

**The Central Texas Amateur Radio Club
meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the
Bell County Communications Center, 798 West Avenue O, in Belton**

The Prez Says...

Priscilla Beauregard, KE5UES



The McLennan County Skywarn is Saturday, February 4th. If you do not get a chance to do the advance portion that day, come join us at the Bell County ISD Administration Building in Belton for the Bell County Skywarn on February 11th.

A few of the things that are taking place this month are: Groundhog's Day on Feb. 2nd, which Rick will be telling us the results later in this News Letter, and Valentine's Day is February 14th. President's Day is on February 20th. This is a federal holiday so most offices will be closed. On February 25th there will be a Ham Fest in Georgetown, sponsored by the Williamson County Amateur Radio Club. Talk-in frequency is 146.640(-) PL 162.2 and call for N5TT. For more information on this event, you can visit the WCARC website at: <http://wcarc.com/wcarc.com/swapfest.html>

On January 7th, Trilla Easley and Rick Murray {K6WXA} were married. I would like to congratulate them on their marriage and wish them the best in the years to come.

CTARC would like to welcome **Robert Cregar-NA8DX** of Lampasas as CTARC's newest club member. Be sure to say hello to him if you hear him on the air.

As most of you know, the 147.300 N5DJJ repeater in Belton, is now under the trusteeship of the Central Texas Amateur Radio Club. The repeater is Bell County property and is located on a tower about 100 feet up on North Main Street in Belton, behind the County Agent's building. It was used for county business until the new system was installed.

Jim Coleman – N5DJJ, requested the transfer about a month ago. The repeater's call sign has been changed to W5AMK and the PL tone to 123 to make it consistent with most of the other repeaters in the area.

The repeater is open to all amateur radio operators for general use and should be considered a back-up repeater for emergency communications. We will probably add an open EchoLink connection to it. The repeater has very good coverage, exceeding the Bell County boundaries.

A little history about the call sign; W5AMK was the call sign of Merrill Eidson, one of the founders of the Temple Amateur Radio Club and a very good friend of Joe Dorn. W5AMK is the CTARC Club call, which initially belong to Merrill Eidson and is used on the most recent hospital locations and now the 147.300 repeater.

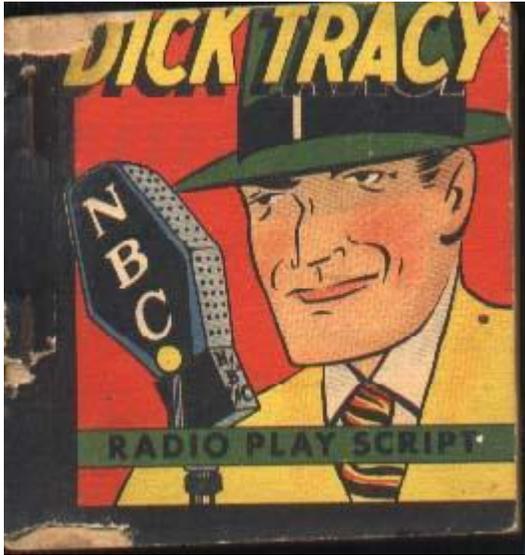
Remember to pray for a good report from the Ground Hog.

73 de Priscilla, KE5UES



Strays

“Calling all adventure fans. Calling all Dick Tracy fans. Stand by. Dick Tracy is on the air.”



Dick Tracy appeared for the first time on October 4, 1931 as a comic strip in the Chicago Tribune and its associate newspapers. Tracy was tough, typically capturing the villains by shooting them, but he was also one of the first to use advanced crime-fighting techniques and tools to solve crimes. The most well-known of these was Dick Tracy's two-way wrist radio.

Dick Tracy had a long run on radio, from 1934 weekdays on NBC, to the ABC network in 1948. On CBS, the serial aired four times a week from February 4, 1935 to July 11, 1935, moving to Mutual from September 30, 1935 to March 24, 1937. The series returned to 15-minute episodes on the ABC Blue Network in March of 1943 until its last airing on July 16, 1948.

You can tune-in again to several episodes in the series by visiting: http://www.archive.org/details/otr_dicktracey



The Central Texas Amateur Radio Net meets every Thursday at 8:00 PM on the W5BEC repeater, on 147.140(+) PL 123.0 Join Us!

February NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule:

February 2 nd :	February 9 th :
Net Control: KE5ISN	W5VEX
Back-Up: W5VEX	K6WXA

February 16 th :	February 23 rd :
Net Control: K6WXA	AD5SK
Back-Up: AD5SK	KE5ISN



Skywarn Training

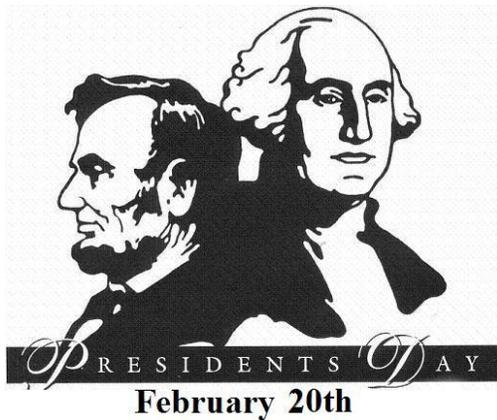


Bell County (*Basic & Advanced Spotter Training*) Saturday, February 11th, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, at the Belton ISD Administration Building, 400 N. Wall St., in Belton.

Bosque County (*Basic Spotter Training Only*) Monday, February 3rd, 7:00-9:00 PM, at the Meridian Civic Center in Meridian.

McLennan County (*Basic & Advanced Spotter Training*) Saturday, February 4th, 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, at the Emergency Services Education Center, 7601 Steinbeck Bend Road, in Waco.

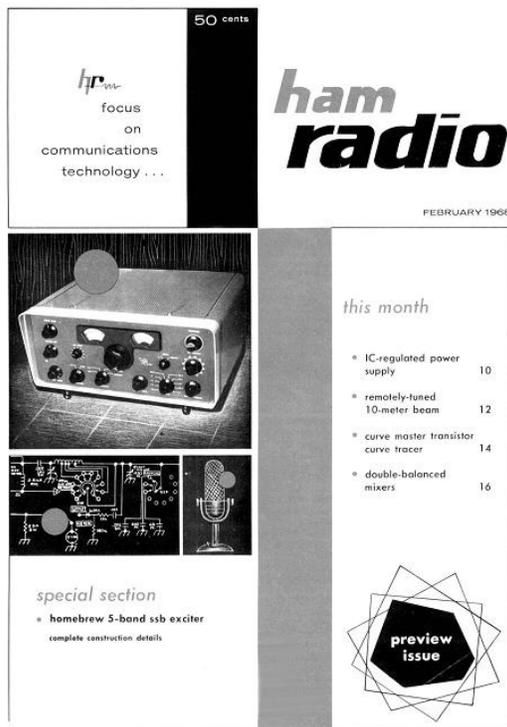
Travis County (*Basic & Advanced Spotter Training*) Saturday, February 18th, 8:15 AM to 4:15 PM, at the University of Texas Pickle Research Campus, Commons Bldg.-Big Tex Auditorium, in Austin. For more info on this particular training session, please visit: <http://www.utexas.edu/depts/grg/kimmel/skywarn2012.html>



First Issue of *Ham Radio* Magazine

The first issue of *Ham Radio* magazine was published in February 1968.

At the 1990 Dayton Hamvention, it was announced that *Ham Radio* had been sold to the publishers of *CQ Amateur Radio*. The June 1990 issue was the 268th and final issue published where subscribers were told of the sale and that they would receive *CQ* in the future.



Vintage RCA “Ham Tips”

Back issues of the publication “*Ham Tips*” from RCA are available online in PDF format, courtesy of N4TRB.



Most issues dating from September 1938 to August 1970 can be found at: http://n4trb.com/AmateurRadio/RCA_Ham_Tips/rca_ham_tips.htm

(Information courtesy of KF5HUG – Ed.)

Five Years Ago: The End of Morse Testing in the U.S.

For better or for worse, Morse testing to obtain a United States Amateur Radio Service License disappeared on February 23rd, 2007.

Many hams who either wanted Morse testing retained or a return to the more stringent 5, 13 and 20 word per minute testing regime said that the fight to save code exams would not be over until the proverbial fat lady sang. Well, she not only sung her final song but also danced her last dance. Morse testing in the United States was relegated to the ham radio history books.

Special Event Stations

The Palos Verdes Amateur Radio Club **K6PV**, will activate Santa Catalina Island in the IOTA NA-066 Island Group, February 22nd through the 26th. QSL via K6PV. Point of contact is Ray Day - N6HE at: rayday@cox.net

Seven Spanish amateur radio operators will be on the air as **AO1POL** during the 9th Antarctic Activity Week between February 20th and the 26th. Their operation will be on 160 through 10 meters, including the 30, 17 and 12 meter bands. QSL via EA1GHT.

N7MSU will be active as **V31SU** from Belize between February 26th and March 15th. Operations will be mainly on 40 and 20 meters using CW, SSB and PSK31. QSL via his home callsign.

AA9A and W4OWY will be active from Antigua as **V25AA** and **V25WY**, respectively, between February 13th and the 22nd. Their operations will be on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via their home callsigns.

The Central Arizona DX Association will operate special event station **K7UGA** the week of February 13th to the 19th in celebration of the Arizona Centennial. QSL with a S.A.S.E. to K7BHM.

EA1CYK/P will be operational from Deception Island in the South Shetland group until March. QSL via EA7LS.

JS6RRR will be operational stroke **KH2** from Guam between February 10th and the 14th. Activity will be on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, FM, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via his home callsign.

OE3GEA will take to the airwaves stroke **6Y5** from Jamaica between February 2nd and the 12th mainly using CW. QSL to his home callsign.

F8APV will be active from Reunion Island until February 10th signing portable **FR**. QSL as directed on the air.

JA6CNH will be active as **XV2CNH** from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam between February 10th and the 15th. Activity will be on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL to his home callsign.

Net Control Operators Wanted

The Central Texas Amateur Radio Net is in need of persons to be Net Control Operators.

If you're interested, contact Kenneth Watkins – KE5ISN at ke5isn@aol.com



A series of huge breaking waves lined the horizon in Birmingham, Alabama, on Friday, December 16th. Experts say the clouds were pristine examples of “Kelvin-Helmholtz waves.”





6 More Weeks of Winter Forecasted



Punxsutawney Phil

Gobbler's Knob, Pennsylvania... It's that time of year again: Groundhog Day, when thousands of revelers converge on the small Pennsylvania town of Punxsutawney to hear an overweight groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil predict the weather.

At just about 7:25 AM, Punxsutawney Phil - *Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators, Weather Prophet Extraordinaire, National Treasure and most photographed Pennsylvanian* – emerged from his burrow and looked about. Then, speaking to his select group of human handlers, known as the Inner Circle, in Groundhogese, Punxsutawney Phil indicated that he had seen his shadow; meaning winter temperatures will continue for six more weeks. The Inner Circle then translated Phil's words for the world to hear.

While Phil's proponents maintain that his predictions are 100 percent accurate, the U.S. National Climatic Data Center has estimated that Phil is only correct about 40 percent of the time. The NCDC reached their

conclusion by taking Phil's predictions and comparing them with average temperatures in February and March.

While Groundhog Day on February 2nd, is a way to have a little fun at mid-winter, generally climate records and statistics tell us that winter isn't over yet.

Climatologically speaking, the three coldest months of the year are December, January and February. So winter still has a bit to go before the vernal equinox on Tuesday, March 20th, at 14 minutes past midnight, (CDT) marking the first day of spring.

Not everyone finds the annual event entertaining, though. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) recently sent a letter to the president of the Inner Circle suggesting they retire Phil to a sanctuary and replace him with an electronic groundhog.

"Other popular exhibitions have featured robotic penguins and dolphins who swim and communicate just like real animals do," the letter says, "and we think that an animatronic groundhog would similarly mesmerize a crowd full of curious spectators in Punxsutawney."

PETA's letter was dismissed as a publicity stunt. "The thing about PETA is they only get worried about Punxsutawney Phil once a year," Chapin said. "The other 364 days of the year they don't say anything," he said. "It's an interesting idea, but I don't suspect Phil will be retiring anytime soon."

To really experience Groundhog Day you have to believe. To quote George Michael: "*You gotta have faith.*"

Feds Get on Top of the Weather

Randy Alfred, Wired.com

February 9th, 1870: President Ulysses S. Grant signed a bill creating what we now call the National Weather Service.

It had been obvious for centuries that weather in North America generally moves from west to east, or southwest to northeast. But other than looking upwind, that knowledge was little help in predicting the weather until you could move weather reports downwind faster than the weather itself was moving. The telegraph finally made that possible. The Smithsonian Institution in 1849 began supplying weather instruments to telegraph companies. Volunteer observers submitted observations to the Smithsonian, which tracked the movement of storms across the country. Several states soon established their own weather services to gather data.

Congress thought the nation needed a centralized weather office, and that the new system would be best served by military precision and discipline. Hence, the resolution signed by President Grant in 1870 required the Secretary of War: "...to provide for taking meteorological observations at the military stations in the interior of the continent and at other points in the States and Territories ... and for giving notice on the northern [Great] Lakes and on the seacoast by magnetic telegraph and marine signals, of the approach and force of storms."



President Ulysses S. Grant



Brigadier General Albert J. Myer

The War Department assigned the new function to the U.S. Army Signal Service Corps, commanded by Brigadier General Albert J. Myer, who matter-of-factly named the new unit the Division of Telegrams and Reports for the Benefit of Commerce.

The network went online Nov. 1, 1870. Observers at 24 stations in the eastern United States started taking synchronized readings at 7:35 a.m. and telegraphing them to the division's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Cleveland Abbe, a private forecaster who operated out of Cincinnati, had a reputation for consolidating telegraph reports into top-notch weather maps.

The Army hired him as Special Assistant to the Chief Signal Officer. Abbe began work in January 1871 and made his first official forecast the following month on February 19th. He soon exceeded public expectations with daily weather reports like this:

"Synopsis for past twenty-four hours: The barometric pressure had diminished in the southern and Gulf states this morning; it has remained nearly stationary on the Lakes. A decided diminution has appeared unannounced in Missouri accompanied with a rapid rise in the thermometer which is felt as far east as Cincinnati; the barometer in Missouri is about four-tenths of an inch lower than on Erie and on the Gulf. Fresh north and west winds are prevailing in the north; southerly winds in the south.

Probabilities: It is probable that the low pressure in Missouri will make itself felt decidedly tomorrow with northerly winds and clouds on the lakes, and brisk southerly winds on the Gulf.”

Abbe served the government’s weather service in various capacities until 1916, the year of his death, and is often called the “father of the U.S. Weather Bureau.”

In 1872, Congress extended the Signal Service’s weather responsibility to include the entire country. The weather division was renamed the U.S. Weather Bureau and transferred to civilian control as part of the Agriculture Department in 1891. President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved it to the Commerce Department in 1940.

The bureau was renamed the National Weather Service in 1970, when it joined the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in the Commerce Department’s newly created National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



Cleveland Abbe

Texas Communities Face New Wildfire Threats

Federal Emergency Management Agency

AUSTIN, Texas -- More than 80 percent of wildfires in Texas now strike within two miles of suburban communities. What’s more, the desire to live closer to nature has driven many Texans out of major cities and into areas where neighborhoods meet and mix with undeveloped, natural landscapes.

With the state’s relentless drought conditions forecast to continue well into next year, it is important that Texans be aware of wildfire vulnerabilities in their area, and that they take steps to protect their homes and families – creating safer, stronger and smarter communities that are ready in the event of a wildfire. Now, more than ever, is the time to educate Texans and build more “firewise” communities, say officials with the Texas Division of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The following are links to valuable information:

Texas Division of Emergency Management Wildfire Awareness -

www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/threatawareness/pio_wildfire_awareness.htm

Texas Forest Service - txforestservicetamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=12888 and txforestservicetamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=12296

Texas Interagency Coordination Center - ticc.tamu.edu/

The National Interagency Fire Center - www.nifc.gov/

FEMA offers wildfire safety tips and preparedness plans at www.ready.gov/be-informed.

Furthermore, the National Fire Protection Association’s Firewise Communities program is a great initiative that encourages homeowners, community leaders and local emergency management officials to work together and take action to protect people and property from wildfires. For more information on Firewise, visit www.firewise.org.

Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Department of Public Safety - www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem.

What the Amateur has done in Radio

Charles W. Taussig, *The Book of Radio*

During the latter part of February, 1922, a terrific sleet storm and blizzard visited Minnesota and near-by territory. Wire communication from Minneapolis and St. Paul, to the outside world, was completely destroyed. On the evening of February 22nd, at six o'clock, the wire service went out of commission. Minneapolis was completely cut off from the rest of the country. No messages could reach the city, nor could any go out. The Minneapolis *Tribune* appealed to the University of Minnesota, which had a radio installation, and asked them to get news for its morning issue. Therefore, 9XI (the call letters of the University of Minnesota) attempted to get into communication with the outside world.

They succeeded in communicating with 9ZS in Indianapolis, but, due to the terrific atmospheric disturbances, were unable to secure any news. At 2 o'clock in the morning, the University of Minnesota communicated with Morris MacCabe, station 9AXF, at No. 1223 Foster Ave., Chicago, Ill. Before any traffic was handled between these two stations, the Associated Press opened up line communication to Chicago by a roundabout series of connections,



which took in Vancouver, Denver and St. Louis. Early on the morning of the 23d, this line also went out of commission and with it, the entire service of the American Telegraph and Telephone Company. The Telephone Company immediately set out to repair the lines, but requested that some of the Minneapolis and St. Paul amateur radio stations get in touch with Chicago. The University of Minnesota, another station with the call letters 9ZT, and Albert P. Upton, of Minneapolis, Minn., all proceeded to establish communication. At 10 o'clock in the morning, the station of Donald Clair Wallace of No. 823 Snelling St., St. Paul, Minn., call letters 9DR, raised 9MF at St. Cloud, Minn., and also Ivan J. Bullock, in Fairmount, Minn.



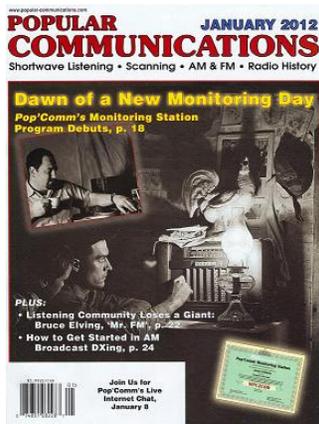
All these connections were made before noon. At noon, St. Cloud was in touch with Brainard, and also with 9BAC, some miles to the north. Fairmount had by that time gotten in touch with New Ulm, Minn., and before the end of the afternoon, a network had been established to Le Mars, Iowa. Every hour, the entire system was checked. From Le Mars, communication was had with Davenport, Iowa,

and from there to Rood House, Ill. This network of amateur radio stations was the only communication to be had in the district until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when the telephone line was reestablished. Station 9XT and 9ZT not only succeeded in getting into communication with Chicago, but copied press from the Government Station at Arlington, Va., which they turned over to the local newspapers. Mr. J. F. Carpenter of the University of Minnesota, stayed at his post, routing messages and keeping the ether clear, for 40 hours without sleep.

Listening Anew

Stan Horzepa, WAILOU

I considered subscribing to *Popular Communications* again after a long absence from their subscription rolls. My timing was perfect. Checking online, I discovered that *PopComm* now offered digital subscriptions. Not only would I be saving a tree that could be better used for hanging a dipole, I would not have to wait for my subscription to be processed, and then wait for the mailman to deliver a printed copy. Subscribe online and instant gratification awaited me: I could immediately download and read my first issue. And even better, digital subscriptions were on sale: \$9 off the retail price (which is also \$9 cheaper than a print subscription). I subscribed, downloaded and began poring over the December issue as I sat on 198 kHz trying to squeeze the BBC out of thin air.



A few days later, my computer informed me that the January issue of *PopComm* was available for downloading, so I fetched it and began reading it, too.

PopComm is kicking off the *PopComm* Monitoring Station Program (PCMS) in a “bid to revitalize a shortwave listening community that was excited and vibrant 50 years ago, while creating a platform for exploration of the far reached of today’s communications technology,” so wrote Richard Fisher, KI6SN in the January issue of the magazine.

Like *Popular Electronics* magazine’s WPE shortwave monitoring program back in the late 1960s, PCMS also issues call signs, but unlike *Popular Electronics*, PCMS permits you

to choose your own callsign (assuming the one you want is not taken already) much like a ham radio vanity callsign.

The PopComm Monitoring Station program has a blog, *PopComm Monitors on the Web*, at: <http://www.popcommmonitors.blogspot.com> which serves as the online home of the program. Currently, it describes step-by-step how to join the program, pick a call sign, and after obtaining said call sign, how to print out a nifty certificate like the one pictured below to hang in your shack above your favorite RF listening device.

Popular Communications magazine has been the first choice for shortwave listeners, scanner monitors and other radio enthusiasts for nearly 30 years. Each monthly issue delivers a broad spectrum of the latest information of interest to communications hobbyists and professionals alike, in the fields of broadcasting, public service, ham radio, CB Radio, aviation and marine communications, clandestine, pirate radio, radio history and more.



If you’re interested in subscribing, visit: <http://www.popular-communications.com>

WAILOU is a contributing editor to the ARRL Amateur Radio News which can be found online at: <http://www.arrl.org/news>



The Trans-Continental Record

The great problem of sending a message from the Atlantic to the Pacific and having the answer back the same night has been done. It was accomplished in the early morning hours of **February 6th, 1917**, which date will be an historic one in the years to come. The job was done by 2PM - Faraon & Grinan in New York City, 8JZ - Alfred J. Manning, Cleveland Ohio; 9ABD - Willis P. Corwin, Jefferson City, Mo., 9ZF - W. H. Smith, Denver, Col., and 6EA - Seefred Bros., Los Angeles, Cal.

Messages have been got across to Pacific coast stations in the past, and those sent late in January from 6EA to 1ZM made the passage in two or three days time. Even earlier than this, messages sent on QST signals have been got across. Never before, however, to the best of our knowledge has a message been sent out on a regular route and the answer brought back the same night. The time in which this splendid effort was done, is also a matter of record, and which will probably stand for some time to come. We understand the message left the station of 2PM, at 1:40 a.m., and the answer was back to 2PM at 3:00 a.m. The time is, therefore, one hour and twenty minutes.

If we had stated in December that in three months time, we would have handled a message out to the Pacific Coast and back in less than two hours, we would have felt guilty of over stating the possibilities. We hesitate, therefore, to state now that this record of one hour and twenty minutes will not be broken very soon. We would not be at all surprised to receive evidence before bad summer weather begins that a message had gone out on one relay only at Denver, and the answer received back in like manner and the time something of the order of twenty minutes. We confess to shrinking a little as we write this, but as we have said, things happen almighty swiftly in this game of ours. 2PM has heard 9ZF at Denver and stations east of Denver have heard Pacific Coast stations. Therefore it is only a matter of some of the fellows taking advantage of an especially good night when certain especially good stations are on. It is likely to happen.

Trans-continental traffic is now a regular thing over three routes. Mr. Mathews is authority for the statement, and it is substantiated by the actual receipt of messages addressed to Headquarters, that messages can be handled from Hoquiam in Washington across the northern Trunk Line via Grand Forks, and Chicago, also across the central Trunk Line from San Francisco via Denver and Jefferson City, Mo., and finally across the southern Trunk Line from Los Angeles via Phoenix and Dallas. We have knowledge of fully fifty messages which have already been handled across the continent on one or the other of these three routes. It is a matter in which we all may take great pride. We of the A.R.R.L. cannot but feel that our work has been one of the important contributing elements in the success of the thing. But, whether one of us or not one of us, everybody who had anything to do with this fine effort deserves credit, and we derive a great pleasure from extending our heartiest congratulations to all concerned. Let us use this successful effort as an example of what we can do in the future by organization and enthusiasm.

WIRELESS WOOING ENDS IN A WEDDING

Dr. Lee De Forest and Miss Lucile Sheardown Married at the St. Regis

ROMANCE IN COURTSHIP

Couple Was in Daily Communication by Wireless Between Their Homes

A wireless telegraphy romance reached its culmination at the St. Regis today when Dr. Lee De Forest of the American De Forest Wireless Telegraph Company was married to Miss Lucile Sheardown, daughter of Mrs. M. T. Sheardown, of No. 560 West End avenue.

The date for the marriage was only determined upon last Saturday. The whole courtship of the couple was, as Dr. De Forest himself said, advanced with the rapidity of wireless telegraphy.

Dr. De Forest first met Miss Sheardown last October and the couple immediately fell in love. Miss Sheardown, who was educated in France and Switzerland, and speaks five languages, became at once interested in wireless telegraphy. To please her Dr. De Forest had a wireless apparatus fitted up in her apartment and there was constant communication between his home, at No. 315 West Ninety-seventh street, and the boudoir of Miss Sheardown, in West End avenue.

A week ago last Tuesday Dr. De Forest found he would have to leave at once for Europe. Although the wedding was understood to be an event of the future no definite plans had been made.



Then the wireless telegraphy began to get in its work. Dr. De Forest called up his sweetheart and told her he had something most important to tell her. He was going away and he didn't want to go alone. The date set for sailing was the following Saturday.

"Won't you marry me at once and come to Europe with me?" he asked. Miss Sheardown was stunned of course--it was so sudden! There was a compromise and it was agreed that if De Forest would sail a week later he could take a bride with him.

It was the wireless telegraphy that did it. "It's true we had a code all fixed up," said the bride today, "and we used to talk to each other frequently. I was really courted by wireless telegraphy."

The wedding ceremony was performed in the Louis Seize room of the St. Regis at 9.30 o'clock. Rev. Dr. Alfred E. Meyers, of the Marble Collegiate Church, officiating.

FEBRUARY, 1925

25 CENTS

RADIO

(Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.)

COTTON—QUALITY
SUPER-HETERODYNE

MATHISON—
300 TO 30,000 METER
RECEIVER

SHORT WAVE
ANTENNAS

HAYNES—DE LUXE
SUPER-HETERODYNE

McNAMEE—MULTI-
SPEAKER AMPLIFIER

CONSTANT
FREQUENCY
TRANSMITTERS

