‘RF’ NEWSLETTER HAS MYSTERIOUS BIRTH

by Bob Evans WB6IXN
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Probably the most appropriate beginning for our mystery would be the conception of the idea of a paper, by W7CRB, to be published monthly for radio amateurs here in Southern California. W7CRB had been inspired by a column in QST entitled, “CALLS HEARD”. He thought that such a column in a local paper would be the nucleus for its continuance. CRB had been licensed in the state of Washington in 1932. He also held the call of W7DBB (for portable operation in those days). Ed. note: (Know whom I am talking abt??…Then HUSH!…Let’s keep the younger OPs guessing, as did our very first mysterious editor of ‘RF’ when he publish ANONYMOUSLY the first copy of ‘RF’ on Nov. 27, 1953).

Horace Bates, W6QZQ, and Rehse Mowry, W6OZO, helped our mystery editor with publication chores. ‘RF’ was an immediate success! Over 400 copies were distributed at the expense of the editor and two other OPs. But I can keep you in suspense no longer! As Shakespeare so aptly put it, “The truth will out!” Our first editor of ‘RF’ was:

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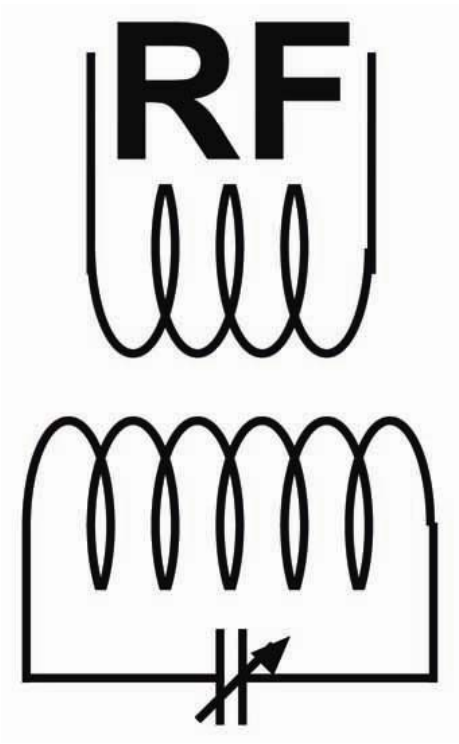
Here is an excerpt from the June 11, 1954 issue of ‘RF’:

“ ‘RF’ was started by W6UPP in Nov. 1953 and was merely intended to be a local news sheet for nearby clubs, for announcements, etc. The response of the first few issues was so overwhelming that it was obvious that ‘RF’ was destined to expand and need a transfusion of new blood to keep it alive. At the onset, the able assistance of Earl-W6ZE kept ‘RF’ alive, until W6OZO and W6QZQ, who were breathing down the editor’s neck and abt to make a kill of the discovery, were recruited as co-editors, and co-financiers, around March 1954. Needless to say, ‘RF’ was not a financial success. However, we had encouragement from commercial advertisers, and ‘RF’ became ‘RF of Western Wireless’. However, this venture was not successful, and OCARC took over publication of ‘RF’ with Vol 2, No. 1, dated. 11/13/1954.”

So now you know that the RF newsletter was started up by Dr. Marinus Conway W7CRB/W6UPP. The OCARC members owe a debt of gratitude to Dr Conway for starting the fine tradition of RF newsletters.

Thanks to the efforts of Optical-ScanMaster Bob AF6C and WebMaster Ken W6HHC, PDF copies of RF Newsletter Vol 1, No 1 and Vol 1 No 2 have been placed on the OCARC WEB SITE (under "Monthly RF Newsletter" link) for you to enjoy.

A Bit of History



This symbol is a reproduction of the heading for the first issue of RF newsletter dated November 27, 1953. The original logo was hand drawn.

Issues Number One and Two of Volume One of the RF are now posted on our web site thanks to OCARC Historian, Bob – WB6IXN.