

Published for the old time Wireless Operator, Historian & Collector

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## Antiques Are Where You Find Them

By George Applegate, W2LA

The manner in which the Coherer Demonstration Instruments (see future article on coherer) were added to the author's collection was a little unusual and may be of interest as an example of the fact that occasionally some excellent pieces are acquired through sheer happenstance.

On a combination summer vacation and antique wireless prospecting through the Maritime Provinces of Canada about ten years ago, I had parked the Ford in the center of Halifax and, after depositing a coin in the parking meter, left for the waterfront armed with a flashlight and a dustrag to search for antiques in many shipfitting yards and nautical junkshops around the harbor. My wife headed for a local college where a display of handicraft was being shown. We arranged that I would return each hour to the car to drop a coin in the meter and that she would meet me there.

After prowling around several lefts along the waterfront and finding nothing of interest except some old Kellogg tubes, which the junkie wanted too much for, especially since I already had some in my collection, I returned to feed the meter and found my wife sitting in the car with a big grin on her face.

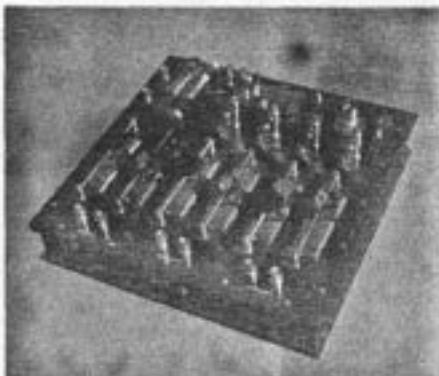
"What's so funny?" says I.

She replied, "If you want a coherer, hop in the car and come with me." With considerable speed, I did.

It seems that my wife had not been able to find the handicraft exhibit and in wandering along the corridors of the college, had come to a door marked "DEPT. OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING" and the name of the Professor in charge. She knocked and entered and introduced herself as the wife of an antique wireless collector who was, at that moment, scouring the Halifax waterfront in search of a coherer, magnetic detector or some similar device.

The Professor said, excitedly, "Did you say coherer? Look there on the floor. Please get your husband and bring him here." That was when she came back to the car.

When I arrived and met the Professor, a courtly gentleman, if there were one, he showed me the coherer set and explained that he had been instructed to have the "old junk" cleared out of the storage rooms and had reluctantly scroupped a lot of very old electrical gear but could not bring himself to junk the coherer set and a matching Ruhmkorff coil transmitting set. He had placed them on the floor by his desk and had been sitting there wondering how he could find someone who give them then a "good home." At that point my wife came in, and to his amazement, started talking about a coherer!



BRITISH DETECTOR UNIT

This rare unit was manufactured by the Marconi's Telegraph Co., Ltd., London, and is an excellent example of early British Marconi craftsmanship. Like most early British Marconi equipment it lay flat (see either American or Canadian Marconi apparatus which was usually upright). This particular unit was usually upright. This particular unit allows the operator the choice of 4 different minerals plus a Fleming valve. Note the "Bully" condenser. The exact date is unknown although the Antique Wireless Assn. has checked with the Marconi Historian in Chelmsford, England. It was used most likely somewhere between 1910 and 1915.

The Professor reviewed the history of the two sets and then presented them to me, expressing his delight in finding an enthusiast who would appreciate them. Needless to say, I promised to give them both the best of care.

We had a very interesting chat with the Professor about the "good old days" and then we left and carried the rmg out to the car. I am perfectly certain that the fine old gentleman was every bit as pleased to see his prized pieces "in good hands" as I was to get them.

My collection, although not one of the larger ones, includes a few unusual pieces. The Coherer Demonstration set, manufactured in England in 1903, I consider as my prize, not only because of its rarity but mostly, I think, because of the once-in-a-lifetime circumstances by which I acquired it.



#### WEEB'S AMATEUR RADIO MUSEUM

**PONY EXPRESS-** is hardly a subject of interest to the average radio "ham" until he reads a brief account in the April, 1960, issue of "Western Union Technical Review". The Pony Express lasted but 16 months but in that brief period a colorful era in COMMUNICATION history was made.

The organization consisted of 80 riders and 620 horses to cover a distance just under 2000 miles. There were 120 changing stations spaced 10 to 15 miles apart. The average speed was 20 miles per hour in the summer and 8 miles in the winter!

Telegraph lines eventually replaced the horse, then came wireless. Today, signals are being transmitted coast-to-coast via the moon. - - **Tux to W08SE**, Historian, Horse Telegraph Club of America.

**REINVENTS SCKEIVCH-** as described in the March, 1952 (June 1951) QST is a hard one to find these days. Although one of the most famous tuning units in amateur history and relatively easy to construct with a few parts - they have all disappeared! Faced with this problem and wanting one for A.W.A. exhibiting, W0UV volunteered to make one. The result is a beautiful replica which will be displayed by the club at future A.W.A. Conventions and in A.W.A. shows.

The photograph illustrates but a portion of Ed Raser's well known collection of early wireless apparatus. It is rated as one of the best private collections in the country. Although the collection is diversified with all kinds of antique commercial and amateur gear, one can find a certain amount of specialization such as the historical key section.

Ed is a "dye-in-the-wool" historian and appreciates individual pieces which have a significant or historical background. The collection also includes a fabulous assortment of historical photographs, books and magazines. Words hardly do this private collection justice - one must see it in person. Ed always welcomes visitors, however, it is best that you drop him a line well in advance or give him a buzz on the telephone. Ed Raser, 19 Blackwood Drive, Trenton 3, N.J.

**VACATIONERS-** When in Maine, visit the Penobscot Marine Museum at Searsport. The curator is Selym Blake, ex-Navy. He hopes to have in the near future a complete ship installation circa first World War!

## The Old Man Finds a Hole

By "Old Hot Wire Castor"

ex 1-H, 1-UQ, WJIE

Anyone rating the handle of O.T. remembers the grand old man of Ham Radio, Hiram Perry Maxim. I had the privilege of being closely associated with him and being a guest at his home frequently, where we enjoyed target shooting right in the living room with Maxim Silencers.

Accompanying him on his frequent lectures before Engineering societies, we found ourselves in Bridgeport, Connecticut one night, when he told the audience how he discovered the principle of the Maxim Silencer. He said his whole family had been interested in guns, powder and ammunition, but he was often annoyed at the recoil and noise of the guns. Being the youngest man ever to graduate from M.I.T., at the age of 16, he had a double interest in engineering and electrical problems.

He told how it came to his mind that if he could invent a gadget that let a bullet through a hole, but released the gases slowly, it might add to the pleasure of shooting. He amused the audience by stating that he had hunted for that hole for over two years, but one night he was taking a bath and pulled the plug in the tub and there it was! As he was drying himself, he looked down and noticed that the water was running out but there was a hole in the center. There was his hole. All he had to do was to spin the gases. Recalling electrical phase, he conceived the idea to spin the gases out of phase by a chamber with baffles where the gas would spin and meet out of phase and be released gradually. It worked!

The high point of his lecture was his account of obtaining German patents on the idea. He told of how the German officers required a specific demonstration. With their guns, their ammunition, their required target velocity, etc, he held his card in front of the muzzle and pulled the trigger. There was only a clean hole in the card and only a low grunt and the same target velocity.

Returning to the arsenal, a group of officers were intensely discussing the silencer and one asked how Herr Maxim discovered the principle. One of them offered his comment and said: "All I know is that Herr Maxim once took a bath!"

**TO SUBSCRIBERS-** Don't hesitate to send us material for this column. The material as presented is what you asked for - so keep writing with more "info". We can't always answer all letters individually; however, we'll try if time permits. We're wide open for suggestions - so write. This is YOUR PAPER!

**DELIVERED FRUIT-** an interesting pamphlet now making the rounds with the historians is a copy of the history of the old United Fruit Wireless installations as originally published in the now defunct "Radio Broadcast" magazine. Added material supplied by "Tip" Jones (ex-SPW) makes it more interesting.

The United Fruit Company was one of the first commercial organizations in the world to utilize wireless on a business basis. Their first installation in Central America (1905) was the first wireless in Central or South America and consisted of DeForest equipment. In 1911 the Tropical Radio Telegraph Co. was formed as a subsidiary of United Fruit. "Tip" is well informed on the subject since he operated from both land and ship stations under their banner.

**NEW BOOK-** Paul Phelan of N.Y. is writing a book on amateur activities. This will be one of the first books to be printed (publishing deadline- April, 1961) in many years. A large amount of research is going into this work plus able assistance from his brother, W2RZP, Technical and Maintenance Manager of National Broadcasting Co. in N.Y.C.

**RAEIO CLUB OF AMERICA-** extends thru its secretary, Ernest Amy, an invitation to all gear-wise historians an opportunity to purchase a copy of their "Golden Anniversary Yearbook". The book sells for \$4.50 and is well worth the price. As most of you know, the RCA is an outstanding organization with a distinguished membership. The book is profusely illustrated with many early amateur wireless installations, historical events, etc. Outstanding of course, is their work in the Trans-Atlantic Tests with their station 1DCG. For a copy write Ernest Amy, RCA, 11 West 42nd St., New York City 36, N.Y.

**CHANGE-** A note of interest is that Oliver Eas, WJIE, is dropping his post as Editor and Publisher of Electronics World (Radio News to Q7s) to devote more time to writing. "Willie" is a top technical writer and knows his material - old and new. Let us hope he comes up with something for the radio historian.

**WANTED-** one QSL card issued by W6BQ, from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, between the years 1921 and 1925. Send info or card to W6ADP, R.J. Manning, 3026 Bagley Ave., Los Angeles 34, California.

**BAROCLA I -** wanted by W6QVY. Will pay cash or swap antique gear. Write Paul Giganti, 2629 San Carlos Ave., San Carlos, Calif.

**EARLY STOCK CERTIFICATES-** an interest somewhat off the "beaten track" is the collecting of stock certificates of early wireless companies. W6RH is interested in this field and would like to correspond with anyone with a similar interest.

**NEW-** a new magazine for the radio amateur to be published by Wayne Green, W6HSD and former Editor of "QRP" magazine. The name of this new publication will be "73" with a subscription rate of \$3.00 per year. Address: 1379 East 15th St., Brooklyn 30, N.Y.

**GEAR LISTING-** from W6AA shows some very fine pieces of old gear including DeForest, Federal, Grebe, Tusta receivers. Coherers, rotary gaps, etc, all kinds of magazines and books plus a complete set of Q7s. Also note with interest that Wayne has quite a few real early cylinder type phonographs in his collection.

**TO VISIT-** The Franklin Institute, The Parkway, Philadelphia, Penna. The building is open weekdays from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. Here the visitor can see amongst other things a very fine collection of early wireless apparatus made in and about the Philadelphia area.

**BASE TUBE-** to be found in W6RH's collection is a hand made 1/4 KW. DeForest "Oscillation" transmitting tube made in 1915. This tube bears the serial No. 1 and needless to say is quite rare! Anyone with a Fleming valve?

# The Passing of 'UJ'

AS RELATED BY "ZIP" JONES

Below is the actual report from Jack Cole, Chief Operator of the United Fruit Station "UJ" Cape Antonio, Cuba...regarding the storm that blew away the station and nearly blew away the city of New Orleans. It also sank the "SS MARIENBUR" on which Joseph Jacob Wallbillich, a student at Tulane U., was second operator. I begged him to stay ashore...German submarines were in the area and may get involved in World War I. I went out with him the night before he left and received the last letter he wrote from Pilot Town the next day. My second son is named after him...we had an understanding that we would name our second sons after each other. So my son's name is Joseph Jacob Wallbillich Jones. I was the Chief Operator at the main United Fruit Station "WNU" in New Orleans at the time and signed "Z"....Here is the report from Jack Cole on the destruction of the Cape Antonio station by the hurricane of 1915. (Courtesy of T.S.T.)

Signed: "Zip" Jones

About 3:00 P.M. on Sept. 13th, I took a barometer reading and noted that it was unusually low - about 29.60 At 4:00 P.M. I was in communication with Swan Island and ascertained that his barometer was also very low and suggested to him that we get special weather observations off to the Weather Bureau at once. I immediately sent these messages to the Weather Bureau via New Orleans, repeating them again and again on the night schedule. Everything was made in readiness to withstand a storm and I also made up the monthly reports together with the Weather Report in order to have them ready if anything happened. These were fortunately saved and were later forwarded to Havana.

On the morning of the 14th the barometer was still dropping and I got in touch with ships who gave me their reports and observer messages. The barometer was falling and the wind increasing and in a few minutes after communicating with Swan Island, the wind increased in velocity and blew down a portion of the aerial. In the meantime, repairs having been made, storm warnings were sent to all ships. About 9:00 A.M. the entire aerial was blown away and from that time on the wind blew stronger and stronger and about 11:00 A.M. it was blowing with hurricane force. The Cuban Weather Gauge (Government) had by this time been blown away and I judged the velocity of the wind not less than 100 miles per hour with the barometer still falling.....

Then it started...our kitchen was first to go, then the gas plant, warehouse and roof of the water storage plant were blown down and some of the iron roofing was carried for miles into the nearby woods.....

Next the tower, which had been guyed with four 1" steel cables, broke in two about half way up, breaking the guys which blew straight out with the force of the wind. The roof of the operating house was next blown off and the windows and doors blown in.....Myself, the cook and engineer were inside at the time and we then took shelter in the engine house..... The operating house, although of steel construction in concrete foundation, was moved about 8 feet off its foundation...The roof and floor of the veranda were wrenched from the

house, but the house itself stood, although badly damaged.

The engine house, where we went for shelter, stood only about 20 minutes after we got there. This being the last house, we started for the woods!

The radio log of Mr. Cole at this juncture tells perhaps more vividly than anything else could what happened:

"Part of the antenna blown away," reads one entry; "made repairs." A little later another entry reads:

"Antenna gone." "Storehouse gone."

"Operating house gone."

Then a fourth entry records a similar catastrophe to the engine house.

The final climactic summary reads:

"Everything gone, we are going to the woods..."

Then he buried the station records and the radio log, and, with E. C. Attaway, the Engineer, started for the woods about 400 yards distant. Continuing, Mr. Cole says:

We got a little protection behind some large stumps....After being there for about an hour, there was a lull.....The wind subsided and we returned to the station. We found the Cuban Government barometer (the U.S. Government barometer was destroyed earlier in the storm) which has a scale graduated to read from 27.5 to 32.00 was down to the lowest mark; in fact, the indicator was against the pin at 27.5 I don't know how much farther it would have gone if the pin had not been there.....

When I found that the barometer was as low as it would go, and the wind increasing, we decided to go to the lighthouse, three miles away. ....this is a stone structure and we thought it would stand... In the meantime the wind had gotten stronger than ever. It took us about four hours to reach the lighthouse, which we did at 7:00 P.M., having crawled most of the way amidst flying sand, timbers, falling trees, etc.

On our arrival at the lighthouse we found that the prism had been blown in, putting the light out of commission....we found there the wreck of a Hondurian schooner...The captain had come in as usual as he could get, but before he could get a boat out, the anchor chain parted and the vessel started out to sea.....all hands jumped overboard and somehow got to shore... The vessel was blown to sea and disappeared in less than 30 minutes.....

We spent the night at the lighthouse and returned to the station on the 15th, finding that all provisions, furniture and kitchen utensils had been destroyed or buried under the sand.... About 10:00 A.M. a native family, carrying five dead bodies, arrived at the station on their way to the lighthouse. This family, named Soto, who had lived in the locality for three generations, lost five of their number in the storm.

We endeavored to clean up a bit and get a place to sleep, but the Mosquitoes, gnats and crabs which invaded the house, would not permit.

On the 15th, I hired a small sailboat and started for Arroyos, 50 miles distant, but a few miles out sighted a Cuban revenue cutter, which took me on board and landed me at La Fe at night, from which place I proceeded to Havana.



PERIPATETIC PHOTOGRAPHER

WQXI prepares to photograph monument at Glouce Bay, N.S., celebrating Marconi's first transatlantic wireless transmission. Shown also is the actual inscription on the monument, sitting details of the event. Near this site Linc found pieces of the old wooden masts originally erected--and carted them home to the IMA Museum.



**RETIRED**- another retiree is E.F. Jones, ex-5FW, from MA. "Zip" is a prolific writer and historian with a terrific background. More from him later.

**ALEXANDERSON**- The last station in the country using Alexandererson alternators is now being dismantled at Marion, Mass. Originally an American Marconi spark station, the alternators were installed during the charge-over period just following WQI about the same time that RCA took control of Tuckerton and New Brunswick. The alternators were in constant operation from this period until 1957; however in recent years the station was leased to the government for low frequency work. The group historians have a complete record of the old Marion station on 16 mm. Kodachrome movies, 35 mm. color slides, B. & W. prints plus excellent tape recordings of the alternators in operation. WZIE was the last RCA engineer in charge. Go ends another era.

#### OF THE PAST-

"How fond recollections and memories brings, Those old time doings and old time things..

So many we knew in an earlier day,  
Who, long since have sent out their final OK !"  
- - Old Hot Wire Castor

**MARCONI OPERATOR**- retired in 1935 is K2NSA. "Leo" is the real thing having been born in England where he joined the Marconi Co. and had plenty of experience with their marine spark gear. Now a U.S. citizen, he still remembers the old days very well and would like to talk with others with similar experience. In fact, he suggests a CW Net for this purpose. (Ed. note- there are already one or two.) He has a modest collection which includes an IP-501-1 which he listens in on occasionally - hi !

**BROADCAST RECEIVERS**- If you collect old BC sets, you might be interested in an organization being formed by James Stegner, RD #1, Mt. Zion, Clearfield, Penna. "Jlx", who at the moment is the acting President, finds an increasing interest in this field. He is not a "ham" but his interest in early receivers goes back several years. Unlike early amateur and commercial apparatus which is difficult to locate, battery broadcast receivers of the 1920's are comparatively easy to find and one can have a nice collection without too much effort and expense.

**WANTED**-the whereabouts of an original Marconi Multiple Tuner ? Is there one in this country or Canada ? Public museum or private collection ? Write WQXI.

**900 VOLTS ON A 5Y-200**-was too much, reports WZIA, the author of several forthcoming articles. In fact, George reports he burnt out 9 before he decided to reduce the plate voltage - and that was money back in the 1920's. WZIA started in the game in 1911 with the traditional Ford spark coil, then a 2 inch Meaco and eventually a Thordarson EM. First call was "AP", then 3Y0 and 3YF. Look for WZIA on 20 and 40 meter CW.

**AMATEUR BROADCAST**- incident of the early 20's using a 5 wattor with loop modulation and the call WZF (legitimate) will provide an amazing story for our readers in the next issue...all from Dick, K2NSB.

**OLD PHOTOGRAPHS**- pops up again amongst our early wireless historians. This time from "Curly" English, ex-WJQL, who has quite a collection. What is the attraction ? He does concentrate, however, on early BC sets and has converted one side of his two car garage into an amateur museum where he has an excellent display of about 75 old receivers.



# Transition of the Key from Morse to Wireless

BY "LOU" MOREAU, WJMH

Communications history is best dated by the changes in the telegraph key. More than any other instrument, it marks the major turning points in the progress of the industry.

The year 1838 is the date of the actual start of the industry. Here the key was a crude affair, such as the order of the Strap Key, and continued to hold this form, with variations, through the 1850's. By 1861, the familiar form as we know it began to appear using the pivot/bearing action, and the metal frame and coil spring. The lever, however, was a straight bar of metal, and did not curve downward toward the table until after the Civil War.

The 1870's and '80's mark the high point in design. This was a period of elegance in everything, and the key followed the fashion of the day. Here we have elaborate cast frames in fancy curved designs, the "ball" and bevel, and knife fitted transmissions, and the exaggerated curve to the lever known as the "camel-back". The profession and industry had developed to the point where high speed was the order of the day and the keys were not only beautiful in appearance, but had the balance and action to match. It is in this period when they approached the height of perfection demanded by the operators.

By the 1890's the designed had settled into the oval frame and curved lever of the present day. Here too, the first semi-automatic keys made their appearance and the term "bug" became part of the vocabulary.

Toward the end of the Century, with the advent of Wireless, the key underwent a radical change to meet requirements of this powerful brother. As wireless telegraphy advanced into "brute -

force" spark, the keys grew larger and larger to support the big contacts, and cooling fins were frequently found necessary. The mahogany base of the landline instrument was replaced with marble and slate bases. The size decreased as spark came into its refined stage although the slate and marble bases remained along with the long swinging lever and the broad silver contacts.

Meanwhile, the Martin version of the semi-automatic key came into the wire end of the game and remained exclusively the possession of the Morse men until the end of spark.

With the CW era, everything settled into a mold. It was now possible to utilize the Morse keys for wireless (now radio) and the age of standardization took over in both wire and radio telegraphy. Other than chrome or goldplate, and the color of the knob, there has been little change in the form since 1923 with the exception of the electronic key.

Three men share the position of Patrons of the Key: Alfred Vail, who made the first one and refined the Morse key into the form we still use; Horace Martin with his semi-automatic which was actually a refinement of earlier attempts; and now in 1960, Jim Hicks, WYDQ, who has developed the electronic key principle to produce about as perfect code with as little effort as is possible under normal operating conditions.

(Ed. note- WJMH has been working with WYDQ, WJHL and others for almost a year on a show devoted to the history of telegraphy and keys. This promises to be outstanding entertainment for the CW man. Future Bulletins will release presentation dates.)

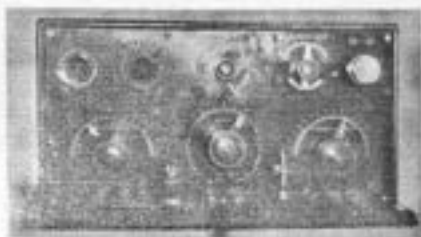
**FOR SALE-** Sept. 1916 and March, May, July and August 1917 QSTs, many copies of early Radio Craft, Radio Age, Science and Invention, Radio Broadcast, Radio World and other early radio magazines. **WANT-** 1913 and 1914 Electrical Experimenter, Oct. 1921 Radio News and other magazines. Will swap. Write Joe Stimpson, 85-19 152 Street, Jamaica 37, Long Island, N.Y.

**DESPERATE-** Beg, Buy, Steal or SWAP a copy of Dodge's "Manual of Telegraphy". Need same for research. Write: Louise Moreau, WJMH, 639 Russell Ave., Johnstown, Penna.

**PIONEER RATED ASTRONOMY-** a good book to read in order to get your "feet on the ground" on this subject is one titled "The Changing Universe" by John Pfeiffer (fax to WJMH). Oreta Leber, WJWFT, is our expert on this subject. More dope later.

**REPAIR CIRCUITS-** remember the reflex circuits of the 1920's? The question came up recently whether this type of circuit was used in any form in present day design. If you recall, it was customary in many of the early broadcast sets to run the signal after it left the detector back into the R.F. section and thus eliminating a stage of audio.

**ELECTRO-IMPORTING CO.-** employed Joe Stimpson for a brief time in the summer of 1913 to help stock up for their coming 1914 catalog. Joe was just a school boy at the time and received the salary of \$3.00 a week. Most kids would have worked for nothing just to have had the opportunity to see and handle the gear that most of us dreamed about!



MARCONI TYPE 106 RECEIVER

A very popular receiver found in many ship installations prior and during WW. It tuned from 200 to 3500 meters and was manufactured by the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. of America. Its successors, which were popular toward the end of the war and later, were the 106-B and 106-D, the latter being the most common. The Type 106-D had the same tuning range as the original 106; however, it was adaptable for a vacuum tube as well as a mineral detector. This same receiver (106-D) was also manufactured by RCA. The one in the A.N.A. Museum bears the plate "106-D, Manufactured for the Radio Corporation of America by the General Electric Co." An old standby, it could be found in service as late as 1930.

**WANTED-** Marconi magnetic detector, DeForest Responder and call books 1910 and 1911. Write Louis Risoli, WLAAT.

#### STATEMENT BY THE EDITOR

The OLD TIMER'S BULLETIN is published four times a year by Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, and associates in the interest of radio historian and antiquarian. It is strictly a non-profit publication and neither sponsored by nor formally affiliated with any organization of any kind. Editorial material comes from many sources which we believe are reliable but the accuracy of which we can in no way guarantee.

For one year's subscription, send \$1 to: Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, Main St., Holcomb, N.Y. Correspondence regarding old time radio is invited from all readers with the understanding that said material may be used gratis in the BULLETIN.

**SIGNALS TO MARS**- Ralph Dorris wants to correspond with anyone who has information on early attempts to receive signals from outer space, the planets in particular. He is especially interested in an experiment conducted by C. Francis Jenkins in the latter part of August, 1928. It appears that Jenkins was attempting to receive signals from Mars with some sort of device which would record signals on photographic film. If you know of anyone who has shown an interest in this field or has references, written material, etc, drop him a line to: Ralph Dorris, 317 Wesleyan Place, Owensboro, Kentucky.

(Ed. note- Marconi made a public announcement in the early twenties that he had picked up signals from neighboring planets on extremely long wavelengths. This was in the days when it was popular to believe that the longer the wavelength - the greater the distance. Can't remember the wavelength at the moment but believes the signals (?) were received (?) on a wavelength well over 25000 meters which is quite a departure from present day work where we are looking for signals from outer space around 1300 m. )

**ACTIVE OLD TIMER**- who doesn't sit back is W2WJ. "Cy" recently checked up his 1506 contact with Antarctica plus receiving several outstanding awards for CD and traffic work in the State of Michigan.

**BUSSES IN**- W2CA was licensed with a Century buzzer as his transmitter. "Rid" would like to know of anyone else who started out with this form of power generator. What is the best he worked with a buzzer?

**MARINE BULLETINS**- many requests have come in for copies of earlier Bulletins. Sorry fellows, but all Bulletins are printed on a limited scale with the result there are no extras.

**CIVIC MINDED**- W2FI recently presented the Ford Dearborn Museum with a 1921 Acme Type 1 KW. spark transmitter. The occasion was the annual Old Timer's Night of the Detroit Amateur Radio Assn. This makes the Dearborn Museum one of the few possessors of a high power amateur spark transmitter. As noted in an earlier issue, W2FI has given freely to other institutions such as the Michigan State Historical Museum in Lansing. "Tate" is to be commended for his generosity and farsightedness.

**TRIP**- W2MNH and K1L made a surprise trip thru the east during the summer and visited the A.W.A. Museum as well as stopping off and seeing W2EI's well known historical collection.

**RETIRED**- W2LF has retired after many years of service with the Wilmet-Castle Co. "Gene" is an old time historian and former Marconi operator before and during WW.

**SCRAPBOOK**- Ed Duvall, ex-30W, tells us that he is working on a radio scrapbook - the accumulation of over 45 years of material.

**CHANCE**- W2WVJ recently fell into a "windfall" when he picked up a tremendous amount of material (including v. ft. photos) concerning the old "Al" Grebe Co. out at Richmond Hill, Long Island. Jack visited Bill Stahl and old ex-30W (Ostman) in his travels.

**CHANGE**- W2EN, Chief Engineer of W2AM, has left his post after 35 years and is now with "Voice of America" at Washington, D.C.

**QCW**- a future QCW meet scheduled this month (October) in Dayton, Ohio, has Dan McCoy as the Chairman and W2GV as the speaker.

**A.W.A. SHOW**- W2HQ of A.S.R.L. is working with the photographic group of the club in revising their show covering the history of V.N.F. Ed has provided some very fine photos from the A.S.R.L. files. A V.N.F. pioneer on our Bulletin staff is W2EB - formerly W2PK and not to be confused with the well known Boyd Phelps of 'ole ZEB fame.

**WANTED**- One or two able historians to collaborate in developing a chronological block diagram of the early wireless companies. When completed we will print the results in this Bulletin. It will be necessary to have at one's disposal a library of early magazines and books with names and dates of the various companies. As you know, many companies changed their names, went into bankruptcy or were absorbed by others between 1900 and 1925. Write W2ICE.

**QST** ! **QST** ! need the following QSTs: 1924-May, 1925-Oct., 1927-Apr., 1921-Feb., Apr., May, Nov., and Dec., 1920-Jan., Feb., March, June, July, Sept., and Nov. Have over 700 QSTs from 1921 thru 1955 - will swap three to five or more of these issues for each listed above. Write W2ICE.

**OLD GEAR**- recently acquired by W2GA, ex-94W spark, includes a Clapp-Eastman 1 KV walnut cased "coffin" and rotary gap with silver points plus a couple of Marconi & section high tension condensers. Ed plans to use this gear along with some other to build up a model layout. Maybe a photo later.

**WANTED**- to authentically complete a Murdock receiver - .001 telephone blocking condenser and Murdock phone headband. Will swap. W2IA.

**TO READ**- "Fire at Sea" by Thomas Gallagher - the strange story of the S/S Marrow Castle. May be found in the Saturday Evening Post, June 9, 1959 and also published in book form by Sinehart & Co., N.Y.C. for \$4.00. It is great reading, holds you spellbound !! (Tnx to W2EI)

**"BUTCHERED IN 1901-A"** means more work for W2FI. "Tate" plans to re-condition this well known receiver for the Dossin Great Lakes Marine Museum at Belle Isle, Detroit.

Holcomb, N.Y.  
Bruce Kelley, Editor  
THE OLD TIMER'S BULLETIN

**BUDIN TALKS-** Fred Budin has dug up some interesting information on the development of the old 81 and 811 rectifier tube. Has anyone the real dope on the story behind the Sedico valve ?

**OLD OLD TIMER'S CLUB-** Ed Kaser, W2XI, has volunteered to write the club's year book. Ed is more than capable of handling this task for this well known old timer's organization. A founder of the organization is "Dori" Ingalls, W2WQ - a real OT commercial "op" and one of its first presidents was Irving Vermylye, W2IA, who needs no introduction. If you've been in either commercial or amateur radio for 40 or more years and are interesting in joining, write either W2WQ or W2XI.

**HISTORICAL TRIPS-** Two I.V.A. members report vacation trips to distant points in quest of historical data. K2PV went all out and armed with letters of introduction visited the official Marconi historian at Chelmsford, England as well as the Marconi Co. This was followed by a visit to the British Science Museum in London and lunch with the I.V.A. Secretary, G2CL. Leaving England, Jack toured the continent and ended up in the U.S.S.R. While in Moscow he had an opportunity to see Popoff's original gear. More from Jack later.

W2QT followed somewhat in the same tracks as W2XI's 1959 safari when he visited the old Naval station site (NSD) at Otter Cliffs, Maine where he met W2TV and many other OT operators. "Link" then journeyed to Nova Scotia to the famous Glace Bay site where he dug up all kinds of interesting souvenirs of old "OP" plus dozens of photographs.

**APPOINTEES-** to W2EF when he was listed only as a historian and not a collector. Seems that Joe also has some nice pieces of gear such as a "mini" condition Collins D. Kennedy receiver with 2 step amplifier, an IP-500, early radio compass, etc. Look for Joe on single side-band.

**MEMBERS-** an excellent suggestion from W2CV and W2IL is that someone collect all the old time articles, bulletins, stories, etc, and make up a bound volume. It sure would be fine reading and of great historical interest. Nary, by the way, is a writer by profession and knows a good thing when he sees it - agree ?

**QST ! QST !** in desperate need of 1916 QSTs. Will swap or pay high value. Write W3QQZ.

**FOR SALE OR SWAP-** if you have any old gear, books or magazines that you want to sell or swap - or want to buy, send us the details and we'll place the info in this "Bulletin" without cost PROVIDED you're a regular subscriber and the material is over 20 years old. As usual, we cannot guarantee any transactions - hi !

**AMATEUR HISTORIANS-** if interested in an early version of the Fleming/DeForest patent suits or the lengthy litigation involving the regenerative circuit (Armstrong), read an article titled "Famous Patent Suits" by Charles Keeler in March, 1923 issue of "Radio Broadcast" magazine. This same issue also includes an interesting article on radio service at early lighthouses along the coast.