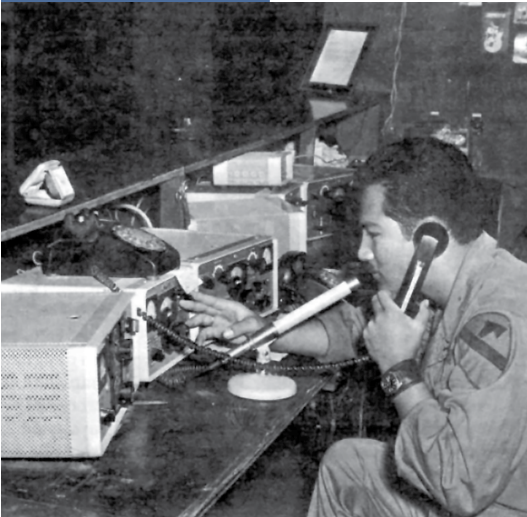


# K9YA Telegraph

Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club

Volume 8, Issue 5, May 2011



## Voice to Viet Nam

*MARS and Chicago Tribune Join Forces*

**Philip Cala-Lazar, K9PL**

This article arose in tandem with my March 2011 overview of Frank Hughes's, W9KJ, column, "QSX: I Am Listening for You."

In early 1966, Hughes extensively covered a Tribune-

sponsored Military Affiliate Radio System project, Voice to Viet Nam (occasionally cited in the articles as Voice of Viet Nam). Voice to Viet Nam passed short, 15-word messages to U.S. military personnel stationed in that country.

Unlike MARS operations to U.S. military posts in Europe and the rest of the world, it was not until December 15, 1965 that MARS traffic was finally opened to Viet Nam.

Here follows a summary and commentary of Frank Hughes's Chicago Tribune Voice to Viet Nam articles.

### **January 9, 1966 HAMS TO SEND MESSAGES TO TROOPS IN VIET**

Messages from family and friends to U.S. servicemen in Viet Nam "will be transmitted for the first time via amateur radio and its military affiliates beginning today."

From this date onward a message form accompanied all Voice to Viet Nam articles; here reproduced verbatim:

*Anyone wishing to send a message to Viet Nam may use the following blank.*

*[Print or type your message and deliver to the Chicago Tribune Public service office, 33 W. Madison st., or*

*Tribune Tower. Or mail to: VOICE TO VIET NAM, P.O. BOX 7398, Chicago, 60680.]*

*DATE*

*RANK & NAME*

*[Please Print]*

*SERIAL NUMBER*

*MILITARY UNIT [Co., Pltn., etc.]*

*APO OR ZIP CODE*

*[TEXT OF MESSAGE—Not over 15 words, please]:*

*Name of Sender*

*Address & Phone No.*

*[This message will be sent without charge via amateur radio and its military affiliates. Neither the amateur radio stations nor THE TRIBUNE assume responsibility for delivery but every effort will be made at prompt dispatch.]*

**January 11, 1966**

**Voice to Viet Begins Sending Messages**

Announced to commence on 9 January,

it was not until 10 January that messages actually started flowing from participating stations. The messages were collected at "local dispatching points" and began their trip via relay stations located in California and Hawaii. "Radio transmission to Viet Nam is extremely reliable, and virtually free from

*CONTINUED - VOICE TO VIET NAM ON PAGE 6*

### **Inside This Issue...**

<i>Voice to Viet Nam</i>	<i>Page 1</i>
<i>A Bicycle Mobile Adventure</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>The W5IG Air Key</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>That Defining Moment...</i>	<i>Page 5</i>
<i>Ham Lingo</i>	<i>Page 5</i>

Philip Cala-Lazar, K9PL  
Editor

Mike Dinelli, N9BOR  
Layout

Dick Sylvan, W9CBT  
Staff Cartoonist

Rod Newkirk, VA3ZBB  
Contributing Editor



Robert F. Heytow  
Memorial Radio Club

www.k9ya.org  
telegraph@k9ya.org

# A Bicycle Mobile Adventure

## Part II

Scott B. Laughlin, N7NET



### Summary of Part I

After Alice survived a near fatal bout with cancer she and Wiley decide not to waste this second chance, this gift of life. Armed with an Air Force pension, a 2-meter HT, an HF radio, and a dog answering to McBark, they've departed Why, Arizona. Their mode of transportation is a tandem bicycle with a heavily laden trailer in tow. Their destination lies 1,700 miles north, Oregon's Willamette Valley, where their grown children

reside. By mere chance they've chosen April Fool's Day to begin this journey.

An overzealous fighter pilot en route to the bombing range has given them a mock strafing, leaving them rattled and unnerved. Later, after pausing at the Ajo plaza to visit with friends and swill down more coffee, they've begun the forty-five mile trek across the Barry Goldwater Bombing Range.

### Part II

Wiley and Alice had previously followed this highway with their pickup and camper. Retracing this path at a slower pace provides them time to realize how desolate this area truly is. Low clumps of greasewood are the only vegetation that seems to thrive in such a tortured land.

The Ajo repeater is the last radio they will encounter today, so Alice announces that she is monitoring the frequency, adding "bicycle mobile" to the suffix of her call. Dick, owner of the repeater, and a maintenance man for the Ajo portion of Pima County responds. He's interested in learning about this bicycle mobile. The two of them keep the repeater busy. Wiley is content to listen and learns that Dick taught industrial arts at a high school in West Virginia before moving to Arizona.

"How did you wind up working for the county?" Alice inquires.

"Circumstances," he explains, "We came because my wife grew up here. She has family in Tucson. There was no immediate need for a teacher with my qualifications. In the meantime we had to eat."

The QSO continues. Wiley tunes it out, becoming aware of the easy cadence they've set. He marvels at how her strength and stamina have improved. It was difficult when they first bought the tandem. Cooperation took on a new meaning.

"What about this?" he'd asked the salesman, adding, "I thought it would be a simple matter of climbing aboard and riding away. It hasn't been that way. Not even close."

"Give it time," he'd answered. "It may take three hundred miles before the two of you develop enough trust and cooperation to work together."

It had taken that much, perhaps more, before they experienced what the salesman had predicted. She

learned to anticipate his next move, while he learned to warn her of obstacles in their path and when to shift speeds by listening to her breathing. That was when they discovered that together they accomplished what neither could do alone.

Alice's radio signal grew weaker as their distance from the repeater increased and Dick suggested that they sign. With the silence, pedaling

became the primary distraction from the parched landscape.

"Oh no, another airplane!" shouted Alice when she heard the sound of an approaching jet.

With no trees under which to take cover, they stopped and prepared for the worst. Two A-10s emerged from behind a rocky hill. They were extremely low, traveling at a speed far less than that of the fighter aircraft they'd previously encountered. The leading Warthog continued his westerly course while the second one veered off, approaching Wiley and Alice. Unnerved, they waited to see what he had in mind. When he was almost directly overhead, he stood his airplane on its left wingtip and flew a tight orbit above them. He'd unfastened his mask, exposing his facial features.

*"Oh no, another airplane!"*



Robert F. Heytow  
Memorial Radio Club

www.k9ya.org  
telegraph@k9ya.org

K9YA Telegraph

"Is he wanting to know if we're okay?" Alice asked.

"I guess," said Wiley, waving back and issuing a "thumbs up." The man in the cockpit echoed Wiley's thumbs up. Broke from his orbit and then raced across the desert to catch up to his partner.

Late afternoon was upon them when they spotted the checkered water tower marking the Gila Bend Air Station. They paused for McBark to make his rounds. An hour later they were in the outskirts of Gila Bend.

They planned to head north on Old US 80, but the map indicated that this stretch was no more populated than the bombing range they'd just crossed. There were no assurances of good places where they might pitch a tent for the night. Even though they'd traveled only fifty miles and several hours of daylight remained, they decided to find a room.

"What the devil you doing on a bicycle?" asked the withered motel keeper. Her hair, what there was of it, was totally white and standing on end. Wiley wondered if the Manhattan Project might be listed on her resume.

"It's a long story," Alice said.

"The dog's gonna cost you an extra ten, you know," she said, her voice taking on a stern tone.

"Why?"

"Do I need to explain what dogs do?"

"Ma'am, I'll venture that our dog is cleaner than most of your human renters," countered Alice.

"Your point is well taken, but rules are rules."

"Rules are to be challenged," argued Alice. "Tell you what, you inspect our room before we leave and if you're not happy we'll pay double, twenty bucks."

"Well..."

Alice signed the register.

The eastern sky was scarlet when they packed up the following morning. Ordinarily, they would be on the road by this time, but upon entering such a desolate track they decided that breakfast at a place resembling Captain Kirk's USS Enterprise was a better idea. McBark dined in the room and they left the DO NOT DISTURB sign hanging on the door.

The motel manager didn't show up for inspection, so they rode away.

They turned north on Old US 80, picking up a respectable tailwind. This wasn't the most direct route

to Wickenburg, their next destination, but it was more sparsely traveled, making it a more desirable track for cyclists.

By early afternoon they were a mile south of a truck stop located at milepost 103 on Interstate 10.

"What the...?" grunted Wiley as the chain holding their pedals in time broke and wrapped around his shoe before dropping to the roadway.

"What happened?"

"I think we're in trouble," he answered, coasting to a stop and retrieved the broken chain from the roadway. "It'll be too short after we remove the damaged links."

"Where are we going to get a new one?" Alice asked.

He could hear the defeat in her voice. "Let's push this rig to the truck stop and find a placed to sit down while we figure out what to do," he suggested.

After a few minutes searching the pages of the repeater book they'd fortunately brought with them, he dialed in the frequency and PL tone for a Yuma repeater. The distance was a challenge for the handheld radio and he knew his signal would be marginal, but a Yuma operator managed to make good copy. After the formalities, Wiley stated their problem.

"GEORGE IS OUR EXPERT IN THOSE MATTERS. HE IS IN CASA GRANDE TODAY. LET ME SEE IF

I CAN REACH HIM WITH APRS. STANDBY."

Several minutes passed before the radio came back to life.

"ARE YOU STILL ON FREQUENCY?"

"THAT'S AFFIRMATIVE."

"I FOUND GEORGE. HE SAYS THERE'S A GREAT BIKE SHOP IN CASA GRANDE. HE WANTS MORE DETAILS ON WHAT YOU NEED."

Wiley explained their situation.

"COPY THAT. STANDBY WHILE I KEYBOARD THIS INFO TO GEORGE."



*"What happened?"*



Robert F. Heytow  
Memorial Radio Club

www.k9ya.org  
telegraph@k9ya.org

CONTINUED - BICYCLE MOBILE ON PAGE 5

# The W5IG Air Key

Lee Cheever, W5IG



What do an old relay, a balloon, and a kazoo have in common? This is not the start of a shaggy dog story. I have been getting older, as most of us seem to do, and I get tremors in my hands making it very difficult to run a key of any kind. My mouth still works. So I decided to make a key that uses air to close the contacts.

Take a kazoo, cut off the top and remove the diaphragm. Smooth the cut so it won't

hang on the balloon neck. Take a balloon with about a 3/4-inch wide neck and cut the neck off at about 1 1/4-inches from the lip. Pull the neck of the balloon over the kazoo to cover the big hole in the top.

Plug the rear of the kazoo with whatever you have that fits. I used a small panel light lens that was the right diameter.

Open an old relay and remove the contacts. If you use a small relay of the double-pole double-throw type, you will get enough contacts to make eight or 10 keys. Pick two good contacts and one stiffener. The stiffener will normally be silver and the contacts will be copper. The contact with the stiffener on top should be soldered to the ends of a

pair of wires. The balloon will expand and push the bottom contact up into the top contact, the stiffener is to limit the top contact's movement to insure solid contact. Make the wire as long as necessary to reach your key jack. Install a suitable size phone plug on the other end of the wires.

The contacts are then laid on the balloon and glued in place. A piece of tape will hold them until you get them glued. Space the contacts so that a small puff of air expands the balloon and closes the contacts.

Basically, the key is complete at this point. I took a small, tubular pill bottle, painted it black and cut a 5/8-inch hole in the cap. Drilled another 5/8-inch hole in the end of the tube, and pushed it on the kazoo. This protects the contacts and gives you something to hold on to.

When the key is finished, plug it into the key jack, put it to your mouth like a trumpet, blow in the key and stop the air with your tongue. Dots and dashes can be made with your tongue. You will be surprised at how fast you can send. I have sent at over 20- wpm, good code. People on the other end do not know it is not a straight key. Now I wonder if I can enter the Straight Key contest on New Year's? Oh yes, it could be used for mobile hands-free CW, but I wouldn't

recommend driving while sending. ■

Click [HERE](#) to view YouTube video.

“...a kazoo...”



Robert F. Heytow  
Memorial Radio Club

www.k9ya.org  
telegraph@k9ya.org

K9YA Telegraph



The Parts that go into a W5IG Air Key



Completed W5IG Air Key

## USS YORKTOWN BACK ON THE AIR!

On May 14, 2011 call sign NWKJ will be heard on the airwaves for the first time in forty-one years. South Carolina Navy Marine Corp MARS members and operators from other states in Region Four will activate *Yorktown* for the annual military crossband test.

Frequency	Emission	Amateur Band
4010.0 kHz	LSB	80M
7348.0 kHz	LSB	40M
14478.5 kHz	USB	20M
20994.0 kHz	USB	15M

POC:

Fred Hambrecht, W4JLE/NNNØGBS  
129 Indian Trace Court  
Gilbert, SC 29054

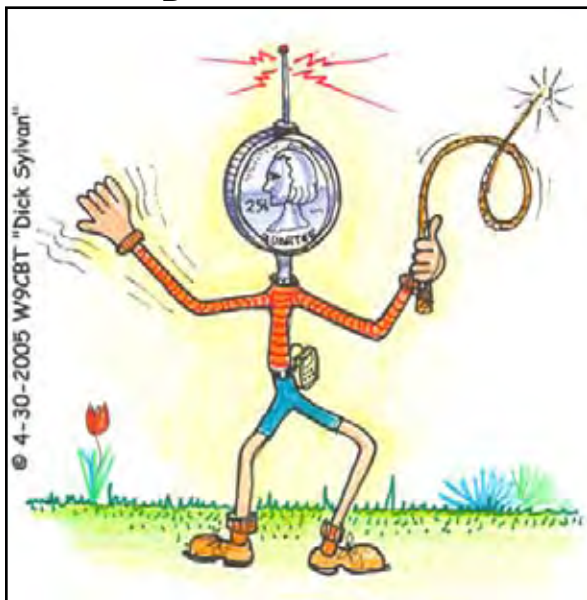
### That Defining Moment...

“...was when I was listening to 20m AM on my dad’s old Philco floor radio that had shortwave. I was hooked from that moment, although it took me until I joined the Air Force in the 70s to get it.”

Larry, KL7IBV

### Ham Lingo

DICK SYLVAN, W9CBT



QUARTER-WAVE WHIP

Minutes passed.

“ARE YOU STILL ON FREQUENCY?”

“THAT’S AFFIRMATIVE.”

“GEORGE IS HEADED BACK TO CASA GRANDE. HE WILL SEND ME A MESSAGE WHEN HE’S GOT THE CHAIN.”

Wiley and Alice took their places at a wooden picnic table and waited. Fifteen minutes passed before the HT receiver came back to life.

“ARE YOU STILL ON FREQUENCY?”

“Yep.”

“GEORGE SAID IT COULD BE ONE OF TWO DIFFERENT CHAINS. DIFFERENT PITCH, HE SAID. THE SHOP OWNER WAS NOT SURE SO HE IS HEADED YOUR WAY WITH BOTH.”

“ROGER THAT. WE ARE INDEBTED TO BOTH YOU AND GEORGE.”

“THINK NOTHING OF IT. JUST PASS ALONG THE FAVOR. YOU KNOW THE DRILL.”

Wiley cleared the frequency. After moving the bike to a shady area, they secured McBark with feed and water and then headed for the diner.

George was a tall, young man with faded blue eyes and a mop of dark red hair. He stayed with them until the bike was ready to roll, asking a host of questions about their tour. Then he told them of a free, primitive campground near Vulture Mine.

“How far?”

“I’m not sure, maybe twenty miles. You’ll be on your own. Take enough food and water with you.”

With hours of daylight remaining, they followed the bridge over Interstate 10. Soon, they were on the old Wickenburg Stage Road, headed for Vulture Mountain. ■

Copyright © 2011 Scott B. Laughlin



Enter the K9YA Telegraph  
Photo Contest!

Click [HERE](#) for Details



Robert F. Heytow  
Memorial Radio Club

[www.k9ya.org](http://www.k9ya.org)  
[telegraph@k9ya.org](mailto:telegraph@k9ya.org)

any atmospheric or other interference, because of the relay system by which amateurs transmit the messages." Readers are assured of the privacy of the system thanks to the "secrecy of messages act, dating from the early days of wireless."

Monetary contributions to the effort were returned to their senders; "...one provision of federal law is that amateurs licensed by the federal communications commission [sic] must receive no payment or gift for any service they render."

**January 16, 1966**

#### **Tower Lobby Radio to Relay Voice to Viet**

A few days into the Voice to Viet Nam operation amateur radio station W9KJ/9 was installed at Tribune Tower. Its stated purpose: To speed messages and "to demonstrate the public service of amateur radio directly."

Hallicrafters (a Chicago-based company) equipped the station: "Single-sideband, all-band amateur transceiver [combination of receiver and transmitter], and a two kilowatt linear amplifier providing the maximum legal power allowed for amateur operations, and the necessary accessories." According to Voice to Viet Nam participant, Jordan Kaplan, W9QKE, the Hallicrafters gear comprised a HT-32 transceiver and HT-33 linear amplifier.

The more than 100 messages received per day from Illinois and "five surrounding states" were routed through MARS stations in Honolulu, Guam and southern California.

**January 17, 1966**

#### **Voice to Viet Goes Out from Tribune**

Today, little more than a week after the project's start, the Voice to Viet Nam station in Tribune Tower lobby sent its first messages on their way to the Far East. The station, operating from 9 am to 3 pm, was located "directly against the marble facia [sic] on the east wall." *Flanked on each side by attractive panels, topped with planting, the station occupies a full desk top in front of a big sign describing the Voice to Viet Nam service offered by amateur radio.*

W9KJ's antenna was located behind the building at 100 feet above ground and mounted "over a big open court." Visitors to the lobby station could listen to both sides of the transmissions.

Message forms filled out at the nearby Tribune Public Service office were handed to the operators for transmission. Replies from message recipients were (usually) delivered via telephone by the amateur radio operators who received them.

CONTINUED - VOICE TO VIET NAM ON PAGE 7



#### **January 12, 1966 Radiograms For Viet Nam GIs Popular**

The Voice to Viet Nam project proves a popular offering as radiograms from communities outside Chicago pour in. Messages from individuals in Janesville, Wis.; Benton Harbor, Mich.; South Bend, Ind.; and a number of Chicagoland suburbs were received.

**January 13, 1966**

#### **Voice to Viet Nam Program Expanded Other Cities Join with Tribune in Project**

Local hams reported "more interest in the traffic to fighting men in Viet Nam than there has been in any message service amateur radio has started since the Korean War."

Nearly 100 messages per day were forwarded to Chicago area hams and hams nationwide: "they are reaching Viet Nam with record speed."

Newspapers in other cities wishing to participate in the project are invited to do so.

**January 15, 1966**

#### **Hams Thanked for Viet Message Offer One Writer Hails 'Fabulous Job' of Amateurs**

The writer referenced is a woman who wrote, "TO THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE and all those wonderful 'hams': Our thanks and prayers for this fabulous job you have undertaken. Bless you."

From a Kankakee, Ill. woman, "I truly think this is a wonderful thing the amateur radio men are doing. I do not consider them amateurs if they can handle a job like this."

From a navy aviator's mother: "I want to thank you for the interest you have taken in our service men and all you have done for them and their families."

*"...a wonderful thing..."*



Robert F. Heytow  
Memorial Radio Club

www.k9ya.org  
telegraph@k9ya.org

K9YA Telegraph

**January 19, 1966**

**More Cities to Join Voice to Viet  
Military Bases Act as Relay Points**

Military bases relaying messages to Viet Nam: "W6DYK, San Diego Marine corps base; K6MCA, Marine training center, San Bernardino, Cal.; K7WBC, Army electronic proving ground, Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; K7WAT, Fort Lewis, Wash.; W6ZJB, Marine Supply center, Barstow, Cal.; and KH6AJF, Camp Smith, Hawaii."

Operation took place on "14.275 megacycles, where most of the national and international traffic networks meet." Additional frequencies were from 14.250 to 14.300 Mc., with all transmissions in SSB.

Other newspapers following the Tribune's lead included those in Los Angeles, Indianapolis and Eldorado, Ill. Three hams in Eldorado: "WA9ALA, WA9JZI, and K9VKB" provided relay services.

**January 20, 1966**

**Army Facilities Are Available for Messages**

On this date Army MARS chief in the Pentagon, Edward Liscombe, announced a new "10 kilowatt station at Tan Sun Nhut, just outside Saigon." This station and six others "in forward areas" handled "messages from fighting men to home folks."

A high-speed Teletype line was planned to manage the anticipated load of messages to come as the Voice to Viet Nam program accelerated. Airmail to Viet Nam took 2½ to 5 days; the radio route was expected to easily beat that time.

Also announced were plans for a RTTY station at Tribune Tower. The chief of communication operations of the fifth army noted the RTTY installation would "feed 60 words a minute to MARS station A9USA at Fort Sheridan" near Chicago. From there relayed to WAR Army MARS station at the Pentagon, then to AB6USA, Fort Shafter, Hawaii and on to Ten Sun Nhut.

In related news, papers in Jacksonville, Florida and Wichita, Kansas requested assistance establishing Voice to Viet Nam-type programs in their locales.

**January 21, 1966**

**Voice to Viet Augmented by Teletype**

A new antenna was installed on the "11<sup>th</sup> floor level in back of Tribune Tower." [Jordan Kaplan, W9QKE, recalls this might have been a 4-BTV trapped vertical.]

Announced by Lt. Col. S.P. Aurelio, chief of the communications operations division of the 5<sup>th</sup> army and Mrs. Margaret Veach, acting director of 5<sup>th</sup> army MARS, was the installation of a RTTY set-up consisting of a Hallicrafters receiver and transmitter and "a Teletype Corporation ASR-28 unit." The ASR-28 was lent by "Dr. M.J. Schlussel, M.D., chief of staff of the Veterans Research Hospital, its amateur radio station, W9DVJ," and trustee, James Pacourek.

**January 22, 1966**

**Teletype Sends 165 Messages to Viet from Tribune Lobby**

On its first day of operation, the new RTTY link transmitted 165 messages: "Transmission was virtually instantaneous." The RTTY link operating on 3.615 Mc. spanned the 27 miles between Chicago and Fort Sheridan.

**January 27, 1966**

**Voice to Viet Relays 235 Messages a Day  
Priest Sends 72 Messages to Parishioners**

A record 235 messages were passed this day by the Voice to Viet Nam. At the Fort Sheridan end of the link were civilian employees, Edward Keto, K9CSG, and David Johnson, W9UFP. They "operate both the amateur and military circuits there."

Also on this day, James Scott, W9CWH, "an experienced amateur radio Teletype operator" and a television engineer for CBS joined the volunteer crew at W9KJ/9.

George Tasker, W9GMK, "a member of the staff of Episcopal Bishop G. Francis Burrill" relayed 72 of the messages from a hospital room on Chicago's north side. Bishop Burrill requested his diocesan priests send messages to congregation members serving in Viet Nam.

**January 28, 1966**

**'Voice of Viet' of Tribune Sets Record for Messages  
Many Operators Pitch In to Aid Soldiers**

Messages continue to flow from the Tribune Tower lobby as 188 received from friends and relatives were sent on their way via RTTY. One hundred and twenty messages were received from servicemen serving in Viet Nam; a number of these from the home station of Pauline Course, WA9CNU.

W6DYK, the Marine base station in San Diego, announced it was now RTTY equipped.



Robert F. Heytow  
Memorial Radio Club

www.k9ya.org  
telegraph@k9ya.org

CONTINUED - VOICE TO VIET NAM ON PAGE 8



Robert F. Heytow  
Memorial Radio Club

www.k9ya.org  
telegraph@k9ya.org

K9YA Telegraph

The article continued with a short description of RTTY tape punching and that once received at their destination in Viet Nam “messages are carried to the various units by courier for delivery by hand.”

### February 1, 1966

#### 2,000th Dispatch to Viet Nam

#### Tribune's Voice Continues Free Service

Today, the number of messages passed to servicemen in Viet Nam reached 2,000.

Named were some of the operators involved and their call signs: Ray Thill, WA9EXP; Emerson Nye, W9ACR; John Steadman, WA9KWP; and Jordan Kaplan, W9QKE.

Young Ladies Radio League members Pauline Course, WA9CNV; Yolanda Weisschappell, WA9CCP; and Roberta Kroulik, K9IVG received both SSB and RTTY messages at their home stations. “These three women have been key operators in the Voice to Viet Nam since it began operation....”

### February 4, 1966

#### VIET MESSAGE RELAY MOVES FROM TRIBUNE

#### Amateurs Take Over Radio Service

On 3 February, singer Anita Bryant sent a message via W9KJ/9 to Gen. William C. Westmoreland United States commander in Viet Nam. Ms. Bryant recently returned from a Bob Hope U.S.O. Christmas show was visiting Chicago-area veterans' hospitals. She informed the commander she was looking forward to “spending next Christmas with him and her best wishes to all his men.”

On this day messages were sent via RTTY to W9USA, Fort Sheridan, north of Chicago. From there to WAR at the Pentagon; on to AB6USA, Fort Shafter, Hawaii; and then to Saigon.

As of this date the Voice to Viet Nam departs the Tribune Tower lobby and moves to the shacks of local amateur radio MARS operators.

### February 6, 1966

#### BEAM 2,587 MESSAGES TO YANKS IN VIET

In its 21 days of operation Voice to Viet Nam passed 2,587 messages. Reiterated in that day's article was that this was a non-pecuniary service to the public, and that no gifts of any sort could be accepted by its participants. Any monies received were returned to its senders.

### February 8, 1966

#### VOICE TO VIET NAM

Praising the Voice to Viet Nam project, Lt. Col. S.P. Aurelio, chief of communications, operations division, 5<sup>th</sup> Army wrote in part: “This has been a public service in the highest sense. Many service men and their families have been made happier as a result of receiving the messages transmitted and received by The Tribune Voice to Viet Nam.”

### February 19, 1966

#### 'Voice to Viet' Wins Award

York Radio Club of Elmhurst presented its *Golden Microphone Award* to the Tribune and publisher, J. Howard Wood, for its “Voice to Viet Nam” amateur radio message program.” Accepting for the Tribune was reporter Frank Hughes, W9KJ. Also commended were Pauline Course, WA9CNV, “chief operator of the station in the Tribune lobby”; Yolanda Weisschappell, WA9CCP; and Jordan Kaplan, W9QKE, “‘who thru their initiative and determination’ encouraged and aided in the project.”

*QST*'s March 1966 “Operating News” column reports Frank Hughes sent “three days of clippings” from the Tribune's Voice to Viet Nam coverage. Also included was a photo of the crowd viewing the station's operation in the Tribune Tower lobby.

#### He Was There

Our thanks to Jordan Kaplan, W9QKE, whose intimate and detailed knowledge of the people and events provided invaluable assistance in the writing of this article. A personal friend of Frank Hughes, W9QKE was there from the beginning of the Voice to Viet Nam project.

The Voice to Viet Nam was a fine example of a highly successful and visible collaboration between the U.S. military, the private sector, the media and the amateur radio service. While serving thousands of military personnel and their families it boosted public awareness and appreciation for amateur radio operators and their services to the American public. ■

#### References

Chicago Tribune

*QST*, March 1966, December 1966

*Viet Nam Studies: Communications-Electronics, 1962 – 1970*, Major General Thomas Matthew Rienzi, Department of the Army Washington, D.C., 1972, Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 71-184863