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There are more than 285,000 radio operators in the United States, and Jim O'Daniel at New Bern's Professional Drive Pharmacy happens to be one of them. The world has grown smaller for all of us, and especially for him.

A friendly guy who likes to talk, he routinely converses with Americans from coast to coast, and finds it not unusual to chat with other hams in many foreign countries. The oceans to him are only backyard fences.

It is rather commonly known that Senator Barry Goldwater is also an enthusiastic ham, but O'Daniel has never crossed paths with the Arizona solon on the air lanes. Sometimes it works out that way.

Jim had no idea that his first contact with Goldwater would be a face to face encounter, but this is how the two finally met the other day. Barry wasn't wearing horned rimmed glasses, but O'Daniel recognized him as a casual customer in his business establishment.

In a manner familiar to all hams, the congenial druggist initially introduced himself by his call letters. Goldwater smiled broadly, and evidenced delight at running into a kindred soul unexpectedly.

Goldwater was in town to check on the Hatteras yacht built for him here. In this respect he was following the trail of a number of other celebrities who without fanfare have journeyed here for the same purpose.

Most of us who know little about amateur radio are under the impression that hams usually get together late at night. What we fail to consider is that in global communication, night here is day somewhere else.

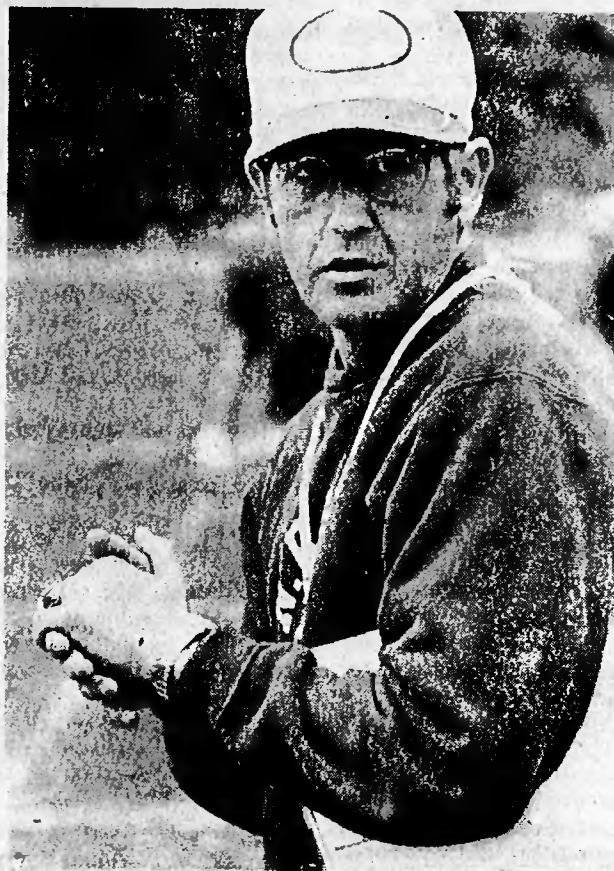
At any hour you can pick up someone to talk with. It could be, as the National Geographic Society points out, a king, a London dockworker, or a descendant of the Bounty mutineers on remote Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific. Now many talk to each other via satellite.

Maybe you haven't heard about Oscar 6, a small radio satellite that went aloft late last year with a large weather satellite launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

It weighs just 40 pounds, and was built and paid for by hams. It enables amateurs as far as 4,000 miles apart to communicate without worrying about conditions in the ionosphere that sometimes disrupt signals.

Once O'Daniel was talking to an operator in Germany, and has some difficulty making himself completely understandable. A native of Germany, living in Greece, broke into the conversation, and helped out.

Jim, as a ham, has learned to expect the unexpected, but was surprised when the ham in Greece told him he knew all about New Bern. Elaborating, he said he was at the Voice of



HE SCORED—Alumnae of N. C. State University from Craven and five neighboring counties saw a new side of Coach Lou Holtz Monday night, when the school's highly successful grid mentor spoke to more than 200 Wolfpack supporters at New Bern's Ramada Inn. Quick with the quip, and as humorous as any college coach who has ever indulged in

oratory here, including Bones McKinney, Lou got off to a fast start with a magic-card routine. With that out of the way, he wisecracked the full length of the field, resorting to a note of seriousness only as he crossed the goal line. A youthful guy, with hair as vivid as the yellow rose of Texas, he doesn't look like a coach, but opponents know better.