

Be Prepared

EMERGENCIES PROVIDE THE REAL TEST

Many communication systems in the emergency service perform satisfactorily under normal conditions, which may be 98 per cent of the time, but the real test comes when an unexpected emergency strikes. This may be for a day or two, or for only a few hours of the entire year, but in that short period the true value of the system is shown as at no other time and it is found to either be adequate or wanting.

We feel that this fact is brought out quite vividly in a recent letter from past-president Bill Whiting, in which he describes the part played by their system during the floods in Kern County, California, last month.

To quote from Bill's letter: "As for the flood situation, we did have a lot of water in Kern River; however, the City of Bakersfield was protected by levees which held satisfactorily with some emergency repair work in spots. Three small communities in the mountainous portion of the county were flooded, and access roads and bridges were washed out. These communities were approximately 65 miles from headquarters; therefore, my unattended repeater station on Shirley Peak functioned beautifully during the entire emergency and paid for itself in this one crisis in protection of life and property. I was very proud, too, that during the entire emergency the central control functioned perfectly; that we had not one single equipment failure; and that not a single call from any mobile unit was missed. Considering that our county is 8,159 square miles in area, I think we did pretty well.

"Concerning the actual 48 hours during which we were very busy, our full crew was called out and stood by ready for any emergency, and assisted in the strenuous business of operating the central control; however, I must confess I was rather proud of the fact that it was the softest emergency in which our

department participated over a period of many years. Our building is accessible at any time, is far away from any traffic congestion, our utilities are more or less independent and guarded against failure; so we were busy, but in a nice, radiant heated building, with a kitchen full of food, so that we never missed so much as a cup of coffee. Local

radio reporters set up in our control room and broadcast a blow-by-blow account of local flood conditions, traffic routes, etc., and quite a lot of information from adjacent counties which they monitored. They had lunch and supper with us and were quite impressed."

Bill went on to say that after the emergency was over, a meeting was held with the Board of Supervisors and the Director of the Disaster Emergency Council, at which time they all expressed the opinion that the Communications Department was the one department which was completely ready and functioned without a hitch.

This is indeed a high compliment and one which makes Bill justifiably proud of his system and crew. If this description sounds as though things went almost too smoothly for an emergency, it should be remembered that this is the result of careful planning and preparedness. It is the way any good communication system should operate when the pressure is on.

C. P. R. A.

NEW CONSTITUTION READ

The regular meeting of CPRA was held November 7, 1950, at the Elks Club, Anaheim, California.

President Calvert called the meeting to order at 10:30 A. M. The Treasurer's report was asked for and given. Emphasis was stressed on the few unpaid dues at this time and that 1951 dues would be due in a few months.

Fred Crowder, Chairman of the Frequency Committee, was given the floor and the following releases were requested and disposition of these cases are herein indicated. The City of El Centro requested a frequency of 70.58 mc to join the intercity net. A lengthy discussion followed this application, due to the fact that some of the applicants

are using their intercity facilities to obtain information when they desire same, but are turning their receivers off at other times, resulting in the inability to contact these stations. This was criticism against the application of El Centro, but it was pointed out, and it seemed to be the consensus of opinion, that any application in the future should state that they will be in twenty-four hour operation or submit a definite schedule of their operations. After the discussion was closed, motion for release on this frequency was made, seconded and carried.

Tulare County, experiencing serious interference on 155.43 mc, asked for a change to 158.91 mc. Motion carried. Tulare County also presented a request for a frequency clearance anywhere within the 72-74 mc band for the Tulare County radio dispatch service, which is a limited common carrier. It was pointed out that this application would not normally clear through our organization, but since the possibility of interference in this region might easily exist, they preferred to receive our clearance. Tulare County was also interested in this installation, which will be made at a high elevation, and in the same vicinity as Tulare County's proposed installation. The cost of installing power and telephone line facilities could be shared by both services. A motion was made and carried to refer to the Chair-

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

(Continued)

man of the Frequency Committee for his recommendation and release.

Kenneth Corner, Chairman of the Engineering Committee, gave a report that he was progressing with the equipment of several manufacturers in trying to set up specific standards of design and performance, especially regarding mobile receivers.

President Crowder then turned the meeting over to Bud Whiteman of the Arrangements Committee, who introduced an attorney by the name of Preston Turner, who appeared at this meeting to help us in our incorporation proceedings. Mr. Turner read the constitution and submitted changes necessary for this purpose. Most of the changes were of a minor nature: two important changes were the change in the qualification for membership to include any member of the Public Safety Services, instead of Police personnel only. Also, that the office of Secretary-Treasurer was separated into two offices. The question of the name of our organization was submitted for reconsideration, due to its larger scope, as indicated in the changed constitution. After a lengthy discussion, it was unanimously agreed to leave the name as is, as it was pointed out that this organization is now well known under its present name and might suffer the loss of identity in case of any change. A Resolution, which was necessary in the procedure of incorporation, was read and approved. A motion was made and carried to defray all expenses incident to the corporation.

A motion was made by Bill Durham

WANTED

Surplus 30-40 mc equipment that has been replaced with the new FM units. Will buy complete lots or individual units. Advise make, model and condition.

E A SUPPLY CO.
687 W. Lexington Ave. Elkhart, Ind.

For Sale

One new Radio Tower — 136 foot height. Still in crate. Write County of Lake, Court House, Waukegan, Illinois.

that honorary membership be given to Art Seth, retiring member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, and to Attorney Preston Turner. Motion carried.

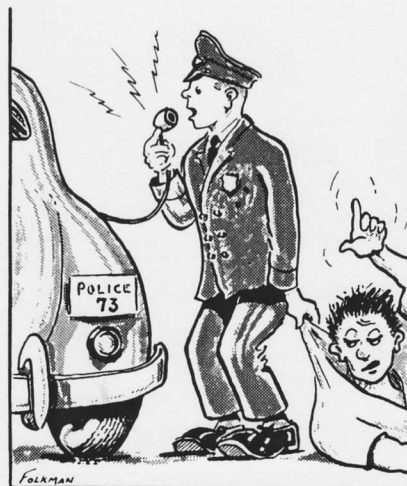
Bill Durham, our National Secretary, gave a lengthy talk on the urgency of obtaining advertising for our National Directory, pointing out that this publication was in a state of crisis, due to the rising cost of printing. On this occasion, Bill was encouraged by many offers of help and it looks like we will get some results in the near future. Motion was made by Bill McKinley that this organization buy a one-half page ad as a good will gesture and a small financial boost to help this cause along. Motion carried.

The next two meetings were decided upon, in order that they might be published in the *Bulletin*. The City of San Diego volunteered to have our next meeting in that city, at the pistol range on December 5, 1950, and the City of Los Angeles will have the following meeting at the Police Academy on January 15, 1951.

For Sale

CRYSTALS, 39.34 mc, removed from Power Utility Radio Service, good condition; 25—Motorola FMT-5 James Knight \$15.00 each; 73—Motorola FMT-X5 Ceramic holder \$12.50 each; 10—Motorola FMT-X7 Ceramic holder \$12.50 each; all for Motorola FMT-30 transmitters; also 15—Link Corporation bakelite holders for 35 UFM Ed. 2 transmitters \$7.50 each.

Address inquiries or purchase orders to C. S. Beatus, Director—Purchase, Stores and Supplies, Memphis Light, Gas & Water Division, Box 388, Memphis, Tenn.



"... But Headquarters, the guy insists on using this thing to call his lawyer."

The Commercials were then given the floor; only two were reported at this meeting. We were favored, however, with the presence of Gene Goebel of Motorola, who gave an interesting report on progress being made to establish priorities for radio parts in the Safety Services. He pointed out that this situation is becoming alarmingly serious and steps are being taken at this time to assist these services to obtain necessary parts to maintain operation.

After Mr. Goebel's talk, the meeting adjourned for lunch, and afterwards, convened at the new Orange County transmitters, located at Orange, California, where everyone inspected the new equipment recently installed and members who operate on the intercity link were called into a special meeting, where the subject of the advisability of installing all new equipment was discussed. It was pointed out that originally the license was granted on an experimental basis and the equipment used was largely surplus gear, and while the frequency of 70 mc proved satisfactory, it was time to modernize our complete system with the latest type of FM equipment. Also, the operations on a twenty-four basis were again emphasized. It was voted to proceed at once to make the necessary applications to this end and, due to the critical attitude of the Federal Communications Commission on any frequency in the 72-74 mc region, that we would send a representative to Washington personally to represent us in this important matter.

Although the meeting had officially ended with the inspection of the transmitters, it definitely closed with this business on the intercity net.

HARVEY W. ZIEGLER, Sec'y

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