



# A Couple of 'Hams'

By PATRICIA KEOUGH  
 "This is WA2CQV calling WA2ACC Over."  
 "Come in WA2CQV."

The radio stations in contact here are those of two amateur radio operators, and the voices of the operators, surprisingly, are two Rochester nuns: Sister Helen Marie of the Sisters of Mercy; and Sister Marie Regina of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Unknown to most Rochester residents, probably the most enthusiastic "HAMS" in the area are these Sisters—two women in an almost completely male hobby. They have set up "ham shacks" in their respective convents, secured themselves general licenses, and have been on the air now for over two years.

Sister Helen Marie, a faculty member of Our Lady of Mercy High School next year, fulfilled a dream of her youth when she took to the air as a novice operator in 1965. Long ago, when she heard amateur radio personnel helping bring aid to the flood victims in 1937, Sister decided that ham radio was a very good apostolate.

She began studying even then with her brother, but didn't seriously fulfill the actual requirements until recently.

Both of the Sisters' motives for becoming amateur radio operators were similar: to create a means by which their two communities, the St. Mary Sisters and the St. Joseph Sisters, could keep in

constant and instant touch with the new missions established by both groups in South America.

Sister Marie Regina, who herself hoped to be a missionary, thought that this particular skill might help her chances of being appointed to southeastern Brazil, the Sisters of St. Joseph South American Mission.

Coincidentally, two of her pupils at Corpus Christi School, where she teaches, introduced her to their ham-operating father, who wanted to make a contact with the missionaries in Brazil. Joseph Agostinelli became Sister's teacher, engineer and very good friend. He helped set up the equipment atop the Corpus Christi roof.

The opening of the Sisters of Mercy mission in Santiago Chile, four years ago also encouraged Sister Helen Marie to pursue her childhood dream. Once again she began studying with her brother, Thomas Mungovan, who by now was a general licensed ham operator. He administered her novice code test, as well as the written test put out by the Federal Communications Commission so that she became a novice operator in 1965.

The Rochester Radio Club, among other groups, holds classes to teach would-be operators. Both of the Sisters took this course and met each other at these Friday night sessions.

Agostinelli has also been both Sisters' teacher, adviser on buying and installing equipment, and general friend through their years of preparation and early broadcasting.

Both took the general license examination in Buffalo, and Sister Marie Regina passed the test on the first try, after only eight months of initial study and novice operating.

The Sisters of Mercy have particularly benefited from the efforts of Sister Helen Marie. After Agostinelli had made some initial contacts with operators in Santiago, he became acquainted by radio with a Mr. P. Raul Buenaventura, a Chilean who holds open house on Sunday for missionaries and Peace Corps workers who gather at his home to talk to their families in the States by radio.

The Rochester Mercy sisters have talked many times to their missionaries through this contact. Since then, Sis-

ter Helen Marie herself has been able to make contacts with them on her own. And now, since the Columban Fathers (with whom the South American Sisters of Mercy work) have set up a station of their own, the calls should be more frequent and easier.

So dedicated is she to her hobby, Sister Marie Regina recently used some money that was to have given her a trip to California to purchase an important piece of equipment—a linear amplifier—which increased the output power of her sending equipment so that she can make contacts all over the world.

The Sisters of St. Joseph missionaries in Brazil are 700 miles inland from Sao Paulo. Their opportunities to talk "home," have been infrequent because no ham equipment is nearby. However, when they move to Uberlandia, there will be an operator available there.

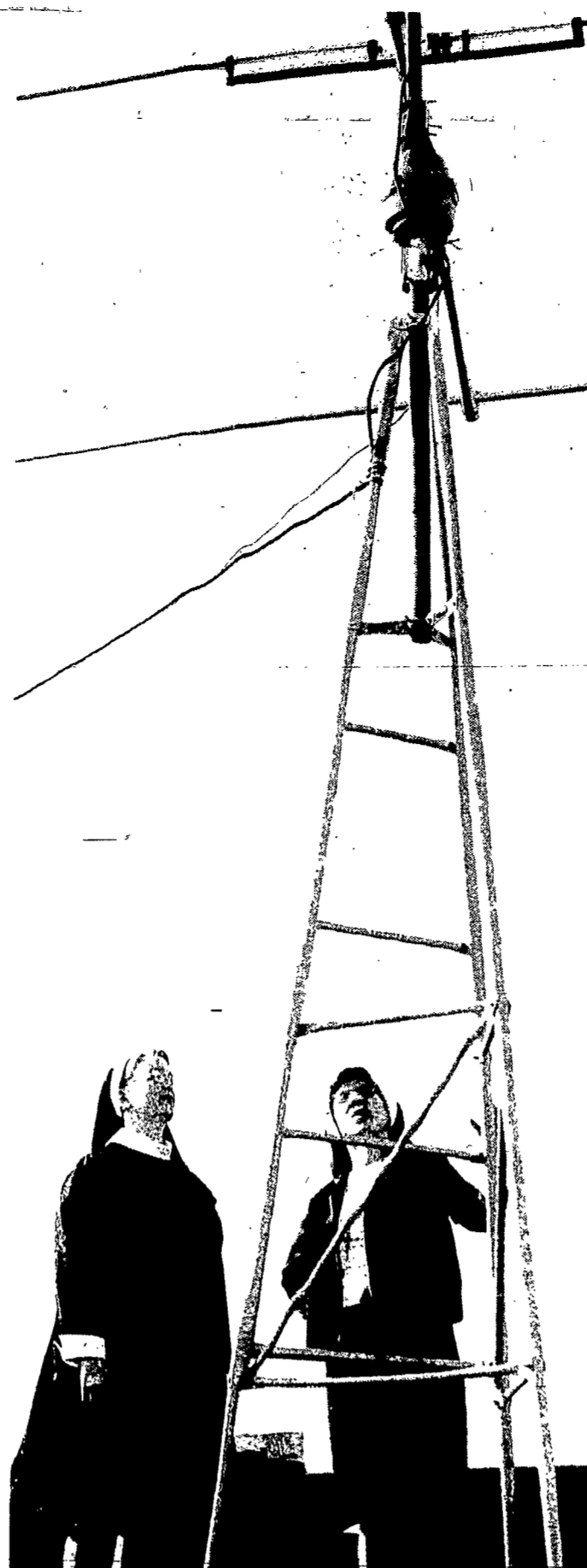
To those who would question "Is HAM operating really worthwhile?" both sisters would answer a resounding "Yes."

In addition to the very important contact with their own missionaries, the help and good will that they have spread has already born fruit.

"There is a real code of charity among HAM operators," explains Sister Helen Marie. "It is a very real apostolate for Christ. Friendly cheerful conversation, a genuine interest in the other person, a willingness to spend hours if necessary, helping people get in touch with their loved ones, does more to make Christ known and loved than many an hour of direct evangelization."

The equipment for these projects is expensive and has come slowly bit by bit, mostly through relatives and friends and their respective communities. The sisters are working to have telephones installed in their "shacks" so that they can set up phone patches for some of their contacts. A phone patch channels a conversation from a distant land through a regular phone. This plus a tape recorder, a general coverage receiver with a sideband selector, and a linear amplifier for Sister Helen Marie, would almost complete the equipment for their ham shacks except for a few other less expensive odds and ends.

Listening to the Sisters broadcast makes one realize



Rochester's "Sister HAMS" inspect the elaborate aerial atop the Mercy Sisters' Motherhouse on Blossom Road where Sister Helen Marie has her radio equipment in a place called a "shack".

how much they have learned and how easily they have become familiar with the ham language. For instance, they know such things as the relationship between a cycle, a kilocycle, and a megacycle; what a modulator, amplifier, a rectifier, are used for; that QSY means changing frequency and that QRM means that several stations are working on the same frequency so there is much static. They also know that if you have a minimum of equipment you are "running barefoot."

Sister Marie Regina is anxious to share her knowledge with others who wish to become operators, especially Sisters. "As soon as I can get some code tapes, a code practice oscillator, I'll be in business. I could also use a second-hand transmitter with low-power," she confessed. "Like Sister Helen Marie, I am there every weekend and I welcome visitors."

Get it off your chest. Write a letter to the Editor. Remember to keep your letter clear and concise and limit them to 300 words.

## Deaths

### Harry J. Kelly

Harry J. Kelly, brother of Father Leonard A. Kelly, pastor of Assumption Church of Fairport, died Saturday, August 3.

Besides Father Kelly, he is survived by another brother, Charles A. Kelly of North Arlington, New Jersey, and by several nieces and nephews.

A requiem Mass was celebrated for Mr. Kelly by his brother Leonard at St. Augustine's Church on Tuesday, August 6.

Mr. Kelly was buried in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery following the Mass.

### Margaret Callan

Margaret E. Callan, mother of Father L. James Callan, chaplain of the State Hospital in Rochester, died Monday, July 29.

Mrs. Callan left three other sons: John, Brian, and Phillip; one daughter, Mrs. Norman Thomas; one brother, Thomas McGraw; one sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Barnard, both of North Adams, Mass.; and also eighteen grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Father Callan celebrated the Requiem Mass for his mother at Corpus Christi on Thursday, August 1.

She was buried in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery following the Mass.

## Nun Allowed Habit In Federal Teaching

New Orleans—(RNS)—The Orleans parish (county) school board has reversed itself and will allow a nun to wear her religious habit while working in a U.S.-funded summer program in a public school.

In June, the board ruled that Sister Marie Andre would have to wear secular clothing when employed in a program conducted in a public school building.

The nun, who teaches calculus courses at Loyola University here, worked for the past two years in a Reading-Enrichment-Recreation (RER) program, a federally financed program conducted by the Orleans parish school board.

Roman Catholic leaders had termed the board's original decision "an act of unjust discrimination." They also charged that the school board

decision gave the impression that it was a public school program when, because of the federal funding, non-public school educators and students were required "to share equally in the planning and implementation of these programs."

The motion to reverse its earlier action was passed by a 3 to 2 vote of the board. It was worded in such a manner that it applied only to summer federally-funded programs.

It read "in summer programs where children of both private and public schools are eligible and which are partially or wholly financed by the federal government, that we do permit qualified persons to teach in religious garb, subject to the supervision and direction of the superintendent and staff . . ."

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Sister Marie Regina operates her radio from the Corpus Christi convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph. A licensed operator she talks with "hams" all over the world.

## Interracial Leader Resigns

Chicago — (RNS) — Matthew Ahmann, executive director of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice since its foundation in 1960, has submitted his resignation.

Mr. Ahmann's reasons for leaving the organization were "purely personal," the announcement said.

Under his direction, the NCCIJ has reached national and interdenominational prominence as the originator and sponsor of Project Equality, a nationwide effort to promote fair employment through the use of the purchasing power of religious institutions.

The Chicago-based conference also serves 150 Roman Catholic human relations and urban organizations, including 26 in the South.

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## THE PRO Economic A

By Barbara Ward

When Pope Paul asks the nations to adopt a sustained adequate strategy for world development — with more aid, a loan investment program and concessions to the poorer nations — adds an urgent plea that they be active in all their "constitutive" business, unions, universities, to see that such a strategy is carried out.

And his urgency comes from a realistic assessment of the fact that any policy of expansion development has to overcome the fact that the world's wealthy nations do not have the resources to carry it off in a desultory, almost casual manner.

And a whole range of obstacles are raised when anyone — in the Pope's case — suggests that, in justice and sheer realism, the world ought to be reversed.

This year the economic program of the most wealthy nation — the United States — for the first time fall below the billion mark (less than 0.3% of gross national product, or the technical term for the nation's goods and services). It is a fact that the world's wealthy nations, take more than easy arguments of faith or moral appeal even from the Pope himself — new directions for Atlantic

Unless specific doubts can be dispelled and cogent counter arguments produced, the present trend is one way to go — and that is

The first and most immediate objection is that in 1968 most wealthy nations are caught in an economic crisis which prescribes their balance of payments, run on their foreign reserves poses them to the horrendous possibility of being cut off. By

## A LAYMAN Birth Contr

By Joseph Breig

Unless you believe in the Spirit guiding the Church as promised, it is difficult to explain the historical fact that although theologians, down through the centuries, have uttered an amount of nonsense about the Church's teaching authority, teaching, has never done so.

Some theologians today — and professional, clerical and lay — are still talking through their fingers, and I am afraid to continue to do so.

They will not hear the teaching authority. Just as in the past it into a hundred forms of pious and jansenistic error, treat like a shameful weakness, to go to the opposite extreme.

In the name of man-woman and "fulfillment" — concerning (if the sophomores will forgive their understanding is at best morose — they would separate God and from its power to bring new life.

Pope Paul has now issued his awaited encyclical on birth reaffirming the unbroken teaching of the Church, as did his predecessor John XXIII, Pius XII and Pius

The ink was hardly dry on the document when some of the theologians — insufferably disloyal — were barking at the moon and saying that what he said matter and didn't bind anyone.

Pope Paul foresaw that man reject the Church's teaching, hated through him as Christ. There is nothing new about it.

Uncounted Catholics spun Church's moral guidance on and exaggerated nationalistic

**Shift Father Berr To Lewisburg Pri**  
 Lewisburg, Pa. — (RNS) — er Philip F. Berrigan, S.J. Thomas P. Lewis, an artist transferred from the Ba (Md.) County Jail to the prison here.

They will be held here at days and then taken to a riot security U.S. prison camp at wood, Pa., according to mar

The two anti-war spokesmen sentenced in late May to prison of six years after having been convicted of destroying government property.

Charges grew out of a war in October 1967, when they poured blood on Selective records in Baltimore.