

# THE RADIO RECORD

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## Summer-Time Radio

### Time for Picnics and Portables

*Come Summer go Radio is a maxim not without foundation. Due to the irresistible claim of the beach, the receiver is forgotten and remains behind untended while the crashes of static, unwelcome concomitants of summer, break harmlessly through.*

*Whether outdoors or in, music brings cheer and musical instruments can usually find an opening in every pleasure party. For this reason gramophones are popular, in spite of the fact that they entail the transportation of numerous and breakable records.*

*Just as this instrument has earned popularity so the future of the portable receiver is assured.*



UMMER immediately conjures up visions of grassy banks, shady trees singing birds, delightful beaches, and to the radio enthusiasts a good portable set. The optimist thinks at once of some delightful spot miles away from the dust and roar of traffic where he can sit after lunch and listen to the music of his home station. The pessimist dwells on the hopelessness of trying to enjoy oneself with a portable receiver, unless there is a car within close range to carry the "thing" home, of an obstinate fire which will not burn with wet wood, of mosquitoes and of dust.

When both sides of the case are considered, however, a good light, efficient, portable receiver adds to the enjoyment of picnics and excursions. Most of these parties nowadays, when within reasonable range of home, take a portable gramophone, but from the limitations necessarily imposed it can be seen that the wireless set, which embodies many of the better features of the gramophone, can yet be more popular. Good reception can be assured when reasonable precaution is taken, and when a moderately good circuit is employed. Of course there is the very troublesome question of batteries for good reception, apart from high voltage, and heavy current drain, cannot be fully realised. One must be prepared to make certain compromises; he must not expect reproduction such as he would obtain from his multi-valve receiver with its power amplifier and dynamic cone speaker. The fact of being able to receive news from the home town, or music from the nearest station is alone a good enough incentive to warrant the presence of a portable receiver.

Excellent receivers may be purchased and no doubt very many picnickers will be prepared to obtain their portable in this manner rather than go to the trouble of designing and building one. In such a receiver problems that we are going to discuss will not be present, but without a doubt the greatest fun comes from using a receiver that one has designed and built, rather than one which has been purchased "ready made."

The first problem presenting itself to the operator of both commercial and home-made portable receivers is the aerial. In nearly every case these receivers are equipped with a frame antenna which is no more than an enlarged grid coil built into the lid of the receiving cabinet. The use of this type has decided compensations, although it will undoubtedly be weaker in signal strength. During summer months there are quite a number of storms and occasionally some of them are very severe. When an outside antenna (aerial) is used very many people are afraid of the lightning danger. Actually, this is very remote, but nevertheless a lightning arrester should be placed in series with

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*Music, news, weather reports—these add to the pleasure of any camping party and they can be brought only by radio. Portable sets are in demand, and to meet this need our next issue will be devoted to the description of two portable receivers. One is so compact that it can be placed in any tramper's pack or camper's supplies. It will give good 'phone reception of New Zealand and Australian stations and loudspeaker volume from the local. The other is ideal when the car is taken. It is stronger and when used with an aerial will bring in even the big Australians on the speaker. Yet both these are easily constructed.*