MOORE HAMS

By RICHARD SCHILLER, EE, '52

For fifteen years there has been a group of dot happy fellows gathering in Room 213 of the Moore School of Electrical Engineering. These men are engaged in the fascinating hobby of communicating with other Amateur Radio Operators throughout the world. Their equipment, built by themselves, is the last word in electronics, and their techniques allow them to break through the ether to the most remote corners of the globe. For a brief period during World War II their activity was stopped as a wartime security measure, but now the boys are again "whooping it up."

One of the services of the club that has been taken by the University is the free message service to all parts of the United States and possessions. During the Christmas season of 1949 the club sent over 500 Xmas Greetings and personal messages to persons in the U. S. and to GI's overseas. Had these messages been sent by commercial services their cost would have totalled more than $2000.00. This service was demonstrated to visitors to the University during Engineers' Day in May, 1950. More than 500 people saw the operators sending messages and a display of cards from Amateurs all over the world.

The club has been visited by many people from various countries. There was one visitor of particular note, a British naval officer. He was a British Amateur who had been in contact with the Moore School station while in Gibralter and then again in Malta. Rounding out his acquaintance, he made a personal visit while in the United States. The friends of this group are not restricted to local colleges but seem to extend to any nation where men sit and "pound brass." One of the club members was quite at home in Sweden last summer, having made contact with a Swedish operator before he left.