PROVIDENCE, R. I.
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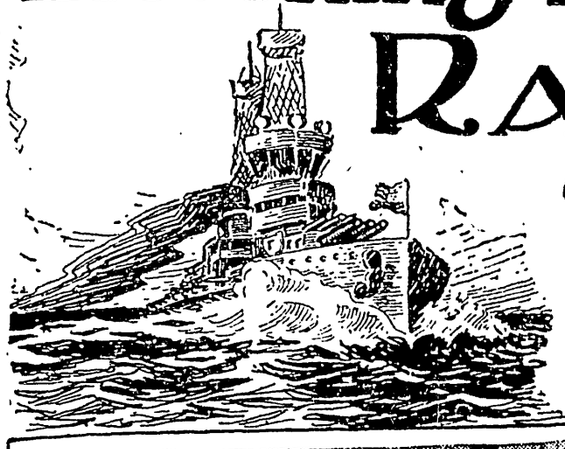
Special Features

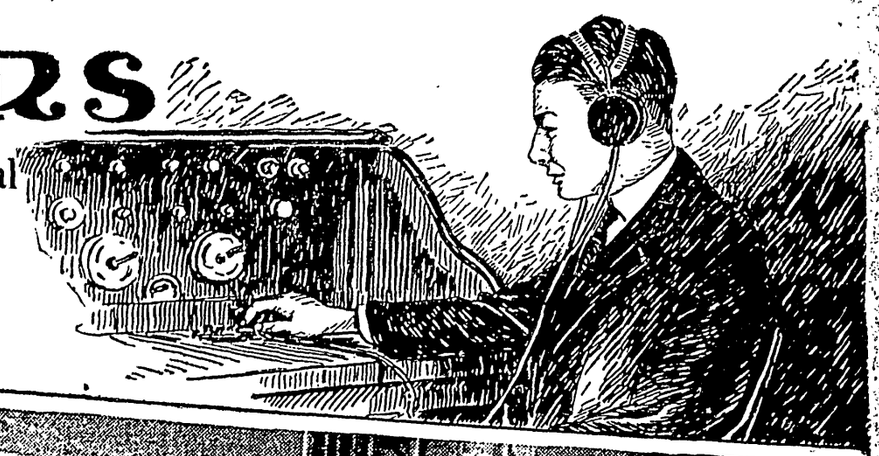
The Providence Sunday Journal

FIFTH SECTION

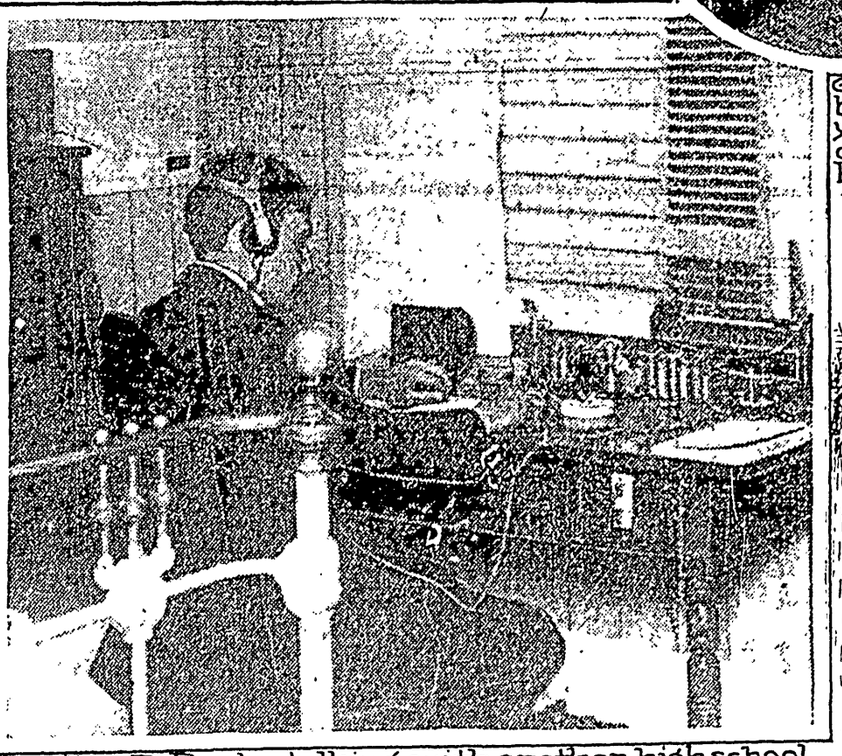
"Listening in" WITH PROVIDENCE AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS



Catching Messages From Air Fascinating Sport and Educational Pastime for Group of Young Men of City Interested in Serious and Scientific Line of Work

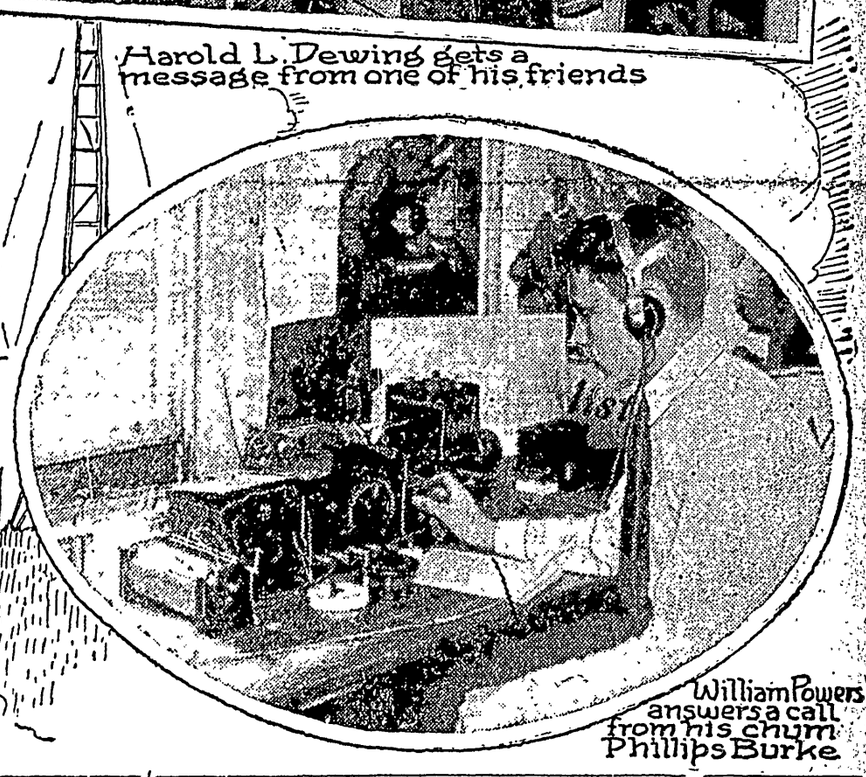


Raymond P. Adams sends out a "C.Q." call (who wants to talk)



Phillips R. Burke talking with another high school student a mile away

George L. Bradley believed to be youngest licensed operator in Providence



Harold L. Dewing gets a message from one of his friends

William Powers answers a call from his chum Phillips Burke

SCORES of messages sent out by wireless from stations and steamships in all parts of the world are daily being received and translated by a group of youthful, amateur radio operators of Providence who have become interested in wireless telegraphy through connection with radio clubs or individually through a personal penchant for the work.

Except in comparatively few instances these messages are not sent to the score or more amateur stations, but in their flight from source to intended destination the words are picked up by the Providence boys whose instruments are attuned to the various ranges of the messages. It's a fascinating indoor sport, in addition to its value as an educational pastime for young men who wish to devote their spare moments to a serious and scientific line of work.

The popularity of wireless among the younger generation is easy to understand after visiting one of the wireless stations. There is romance in messages picked up as they flash from steamers hundreds of miles off shore to relatives from whom they are parting or preparing to meet.

Romance Comes in Translations

The romance comes, of course, with the translation of the messages from the wireless code and this is what the majority of the youthful radio operators can do after a few months of study. At first the words come too fast or, perhaps, are received in French, Italian or other foreign language, but by continued practice the young men soon become expert in jotting down the letters indicated by the hum of the receiving instrument and catch the messages regardless of the speed of the sender.

The wireless activities of youths of high school age recall the days when the land telegraph was being developed. The Morse code of dots and dashes was then learned by boys who were intent upon the study of telegraphy. Many a youth has strung wires from his room across the backyard to his playmate's home, and with sending and receiving instruments the youngsters have passed many happy hours clicking off messages to each other.

There was an element of mystery in the flashing of letters over the thin copper wires between instruments a block away. But how far greater is the mysterious and almost uncanny element in picking up messages flying unseen through the atmosphere.

Land Experiments Are Limited

The land telegraph experiments were limited. There were always the wires that had to be strung between instruments. The messages must necessarily be purely "local" and only the boys included in their own private circuit were able to send the dots and dashes from one to the other. Tapping of commercial and railroad wires has always been forbidden by law.

Quite to the contrary in the case of wireless. The youth with suitable antennae and a receiving instrument of sufficient strength is in the world circuit. Tapping the air for messages is not forbidden by law—though there are regulations that prevent the publishing of certain messages picked up by amateurs.

The wireless opens up a new world to the youth. He revels in the thrills that come when listening in and hears that a ship is in distress at this or that latitude and longitude. He hears the messages of steamship passengers who wish to acquaint their friends on shore that they are "well and happy." He picks up warnings of icebergs that must be avoided by shipping and he listens in while a speech of the President of the United States is being sent to some foreign country.

The aptitude of youth to learn quickly is especially illustrated in radio work. Keen interest in wireless coupled with earnest application has developed scores of well-trained operators. Impetus to the work in Providence has been given through the Technical High School Radio Club under H. B. Peabody, a member of the school faculty. Although lack of financing the work at the school has been a handicap Mr. Peabody has obtained excellent results in developing operators. A number of the members have their own stations in their homes and are receiving and sending messages daily.

Several Organizations Are in Existence

Since formation of the Technical High School Radio Club several other organizations of the same kind have come into existence, their members adding to the number of amateur operators about the city and State. Many of these operators are licensed, it being necessary to get the permission of the Government to have a radio station. No license is necessary for a station that merely receives messages. The sending stations are given "call signals," by which each man is known among radio operators, and for this privilege a Federal license is required.

Among the expert radio operators of the younger generation in Providence is Franklin S. Huddy, son of Attorney George H. Huddy, Jr., of 294 Bowen street, whose photograph is printed in the artgravure section. The young man, who is now only 15 years of age, first became interested in wireless telegraphy five years ago, and since that time has devoted most of his waking hours to the study of operating.

Before the war the young man had learned the Morse code of land telegraph, the Continental code for wireless, had rigged up his own antennae, assembled and connected up his receiving and sending apparatus and had a limited operator's license. He is now a licensed operator of the "first grade, amateur," and, of course, has a station license.

Young Huddy has also become an expert in wireless telephony and is able to talk with other wireless telephone operators within a radius of New York city. An improved circuit for the wireless telephone is an invention of his. This piece of work has brought favorable comments from experts in all sections of the country. A description of the invention written by the young man and published in "Q. S. T.," a national magazine devoted to wireless, brought a flood of letters to his home for further information.

Franklin Huddy is now in his second year in Hope high school, and by dint of hard work manages to prevent his scholastic studies from interfering with his wireless activities.

To the uninitiated a visit to a wireless operating room is an interesting experience. The array of wires and apparatus is bewildering to other than an electrician, and the hum of the instruments which emit a buzz of varying tones bears no message to the novice. But to the young operator every little sound had a meaning of its own.

"That's Newport calling," he explained to the Sunday Journal reporter who was listening in with him.

The volume of sound changed as Huddy moved the range lever.

"There's Cleveland calling."

And again a change of sound—one of higher tone.

"There's a message from an incoming ship. Personal message."

And Huddy began copying.

"There's another message from an incoming ship, but it's in Spanish," he added as he copied sentences that only a student of Spanish could translate. He explained that these messages may not, under the radio law, be disclosed by the operator.

Official Time Sent Broadcast

At 12 o'clock noon and again at 10 p. m. official time is sent broadcast by the wireless station at Arlington, near Washington, D. C. Huddy has visited the station and learned the method by which the information is given out. For five minutes before the hour a great pendulum ticks off the seconds, which are sounded by wireless. There is an interval of 10 seconds before the hour that no sound is given out. On the hour a prolonged buzz is sounded. This gives the time for ships at sea, and at these hours, 12 noon and 10 p. m., all steamers within range of the signal set their chronometers. At the same time the clocks in various amateur radio stations are often set.

The antennae of young Huddy's wireless has almost unlimited receiving range. Messages from Eiffel Tower in Paris are frequently picked up, and from other parts of the continent as well as from stations in England. His record for long distance was a message heard while being sent from the Philippine Islands.

The sending range of the young man's apparatus reaches about to New York city. He has almost daily wireless talks with the station at Brown University and with other amateur operators about the city. Wireless conversations with operators aboard New York boats plying Narragansett bay are of frequent occurrence.

Surprise Shown at Huddy's Youth

After becoming acquainted with Huddy by wireless some of the steamer operators have called at his home and it has been with considerable surprise that they have shaken hands with a mere youth. Their surprise may be due in part to the fact that Huddy uses a "bug key," which is a fast instrument requiring considerable skill in operating. Comparatively few amateurs have mastered this key.

Huddy's activities in wireless telephony has been unusually successful. One of his experiments with this instrument is the giving of nightly concerts, which are listened to by other operators who have learned to listen in at the time these concerts are scheduled. The music is from a phonograph that Huddy operates in front of the transmitter and the records are heard distinctly at receiving stations about the city and at even greater distances.

In addition to equipping his own wireless station, Huddy has had a hand in starting a number of other wireless stations for his young friends about the city. To him they come for advice when planning a new arrangement of instruments or adding equipment.

Many calls are received at the Huddy station from the youthful operators who need assistance. It may be that a new bulb isn't working right or battery trouble interferes with efficient operation. Franklin Huddy is called upon to make an inspection and remedy the difficulty.

Wireless Station at High School

Huddy has designed and erected several different types of antennae for his fellow operators. Certain conditions require special design of antennae. It may be indoor equipment or may be a specially designed equipment for the exterior. Huddy sizes up the situation and recommends the type most suited to meet the existing conditions.

Huddy is now assisting in the installation of a wireless station at Hope high school. The work is already getting under way and it is expected that before the close of the school year a well-equipped operating room will be in running order. This will serve as an experimentation station for all students of the school who are interested in wireless telegraphy.

Amateur operators have their troubles with wireless apparatus. Atmospheric conditions must be met and tuning of instruments has to be accurate for satisfactory results. This all requires experience through experimentation. But there is one trouble that all the adjusting of instruments and experience in operating cannot remedy, and that is the interference caused by defective street lamps in the city.

The young operators are up in arms over the condition and have considered taking the matter up with the City Council. The trouble is found in the buzzing arc lamps, the sound of which is recorded over the wireless, completely drowning out the message waves that would be otherwise be received. In this way much of the pleasure that the young men would enjoy by operating at night is curtailed.

The boys explain that the humming arc light is easily remedied by better grounding of the circuits. Defective grounding will frequently result in the annoying humming sound. If the lighting company would inspect their lamps for this trouble it could be entirely eliminated, the boys assert, and they believe that they are entitled to have the matter taken up and a remedy effected.

As far as is known the youngest radio operator in Providence is George L. Bradley, the 12-year-old son of Mrs. Charles Bradley, Jr., of 170 Waterman street, who has been experimenting in wireless for the past year. He has mastered the code and can talk with his friends about the city. He says that he still finds trouble in receiving messages when sent at high speed, which is a natural difficulty for one who has been studying wireless only a year during his spare time from school.

Another of the enthusiastic operators is William Powers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman W. Powers of 50 Medway street, who is President of the Technical High School Radio Club. The young man has

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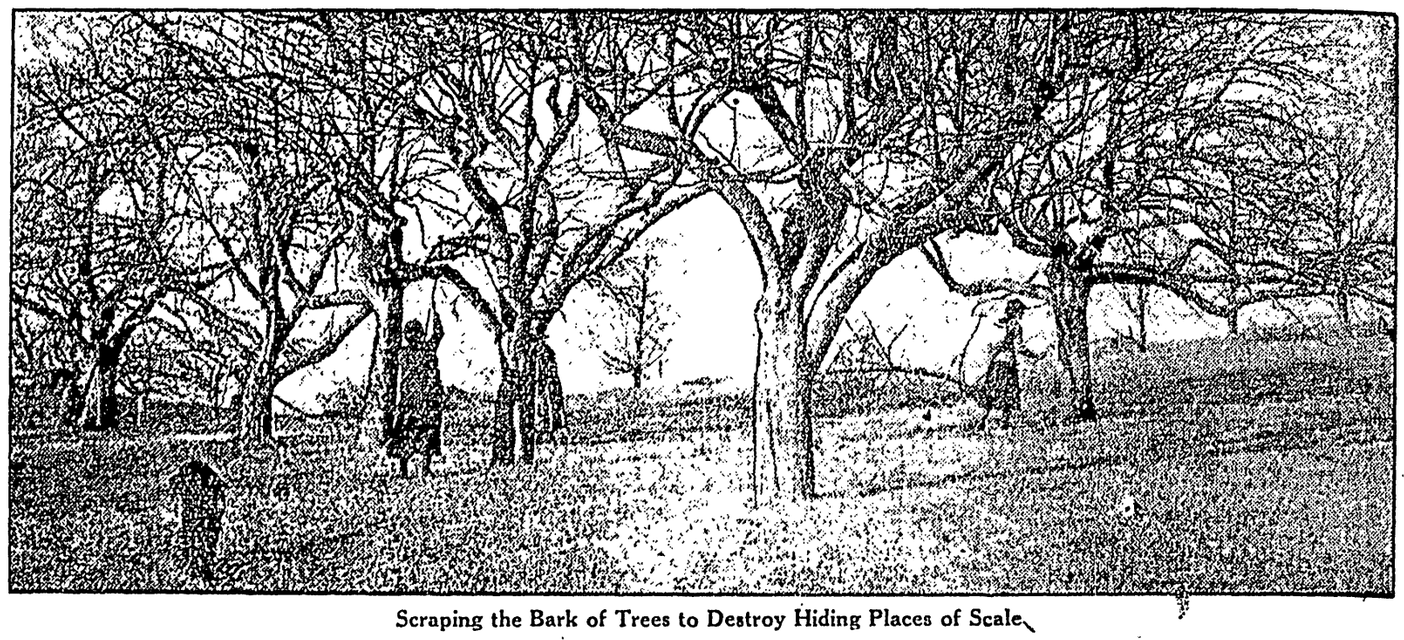
TWO RHODE ISLAND WOMEN MAKE OLD ORCHARDS PAY

With Some Technical Knowledge and Plenty of Grit Difficult Tasks of Pruning, Spraying and Harvesting Are Tackled And Fine Crop of Apples Results From Labors.

Spring Brings Its Labors in the Orchard



Scraping the Bark of Trees to Destroy Hiding Places of Scale

Pruning is Necessary for Size and Quality of Fruit

Miss Emerson is on Ladder With Saw, While Miss Chace is Using Clippers on Small Tree.

A Close Inspection for Lurking Places of Pests

WE do it because it is healthful, outdoor work, and because we like it, but more because it is a sort of fundamental industry that we think ought to be encouraged."

So answered Miss Helen Emerson and Miss Maude Chace, as they paused for a few minutes in their busy tasks at the spring care of their apple trees at Tower Hill, in Cumberland, to answer the "why" of their decision to try to bring back some old Rhode Island orchards. That they are in earnest in their interest in the subject is shown by the fact that a year ago they put aside all other activities of their busy lives and spent 10 weeks at the Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst to supplement by a little technical training the knowledge which had been given to them by their girlhood spent in the country.

As a result of their decision, and their training, they have already passed one successful season in producing a crop of Rhode Island apples, and are now busily—and confidently—looking forward to another.

Miss Emerson is the daughter of Lowell Emerson of Pawtucket. She is college trained, but says she has always had a strong liking for the country and country life. So a little more than a year ago, she and a chum, Miss Maude Chace, also educated and qualified for a "city" position if she should choose one, decided to devote their energies to rehabilitating the old orchards on her father's farms on the forbidding slopes of Tower Hill.

They found ample material to challenge their enthusiasm and provide toil for their willing hands. It was not all fun, by any means, for they found that the apple trees, set out a generation ago and cared for faithfully at one time by their former owners, but since neglected, were much in need of care.

The trees are on two abandoned farms adjoining the Emerson farm on Tower Hill. There are about 125 trees that are of full growth, or a growth of perhaps 40 years. These are on the Cargill and Staples farms. Those on the Cargill place had received the painstaking care of their owner, Welcome Cargill, who looked after them until the declining years of his life. Those on the Staples place had received less care, so that all these trees were in great need of pruning, scraping, spraying, and all the items that go into the routine of the fruit-grower's job.

When the two young women made their decision to undertake this work, there was also a block of 50 young apple trees on the Emerson place, which had been set out about five years ago by Miss Emerson's father. So the two had some little undertaking on their hands, when they assumed the burden of orcharding. But they were determined to show what they could do, and also that female hands would not be less able than those of "men folks," even at work that required climbing and lifting. They went into the work, knowing what was ahead of them, and for fear that they might not be entirely "up" in the scientific side of tree culture, they spent their 10 weeks at the Amherst college, considering it a good expenditure of that amount of time. "They certainly do give you good training there," said Miss Emerson.

In the spring of 1920 they found themselves confronted by a vast amount of work. In the years during which the old trees had been allowed to go without attention they had shot forth great branches, "suckers," and wild shoots, running hither and thither among the tops, and making a great mass of unneeded wood. This extra growth, too, would take the vitality of the tree, which was so much needed to go into fruit, or, if a great quantity of fruit should "set" upon it, it would grow to maturity in abundance of numbers, but poor in quality.

So axes and saws went to work industriously, and there were many blistered fingers before the two proprietors of the new enterprise called the job well enough done for one season. To be sure, they had already had their experience as "Farmerettes" during the war, raising garden crops, but that was ground farming, and there is no other work that exactly compares with standing on a ladder and reaching out to the length of one's arms to saw off a branch. And when apple trees have been allowed to grow wild for a few years, it seems as though there were no end to the amount of this kind of growth they can make.

The "girls" provided themselves with fruit ladders—those with the sides extended to a point at the top—which are much easier to handle among the trees than the other kind, and, with other appliances; but these only helped, they would not do the work for them. As soon as they had done enough pruning to wait for another season, another pressing duty was upon them, that of spraying.

The first spraying done was what is known in arboriculture as the "delayed dormant." The idea in this is to wait until almost time for the leaf and fruit buds to show themselves, and then spray with the purpose of killing the San Jose scale, the aphis that becomes a leaf-eating insect, and also heading off the advance guard of boring insects or flee. The solution chosen was one containing four elements, lime-sulphur, arsenate of lead, nicotine-sulphate and milk of lime, the last as a preventative of burning. An earlier spraying could be given, but that would be effective against the scale alone.

The second spray was the one known as "pink tip," from the fact that it is given as the buds begin to show their color. This spray is more especially for leaf-eating insects which are beginning to get in their mischief by that time. This is quickly followed by the calyx spray, the most important of all. This is applied with all the force possible immediately after the petals have fallen from the blossoms, and before the calixes close up and enclose the egg of the mischief-making apple worm.

In order to do this spraying thoroughly and to be able to cover their ground quickly, the two women decided to buy a power sprayer. This was a big tank, set on a wagon, and having a spray pump operated by a gasoline engine. It has capacity enough to operate several nozzles and making a high pressure, gave a fine misty spray which was most effective against the insect pests.

For spray material, Miss Emerson and Miss Chace agreed that a lime-sulphur solution was preferable to an "emulsified" kind. They bought materials and mixed their own solutions, finding this inexpensive, as well as a way to make use of the knowledge they had gained in their Amherst course. The "dormant" spray was applied before the trees began to put out leaves, a period that places this spray in the latter part of the month of March. The application of the spray was the beginning of busy times for the orchardists.

It turned out that the women orchardists had to learn a few other things besides the actual science of caring for trees, for inevitably with their spray outfit they bought a gasoline engine and with it all its attendant whims and caprices. Yet they found themselves masters (or mistresses) of it, and found no difficulty in making it perform its functions. It was a little "too much," however, when the machine broke down right in the midst of the calyx spraying time, and it was necessary to borrow a sprayer to complete the job while a new part of the sprayer was ordered from the factory.

The first season brought its rewards in a fair crop of apples, although the two women say they did not get all perfect fruit by any means. "We are sorry to say we had some cider apples," they said. But most of the crop was good, and was marketed in bushel boxes, each marked with the name "Upland Orchards," in true advertisers' style, showing that they learned more than the technical side at Amherst. They also found time to prepare some exhibits for the fall show of the Rhode Island Fruit Growers' Association, and the Rhode Island Horticultural Society, in each of which they landed some prizes. Just to show that women could do all the work as well as men could, they made their own apple boxes.

Now they are ready for another season, with just as much hard work to do and just as much enthusiasm to do it. There was more pruning to do, for it would not do to remove all the old wood in one season. So the Sunday Journal man found the women hard at work with their ladders, pruning saw and scrapers, getting the trees in readiness for the season. The old, loose particles of the bark was scraped off, so that the spraying solution might be driven hard into the crevices and find the lurking places of the San Jose scale and other pests of that sort. Removing the loose bark, too, makes the trees pleasanter to work on, and gives the entire orchard a much more attractive appearance.

As to the help problem, the "girls" say they have had no trouble. Last summer they found they had girl friends who were just as much interested in orchard work as they were themselves, and they came and stayed as long as they were needed. This spring they have already had visits from friends, who are interested in their work, and when they need help, they are sure they can get it easily. They intend, however, to follow the example set in Tennyson's "Princess," and keep to their own sex in all the help they employ.

Of course orcharding signs at the present time do not point to a big yield of apples this year. Many apple trees persist in having an "off" year alternately, and this is the "off" year. Putting the case roughly, fruit buds are borne on the little fruit branches on alternate years, and a trained orchardist can tell in the spring which are the fruit buds and which the leaf buds. But they are going to go into the work just as though a big season was assured. And they are confident that they can produce better fruit this year, if not more of it.

May is Earlier by Nature's Calendar

Flowers and Birds Arrive Fully Three Weeks Ahead of Last Year's Spring Schedule, Despite Cold Days

BY HENRY E. CHILDS.
Technical High School.

MAY Day comes early this year. We have many calendars by which we may measure time. The Gregorian and Julian calendars are not involved in this measure, for May Day must come on the first of the month. The calendar of nature has pushed things ahead, so that May has come upon us earlier than usual. Flowers and birds were fully three weeks ahead of last year's schedule during the early spring. The third week in April found a slowing down of nature's activities on account of the cold rains. Monday opened up bright and a little warmer. Let us hope that it is a good omen for the days to come.

Now we shall be ready for May walks and May breakfasts galore. There is something very fascinating about a May breakfast, if it really deserves its name. A May walk may take place at any time during the day. But to have a really truly May breakfast means that the party must pull themselves out of bed in the cold of the early morning, shiveringly scratch together a bite to eat while laying out the magnificent box of lunch provided with fastidious care for the big event, and then adjourn to a street corner and wait for an early street car. On that car, the May walker will find a group of "regulars" whose ready jibes and friendly conversation with one another are little short of amazing to one who travels with more reserved groups on cars two or three hours later.

That early morning trip has some other pleasures in store for the unaccustomed adventurer in hours later than the wee sma' ones. He finds all nature waking up. There is a wealth of life about him once he gets outside of the city. The birds that are singing are not merely a few stragglers, for nearly every male is at work singing his praises of the day that is opening before him. These birds do not lie abed for a few hours after sunrise, with the shades drawn, but are beginning to stir when the first gray light of dawn appears. The United States Biological Survey has assumed that at this time every singing male in the vicinity is going it, and therefore has made estimates of the numbers of birds in a given locality, basing its count upon a count of the songs heard in the early morning.

A slight modification must be made. If we say that all of the males that sing at all at that season are singing in the early morning, we shall come closer to the truth. In the current number of The Auk there is an article on the singing periods of birds, in which the author states that he has found some cases where a few individuals of a given species sang for part of the season, but not for all of it. Later on some other individuals of the same sort start up. Their song periods overlapped, but there was no time in the summer at which all of them were singing. Aretas A. Saunders of Fairfield, Conn., found that, although field sparrows sang from April right through till the early days of August, there was no individual bird that sang through all that time. He distinguished the individuals by their location and the peculiarities of their songs. That recognition of individual songs requires a good musical ear. It is something of a task to recognize all of the common species, unless one is naturally gifted musically. The more striking variations from the usual song type will be apparent to an ordinary observer, even though he finds it sufficiently like the usual song to identify it. The musician who wants to carry the game further and record the numerous variations of songs that he finds, will have an enlarged field for enjoyment open to him at all times. To use those individual songs, as Mr. Saunders has, opens the way to some interesting studies of the lives of individuals during their summer stay that can be correlated with the work done in studying the habits and range of individuals by trapping and banding operations.

An English sparrow is not such an uninteresting little bird after all. There is a lot of fun to be gained through watching them. One such sparrow had a brand new experience the other day. A mouse appeared by the edge of a cellar wall near where some sparrows were feeding. One of the birds flew over to get a closer view of this strange animal. The mouse paid very little attention to the bird, acting as though it knew that this gray neighbor of his was not able to harm him. The mouse scuttled along a few feet and stopped, with the sparrow hot-footing it alongside of the mouse, and coming to an abrupt pause when the rodent stopped. Then there was a flutter of wings as the curious one went a little closer. The mouse lifted a disdainful nose and the imprudent sparrow stopped in midair. It settled down at a respectful distance and let the mouse go on.

The various maples have divided among themselves the task of brightening the treetops with their flowers. The red maples, familiar friends of the swamps, opened the season with their bright red flowers. The silver maple along our streets was a close second in the race for honors. These maples were forming fruit when the sycamores and norways began to unfold their buds and display flowers of still greater variety. Ash-leaved maples were out about the same time, I think. The sugar maple took up the good work latest of them all. One day the swelling buds burst open and on the next the yellow silk tassels were found hanging from every bud. The trunk and branches seemed to be built merely as a frame on which the golden threads might be hung.

Such a difference in flowering season seems to be characteristic of the different kinds of trees and not due to slight differences in food or light relationships. Sometimes we find that these other factors make a great deal of difference.

Sunlight has some effect upon the season of blossoming of those trees. Possibly it is almost entirely a question of warmth, supplied in this case because the conditions of soil and water supplies were the same for all. The sun's energy has no effect on the growth of these buds, as it has upon the growth of the tree at other seasons, because it is only after the leaves have come out that it can do anything worth while. It is only the green part of a plant which can harness the sun's energy.

During the early growth of plants we find some very interesting changes taking place. Like every other living thing they must eat to live. In the late summer and early fall it looks as though some plants have taken on the habit of some humans and merely live to eat. The result of such a practice is beneficial to the plant, though it may be less so for the sedentary human gourmand. The purpose is to develop sex cells which can unite and form the vital portion of a seed. That seed is furthermore well equipped for the early life of the embryo plant. The mother plant may lack the joy of an animal mother in planning for the welfare of her young, but she accomplishes it by quietly storing highly concentrated foods within the seed.

When the embryo tree feels the urge of warmth and moisture, it develops an appetite and begins to feed upon the food in its conveniently placed pantry. It grows vigorously and soon has a root which bores its way downward into the soil, where it soon begins to withdraw food from the soil water. That results in more growth and leaves appear.

These leaves soon take on the task of food manufacture and the young plant becomes independent of the original store of food set aside for it by its mother, the parts of the seed that contained the food. Sometimes the place for food is a seed-leaf or pair of seed-leaves. They were present inside the seed and are very different in shape and thickness from the true leaves. These leaves are the ones with which everyone is familiar. They take upon themselves the responsibility of manufacturing most of the food that is used by the plant through the rest of its life.

"Listening In" With Providence Radio Operators

Continued from Page One.

been engaged in wireless work for about a year and is fast becoming proficient in receiving and sending. He has a well-equipped station and his experience in receiving has included the recording of messages sent from a station 300 miles away.

Six months ago Phillips P. Burke son of Mr. and Mrs. William P. Burke of 363 Lloyd avenue, established a radio station. Burke is a chum of William Powers and is secretary of the Technical High School Radio Club. He has installed his equipment in his bedroom where he can be within reach of the instruments night and day, thus getting the maximum amount of pleasure out of the work.

Raymond P. Adams, another radio enthusiast, is finding wireless work a fascinating indoor interest. He is son of Howard B. Adams of 99 Cypress street. His instruments are neatly arranged in a roll top desk which has been altered to care for the instrument board and sending and receiving apparatus. Adams has been engaged in wireless work for nearly four years.

Harold L. Dewing, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred P. Dewing of 205 Camp street, joined his young friends in wireless work a year ago. He is a member of the Technical High School Radio Club and is listed among the licensed wireless operators with his other chums. The Dewing station is one that is especially disturbed by noisy arc lamps and his work is seriously handicapped at night. The offending street lamp is less than 50 yards from his operating room and its nightly concert has made the receiving of wireless messages practically impossible.

Home Life Shows Great Changes

THE young people who live in towns and cities, as well as those who live in sparsely settled sections of the country, have very little conception of the changed conditions of home-life from those of a hundred years ago. What we look upon as things which we cannot do without, would, a century ago, have been considered luxuries, attainable only by a comparative few.

If some of our Revolutionary ancestors were to "revisit the glimpse of the moon," and peep in at the home of their descendants, they would see things entirely strange to them, and mayhap think that the old fashions were good enough; while we, in our turn, would wonder how it was posible for people to get along in such a primitive fashion as did the Puritans and the Dutch settlers, says a writer in the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Up to the time of the Revolutionary War, there were no carpets on the floors of the houses of New York, Boston or Philadelphia, if we except the homes of the very wealthiest.

A sprinkling of sand over the floors was deemed sufficient, and was believed to give the room a clean and neat appearance. The early Dutch settlers of New York used on special occasions, when dinner was served in the parlor instead of the kitchen, to lay a piece of drugget cloth under the table to protect the carefully scoured and waxed floor.

It may be noted as singular that the first carpet which is known to have been used in New York city was the property of the notorious Capt. Kidd. It is said to have been of Turkish manufacture, so that it was probably a rug. It was valued at $25, a big sum in those days, and was looked upon as a great curiosity.

A little over a century ago tables were used only for the purpose of holding things to eat and drink. The great dinner table, which generally stood in the kitchen, had folding leaves, which hung down when not in use, and were propped up by movable legs when it became necessary to enlarge the table. In 1720 small tables of japanned ware were introduced. They were used for the tea service.

A leading article of furniture in the houses of our forefather was the cupboard. It stood in the parlor, when there was one, or else in the kitchen, where it occupied the principal corner. It had shelves of wood, on which were displayed the best dishes of the household, without regard to what their quality was.

Cupboards were made in all styles, and, if the owner of one of them was well-to-do, it was provided with glass doors. But all of them were built so well and solidly, that they were handed down from one generation to another, while some of them are preserved to this day.

Ante-revolutionary chairs were of Russia leather, and adorned with brass nails in single and double rows. Others were of Turkey leather, and there were chairs with seats of matted rushes. Some had cushions of tapestry or velvet, trimmed with lace, and some were of black walnut with colored worsted seats, but all of them were straight-backed and must have been very uncomfortable.

The bedstead was the most costly piece of furniture in the olden-time. It was of wood and had a canopy from which depended curtains. It was the custom to sleep between two feather beds, and the pillows were also of feathers.

The sleeping room of the heads of the household was always the best equipped room in the house. One thing is certain—that our forefathers, while they did not care for show, insisted on having everything of the most solid and substantial character.

The Town Must Move.

In connection with the construction of the American Falls reservoir on the Snake river in Idaho, legislative authority has been given to purchase, condemn and improve land for a new town site to replace the portion of the town of American Falls which will be flooded by the new reservoir. The project calls for a 90-foot dam, which would impound 2,000,000 acre-feet and make available for irrigation the entire water resources of the Snake river.