"dog's life" that no dog de- envelope is enclosed.

SERIES BEGINS DEC. 6

Radio Hams of Old on 2 U.M. Stations

By A. B. ALLEN

Recollections by Amateurs of the early days of radio will be heard over the U. of M. stations, WUOM, Ann Arbor, and WVGR, Grand Rapids, in a new series, "The Old-Timers — A treasure of Oral History." Beginning Dec. 6, the program will be aired Mondays at 9:45 p.m.

The Old-Timers are Radio Hams who have been working in wireless for 25 years or longer. During their annual meeting at Henry Ford Museum, WUOM production manager Ralph Johnson recorded their reminiscences. The series was made possible through the cooperation of the museum's curator of communications, Frank R. Davis.

STARTED IN 1922

The main speaker at this year's meeting was George W. Bailey, a former president of the American Radio Relay League.

Bailey, W2KH, now a foreign affairs officer for the U.S. State Department, built his first one-tube receiver in 1922. He lived on a hill outside Boston, and could tune in Los Angeles because at that time the air waves were so free of interference.

There are now 260,000 Hams in the United States, and 100,000 more all over the world. Bailey estimates that there are usually 40,000 to 50,000 of them (although it sometimes sounds like several times this number) on the air at any one time.

He said that Herbert Hoover, as head of the Commerce Department, brought order out of chaos for radio. Under Hoover, amateurs were licensed for the first time.

AID IN EARTHQUAKES

In the early days of World War II, Bailey was asked to go to Washington for two weeks to organize assistance from the Hams. He remained on that assignment for four years.

There are many stories of Ham Radio help in time of disasters. In the 1933 California earthquake, and the recent Alaskan earthquake, Amateur Radio offered the only communications link and was vital in getting rescue operations started and in getting names of survivors.

Another old-timer, William Gassett, W8CRM, formerly of Ashland, Mass., but now a resident of Dearborn, Mich., became interested in radio when the steamship Republic sank in 1912, and a radio operator was instrumental in saving many lives.

Gassett established a battery-powered Amateur station in 1917, using a coil wound on a Quaker Oats box. He said he knew his signal was "getting out" when the Boston Navy Yard told him to "shut up." In 1934 Gassett built the radio equipment for the stratosphere balloon flown by Dr. Jean Piccard.

These are just a couple of the Hams who will be heard on the U. of M. broadcasts. Others include William (Ducky) Duckwitz, W8CJT; Dan McCoy, W8DG, and Thomas Appleby, W3AX.

FRANKLIN "DUSTY" DUNN, W8CQ, sent us a copy of Vol. 1, No. 1 of "Ham News" of which he was editor and publisher back in 1933. Under the heading "Five Meter Section" appeared the following: "5 Meter Transmission Without Code Exam" . . . "Section 9 of the Rules and Regulations governing the Issuance of Radio Operators' Licenses is hereby modified. This class of license will be valid for the operation of Amateur Stations in the five-meter band . . . No code tests are necessary."

ADDITIONS to the list of Silent Keys are Harold Fausnaugh, W8JUU, of Lawrence, Mich., and former Detroiter William Friedel, K1LSW (ex-W8GEB).

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