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QST Issue: Dec 2001

Title: Hamfests, 1925 Style

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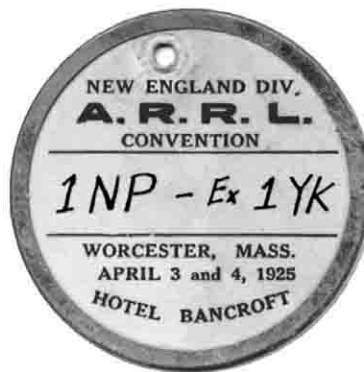
Hamfests, 1925 Style

I enjoy hamfests for the social aspects as well as the flea markets. I often wondered what they were like, way back. This spring I had the good fortune to acquire the remnants from an old ham station.

Bill Gould, K2NP, became a SK back in 1983. His station was sold then, but his cellar was never cleaned out. It was a wonderful find, full of old papers and some equipment. Later while organizing the papers I found the program, his ticket and his badge, all shown here, in three different boxes. Let's see why he went and what the convention was like.

Seventy-six years ago last April, hundreds of hams gathered at the Hotel Bancroft in Worcester, Massachusetts, for the "New England Division ARRL Convention." Announcements preceded the event in *QST* and the New England clubs all notified their members. Everyone who could, showed up.

At a cost of \$5, it was a two-day event loaded with talks and activities. Friday April 3 was a fun day. The first events were trips to three of the local "Super-stations", 1XZ, 1YK and 1BKQ. Hams were told to bring their "Wavemeters" for calibration at 1YK. Many other Worcester stations were



also available for inspection by visitors.

That evening they had a "Code Contest," and entertainment such as "Stunts by Radio Clubs," Movies by RCA, a "Lars Contest," a "Cracker Eating Contest" and a "Wire Untangling Contest."

Activities on Saturday, April 4 started at 10 AM with more ham station trips and one to WCTS, a local commercial station. At 2 PM the ham sessions started given by the following well-known speakers: R. S. Kruse, Technical Editor, *QST*; John Reinartz, 1XAM; Dartmouth Prof Elliot White, also the ARRL New England Division director; and Hobart Newell, Prof in Radio at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

At 6 PM the banquet started with the following speakers: Toastmaster Dr H. Eugene Watkins; A. A. Herbert, ARRL Treasurer; a representative from RCA; Radio Inspector E. H. White; R. S. Kruse; and Irving Vermilya, the NE Division Manager. Lee Bates and his radio band, the High Frequency Syncopators, provided music during dinner.

At 10:30 PM, as reported in the June 1925 issue of *QST*, "The closing event of the convention, and one which made a very strong impression, was the holding of a conclave to confer the degree of the

New England Division Convention

APRIL 3rd and 4th, Friday and Saturday, are the dates of the New England Division A.R.R.L. Convention in Worcester, Mass. Headquarters will be at the Bancroft Hotel. There will be many worthwhile events and among these we might mention: Technical Meetings on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning;

A portion of the New England Division Convention announcement that appeared in the March 1925 issue of *QST*.

Royal Order of the Wouff Hong on about 150 members of the League. The Worcester boys, who did so well last year in Springfield, again showed their histrionic talent. It would be hard to equal their performance."

There was no mention of any swap area. If you think about it, in 1925 there were no major highways, and many hams did not have cars so they traveled by train. This would have limited what they could carry. But knowing hams, I'll bet there was some swapping going on. If any readers happen to have this information, please contact me.

INFORMATION WANTED

I am looking for additional information on Bill Gould. He was a very early ham, first licensed as 1NP. He attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute and was the chief operator of the college ham station, 1YK. He participated in the Transatlantic tests from there, and later as WINP worked in the Boston area. Around 1940 he moved to New Jersey and worked for the government at Fort Monmouth and Camp Evans. His New Jersey call became K2NP. He had many ham friends and was a great friend to ham radio. I am also looking for information and 1920s photos of station 1YK, the Worcester Polytechnic ham station.

I am putting Bill's biography together for a later column. If you have any photos or information, please contact me at my US mail or e-mail addresses below.

Check my Web page for more information about this column: www.eht.com/oldradio/arrrl/index.html—K2TQN *QST*

