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QST Issue: Dec 2005

Title: Bob Dennison, W2HBE, Silent Key **Author:** John H. Dilks III, K2TQN

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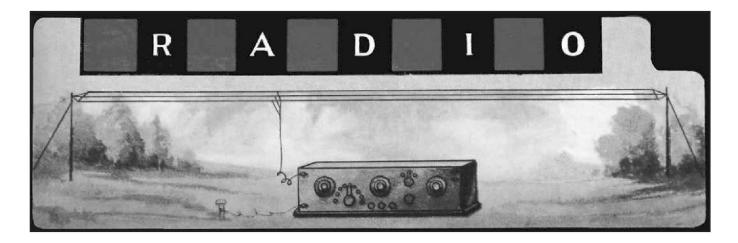
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ful. Most of the colors returned and the cover picture really started to look great.

Next I placed the box lid and bottom, separately, under a heavy pile of books to help flatten them, as they were when new. Age and time had warped them. The weights were somewhat successful after a week and I was now ready to scan them into the computer.

The box was slightly longer than the glass on my scanner, so I had to scan it twice and splice the result into a single picture. Several hours of retouching with my photo editor filled in the missing spots and darkened the colors where needed.

Making a QSL Card

After I printed out the picture file, it occurred to me that the "RADIO" in the picture had the same number of characters as K2TON. So I searched for a font in my computer that somewhat resembled the one used with the exaggerated "RADIO" in the picture. Finding none, I decided to make my own characters. Several hours later I had all five. I edited the picture and replaced RADIO with K2TQN. Next I removed the word G A M E and replaced it with my name. I put my mailing address in the open area near the bottom. The proportions of the artwork reduced nicely to $5^{1/2} \times 3^{1/2}$ inches, that of a standard old-time OSL card. Now I'll have to find a company and have some printed up. This part of the project was not planned, but it worked out nicely for me. And I will have a great looking QSL card to pass out in the near future.

Rules of the Game

Here are the rules of the game if you want to play.

May be played by 2 players.

Each player selects 5 counters of one

color, which represents messages.

The players place them on the black spots marked R-A-D-I-O in front of the antennas.

The first player then uses the Detector as a spinner. He then moves any one of his messages the number of spaces indicated on the spinner.

Messages are always moved on black spots diagonally and away from the player, as in Checkers, never straight.

A message may be moved to a side space and then diagonally out. Thus, a message may be jumped though it is on a side space.

If you can jump an opponent's message, his message is put back to any one of his starting points he may chose.

If either player can land his message on the same spot as one of his opponent's messages by an exact count, this causes a Radio disturbance, the opponent's message is out of the game and is removed from the board. Messages can only be moved to the opponent's antennae by an even count.

The player getting the greatest num-

ber of messages through to the opposite antennas first wins the game.

More on the Game

The Wilder Manufacturing Company of St Louis made the game sometime in the 1920s. There is a number 27 on the box, and that might be the year. Wilder was a well-known company back then for its games, having dozens of new and different games every year, covering many interest areas.

Imagine the thrill, or disappointment, experienced on Christmas morning when you opened your gift. It would be a thrill if you liked games, or a big disappointment if you were expecting a real radio.

I'll place the files on my Web page so you can download them if you want them. I'll have photos of several other radio games on my Web site as well. www.eht.com/oldradio/arrl/.

This month completes six years that I have been writing this column. Thank you for making it a success and for all your suggestions and e-mails. I'm looking forward to next year.—*K2TON*



Bob Dennison, W2HBE.

W2HBE SK

While writing this column I learned that Bob Dennison, W2HBE, became a Silent Key in late September. Bob was best known as a prolific author over several decades writing about the radios he built in *QST*, the AWA *Old Timers Bulletin* and *Electric Radio* magazines. I featured Bob and his radios in my July 2005 "Old Radio" column. He will be missed.