

Grid-Leak Drippings . . .

By **KENNETH F. CONROY, W8DYH**

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Hello — sorry we missed last month's column but it was like this: We were holding out for more pay — Editor Bob Mix, W8CDQ, was agin it — so was Ass't Ed. Hank Drane, W8QH — but that sharpie Bob finally settled it — he doubled our salary. However, by that time it was too late to make the deadline. So no column last month. By the way, is there any mathematician in the group? How much is two times nothing?

Junior APCO Conference

Quite a straw in the wind as to what APCO men are thinking about — last week at an IRE vehicular meeting in Detroit in which Frank Hartz of our local Detroit Edison Company gave a talk and demonstration of a Bird Directional Wattmeter — quite a gadget — the APCO members attending: Williams, W8HP; Karber, ex-8CDS; Soldan; Drane, W8QH; Hait, W8TRP; Strubank, W8FXA; Bushaw, W8CSZ; MacFatrige; Gilbert, W8DWC; Donovan, W8KFA; Denstaedt, ex-8KJ; and Castelli, all from Detroit Police; Stelmack, W8CQS, of Wayne County, Michigan Sheriff's Radio; Dearl Morrison, of Macomb County, Michigan; Jim Evans, of SP East Lansing; Ray Klemetti, W8SOX, and "Stan" Stansfield, ex-8DJQ of Michigan Conservation Dept. It seemed to intrigue the gang — might

be something for other APCO Chapters to put on for program material.

Goings On

Pleased to learn that John Nauman, W8UEO, is now Zone Manager in this area for Motorola, Inc. Congratulations to a mighty nice fella. . . . Certainly sorry to hear of the death of Don Jewell, age 47, district Radio Engineer for Michigan State Police, 2nd district. Don will be much missed by the Michigang of APCO.

Planning That APCO Conference?

All indications point up the fact that the 1954 APCO Conference at Pittsburgh, Penna., will be one to remember. Bill Gamble and his crew are going all out to show off the "new Pittsburgh" (we ain't never seen the old Pittsburgh!). We see a lot of our gang scratching around to arrange days-off — trading is in high gear. We know that our boss-at-home is looking forward to the Pittsburgh trip.

Letter

"Dear Sir,

"I work in the Library at the Dept. of Agriculture in Washington, D. C., and being newly out of the Coast Guard and a former RM 2/c, I am very interested in getting a job as a radiotelegraph operator as I have logged well over four thousand hours of watchstanding on an ocean station vessel in constant CW con-

Florida Chapter

The Princess Issena Hotel in Daytona Beach, Florida, will be the headquarters for the mid-summer meeting of the Florida Chapter.

The gathering will convene on July 20 and the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Jay Hall, extends an invitation to all APCO members to be there.

tact with all branches of the Military and Commercial stations.

"I hold only a third class radiotelegraph license although I do have the 25 wpm certificate for hand key or bug and copying required for first telegraph. Am brushing up on my theory and will have a better class license soon.

"Would appreciate any information with regards to telegraph employment. Thank you.

John Anderson,
1744 Willard St., N.W.,
Washn, D. C."

Answer — There perhaps are dozens of departments needing qualified radiotelegraph operators — we hope that possibly some of our readers might drop you a line. Good luck!

Circuit Troubles

Last couple days (working day watch out of radiotelegraph this month — 'sfact, Maam), the Heaviside layer has been in our favor and have been able to work Los Angeles PD (SL/KMA89) direct — certainly speeds things up and lightens the load on those willing, but overworked, relaying operators in the west-mid-west. Wonder when we are going to get that new "15 mc" channel for long-haul work. Can't be any too soon for the good of the service. . . . In case you haven't listened lately, during most "normal" days the five mc channels are jammed and woe be unto the man who leaves too much spacing between words — some waiting station will think you are thru sending and will climb in on the very busy channel. We have noticed that more and more of the fellows are using the 2800 band as much as possible — signals have been suprisingly good and the QRM much less — of course, in the summer time things won't be so good for 2800 kc, but we can worry about that when we get to it.

John Decatur, "JD" at SP East Lansing, Michigan, KQA57/EL, wondered how we could always tell it was him, when he got on the key — told him he had an "Illinois accent." He caught on.

"RO" at SP Chicago, KSB47/PC, has just about completed his new home at Bensonville, Illinois — it measures 54 by 27, has five large rooms and attached garage — and he can still wiggle a bug, after all that work. . . . Rolly Brooks down at KSA24/PS, SP Springfield, Illinois, did same thing — only Rolly turned around and sold it; money, money, who has the money?

Got long beef other day about: . . . some stations originating WPPA messages, with long list of "special attention Podunk Hollow, etc., etc." — 'fact this

(Continued Page 14)

The APCO Bulletin