



"RIDES" HIS HOBBY—Jed Margolin, young Edison amateur radio enthusiast, "works" other two-meter "hams" from his bicycle-borne amateur station. But he has to watch out for traffic signs, which may tangle with his beam antenna!

Builds 'Ham' Radio on Bike

Amateur radio enthusiasts, ardent in pursuing their hobby, have installed stations in planes, trains, boats and cars. But it fell to 15-year-old Jed Margolin, of 24 Fairhill Rd., in the Twin Brooks section of Edison, to turn to a bicycle for his mobile "ham" station.

Interested in amateur radio for more than four years, young Margolin, the son of Bound Brook furniture dealer Joshua Margolin, has been a full-fledged "ham" for more than one and one-half years, operating WA2VEW on both the two and 15-meter bands at his home.

But, as many hams do, young Margolin was looking for new and different ways to make the most of his hobby — a hobby that gains part of its charm from doing things differently. So he struck on the "mobile bike" idea.

A compact, conventional two-meter transmitter powered by a motorcycle battery was rigged to the bike with comparative ease. But when it came to an antenna, that presented some temporary problems which youthful persistence and ingenuity overcame.

As a result, the voice signals of WA2VEW mobile bike are disseminated by a seven-element beam atop an 8-foot mast hitched to the bike's rear wheel. It works well, with communication up to 30 miles or more possible, but young Margolin admits he has to watch out for curb-side signs which may become entangled with the antenna's elements.

"A couple of them are pretty well banged up," he admits, ruefully. But the rig works — and to a ham that's the thing that counts!