

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

July 1997

HL&P To Reveal Shocking Facts At July Meeting

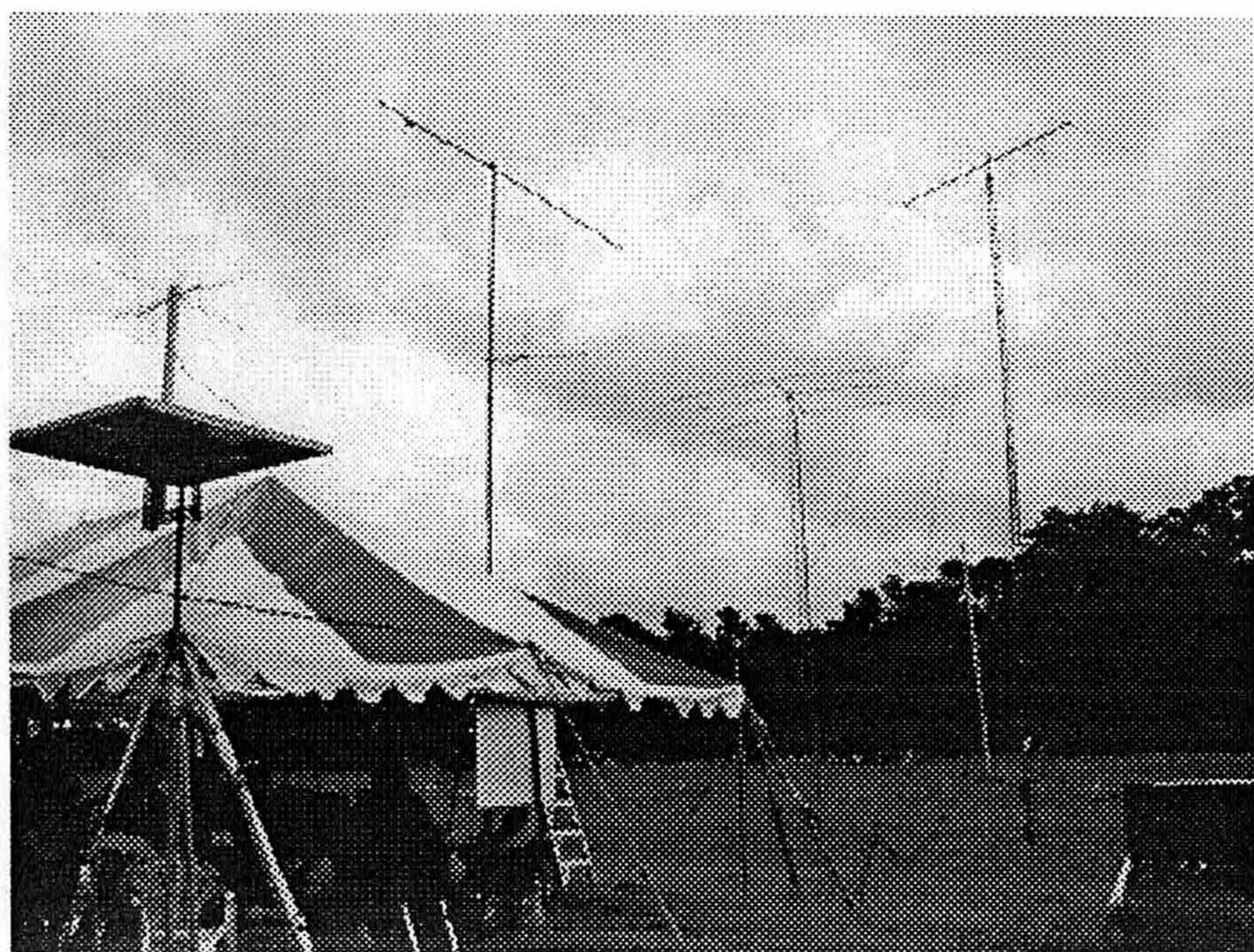
Dan Robinson, from Houston Lighting and Power's Safety Department, will discuss power line safety at the July 18 meeting. Dan will bring with him equipment used in his department and will show the highly entertaining and informative video "High Impact Electricity." You will be a safer ham after you hear what this Mr. Robinson says about his neighborhood. *Don't miss this one.*

Field Day

Walter KK5LO
Field Day
Coordinator

Jim KJ5X
NARS President

Jerry Eversole Harris County
Commissioner Pct 4



Important Dates

Friday, July 18, 7:30 pm – NARS monthly General Membership meeting, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church – Eyeball QSOs, 7:00 pm

Saturday, July 26, 8:30 am – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main)

Tuesday, July 29, 7:30 pm – NARS Board of Directors meeting, Terra Nova Club House, 5200 Woodville.

CONTESTS:

July 12-13 – IARU HF World Championship

July 19-20 – North American QSO Party, RTTY

July 26-27 – IOTA (Islands On The Air)

August 2-3 – ARRL UHF Contest

August 2-3 – North American QSO Party, CW

August 16-17 – North American QSO Party, Phone

NOTICE:

NARS membership dues is \$20 per year, renewable on anniversary of last year's full payment.

NARS News deadline for articles to appear in August issue is Thursday, July 31.

BREAKFAST

at Victors

4710 W FM 1960

Saturdays

8:00 AM

President's Corner

July 1997

Well, Field Day and the big "YOHOO SHOOTOUT" of 1997 are over. It was great fun. For those who don't know, there was a contest between the NARS CW operators and the phone operators to see which could make the most contacts during Field Day. The losers had to drink a case of Yohoo Cola. The CW operators won, by a slight margin. So, at the appointed ceremonial time and like the noble warriors they are, the phone operators sucked down the ice cold chocolate sugar water and saluted the victors. Such rare nobility. In keeping with their high character, the phone operators would of course not point out how the CW folks had brought in a hired gun. Or how in the setup for field day a phone operator graciously assisted in the erection of a CW antenna when the CW guys couldn't get it up. During the Yohoo ceremony K5ZTY, one of the CW ringleaders, in his best Clintonesque, said he could feel the pain of the sidebanders. Thanks a lot Bill. Next year.

In any case it was a good effort with much thanks owing to Walter KK5LO who coordinated it all. Murphy was there but he couldn't stop us. With decent openings on ten, fifteen and six meters a lot of folks got to operate. Although there were no hard windy downpours as in many previous years, it was, as usual, very hot and humid. Perhaps we ought to invite some ARRL headquarters staffers to visit a field day effort down here to see what it's like. Seems to me that any group doing an honest field day outdoors within 100 miles of the Gulf of Mexico ought to get bonus points for it. I personally drank over two and a half gallons of Gatorade in less than 48 hours. But I kept up my strength by eating more than my share of the finest fried turkey I've ever had, prepared on site by master chef Thom Holmes WA5RCZ.

Amateur radio, the ARRL and NARS got a lot of good local newspaper and TV publicity in connection with this year's Amateur Radio Week and Field Day. This is the result of efforts by Harry Gage N5WIZ and Loyd Overcash KD5AIG. The video shot by Loyd at the field day site resulted in very well done newscast pieces on local ABC and CBS TV stations. Thanks guys for your fine efforts. There is one problem. One of the TV pieces used a full-face shot of KC5BAK. Not sure yet just how serious an image problem this creates for NARS.

Jim Kirk KJ5X

NARS Board of Directors Meeting 6/24/97

Treasurer's Report – The checkbook balance on May 31, 1997 was \$5101.74.

Programs – July – HL&P RFI, August – Telephone Fraud

Node / Equipment / Location – No further contact or response from Frank Marshall regarding the use of the Five Forks Road tower; Clusse DX Cluster software from Finland available and will be reviewed

Special Service Club Application – Sent in again, now waiting

Fund Raising – Looking for suggestions; let Board member know of your recommendation

Bob Argo KC5JZO Secretary

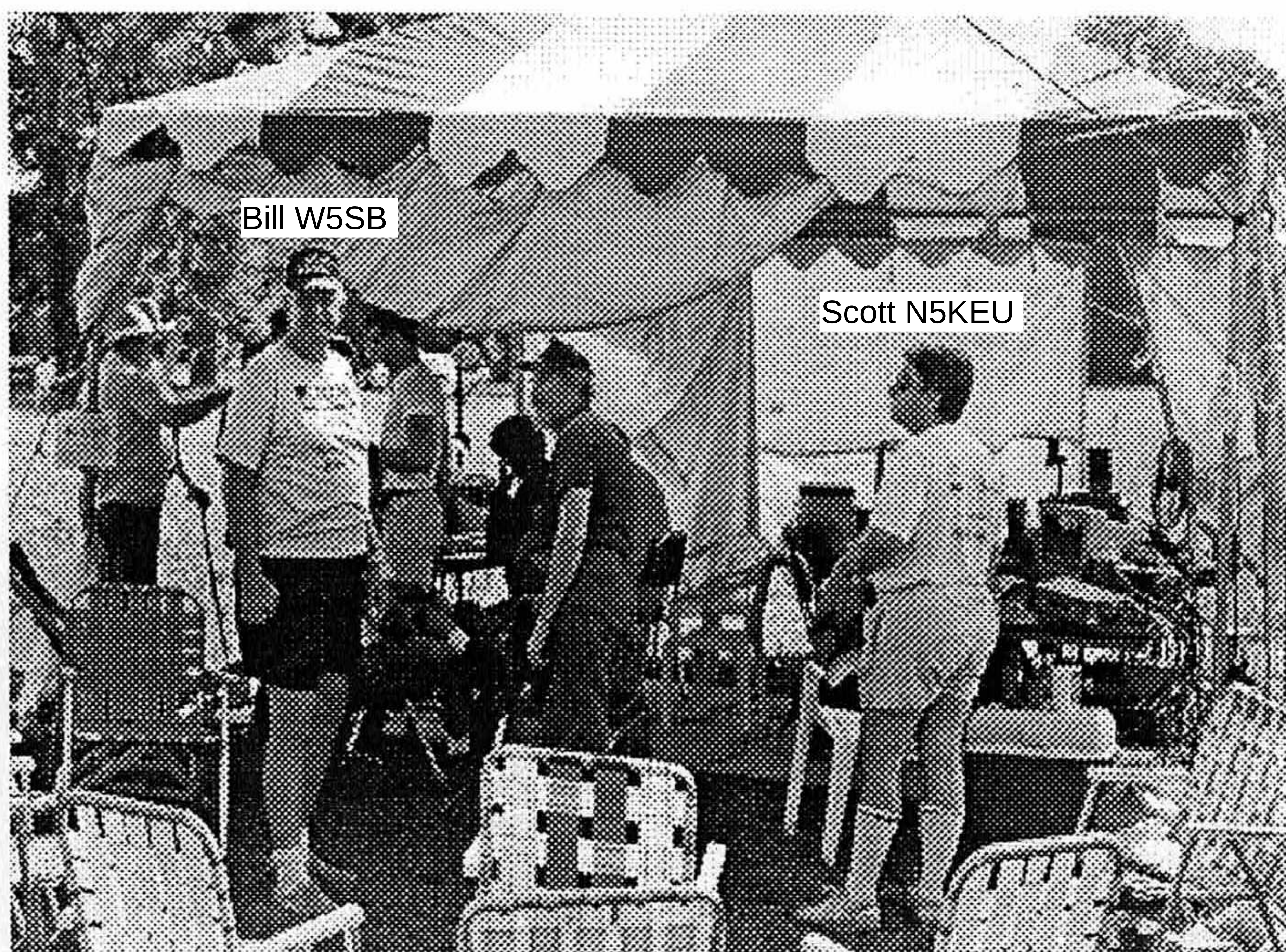
Tech Talk

To complement last month's Tech Talk on where to get parts, this month we'll discuss where you can put them. In circuit boards, of course. The Tech Talk this month will demonstrate an easy way to design and build high quality circuit boards in the privacy of your own shack. The handout will also cover a couple of different methods of prototyping circuits on a tight budget, and where to get software and materials for PCB design.

George M. Carlson KC5RCC

<http://www.flex.net/~geotek/hmsc/index.htm>

Field Day



DX News

DXNotes --Holidays should be like this, Free from overemphasis. Time for soul to work DX, Before the world comes back to vex . . .

The promises and predictions of the Big Bend Sundancers began to take on more form and reality as the new year grew older. Increased and better band openings, yielding more interesting QSOs in Asia and Africa, reflected the sterling qualities of the Sundancers beating on the Big Bass Bongo in the barrancas. The QRPers still wondering about when six meters would stretch out and become more open were left to their own beating of their tiny bongos as the true DXers began improving long dormant beams and similar antennas. Amplifiers placed in cold storage some years earlier were coming out and being fired up. With each of the morning openings into Asia, the True Believers and Deserving DXers became more convinced that the new sunspot cycle is truly underway. DX IS!

The SFI for early June was relatively modest, as were the A & K indices. The second week in the month saw rotten DX conditions and a low solar flux index during the first part of the week. By midweek, the A index was back down to 2, with the SFI still in the low 70s. Poor conditions persisted generally through the middle of the month. To cap things off, as the last week of the month began the SFI fell back to 68, despite our earlier thoughts that we had seen the last of the sixties for a cycle. DX conditions continued to be poor, although a few signals continued to be workable.

DX Worked: ZL3BG, ZL1KP, & ZL2VS (New Zealand); KH0I (Saipan); 4F1JUX & 4F4IX (Philippines); XU2A (Cambodia); VY1JA (Yukon Terr.); BV8BC (Taiwan); JA7AKH (Japan); DS1BHE (S. Korea); BY5QE (China); BV4FH (Taiwan); KH0CE (Tinian Isl.); VK7KO (Tasmania); 5W1MH & 5W1PC (W. Samoa); DU3BBY (Philippines); BV5GQ (Taiwan); 9M8FH (E. Malaysia); VK5QW, VK4BS, VK3CB & VK4EFX (Australia); UA0ZBK/0 (E. Siberia); BV6DF (Taiwan); 4Z4UR (Israel); R1MVI (Malyj Vysotskij Island); YB1XUR (Indonesia); VK2EKY (Australia); ZK1JD (Rarotonga, Cook Islands); BV6DF (Taiwan); DU1COO (Philippines); VK2DD (Australia); EW2CR (Belarus); 9K2GS (Kuwait); UT0MN & US1IDX (Ukraine); YL1XX (Latvia); EL2CY (Liberia); 9M2AA (W. Malaysia); YB5QZ (Indonesia); CY0SAB (Sable Island); JA5LYS (Japan); JA1GKV (Japan); XU2FB (Cambodia); DS1BHE (S. Korea); VS97SAR (Hong Kong -Last hour of operation under British Rule); CY9AA (St. Paul Island).

DX Heard: BV5GQ (Taiwan); SU0ERA (Egypt); 3D2SJ (Fiji Is.); XU2FB (Cambodia); A61AN (Dubai); HV4NAC (Vatican City); SV1ACK (Greece); HL5KY (South Korea); VS97KM (Hong Kong); T32O (Christmas

Island, E. Kiribati); VK3CKY (Australia).

QSL Routes: SU0ERA via SU1ER;); 3D2SJ via Box 1354 Suva, Fiji Is.; A61AN via Box 53636, Dubai, U.A.E.; 9X4WW via ON6TT; XU2FB via N4JR; R1MVI via OH5NE; ZF2MD/8 via K7JI; VS97SAR via VS6XRW.

KJ5X worked 9V1UV for a new one on May 31. Dick Rooney (W5VHN) left town a day or so too soon. Cambodia (XU), which is on his "needed" list, showed up and was worked in Houston right after he left on two different days and two different stations. Jack, WA8GHZ, worked HB0/HB9LEY (Liechtenstein) for a nice catch and said "This stuff is fun!"

QSLs from VK0IR (Heard Island) are appearing frequently, as W5PDW, W5VHN, K5NZ and others report receiving their cards. After the NARS meeting on June 20, K5NZ was giving yours truly a bit of egging about receiving his Scarborough QSL. You don't need to rub it in, Mike!

Hong Kong moved into its final month of separate existence after long domination by the British. As in other parts of its former empire, the Brits have not left things in a vacuum. Even DXing is receiving some special treatment from them. When Hong Kong returned to the Chinese at the end of June, it (in all probability) lost its status as a separate DXCC Country. That is usually the fate of DXCC countries which become annexed by others. All of which begs the question of what Hong Kong callsigns will become. No problem. Some may have noticed a fairly recent showing of Hong Kong callsigns with VR2 prefixes. Rumor says that with the handover of the crown colony, the long-held VS6 prefix will disappear along with separate Country status, and the Hong Kong hams will all adopt VR2 prefixes. This presents another DXCC problem -- for Pitcairn Island, VR6. If, as suspected, the Brits transfer their rights to the VR prefixes to the new Hong Kong, Pitcairn will have to have a new prefix. What shall it be? Stay tuned . . .

Navassa has been a popular DXpedition destination for US and other nearby hams for several decades. Since it has become more difficult to obtain landing permission, Navassa has become more difficult to work. Rumor says that another group is planning a trip there sometime in 1998. That should generate a lot of fun for many of the newer DXers as well as oldtimers who usually try to work everything whether needed or not. One of the unique facets of making a trip to Navassa is the difficulty of landing equipment since the only way onto the rocky island is by climbing a hanging steel "rope ladder" that reaches to just above the surface of the sea from the top of the cliffs above.

Chris ZS8IR reports he has left Marion Island.

Some changes indicate that it may become more difficult to work Marion Island. Before leaving, the rhombic antenna and other resources were removed, indicating a lessened level of activity from there. Not encouraging!

June has treated the world to another opportunity for working Malyj Vysotskij Island, an interesting DXCC country better known as MV Island. MV island is owned by Russia, is leased by Finland, and lies at the southern end of a Finnish canal in the Bay of Vyborg. The first operation from there a few years ago was the first joint operation involving Russian hams, and hams from Finland and the USA. The island is completely unpopulated by humans; there is no electricity or drinking water there. Hence, the only way to work MV Island is when someone goes there for a DXpedition, of which there have been very few.

When first operated, the callsign was 4J1FS. Subsequently this has changed and the June operation used R1MVI. The DXpedition crew had an array of problems. The original landing dock had become unusable due to deterioration and rot, as had an old barracks building which had been planned for housing some of the stations. An alternate landing site, considerably further from the operating site, meant that all of the equipment had to be hand-carried, and tents had to be used to shelter the radio locations. Electric generators have been a major problem, possibly due to contaminated fuel. Despite these and other difficulties, the operation has proceeded.

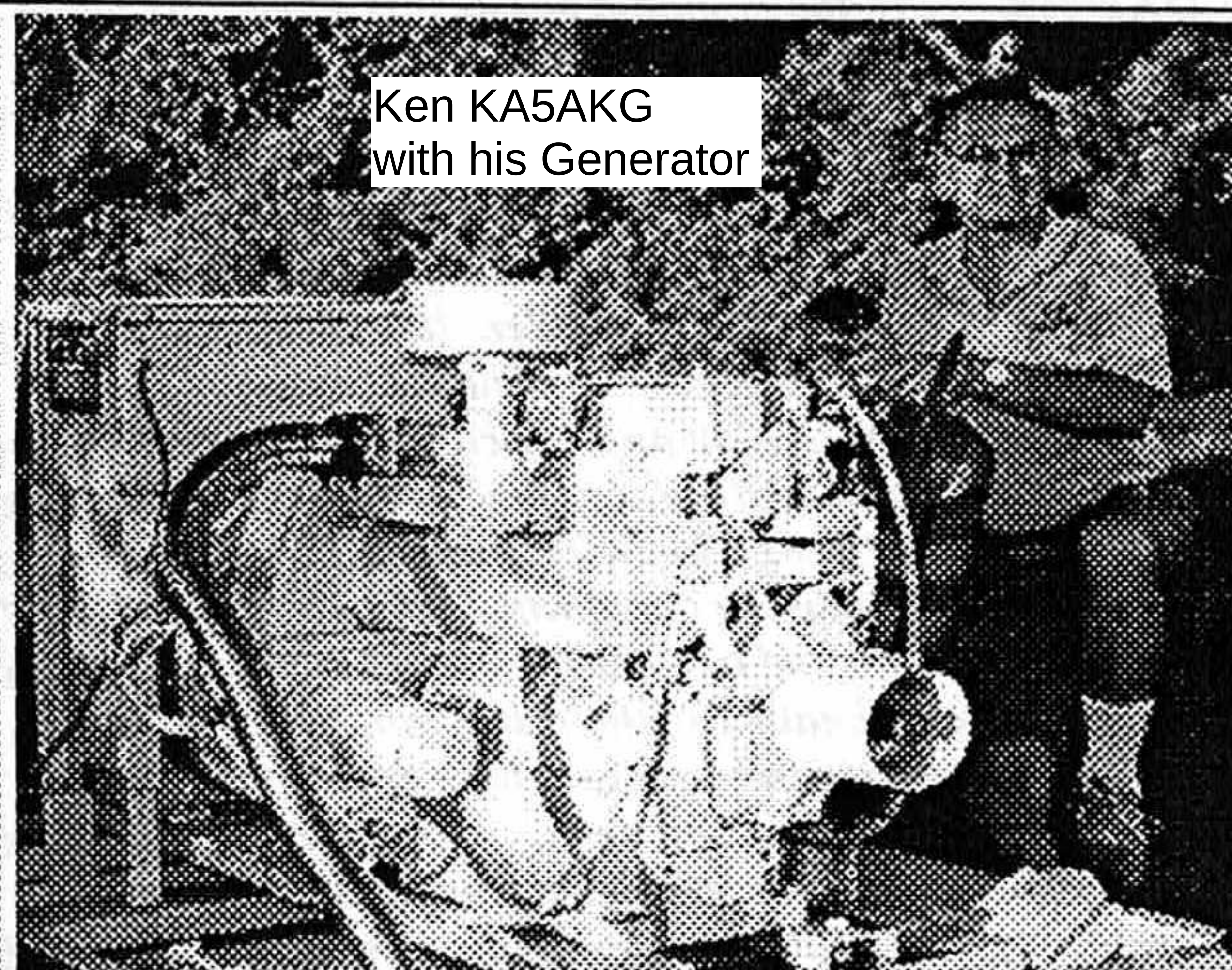
I worked them about ten PM one evening and called an old DX buddy in West Virginia. A few minutes later I heard R1MVI saying "W8SET, you're five and nine." Ho hum; another new country for him!

CY0SAB appeared on Sable Island on schedule and was worked on June 17. This was a working DXpedition, not one especially put on for DXers, but many contacts resulted. The biggest problem with this fellow is a seeming reluctance to provide return QSLs. Three previous 1990s QSOs failed to elicit a return QSL, despite a variety of efforts. Not recommended as a good source, based upon my own experience.

Some were startled to see P5/JA1BK show up on the DX cluster on June 23 PM. He was reported to be working only his friends via a list. Nothing from that part of the world was readable on the given frequency and one suspects the P5 was not real. If readable here in Houston some of us would have given it the old college try nonetheless. It is the usual case of "work-first-worry-later--if you can."

Bill K8CSG

Field Day Photo Gallery



Ken KA5AKG
with his Generator

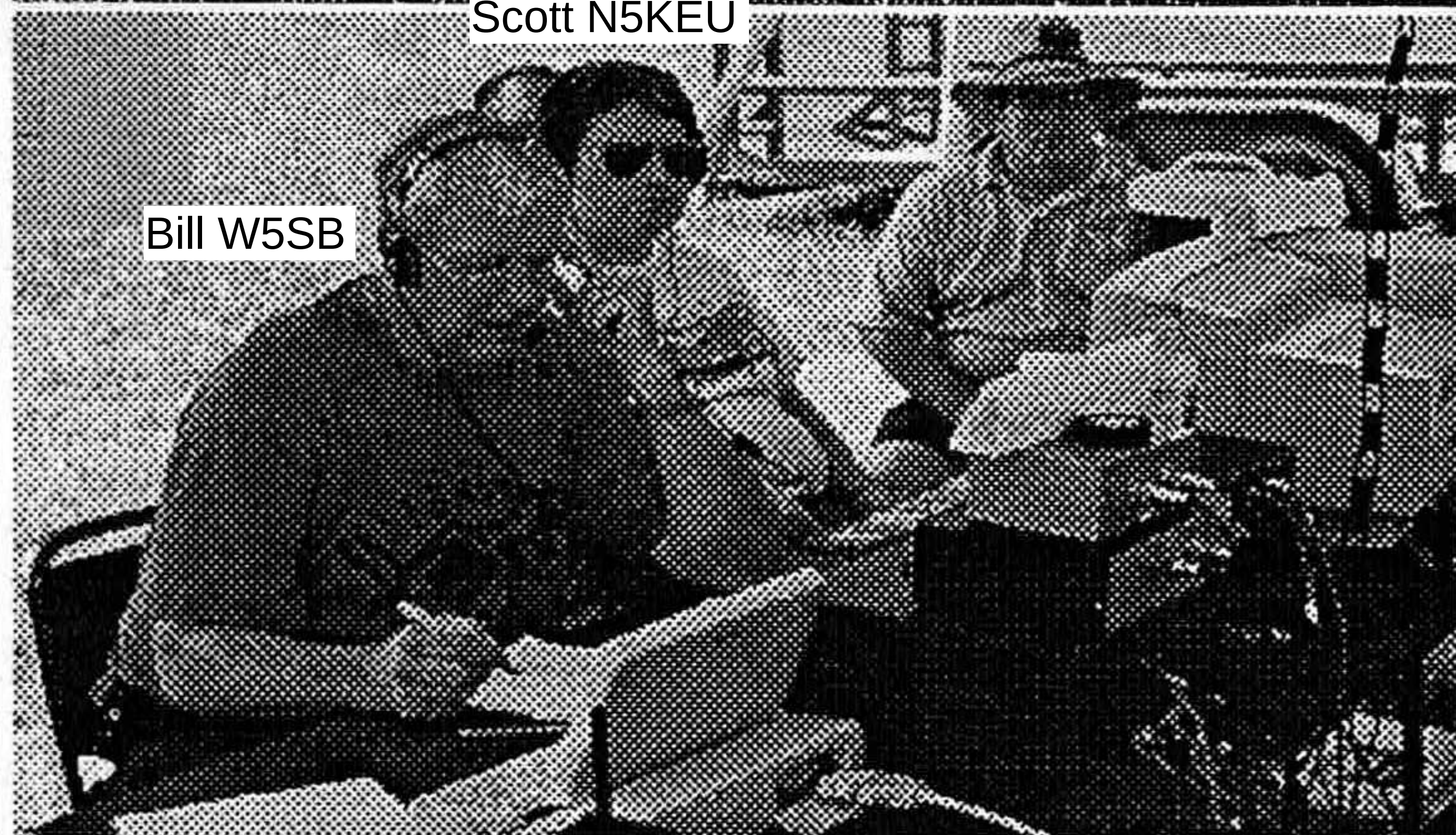


Scott N5KEU



Mike K5NZ

O.J. K1OJ

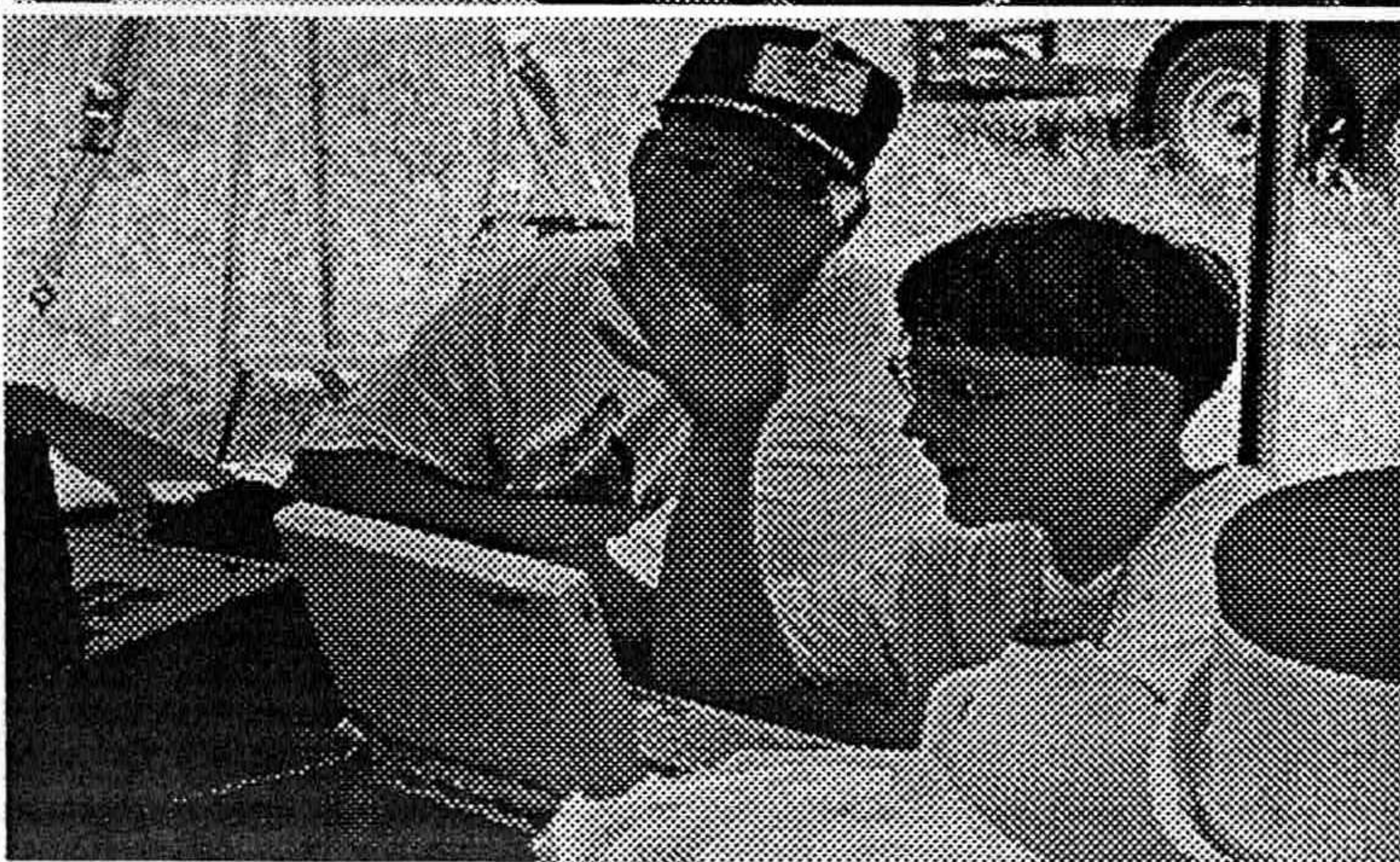


Bill W5SB

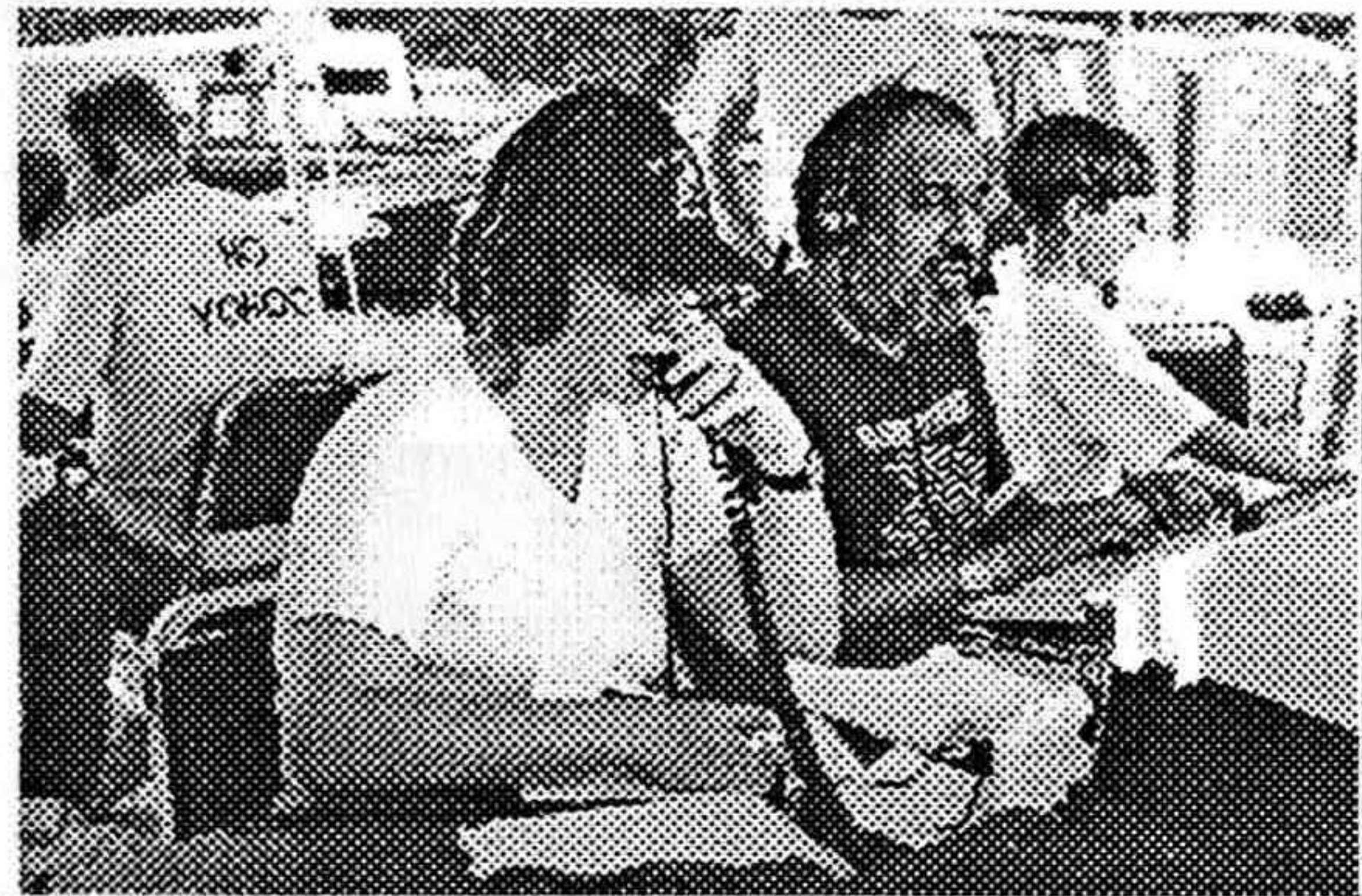


Steve N5EN

Paul N5NXS



Field Day Photo Gallery



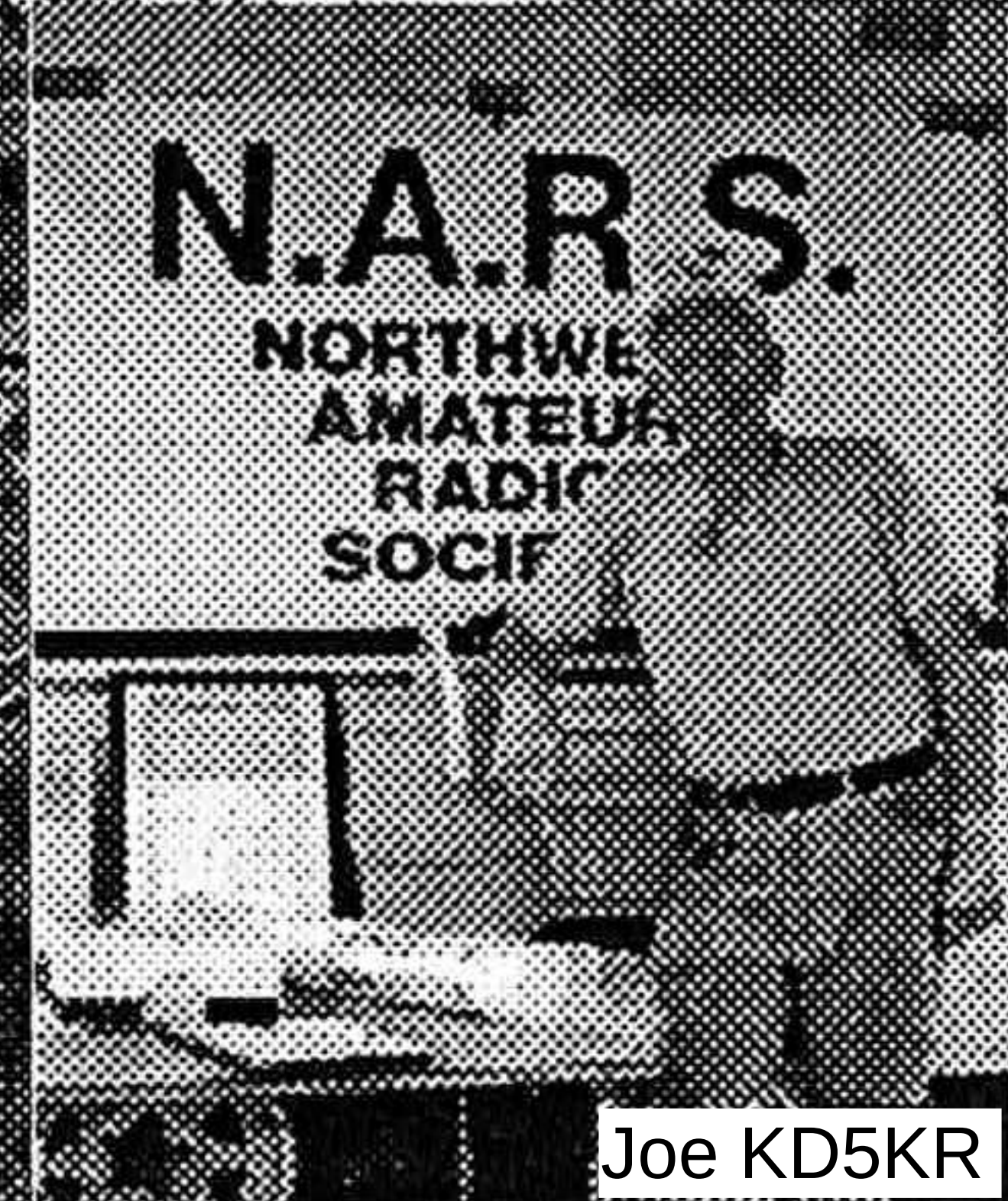
Rich KZ5E



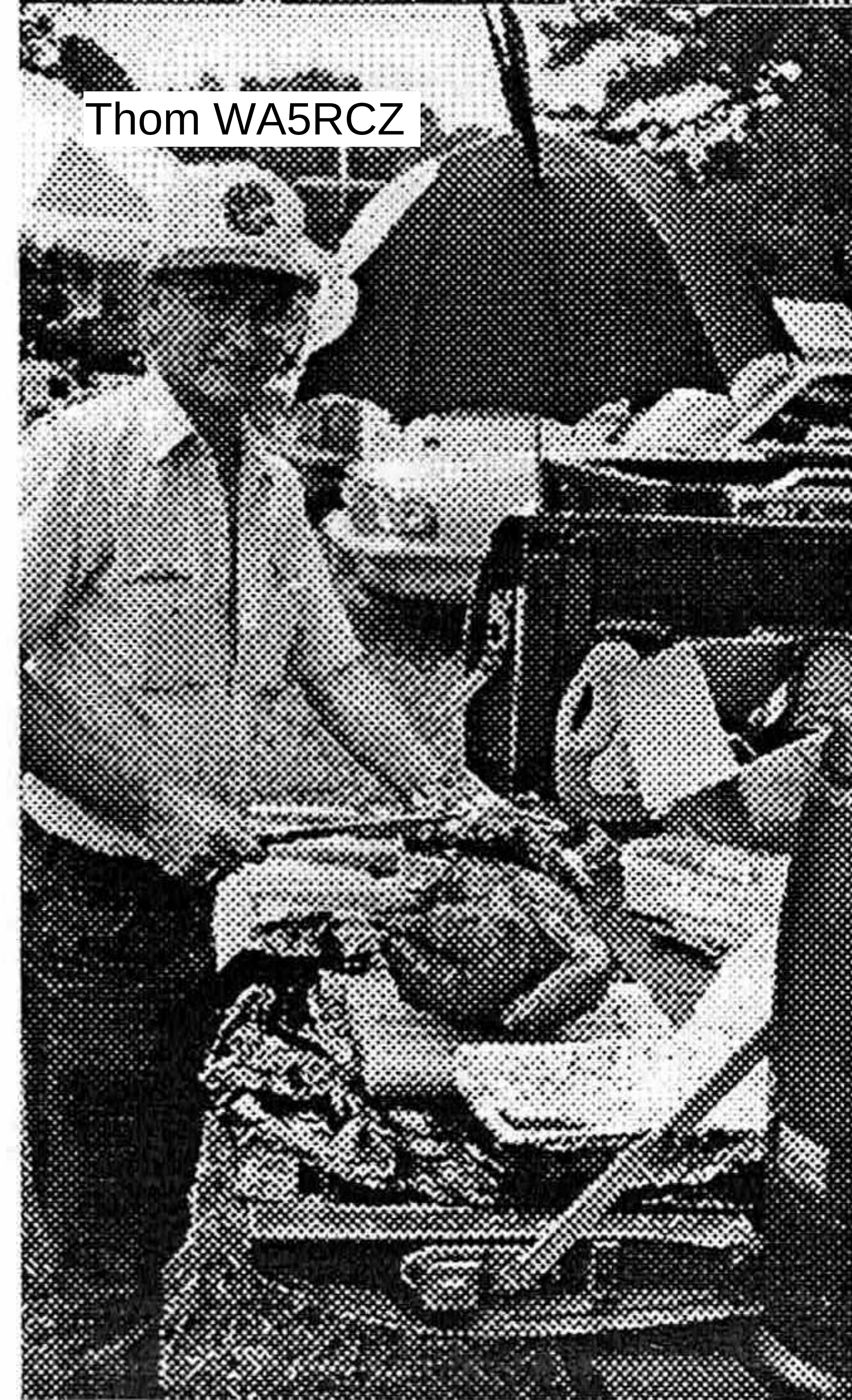
Steve N5EN

O.J. K10J

Mark KM5AO



Joe KD5KR



Thom WA5RCZ



Marian KB5SGV
W5SB's XYL



by Keith Dutson

S
O
A
P

B
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X

Field Day was an absolute BLAST! Walter KK5LO deserves a huge thank you from all of us for heading up such a grand event. And special thanks go to Bill W5SB and OJK10J for staging the exciting Phonies Vs Coders competition, and to Mike K5NZ for egging us all on to greater performance.

In the food category, accolades are in order for the fried turkeys provided by Thom WA5RCZ, the brownies and cookies baked by H O WA5MLT and XYL Anita, the empanadas prepared by Margarita, O J's XYL, and to all the others who provided a host of goodies to munch on.

And last but not least we owe the great photos and video to Bob KC5JZO, H O and Loyd KD5AIG.

Sign up today as a NARS News reporter; see me for details. You do not have to be a writer or photographer, but it will help if you can do either.

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY, 713-893-3901
Allen Majeski WA5REJ, 281-353-8652
Bill Denton W5SB, 281-469-8331,

Antennas

O J Quarles K1OJ, 281-955-1555, HF
Larry McCain WA5SAJ, 281-469-6709
Madison Jones W5MJ, 281-350-4330,

CW

Bill Gary K8CSG, 281-537-9240, DX
Bill Rister KC5EZQ, 281-537-8596, ATV

Satellite:

Deral Kent K5WNO, 281-548-7476,
RS12/13
Dick Rooney W5VHN, 281-288-8424

Electrical Design, Troubleshooting:

George Carlson KC5RCC, 281-376-8307

Packet:

Don Bedell KA3BKU, 281-370-6576

VHF:

Brian Derx N5BA, 713-894-5942

Computer Operating, Win'95:

Bob Argo KC5JZO, 281-288-7430

Computer Programming:

Keith Dutson WD5DXL, 281-351-7683

Interference:

Harry Gage N5WIZ, 281-370-7488, Basic
Advice

Mark Tyler K5GQ, 281-587-0256

Card Checking Awards Managers:

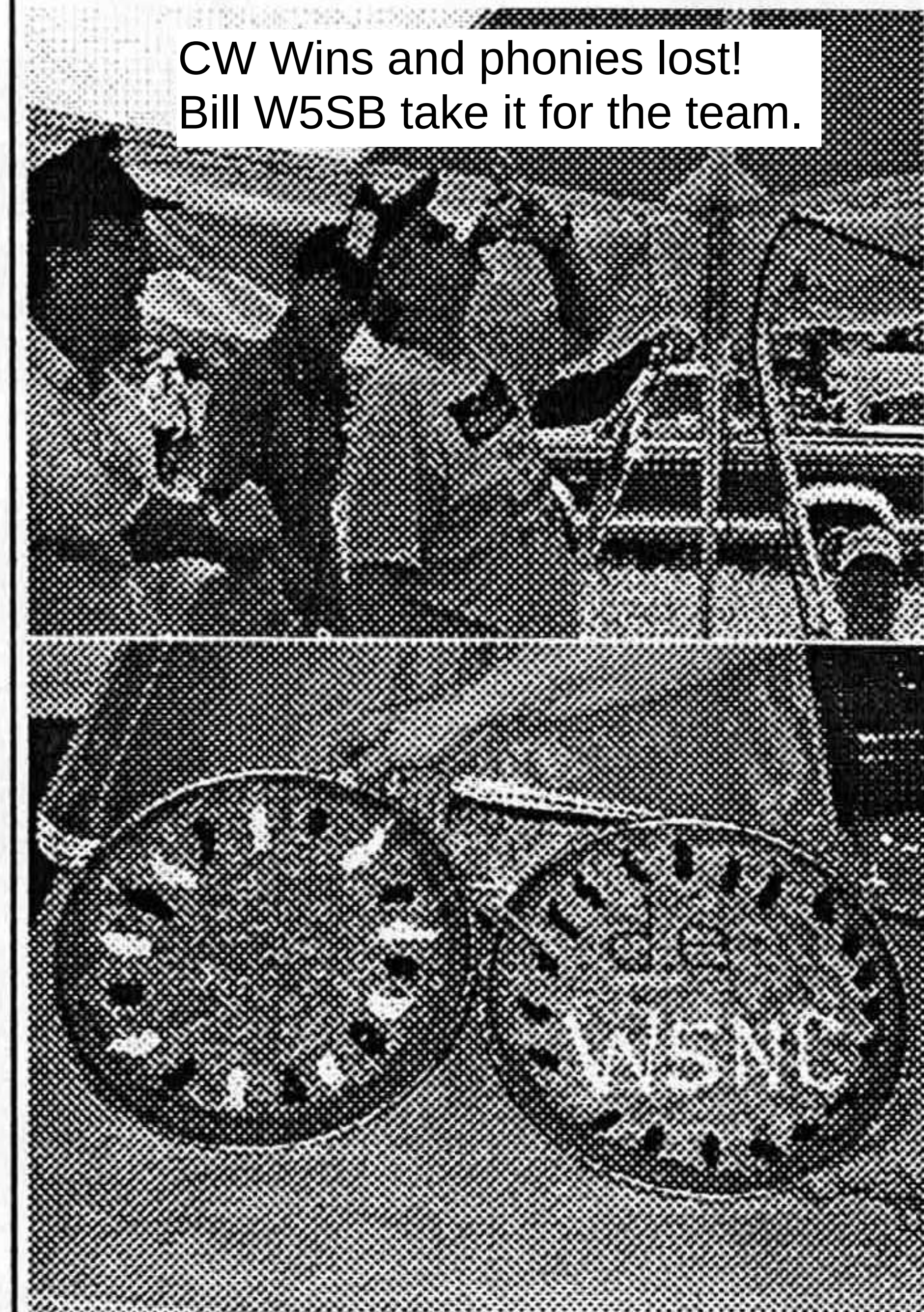
DXCC - Bob Walworth N5ET,
Linda Walworth KE5TF, 281-363-0209
WAS, VUCC - Brian Derx N5BA;
713-894-5942

NARS Public Relations Officer:

Harry Gage N5WIZ, 281-370-7488

Field Day Finale

CW Wins and phonies lost!
Bill W5SB take it for the team.



NARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Please send address, phone, email and other changes to Marian Denton at NARS, P.O. Box 690342, Houston, TX 77269-0342, email W5NC@juno.com

FOR NARS INFORMATION CALL

Marian Denton, 469-8331, for General Information and Bill Gary, 537-9240, for VE Exam Information or send email to novotny@tenet.edu

NARS BREAKFAST every Saturday
8 AM at Victors, located at 4710 W FM 1960. Informal ragchew.

NARS LUNCH BUNCH every
Wednesday - location decided Tuesdays
on the informal morning 2 meter net.

NARS NETS

NARS RAGCHEW - MONDAY 8:00 PM
28.444 MHz

Net Coordinator Jim, KJ5X

NARS INFO - WEDNESDAY 8:00 PM
146.06 /.66 MHz

Net Coordinator Bill, K8CSG

*All telephone #'s are 281 Area Code

NARS REPEATERS

2 M - 146.060 / 146.660 MHz
Digipeter - 145.71 MHz
Call (W5NC) Alias (NARS)

NARS Web Page

<http://www.flash.net/~nars/>

Coordinator HO, WA5MLT
Trustee Walter, KK5LO

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Editor: Keith Dutson, WD5DXL

Send all Articles and Materials for the
Newsletter to: 24415 Deep Meadow,
Tomball, TX 77375, (281) 351-7683,
email kdutson@swbell.net

Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a
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ARRL Club No. 2120

NARS Mailing Address: P.O. Box 690342,
Houston, TX 77269-0342