

A HISTORY OF THE ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - Part 4

by Bob - WB6IXN, Club Historian

*** THE POST WAR YEARS ***

Here, we concern ourselves with Club history covering the years 1945 - 1957. The Club reorganized after the war in 1945. Roy Maxson, W6DEY, was elected president. [Note that Roy W6DEY will later play another key club role in obtaining the W6ZE call letters for OCARC.] The Club had various meeting places. We met in the Church of the Messiah, 6th & Bush; at Jack Fisher Park in north Santa Ana; at the old Air Force building on 8th Street; and at the Orange County Communication Center, 12502 Placentia Ave., affectionately known as "Dogpatch" since it was located next to the OC Dog Pound!

Orange County was a part of the LA Section from about 1926. However, around 1949, we became part of the San Diego Section, because Dale Bose, W6BWO, was the first SCM from Orange County for the San Diego Section. In 1965, the Orange Section was created. At the first meetings in late 1945, Tommy Gentges, W6ALO; S.T. McNeal, W6LDJ; Charles Boquist, Jr., W6LRL; Charles Boquist, Sr., W6RLQ; Edward "Bruce" Snyder, W6OV; Chuck Lunder, W6CGF (possibly an officer in the Club and living in Orange in 1978); and "Bob" Burton Baird, W6CIG, a post office employee (now a silent key) could all be found on the scene, just to mention a few!

At meetings, too, Bob Swenson, W6HIL, having come to CA in 1946, represented the Marine Corps. He was stationed at the El Toro base and attended Santa Ana College. Many old timers previously mentioned on the pre-war list,

returned to the Club and will not be mentioned here.

In November of 1953, the RF Newsletter was born (Volume 1, Number 1) under somewhat mysterious conditions. Mysterious, because no one knew who the editor was for quite a few months. The RF newsletter was started up by Dr. Marinus Conway W7CRB/W6UUP who just wanted to prepare a simple "who has been heard on the air" letter. Soon many OCARC members were assisting the editor with the publishing chores and by adding news of coming events, technical articles, and write-ups on new radio equipment. The first technical article (appearing in Vol 1, No 2), "Scotchman's Modulator" was submitted by Earl Griffin W6ZE. Yes, Earl Griffin is the original holder of the W6ZE call letters now used by the OCARC!! 'RF' was an immediate success! Over 400 copies were distributed at the expense of the editor and two other OPs. It is good to know that the traditions of the early RF Newsletter live on today....with Volume 49, Number 6 "hot off the press".

A NEW ERA

The OCARC activities slowed down in the mid-1950s. Eventually the meetings stopped. Formation of the OCARC once again took place on Oct. 22, 1958 under the urging of Ted Glick, KN6LJA. The first meeting was in the upstairs attic room of Johnny Angel's Cash & Carry Store, This location later became the Santa Ana Electronics store (now closed) at the corner of 4th & Oak Streets. Nine or ten members were present. Acting officers were: Ken Kessel, W6BVI, President, and George Sinsel, W6HJG, Secretary-Treasurer.

(to be continued next month
...Bob Evans, WB6IXN, Club Historian.)