

# The Milkotron

As Told to the Old Connecticut Yankee

By Woody Darrow, W3JZ\*

IT is with the greatest of pleasure that I assume my new duties of insulting engineer to the technickle staff of *QST*. It all started at the Worcester Convention. Jim Lamb, who is the Chief Tech, and George Grammer, next in command, was both complainin' about how hard the work on *QST* was. Some of the questions asked was so hard that they couldn't answer them, so I says I'd be glad to take a job as insulting engineer to the technickle staff at the nominal salary of  $3\sqrt{-7}$  per alum. My job meant less work for Jim and George, so they both agreed it was a good thing. Along came the check and double check from K. B., Hebee, and Hiram, and I was sent to Pisacci, New Jersey, to meet Freddy Link and Johnnie Knight (W2ALU) at the de Woods Radio Co., who in turn pass me over to H. Rouclere (W2AWI), who is in charge of the Engineering Department, where all the bright ideas come from. Mr. Rouclere was a tall, slender chap, with blue eyes and dark hair. He was such a modest fellow that I could hardly believe that he was the man who had invented the Milkotron, the new tube that was to revolutionize radio by annihilating the skip distance phenomena.

I looked at Mr. Rouclere and he looked at me, and we might have been looking at each other for days if Mr. Rouclere hadn't up and said, "Hello!" To which I replied, "Fine, thanks" — and the interview was under way. "Are you troubled by fading signals, skip distance effects, low antenna current, static-itus, heart burn, weak ankles, or halitosis?" asked he. I hated to admit my weakness so I up and says, "Says you." This didn't stop Mr. Rouclere; he continued by telling me to fill out coupon at the bottom of page 99 of this *QST* and mail it to the nearest drug store, or drop it in the waste basket. It really didn't matter, as even my best friends wouldn't tell me.

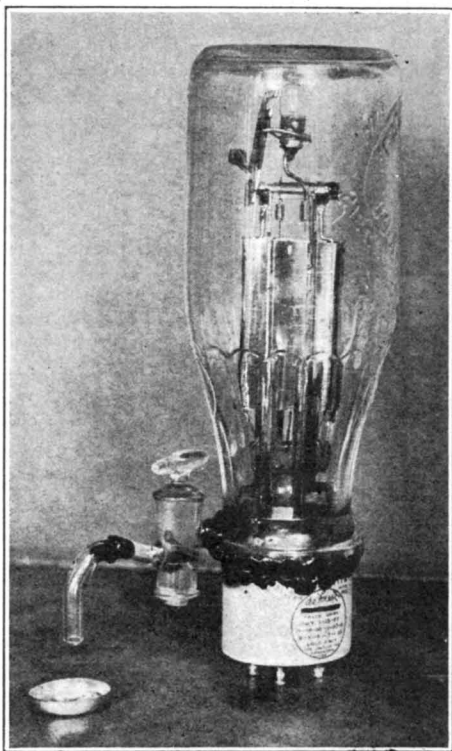
Frankly, I was amazed at the technickle knowledge of this lad and I begged him to tell me more of the outstanding sensation of the decade — The Milkotron — which had helped to alleviate the suffering caused by skip distance phenomena.

"Well, first off, there is 'Not a Bull in a Carload,'" he began.

I told him bulls never bothered in any way, as most of my trouble was caused by parasites.

"This tube may be had in any capacity up to

and including 500 quatts<sup>1</sup> and in any distance range desired, plus or minus five miles," he continued. "The new principles involved in governing the distance at which signals from a transmitter employing this tube may be heard have been kept in a sealed metal receptable inside the tube cooling tanks at W2XCD. But due to the fact that the tube persisted in heating up,



UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD

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somebody opened the tanks and removed the obstruction which made it possible to present this information to the select circle of *QST* readers."

I could tell from the way he talked, and the fact that he worked in a tube factory, that Mr. Rouclere would have to be pumped. His knowl-

<sup>1</sup> A new unit of something or other, chiefly the latter.

Cf. Borden and Sheffield, "Principles and Practice of MOO-PA transmitting Circuits."

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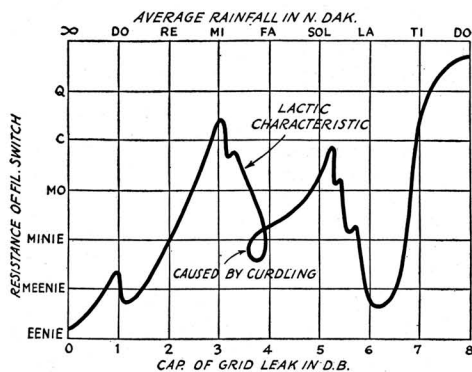
edge proved to me that no vacuum existed so far, so I say, "Tell me more."

He continued: "The secret is merely the fact that instead of bounding our signals off the Heavside layer and letting them get knocked for a loop out into boundless space, we utilize the reflecting power of the *milky way*! By depositing on the plate of the Milkotron varying amounts of desiccated cow-juice, the angle at which the produced wave is reflected from the milky way is controlled to a much better advantage."

I say, "That's a fine theory, but will it work?"

"How can it help but work? It's in de Woods and when I say a tube is in de Woods, why go any deeper?"

The accompanying graph<sup>2</sup> gives the distance at which signals may be expected to come to earth again for a given deposit on the plate:



BIG CHIEF CHARACTERISTICS OF MILKOTRON

Type	Purpose	Use	Tel. Votes
413	Power Pacifier	After Meals Shake Well	10 flat
Fil. Current	Clean Grid	General Character	
Oh, sho, sho!	Voltage 3 below	Good	

Deportment:

Check and Double Check.

"Don't forget," added Mr. Rouclere, "to tell the credulous amateur that in ordering the Milkotron to state whether he wants his signals to come back to earth in 100 miles, 200 miles, 1,000 miles or in a tail spin. The Milkotron will be sent C.O.D., milk tickets not accepted."

I have only had the Milkotron in my own laboratory for about a week, and it seems sour already.

It operates much the same as any vacuum tube. That is, when the grid is positive it's very positive and when it's negative, it curdles. The grid leak which is enclosed in the tube cuts the resistance down to about 2 milavotes per meter, which is simply great when you consider that the grid is crooked anyway and robs the filament of its elections. The plate is held in place by two

false teeth with roots embedden in the base. These teeth are slightly decayed and give off a gas which, when ignited by the electromhos (positive hunks of raw a.c.) cause the pilot light to glow in the tube, eliminating an antenna meter. The brighter the glow the more antenna current. If the tube is overloaded, the gas backs up into the teeth causing them to bite off the plate current, thus stopping the filament from burning out as the tube ceases oscillating. The Milkotron is truly the most remarkable improvement amateur radio has ever seen, and if there are any questions, either on this tube or other ham problems, send them in to the Insulting Engineer of the Technickle Staff of QST.

## A New Section Created in Pacific Division

AS provided in the Constitution and By-Laws of the A.R.R.L., the operating territory of the League is apportioned into Sections for the purposes of administration of the League's field organization. Action may be taken by the Communications Manager acting with the advice and consent of the Division Director concerned in the United States, its territories, and Cuba, and with the advice and consent of the Canadian General Manager in Newfoundland, Labrador, and the Dominion of Canada.

Recently fifty-eight members in the San Joaquin valley territory in the Pacific Division petitioned for the formation of a new section. The matter was discussed with Section Managers Sandham and Quement, who each agreed to relinquish certain California counties proposed for inclusion in the new Section. Division Director A. H. Babcock gave the matter his full consideration and consent and recommended the matter to Headquarters for the action requested.

This notice announces the creation of a *San Joaquin Valley Section* of the Pacific Division to include the counties of Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, Mariposa, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare and Kings of the state of California. All amateur operators and stations in this territory are invited to report activities regularly to a San Joaquin Valley Section Communications Manager effective with his election.

A.R.R.L. members residing in the new section have already received mail notice of its formation, together with a notice soliciting nominating petitions for a Section Manager. By the time this information is in print an election by mail ballot will be in progress, or should the Section be unanimous in choice of a candidate the election will be completed by October 15th and the address of the S. C. M. may be obtained by dropping a line to A.R.R.L. Headquarters.

— F. E. H.

<sup>2</sup> Tech-nickel word meaning "rake-down on signals."