

F8DO - W6DNG QSO Via the Moon

News of the latest e.m.e. (earth-moon-earth) feat reached ARRL just before deadline for the March issue so we were not able then to give the contact the attention that it rightfully deserves.

Marius Cousin, F8DO, writes that the January 27 contact was the result of more than 2 years hard work for F1BF and himself. They were also assisted by F1HR, F9FT, F9LN and others. Marius built the 72 element Yagi array and the receiving system; the transmitter was built by F1BF. Marius says the array is fed with low-loss M7A coax and is tuned to

144.000 Mc. The receiving system is a TIXMO5 preamp ahead of a Nuvistor/E88CC/6AK5/6U8 converter into a Drake R4-A receiver. He also uses a post detection system with two cross-correlated audio channels keying an audio oscillator or pen recorder. F8DO is currently conducting other tests with OH1NL and K6MYC as well as continuing the tests with Bill Conkel, W6DNG. OM Bill is no newcomer to the moonbounce game. He was the first American to work Europe on two meters when, on April 11, 1964, he made contact with OH1NL in Finland (see QST page 95, June 1964). At his Long Beach station, W6DNG uses a pair of 4X250 Bs running nearly 800 watts output. Bill's antenna is a 32-element expanded-extended collinear of the type designed by the late Oliver Wright, W6GD, and exploited by Frank Jones, W6AJF. The gain measures 18.3 dB over a dipole. The array is rotatable both in azimuth and elevation.

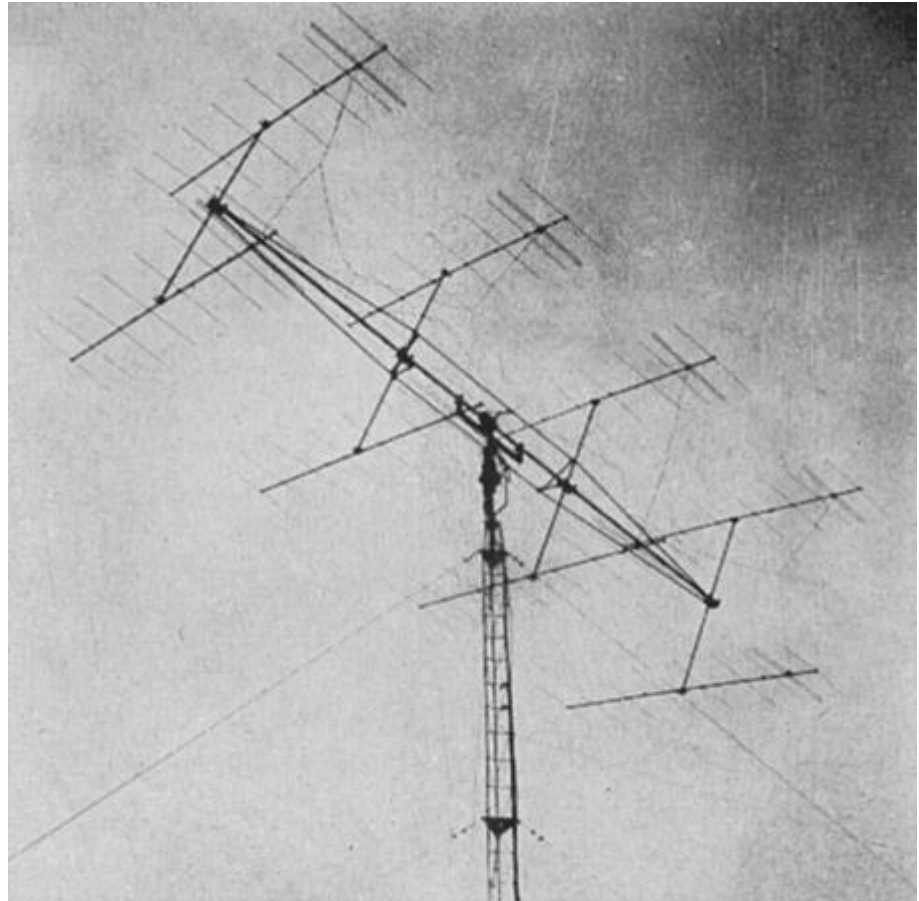
For receiving, Bill has a transistor preamp ahead of a Parks 144-1 converter. The converter output is fed through a noise clipping and blanking system and then into a mnch-modified Collins 75A-4. He also uses a tracking filter with provisions for audio and pea recording. Bill says the phase-lock receiver is very good on slow-speed c.w. f.s.k. He and OH1NL have tried the system several times with excellent results. Lena, OH1NL, is now experimenting with a seven-channel mechanical integrating recorder system for visual signal copying. Bill says, "visual copying is very popular among weak signal enthusiasts - it's much easier than squinting your ears!"

W6DNG is continuing his tests with both OH1NL and F8DO. Marius says he is open for schedules with anyone who can hear his own echoes.

More E.M.E. Notes



This is the 32-element expanded-extended collinear array at W6DNG, Long Beach, California. (W6DNG photo, tnx for F8DO)



F8DO's 72-element 144-Mc. Yogi array used to work W6DNG via the moon.
(F8DO photo)