

**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 President's Rant...

Gerald Richmond, N5ZXJ

Howdy Everyone!!

Another month is in the books and Summer is knocking on the door. Graduations of all kinds will take place during May and school will be out for the year as summer vacations abound.

The Central Texas Airshow is this weekend, also the Spring COMEX on Saturday, the 3rd of May. Mother's Day is on the 11th, the Military Cross-band Test on the 17th, and the YL's HF Contest on the 24th & 25th rounds out the month.

Our next club meeting is on the 6th, and the program for May is a DVD I purchased from the ARRL, "A History of Ham Radio in the 20th Century". Take a journey back; as ARRL presents a series of videos beginning in the late 1950's through the early 21st century, as you watch the evolution of Amateur Radio unfold before your eyes. For older hams, it's a trip down memory lane and a subtle reminder of how different things were back in the 20th century. For new hams, it's a glimpse into the earlier days of this fascinating hobby. Our monthly luncheon will be discussed also.

We have a new/old ham that just recently moved into the Troy area: Toby Driscoll-N5SIM who owns and operates "Troy Radio" an electronics shop geared to mostly servicing 2-Way and Amateur radio. He does sell antennas, parts, etc. and used gear when they have it. The shop is located at 20 East Main Street, in Troy so if you get a chance, drop in and say 'Hi'.

Lastly, Mike Tyler-K6STU, reports that the 224.300 repeater in Lampasas County will be off the air from about the middle of the May to the end of the month, for scheduled maintenance.

Hope to see everyone on Tuesday May 6th at 7:00 pm, for our next monthly meeting at the Bell County Communications Center.

- 73 de Gerald, N5ZXJ



STRAYS

“The Jack Benny Program, transcribed and presented by ‘Lucky Strike’ starring Jack Benny, Mary Livingston, Dennis Day, Rochester and yours truly, Don Wilson...”



Jack Benny first appeared on radio May 2nd, 1932 on NBC, but later moved to CBS in 1949 where his program continued to air until May 22nd, 1955. It was consistently among the most highly rated programs during most of that run.

Born Benjamin Kubelsky, Benny had been only a minor vaudeville performer, but with his entry on radio on *The Jack Benny Program*, he became widely recognized as one of the leading American entertainers of the 20th century. His radio & television programs, tremendously popular from the 1930s to the 1960s, were a foundational influence on the situation comedy genre.

Benny played the role of the comic penny-pinching miser, insisting on remaining 39 years old on stage despite his actual age, and often (although an accomplished violinist) playing the violin - poorly!

You can tune-in again to 143 episodes of Jack’s radio programs by visiting: <https://archive.org/details/JackBenny1>



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!

May NCS and Back-Up NCS Schedule

May 1 st :	May 8 th :
Net Control: KE5ISN	KF5OHR
Back-Up: KF5OHR	W5GNK

May 15 th :	May 22 nd :
Net Control: W5GNK	N5JLL
Back-Up: N5JLL	AD5SK

May 29th:
Net Control: AD5SK
Back-Up: W5VEX



Spring COMEX

James Jud, KA5QKL / John Galvin, N5TIM

The North Texas Spring Communications Exercise will be held on Saturday, **May 3rd**, from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM. The exercise is designed to test radio emergency communications capabilities in area hospitals and EOC’s in Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Falls, Hill, Lampasas, McLennan, & Somervell counties.

Check-in’s will begin at 9:30 AM on the N5ZXJ repeater on 145.310(-) PL 123.0. Following this, communications will move to 147.550 simplex for station to station communications. Then on or about 9:45 AM, Digital communications on RMS Express/Packet simplex will be conducted on 145.650 MHz.

This is a radio only exercise. Testing of field portable off the grid systems should also be considered.



The Central Texas Air Show runs from **May 2nd through the 4th**, at the Draughon Miller Central Texas Regional Airport. Volunteers are needed to provide commercial radio support for the support staff. Those who volunteer will also be given free admission to the air show. If you'd like to help out, contact Darwin Geiselbrecht-K5DOA via email at: k5doa01@gmail.com



Day of the YL's HF Contest

The "Day of the YL's" HF contest is sponsored by the European Radio Amateurs Organization and will be held **May 24th and 25th**. The purpose of this weekend event is to get as many YL's and XYL's to take to the airwaves at the same time as is possible.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.eurao.org/en/node/472>

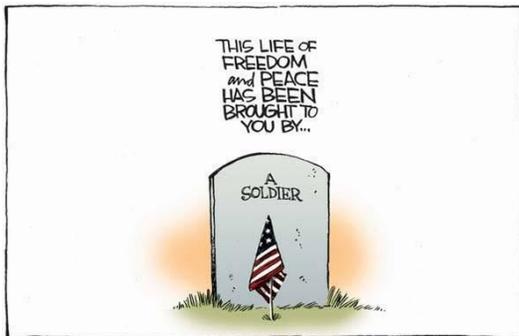


Military Cross Band Test

The Military / Amateur Cross-Band Communications Test will be conducted **May 10th** in observation of the 64th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day.

A complete listing of all military participating stations, their call signs, operating frequencies, location and mailing addresses for QSL confirmations can be found at:

<http://www.usarmymars.org/home/announcements>



**Lest We Forget – Memorial Day
May 26th**

"Amateur radio is the most remarkable kind of training school, one in which ardent devotees train themselves in the intricacies of a very complex art at their own expense."
- Richard A. Bartlett, "The World of Ham Radio" 1950

Marshmallow Logs

Jan Gregg, W5GNK

- 2 Cups Flaked Coconut
- 1 (14 oz.) can Eagle Brand Milk
- 2 Cups Mini Colored Marshmallows
- 1 Cup Chopped Walnuts
- 2 Cups Crushed Graham Crackers
- 1 Cup Chopped Candied Cherries

Sprinkle coconut on a sheet of waxed paper. In a medium bowl, stir together marshmallows, Graham Cracker crumbs, Eagle Brand Milk, walnuts and cherries. Shape into a log. Place on waxed paper and roll in coconut. Wrap with waxed paper and refrigerate until firm. Slice into 1/2" pieces.

Enjoy & 73

Tip of the Month: To keep from dribbling when pouring from a pitcher or measuring cup, try putting a little butter on the lip or spout.

This article first appeared in the May 2002 issue of the TARC Bulletin and is reprinted here with permission of the author. –Ed.



LA7GIA will be active from Malawi between May 31st and June 8th as **7Q7GIA**. QSL via his home call.

MØRCX will be active **stroke 3B8** from Mauritius Island, 2-28 May. QSL via his home call.

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

DL4HTK and DO5AD will be on the air as **HBØDRK** and **HBØYRK**, respectively, between May 4th to the 18th from Liechtenstein. QSL both callsigns via DL5DRK.

Nine operators will be active from Dodcanese with the callsign **SX5LA** from May 3rd to the 11th. QSL's go via SV2FWV.

F4FET has announced that he will operate maritime mobile and portable from the Isle of Mull between May 12th and the 18th. QSL via his home callsign.

JA1SVP and JR1GSE will be on the air from Palau as **T88FA** and **T88TH** respectively between May 16th to the 19th. QSL each operator via their home callsign.

JH1BGH and 7K1HLJ will be active from Palau 20-28 May as **T88WI** and **T88WH**. QSL each via their respective home callsign.

M1LOL and M1REK using the call **MM1REK** will be active from the Isle of Muck off the west coast of Scotland, from May 24th to the 31st. QSL direct.

EI6DX will be on the air **stroke FO** from Bora Bora in French Polynesia between May 7th and the 18th. QSL via RX3RC.

OT4R will be active **stroke HI7** from the Dominican Republic May 5th-31st on 10 & 20 meters. QSL via e-QSL.

F6AML will be active from the Les Saintes Islands, 5-20 May as **TO6A**. QSL via home call.

A group of German operators will be active as **3D2RH** from Fiji through the 4th of May. QSL via DH7WW.

PB5X will be active from Bali Island **stroke YB9** through the 6th of May. QSL via his home call.

ON4LO will be active **stroke EA6** from Mallorca Island until May 15th. QSL via his home callsign.

JA1FMN will be active as **V63PSK** from Weno Island Micronesia between May 14th and the 17th. QSL via his home call.

Voice of Russia Bids Farewell to Shortwave

Tom Witherspoon, K4SWL

This year has been a confusing one for the Voice of Russia - formerly known as *Radio Moscow* during the Cold War era. At least two separate news sources in August and December of last year, made the announcement that the VOR would be leaving shortwave effective Jan 1st, 2014.

The VOR denied these reports, then, Russian President Vladimir Putin surprised all by essentially liquidating the Voice of Russia and merging it with *Rossia Segodnya* in sweeping changes affecting all Russian state media.

VOR's Elena Osipova, confirmed the information about the cancellation of the Voice of Russia's short and medium wave transmissions as of 1 April 2014. It was also said that one reason for the secession from shortwave was that it was an "obsolete broadcasting model."

At 00:01 April 1st local Moscow time, the announcer behind the mic in Moscow bid farewell to their listeners and left the airwaves - perhaps forever.



Can Severe Weather Ever Be Avoided

Samantha-Rae Tuthill, AccuWeather.com Staff Writer

Severe weather can be both fear-inducing and awe-inspiring. The threat to lives and property that occurs during a severe weather event can create panic that lasts well after an event is over, even for people who did not live through the event themselves. People may cope with these fears by trying to find a way to take control of the situation, be it by preparing for an emergency weather event, or living in an area where their most-feared weather threat is less likely.

Many times after a dangerous weather event occurs, some will be quick to blame the victims for not doing more to prepare, or even for choosing to live in an area where such events are likely to occur. However, is there really anywhere a person can live where they can expect to completely stay out of harm's way?

Hurricanes... Hurricanes rank high among the costliest U.S. disasters each year, with Hurricane Katrina still holding the top spot at over \$100 billion. With over 53 percent of the U.S. population living near the coast, the potential for impacts are incredibly high. There are ways for people to prepare for hurricanes. One way is to be sure to have emergency plans, including those for pets, set well in advance of a storm. Evacuating before a storm hits is a crucial way to save not



Hurricane Katrina – August, 2005

only the lives of those living in the threatened area, but also of emergency personnel. Preparing your home ensures the highest level of safety for property. {The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1st to November 30th – those with interest should follow the reports generated by the National Hurricane Center at: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov> as well as the Hurricane Watch Net whose website is at: <http://www.hwn.org> and / or monitor 14.325 MHz USB whenever a hurricane is within 300 miles of land. }



EF2 Tornado over Arlington, TX – April 3, 2012

Tornadoes... Like hurricanes, tornadoes can be incredibly destructive, but have the additional stress of being much more challenging to predict. Storms that are likely to spawn tornadoes can be forecasted to some degree. For example, in a thunderstorm where tornadoes are possible, they will typically come from the southern side of a storm. However, the exact moment and location of a tornado typically remains unknown until it starts to form.

{During severe weather monitor NOAA's Weather Radio Station WXX-35 on 162.475 MHz as well as the local repeater – if a Weather Net is active, stay off the air unless you have important information which *needs* to be brought to the attention of the net. }

Wildfires... Areas to the west of Tornado Alley have threats of their own. The National Interagency Fire Center listed areas in California and the Southwest for having the highest risks for wildfires this summer.

Dry conditions, low relative humidity and strong winds in these areas makes fires spark easily, whether from human-caused negligence or natural lightning from dry thunderstorms.

{During 2011, there were 31,453 wildfires in Texas which consumed 4,011,709 acres. The Texas Forest Service has a website which shows counties with burn bans as well as fire danger assessment maps at:

<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=1991>



Wildfire near Bastrop – September 6, 2011

Two-thirds of all wildfires are caused by lightning, especially during the months of June, July and August. So, when ‘Smokey the Bear’ says, “*Only you can prevent wildfires*” he isn’t exactly telling you the truth. }

Drought... Fire dangers often coincide with droughts and the residual effects can be felt for years. Not only do drought conditions increase the risk of fires, they can also cause dust storms. Areas in drought are likely to feel the impacts, including water restrictions from ceasing to wash cars, to not being allowed to water your yard.



O.C. Fisher Lake, near San Angelo – August 3, 2011

Improved irrigation and rain water collections also make surviving a drought a little easier for those who are prepared for it.

{Texas is no stranger to drought. If you’re new to the area, ask any of the locals and you’ll find they have vivid memories of the drought and fire season during 2011. For those with interest, you can follow drought develops through the U.S. Drought Monitor website at: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>. }

Snow and Ice... Each winter, snow and ice storms close schools and businesses across the region. Power outages also take their toll as well. For those used to snowy winters, storms that may bring activity to a halt in other regions are nothing remarkable. {Here in Texas it’s a whole ‘nother story. Snow removal services are limited and most people don’t even own a snow shovel -- nor do they have a clue how to do drive in it. }

To try to live in areas with no severe weather risks is impossible. Even areas that are less likely to see a certain extreme may not be immune. Weather cannot be controlled, and areas that are less likely to be faced with a specific type of weather event may still experience one. People should have a disaster plan for when and if a disaster does occur.



Alligators in the Sewer

Kevin McCoy, KF5FUZ
American Red Cross – Central Texas Region

ARES folks, I need your help. I am not sure how long this issue has been out there, but I can see references back at least 10 years. So here in Central Texas I am going to ask for your help. So just like a bad piece of SPAM it keeps coming back up. If you hear it, please inform your folks of the truth.

Here is an example of what this alligator looks like:



ARES Guy: *“I personally will not submit to the intrusive ARC background check. Our county ARES group routinely does a criminal background check and if that does not suffice, I will politely decline service at ARC facilities. All of our county shelters are housed at public school facilities whose employees do not have to submit to such a check. I feel that my relationship to the ARC is of a member of a cooperating*

agency, NOT an ARC volunteer, and if my agency is happy with me, they should also be. Most of the other members of our group have the same opinion.”

Most people do not know that the governing law of background checks, is the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Therefore, any release form that asks for permission for a background check – even if it is for a Criminal Background Check – must reference this law. I expect that this fact was the seed that started the misunderstanding. Under the FCRA, any background check, including a criminal history record, is a “consumer report”. The Red Cross does not conduct credit checks on any employee, volunteer, or candidate for employment or volunteer service unless the unit first informs that individual and obtains a secondary, signed consent form from him or her. The only background check done by the Red Cross is a Criminal Background check.

The ARRL accepts the requirement of a criminal background check for volunteers but prefers that such checks be performed by law enforcement entities. The Red Cross agrees that ARRL volunteers shall not be asked or required to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations, or investigative consumer reports in order to provide a communications function.

We are proud to be your served agency. A lot of folks are confused, but we know who our communication partner is. We had loads of great deployments last year that prove our joint potential. I am asking you as leaders to slay this alligator when you see it.

Complete text of the background check language is at: http://www.arrrl.org/files/media/News/ARRL-ARC_MoU.pdf





Ham Radio Club in Hot Water after “Honest Mistake”

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?*

A local group of amateur radio operators will not be invited back to next year’s fund raiser for the local heart association. The Gold Diggers Amateur Radio Club, a ham radio club based in rural northern Montana, volunteered for event communications during last week’s “Walk It, Run It or Bike It” fundraiser. Participants gather pledges per mile from donors and may walk, run or bike the course. Shortly after the 5K event started, things took a bad turn – literally.

“Junior Brown had the course map and that was probably our first mistake,” says club president Lou Rodden. “He was responsible for guiding the lead car and the initial participants in the right direction.”

While the group of 15 volunteers manning course checkpoints were chatting on a local repeater about lunch plans and the “code / no code” controversy, Brown inadvertently guided



Junior Brown – not exactly sure what happened.

everyone onto the wrong street; and then another; and then another. “When it was all said and done,” adds event organizer Jane Brookhaven, “our 5k event turned into something closer to 20k. People were dropping out like flies and we had to call in extra vehicles to pick up the stranded walkers, runners and bicyclists. It wasn’t pretty. It even made the local Beaver Free Press newspaper.”

For his part, Brown says he’s not exactly sure what happened... but has an idea. “I think I was holding the map upside down,” says Brown who has a history of navigation mistakes. In 2006, Brown intended to drive a group of hams to the “Big Badger Hamfest” in Madison, but ended up in Racine. He also completely missed Field Day one year because he “just couldn’t find the damn thing.”

Brookhaven says there may be a silver lining to the embarrassing incident, though. “Because of Mr. Brown’s course and our pledges per mile — we raised a lot more money than usual!”

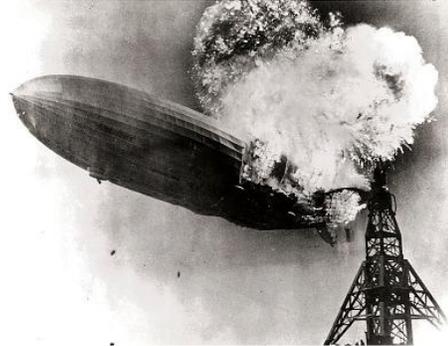
“Remember, that although radio is a highly specialized science, there remain many problems to be solved and as the art advances and it becomes more and more a complex subject there will be plenty of work to do and plenty of fame to be gained for future radio men.”

- Pierre H. Boucheron [1921]

Radio in 1937

1937 was a very good year for radio. It was estimated that over 80% of the population had at least one radio, and millions now had radios in their cars. There was a lot going on in 1937, and often, radio was a major part of it.

Sometimes, radio's participation was accidental – such as at the time of the tragic crash of the German airship, the *Hindenburg* on May 7th. WLS announcer Herb Morrison had come to New Jersey to do a routine voice-over for a newsreel; suddenly, before his eyes, the airship exploded and burst into flames – Morrison ended up reporting something that was far from routine – an emotional on-the-scene description of a calamity nobody had expected.



Radio was on the scene more and more by 1937, as technology improved and stations gradually were able to cover more news. The networks covered the coronation of the new King of England, George VI on May 12th, and the disappearance of aviatrix Amelia Earhart on July 2nd was as big a story for radio as it was for the newspapers.



Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary Margaret McBride

CBS had its share of news too; Edward R. Murrow, who had joined CBS in 1935, was now the director of the network's European bureau, and the legendary H.V. Kaltenborn still did news commentary; and 1937 was the first year CBS brought you newspaperwoman and magazine writer Mary Margaret McBride, who did a highly respected talk show.

Then, on July 20th, 1937 Guglielmo Marconi died. In his honor, radio stations all across the country observed several minutes of silence.

1937 was quite a year for hearing some performers who would soon become stars, as well as some who had been stars in film or vaudeville and were now on the air. W.C. Fields made his radio debut on May 9th, 1937 on the *Chase and Sanborn Hour*, and Red Skelton moved over to radio with guest appearances on the *Rudy Vallee Show*.

Also making their radio debut in 1937 on NBC were Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy – although at first, the dummy rather than the ventriloquist got top billing – it was first called the *Charlie McCarthy Show*. Mae West made an appearance on the show on December 12th and her risqué dialog prompted hundreds of complaints and resulted in her being banned from NBC radio.

If you lived in New York, you were especially grateful to radio and to Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, who read the daily comics over the air and also read some news reports during the newspaper strike.



Charlie McCarthy and Edgar Bergen

Among the popular soap operas you might have heard in 1937 were *Aunt Jenny's Real Life Stories* - a 15-minute radio soap opera which aired from January 18th, 1937 to November 16, 1956 on CBS; *The Guiding Light* - which debuted on NBC on January 25th; *Our Gal Sunday* came on CBS March 29th and aired until January 2nd, 1959.



Mr. Keen – Tracer of Lost Persons

On October 12, 1937 *Mr. Keen - Tracer of Lost Persons*, the longest running detective show ever, aired for the first time on NBC, which carried the series until 1947 when it moved to CBS. It was broadcast from Hollywood until April 19th, 1955. And *Big Town* came to radio October 19th, 1937 and aired until 1952. It was rated No. 1 among all of the reporter-type drama series on radio.

Still popular (and in some quarters still controversial), *Amos and Andy* continued to get good ratings; also popular but far less controversial, were *Lum and Abner* and *Fibber McGee and Molly*.

If you wanted culture, CBS was offering Claude Rains in *Julius Caesar* while NBC brought you John Barrymore in *Taming of the Shrew*. And if crime drama was your preference, Phil Lord was on the air with *Gangbusters*. And there were westerns too – perhaps you listened on Mutual to *The Lone Ranger*.

In sports, Francis Laux, Jr. usually known simply as France Laux, commented the World Series for CBS from 1933 to 1938, and the first eight All-Star games from 1933 to 1941, the last three of those for Mutual. He turned down offers to broadcast for the Yankees and Giants in New York, preferring to stay in St. Louis, where he had a huge following on 50,000-watt clear channel powerhouse KMOX, with virtual coast-to-coast coverage at night.

He became the first to win the Sporting News Announcer of the Year Award in 1937. He also served as secretary of the American Bowling Congress for many years. He is also listed as one of the “Golden Voices of Baseball.”

He later passed away on November 16, 1978 at the age of 80.



France Laux – 1937 Sports Announcer of the Year

Although war was on the horizon in Europe, most Americans were feeling positive that the economy had improved. If you went to the movies in 1937, the price of admission was 25¢ and you saw Walt Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* which premiered on December 21st, – and it was in color! The average annual income was now \$1,788; a new car cost \$760, a loaf of bread was 9¢, a gallon of milk was 50¢ and a new table radio would run you about \$40.00. Nylon was invented in 1937, and some rudimentary binary calculators were being marketed. And as you read magazines like *Radio Guide* or *Radio Stars*, you were glad to be a part of radio's Golden Age.

SUNK IN SEA CRASH; 319 PERSONS SAVED

=====

Ward Liner Merida, Rammed by the Admiral Farragut, Goes Down off Cape Charles

=====

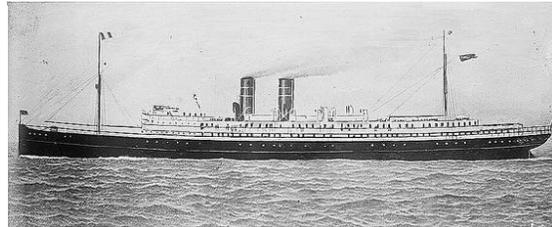
WIRELESS CALLS BRING HELP

The New York Times – May 13, 1911

NORFOLK, VA., - The Ward Liner steamer Merida, bound from Havana, Cuba, for New York, with 188 passengers, and a crew of 131, early today sank in thirty-five fathoms of water fifty miles northeast of Cape Charles after she had been rammed by the fruit steamer Admiral Farragut, bound from Philadelphia, for Port Antonio, Jamaica.

Every person aboard the Merida was rescued and only one was seriously injured, the wife of A. Peon, a landed proprietor of Progreso, Mexico, who, with his entire family, was bound for Paris to await the end of Mexican troubles. Mrs. Peon, occupying a room immediately next to where the Farragut struck the Merida, was injured, probably internally.

The Merida was struck by the Admiral Farragut during a dense fog at 12:30 A.M. In five hours the Merida was at the bottom of the ocean, but her passengers and crew were safely aboard her small destroyer, the Admiral Farragut.



The Ward Liner steamer 'Merida'

By wireless telegraph the Old Dominion Steamship Company's steamer Hamilton, bound from New York to Norfolk, was summoned by the Admiral Farragut and took aboard the rescued passengers and crew of the Merida and landed them at 7 o'clock tonight. The Admiral Farragut, which carried only one passenger and a crew of fifty men, proceeded for the Delaware break water under convoy of the United States battleship Iowa, which answered the wireless appeals for assistance. The Iowa was standing by the Farragut when the steamer Hamilton left with the rescued passengers and crew for Norfolk.



H. Benson, wireless operator of the Merida

The Admiral Farragut, after ramming the Merida, staggered away with a bad hole in her port bow, and it was feared she too, might sink. When the Farragut crashed into the Merida she disabled the latter's engines, wrecked her electrical dynamo and wireless apparatus, and left the ship helpless in total darkness. The wireless operator Leach, of the Farragut, attempted to call assistance, but found his appeal could not be heard. Meanwhile, the passengers and crew were being transferred from the sinking Merida to the Admiral Farragut.

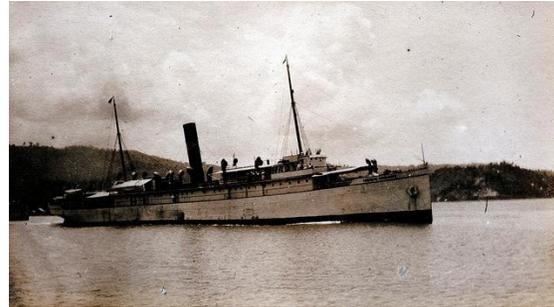
One passenger from the Merida was Perry E. Benton, an engineer. It was largely through his assistance that the Farragut's wireless was repaired and Operator Leach's first call for aid, at 5:30 o'clock, was made possible. From the Old Dominion liner Hamilton and the battleship Iowa, both fifty-five miles away, came quick responses.

“We will reach you by 8 o’clock,” read the Hamilton’s message. Then the Iowa and the Hamilton raced to save lives. The Hamilton won. Just a few minutes after 8 o’clock the Hamilton sighted the Admiral Farragut and in half an hour had life boats out. Within two hours the passengers were shifted from the Farragut to the Hamilton.

The Merida’s lights were extinguished ten minutes after the collision. Passengers were thrown from their beds in staterooms and bunks below. The officers quieted the women passengers, three or four of whom, having infants in their arms, rushed on deck in their night dresses. Twoscore Mexican refugees were among the Merida’s passengers, bound for the United States and Europe.

One woman said she lost \$1,000 in gold deposited with the Merida’s purser and half a carload of tropical birds which she was importing. The Secretary to the Italian Legation in Mexico lost eight trunks, and there were many other losses.

Some of the passengers left scantily attired. A Peon, the Mexican planter, whose wife was injured, escaped only in



SS Admiral Farragut

bathrobe. He said he was with his wife, five children, and two maids on his way to visit five other children by a former marriage. His wife was so badly hurt that she had to be lowered from the Merida in a chair and again from the Admiral Farragut to the steamer Hamilton in like manner. As she was being borne to a local hotel for medical examination, Mr. Peon said: “She is a very strong woman and will get over it, I know.”



As one lifeboat was being lowered from the Merida with twenty-five persons in it a davit rope broke, and she descended at an angle of twenty-five degrees. A necessary plug to keep her from sinking had been forgotten and this had to be waited for. Women clung to the sides to prevent falling out as the boat swung at an angle. One boy fell out but was recued.

One woman with an infant fainted and dropped her child, which was picked up by a stewardess.

A.D. Guerre of Brooklyn and a Mr. Jones had to jump from the Merida to a life raft. The former was slightly injured. Both were on the life raft for several hours before being rescued.

The only death resulting from the accident was that of a cat, the mascot of the ship, which was over looked.

The Merida left Havana on last Tuesday, and was due in New York early this afternoon. The steamer started from Vera Cruz, where she took on most of her passengers and made a stop at Progreso before touching Havana. She carried a cargo of general merchandise. The vessel and her cargo were valued at \$1,000,000 which is covered by insurance. The collision occurred 168 miles north of Diamond Shoals. Captain A. Robertson in charge, stayed on the ship until fifteen minutes before she went to the bottom.