

**CELEBRATE WITH HENRY HALL! — SPECIAL "A.W." INTERVIEW**

# Amateur Wireless

3<sup>d</sup>  
Every  
Wednesday

and  
Radiovision

BLUEPRINT, TEST  
REPORT, BUILDING  
DETAILS of the 1934  
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## REAL QUALITY

*and How to  
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Noel Bonavia-Hunt*

THE WORLD  
LISTENS TO THE  
BOAT RACE  
*and*  
ALL ABOUT BRITAIN'S  
"PIRATE" BROADCASTER

Editor-in-Chief:  
BERNARD E. JONES

Technical Editor:  
J. H. REYNER  
B.Sc. (Hons.), A.M.I.E.E.

Radiovision Editor:  
H. CORBISHLEY

# Amateur Wireless and Radiovision

Editor:  
D. SISSON RELPH  
Research Consultants:  
W. JAMES and  
PERCY W. HARRIS  
M.Inst. Rad. E.  
Assistant Editor:  
ALAN HUNTER

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## News and Gossip of the Week

### Distaste for Bells

RING off, wild bells! We have had enough of Bow bells. Give us back the death-watch-beetle interval signal. Or, bright idea, do away with the intervals altogether!

But J. H. Whitley thought of the bells idea. He is chairman of the Board of Governors, so no one likes to say nay to dem bells.

### Twenty-four-hour Time

So the B.B.C. is trying to wish twenty-four-hour time upon us? Well, why not? The Continent has had it for years, and the B.B.C.'s internal time tables have been on this basis for the past five.

Announcers may be a bit confused at first, and so may we. But to wipe out the archaic a.m. and p.m. is surely worth a little initial confusion?

Come to think of it, the B.B.C. is about the only organisation that could put over a system like twenty-four-hour time.

### Working Man Protests

ONLY about fifty words were broadcast by Mr. Ferrie, the working man, but what a sensation they caused! Told the B.B.C. where it got off, didn't he?

The B.B.C. says that his manuscript was a little irrelevant to the topic of National Character, but his outburst did draw attention to the excessive use of the blue pencil—and showed why so many of the talks are dull and lacking in personal "pep."

### New Geneva Plan

BACK from the I.B.U. meeting at Geneva, our B.B.C. delegates are very "mum" about the new long-wave plan.

All the delegates agreed on a new long-wave line-up.

It includes several foreigners not now given a look in on long waves. Query—Luxembourg?

But, hold everything! There is a large snag. Until the various governments ratify this new agreement, nothing can be done. And already several governments have turned it down flat.

### Daventry Safe

MEANWHILE we must carry on as best we all can with the much-amended Lucerne Plan on the long waves. Thank goodness our Daventry's wavelength is unaffected by the proposed changes—and, at the moment, is clear of heterodyne interference from foreigners.

It is, though, an uneasy business on long waves. Bound to be trouble before long, we fear.

### In Scotland Now

BY its move on to a new site near Elgin, the B.B.C.'s mobile transmitting van gives the lie direct to those who have been maintaining that North Scottish Regional's site was already fixed.

This field strength measuring is a laborious business, but a most important preamble to the building of a regional station.

Site means everything in service area. As a full-blown regional costs about £150,000, no wonder the B.B.C. hesitates.

### Better O.B.'s

THOSE O.B.—outside broadcast—engineers of the B.B.C. are a sprightly crew. Always trying to improve their department. Probably the liveliest gang of engineers in broadcasting.

They have just put finishing touches on new equipment for outside-broadcast work—equipment designed on the rack system as in the control-room at Broadcasting House.

### Lights Out!

ALL the lights in No. 10 studio—the wharf studio—failed, the other night, in the middle of a broadcast concert.

They could not get the lights on again for over forty minutes, but, after a few records Joe Lewis, the conductor, was soon overcoming fate by candlelight.

### Distant Looker

JUST as the B.B.C. is seriously thinking of cutting down its television broadcasts evidence is accumulating on all sides of widespread interest in the medium-wave 30-line programmes.

A letter has just been received from Palermo, Sicily, an experimenter there telling of good reception of our pictures.

### Radio Cavalcade

FAMOUS stars of the ether will join in a radio cavalcade on April 14. A memorable Saturday night ahead!

John Henry, Clapham and Dwyer, Flotsam and Jetsam, and other stars who have made their names over the radio will be in this outstanding variety programme.

### Pirate Broadcasting

ON page 278 we give our exclusive interview with the young pirate broadcaster of Norwich. It is worth recording that the Post Office detection van, so often ridiculed when it alleges "detection" of pirate listeners, is a real

slueth of the ether when dealing with pirate transmitters.

In spite of the low power of the transmitter, the direction-finding apparatus proved too much for the young pirate.

### Henry Hall on Saturdays

WHILE the spot of both between the B.B.C. and Ambrose continues, Henry Hall will fill the Saturday-night dance-band feature—on March 17 and 24.

He will bring variety stars to the microphone as interludes in his dance-band programmes. See Alan Hunter's exclusive interview with Henry Hall on pages 281 and 282.

### Grand Hotel Broadcasts

GET ready to hear Leslie Jeffries from the Grand Hotel, Eastbourne. His orchestra will make its microphone debut on April 22—the first day of British Summer Time.

### I.B.U. in London

FOR the first time since 1925, when it was formed, the I.B.U. meets in London this June. The occasion is the general council and assembly.

There will be seventy technical representatives of twenty nations, including Russia.

### French Diplomacy

BACK of the decision to put Eiffel Tower on the medium waves is *secret diplomacy*. It seems that a bargain has been struck, whereby if Eiffel Tower vacates its unlawful channel on the long waves, Luxembourg may stay up among the gods.

### Novel Earth

WHEN the Boat Race is rowed on Saturday, the launch *Magician* will follow, as usual, with B.B.C. commentators complete with short-wave transmitter.

The earth for this transmitter will be made of copper sheet fixed to the bottom of the keel of the launch. See the full story on page 287 of this issue.

### Real Quality

YES, we all have ideas on real quality, haven't we? But how many know the right way to get it? Real quality is a specialist's job, and that is why we have commissioned Noel Bonavia-Hunt to write a special series on this great listener topic.

His first article appears this week on pages 290 and 291.



Eight good reasons why you should take up television! The Eight Step Sisters rehearsing for a transmission for the new B.B.C. television studio. (This week's television feature is on page 289)



Associated Press photo.

# All About Britain's "Pirate" Broadcaster

In this exclusive "Amateur Wireless" interview, Wilfred Barker, the radio pirate of Norwich, gives the full story of his extraordinary exploits, telling of the exciting events that led up to his final discovery by Post Office officials

It was a dangerous though sporting last fling, was it not?

In a special interview with AMATEUR WIRELESS, the younger brother, Wilfred Barker, gave us the inside facts about his extraordinary exploits.

"I made and operated a wireless transmitting station in conjunction with my brother, Gerald," he explained to us. "As you have heard, we called ourselves Norwich No. 1 and Norwich No. 2, with 24 and 4 watts respectively. My brother Gerald worked the higher-powered transmitter and I, Wilfred, operated the lower-powered apparatus—which, by the way, was the one caught in the act by the Post Office officials."

"Please explain to your readers that my original intention was simply to obtain two-way conversation by radio telephone. I was gratified to find that this stunt worked very successfully, but as it happened the general public also listened in to our two-way chats."

It was apparently this discovery that the listeners of Norwich were interested in the activities of the two Norwich stations that set the brothers upon the trail of supplementing the B.B.C. programmes, by filling in the Sunday morning gap. Very laudable, but quite unconstitutional, of course!

"When we found out that we were being listened to by so many outsiders," went on Wilfred in his interview with us, "we decided that we would broadcast a special programme of gramophone records every Sunday morning for the public's benefit."

"Unfortunately, Norwich No. 2, which I was operating, was tracked down by the Norwich Post Office officials, and my apparatus had to be confiscated—much to my regret."

"But Norwich No. 1 was never found out, and at this moment the Post Office people do

not know where it has been situated. We have now dismantled it, so its location will remain a secret."

Now for what happened on the fateful morning of Sunday, March 4. This also we got from Wilfred, who was most anxious to tell the world the whole story.

"On Sunday morning I, that is, Norwich No. 2, commenced with a programme of gramophone records, which lasted until about 9.30. Then I picked up a well-known foreign station and relayed it to local listeners until 10 o'clock."

## Two-way Conversations

"I then had a chat with my brother at Norwich No. 1, and we kept up a two-way radio-telephone conversation for some time. We then decided to close down until 11 o'clock, and then there was a suggestion that I should relay Norwich No. 1's programme."

"That never happened. There was what the B.B.C. officials call a 'technical hitch'."

"So I then continued to play gramophone records until 11.45. I was just closing down with a record of 'God Save the King' when in walked the Post Office officials."

And thus ended one of the most diverting radio "pirate" escapades of recent years. The brothers have specially stressed their desire to apologise to the Post Office for all the trouble they have caused.

In the course of our conversation with Wilfred Barker we learned that his usual set was a four-valver with two screen-grid stages—a set that he listens to short waves on with the usual adaptor.

"I shall never be able to broadcast again on the medium waves," he regretted, "but I am hoping that I may be able to obtain a licence for the short-wave bands."

IN the early days of this wireless game "the amateurs" used, wittingly or not, to provide pioneer listeners with practically all their radio fare—and their activities were especially hot on Sunday mornings.

Came the B.B.C., with its monopoly of broadcasting in these islands, and foreigners galore to relieve the monotony. The amateurs withdrew to the short waves—or rather were forced down below 100 metres out of the way.

They have for years been lost to the vast majority of ordinary listeners who, with broadcast sets that do not tune below about 220 metres, have seldom if ever heard a local amateur.

Now the silence of the amateurs has been broken by a couple of young amateur transmitters at Norwich, who have been making things hum to such an extent that the Post Office has had to send up its famous detection van to track them down.

Thus the entertainment of many Norwich listeners has come to an untimely end—for the van succeeded in running the "pirate" to his lair.

## Sunday Morning Concerts

Wilfred Barker, aged 19, conceived the idea of sending out these Sunday morning programmes in collaboration with his brother, Gerald Barker, aged 26.

Norwich No. 1 station sent out its concerts of records and foreign station relays on a wavelength of 279 metres, the power being about 24 watts.

Three miles away Norwich No. 2, with the diminutive power of 4 watts, was working for two-way telephone conversations between the two brothers on a wavelength of 267 metres.

As many of our readers know, amateur transmission is not allowed these days over a wavelength of 165 metres, and most serious work is done below 100 metres.

We were naturally intrigued with the story of how these redoubtable lads carried on their transmissions, in spite of the fact that they knew the Post Office officials were after them.

## Coming—The Lucerne Minor

SO great has been the success of the Lucerne Ranger, designed by "The Experimenters", that they have now designed a two-valver using their famous coils.

And now they are full of the results they have obtained with what they call the Lucerne Minor, designed on the same simple lines as the three-valver, with an ultra-simple layout.

It is a two-valver, with a detector valve and a transformer-coupled pentode output stage.

But not just an ordinary "detector low-frequency" set, please note. No, something very special—really. Any set with the Lucerne coils as its nucleus must be special because these coils really do represent a startling advance in tuning technique.

They enable you to vary the selectivity to suit your local conditions, so that you need not sacrifice any more volume than your own special conditions warrant.

Secondly, their tuning range is considerably wider than that of most dual-range coils on the market to-day. On the medium waves they tune with a standard .0005-microfarad condenser from 180 to 650 metres, and on the long waves from 850 to 2,100 metres.

Another point about this little set we should very specially like to emphasize is the low anode-current consumption. The maximum

current taken from the high-tension battery need not be more than 6 milliamperes, while on the average we should say that 5 milliamperes is all you will actually take.

Thus a standard-capacity type of high tension will be worked, perhaps for the first time, within its rated output capabilities, which means that it will give many months of service before having to be renewed.

The Lucerne coil to be used in this new set is the grid coil, with reaction. So if you want to make this set with your own assembled coil get on with the job in readiness for the full design next week.

## Extremely Simple Wiring

As with the three-valver, the layout has been arranged so that a plan view gives you practically the whole story at a glance.

The price, in accordance with our new policy, has been kept down to the minimum consistent with the need for using first-class components.

The cost, including a slow-motion tuning condenser, and the best makes of fixed condensers is only about 27s. At this price many thousands of readers anxious to make the most of the new Lucerne Plan will be able to build the Lucerne Minor and so gain the full advantage of the new ether conditions.