

# PACK RATS



## PACK RATS

CLUB CALL: W3CCX

MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB, INC.

# CHEESE BITS



MT. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC., PHILADELPHIS, PENNSYLVANIA ARNS  
 (50.2, 145.2, 221.4, 432.03 & 1296.3 MHz)  
 AFFILIATED CLUB: AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE  
 MEETINGS: THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 8:00 P.M.  
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VOLUME XVI

JANUARY, 1974

NUMBER 1

### THE PREZ SEZ

Father Time continues his relentless march, the leaves of the calendar fall one by one, and suddenly it is 1974. Best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year to all. And may the QRM of the recent contest have ceased ringing in your ears.

The start of a new year is most appropriate time to reflect upon accomplishments of the year just concluded. For the Pack Rats there were many including the winning of our 13th consecutive VHF Sweepstakes gavel in January, a delightful Ladies Night in May, a third place finish in the June QSO Party, a fun-filled picnic in August, the acquisition of a 220 MHz FM repeater (WR3ACD) in September and a most successful Hamarama in October. Add to the above our 9 indoor and 3 outdoor meetings and it is apparent that 1973 was also a busy year - particularly for our Cheese Bits editor who gave us 12 issues containing interesting and timely material.

Now for an about-face and a look at the agenda of club activities for 1974. The first items, chronologically, are the delivery of completed contest logs to the respective co-ordinators by January 11 followed by the contest wrap-up on January 19. Following these are most of the activities included in the list of accomplishments above. A great deal of planning and elbow grease will be required to complete them with the same degree of success enjoyed in 1973. Chairmen are needed for these events and volunteers are requested. Resolve to become a little bit more involved in club activities and to work just a little bit harder for their accomplishments. Lets have an equally successful year in 1974.

Dick, W3FQD

\* \* \*

(From the Evening Bulletin - Monday, December 24, 1973)

### PATIENTS TO SEND GREETINGS BY HAM RADIO

By Judy Tucker

Patients at four area hospitals will be able to send free radio Christmas greetings tomorrow to friends and family in this country and abroad.

The city's only Explorer Post ham radio unit, based in Glenside, will make the service available at Germantown Hospital.

PACK RATS' CHEESE BITS IS A PUBLICATION OF THE MT. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC. PHILADELPHIA, PA. AND IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

10¢ PER COPY \$1.00 PER YEAR

WE OPERATE ON AN EXCHANGE BASIS WITH OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND ANYTHING THAT IS PRINTED IN CHEESE BITS MAY BE REPRINTED, UNLESS SO STATED, AS LONG AS THE PROPER CREDIT IS GIVEN.

\* \* \* \* \*

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

SWAP SHOP ITEMS - NO CHARGE

EDITOR:

W3CL, HARRY B. STEIN  
2087 PARKDALE AVENUE  
GLENSIDE, PA. 19038  
215 - TU 7-5052

PUBLISHER AND SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER:

K3GAS, DOC CUTLER  
7815 NEW SECOND STREET  
ELKINS PARK, PA. 19117  
215 - ME 5-1078

PRINTER:

K3ZKO, RON COHEN  
6629 NORTH 5TH STREET  
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215 - 224-3036

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DIRECTORS' MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS.

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>MONDAY NIGHT NETS:</u> | <u>NET CONTROL</u> |
| 145.2 - 7:30 P.M.         | W2EIF              |
| 50.2 - 8:30 P.M.          | W3CL/W3GEW         |
| 221.4 - 9:00 P.M.         | K3GAS              |
| 432.03 - 9:30 P.M.        | K3IUV              |
| 1296.3 - 10:00 P.M.       | K1SFF/3            |

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>FRIDAY NIGHT NET:</u> | <u>NET CONTROL</u> |
| 439.250 ATV NET -        | K3ZKO/WA3AXV       |
| 19:00 HRS.               |                    |

# A 5

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS  
Syllabus by Lee, K3MXM

JANUARY

- 1           HAPPY NEW YEAR
- 5 - 6       VHF SS CONTEST
- 7           Give your number of contacts and section count on the Monday Nite Nets.
- 9           Board of Directors Meeting - QTH - W3KKN
- 15          Space Net Contest Logs Due - Mail to WB2MTU
- 17          General Club Meeting - "Crying Towel Session"  
If you haven't turned your logs into your co-ordinator please bring them with you to the meeting or arrange to have someone bring them for you. This meeting is one of the best and funniest of the year. There are naturally awards for the saddest and worst story and tale generated by the contest. The meeting is open to one and all. Refreshments will be served.
- 19          Wrap-up Session and counting of the points at Dave Zimmerman's W3ZD. This Saturday morning meeting usually starts around 10 A.M. and goes through lunch time.
- 26,27       ARRL simulated emergency test (SET)

FEBRUARY

- 13          Board of Directors Meeting
- 21          General Club Meeting - "Home Brew Nite"  
There are many categories and groups so bring in that pet project whatever it might be and show off to your peers what you have been doing down the cellar these many nites.
- DUES ARE DUE AND PAYABLE.
- \$8.00 Regular Members  
\$4.00 Retired Members  
\$1.00 Cheesbit Subscribers

SPECIAL DATE TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR - OCTOBER 6, 1974, 1974   PACK RAT  
HAMARAMA

\* \* \*

HOME BREW NITE

The Pack Rat Annual Home Brew Nite is scheduled for the February Meeting. Home Brew Nite is my favorite meeting of the year. Many fine completed projects and projects in progress are presented each year. The projects are usually VHF oriented, but cover the whole spectrum of the ham radio experience including automatic keyers, antennas, attenuators as well as the popular power amplifiers and receiving converters. This event provides a terrific opportunity for the exchange of construction ideas.

CONTINUED

## HOME BREW NITE CONTINUED

This year you are again encouraged to present home built ham radio projects. Not only successful projects, but those that didn't work out are being solicited. Construction articles in the radio journals are not always easily reproduced. By telling us about the portion of a construction project that gave you difficulty, maybe you can prevent someone else from grief. With the wealth of talent represented by our membership, perhaps we can diagnose the problem in your home built item.

Among others, prizes will be awarded for the home brew project displaying the most ingenuity and the most miserable failure. See you at Home Brew Nite.

Tony, KLSFF/3

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO HAMS

By Lyn, W3NSI

1. 80 Watt 2M FM Amplifier Kit - Dycomm has added a kit type amplifier to their line of 2M FM equipment. This unit, the "Super D" will boost the output of a Clegg 27B to 80 watts output, from either mobile or fixed station (11-15 VDC power required). The unit wired and tested sells for \$150, and it appears that this will be a limited time offer at this kit price of \$49.95. 948 Ave. E. P.O. Box 10116, Riviera Beach, Fla. 33404

2. Base Station Control Unit - 2M Pace #P5407 - This unit manufactured by Pace Div. of Pathcom Inc. - can be used to check SWR, power output in 3 ranges (5, 50, and 500 watts), and audio quality. The 5 and 50 watt ranges use a built in dummy load, while the 500 watt range samples the RF in the line on the way to the antenna system. When RF is passing through the unit, an "on the air" sign lights on the front panel. A TVI filter is also built in. Pace Communications, Box 306 Harbor City, Calif. 90710

3. Metrum II - 2M FM Trans/Rec. - Motorola has now made available two high quality FM transceiver units, one running 10 watts out, the other 25 watts out. Both have a 1 watt switchable option, for local QSOs. One crystal is required for both transmit and receive in simplex mode, rather than one for each as on most rigs. For repeater operation, selected from the front panel (push button), an "offset" crystal must be purchased. Unit is shipped with 146.94 installed in one of the 12 channels. A preamp is built into the microphone. Price \$400 & \$500 (10 & 25 watt) Motorola Dealers have more information.

\* \* \*

## CD NEWS BY TOM GIBSON, W3EAG

Montgomery County Civil Defense has inaugurated radioteletype service for its network of radio amateur volunteers known as the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. The first broadcast was Monday, December 3rd, from network control station W3EAG, Norristown Pa. The National Weather Service zone forecasts for eastern Pennsylvania are transmitted each day Monday through Friday at 6:15 PM on frequencies of 52.60 MHz and 146.835 MHz. Following the weather forecasts, Civil Defense messages and amateur radio message traffic is transmitted.

The operation of this network makes it possible for radio amateurs with radioteletype equipment in the area to receive printed copy of the weather reports and Civil Defense messages off the air. Such capability is of utmost importance in cases of emergency such as the hurricane Agnes flooding in 1972. Although the network is under the direction of Montgomery County Civil Defense, all radio amateurs in the greater Philadelphia area are invited and urged to participate. Message traffic from all amateurs will be accepted. Further information may be obtained by calling Tom Gibson, Civil Defense Communications Officer, at 631 0561 Monday through Friday. Transmissions are FM, AFSK (F2) wide shift. Mark tone is 2125 Hz. Space tone is 2975 Hz.

VHF REPORT

By Jo, W2EIF

The latter half of November and the first half of December have not produced much activity on the UHF/VHF bands. There have been some small openings on six meters as is customary at this time of year. The Es season is just peaking up in the Southern Hemisphere and as always we get a little peak in Es at the Northern Hemisphere. There was a meteor shower which peaked up on the nite of December 13. This produced some bursts on six and two meters, particularly on six where stations from Alabama and around to the upper Midwest were heard here. Contacts had to be fast as the bursts were not long enough to handle anything except exchanges of reports, QTH's and names. I was heard on 2 meters by W9YYP in Chicago and by W0LER in Minneapolis. Both called me but I did not hear them as usual! The recent ice storm damaged some antenna systems and resulted in some frozen rotators, indication, high VSWR. I hope everyone gets there antenna problems straightened out by the contest time! I hope everyone gets the score they planned on in the contest!!! Good luck and sincere Holiday Greetikgs to all.

Jo, W2EIF

P.S. Jo made a good CW contact with KLPXE on 1296 MHz on December 21st. (140 mile path)

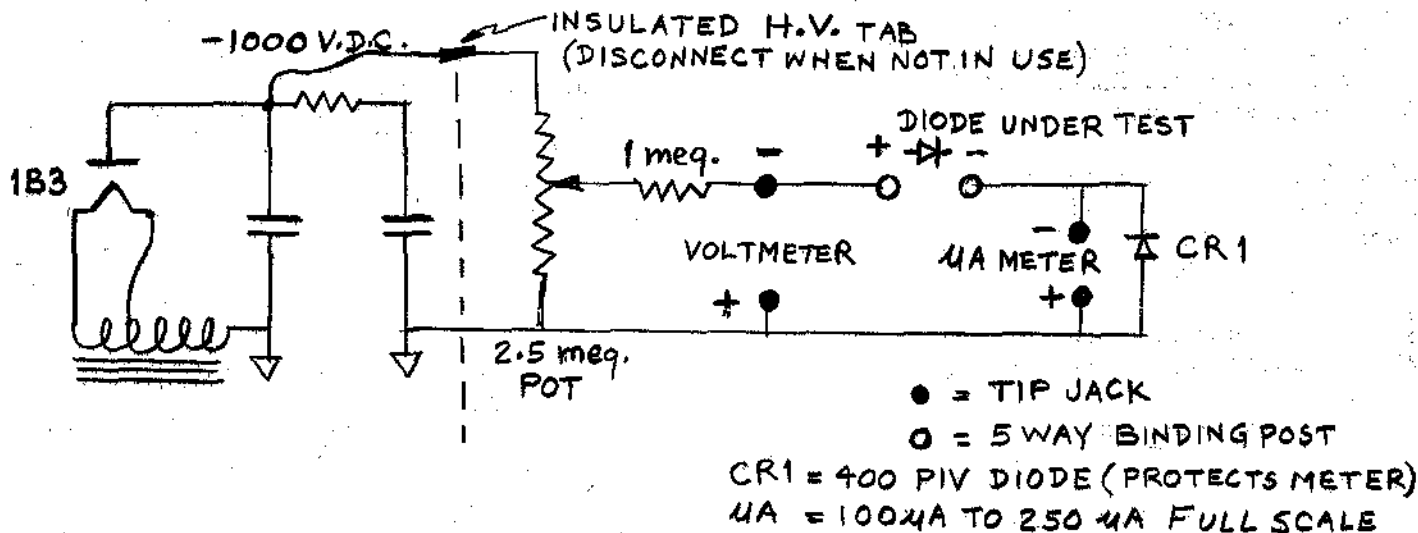
\* \* \*

SIMPLE PIV DIODE TESTER

Walt Bohlman, K3BPP

The ARRL Handbook shows a simple diode piv tester. (Page 551, 1969) The circuit requires an Adjustable H.V. source which is somewhat of a problem. Oscilloscopes usually have a B+ of 5-1000 V.D.C. at very low current. The following is a circuit that I use quite successfully.

Oscilloscope Circuit



The above circuit was built on a plexiglass sheet. To test - insert unknown diode into binding posts. Start at 0 voltage and gradually increase the voltage (2.5 meg. pot) until current starts to increase. This voltage is about 80 of usable P.I.V. of diode.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 457 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON, CT. DECEMBER 13, 1973 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT: A new radio service for emergency medical use has been proposed by the Federal Communications Commission in Docket 19880. The Notice of Inquiry and Proposed Rulemaking relies heavily on a study by Advanced Technology Systems, Inc. and another by the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee, IRAC. In the IRAC report are recommendations for 38 frequencies ranging from 43 to 469 MHz, including the frequencies 449.85, 449.90 and 449.95 MHz presently allocated to the government radiolocation and amateur services on a shared basis. The documents convey a sense of urgency and, accordingly, usually close deadlines have been set for comment and reply comment, January 10 and 25, respectively. AR

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 458 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT. DECEMBER 20, 1973 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT: The ARRL Board of Directors meets twice annually to formulate the course of ARRL affairs. The first meeting of 1974 will take place January 17. The full members of the League elect the Board which has the overall responsibility for managing the affairs of ARRL. This democratic process is effective only to the extent that the membership participates. Now is the time for all members to communicate with their division directors. The director listing appears on page 8 of QST. AR

\* \* \*

#### "OBSCURATION"

HK is the meteorologist's short hand notation for haze and smoke, an entry frequently seen on visibility records during autumn stagnation periods when VHF and UHF signals are so strong. Quite an appropriate choice of letters you'll agree if you have ever heard W3HK's scientific ramblings on the Monday night Pack Rat 2 meter Net.

Tony, KLSFF/3

\* \* \*

#### SPACE NET REPORT

The 9 day VHF Space Net Contest is over. The peak of activity seemed to be the first week-end but contact numbers over 175 were heard by the end of the period. Pack-Rats please clear your score via K3ACR and mail in your logs for club credit before Jan. 15th. All participants will receive a special Space Net Quiz - Photos of astronauts - 25 prizes in all.

#### SPACE NET SCHEDULE FOR 1974

April 6 & 7 Honoring Skylab I (W5LEL will be operating)  
July 21 & 22 5th Anniversary of Landing on Moon, Appolo 11  
October 5 & 6 Skylab II  
December 7 & 8 Skylab III.

Tony also announces a new certificate will be issued to all check-in's on the Space Net in 1974. Don't forget Friday Nights 8:00 P.M. on 50.2 MHz. A Happy New Year To All.

Harry, W3CL

Tony's mailing address : WB2MTU, Space Net Director  
Box 909, Sicklerville, N.J. 08081

\* \* \*

#### 1974 HAMVENTION NEWS (FROM THE DAYTON A.R.A. "RF" CARRIER)

The usual open house will be held on Friday April 26th, with the following two for full programs. Program chairman, Mel Levy, WA8YKV is now scheduling speakers for the sessions to run on both Sat and Sun, 27th & 28th, starting at 0900 to 1200 and from 1330 to 1700 Hrs. He already has the main forum times lined up so that there will be the least conflict on similar subjects. The Flea Market is scheduled for the last two days so everyone will not have to look around for the best deals. The Advance Flyer is scheduled for printing and 1st mailing on Dec. 15th, and will ready for the numerous inquiries when the Hamvention ads hit the Jan. Magazines. A copy of the flyer will be included with the Jan. R.F. Carrier mailed to members and exchange clubs for their bulletins. Plans are moving along and the only thing that can slow the '74 Hamvention from being the World's largest is a gasoline or transportation shortage. But hams have a way of solving the most unusual problems ~~~

MT. AIRY V.H.F. RADIO CLUB, INC.



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K3MM

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|  |   |   |
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SWAP SHOP

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12" Wolverine Speaker \$20.00

To our advertisers - The new ads will be printed in the February, 1974 issue and continue each month until January, 1975, inclusive.

CONTACT: Joseph Bawduniak  
Meeting House Road  
Ambler, Pa. R.D. 1  
643-3045

\* \* \*

Some weeks ago an article appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer entitled "AND TONIGHT, LIVE, FROM OAK LANE. . .", a human interest story on Ham TV. Our Friday Night ATV Net participants K3ZKO, WA3AXV and K3GAS among others were interviewed. The article was reprinted in a Los Angeles Newspaper and a reader recognized the name of Doc Cutler, K3GAS. Doc received a greeting card from the "kid next door" forty-five years later. Did you say kid, Doc?



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SIX METER REPORT  
By Rich Pattison, K3ACR

December showed a marked up swing in activity as contest preparations were in full effect for two contests. The first of which was the Space Net Contest. All sorts of stations came out of the woodwork. Good to hear so many on. The second contest is the January VHF SS on Jan. 5 & 6, hope to hear everyone on for this one.

As the winter weather sets in many rotators froze up and some rigs were heard that needed some work done on them before the contests got into full swing. We wish everyone the best of luck in contest, as well as for 1974.

We would like to remind everyone about some of the nets that are on six meters SSB. Sunday mornings starting at 9:30 a.m. on 50.175 KLMUC from Mass. conducts the Yankee Net. At 10:00 AM, WA3QLS conducts the Delaware SSB net on 50.150. Then at 11:00 AM the East Coast VHF SSB net on 50.175 with alternating net control stations. Remember to get your logs for the Space Net Contest into Tony Slapkowski, WB2MTU, Space Net Contest, Box 909, Sicklerville, N.J. 08081 by Jan. 15, 1974. Once again, we wish all the best of seasons festivities, with a happy and peaceful life in harmony with each other.

73, Rich  
\* \* \*

HAPPINESS IS . . .  
Submitted by W3HK

HAPPINESS IS . . .

Being able to QSL for a long message with a QSA-2 signal before a near-by ship opens up on full power.

Receiving letters from home upon arrival in a foreign port - especially if you have been away for a long long time.

Having a R.I. tell you "well done" on your license exam.

Pay day and an unexpected Christmas bonus from the Steamship Company. (Well I can dream)!

Fixing balky and malfunctioning equipment with the last spare... and it holds.

Finding a spot on your favorite piece of galena that brings them all alive!

Knowing that the Coast Station ops recognize your first well enough that they ak when you sine. . . dit dit.

Calling a Coast Station after a long string of QTC's and snagging it first.

Exhilaration at making landfall in the home port just before Christmas.

Shooting the breeze in the Static Room and having all of your old shipmates drop in.

Good health! Good friends! Respect and the esteem of most everyone. If you have these. . . you have about everying!

73, Bill Breniman  
\* \* \*

TID BITS

Congratulations to John & Lorraine Taylor (K3DMA) who were married on December 15th.

Congratulations to the Mascaros (WA3JUF) David Jr. arrived November 20th.

From the Midland Amateur Radio Society November newsletter, we learn that our friend Bob Palmer, G5PP was hospitalized for a bit of surgery. A speedy recovery Bob.

CONTINUED

Congratulations to Connie-Mac, W3SW and Jesse, W3KT on their election to Atlantic Division Director and Vice-Director respectfully.

Best wishes to Fred, WA3NUG on his recent election as President of the Mobile Sixers.

To "SCOPE" editor - John, WB8QPE - Mailing address of North Texas 220 News please. An informal newsletter "220 and up" has appeared regarding VHF-SHF communications in the Washington, Virginia, Maryland area. For information contact: John Oehlen-Schlager (K0MOC/WAYEMO) 3900 DeSoto Court Woodbridge, Va. 22191.

We learned that Sid, W3GEW, was rushed to Jeanes Hospital after a harrowing ride through the heavy fog the evening of the December 20th meeting. A speedy recovery, Sid.

Change of address - Bruce Cooper, K3WGJ  
2927 Berkley Street  
Ardmore, Pa. 19003  
215 - 896-7747

We had a nice chat via telcon on December 21st with Chuck WA3LNH/1. He wishes all a happy holiday season. His phone 617-897-4575.

The editor and XYL Sylvia spent a delightful Christmas Eve visit with the Prez. W3FQD and his XYL Mary.

\* \* \*

PATIENTS TO SEND GREETINGS BY HAM RADIO CONTINUED

A small corps of adult amateur radio operators will cooperate in a similar message service at Abington Memorial, Holy Redeemer and Lankenau Hospitals.

Between 8:30 A.M. and mid-afternoon on Christmas Day, members of Explorer Post 681 will be on duty at their headquarters at 111 S. Easton Road.

They will receive messages beamed to them from other Explorers and the adult ham operators stationed at the other hospitals with transmitters.

Then, using more powerful transmitters, Explorers at the Glenside base will retransmit each patient's message through a chain of amateur radio operators across the country. Finally, when an operator in the recipient city receives a message, he will make the final transmission by telephone. Peter Shavney, (WA3OVH) Explorer Post advisor and chairman of the 20-member radio club, expects up to 10 boys tomorrow at the Easton Road clubhouse, located in his home. Three or four other Explorers will be at the Germantown Hospital.

The adult radio operators working at the other three hospitals will have their messages relayed both through the Explorer base in Glenside and through a military frequency. Lee A. Cohen (K3MXM) of Elkins Park will send messages from Abington Memorial Hospital; Jerry Coumbs of Morton will work from Lankenau Hospital, and Robert Field of Melrose Park and Martin Shapiro of Rydal will transmit from Holy Redeemer.

Shavney said the Explorers were willing to give up Christmas Day with their own families to participate in the project. "They realize what a good morale thing this is going to be for the patients" he said. "We are able to send messages to any place in the world," said Shavney. "Last year, when we tried this for the first time, our furthest message went to Australia." They expect a minimum of 300 messages from the four hospitals, he said. (WA3OVH and K3MXM are Pack-Rats -- Nice work fellows).

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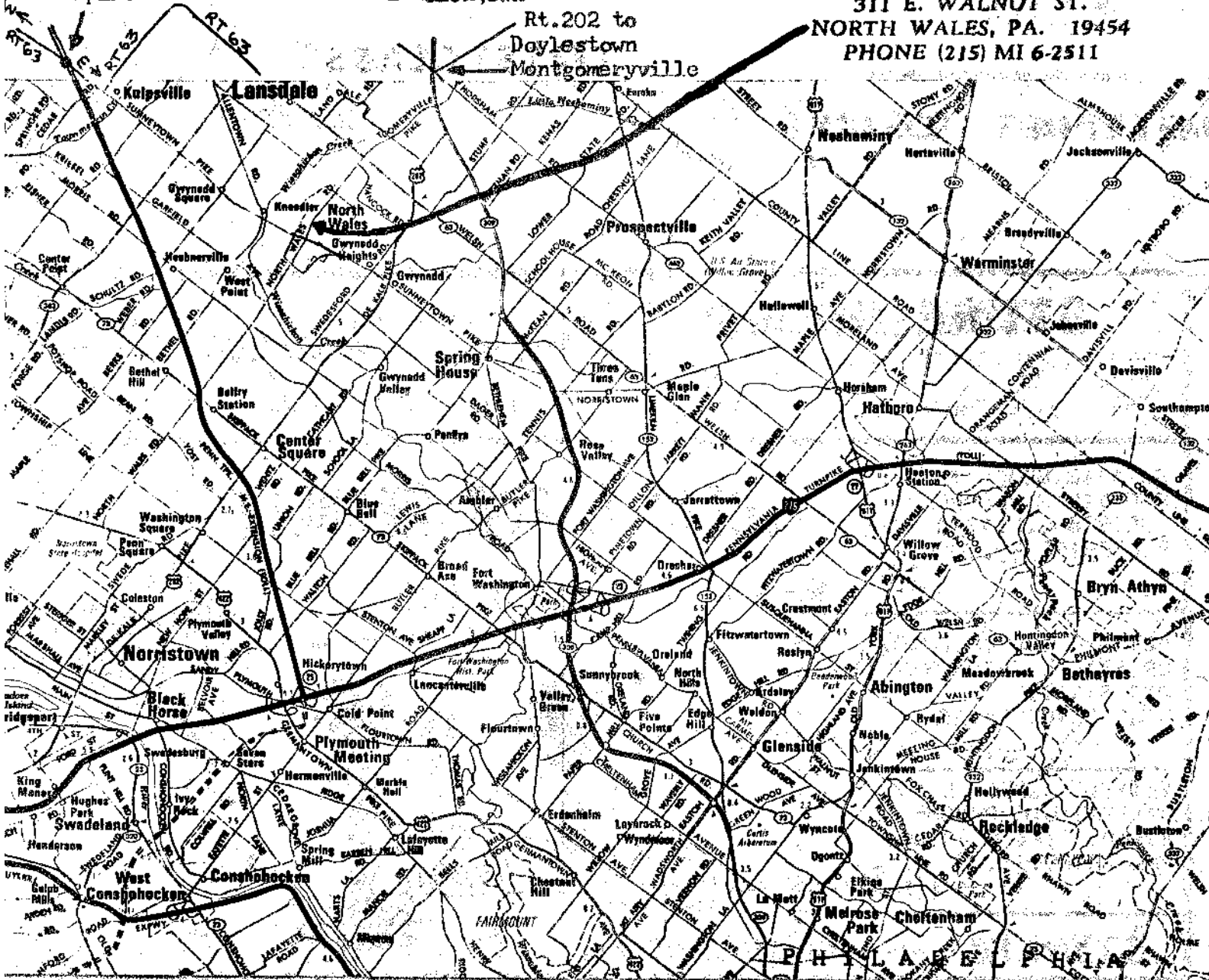
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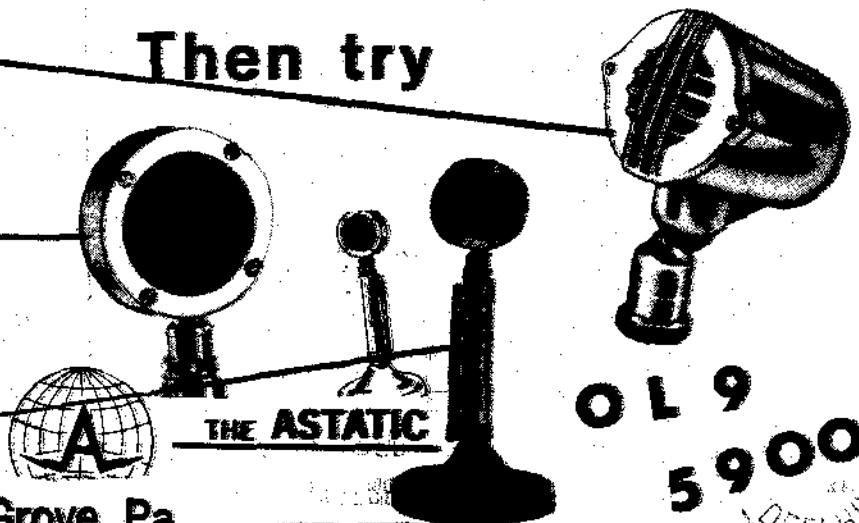
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