

**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

Greetings!

HamExpo is upon us this coming Saturday, October 4th. Assisting with VE testing and helping TARC with volunteers for operational support, is what I ask of our members. Those that do help are invited to a 'thank you' breakfast on the 11th of October.

Regarding my current activities and running for President in 2015... I am not withdrawing myself from the nominations for President in 2015, as was stated at the last club meeting. What should have been said at the September meeting, was that *-if-* I find that my current activities, i.e., being out of town on board or meeting nights, causes me to be unable to attend or miss multiple meetings, then I may withdraw. But for now, that is not the case and the information provided was mis-stated! If after the New Year, I find that activities will have me gone for a long period of time and I am not able to serve, then I will address that with our board of directors as well as the membership at that time.

Also, at the last club meeting, the question was raised as to why the purchase of a repeater by the club from me, has not been completed as was voted and passed on back in February. I don't want to be paid for the repeater until such time that it is up and on the air. I think this is a fair deal between the club and I.

There are lots of events going on during October... the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test is October 4th & 5th; the Texas interoperability and communications exercise will be held on October 10th and 11th; Scouting's Jamboree-on-the-Air will be from October 18th to the 19th; the ARRL School Club Round-Up runs from October 20th to the 24th and the CQ World-Wide DX Contest is October 25th and the 26th.

Lastly, October 30th will mark the 76th anniversary of the famous or *-infamous-* broadcast of 1938. Let us remember the words of Orson Welles, who closed out that radio broadcast by saying: *"That grinning, glowing globular invader of your living room is an inhabitant of the pumpkin patch, and if your doorbell rings and nobody's there, that was no Martian... it's Halloween."*

Hope to see you all at our next club meeting on Tuesday, October the 7th.

- 73 de Gerald, N5ZXJ



HamEXPO!



Sponsored by the Temple Amateur Radio Club -W5LM, *the Belton Hamfest* returns to the Bell County Exposition Center in Belton, **Saturday, Oct. 4th** from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Getting there is easy; from U.S. Highway 190 take the exit for Loop 121 and follow the signs to the Exposition Center. Plenty of free parking!

Talk-in frequency is 146.820(-) PL 123, and call for W5LM.

General admission for the public is \$5.00 at the door. Admission price includes one free raffle ticket for various door prizes raffled off during the event. Winners must be present to collect their winnings.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo>



Ham Expo Amateur Radio Test Session

In conjunction with the HamExpo, amateur radio tests will be given in the main building of the Expo center, sponsored by the Central Texas Amateur Radio Club. The testing will begin at 9:30 AM and end when all applicants have been tested, probably around 11:00 AM.

Since the test session is in conjunction with the very popular Ham Expo, we expect between 25 and 50 people taking the tests. This requires at least 10 Volunteer Examiners to properly staff the event. The VE's participating should be on site by 9:00. Both General and Extra VE's are needed since all test levels are being made available.

This is a 'Ham Community' effort and all area VE's are needed and most welcome to participate. If you will be able to participate, please send an email to Joe Dorn - W5VEX, at:

w5vex@arrl.net, or you can contact him by phone at (254) 939-5918 or at (254) 721-0829.

People taking the test do not need to register before hand, just show up at test time. A photo ID and one other form of ID is required. The test fee is \$15.00.



Vanity Callsign Fee Increase

A new fee of \$21.40 for applying for, or renewing a vanity callsign, went into effect on September 11th by the FCC.

And the FCC no longer accepts checks including cashier's checks, for the payment of regulatory fees. All payments must now be made online, or via wire transfer.

STRAYS

“No... No, stay where you are. Do not break the stillness of this moment. For this is a time of mystery. A time when imagination is free, and moves forward swiftly, silently. This is - The Haunting Hour!”



The Haunting Hour's theatrical introduction provided listeners a strong hint that they were in for some high melodrama. Both actors and actresses seemed a little *too* expressive with their emotions on this show. Many of the protagonists were women. Perhaps they were appealing to the female soap opera crowd, but with ghost and murder themes thrown in for good measure. The dramatic organ emphasized the already overly sincere acting. Yet, the stories were interesting and there's no denying a charm the series provides.

For your Halloween listening pleasure, tune-in to this radio series that frightened a generation of listeners from 1945 to 1946, by visiting:

http://matineeclassics.com/movies/1944/the_haunting_hour



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!

October NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule

October 2 nd : Net Control: K6WXA Back-Up: AD5SK	October 9 th : AD5SK N5JLL
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October 16 th : Net Control: N5JLL Back-Up: KE5ISN	October 23 rd : KE5ISN W5VEX
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October 30th:
Net Control: W5VEX
Back-Up: AD5SK



2014 Simulated Emergency Test

The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test is October 4th & 5th and is a nationwide exercise in emergency communications, administered by ARRL Emergency Coordinators and Net Managers. Both ARES and the National Traffic System (NTS) are involved. The SET weekend gives communicators the opportunity to focus on the emergency communications capability within their community while interacting with NTS nets.

The purpose of the test is to find out the strengths and weaknesses of ARES and NTS, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service and other groups in providing emergency communications, and help radio amateurs gain experience in communications with shared agencies in an emergency situation.

More information on this year's SET can be found in the September issue of *QST* on page 75. That article also lists another source of reading in the July issue of *QST* on page 78, or visit:

www.arrl.org/chapter-2-simulated-emergency-test-set



ARES State-Wide Interoperability Exercise

The fall interoperability and communications exercise will be held on October 10th and 11th, with most of the operations being conducted on Saturday the 11th.

Suggested frequencies are 7277.5, 7285, and 7290 KHz LSB and 5375 KHz USB during daylight operations and 3873, 3860, 3935, and 3845 KHz LSB during night-time operations.



Scouting's Annual Jamboree On-The-Air

The 57th Jamboree-on-the-Air will be active as **K3BSA** from October 18th to the 19th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM local time – extended evening hours are possible. For more info on this event visit: www.k3bsa.org/JOTA.htm



School Club Roundup

This event is for the exchange of QSO information with club stations that are part of an elementary, middle, or high school or college and runs from **October 20-24**. More information on this is at: <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>



CQ World-Wide DX Contest

Contest period runs from 0001Z, October 25th through 2400Z October 26th, on 10, 15, 20, 40, 80 & 160 meters SSB. For further information, please visit: <http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>



Dingbat Alert!

An Austin man is facing charges after police say he tossed a drone and a ham radio over the fence because he was tired of his neighbor “getting in his head.”



Steven Anthony Garza

Steven Anthony Garza faces an assault charge in connection with the incident. According to the arrest affidavit filed by Austin Police, Garza stormed into the yard of Matthew Hammons-KE5WRU, while Hammons was using his amateur radio equipment to talk with his father. Hammons told police Garza charged him while making gestures indicating he was looking to fight. Hammons then told officers Garza first broke his radio's antenna off and then head-butted him. Hammons then went inside.

While inside his home, Hammons told police he watched as Garza threw his Yaesu 857D radio and a personal DJI Phantom drone over the fence causing \$4,000 in damage.

Garza told the officers Hammons was using the equipment to spy on him and was using “triangulation” to speak to him in his head.

Garza was arrested and booked into the Travis County Jail on charges of assault causing bodily injury and criminal mischief. – KXAN News, Austin



Special Event on 630 Meters

Fritz Raab, W1FR

Once, the maritime mobile bands were populated edge to edge with powerful coastal stations operating from virtually every country on every continent. Once, the ships of world trade and the great passenger liners filled the air with their radiograms--and with their calls for help when in peril on the sea. Now those bands are largely silent.

Experimental operators on 600/630 meters will conduct a special CW event operation October 31st through November 2nd to mark the 106th anniversary of the Berlin Treaty that created the international distress frequency at 500 kHz, and to remember the men and women who came before us and made the profession of radiotelegrapher one of honor and skill.

Some stations will operate beacons on the experimental band, transmitting anniversary messages, while others will simulate the sort of maritime communication that once occurred in this part of the medium-wave spectrum. They will call CQ on a designated calling frequency and then change frequency to complete the contact. Silent periods – once required by regulation, but now only demanded by tradition – will be observed from the top of the hour, to eighteen minutes after.

The activity will occur between 465 and 480 kHz and between 495 and 510 kHz. For different licensees with different frequency authorizations, the designated calling frequencies are 475 kHz for the lower band, and 500 kHz for the upper band. This may be the last such event that includes operations on 500 kHz itself. This band is not being included on new experimental licenses, as it is supposedly reserved for a new maritime-data service that is to be forth coming.

CQ CQ CQ TO ALL SHIPS AND STATIONS:

WE EXTEND WARM GREETINGS TO ALL LISTENERS ASHORE AND AFLOAT. THE GREAT COAST STATIONS OF THE WORLD ONCE STOOD SHOULDER TO SHOULDER ACROSS THE RADIO BANDS, EACH WITH ITS OWN PERSONALITY. MANY THOUGHT IT WOULD NEVER END. BUT MORSE STILL LIVES ON AND THE FAITHFUL CARRY THE TRADITION FORWARD. JUST AS THEY WERE BY SO MANY RADIO OFFICERS ON ALL THE OCEANS OF THE WORLD. WE INVITE YOU TO ENJOY THIS EVENING WITH US AND RELIVE THOSE DAYS WHEN MORSE RULED THE OCEANS.

WE WISH YOU FAIR WINDS, FOLLOWING SEAS AND GOOD LISTENING.



Ham Op 3rd Most Popular Costume this Halloween Season

Nathan Shinn, K5KAC

Middletown, Conn. — According to Venture Costumes, a Halloween costume retailer, Sexy Nurses and Teen Zombies had better watch out. “If you follow our market data, there is a significant, wide-spread interest in dressing up like a Ham Radio Operator for Halloween, and we want to meet that demand,” said CEO Matt Larr.

The company has rolled out its much researched “Ham Kit” in time for trick-or-treating and wild office parties. “I spent a lot of time with a scanner listening to local repeaters. I even snuck into a few club meetings to really get into the belly of the beast. I was horrified and bewildered,” noted Evie Christian, lead costume designer for Venture. “In my opinion, I think I’ve come up with a great, terrifying product.”

Venture’s “Ham Kit” comes bundled with clothing, hair/beard dye, and accessories. The clothing portion includes a pair of off-orange Crocs, a pair of “broken-in” sweatpants, “LET’S FREQ!” novelty shirt, and a pair of rose-tinted glasses. Accessories include a Beofunger plastic HT with open squelch effect, blood glucose monitoring kit, LED callsign badge and embroidered callsign hat. A bonus “Ham Musk” spray which promises to “Bring Terror to the Senses!” is available for \$5.99.

At press time, there were talks of a possible “Sexy Ham” novelty costume for women; however Venture’s creative team was having issues bridging the gap between the two concepts.



Lemon Cheese Bars

Jan Gregg, W5GNK

I brought these to a club meeting and they went so fast, not even a crumb was left over and I have been asked many times to bring them again.

1 package yellow cake mix
1/3 cup butter, softened
2 eggs
1 package lemon pie filling
1 package (8oz) cream cheese (softened)
1/3 cup sugar
Juice and zest of 1 lemon (Meyers Lemons if available)

Preheat oven to 350°

Combine cake mix, butter, and 1 egg. Stir until crumbly. Reserve 1 cup of crumb mixture. Press remaining mixture into 13x9-inch baking pan. Bake 15 minutes or until golden brown. Cool in pan on wire rack for 15 minutes.

Beat cream cheese, sugar, egg and lemon juice and zest in medium bowl until smooth and spread over crust. Sprinkle with remaining crumb mixture. Bake 15 minutes or until just set.

Cool completely in pan on wire rack, then cut into bars. Makes about 2 dozen bars.



How's DX?

LZ1GC will be active from Nauru, through the 15th of October as **C21GC**. QSL via his home call.

ZL3PAH, ZL4PW, ZL3GA & G3USR will be active from Vanuatu, 3 - 15 October as **YJØX**. QSL via ZL3PAH.

JA1NLX will be active from Mana Island, 3-9 October as **3D2YA**. QSL via his home call.

K7CO and K7CXN will be active from **East Timor** (Timor Leste) 19-31 October as **4W/K7CO**. QSL via K7CO.

N7SMI and KZ1W will be active from Nuku Hiva in the Marquesas Islands, October 18-26 as **TX7G**. QSL via N7SMI.

SP2EBG, SP2GKS, SP3CYY, SP3GEM, SP6EQZ, SP6FXY, SP6IXF and SP9FOW will be active from Christmas Island 18-31 October as **VK9XSP**. QSL via SP6EQZ.

N7QT will be active from Raivavae Island in the Austral Islands 3 - 13 October as **TX5D**. QSL via home call, LoTW or eQSL.

An international team will be active from Nosy Be Island, Madagascar, 20 October - 4 November as **5R8M**. QSL via **IK2VUC**.

DF1YP will be active from Windward Islands, French Polynesia through the 8th of October as **FO/DF1YP**. QSL via his home call.

DJ4EL will be operational **stroke 5Z4** from Lamu Island, Kenya, between October 4th to the 19th. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL via his home call.

TA1HZ will be operating from Palau as **T88HZ** between October 24th to the 30th QSL to his home call.

LW9EOC will be active **stroke HK1** from Columbia between October 22nd and the 29th. QSL via his home call.

DL2SBY will be active as **S79KB** from two islands in the Seychelles between October 4th and the 18th. QSL via his home call.

M5RI and G8DX will be operational as **GJ8DX** from Jersey between October 29th and November 4th. QSL via G8DX.

AC8G will be operational as **J37K** from Saint Georges between October 24th to the 26th. QSL via his home call.

G3ZEM will be operating **stroke 4W** from Timor Leste between October 8th and the 20th. QSL via **MØURX**.

IZ1MHY will be operational as **5H1MD** from Zanzibar Island through October 10th. QSL via his home call.

PY2WAS will be operating as **C6AAS** from the Bahamas, October 4th to the 8th. QSL via his home call.

VK3GK will be active from the Island of Eua, Tonga 3-14 October as **A35RT**. QSL via his home call.

N7OU will be active from Rarotonga Island in the South Cook Islands, 13 October - 9 November as **E51NOU**. QSL via his home call.

OK6DJ, **OK1FCJ**, and **OK1FPS** will be active from Sint Eustatius Island through the 3rd of October, each signing **stroke PJ5**. QSL via **OK6DJ**.

DK5VP and **DL8LR** will be active from Easter Island 11-18 October, each signing **stroke CEØY**. QSL via their respective home call signs.



"BOO" de KB2FCV

The Broadcast of 1938

In 1938 the radio industry was so large and significant in the United States that it set trends throughout all facets of the entertainment industry. More than 91% of urban homes and nearly 70% of rural homes owned a radio. In 1938 Nazi Germany had invaded and seized Austria, then later annexed a third of Czechoslovakia. Japan had declared war on China and with the world on the brink of World War II, audiences were already on razor's edge...

On July 11th, 1938, a new program began airing over CBS – *The Mercury Theater on the Air* – and it was something special. Unlike many anthology series before and since, the stories were chosen because of their suitability to the radio medium. Also, the innovative use of sound-effects and music combined with the gripping performances by Orson Welles, made *The Mercury Theatre* one of the most compelling programs on the air. The stories presented were also out of the ordinary.

Still, it was not drawing a large share of the radio audience. Many more Americans were listening to Edgar Bergen on the *Chase and Sanborn Hour*, the most popular radio series at the time. However, when Bergen's opening comedy routine ended ten minutes into the show and gave way to a musical interlude, many people may have started turning the radio dial to see what else was on.

Radio, with its power to excite the imagination and actually involve the audience in the creative process, had huge potential as a medium for serious drama. It seemed inevitable that the day would come when this medium, which had made Orson Welles a household name across the country, would become a part of his serious theater ambitions.

That day came on Sunday, October 30th, 1938...



1938 RCA Model 811K Console



22 year-old Orson Welles at the mic in 1938

It was the end of the evening, at 8:00 PM, from the 20th floor of the Columbia Broadcasting Building at 485 Madison Avenue in New York City, Welles, actor and director, mounted his studio podium. The ON THE AIR sign flashed, and he began the total destruction of the Northeast region by Martian invaders.

Listeners who had tuned-in late had missed the disclaimer that the program was a theatrical presentation of H.G. Wells "*War of the Worlds*" and believed they were actually listening to breaking news radio bulletins. The program's format was a simulated live newscast of developing events used to increase the dramatic effect.

Many listeners were apparently confused as they were accustomed to accepting news flashes as reliable. Then a “news bulletin” reported that a huge flaming object had struck on the Wilson farm near Grovers Mill, New Jersey – the site was chosen by chance by a script writer who had thrown a dart at a map of the state of New Jersey.

The news grows more frequent and increasingly ominous as regular programming breaks down and the studio struggles with casualty updates, fire-fighting developments and the like. The New Jersey state militia declares martial law and attacks; a message from their field headquarters lectures about the overwhelming force of properly equipped infantry and the helplessness of the Martians in Earth’s gravity until the Martians obliterate the militia, and the studio returns, now describing the Martians as an invading army.



Aerial view of the Wilson Farm near Grover's Mill, NJ where the Martians never landed.

Emergency response bulletins give way to damage reports and evacuation instructions as millions of refugees clog the roads. Three Martian tripods destroy power stations and uproot bridges and railroads, reinforced by three others from a second cylinder as gas explosions continue. The lead plane of a wing of bombers broadcasts its approach and remains on the air as their engines are burned by a ‘Heat-Ray’ and the plane dives on the invaders. Radio operators go active and fall silent, most right after reporting the approach of black smoke/poison gas. Cylinders are falling all across the country. A news reporter, broadcasting from atop the CBS building, describes the Martian invasion of New York City – “five great machines” wading across the Hudson River, poison smoke drifting over the city, people running and diving into the East River “like rats”, others “falling like flies” – until he, too, succumbs to the poison gas.

The New York Times.

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NEW YORK, MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1938.

Radio Listeners in Panic, Taking War Drama as Fact

Many Flee Homes to Escape 'Gas Raid From Mars'—Phone Calls Swamp Police at Broadcast of Wells Fantasy

Thousands of duped listeners began to panic, first in NJ and then in Manhattan, running screaming into the streets. All across the United States, listeners reacted. Thousands of people called radio stations, police and newspapers. Many in the New England area loaded up their cars and fled their homes. In other areas, people went to churches to pray, improvised gas masks and loaded their guns.

Orson Welles knew how to use radio’s imaginative possibilities, and he was a master at blurring the lines between fiction and reality. The power of radio had fooled his listeners. After the play, Welles informally breaks character to remind listeners that the broadcast was a Halloween concoction, the equivalent, as he puts it, “...of dressing up in a sheet, jumping out of a bush and saying, ‘Boo!’”. The hoax worked, historians say, because the broadcast authentically simulated how radio worked in an emergency.

You can sit back and listen in again to the 59 minute broadcast, presented by the *Mercury Theatre on the Air* by going to: <http://sounds.mercurytheatre.info/mercury/381030.mp3>

Radio Triumphs Over Fire Peril at Sea

Wireless Call from “City of Honolulu” Brings Quick Assistance and Not a Life is Lost – Radio Operators Heroic

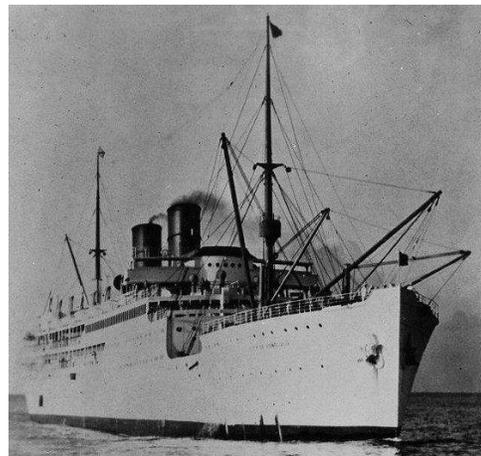
One of the greatest single achievements of wireless in its long period of gallant service at sea was the successful rescue of the passengers and crew of the burning *City of Honolulu* on October 12, 1922, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. The rescue was fraught with the dramatic and spectacular. Its story sent a thrill down the spine of millions of readers. A thrill of excitement, and also a warm gratitude that the modern marvel of wireless should so safeguard life at sea.

Two hundred and sixty-two men, women and children, the passengers and crew of the doomed steamer, reached land without a scratch, without even hardship. Thereby a new achievement of the wireless telegraph has been written down in marine history.

The wireless call, far-flung into the night by operators who remained at their posts until driven forth by a creeping circle of flame, brought timely assistance. To the heroic work of the operators, the prompt responses from other ships and the shore, and the efficient system of which all are a part, is attributed the fact that not a single life was lost by the disaster.

There was comparatively little wireless work to be done, and Third Operator N.C. Kumler was on the radio watch. The silence of the wireless room was broken by the sudden, quick jangle of the bridge telephone. Kumler glanced at the clock, it

was 5:41 a.m. – an unusual hour for a summons to come from the bridge. On the phone was Captain H.R. Lester, his voice cool, incisive, came down sharply: “Wake the other operators and report to the bridge immediately!”



The Liner 'City of Honolulu'



Captain H.R. Lester of the 'City of Honolulu'

As Kumler hung the telephone back into place, he became aware of something he had not noticed before – an odor of smoke, and of hot varnish. Kumler woke his fellow operators and then ran to the bridge. Outside in the gangways, the smoke was thick, and the smell of burning wood was plainly distinguishable.

At the bridge he found Captain Lester who then whirled on him, “Send out a general call to all ships to stand by for our position as we have a fire aboard!” he commanded.

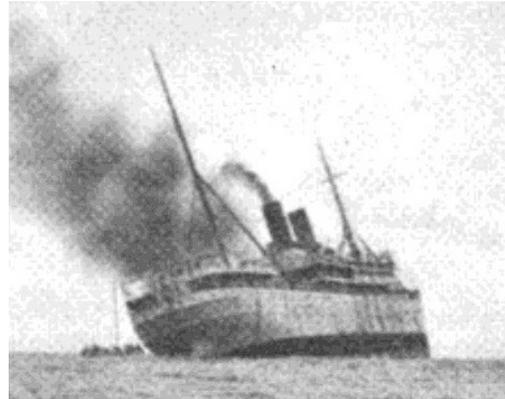
Kumler wheeled in his tracks and ran back to the radio room where he found Chief Operator W.P. Bell already waiting at the key and then repeated the Captain’s orders.

Under the control of Bell's nimble fingers, out dashed the powerful spark attention call that asks all to listen because the message to follow is everybody's concern...

"CQ CQ CQ DE KUSD FIRE ABOARD SHIP PLEASE QRX FOR POSITION"

From the bronze strands stretched taut between the vessel's masts the whisper of imminent danger and tragedy went hurtling through the early dawn. It flicked the aerial of the steamer *Enterprise*, many miles away. It drummed in the ear caps of an operator's headpiece aboard the Army Transport *Thomas* and at coastal station KPH it set the receiver pulsating, causing the operator on duty to suddenly straighten up in his chair.

In the space of a few seconds, five thousand miles of busy waterway became as silent as a tomb while a score of operators waited for the *City of Honolulu's* position. Within two minutes Chief Operator Bell transmitted their position: "LAT 31.07 NORTH LONG 131.40 WEST AT 5:40 AM" it read. The other ships and KPH acknowledged. Now there was nothing to do but wait; wait as the crew fought to quench the fire – a fire that had already beaten them before they had discovered it.



The steamer 'City of Honolulu' afire

At 8 o'clock with the fire rapidly gaining headway, the utter hopelessness of the fight became evident. It was determined to abandon ship. Chief Operator Bell sent across the Pacific the little three-letter call that freezes the marrow of the radio operator quicker than the icy touch of a northern blizzard: "SOS SOS SOS DE KUSD COME TO OUR AID AT ONCE."



The radio operators of the 'City of Honolulu' from left to right: Chief Operator W.P. Bell, 2nd Operator H.D. Hancock and 3rd Operator N.C. Kumler

The call was answered by three ships: the Army Transport *Thomas*, the steamer *West Faralon* and the steamer *Enterprise* – all raced to her location. With aid now assured the ship's officers gave their attention to the work of launching the lifeboats and getting the passengers safely into them. There was perfect discipline and not a mishap occurred.

Aboard the *'City of Honolulu'* the final chapter was being written.

Captain Lester and the ship's officers stayed until it was not humanly possible to remain. Alone in the radio room, Bell sent the waiting world another message, "ALL LEFT BUT CAPTAIN, CHIEF OFFICER, CHIEF ENGINEER AND MYSELF." Minutes later came the last message from Bell aboard the doomed vessel, "LEAVING SHIP NOW GB GOOD-BYE."

That was all. The last boat swung outward and down, and the roaring pyre that had once been a proud liner was left to meet her doom alone. The passengers and crew were all rescued and five days later, the *'City of Honolulu'* was sunk by the Coast Guard.

Today, the *City of Honolulu's* call letters – **KUSD** – can still be heard, now issued to the University of South Dakota's National Public Radio station on 89.7 FM.