

## Gil

A Collection of Classic Cartoons from QST

First Edition

American Radio Relay League

Philip Gildersleeve, W1CJD

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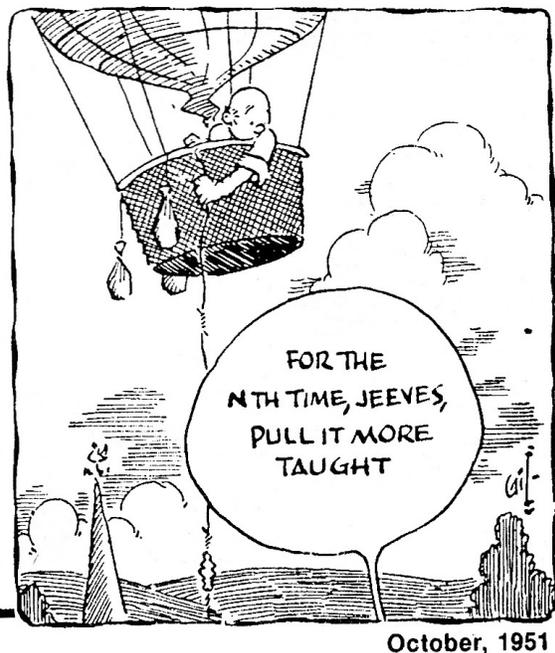
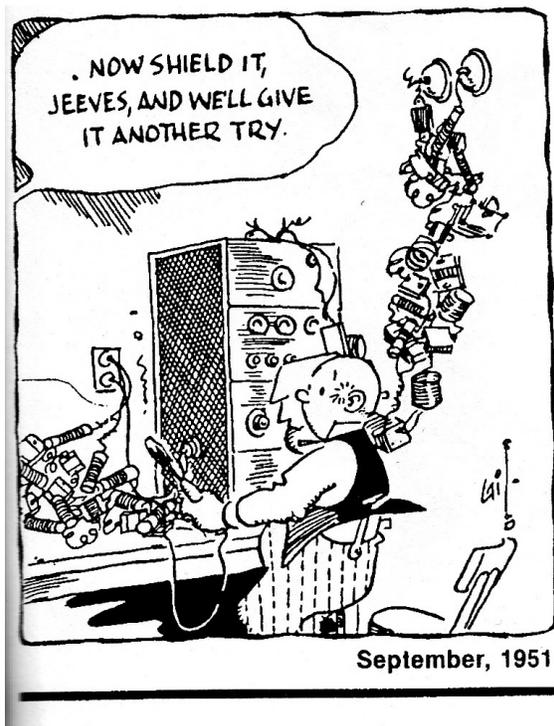
Read: 2010 April 18 to 23

Reviewed: 2010 July 16

Gil (Philip Gildersleeve, W1CJD) did cartoon illustrations of amateur radio subjects for QST for more than 40 years, producing over 1500 pieces. This was during the heyday of amateur radio and the plates are representative of the humor of many technology hobby situations. I confess, I don't see the humor in all of them, maybe humor wasn't always the intent or maybe this is a manifestation of a generational difference I've experience in both directions, but I laughed out loud several times could appreciate most of the material instantly.

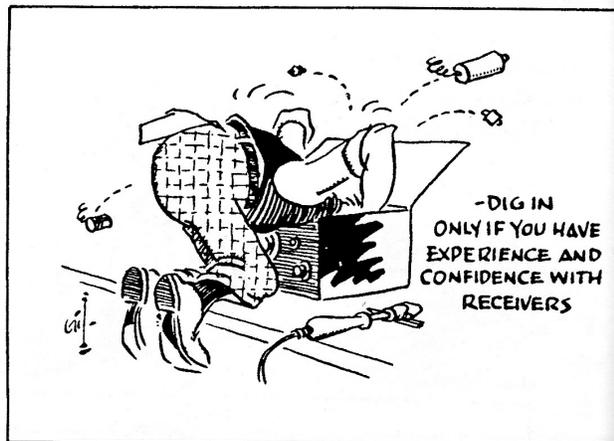
The book opens with a Rockwellian self-portrait of Gil, with radios on a desk in the background of course. A similar, color self-portrait appears on the cover. Laird Campbell, W1CUT, Managing Editor of QST introduces the collection.

As a collection of cartoons, it is best to excerpt a few to talk about. This first one, I call "transmission lines and antennas." On the left, the resourceful amateur (never seen) and his assistant Jeeves, think they have the right network to go between the transmitter and the wall feedthrough. Now, only a proper shield is needed before it can be tested. On the left, Jeeves doesn't have enough uplift on his balloon to keep the antenna up. This is a typical obsessive situation for folks trying to work with the "short" (tens of meters long) waves.

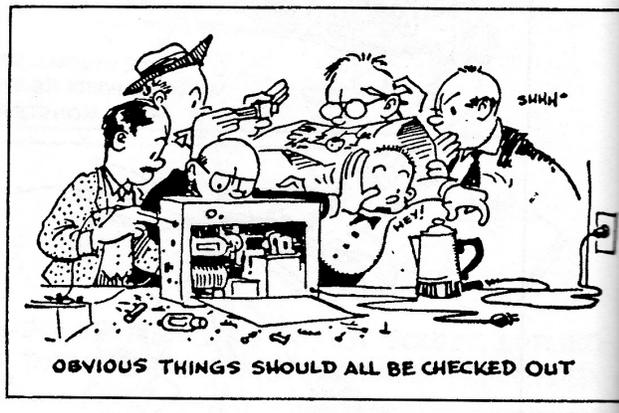


I call this one "Repairs."

January, 1954

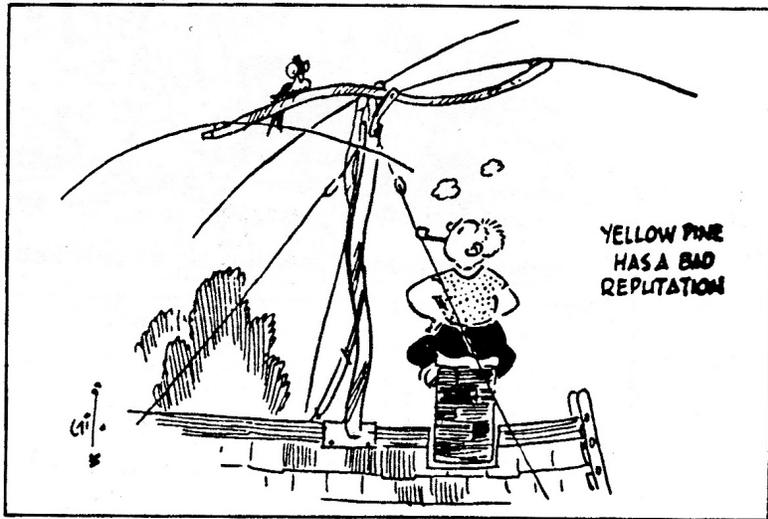
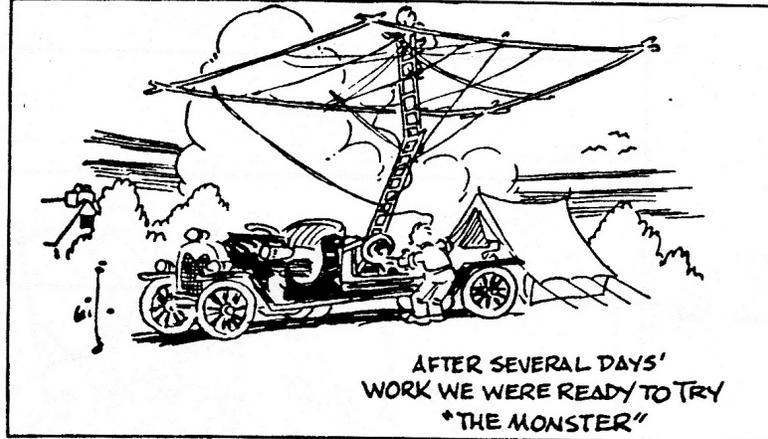


July, 1957



And what self respecting ham hasn't built "The Monster" or used "available materials" of questionable suitability?

July, 1949



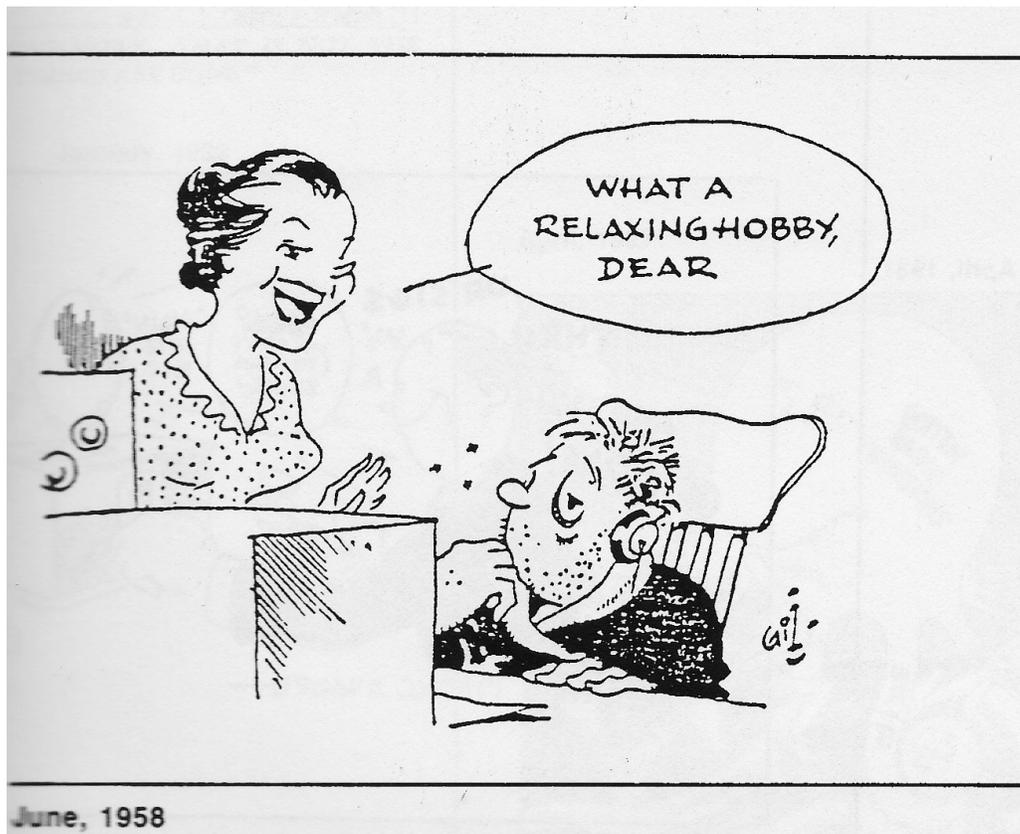
December, 1949

Of course, Safety is always First

February, 1966



But far and away my favorite is this one, that reflects the universal ham radio experience, particularly around contests such as Field Day and Sweepstakes. ... and when trying to finish up that amplifier before the contest starts. ... and when trying to break the pileup to get 3Y0X. Yes, honey....



The "Gil" collection, "publication No. 70 of the Radio Amateur's Library" is a nicely presented selection of Gil's memorable works documenting life in amateur radio. Highly recommended.