Happy New Year

Already we are into 2001 and Christmas seems a long way away and having the 10 ele skybeam on the ground I was not able to go on 2m and have any contacts over any distance. On Xmas day as I had planned on ssb & remote from the comforts of the house, but still there always this year untouched in between my other interests, one of which now a days being computers. Even with one of my latest gadgets- a digi box & satellite dish, which all came along at the right price. I was hoping to track across other satellites but on installation trying an 80cm dish with an universal LNB. it only seems to work on Sky but there's got to be some way of changing this any ideas ? I receive free channels what few there are, there are such a vast Number in orbit!

I was in Herefordshire on Boxing day to visit My Mother and on route back stopped at Dinmore Hill which is a high point between Hereford & Leominster. I called CQ several times but could not raise any one on 2m FM. It was different on Thursday 28th when I had a QSO with Malcolm G4OXV, Mike M1CWM & Don G4FJJ. I was informed that Harry G0BHV from Wall Heath as become a silent key. His funeral was at Gornal Crem on Thursday 21st December. I was unable to attend.

Earlier that week on the previous Saturday I decided to phone up Frank Martin G4UMV because I had not seen Frank or His xyl at any of the rallies in 2000. The phone call resulted in a visit to his QTH on Monday 18th at Stirchley Telford. I am pleased to say apart from arthritis which prevents now a days from standing any length of time at radio rallies, he & his XYL are fine. He is retired now but he may just go to the occassional rally. He still has got some satellite and other equipment left which may well appeal to Stars members, his phone number and is fax 01952 598173 or fmartin@freeinternet.co.uk and see what he as to offer at satellite surplus. Its not all satellite equipment. Frank & His XYL used organise the rallies at the motorcycle museum which became so popular they became to big for the building.

Well that's all for now A Very Happy New Year to You All

Best 73s Roving Reporter Malcolm G8BOP

Hospital old boy takes role in top soap

A FORMER Stourbridge schoolboy has been given the opportunity of living his dream after landing a role in top BBC soap EastEnders.

Nicholas Bailey, who starrted his acting career by appearing in productions at Oldswinford Hospital School, made his debut on the show last week as Albert Square's new doctor.

Peter Jenkins, a spokesman for the Heath Lane School, said from an early age Nicholas had displayed a talent for the stage and had taken roles in many plays, including the lead in a production of Macbeth.

Mr Jenkins said everyone at the school was pleased that Nicholas, who left the school 12 years ago, had achieved his goal.

"When I first arrived at the school Nicholas was in his final year and already into drama," said. Mr Jenkins.

"He was such a nice chap and had a striking appearance. Having got into the soap we are really delighted for him here at the school. He has done well in such a competitive field."

Mr Jenkins said Nicholas, who will inherit the stethoscope of popular practioner Dr Legg on the show, had also had parts in the BBC production, Dangerfield.

During his time at the school he was a good all rounder who played for the First XV rugby team.

millennium

Any real technologist will tell you that the real millennium should be celebrated on January 1, 2001, quite simply because there was no year zero and therefore everything up to and including all of year 2000 was still the previous millennia. Now that the Third Millennium is about to officially begin.

Stories of the Millennium

1202 Base Numbers -- Base numbers wow European mathematicians
1455 Printing Press -- Gutenberg machine creates books
1773 Maritime Navigation -- Clockmaker's world navigation system
1781 Steam Motor -- New steam motor a 'breakthrough'
1833 Difference Engine (Babbage's 'computer') -- Inventor outlines plans for outrageous mechanical brain
1839 Camera -- Daguerreotype: Image capturing device for the home
1844 Telegraph -- Device can transmit messages over a wire
1866 Trans-Atlantic Telegraph -- Tech entrepreneur knighted for transatlantic cable success
1876 Telephone -- Telegraph to carry voices
1883 AC Motor -- Tesla shows off AC motor as Edison scoffs
1930 Television -- 'Television' transmits images through the air
1938 Splitting of the Atom -- Nobel Prize awarded to physicist who split the atom
1940 Cracking the Enigma Code -- British mathematician cracks Nazi enigma code
1948 First modern computer -- 'Baby' computer can store data, user programmes
1959 Integrated Circuits -- 'Integrated circuits' to power smaller more reliable computers
1969 Internet -- Researchers attempt 'internetwork' connection
1971 Memory Disk -- IBM creates Memory Disk
1977 Apple II -- Futuristic computer includes colour, sound
1984 Macintosh -- Apple Computer shows off 'Mac'
1996 Internet becomes big business -- Internet IPOs rock Wall Street

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'Telegraph' could allow instant communications between far removed corners of globe

The first public demonstration of a method of sending signals over a wire took place Wednesday.

Invented by Samuel Morse, the signalling device for the so-called "telegraph" is very simple, consisting of a transmitter containing a battery and a key, a small buzzer as a receiver and a pair of wires connecting the two. By adding a second switch and a second buzzer, transmission is possible in the opposite direction as well.

To test the system, a line was constructed between Baltimore and the Supreme Court in Washington DC and the message "What has God wrought," was sent by Morse, encoded as a series of dashes and dots. With his colleague Alfred Vail, Morse created his first working machine seven years ago.

In an exclusive interview Morse explains how he came up with the idea. "It all began during a sea voyage when I started thinking how nice it would be to have wires under the sea to allow for transatlantic communication," he said "Then all I needed to do was devise a code and some boxes. It was as simple as that," he said.

Asked why he chose the message he did, Morse said that "it seemed like a good idea at the time but on reflection it might have been better to have said 'hello'."

Experts believe the telegraph could transform the way individuals communicate. According to inventions analyst Keith Harris it will not only enable relatives to communicate over distance: "The quickness of the system means news can be carried over wires and people will be able to gather in a central place to keep themselves up to date with the world's events," he said.

Judges gathered in the Supreme Court for the demonstration were amazed by the invention. Judge Lyndonberg the Third summed up the attitude of many. "This telegraph thing seems like an splendid idea," he said.

Judge Penfield appeared less enthusiastic. "Demonstration. What demonstration? Sorry I think I might have nodded off," he said.

New advance means computer memory can be changed with no mechanical rearrangements

The University of Manchester today saw the birth of a very technically advanced little baby.

The Small-Scale Experimental Machine (SSEM), nicknamed the Baby, is the first computer in the world that can store not only data but user programs as well. Today's demonstration of the Baby was the first time that a stored program has been run on a computer.

Baby was designed by Tom Kilburn from the Telecommunications Research Establishment. It is based on the Williams Tube, an altered cathode ray tube that translates electrical charges into the binary code used to program the computer with instructions. This technology makes possible the enormous amount of random access memory possessed by the computer.

The world's first stored program was used to calculate the awe inspiring equation: divide (2 to the power of 30-1) by 31. This was solved in around one and a half seconds.

It then went on to determine the largest factor of (2 to the power of 30-1), by trying every number from 2 to the power of 18 down. This demonstrated that the computer could run for an incredible 52 minutes and process 3.5 million instructions without any errors.

"This was a moment to remember," enthused Professor F.C. Williams. "Nothing will ever be the same again."

The lightning-fast 1.2 millisecond computing speed is made possible by the fact that the Williams Tube technology means that the random access memory doesn't require rewriting each time the data is changed.

"Today's successful demonstration of the world's most powerful computer leads me to foresee a day when we will actually be able to run several programs on the data stored in one computer," said Kilburn.

Williams admitted that at present "the machine is purely experimental, and is on too small a scale to be of mathematical value". However, the experience gained from testing the soundness of the storage principle involved will help them to quickly "embark on the design of a full-size machine", according to Williams.

He pointed out that despite the size of the computer, in principle it is "universal" in the sense that it can be used to solve any problem that can be reduced to a program of elementary instructions -- the program can be changed without any mechanical or electro-mechanical circuit changes.

Williams believes that Baby heralds a new age in computing. Next generation machines will enable research departments of major universities to tackle problems that until now have been beyond the reach of humans. "The computing power we have unleashed is simply terrifying," he said, "Researchers will be able to undertake projects that up until now would have seemed simply beyond their imagination."

Here are all those impressive specifications in brief: - 32-bit word length - Serial binary arithmetic using 2's complement integers - Single address format order code - Random access main store of 32 words, extendable up to 8192 words - Computing speed of around 1.2 milliseconds per instruction

those born pre 1945

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio vaccine, frozen foods, photocopiers, contact lenses, videos, frisbees, freebies and the Pill. We lived before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens; before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first, and then lived together. How quaint can you be? We thought "fast food" was what you ate at Lent. A "Big Mac" was an oversized raincoat, and crumpet was what we had for tea. We existed before house-husbands, computer dating, dual careers: when meaningful relationships meant getting along with your cousis, and sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus.

We were born before day centres, group homes and disposable nappie. We had never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt and men wearing earrings. For us "time sharing" meant togetherness, a chip was a piece of wood or a fried potato. Hardware meant nuts and bolts and software was not even a word.

Before 1945 "Made In Japan" meant junk. The term "making out" referred to how you did in

your exams. A stud was something that fastened a collar to a shirt, and "going all the way" meant staying on a double decker bus until it reached the depot. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of. In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mown, coke was kept in a coalhouse, a joint was a piece of meat you had on Sundays, and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was a grandmother's lullaby, El Dorado was an ice cream and a gay person was the life and soul of the party.

There were four grades of toilet paper - The Sports Argus, The Western Mail, the Echo and the News Of The World. A money box was the penny gas meter. People had the toilet outside the home, and they ate their meals inside the home. Transportable lightweight baths could be used in any room in the house. A porn shop was a pawnshop; a handkerchief was a coat sleeve. Footwear was constructed or iron, leather and wood. A disc jockey was a National Hunt jockey with a back problem. The recycling unit was a rag and bone man. An alarm was known as a knocker-up. The NHS was known as the Doctor's bill of sixpence a week. Debt and illegitimacy were secrets; McDonald only had a farm. Central heating was an oven plate or a firebrick wrapped in a blanket. A duvet was your dad's overcoat on the bed. A kitchen unit was known as a slopstick. the top ten used to be the ten commandments.

We, who were born before 1945, must be a hardy bunch, when you think of the ways in which the world has changed, and of the adjustments that we have had to make. No wonder we are so confused and there is a generation gap

Smile please

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning 86,400 seconds. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening the bank deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day.

What would you do? Draw out every penny of course!!!

Each of us has such a bank. It' s name is TIME. Every morning it credits you with 86,400 seconds.

Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the days deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow". You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness and success.

The clock is running. Make the most of today.

- To realise the value of one year, ask a student who failed a grade.
- To realise the value of one month, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby.
- To realise the value of one week, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.
- To realise the value of one hour, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.
- To realise the value of one minute, ask a person who missed a train.
- To realise the value of one second, ask a person who just avoided an accident.
- To realise the value of one millisecond, ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time.

And remember that time waits for no one.

- Yesterday is history.
- Tomorrow is a mystery,
- Today is a gift.
- That's why it is called the present!!!

Friends are very rare jewels indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.

SMILE, SOMEONE IS THINKING ABOUT YOU!!!

Nicholas Bailey

Chris Potter MBE

If you would like to receive your copy of Starlite via email then please send me an email to french2@iname.com
thanks, James

Last Bits

■ **Happy Potter...** Christopher Potter, Head of Old Swinford Hospital School, receives his MBE for services to education. The 62-year-old has led the successful grant-maintained school for the past 22 years. Mr Potter studied Greek, Latin and archaeology at Cambridge University. The Worcester-born father-of-five is to retire this year

CW FOREVER

You must have, at times, thought into the past,
Where some things go out, while others last,
What comes to my mind is the Old Morse Code,
That has weathered the storms from any abode,

To talk with ones fingers, is surely an art,
Of any info you care to impart,
In most conditions the signals get thru,
While the same about phone is simply not true.

Those dits and dahs cut through the trash,
Of nearby noise or lightning's crash,
To the sensitive ears of the ham receiver,
Who records this data with ardent fever.

He knows he's doing something unique,
(in such poor conditions, that's quite a feat!)
To roger the message that came off the air,
These brass pounders sure do have that flair.

They say Morse ops are a dying breed,
But don't despair, there's always that need,
That when conditions get rough for the new automation,
Be rest assured, there'll be need for your station,

CW is dying? believe it never,
This mode will be 'round forever and ever,
But one thing is sure, what we really need,
Is to relay our knowledge to the younger breed.

To carry the torch, long after we're gone,
To send Morse Code thru the air like a song,
When at last, Silent Keys pull that final lever,
We can rest in peace, it's CW forever.

Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY 7/4/85

CW forever from Alec G8GF, a copy of which Alec sends with all his QSL cards

Novice Course

Member of StARS are now running their second Novice Course on **Wednesday Evenings, 7:30 pm** at Old Swinford Hospital.

The course will run during school term time to the Novice RAE exam to be taken in May/June 2001.

The course consists of a small amount of class room based learning, some real on the air experience and construction as well.

All welcome to attend.

Any StARS member who would like to assist in any aspect of the Novice course is more than welcome to attend and help.