

from

The Olde Timer

Mike Caveney, VE3GG

It was Bill Barron of Hamilton who first told me about commercial radio broadcasting. Said they were hearing musical programmes from Pittsburgh down there, but I would have to wind special coils, and told me what he was using.

I built the coils, but no success for several nights, and then—one night—I heard a woman's voice—singing. The shock was so great, I felt both sides of my face go cold, as I snatched off the phones and called my wife. The lady was singing, "My Wild Irish Rose."

Unless one has become accustomed for years to hearing nothing but trumpeting, snarling, grunting dots and dashes, he has no conception of the startling effect when—for the first time one hears the human voice—a woman's song—the sweetest music ever heard in a happy home.

A sour note was struck, however, as I listened. I heard the first commercial ever to be on the air. It went this way:

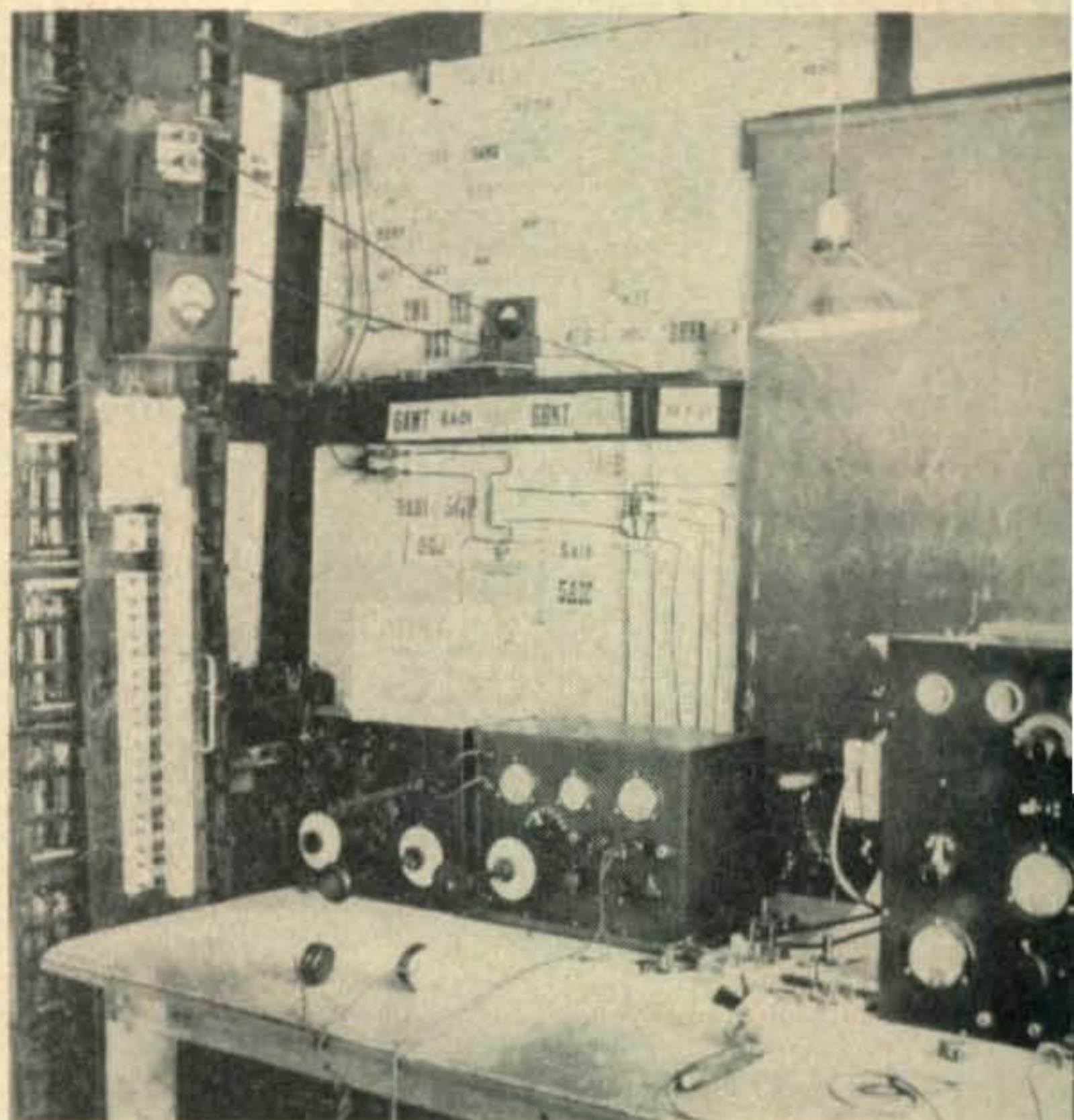
"If your room feels a little cool, and yet does not warrant starting your furnace, because the days are warm, you can make it much more comfortable, by using one of our Westinghouse Cozy Glow Heaters for those chilly evenings."

This first commercial ever heard evidently prompted me in 1922, when requested by "Colliers" to write 2000 words on radio at ten cents per word—to sound a warning note,

which sounds now—somewhat prophetic, because I said:

"This magic—called radio, as a means of communication, is destined to annihilate Distance—and make a golf ball of our globe. When your President speaks, a million tongues of lightning will flash his words around the world. But—before it is too late—let us assign the major portion of this miracle to the best brains of the universe for educational purposes, and the brotherhood of man. The making of tomorrow's citizens, the world over, is of paramount importance. Let us do this NOW—before we fall into the sorry plight of listening to commercial interests, scuffling among the stars for the Almighty dollar."

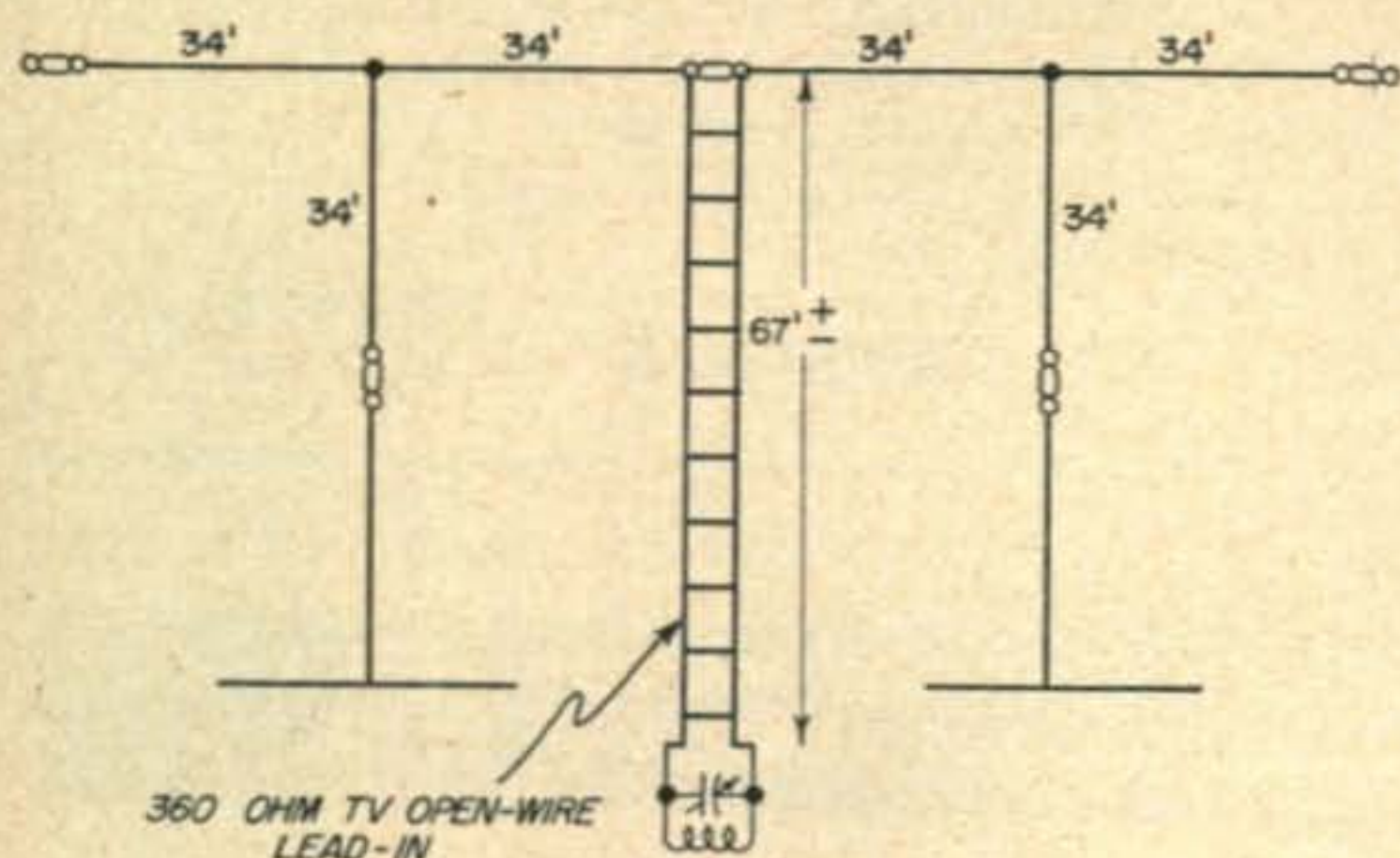
AND—SEE WHAT HAPPENED!



VE3GG shack at Sandy Falls, Northern Ontario, 1923.

Vertical Additions to Dipoles

KP4JE reports that the addition of two vertical sections to a 136' dipole will perform



"wonders" for your signal. Since altering his antenna as in *Fig. 1* he has had consistent good reports from VK's on 20 and 40 meters, pulled in his first KR6 on 7010 kc., and gets reports of "loudest signal on the band" on 21 mc. He believes this all-band antenna is the next best thing to 3-el beams for each band.

O. M. Grainger claims that the fact that the vertical sections, which are full waves at 28 mc., are fed at the top makes "all the difference in the world" in signal strength, and that the mixed polarization makes for much less fading on weak signals.

The idea looks simple enough to try without a great outlay of labor. It is not recommended for those chaps presently complaining of QRM from VK and ZS.