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QST Issue: May 1970

Title: Christmas City U.S.A.

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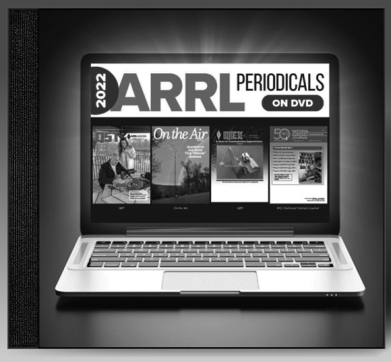

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Christmas City U.S.A.

BY NORM ZOLTACK, *WA3FGS

CQ CQ, de WX3MAS, Christmas City U.S. calling."

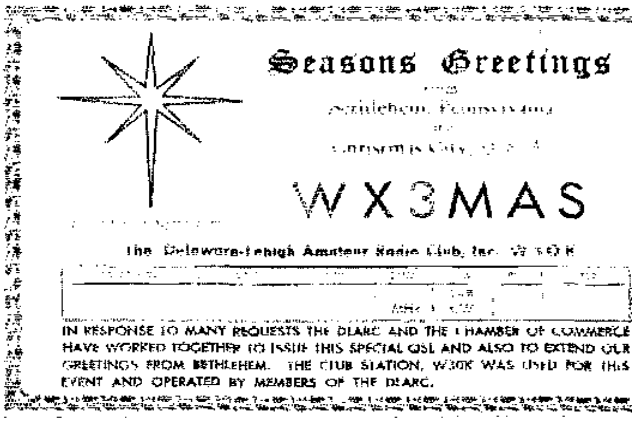
"QRZ the station calling CQ, — was that WX3MAS? . . . Did I hear right, WX3? . . . What is your country OM? . . . I never heard a WX3 before! . . . Are they up to WX3 in that call area already? .

These are some of the comments received at WX3MAS, a special station set up by the Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, W3OK. In December 1968, W9FG asked for my QSL postmarked December 25th from the Christmas City — Bethlehem, Pa. A thought: maybe our club could get a special call for Christmas, 1969. Besides, we needed something to spark club interest — and all of a sudden the clubhouse was a beehive of activity with antenna projects, QSL cards, and committee meetings. After a few false starts, FCC issued the special call WX3MAS for the last two weeks of December.

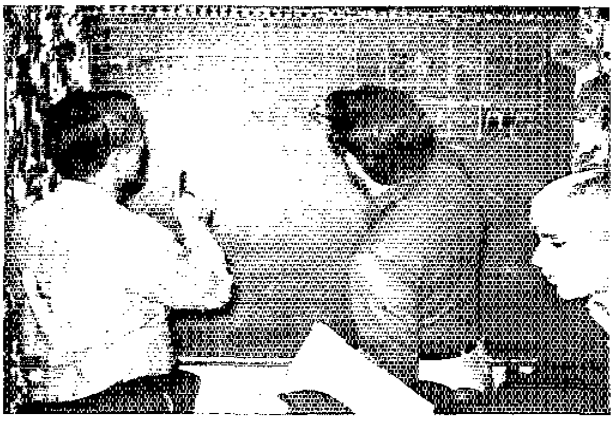
On December 15th at 12:01 the first call was tapped out on cw. From then until the last QSO at 11:58 on January 1, 20 members logged 7,186 QSOs in all 50 states and 102 countries around the world. They also logged lots of sore throats, tired fists, tired ops, and plenty of fun. Not too bad a performance, either, considering lost time on account of the heavy ice storm which made the clubhouse inaccessible and tore down the antennas. Along with that went Christmas shopping, tree decorating, and playing Santa for the family.

It's all over now but the QSLing. (QSLs should be sent to WX3MAS, 1719 Callone Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18017.) Needless to say, we think our operation was a tremendous success mostly due to the issuing the special call, Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, W1AW bulletin announcing the operation, and, of course, all the gang that called us during the fifteen days of operation. Are we going to do it next year? Just QRX! — *WA3FGS.* QST

*2048 11th St., Bethlehem, Pa. 18017.



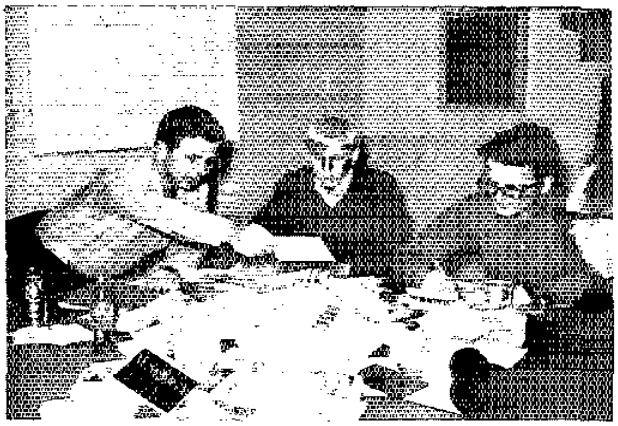
Did you get yours?



WX3MAS Committee completing the scoreboard on our final night. From left: WA3FGS, WA3CXM, WA3GUL.



Left to right: WA3FGS, K3MAZ, WA3GUI operating the club station.



Norm, Rich, Al and Bob starting in on mail for one day!