

**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**

From the Editor's Desk...

Rick Murray, K6WXA

March has been a busy month for our club President what with all the logistical planning behind the ever popular *HamExpo!*, which was this past Saturday in Belton, and because of it he was unable to get his monthly rant in. I hope I can do him service in filling his usual space here.

Staying on the subject of *HamExpo!*, hat's off to the Temple Amateur Radio Club for bringing such a great event to the local area! Besides the tail-gators, and commercial vendors, it's a great opportunity to meet face-to-face with some of the people you talk to over the radio, but rarely – or never – actually get to meet. And I hope I'm not stealing the wind out of Joe's sails, but on his behalf, I'd like to extend a huge thanks to the Volunteer Examiners who showed up for the testing session; it seems like they came in force to support this event.

This past Friday may have been a good introduction and heads-up call to the Spring storm season – and keep in mind, the effects we may experience from the Atlantic Hurricane Season are just a couple of months away. Point being, take the time to get prepared – *now* – check your antenna installations and coax connections and be ready for the storm seasons we're about to go through.

A couple of things of note that are coming up this month... Saturday, April 5th, is the K5CRA Cove Repeater Association Swapfest in Copperas Cove; more on this further on in the newsletter. Then the following Saturday, April 12th, CTARC will hold an informal luncheon get-together at Oscar's Restaurant, located at 8133 Oscar Spur, in Temple.

And later on this month, Hal Pagel-N5JLL, will be joining the ranks as a net control operator on our Thursday weekly nets. This is a great way to get involved in your club even if you only do it every now and then, and it's a lot of fun.

Our next monthly club meeting will be this Tuesday evening, April Fools Day and I hope you all get a chance to attend... I also hope I'm getting this out in time for y'all to find it in time. Hope to see everyone at the meeting, the luncheon as well as on the nets.

-73 de Rick, K6WXA





“Who’s that little chatter box? The one with pretty auburn locks? Whom do you see? It’s Little Orphan Annie...”



Little Orphan Annie first aired on the 6th of April 1931, on Chicago’s WGN with Ovaltine as the sponsor. Airing six days a week at 5:45 pm, it was the first late-afternoon children’s radio serial, and as such, it created a sensation with its youthful listeners, continuing until October 30th, 1936.

NBC then picked up the show from November 2nd, 1936 until January 19th, 1940; where it then aired on the Mutual Broadcasting System until the show’s final episode which was on April 26th, 1942.

From 1931 to 1933 before the advent of coast-to-coast radio networks, the show had two different casts - one in Chicago and one in San Francisco, each daily performing the same scripts.

Despite its eleven year run and the programs popularity, few episodes have survived. Those that have survived can be listened to again by visiting: <https://archive.org/details/LittleOrphanAnnie1>



The Central Texas Amateur Radio Net meets every Thursday at 8:00 PM on the N5ZXJ repeater, on 145.310(-) PL 123.0 Join Us!

April NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule:

April 3 rd :	April 10 th :
Net Control: W5VEX	N5JLL
Back-Up: N5JLL	AD5SK
April 17 th :	April 24 th :
Net Control: AD5SK	K6WXA
Back-Up: K6WXA	KE5ISN




Texas State Parks On-The-Air Contest

Sponsored by the Northwest Amateur Radio Society-W5NC, the contest period is from 14:00 UTC, April 5th through 01:59 UTC, April 6th on all authorized amateur frequencies excluding 60, 30, 17 and 12 Meters.

For more information on this contest, please visit: <http://www.tspota.com> and for more information on our Texas State Parks, visit: www.tpwd.state.tx.us.



K5CRA Ham Swap Fest

The Cove Repeater Association will hold their annual swapfest on Saturday, April 5th, from 8:00 AM to Noon at the Ogletree Gap City Park in Copperas Cove. The park is located on Post Office Road, off of Hwy 190, between FM-116 and FM-2657.

Talk-In frequency is 147.260(+) PL 88.5 and call for K5CRA.



Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest

The 2014 Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest is from 06:00 UTC, 19 April to 05:59 UTC, 20 April, 2014.

The objective is for amateurs around the world to work as many amateurs in Chinese provinces, municipal cities, autonomous regions, and special administration regions as possible during the 24 hour contest period.

For more information on this contest, visit: <http://www.mulandxc.org/287>

“Radio is all things to all men. It is a tool to the charlatan, it is a glorious instrument to Damrosch and Stokowski, it is a shillalah to the “batter-down-the-resistance” type of advertiser, it is a stage to the comedian, a pulpit to the preacher and a rostrum to the demagogue. Because of this many sided nature of radio, what it shall become rests entirely in the hands of those who use it.”

- Roscoe Fawcett, Editor 'Radioland'
April 1934



Rookie Round-Up

This is a great opportunity for new operators to get on the air and learn the skills of contesting. The event runs from 1800 UTC to 2359 UTC, Sunday, April 20th.

This six-hour event is aimed at amateurs who have been licensed for 3 years or less. Rookies work everybody; non-rookies work only rookies.

For further information on this event visit: www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup



Gary Darnell, WBØRUR

In a nutshell, Radio Wrinkles stories are all-original, but completely made up, satirical and fake. None of it is real...

Or is it?

In what's being called a tremendous yet terribly confusing opportunity for amateur radio, a Kansas ham radio club is moving forward with plans for an April DXpedition to northern Korea. Members of the Great Windy Plains Radio Club are in the final preparation stage for their trip to northern Korea – a small town located in Culpeper County, Virginia.

Operations will be from the lobby of the Holiday Inn Express, located on the northern side of Korea near the Culpeper and Rappahannock county line. “They have a free continental breakfast, too.” adds club member Junior Brown. “So it's really a win-win for everyone.” The club will use the call sign ‘KP5A’ for the operation and will be active daily except during lunch, when the group can be found at the Golden Corral in nearby Shenandoah.



Club member Junior Brown

“The club has wanted to stage this DXpedition for a long time,” says Junior, “But we don't hear as well as we used to and most of us have prostrate issues, so working pile-ups is out of the question. We'll QSL as soon as possible too!”



RadioShack to Close Up to 1,100 Stores

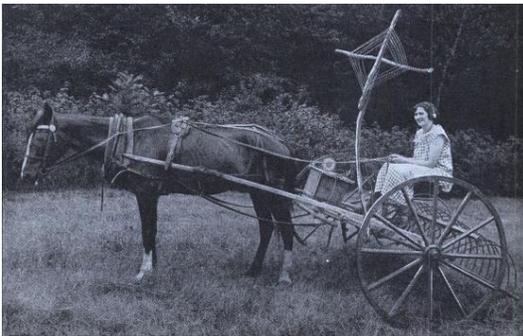
Once a staple of electronics retailing and a source of small parts for ham radio home-brewers and electronics enthusiasts, RadioShack has fallen on tough times. In the wake of a substantial drop in holiday sales and a big fourth-quarter loss, the Fort Worth based retailer has announced that it is closing 1,100 of its outlets — including more than 900 dealer franchises. The company didn't immediately identify what stores are being closed.

MODERN MECHANIX

YESTERDAY'S *Tomorrow* TODAY

Radio Modernizes the Old Hayrake - April 1933 -

The old hayrake has gone modern, and is now on par with the automobile. Take a look at the photo below and see what happened when a young fellow with a radio bee in his bonnet took it upon himself to modernize the rake.



The installation of the radio was effected when a young lady from the city volunteered to help rake while on her vacation at a Butler, New Jersey, farm. To keep her entertained, the farmer's 12-year-old son fastened his home-made radio receiver to the rake and wound a loop antenna on a couple of sticks.



How to Cook a Ham

Donald Butler, N4UJW

INGREDIENTS:

1 ea Ham Radio Operator fully seasoned, with a Tech, General or higher license.

1 ea Parabolic Reflector (100 Foot Diameter)

1ea 1 Mega-Watt Transmitter

1ea FCC Experimental Permit

1ea Pound Brown Sugar

DIRECTIONS:

Place the Ham into main lobe of the parabolic reflector at the focal point as in the picture below and secure well.



Cover Ham well with brown sugar –
TIP: It is sometimes best to start with a coating of honey.

With FCC Experimental Permit in hand, tune Mega-Watt Transmitter to 100 GHz FM and apply full power until eyes of Ham start glowing green.

TIP: Move back and put on hearing protection as there will be yelling and screaming.

Continue transmitting until the Ham screams, "I'm QRT!"



LW9EOC will be active **stroke HKØ** from San Andres Island 18-25 April. QSL via his home call.

GM3WOJ and **GM4YXI** will be active from Tonga 4-18 April as **A35V** and **A35X**. QSL via N3AL.

K5TEN will be activating Dog Island, **stroke W4**, from April 13th through the 19th. QSL via his home call with s.a.s.e.

ZL3TE will be operational as **3D2SE** from Viti Levu Island between April 11th and the 14th. QSL via his home call.

N7QT, **AB1UH**, **W4VAB** & **N7UN** will be active from San Andres Island, 2-14 April as **5JØX**. QSL via **N7QT**.

K8NA will be active through the 2nd of April as **T32TM** from Christmas Island. QSL via his home callsign.

UA3AA will be active from Nepal until 23 May as **9N7AA**. QSL direct to: Andy Gromov, PO Box 873, Brooklyn, NY 11230.

F5SGI will be active **stroke CT9** from the Madeira Islands between April 5th to the 12th. QSL via his home callsign.

The Project X Contest Team will activate Mustang Island in Texas as **N5T** during the Texas State Parks on the Air Event, from 14:00 UTC on Saturday, 5 April to 02:00 UTC on Sunday, 6 April. QSL via **K5HM**.

F4GPK will be active **stroke 6W** from Senegal, between April 4th to the 15th. QSL via his home call.

CE1WFN will be active **stroke CEØY** from Easter Island, April 5th to the 17th. QSL via his home call.

ZP9MCE will be active **stroke HI7** from the Dominican Republic April 7th to the 14th. QSL via **EA5ZD**.

PD7YY and **PE1GNP** will be active as **PH38EU** from Terschelling Island from April 11th and the 14th. QSL direct.

International Marconi Day

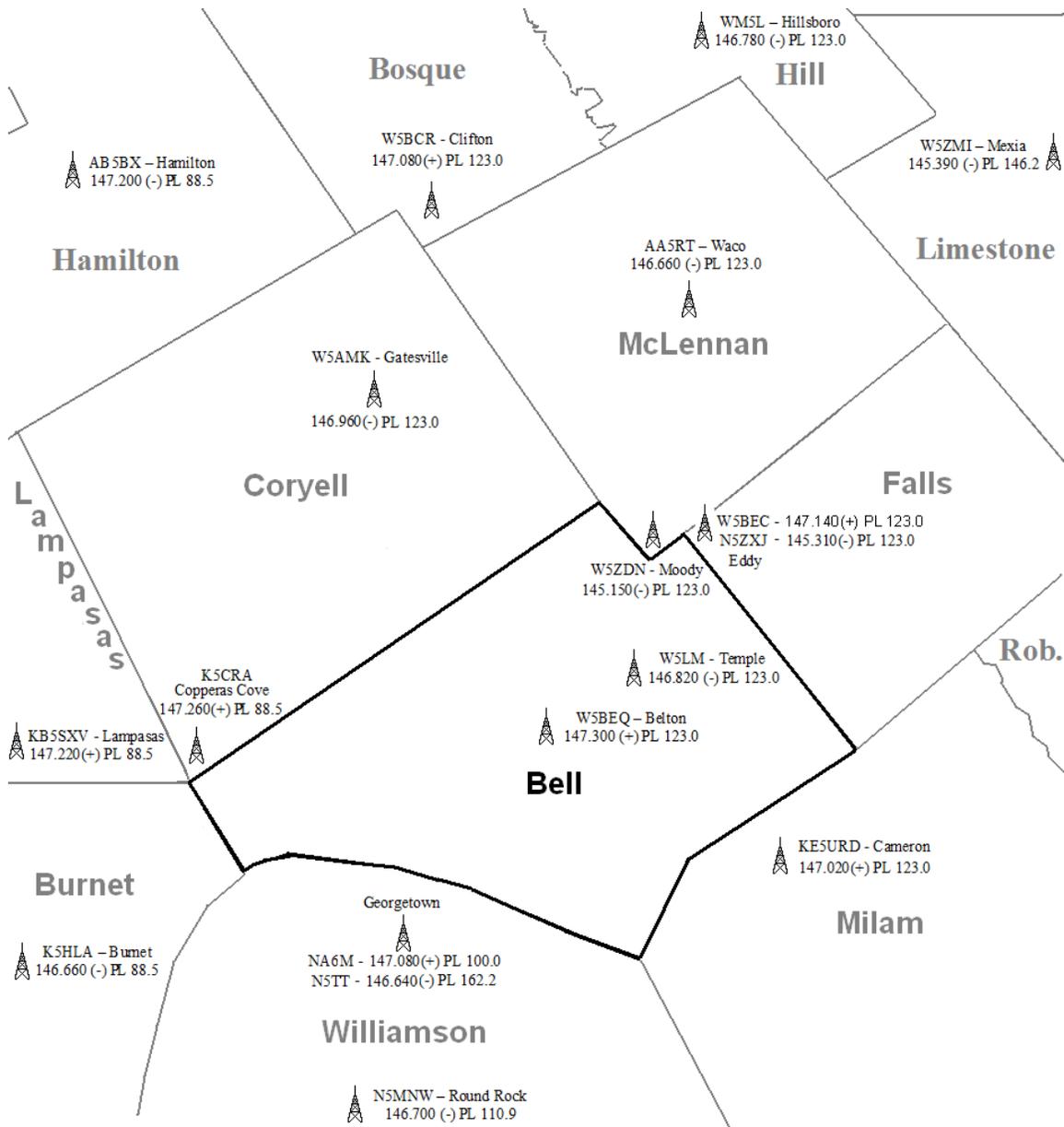
Several special event stations will take to the air April 26th, from 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC, to commemorate the 2014 International Marconi Day. Among them will be **GB4IMD** in Cornwall, England (QSL Direct), **OE14M** in Vienna, Austria (QSL via **OE1WHC**), **IYØIMD** in Italy (QSL via **IZØQPO**), **VO1AA** on Signal Hill in St Johns, Newfoundland (QSL via **VO1HE**), **VK2IMD** in Australia (QSL Direct), and **WA1WCC** in Cape Cod, Massachusetts (QSL Direct).



International Marconi Day is a 24 hour Amateur Radio event held annually to celebrate the birth of Guglielmo Marconi on April 25th, 1874. IMD is held each year on a Saturday close to Marconi's birthday. The event is not a contest but rather an opportunity for amateurs around the world to make point-to-point contact with historic Marconi sites using HF communications.

Guglielmo Marconi towards the end of his life philosophized:
"Have I done the world good, or have I added a menace?"

Regional Principal 2-Meter Repeater Map



Editor's Notes... This map should not be considered as all-inclusive, complete or accurate and only reflects the 'principal' open 2-Meter repeater systems in our region and their 'approximate' location within the counties shown.



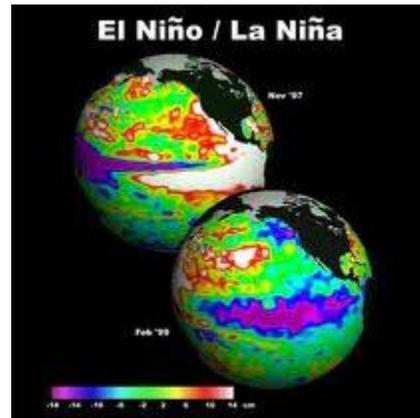
An El Nino is Brewing

Seth Borenstein, Associated Press

Relief may be on the way for a weather-weary United States with the predicted warming of the central Pacific Ocean that will likely change weather worldwide. But it won't be for the better everywhere. An El Nino is a warming of the central Pacific once every few years, from a combination of wind and waves in the tropics that shakes up climate around the world, changing rain and temperature patterns, and may lead to fewer Atlantic hurricanes and more rain next winter for drought-stricken California and southern states, and even a milder winter for the nation's frigid northern tier next year, meteorologists say. The National Oceanic Atmospheric and Administration issued an official El Nino watch on March 6th.

Mike Halpert, acting director of NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, says the El Nino warming should develop by this summer, but that there are no guarantees. Although early signs are appearing already a few hundred feet below the ocean surface, meteorologists say an El Nino started to brew in 2012 and then shut down suddenly and unexpectedly.

The flip side of El Nino is called a La Nina, which has a general cooling effect. It has been much more frequent than El Ninos lately, with five La Ninas and two small-to-moderate El Ninos in the past nine years. The last big El Nino was 1997-1998.



Kevin Trenberth, a senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, who wasn't part of NOAA's forecast, agreed that an El Nino is brewing. "This could be a substantial event and I think it could have major consequences." Halpert said it is too early to say how strong this El Nino will be. The last four have been weak or moderate and those have fewer effects on weather.



Trenberth said this El Nino may even push the globe out of a decade-long slowdown in temperature increase, "so suddenly global warming kicks into a whole new level." If this El Nino is a strong one, global temperatures, probably in 2015, could "be in near record breaking territory."

Halpert, however, says El Ninos can be beneficial, and that the one being forecast is a perfect case. After years of dryness and low reservoirs, an El Nino's wet weather would be welcome in places like California. "If they get too much rain, I think they'd rather have that situation rather than another year of drought," Halpert said. "Sometimes you have to pick your poison."

FCC Agents Trace Radio Interference

When Signals Interfere With Cell Towers or Radio Broadcasts, Agents Crack Down

A federal agent who shows up unannounced at a building along a Texas highway might be looking for any number of things: illicit drugs or immigration violations, say, or illegal firearms. Or fluorescent lights...

Which was what the agent had in mind who walked into the *Perfect Cuts* salon in San Antonio last July. The agent had used signal-tracking equipment to home in on the offenders and told the owner, Ronald Bethany, that his lights emitted radio signals that interfered with an AT&T cellphone tower. That violated Federal Communications Commission rules protecting airwaves licensed to AT&T, the agency determined. The FCC agent told him his fixtures needed to go.



'Perfect Cuts Salon' – note adjacent cell site.

Interference can be serious business. In 2012, hedge-fund mogul Philip Falcone's wireless venture, *LightSquared Inc.*, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy after the FCC determined it would interfere with GPS signals.



The mixed signals aren't always so weighty. In recent years, the FCC has issued warning letters directing people to stop operating cordless phones, television sets and wireless cameras. Last June, an FCC letter to a Springfield, Ore., address warned that "harmful" interference had been traced to the property and that the operator may have to cease operation of the device: "possibly a bad doorbell transformer."

Similar letters in 2012 went to several operators of videogame consoles. "This unresolved problem," the letters typically warn, "could result in a monetary forfeiture." The FCC can demand fines up to \$16,000 a day or \$112,500 an incident from people who aren't FCC licensees. Offenders usually rectify problems, the FCC says, often working them out with whoever is complaining.

In another case, agents arrived at Shelton's Auto Lube and Auto Wash in Fortuna, California, in 2008 looking for signals disrupting AM broadcasts. They traced them to Shelton's carwash equipment. "I didn't know anyone listened to AM radio anymore," says owner Odell Shelton. The FCC told him a driver complained about car-radio reception. It took a few days to find and fix the problem.

Most anything electrical can violate. "Incidental radiators," in FCC lingo, are devices like electric motors that aren't built to generate radio signals but do anyway.



Odell Shelton

“Unintentional radiators” are designed to generate signals within devices like computers but aren’t supposed to broadcast. “Intentional radiators” like cordless phones can transgress when they transmit outside intended frequencies.

The government doesn’t much care why interference happens. To the FCC, noise is noise.



Plasma TV interference monitored by DL6FBH

In a 2013 letter, the FCC wrote to the owner of a plasma TV set after a ham-radio operator complained to the agency of interference. “Continued operation of the television,” warned the letter, “is not legal under FCC rules.”

Ham-radio operators are a frequent source of complaints. A 2012 FCC letter told a Pomona Park, Florida, resident to stop using a well pump that conflicted with amateur-radio frequencies...

A 2009 letter warned Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary, in Woodstock, N.Y., that its electric fence was causing interference for a ham-radio operator and noted it had been warned before.

“We didn’t want our rambunctious, dark-colored, 2,000-pound steers pushing down the fence, wandering onto the adjacent state road and causing a deadly accident,” says sanctuary co-founder Doug Abel. “Right next door, our ham-radio-loving neighbor has a 60-foot high antenna that would allegedly pick up a clicking sound from our fence.” He installed hardware to damp the signals.



Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary in New York

Radio hobbyist Tom Thompson of Boulder, Colorado, last year tracked a signal using a homemade contraption. After knocking on the suspect’s door, he traced it to ballasts on marijuana grow-room lights. He says he built a filter that the grower agreed to use. Ballasts are frequent offenders.



Grow-Room Light Ballast

Makers of the components, which regulate electricity to bulbs, test them for FCC compliance. Some interfere anyway. Ballasts earned Brookfield Office Properties Inc., a real-estate company, a citation last month at one of its Los Angeles buildings where lights were interfering with a Verizon Communications cell site.

The light ballasts at *Perfect Cuts* in San Antonio came from General Electric, which in 2011 found some of its ballasts caused interference, a spokesman says. GE has offered to replace those ballasts free of charge.

Mr. Bethany of *Perfect Cuts*, says he initially declined GE’s offer, but when an FCC letter after the agent’s visit mentioned a possible \$16,000-a-day fine, he swapped ballasts.

He still doesn’t see why he needed to, given that his 18-year-old shop predates the cell tower. “I was here first.”

Radio in 1934

It was quite a year, 1934. The Great Depression was still a fact of life, and people continued to depend on radio for escape and companionship in those difficult times. *Broadcasting* magazine wrote that 60% of U.S. homes had at least one radio; there were even 1.5 million car radios. Despite the poor economy, radio had continued to grow. Its growth was so dramatic that a new federal agency became necessary, one that had more authority than its predecessor. As a result of a piece of legislation called the Communications Act of 1934, the Federal Communications Commission was created; it replaced the Federal Radio Commission as of July 1st.



FDR Fireside Chat – September 27, 1934

In 1933, the country had elected a new president, and because he frequently spoke to the nation via radio, Franklin D. Roosevelt became known as the first “Radio President.” His use of radio was so impressive that the editor of *Radio Guide* wrote a full-page editorial in the May 26, 1934 issue, praising Roosevelt and praising radio saying, “...Radio has given to the president a weapon such as no ruler has ever known. It enables him instantaneously to answer, overthrow and defeat any false statement concerning himself, his

government or his plans. Radio is a servant of justice... taking knowledge everywhere.” With the president so accessible thanks to his popular “Fireside Chats,” you trusted radio to bring you information as well as encouragement. Encouragement was very much needed in 1934: the average income was only \$1,601.00. But FDR had a plan – his “New Deal” was being implemented, and despite some setbacks the public seemed reassured.

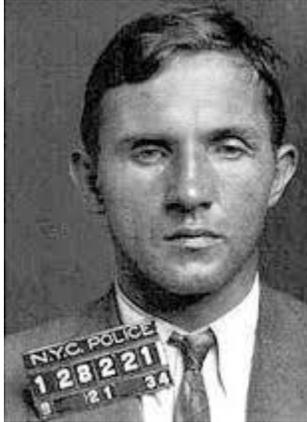
On happier notes, on February 15th, you heard comedienne Talullah Bankhead make her network debut on Rudy Vallee’s show on NBC; George Gershwin had his own show – it started on February 19th on NBC’s WJZ and was called *Music by Gershwin*. *Amos and Andy* were still on the air; and while their show was a source of controversy in the black community, its popularity with the majority of listeners continued. To give one example, *Broadcasting* magazine noted that a survey of farmers in 42 states showed *Amos and Andy* as their favorite program; Eddie Cantor was their second favorite.



Talullah Bankhead - “Dahlings, I was wonderful!”

If you lived in New England, you were a part of news history. John Shepard III, the president of the Yankee Network (and WNAC Radio in Boston), began the first local news network for radio, the Yankee News Service, on March 1st of 1934; it competed directly with the newspapers, and the competition for stories was quite intense.

On May 2nd of 1934, Cincinnati's WLW "World's Largest Wireless" became a superstation, abusing the ether with 500,000 watts. It put out a flame thrower of a signal until 1939 when it was ordered to reduce power to 50,000 watts. The station's owner claimed, "50,000 watts wasn't much more horse power than a pair of speeding Buicks."



Bruno Richard Hauptmann

But the big news story for most Americans in 1934 was that a suspect - Bruno Richard Hauptmann - was arrested on September 19th in the Lindbergh baby kidnapping. The trial attracted wide-spread media attention and was dubbed the "Trial of the Century". Hauptmann was also named "The Most Hated Man in the World".

His trial was held in Flemington, New Jersey, and ran from January 2 to February 13, 1935 when he was found guilty and sentenced to death. Following the appeals process, on April 3, 1936, Hauptmann was executed in 'Old Smokey', the electric chair at the New Jersey State Prison. Hauptmann's last words were, "I am absolutely innocent of the crime with which I am burdened."

Radio drama fans rejoiced when a new network, the Mutual Broadcasting System, was founded on September 29th. Mutual was best known as the original network home of *The Lone Ranger* and *The Adventures of Superman* and as the long-time radio residence of *The Shadow*.

Comedian Joe Penner, whose catchphrase "Wanna buy a duck?" swept the country, won the award for Outstanding Radio Comedian. Less than seven years later, on January 10th, 1941, Joe Penner passed away as a result of heart failure. He was only 36.

And in 1934, you would have heard Benny Goodman and his orchestra for the first time on December 1st on NBC's *Let's Dance*.

If you could afford a movie, which at the time cost 30¢ for admission – plus refreshments, you saw Clark Gable in *It Happened One Night*, for which he won an Oscar for Best Actor; Claudette Colbert, his co-star, won Best Actress.



Joe Penner



1934 RCA Model 128

If you lived in 1934, it cost 3 cents to mail a letter - six cents for air mail. A new car was \$625 and the price of gas was still 10¢ a gallon. You could purchase a farm plus a six-room house for \$4,250, or you could rent a three bedroom apartment for \$15 a month. A new radio, such as RCA's Model 128 "Shouldered Tombstone" would run you about \$70.00. The launderette was invented, as was freeze-dried coffee. And while experiments in television continued, for most Americans it was radio that helped them through the day; few Americans could imagine being without it.

BEACH BURNING SHIP; PASSENGERS ASLEEP

=====

Captain of the Ontario Steered Her on Long Island Shore While Crew Fought Blaze

=====

PRAISE WIRELESS OPERATOR

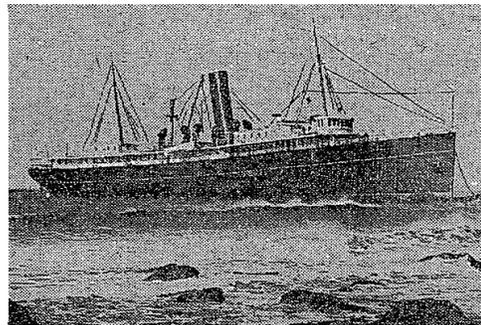
=====

He Stuck to His Post Till Heat Stopped Instrument

The New York Times – April 9, 1912

With a raging fire in her hold, the coastwise liner Ontario of the Merchant's and Miner's Transportation Line, bound from Baltimore to Boston in heavy seas with thirty-one passengers and a large cargo on board, was beached on the Long Island coast near Montauk Point at 3 o'clock yesterday morning.

Hubert Ingalls, the wireless operator, still in his teens, stood by his key flashing the signal "S.O.S." the wireless call for help, until the flames reached the wireless house, with the result that the intense heat to which the apparatus was subjected rendered it useless. The wireless room was black with smoke for fully fifteen minutes before Ingalls left it, but he stuck to his post as long as the instrument



worked and even then protested against leaving, hoping against hope that something would happen to put his key in commission again.

The crew chopped great holes through the deck, and into these tons of water were pumped on the flames, but, fight as they would, the fire gained headway, and Capt. Bond soon realized that he would have to beach his ship.

In the meantime, Ingalls, the wireless lad, was sending out the "S.O.S." signals for help. His little wireless hut on the deck was almost directly over the burning part of the ship, and life within it was almost unbearable. But that had no effect on Ingalls. At intervals of a few seconds the signal for assistance was repeated. The first station to hear the call was Point Judith, the message the Point Judith man received being, "Ontario, big fire below," and then followed the vessel's position.



Hubert Ingalls, later in life as WINQ

Within an hour after the "S.O.S." was received relief was on the way to the Ontario. Tugs went out from New London, while every revenue cutter that could be reached immediately on receipt of the news steamed for Montauk Point.

Later, with her passengers safely off, the steamer's crew of 40 men stuck to the ship, fighting the flames in the hold. For almost forty-eight hours the skipper and his crew fought to save the ship, and several times it looked as if victory would be theirs. However, a rising sea made the continuance of the fight out of the question, and the

skipper gave the command to leave the ship. Owing to the nature of her cargo, mostly cotton, the Ontario will probably burn for a week before the fire dies out of the wreck.