

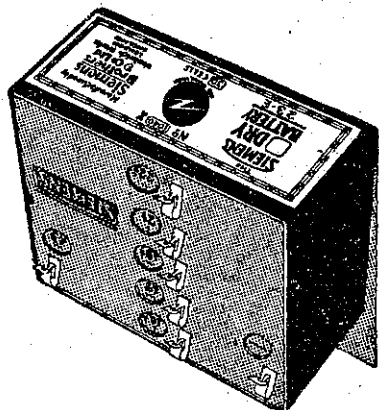
closed after playing our National Anthem, the last two hours being a special New Zealand-Australian programme. Reception was very poor, being gushy with crackling static. W2XAF was also very poor, being only R4 at its best.

W2XAD was R4 at 1 p.m., but had gone when tried for just after 2 p.m. On 30.7 (about) music was just audible, strength improved, but speech was not readable. The station closed a little before 3 p.m.

W3XAL were R3 at 4 p.m., increasing to R8 by 4.30 p.m., when they closed. KZRM at 8.10 p.m. were R4 with records. At 10.45 p.m. strength was R7 with strong gush. RA97 were R9 with very bad static at 10 p.m. At 11.30 p.m. they were still R9 with static almost absent. On their first harmonic they were received at R7.

Was It the Vatican?

LAST week on Wednesday evening, 2-4-30, I heard a new station testing; I believe it to be the new Vatican station at Rome. At approximately 7.30 p.m. I tuned in on about 25 metres, when a gramophone record was being played. Signal strength was R8-9, very clear and steady. At the conclusion the announcer said, "Allo, Allo, Rome testing; Hullo, Hullo, VRO, Rome, testing." He repeated this several times, but I would not be sure of the call—it might be 3RO. Later frequency tests were carried out. This



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"Five Point" Amateur Conversations

Unique Telephony Stunt

FIVE North Island amateur transmitters on the 80-metre band accomplished "five-point" telephony conversation last Wednesday night. The "hams" who took part in this unique test believe it is the first occasion that a "five-point" conversation has taken place in amateur quarters in New Zealand, and I think they are right. That it is an art is proved by the fact that the transmitters were made by the owners and operators concerned—a fact that makes the accomplishment all the more worthy.

The stations concerned, with their owners' names, are: ZL 2BE Hastings (Mr. Jas. Mills); ZL 2AX, Palmerston North (Mr. Jas. V. Kyle); ZL 2AW, Wellington (Mr. Roy Clarke); ZL 2AB,

station is undoubtedly the same one as Mr. Sellens queries.

Last week many Australian amateurs have been heard testing on 'phone on 40 metres, and are received here at surprising strength. One Australian "ham" received was VK2RF, Sydney, and a card was received from him yesterday stating that he uses only 33 watts input, and seems to be obtaining excellent results, as his signals were received here perfectly at R9 on the speaker. Many others have been heard at R9, as loud as many of our New Zealand "hams."

In a letter received from Siam recently they state they are operating the following stations:—HS2PJ, on 29.5 metres using 500 watts; HS1PJ, on 300 metres using 300 watts. Both these stations operate from 1300 to 1600 G.M.T., and perhaps some D.X. listeners may be able to pick up the latter station.

Mr. Rogers includes a letter from the French short-wave station FW4 which contains some interesting information. In an enclosure the call signs and wavelengths of several other stations operated by presumably the same concern are given. For three stations the same wavelength is given for two calls differing by the last letter. In each case one is "O" and the other "E." In a footnote it is explained that directional antennae are used and the energy directed to the east is denoted by the letter "E" and that to the west the letter "O."

The letter reads: "We are in receipt of your letter of December 29 and thank you for its contents. Our station FWH does not always transmit telephony on 24.5 metres. We use FTM on 15.5 to 15.8 metres at 18.30 GMT with Buenos Aires. You will find enclosed a list of our stations and their wavelengths. With regards, I. Nounir, Director of External Affairs."

The enclosure reads:—
Wavelength and call signs of transmitters at St.-Assise.

FTD, 15.12.
FRO and FRE, 15.45 (2).
FTM, 15.50 (1).
FTD and FTE, 16.44 (2).
FTN, 24.46.
FOO and FQE, 24.67 (2).
FTL, 30.15.
FTF, 38.61.

(1) Telephony Paris-Buenos Aires.
(2) When one station has two call signs for the one wavelength, for example (FRO and FRE) it means that the directional aerial is able to project energy either eastward (FRE) or westward (FRO).

["E" for l'Est—east, "O" for l'Ouest—west.—Ed.]

Otaki (Mr. D. Wilkinson); and ZL 2BY, Wanganui (Mr. C. T. Berry).

Shortly after the New Zealand broadcast stations closed down a three-cornered talk was being engaged in by 2AX, 2AB and 2BY; and at the same hour another two "Hams," namely, 2BE and 2AW, were also having a friendly chat.

It was suggested by the trio that they should bring in the other two, but the difficulty was for one or other of the trio to hop on to one of the duo just at the right moment so as to attract his attention.

Before long this was accomplished, and off set the quintet on a real radio excursion; the "chaff" from a certain listener about the "Fishing Village," and the wonderful city of the Hawke's Bay plains, plus many more humorous references to each other's city or village, created sufficient discussion between the "five" that there was plenty of good-humoured "dough boys" to throw at each other for two hours. One suggested a "wet" Otaki, but was corrected to the extent that Otaki is a "dry" area, much to the amusement of the others. The forthcoming "ham" conference in Wellington will be attended by several of these gentlemen, and, coming just prior to same, the contest on Wednesday night will prove interesting indeed.

So far as transmission goes, without in any way separating the five enthusiastic "hams," it might be said that 2BE, Hastings, was received best in Wellington, excepting, of course, 2AW, who lives here.

Then followed fairly close 2AX, Palmerston North, the latter's transmission being excellent and much above his usual standard owing probably to his using a generator. 2BE, of course, is usually perfect, as was the case Wednesday last.

The other up-country "hams," 2AB and 2BY, were both good. No doubt listeners who heard the fine performance will agree that that two hours' "stunt" was worth the 30/- license fee.

Four-cornered communication between "hams" has been heard previously, but I believe this is the first time a five-point "chat" has been put over in New Zealand, and possibly in Australia and New Zealand. It was certainly unique and proves that here in New Zealand those following the most delightful, entertaining, and not a little difficult art of amateur transmitting have done much toward the entertainment of listeners. One thing missing from the stage effects was 2BE's pet dog "Spot," which plays an important part each week.

Well done, the "Big Five"; let's have some more of it, and next time some music as well.

I predict before long a seven-cornered contest. What about it? ZL 2AX, Palmerston North, was last signing off at 12.22 a.m.—R. Leslie Jones (Wellington).

What is Radio Coming To?

I HEARD an unusual conversation between two ladies talking across the 12,000 miles of daylight and darkness between Sydney and London. Miss X at the London end talking about latest designs in hair, asks: "How do you wear your hair in Sydney?"

Miss S.: "Waves, and curls at back." "We're three years behind Paris." "Are you fond of swimming?—are you very fond of it? Yes, I am, too. Do you play golf? Oh! I don't play golf; I don't have time. Do you play tennis? I don't have much time; the only thing I do well is swim."

"You don't have any rough breakers over there in London, do you?"

Sydney: "I was asking if you did any surfing over there? You don't know what surfing is, do you? Skating? We haven't any real ice in Sydney; we do skating here, but haven't any real ice, only manufactured ice. How's that, London? That's good, is it? I hear you better."

Sydney: "Fairly weak; I can't put it down to feeling weak. What sort of skating do you do?"

"Top heavy?"

"I am, too, but still I can skate. You try the old skating, you'll find that better. It might reduce your weight."

"What do you weigh?" asks Sydney. "Ten-seven."

"Why, I'm only 9.7. I'm short—not very big. My goodness me! you're not fat, when you only weigh 10.7 and 5ft. 6½in. I'm a bit dumpy; this is my first attempt at radio.—R. L. Jones, Wellington.

Distortion?

MR. MORRISON has misquoted parts of my last communication. He says: "He mentions the reason our ham phone is not reported in Alaska." I think Mr. Morrison will find I mentioned a "probable" reason. Many reasons could be presented, an important one being the seasonal difference between transmitter and receiver locations.

Evidently Mr. Morrison has formed an opinion with regard to the possibilities and limits of radio, as he says, in reference to my report on ZLIBG's phone being heard in Siberia: "When one begins to think, it reads like a tall one, and seems impossible." I thought Mr. Morrison was too experienced a listener to say such a thing would "seem impossible." The report received by ZLIBG was not from a ham, but was issued from radio station ROAS, Radio Laboratory, University, Vladivostok. I have seen the report, as have many other hams, so I can assure Mr. Morrison that it is not so.—"Ham."

A Mistaken Call-Sign.

IN several recent issues of the "Radio Record" there have been reports from Mr. A. P. Morrison concerning his logging of W7AMP, of Alaska, on the 80-metre 'phone band. Mr. Morrison is mistaken in the address of W7AMP, as it is Portland, Oregon, U.S.A., and not Sitka, Alaska, as he states. ZL2BZ was in communication with him one evening recently and his correct address was ascertained then. In any case, Alaskan amateurs have a call beginning with K7, not W7. My log of shortwave 'phone stations is now in the vicinity of the 500 mark, all identified, my best D.X. on 80-metre 'phone being Canada.—W. A. W. Stevens (Hawera).