

# THE OLD TIMER'S BULLETIN

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Published for the Old Time Wireless Operator, Historian and Collector

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A.W.A. Secretary explaining to crowd the working of early equipment.

**RAYMOND GUY** is one of the more recent Broadcast pioneers to join our amateur group. Although an old "pro", Guy retains an interest in the amateur game as W2AK. A terrific background, he needs no introduction to the historian since we find that he was Past President and Treasurer of the I.R.E. plus President of DeForest Pioneers and V.W.O.A., Fellow of I.R.E., A.I.E.E. and Radio Club of America - nuf sed !

**WYSE** now W6RSD at Altadena, Calif... and **ON BILL** is now W6BHL. The East coast has lost a gud historian and we understand that Lou has already made inroads at many of the "W6" clubs with talks on keys. She is currently working on a Monogram titled "The History of Code"...it will be worth waiting for.

**SERVICE TO MEMBERS:** The club has on file circuits of most early receivers such as Grebe CR-1, Kennedy 220, etc. (1921 thru 1940) These circuits and booklets are available to MEMBERS without cost on a loan deposit basis. Write out the Secretary your needs.

## A.R.R.L. CONVENTION HONORS OLD TIMERS 50th Anniversary of Amateur Licensing

A report: Only two of us made the 750 mile round trip from Rochester to the Convention - W2SAW and myself. We arrived in N.Y.C. around 5 P.M. in a car heavily laden with old gear. Fortunately we ran into Ted Duvall and Hugh Dievendorf from Washington who helped us unload spark transmitters, loose-couplers, receivers and other equipment from a roaring street of cabs and blasting horns. In the lobby we met Ed Handy, W1BDI and Gil Crossley, W3YA and at the registration desk we saw Dr. Beverage and then sometime later had a pleasant chat with George Sterling, W1AE and Zip Jones, ex-5QW.

Although what was proved to be one of the most popular exhibits at the Convention, the A.W.A. was allocated the smallest space - with slightly over 4 feet of walking space between two tables. ....the smallest area ever used in 12 years of exhibiting ! In this small space, the "gang" setup the following equipment:

**1912 Transmitter-** E.I. Electriclytic Inter-rupter (W2QRS), 2" spark coil (K2TMM), Straight gap (W2GB), photographic plate condenser and helix (W2QY).

**1916 Transmitter-** 1/4 kw Blitzen xmfr-W2CTA, Mirdock rotary (W1W), Mirdock condenser and osc. xmfr (W2ICE...)

Other gear from W2RD, W2NNY, ex-2Q0, W3YA and others could be seen. Of unusual interest was a 1914 amateur Arc transmitter made by W5APG - and to top it all off - the club exhibited a complete authentic wireless installation (commercial) in working condition of 1907 consisting of a Marconi Multiple Tuner working into a Marconi Magnetic detector. The transmitter was the huge Marconi 10" spark coil...To commemorate this special occasion, the F.C.C. issued

a special license (permit) to operate the spark transmitters for demonstration purposes.

Gov. Nelson Rockefeller opened the convention Saturday morning with fotos in the 4 foot A.W.A. booth where pictures were taken of the Governor presenting W2AAG the first New York State license plate with amateur call letters. Following this, the Governor viewed the equipment and signed the A.W.A. Log as the first visitor..

The day was a long one consisting of several spark transmitter demonstrations and lectures to the crowds. It would be difficult to name all the A.W.A. members present. It was a pleasure to meet old friends and make acquaintances with members who until then were only known thru correspondence or contacts on the air.. Viewers included officials of the I.R.E. (Geo. Bailey, W2KH), Radio Club of America (Harry Bouck), Q.C.W.A. (W2EM, W2PF, and W2AMB) and SSBAMA (W2CYK)..and of course we talked with many of the members of the "Morse" net and all of our friends of the O.O.T.C....

John Hutton, W1LWQ (General Manager of A.R.R.L.) and Lou McCoy (W1ICP) came over and talked for awhile as well as another old acquaintance - Ivan Loucks, W3GD (Chief of the Amateur and Citizen Radio Division, F.C.C.) The two A.W.A. members to travel the greatest distance were Dan McCoy, W2DG and Ralph Thomas, KH6UK !

In addition to the historical exhibit, the A.W.A. presented early DX transmissions at the DX Meet. First was the demonstration of the 1/4 kw. spark set and then a series of spark QSO's 40 to 50 years ago made up by George Grammar, W1DF. While all this was going on, Earl Williams, W2BG, guarded the exhibit



Gov. Rockefeller opens convention by listening to 1/4 kw. spark transmitter.

booth and told the youngsters what it was all about.....

Bill Gould, W2NP, and others watched the gear while we had lunch with Elliott from the Smithsonian who told us about the new electrical wing they are building. We also discussed W9EM's old gear some of which was on display at the Navy Booth.

Following are some of the A.W.A. members who were honored as having held an amateur license since 1912: W1TK, K2DE, W2BG, W2LF, W2EM, W3BS, W7OR, W2DG..... It was a great moment for these OYs as A.R.R.L. President Herbert Hoover, Jr., W6ZH, commended them on their long and sincere interest in our hobby. (See Dec. issue of QST for full text). Unfortunately, there were others who could indirectly qualify for this honor but not to complicate the rules, only those listed in the first call book were eligible...

73, W2ICE/JCP

#### NEW MEMBERSHIP RATE

"Membership in A.W.A. has increased sufficiently to allow our out-of-pocket expenses to be spread out over a larger number of people. For this reason, we will need dues of only \$2.50 each during 1963. We still are fortunate in having a large number of 'angels' in A.W.A. who make it possible to avoid certain kinds of expenses altogether. This isn't going to last forever but we are taking advantage of it while we can !

COLLECTORS - you should have no problem finding old broadcast receivers - over 300,000,000 have been manufactured in the United States since the early 20's.

JUVENILE FICTION- W2QY had added several more to his library including two of the "Radio Boys" series written by Allen Chapman in 1922 - both of which have a forward by Jack Binns (10 books in this series)...In addition, Link found the "Boy Inventor's Wireless Triumph" by Richard Bonser (1912) (6 books in series).

PILOT WASP - what has happened to all the Pilot Wasps and Super-Wasps ? This SW receiver was very popular around 1930 and definitely has a place on the collector's shelf. The only explanation we can give is that the components and general construction lend itself to easy dis-assembling to provide excellent parts for later projects.

## ANNUAL MEETING, NOV. 10, 1962

A well attended meeting (in spite of miserable wx) was held at ex-3DE's home with all Officers and Board members present. After the first A.W.A. membership certificate was presented to our host, Secretary and Treasurer reports were read. It was noted that members of the club had personally presented 11 programs of one type or another during the year - the most successful at Dearborn, Michigan and New York. In addition, A.W.A. film shows were presented to approximately 60 clubs thru out the country as well providing photographic material for a Educational Television Show in Boston. (As a reminder - historical programming is the club's INITIAL OBJECTIVE - not the publishing of the "Bulletin" or the maintaining of a museum - the latter being primarily a photographic workshop.)

Final business of the meeting was a discussion concerning incorporating the club as well as providing better quarters for the member's gear - both of which require further investigation. After the business meeting, the "gang" reviewed some "old" new gear followed by movies of old WJAM (commentary by WJRN) and slides of pioneer police radio station WPDR. Charles Peterson, ex-7CW, surprised everyone when he recalled his work with Kilbourne and Clarke as well his pioneering with loudspeakers when with Crosley back in the 20's. The evening was topped off with a playback tape recording of Charles Ellsworth, WITV - pioneer operator who recalled many of his experiences over a period of 50 years..

**"MARCONI SCANDAL"** by Frances Donaldson, published by Harcourt, Brace and World, is a new book concerning Marconi's contract with the British Government to build 6 huge wireless stations to link the British Empire back in 1912 and 1913. Interesting reading on a rare subject...

**EARLY TV FAN** - WILD has been watching TV since the 1920's when he started to watch old 1XAL operated by Hollis Baird. First picture he saw was a still of U.S. Grant. Every now and then Charlie turns on a 3" Pilot TV set which is still in good working condition.

**WILLIAM B. DECK CATALOG** survives 9 feet of flood water. WJWPF received the catalog from WJYFM and after careful work has it in good condition. In fact, Marv quoted some of the contents in the local news paper.....



Fall visitors to A.W.A. - WJXKY, x-8DHC at left and WJQA, x-1PY right. They are both Westinghouse Engineers from Baltimore, Md. Immediately behind WJXKY is the 1/2 ton variometer used to tune the multiple tuned antenna (Alexanderson alternator) at New Brunswick. The transmitter is a 500 cycle quench spark set made by Independent Wireless of 1 kw. rating.

We thought WJQA and WJXKY (above) were the last visitors this year, however, we were pleasantly surprised when WJAX (Indiana) and K2UMH made a safari to the barn museum several weeks later. These two amateur historians are both with G.E. and are very interested in old time wireless. WJAX was formerly 6AX, K5BI, K2CE and WJXC and worked at old KDO in the early 20's.....

**WORK 80 CW ?** - Phil Hatfield, W5GFS, would like to schedule OT's interested in early wireless and collecting. He suggests 3515 kc., 7:00 P.M., E.S.T. Drop him a line for a sked...

**O.O.T.C. BLUE BOOK** - is an autobiography of some of the outstanding pioneer amateurs in the country. A worthy achievement representing countless hours of work - "hats off" to Bert Osborne, W4OF, its Editor! (Re the SPARK-GAP TIDES - we find that most OOTC Historians are binding their copies for reference since they contain historical material that cannot be found in any other publication.)

**MID-WEST HISTORIANS** - add a new collector to your list in KOTAM at Clear Lake, S.D. Glen, an OT, is starting to build up a modest collection - mostly BC components.

**RE-STORING PROBLEMS** - write Yates Hoag, 3 Pineview Drive, Utica, N.Y. whose hobby is re-storing and assembling old receivers. He maintains a small workshop and knows all the tricks of the trade. (Ei note: Yates is associated with the Radio Receiving Division of General Electric Co. - hi!)

## ANTIQUÉ WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

A.R.R.L. Affiliate

An amateur organization interested in the history of early wireless...

Annual dues: (including the "Old Timer's Bulletin", Certificate and other benefits) - \$2.50 per year payable to Club Treasurer-

Lincoln A. Cundall, W2QY  
69 Boulevard Parkway  
Rochester 12, New York

### "OLD TIMER'S BULLETIN":

Editor: Bruce Kelley, W3ICE  
Main Street, Holcomb, N.Y.  
Publishing Editor: Larry Triggs,  
W2YBK

**FULL WAVE TUNGAR** is a rare one. W9AX recently found one in original carton. The Cat. # is 199698 and has a 1/2 ampere rating - made by G.E. of course.

**REVIEW** - "Communications from Morse to Satellites" by George Shawy of RCA, as written up in Wire and Communication magazine, Sept. 1962.

The title is misleading and the article proved to be disappointing because only one page was devoted to the entire history from Morse to the formation of RCA in 1919. There was one good photograph however - that of the old Marconi station at Babylon, L.I.

The rest of the article, including Part II in the subsequent issue, was devoted to RCA. This would be of interest to those not familiar with this organization..... G.B.S.



### Head Table at West Coast QCW Dinner:

The three gentlemen from left to right are - W6HC (Pac. Div. A.R.R.L. Director), W6YPM (local QCW Chairman), and W6RH (Ralph Heintz)... Other OT activities on the coast include a real turnout at the Oakland Radio Club's OT Nite which had 11 past presidents attending including W6IT who was President 33 years ago. The O.R.C., by the way, has a real nice collection of old amateur gear.. How about a foto "Temp" ? (W6ELW)....



OOC Member Perce Collision (Lt. Cmdr. Ret.) K2DZ, is active as ever as can be seen from above foto. Perce started in the game in 1905, was East coast Construction Supt. for the old American Marconi Co. (Ship and shore stations) after having been with American DeForest and United Wireless. A Fellow of the I.R.E. and one of the 4 living Charter Members, Perce may also claim to be one of the oldest phone operators - he built a 2 kw. oscillating ABC in 1910 which had a voice range of 22 miles !

**FIRST RADIO SCHOOL** in the world for wireless operators was opened by the Marconi Co. early in 1902 at Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, England... Code was taught the first week and theory and practice the following 3 weeks. After this one month of training, the operator was a fully qualified Wireless Operator !

America's first radio school was opened in 1911 by the American Marconi Co. in New York.

**I.R.E.-A.I.E.E. MERGER** - big news in the electronic field is the merger of the "Institute of Radio Engineers" with the "American Institute of Electrical Engineers" which becomes effective Jan. 1, 1963. The new organization will be known as the "Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers" or I.E.E.E. It will consist of 7 regions in North America and an 8th for members in other countries.

**MICHIGAN** - set the date - the big "OLD TIMER'S NITE" at Dearborn is May 4, 1963. Herbert Hoover Jr., W6CH, Pres. of ARRL will be one of the main speakers. tax to Frank Davis..

### NEW MATERIAL FOR BULLETIN

We have on hand several fine articles and short stories which will eventually make print. However, it is agreed that news items and SWP ads come first.....

CQD - SOS - the general call "CQ" originated with old time wire operators and at the turn of the century was adopted by the wireless man. Early in 1904, the Marconi Co. realized a general call was not sufficient in case of emergency. Orders were given to add the letter "D" or "CQD" in event of emergency. In spite of popular interpretation - it obviously did not mean "COME - QUICK - DANGER".....

The need for an international call was brought to everyone's attention at the Inter. Radio Telegraph Convention in Berlin in 1906. German ships had been accustomed to using "SOE" - however, the "E" was judged as a poor character, particularly under adverse conditions, so it came about that SOS was selected over strong objections from the British.

"SOS" is not three letters. It is 3 dots - 3 dashes - 3 dots all running together. It therefore can be interpreted as VTB, LJS, or SCS. And again, needless to say, it has no such meaning such as "Save Our Souls", "Save Our Ship" etc.

SOS was officially adopted in 1908 but the use of CQD lingered on as late as 1912 when Phillips on the Titanic sent both CQD and SOS.

MARCONI - "ELECTRA" - this famous yacht, on which Marconi did considerable shortwave pioneering, was sunk during the last war in Zara harbor. The Yugoslavia government is salvaging the vessel and turning it over to the Italian government who in turn will display it as a national monument in an artificial lake in Rome...

HISTORICAL FM PATENT in the last OTB brought a surprising letter from WJAX. Seems Tom employed Ehret (the Attorney who obtained the patent in 1902) back in 1913 when he had his handle a patent for him. A famous radio patent lawyer, he not only handled many patents for WJAX, but was also top man with Atwater Kent and his many litigations. Tom verified our statement by checking the records at the U.S. Patent Office!

LEWIS STORY - an excellent manuscript was recently received from WAAA covering the background of Lewis and his famous receivers of the 20's. It will be the "Monogram" for the spring OTB. Wayne also sent along a listing of his historical gear and library. We were very impressed and incline to believe he has the top collection in the south east and one of the better ones in the country.



CHARLES ELLSWORTH - W1TU

veteran pioneer who was recently tape recorded by W2QY. "Charlie" was very modest about his lengthy radio career; however, the Rochester "gang" thought it was terrific. A book is being written concerning commercial operation in the early days - more on this later...

CORRECT INFO ON OLD LIGHTHOUSE in last OTB...The Navasink Lighthouse - or "twin lights" on Beacon Hill, Atlantic Highlands, N.J., stands 250 ft. above sea level and once threw a 9 million candlepower beam 22 miles to sea. The two tower structure was built in 1862 and the north tower has been blind since 1905. Both lights are now dormant as the U.S. Lighthouse Service gave up this navigation aid some years ago and it is now a historical shrine with a museum in its interior.

Beacon Hill was used by the British for signalling in 1746 when at war with France. In 1899 the North Tower was used by Marconi to demonstrate wireless for the first time in America. Seated in the tower, Marconi amazed a distinguished gathering by keeping contact with a wireless equipped vessel stationed along the course of the International Yacht Races, without benefit of wires..

(Submitted by Ed Passer, W2EI, OOTC Historian)

SCHEDULES: A.W.A. members can frequently be heard at the following times discussing old gear and other subjects of interest. Feel free to call in anytime - AM or SSB.

Sunday- 9:30 A.M., EST, 3945 kc.  
10:00 A.M., EST, 7320 kc.  
4:00 P.M., EST, 7320 kc.  
5:00 P.M., EST, 3945 kc.

TRADE Wm. B. Duck Catalogue No. 10 or 11 For Cat. No. 12 thru 14...preferably catalogue printed in 1920. Also want wireless gear manufactured before 1923 for collection. Glen Angle, KPTAM, Clear Lake, S.D.  
FOR SALE -Original MSS of 40,000 words "45 Years of Ham Radio" - humour, pathos, tragedy, strange coincidences in the North. Excerpts often quoted in QST and CQ. Best offer over cost of paper used-135 pages. Mike Caveney, VE3GG, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada.

WANT - 1/4 or 1/2 KW spark transformer in operating condition. Dick Smith, WLNHO Whiffenpoof Farm, Benniker, New Hampshire  
WANT copy of "Handbook of Wireless Tele. and Tele." by Maver. Also want commercial crystal detectors and var. enclosed condensers. Swap modern parts and large tubes. James Haas, W5ACU, PO Box 422, Chapman, Kans.

HURTING for copy of Phillips Code - any edition prior to 1920. Lou Moreau, Wb6EBO, 2084 1/2 Lewis Ave., Altadena, Calif.

INFO WANTED on Gernsback's 3rd Edition (1911) "Bluebook" or call directory and info on Bulletin of N.A.W.A. which was printed later in Wireless Age., L. Baird, P.O. Box 242, Culver City, Calif.

SELL OR SWAP -Grebe MU-1, Aerila Sr., Ames 2 step amp., Dayton XL-5, Kellogg receivers. Elmer Bucher books, etc, want early catalogs and Tuskas 225. Want trade list. Chas. Closson, 1290 Glenwood Ave., San Jose 25, California

WANTED -copy of "Principles of Electric Wave Telegraphy" by Fleming, 1906 Edition. Tom Appleby, W3AW, 5415 Connecticut Ave., Washington 15, D.C.

SWAP stock certificates. Marconi, DeForest, or Clark for United Wireless. Also tubes, magazines, books and catalogs for what have you? Vance Phillips, W5GH, 1010 Monte Dr., Hope Ranch Park, Santa Barbara, Calif.

SWAP copies of "Everyday Engineering". Need desperately November 1917 issue. W9AX, RR #2, Shelbyville, Ind.

WANTED - Gleason Archer's "History of Radio to 1927" and "CW Manual" by Dow. W3QA, 415 Wickham Rd., Baltimore 29. Md.

WANTED - crystal detector to make up simple crystal set of the 20's. W2IIE, K.W. Conrad, Akron, N.Y.

WANTED - Mecograph, Ultimate, Sematic, Gold Bug or Dow Key Bug. W5FX, 27209 W. Six Mile Rd., Detroit 40, Michigan

WANTED -catalogs of early 1920s such as E.I., Duck, Mesco and Murdoch. Particularly interested in crystal receivers. Swap info. Paul Hillegas, 8513 Albia St., Downey, Calif.

WANTED -Qsl card mailed by me in 1927, 1928 or 1929 with my old call of 9BCJ. Harry Manning, 3026 Bagley Ave., Los Angeles 34, Calif.

WHAT MAGAZINE carried an "ad" on Globe Television sometime between 1923 and 28. Would like info? WILD, 81 Warren St., Roxbury, Mass.

SWAP - gear and magazines for QSTs of Aug and Sept. 1919, Aug. and Sept. 1920. Ed Freeman, K4MCA, Box 57, Yankton, S.Dak.

SWAP or BUY the "works for a Kennedy "Universal" receiver. The cabinet, panel and knobs may be missing or damaged. Need insides. Ralph Dorris, 317 Wesleyan Place, Owensboro, Ky.

WANTED - early commercial gear for club's historical collection. Frank Smith, W5VA, Box 840, Corpus Christi, Texas

NEED triple detector for IP501. Also looking for Electrical Experimenter magazines. Thom Mayes, RR2, Shelbyville, Ind.

FOR SALE -Radiola II, Radiola 18, WE-7A amp., WE-25A amp., Grebe 13. Must sell - any reasonable offer accepted. Lou Hardy, ex-240, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey

CALL BOOK - please check your 1913 or 1914 call books and see if I was listed with old call 30V at Allentown, Penna. Art Jacoby, W3CY, 136 Springhouse Rd., Lancaster, Penna.

SWAP - gear or cash for Grebe equipment and literature-anything Grebe. Jack Gray, W9JUV, 500 Church St., Mason, Ohio

SWAP - Kennedy 110 Universal Receiver for Federal 61. Earl England, 6651 Pollard St., Los Angeles 42, Calif.

WANT all sizes Honeycomb coils with plug in mounts, Paragon RA-10 and amp. and Crystalol detector, W4ID, 461 3rd Ave., Sea Park, Eau Gallie, Florida

SELL or SWAP -excellent minerals all sizes in crystal field; galena, pyrites, marcasite, bornite, sphalerite, etc. Write you needs. James Haas, W5ACU, PO Box 422, Chapman, Kansas

SWAP - I.C.S. Telegraph Course (1900) (quite rare) for miniature telegraph souvenirs such as watch fob, charm key, etc. Also have to swap 150 ohm sounders, etc. Will Andrews, W2ONE, 53 Orlando Ave., Albany 3, N.Y.

WANT - parts for Crosley Radio Facsimile machine. Need recorder and scanner. W9JUV, Church St., Mason, Ohio