

HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS FROM NEWFOUNDLAND TO NEW ZEALAND

# Amateur Broadcasting Station 10-BQ

BRANTFORD, ONTARIO, CANADA

250 METRES

(TELEPHONE CITY)

1200 KILOCYCLES

## TRANSMITTER

Osc. 2-210's 15 Watts.

Mod. 2-205's B.

Ant. Current 1 amp.

Speech Amplifier

3-Stage Res. Coupled.

Antenna-2 Wires inverted

L, 50 ft long, 75 ft high.

Condenser and Carbon Microphones used are made by Chief Operator, Harold Brown.



Three remote control phone lines to studio.

## Points of Interest,

St. Paul's, His Majesty's Chapel of the Mohawks, oldest Protestant place of worship in Ontario. Erected 1785.

Bell Homestead where Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone 1874.

"Chiefswood" home of E. Pauline Johnson, Indian Poetess.

Picture—Left to Right— Front Row : Tom Brown, Manager; Beatrice Brown, Stenographer; Wilbert and Edgar Brown, Asst. Operators; Back Row: Danay Hamer, Pianist; Albert Ellis, Asst. Operator; Harold Brown, Chief Operator.

# Amateur Broadcasting Station 10-BQ

## The Voice of The Telephone City

*Following is a letter I received from Albert H. (Abe) Ellis, about Broadcast Station 10-BQ in Brantford, Ontario, which signed on in 1925 on 1200 kHz. Abe was on the staff of the station in those days, and I recently asked him for his recollections of the station, over 60 years ago. Here is his reply, with as little editing as possible. Gardner Smith*

In 1925 Commander C.P. Edwards was Deputy Minister, Marine and Fisheries in Ottawa. At that time he was in charge of radio in Canada.

He had the idea that amateur broadcast stations could fill the void that existed in Canada by supplying music to those who owned radio sets. Don't laugh, it was a real problem then, even in the States. WJR Detroit came on to supply music to those who bought Jewett Radios, hence the call; WGR, General Radio of Buffalo was another such as few would buy unless they could hear music.

This new toy as pictured by a number of people would soon die out, most felt, as did the governments, it was a passing fancy. I digressed a bit. Commander Edwards issued a number of permits to radio clubs and others interested in using a low-powered outfit so they could play music and such for their members. So was born the "Ten" series of stations that operated from, in most cases, the home of its operator, and used the five to ten watts allowed.

In most cases these outfits used modulated oscillators and had to have the antenna tied down or it varied frequency. 10-BQ, B-Brantford Q-Quality (what else?) played mostly old time music, hoedown and square dancing, played by volunteer local musicians. This loose and friendly operation did not go with stiff-necked classical listeners—they had to fish for WHAS in Louisville, Kentucky, or some such.

The majority did enjoy it and kept the phone ringing constantly. We used a Westinghouse aircraft set with two VT2 tubes in it, one a modulator, to the final or oscillator tuned by using a pair of phones in the plate circuit tuned to WOAI San Antonio, Texas, who was issued the frequency of 1190 kcs, tuning slightly off put us close to 1200 kcs. This was not a United States frequency back then, so we had little interference and this allowed us to compete with close-by U.S. stations frequency wise.

On our DX night we listened until WOAI went off the air, then we went on so the dynamotor-battery operated outfit had a chance to get out. Harold Brown [Chief Operator and General Manager] was a very good machinist and made double button mikes as well as the condenser mike pictured [in the photo between Abe and Harold Brown].

On DX programs we used phonograph records and operated close the transmitter keeping noises to a minimum. The hundreds of cards we received from all over the states as well as Canada and a few off-continent proved we did something right. Granted that such an operation is not possible today. The modulated oscillator was banned if I remember, in 1932. Still, we filled a hole that at that time existed. Few commercial stations existed in Canada, or for that matter, in the States, so we supplied music so a radio set could be used with pleasure.

Two stations still exist that were "Ten" licensed—10-NX in Wingham, which is now CKNX; and 10-BP in Chatham, which is now CFCO. The rest of the Ten stations faded out, as during the Depression few had any money to buy a commercial outfit. In 1938 we had to leave the air. We were offered a commercial license, but like most, had negative assets.

That, to the best of my memory, is the story of 10BQ. *It was fun!*

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