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## With Hawaii's Radio Amateurs

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The year 1964 recorded the passing of several more links with the early days of amateur radio. John Reinhartz (W1QP-1XAM-K6BJ), who pioneered the short wave, became a silent key.

Former President Herbert Hoover, under whose guiding hand as Secretary of Commerce, modern radio laws were promulgated, pass on. He donated the Hoover Cup for excellence in amateur radio, and his son Herbert Hoover, Jr., is president of the American Radio Relay League.

DX-wise, it marked the end of a three-year expedition by W4BPD (Gus Browning) who DX-peditioned to remote parts of the globe, giving amateurs contacts with rare countries never before on the air.

Propagation-wise, it was marked by lack of openings for long distance communications. The bottom of the 11 year sunspot cycle has been passed and according to past performance, the ascent should be more rapid than the decline.

However, from the performance standpoint this was not so. Then meters was useless except for sporadic trans-equatorial openings.

By contrast, during 1945-46 and again during 1957-58, once in a lifetime openings occurred, which resulted in phenomenal performances on 144 mc and 230 mc by KH6UK (Ralph Thomas).

### NEW ERA

The year ushered in a new era of space communications, notable performances being the moonbounce contacts between W6DNL (California) and OH1NL (Finland) and KH6UK (Hawaii) and W1BU (Massachusetts), on 144 mc.

Equipment-wise, it was a banner year for a new concept in SBB equipment featuring compact gear such as the SBE, NCX, TR3, which now render obsolete anything which weighs more than 20 pounds.

Only two years ago a prominent manufacturer boasted his chassis were made of soiled steel and was "built like a battleship," to which the new generation will say "it can be used as an anchor."

Regulation-wise, there was talk of incentive licensing and upgrading of licenses, which caused much consternation among current licensees.