

# Loose Gravel

Newsletter of ROADS

Volume 3, Number 7

AB7X + KD7VLP -- Editors

8 August 2007

So.....the Tribe denied our proposal for a grant. So what? We came into existence without help from any outside source, and we should plan on existing without any. Bob Peschka has worked up a list of estimated retail cost of materials from *Lowes*, and I believe that we can obtain some, or perhaps most, of these materials to renovate the building at the Fire Department training facility, with a little ingenuity and footwork on the part of the membership, at somewhat more than cost and perhaps in the form of donations.

This is not an insurmountable obstacle. It is a project which we as a club should be proud of in its completion and something we will have done on our own without a gift of money. Let us do this with the satisfaction that we have proven ourselves to be resourceful. Since the Fire Department will not have removed their gear from the building until their bond has seen approval, we have ample time for more planning and canvassing. Let's git 'er dun!!!

Our meeting this month will be a dinner meeting, held at the *Cynthian* in Dallas, and will be host to Chief Hahn. The agenda is straightforward: the usual reports from the Secretary/Treasurer, and a report from the Building Committee. Please plan to attend. I'm sure you all have received LOU's announcement of pricing and tipping, so I won't bother you with it here. Shadow and I have another engagement and won't be attending.

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### **QRK de KD7VLP**

Here it is again...how time flies when you don't pay attention. Anyway, with the lack of input from our brothers and sisters of ROADs, I am including a couple of news articles about women who were in radio back in the day.

The following item was found in the Brunk family file at the Museum. It has no date or source, but I believe it is from the late twenties or early thirties and from a local paper in the Coos Bay area. I thought it was interesting enough to include without any source information.

#### **"WOMAN HAS LICENSE AS OPERATOR**

**"Marshfield, May 2---Mrs. Clifford Brunk of this city is the only licensed woman radio operator in Oregon and one of 86 licensed women operators in the United States. There are only eight women commercial radio operators in this country.**

**"Because of the potential use to be made of amateurs in times of military necessity, all amateurs in the United States and are licensed, and one of the first requirements is knowledge of the international wireless telegraphic code signals. There are 20 amateur stations in Southwestern Oregon, 15 of which are in Coos Bay.**

**"Clifford Grunk (sic), who conducts an automobile repair shop, is president of the Coos Bay Amateur Radio club, and shares with his wife the pleasure of being a 'short-wave' fan."**

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**FOLLOWUP TO A JUNE ARTICLE:**

Those of you who read the Loose Gravel (I think that we are up to three people other than Harry and me) may remember a little item about Mary Ellen Dalton enlisted, from Polk County. in the US Navy during WWII. I recently came across a more detailed article about her and her service and thought you might like to learn a little more about her. I have taken a couple of paragraphs from the article.

#### **RETIRED OFFICER PROUD OF SERVICE**

**“1942 was my decision year---either stay home on a nonessential boring job or try an adventure to ‘who knows where’.**

**“The Army already was recruiting, but I never looked good in khaki and their bases were in such ugly places. The Navy came later and I joined in Seattle Oct 5, 1942.**

**“My basic training was at the University of Wisconsin. The weather was the coldest I had ever experienced and we marched and marched and marched.**

**“From basic, I was sent to Jacksonville, Fla., (the hottest weather I ever had to endure) as a radioman, receiving Morse code on the Fox channel. But it didn’t take long before I realized that taking dots and dashes for 10 hours wasn’t for me.”**

**(Extracted from an article in the Itemizer-Observer May 14, 1995)**

**You may have noted the reference to the Fox channel...I asked Pete K7YTM to enlighten me since he is an old salty radioman. He said that this was a radio channel that was like a streaming “news” report of all radio traffic that was sent out to all stations. A radio operator sat there and monitored the channel to pick out what was pertinent to their duty station.**

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**Here’s some additional required reading to expand your well rounded bookshelf:**

#### **Frog Raising for Pleasure and Profit**

**Dr. Albert Broel**

**New Orleans, LA, Marlboro House, 1950**

**Includes such recipes as to whet your appetite:**

**-American Giant Bullfrog Pie, Country Style**

**-Giant Bullfrog Short Cakes**

**-Stuffed Egg with Giant Bullfrog**

**-Jellied Giant Bullfrog Creamed Salad**

**-Giant Frog Sandwich Spread**

**Ants and Some Other Insects: An Enquiry into the  
Psychic Powers of These Animals**

Auguste Henri Forel

(Translated by William Morton Wheeler)

**Chicago, IL: The Open Court Publishing Co., 1904**

Part II, (a)....

29 August, '07

\*This just in!!! The presses were stopped early on during the month of August. On a parallel only equaled by congressional recess, we now return you to your regular and unusually nearly normal programming! I will not apologize for being late, since time is not important in any case. 1 September, 2007\*

We have had an interesting two weeks of traveling about. First to Portland for a visit to OMSI, Chinatown the Chinese Garden, the Japanese Garden, the Oregon Zoo and the Rose Garden....not necessarily in that order....and then off to Bend to see what all the fuss is about over there in the desert. Many pictures were taken, many miles traveled, and many steps were paced. The journey was well worth it.

Part II (b)....

9 September, '07 (yes...D/M/Y)

This from Ron, W7HO....

The ROADS VE Team held another VE Testing Session on September 8th, 2007. We had 6 individuals that attended the session. With 6 successful candidates:

3 - New Techs  
2 - New Generals  
1 - New Extra

George Benton - Extra  
Ralph Bonillas - General  
Evan Marshall - General  
Jeff Blatter - Tech  
Ken Woulston - Tech  
Anthony Odenthal - Tech

I want to thank those that helped make the session a success. Bob W7LOU, Harry AB7X, John KE7JNT and Irene K7IJK. We want to thank the ARES group for the donuts.

Ron W7HO  
ROADS  
VE Team Liaison

The session was very successful, and fun to boot! I encourage anyone who wants to return something to HAM radio to obtain VE credentials and join in on a very worthwhile event. It has been a satisfying experience for me, for sure.

Our next test session will be on Saturday, 10 November, '07. We test every other odd month in the Commissioners Conference Room in the Polk County Courthouse in Dallas (OR). If you know of someone who wants or needs to be licensed or to upgrade their current license, please let Ron or any one of us know, although walk-ins are perfectly welcome!

In part one, I received no news on how the *Cynthian* dinner turned out, but I must take it that it was good. Perhaps one of our officers could elaborate on that night in the next meeting?