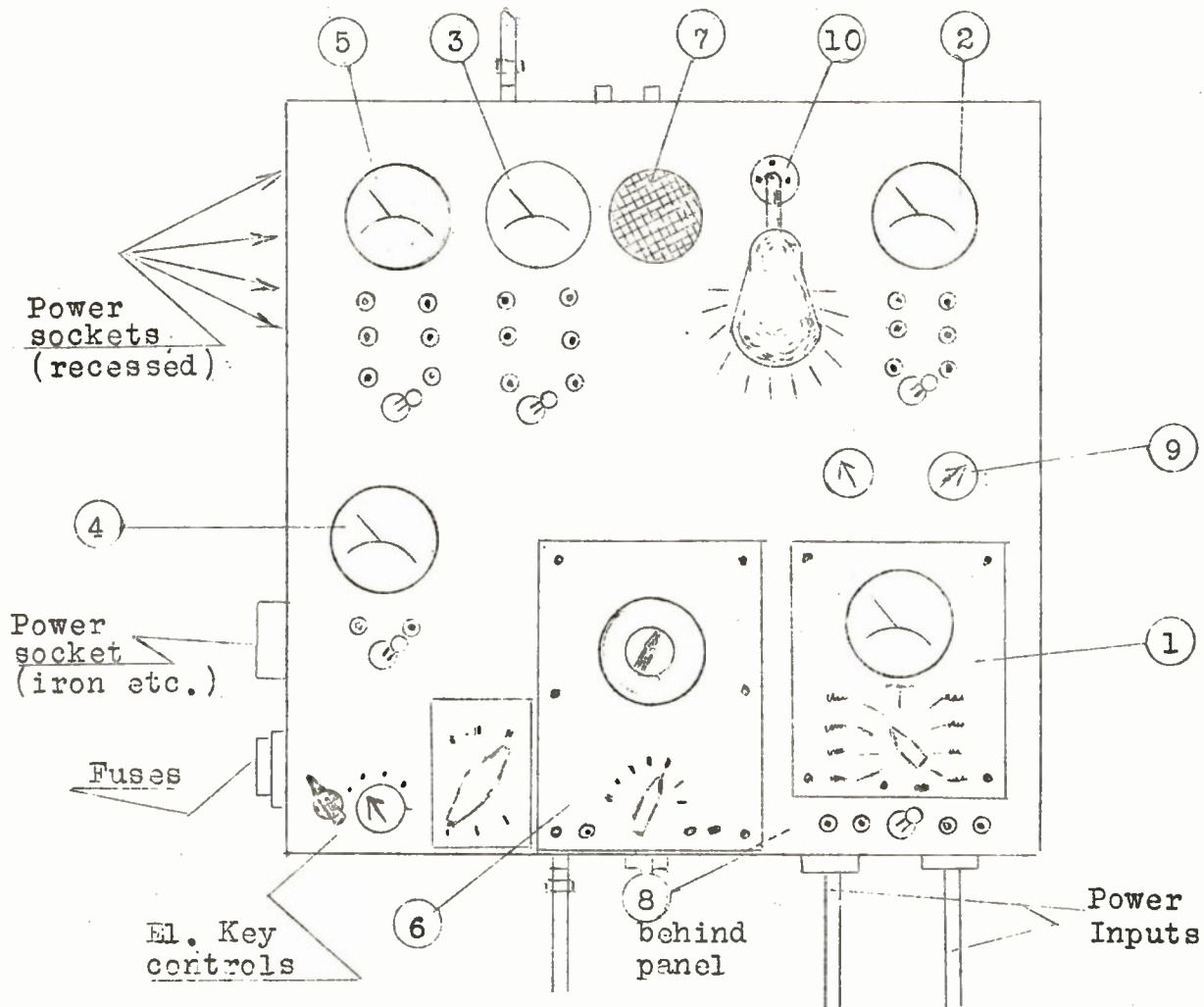
One each 1R5, W17, ZD17, DL94, £1.0.0 the set. ALL THE ABOVE £2.12.6

.....: THE G3CED WALL CONSOLE :.....
(or "HAM PANEL")

The shack at G3CED, being of very small dimensions (the letters "WC" on the door now stand for "Wireless Cabin"), it became necessary to devise some means of dispelling the first impression gained by the visitor that it was a spaghetti factory and, at the same time, to accommodate all the various gadgets in one unit, thereby leaving the bench clear for operating.

The result was a wall panel, 20" x 20" x 2½", built of hardboard on a wooden frame. The back is left open and the whole unit hangs on two hooks at a convenient point above the operating bench. The power pack shelf is immediately underneath the bench and power is taken to the hampanel by one six and one eight-pin Jones plug and socket fitting in the underside of the panel. Output power sockets of the 2 and 3-pin Bulgin recessed type and a 2-pin 5 amp socket and fuses are housed down one side of the panel.

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The following units are built in (see sketch on page 12):--

- (1) - Home made multi-meter (removeable to fit a specially made carrying case for field days etc.)
- (2) - A 0/16v DC voltmeter with switch and parallel sockets. Correct LT voltage is adjusted on power pack.
- (3) - A 0/60/600v AC voltmeter with parallel sockets and switch, normally for monitoring mains voltage.
- (4) - A 0/100 mA meter with sockets.
- (5) - A 0/500v DC voltmeter with switch and parallel sockets, normally for monitoring HT volts on Tx.
- (6) - Resistance capacity bridge -- interchangeable with an inductance bridge.
- (7) - A 3" L.S. with adjustable impedance. Rx output is jacked into one of two paralleled sockets and switched phone or LS output is taken via an FL8A audio filter. Phone output can be taken from two paralleled sockets.
- (8) - Antenna/keying relay with switched provisions for electronic keying (using capacitor "dit" control)
- (9) - Rx antenna tuning unit, screened and fed with co-ax lead via socket at top of panel and thence via co-ax/keying relay/co-ax to Rx in use -- for BK working.
- (10) - Screened light.

Certain modifications are frequently being made to this unit which, apart from being compact, solves the problem of having to search around for various items of test equipment whenever they are needed. There is also an advantage in having meters do a normal monitoring job in addition to being readily available when required for other purposes. The "spaghetti" is still there but in shorter lengths and none of it can be seen.

A similar RF panel is under construction and this is intended to house facilities for field strength metering, phone monitoring, modulation percentage indication and SWR measurement.

.....: THE C - Z CONTEST :.....

The Partridge Cup, presented to the Society by G3CED, is awarded each year to the member submitting the highest annual (Jan to Dec) score of countries and zones heard on five bands with receivers of not more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ watts HT consumption. A country or zone heard on more than one band may count once only in the total. The cup is at present held by Peter Huntsman.

| | Mc/s: -- | <u>3.5</u> | <u>7</u> | <u>14</u> | <u>21</u> | <u>28</u> | <u>Countries</u> | <u>Zones</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------|----------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Norman Bason - - - - | - | 15 | 38 | 135 | 34 | 5 | 140 | 35 | 175 |
| Ted Stonestreet - - - - | - | 30 | 18 | 114 | - | - | 122 | 31 | 153 |
| E.W.Gardiner- - - - | - | 12 | 9 | 95 | 29 | 2 | 115 | 28 | 143 |
| Keith Ranger- - - - | - | - | 59 | 99 | - | - | 106 | 28 | 134 |
| Joe Stephenson- - - - | - | 17 | 2 | 92 | 22 | - | 95 | 26 | 121 |
| Mack McIntosh - - - - | - | 20 | 27 | 72 | - | - | 72 | 26 | 98 |
| D.G.Gordon- - - - | - | 17 | 4 | 60 | 20 | 1 | 68 | 22 | 90 |
| Peter Huntsman- - - - | - | - | - | 36 | - | - | 36 | 17 | 53 |

?-?-?-?-?-?-?-?-?-?-? ? I N T E R E S T ? ?-?-?-?-?-?-?-?-?-?-?-?

Last month I mentioned the case of VP4LW who could find nothing of interest in the Society after a years membership. This month a letter comes to hand from a member who, though still interested enough to renew his sub, says that he wishes that there was more VHF in the mag. A number of other members have failed to renew their subs without any expressed reason. NOW, NOT ONE OF THESE CHARACTERS HAVE EVER WRITTEN A SINGLE LETTER TO US DURING THEIR ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP of the Society.

Now, I'm not grouching or having a purge, but it does seem to me that there may be other members who wish that the mag carried more of interest to them in their own particular sphere of activity. To them I

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would point out that, if they do not write to us and tell us what that particular line happens to be, we cannot be expected to make a feature of it. They expect to tale everything while giving nothing themselves, and things just don't work out that way! I HAVE ALREADY REPEATED THIS AXIOM THREE TIMES IN THIS ISSUE, so perhaps we shall have a spate of letters from people we have never heard from before the next issue is due. You know, even if you have decided that QRP is not worth while it is the least you can do, as a member of the Society, to write and say so. It would lead to the biggest discussion we ever had I am sure!

.....: THE TOP BAND PANEL :.....

(An annual contest for the highest score of countries heard on 160 metres with an Rx consuming a max of 1½ watts HT.)

| | <u>COUNTRIES</u> | <u>COUNTIES</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Bob Iball - - - - - | 16 | 70 | 86 |
| Bill Iball - - - - - | 11 | 57 | 68 |
| Norman Bason - - - - - | 5 | 32 | 37 |
| D.G.Gordon- - - - - | 2 | 27 | 29 |

.....: SOCIETY C O U N C I L FOR 1956 :.....

Every full member of the Society has the right to nominate a member for election to the Council of the Society. All such nominations should be received at HQ not later than OCTOBER 22nd 1955. Nominations will then be published in the following issue of the mag with a form on which all Full Members may record their votes. The results will be announced in the December issue of the mag and the new Council will take up their duties in January 1956. The consent of any member must be obtained before submitting a nomination on his behalf.