

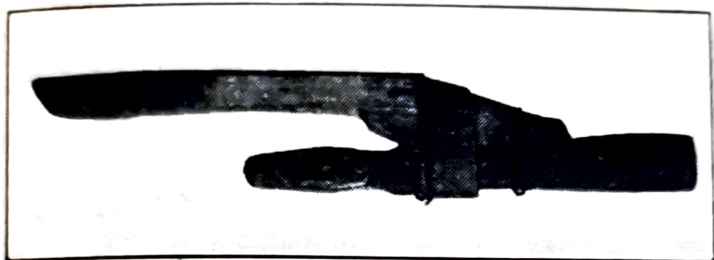
## TRADITIONS

As the League has come down through the years, certain traditions have become a part of amateur radio. Best known to a few old-time radio amateurs, the mysteries of the past lend an unmistakable flavor to our present-day League work.

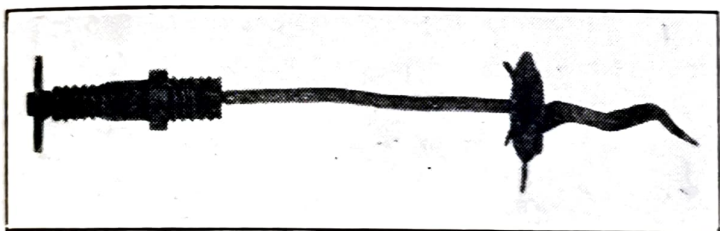
Developments in radio have altered the apparatus used by amateurs a great deal in the last decade. Through all the changes some personalities have stood out above the rest, typifying the spirit of the amateur.

*The Old Man* with his humorous stories of "Rotten Radio" has done much from time to time to improve the morale of League members. T.O.M. is an odd radio char-

acter who puts into the words things that we all feel at times but find difficult of expression. His pictures of radio and radio amateurs are characteristic and inimitable. His views are always refreshing. The Old Man sits in his "shack" and reflects on the "rottenness" of everything. He glares at "Kitty", spitting out his grouch on all who care to listen. At his right hand he keeps the sacred *Wouff Hong* to use in punishing those who commit offenses against the radio law. The *Rettysnitch* is kept within easy reach to use in enforcing the principles of decency in operating work. Close by is *Old Betsy*, another ancient piece of radio apparatus (rotary gap), into which are fed the remains after the *Wouff Hong* and *Rettysnitch* have done their work.



**THE WOUFF-HONG AND THE RETTYSNITCH**  
(Photographs are not to the same scale)



The Old Man visits the Radio Club and there we meet *Radical*, *Final Authority*, and other radio celebrities, all easily recognized in any gathering of amateurs. Back numbers of *QST* refer to these characters and tell the story of their doings in a most interesting way. New members will profit by getting back *QST*s and reading all about them. There is much speculation in amateur circles about the identity of T.O.M. When you read *QST* watch for references to him.

The Royal Order of the *Wouff Hong* is the rite administered at official conventions of the A.R.R.L. This mysterious order is open to all loyal "brass-pounders" of the League. One must be initiated to truly appreciate the honor.



Many of "the gang" who have twisted the dials and pounded the key all the night long have automatically become "Boiled Owls" with the rising of the sun.

The "Rag Chewers' Club" is another fraternal society for members whose chief interest is in making friendly conversation by radio. By talking with an R.C.C. member for thirty minutes or more by radio, getting him to confirm the contact by notifying Headquarters and by then making application to The Old Sock at Headquarters, you also may become a member of the R.C.C. and receive an appropriate membership certificate.

The WAC Club is open to those who succeed in working all continents with their apparatus. A card that you have received from each continent confirming two-way work must be submitted to Headquarters to make you a WACcer in good standing. The certificate is worthy of a place in any amateur station.