

Letters

Ham radio links worried father with hurricane-ravaged family

On Thursday morning, September 13, 1979, at 10 o'clock, I received a telephone call from the York Regional Police, Richmond Hill division, requesting my assistance as a radio amateur (ham) and asking my permission to pass along my telephone number to a Richmond Hill visitor from Pensacola, Florida, who was desperate to obtain information as to the welfare of his family and property following the devastating tropical Hurricane Frederick that had passed through that area the night previously.

The Pensacola visitor,

a Mr. Clint Chew, had been up all the previous night attempting, unsuccessfully, to get a phone call through to his home, but the phones were down.

Following my telephone conversation with the police, Mr. Chew telephoned me and gave me the pertinent details as to the exact location of his home and the name of his son, Dr. C.J. Chew.

I assured him that I would go into action immediately and would, hopefully, have some answers for him before noon.

At that moment he was

loading his motor-home in preparation of returning to Pensacola and wondering if he had a home and family to go to.

He said that he would delay leaving until he had some word from me.

Not having an advanced amateur licence which would permit me voice communication on the 20 or 40 meter emergency net, I promptly made a request on the Toronto 2-meter repeater, TTY, asking if there was a base operator available who could (with an advanced licence) get information on 20 or 40 metres from the hurricane emergency

health and welfare net.

No one was available on that repeater, but Mike, VE3 FOY, in his car, suggested that I make the request on the Brampton repeater.

Fortunately, I found two or three offers of assistance.

Mary Drummond, VE3 IYY, Brampton tried, unsuccessfully, to break into the Emergency Net with cw (Morse Code) but wasn't recognized.

It was suggested that I telephone Don Boyington, VE3 IOR in Weston.

His wife told me that he was out but nearby, and that she would turn on his rig (radio) to warn up and then contact him and that he would undoubtedly come home within minutes to help out.

In the meantime, Thelma Woodhouse, VE3 CLT, in Scarborough, and advanced ham, offered to go to bat for Mr. Chew.

I contacted Mr. Chew once again and informed him that we had put the wheels in motion and I felt that it was only a matter of time — perhaps half an hour, before we would have some answers for him.

Thelma reported, in due time, that she had been able to reach a ham in St. Petersburg who offered to put a long-distance phone call in to Dr. Chew in Pensacola — and was able to report that things were in good order, very little damage done to the house, and no personal injuries.

Following this phone call, I tried to get in touch with both Don, VE3 IOR, and Mr. Chew in Richmond Hill, by telephone and I found both lines tied up for at least 20 minutes.

Since I had given Mr. Chew's phone number to

Don and had asked him if he would please let Mr. Chew know that he was making every effort to get word for him — when I found both lines busy, I assumed, correctly, that they were talking to each other.

Well, the story ended with Don putting a phone patch through and father and son talking to each other via radio.

Needless to say, Mr. Chew went on his way, a very happy relieved man.

When I was talking to Don on the telephone, I listened while he broke into the emergency net and made his request.

I thought he was terrific.

When his break was acknowledged, he said: "I have an emergency request from authorities attempting to reach a Dr. Chew in Pensacola, Florida". I'll tell you, that request received prompt attention.

When the drama ended, Mr. Chew called and thanked me profusely and we talked briefly about the pleasures in ham radio.

He told me that he was retired and that he was returning home to sign up for amateur radio code and theory classes.

He had been in the Navy many years ago and was very familiar with the Morse Code.

All in all, a very rewarding experience for me.

Libby Stevens, Thornhill VE3 IOT.

ED. NOTE: Thornhill has an amateur radio club. Classes in code and theory will be starting in October. For information, call Libby Stevens at 889-0295 or the president, Carl Solomon, 889-3848.

Remembering opening day at Tri-Bell

April 6 was a day we'll all remember for a long time.

Not only was it the culmination of a dream for many of us but one which will be remembered for its incredible weather.

However your participation in our launching gave the Club a great deal of pleasure.

This is just a line on behalf of my fellow members to say a warm and sincere thank you for your interest and help in our "launching" weekend.

Tri-Bell is a tremendously interesting Club, not only in the physical sense but also because of its involvement in the community.

We all feel that the time and effort we spend on those endeavors makes our relaxation at the Club all the sweeter.

We hope that our paths will cross again in the future and that we at Tri-Bell may have the pleasure of working with you again soon.

Ernest Lustig, President, Tri-Bell Country Club, Richmond Hill

Finally, McMurtry answers his letter

Attorney General Roy McMurtry, Toronto.

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

Coincident with publication of my third letter of complaint — same complaint — MPP Bill Hodgson, I received your letter dated August 31, on September 5.

I first wrote you on the matter, April 18.

It would seem, therefore, that these days, an exchange of letters on a given subject with an Ontario cabinet minister would total only about three in a year.

Whether or not this is planned, to disclose the public from rocking a half-rotten boat, a valuable democratic procedure is rendered almost useless when it moves at the pace of the world before the wheel.

The brief, infrequent periods of hollering and hooting called election campaigns are mere vaudeville, and quite inadequate.

Yes, my letter of May 15 was a request for the consideration — if legally justified — of criminal proceedings against both Irving Layton, and the unidentified Black demonstrator who carried an inflammatory sign denigrating the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force.

You euphemistically term the language and presentation of Layton and the Black, "concerns" "protests".

Shairon's spelling

Dear Mr. Wallis:

I was glad to read in Shairon Haze column two weeks ago that you, in your editorial capacity, are trying hard to improve her spelling.

It must indeed be unsettling that you now have to turn to a dictionary to check the spelling of a word like sayfey.

At least Cheron could be consistent in her errors to make your job easier.

Its members are required to do the dirty work, to maintain peace and order, apply our laws sometimes right to the point of deadly combat.

They do not sit in the comfortable seat of critical liberal academics such as Walter Pitman, ever ready to give them moral and behavioral direction; and how, when shooting at an attacker, they must be careful to aim for the tip of the little finger of the left hand.

Or the hairs on the leg. To insult the police force is to demean the majesty of the state, which is all men; to move toward anarchy.

When anyone may do this with impunity — and they are doing it in Toronto — what more encouragement do they need?

Some of our saviours, apparently, would substantially salt the force with squads of skinny, undersized, multilingual immigrant social workers, armed with valium and the dope of Marx and Freud, backed up by batteries of nurses.

Well, why not just give the country back to the Indians?

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You euphemistically term the language and presentation of Layton and the Black, "concerns" "protests".

This is just juggling with words.

This can be done at discretion — and you say you have sole discretion — to justify either prosecution or purification of an offender.

Since besides being attorney general you are also a politician, this makes a farce of the law.

And of you — a dictator. Early in this century Woodrow Wilson said: "Liberty has never come from the government. This history of liberty is the history of the limitation of government power, not the increase of it."

To its great discredit the Ontario government has in recent years substantially increased its powers.

Enough.

Sid H. Britton, 84 Hillview Road, Aurora

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Aug 2	Forward		\$1,500.00	\$4,000.00
Aug 3			\$750.00	\$4,750.00
Aug 4		\$500.00		\$4,250.00
Aug 14			\$2,000.00	\$6,250.00
Aug 15		\$2,250.00		\$4,000.00
Aug 23		\$1,500.00		\$2,500.00
Aug 31				\$3,500.00

Aug 31 **\$19.79 interest**

DATE	ITEM	WITHDRAWAL	DEPOSIT	BALANCE
Aug 1	Balance			\$2,500.00
Aug 2	Forward		\$1,500.00	\$4,000.00
Aug 3			\$750.00	\$4,750.00
Aug 4		\$500.00		\$4,250.00
Aug 14			\$2,000.00	\$6,250.00
Aug 15		\$2,250.00		\$4,000.00
Aug 23		\$1,500.00		\$2,500.00
Aug 31				\$3,500.00

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