



THE Wavelength

NEWSLETTER

July

2016

**The Central Texas Amateur Radio Club
meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the
Bell County Communications Center, 708 West Avenue O, in Belton**

Terry's Telegram...

Terry Evans, KF5OHR

Right off the top, I want to extend a warm welcome to John Whitman. Just hours before our last club meeting on June 7th, John took and passed both the Technician Class exam, and the General Class exam and then joined the club that evening. He can now be heard on-the-air as KG5OCO.

Well, I am just sitting in the car trying to keep it cool while the wife is shopping at HEB. It's about 96 outside right now and only mid June, in fact as I write, it's Father's Day. Spent most of the morning calling my family all over the country wishing everyone a happy Father's Day as I'm sure most of you have been doing, or maybe you've been going out to eat with the family.

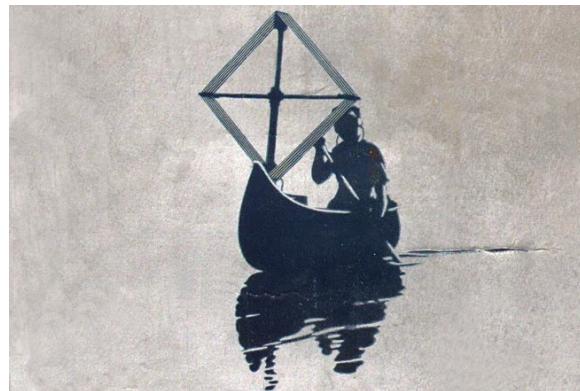
A couple of things in particular coming up this month; the first is the Belton 4th of July parade. Our own Joe Mayer-K4JMS, is coordinating the communications support for this event and he could use all the assistance he can get. More on this follows further on. Secondly, we've been talking about having a luncheon get-together and we've settled on having it Saturday, July 16th, at "Old Chicago" located at 2901 East Central Texas Expressway, in Killeen. This is a pizza place and Rick tells me that he and the Jeep club he's in, had a luncheon there not long ago and it was a great place. So let's all try to get together there say, around Noon and enjoy each others company with some good food.

A little too warm to be riding on motorcycles right now; might be ok in a Jeep, but might also be a good time to be at the lakes or at the beach. Or just put a hook in the water without a worm and a cold beer in hand. And turn your radio up, because there's things on the air you shouldn't miss.

Something to start thinking about - at our meeting in August, we have to select a nominations committee to select candidates for next year's club officers. Think about if you'd like to serve as a club officer, or on the nominations committee.

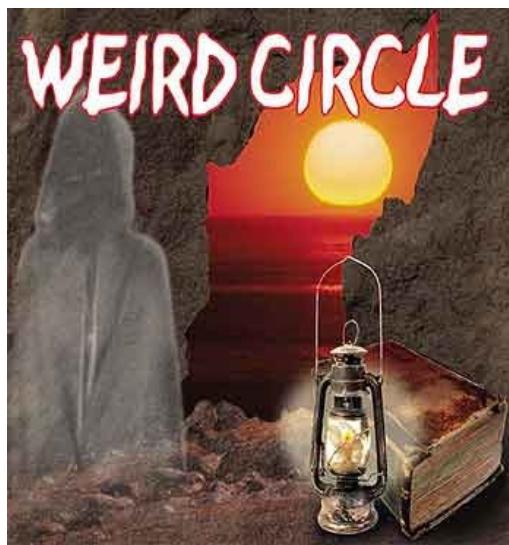
Our next club meeting is Tuesday, July 5th at 7:00 PM, at the Bell County Communications Center and I hope you all get a chance to attend.

73, Terry - KF5OHR





"In this cave by the restless sea, we are met to call from out of past, stories strange and weird. Bell keeper, toll the bell, so that all may know that we are gathered again in the Weird Circle!"



The Weird Circle took to the air July 8th, 1943 where it would live by telling stories of the dead and un-dead until 1945, airing 78 episodes over NBC, ABC as well as the Mutual network.

The Weird Circle had a particular niche, the adaptation of horror stories or other chilling tales of the paranormal or supernatural. The stories get started right away, without mention of sponsorship or any superfluous buildup. The actors just get into it. What sets *The Weird Circle* apart from other programs airing horror and ghost stories, or similar sci-fi fare, is that it focused so heavily on the works of classic, highly-revered authors. Ghost stories were not just the province of the modern-day, even if many young radio writers were interested in them.

You can toll the bell and join *The Weird Circle* in all 78 of its episodes at: https://archive.org/details/OTRR_Weird_Circle_Singles



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!

July NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule

July 7th:	July 14th:
Net Control: KE5ISN	KG6FUJ
Back-Up: KG6FUJ	KD5FJF
July 21st:	July 28th:
Net Control: KD5FJF	N5JLL
Back-Up: N5JLL	W5VEX



New Amateur Extra Class (Element 4) Question Pool

Maria Somma, AB1FM
ARRL VEC Manager

The new Amateur Extra Class (Element 4) question pool goes into effect July 1st and will be valid through June 30, 2020. The new Extra Class question pool as well as the current Technician and General Class question pools, can be down-loaded at:

<http://www.arrl.org/question-pools>

The current Technician Class question pool is valid until June 30, 2018, and the current General Class question pool remains valid until June 30, 2019.

There is no change to the \$15.00 examination fee.



FCC Says "No" to Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses

The FCC has denied the petition for a lifetime Amateur Radio license, filed in a *Petition for Rule Making* (RM 11760) to revise § 97.25 of its rules, to have Amateur Radio licenses granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10-year term. The FCC was not swayed by those favoring the idea.



The Belton 4th of July Parade will be held on Monday, July 4th and is a joint public service event of CTARC and the Temple Amateur Radio Club.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the line-up of 300+ entries and to direct them on to the parade route. The initial meeting place will be at the UMHB Bus Barn on Industrial Park Road in Belton at 6:00 AM.

Communications will be through the W5AMK repeater in Belton, which is on 147.300(+) PL 123. Be sure to bring an HT and a yellow traffic type vest. The parade will start at 10:00 AM and should end about noon.

If you'd like to assist with this event, please contact Joe Mayer - K4JMS, at: jwm111@msn.com

For more info on the event itself, visit: www.rodeobelton.com



CQ World-Wide VHF Contest

Contest period runs from 1800 UTC, July 16th to 2100 UTC, July 17th on 6 and 2 meters. For more information visit: <http://www.cqww-vhf.com>



Islands On-the-Air Contest

Sponsored by the Radio Society of Great Britain, contest period runs from 1200 UTC July 25th, to 1200 UTC July 26th on 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters.

For more information on this, visit: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/riota.shtml>

Radio Net for Rogues

Radio Broadcast - July, 1922

Radio is to be used not only for the detection of criminals but for the prevention of crime. In ways not heretofore revealed, its new aim is to serve the entire American public in its unprecedented battle against lawlessness.



The motorcycle, equipped with the Thompson submachine gun and a radio outfit, is the most modern of all police equipment and is rapidly being adopted by cities all over the country.



The Signal Corps nets being developed will cover every inch of American soil, by means of the portable transmitting and receiving set. Radio reservists will be able to communicate with each other and with headquarters while en route. The future of crooks looks discouraging!

Who's Who in AMATEUR WIRELESS



On page 4 of the May issue of the *Wavelength*, we mentioned eight year old Mary Steelman-KG5EXJ, who in 2014 at the age of 6, obtained her Technician Class license. Then at the HamExpo VE session this past April 16th, she took and passed her General Class examination.



Afterwards, Mary had said that she would soon go after her Extra Class license just so she could raise her hand and say, *"I got mine."* Well... this past June 4th at a VE session in Austin, she did just that. Congratulations Mary!



Coryell County ARES Net

The Coryell County ARES group now holds a weekly net each Thursday evening at 7:30 PM over the W5AMK repeater in Gatesville on 146.960(-) PL 123.0.

Membership in ARES is not required to participate in the nets, so drop in and just say "Hi" and get in the log. Current thinking is if the nets get too busy, we'll shift the time back a half hour to 7:00 PM. Hope to see you there!



The following items are for sale from the estate of the late Peter Theer-K5PRT

1 Complete Heathkit Station (Not Working)	\$????
1 Icom IC-736 HF Radio	\$500
1 Icom IC-761 HF Radio	\$550
2 Icom IC-551D 6 Meter	\$250 & \$500
1 IC-551D 6 MT. (For Parts)	\$40
1 Icom IC-738 HF Radio	\$600
2 Icom IC-751A	\$500 - \$1000
1 Icom IC-745 HF Radio	\$385
1 Icom IC-221 2 Meter	\$225
1 Icom IC-701 HF Radio	\$550
1 Icom IC-730 HF Radio	\$725
1 Icom IC-765 HF Radio	\$700
1 Icom IC-735 HF Radio	\$385
1 Icom IC-575 28/50Mhz	\$350
1 Realistic DX-180 Receiver	\$150
2 Icom IC-SM-20 Mic's	\$100 - \$200
2 Icom IC-SM-2 Mic's	\$100 - \$200
1 Icom IC-SM-5 Mic	\$100
1 MFJ-Graphic Equalizer Mic	\$75
50+ Bugs / Keys	\$20-\$350
Miscellaneous Ham Antenna's New & Used	\$35.00 - 125.00

Persons interested in any of these items should contact Harold Bates - KB5SXV at: kb5sxv@yahoo.com or by cell phone at: (512) 564-0788. Proceeds from all sales will go to paying off debts of the estate.

Amateur Radio calls each one of us to learn, to experiment, to discover, and to apply our skills in service to others. - Kay Craigie, N3KN



Night of Nights XVII

Once, the maritime mobile bands were populated edge to edge with powerful coast stations - such as KPH, KSM and KFS at Point Reyes, California. 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 danger on the sea.

Then came July 12th, 1999... a sad day for many of us. We knew it was coming, but when the end finally arrived it was a shock. Women attending the event were dressed as if at a funeral. Grizzled, hard bitten old men, the kind you wouldn't mess with in a bar room, had tears in their eyes as the last message was keyed out to the world at 0000 GMT. And then there was silence. It was the supposed last day of Morse code. On that day the Maritime Radio Historical Society was born.



Historic Coastal Station KPH, Point Reyes, California

Every year since then the MHRSS has commemorated that date by returning these stations to the air and thereby, it is hoped, to bring honor to the men and women who came before us and made the profession of radiotelegrapher one of honor and skill.



The operating position at K6KPH

The Maritime Radio Historical Society also brings station K6KPH on the air on several frequencies to receive signal reports from amateur stations. Even though K6KPH is an amateur station, it is operated as close as possible to a commercial coast station, using fixed frequency transmitters and commercial procedures. The operators at K6KPH are veteran Morse operators, including former KPH staff members, with years of experience "sitting the circuit."

This year's commemorative event will be held July 12th from 7:01 PM CST with transmissions expecting to continue until at least 2:00 AM CST. The following frequencies used are part of the normal scan that includes the commercial ship calling frequencies: 3550.0, 7050.0, 14050.0, 18097.5 and 21050.0 KHz. All transmissions are in CW.

More information regarding this event and the Maritime Radio Historical Society can be found by visiting their website at: <http://www.radiomarine.org/>



7Y9TH will be active from the Ras Afia Lighthouse, 14 - 18 July. QSL via SM4VPZ.

W6NN and KE1B will be active from Bequia Island, 4 - 10 July each signing **stroke J8**. Then they will be active from Barbados 11 - 16 July as **8P6NN** and **8P6MM**. QSL via KE1B.

A group will be active from Mahe Island, Seychelles 1 - 10 July as **S79V**. QSL via IZ8CLM.

IW2NEF will be active from Fuerteventura Island, 11 - 25 July signing **stroke EA8**. QSL via IK2DUW.

A group of Russians will be active from Reyneke Island 30 - 31 July as **UIØL**. QSL via RWØMM.

TG9IIN will be active from Nicaragua until the Middle of July signing **stroke YN3**. QSL via his home call.

WB4WXE will be active from Dominica Island through 11 July as **J79XE**. QSL via his home call.

W5JON will be active from St. Kitts & Nevis until July 15 as **V47JA**. QSL via his home call.

MØRCX will be active until July 14th from Mauritius signing **stroke 3B8**. QSL via EB7DX.

VE3IKV will be active from the Bahamas until July 8 as **C6AUX**. QSL via his home call.

9H3G will be active from Malta until July 4th. QSL via JH3FUK.

A group of Spaniards will be active from Mouro Island, 29 - 31 July as **ED1M**. QSL via EA1DR.

ZS6AYE will be active from Swaziland 18 - 25 July as **3DAØAY**. QSL via his home call.

GMØLVI is active until July 6th from Zakynthos Island signing **stroke SV8**. QSL via his home call.

GØFWX is active on Saint Kitts Island until 6 July signing **stroke V4**. QSL via MØURX.

Radio Amateurs from Brazil will be active from Canarias Island, Caju Archipelago, 29 - 31 July as **ZY8D**. QSL direct.

F6ACH will be active from Uummannaq Island, Greenland 21 - 27 July signing **stroke OX**. QSL via his home call.

A group will be active from Santa Maria Island, Chile, 30 - 31 July as **XR1T**. QSL via CE3OP.

TM16ØNT will be active July 9th - August 21st from France, in observance of Nikola Tesla's 160th birthday. QSL via F8URC.

A group of Canadian operators will be active from Isle aux Coudres, Quebec, 28 - 30 July as **XL2I**. QSL via VE2CQ.

3W3B will be active from Laos until 12 July as **XW4XR**. QSL via E21EIC.

A group of Russian operators will be active from Gusmp Island 29 July - 2 August as **R7ØASIA**. QSL via R7AA.

NN3RP is active in Nicaragua through the 22nd of July as **YN2RP**. QSL via his home call.

UA9YPS, RA9YTX and RA9YGC will be active from Mongolia 19 - 24 July as **JTØYPS**, **JTØYTX** and **JTØYGC**. QSL via RA9YTX.

J77HQ, **J75KG**, **J79WI** and **J79IX** will be active from Dominica Island, 2 - 12 July. QSL via K5KG.

Strays

Several usually highly reliable sources are reporting that the Belize Amateur Radio Club - **V3V** - no longer exists. This information is false - the BARC is alive and well and meets every Sunday on 7177 KHz LSB at 15:00 UTC. Their website can be found at: <http://barc.bz/>



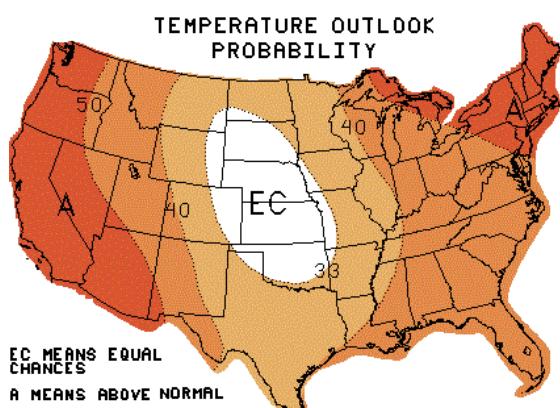
Summer Forecast Outlook

Texas has experienced an abundance of weather extremes over the past year. El Niño drove many of the weather extremes, but there were other factors that resulted in highly unusual weather patterns with limited historical comparison. We are now transitioning away from El Niño's influence which results in the summer of 2016 being a much more challenging forecast than typical.

The El Niño went through a period of rapid weakening in the spring season and it will likely trend to a La Niña before the summer is complete. While this El Niño was one of the strongest on record, it is not expected that the development of a La Niña will be anywhere near similar intensity. While you may hear from multiple sources that a La Niña is likely later in 2016, it's not likely to be a strong La Niña. That means its impacts will be limited.

Texas has recorded a warmer-than-normal season each of the past four seasons, and trends are hard to break, though all things eventually do end.

Temperature Forecast... Most of the continental United States is facing elevated chances of well above average summer temperatures, according to the latest outlook from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. For the seasonal forecasts, "well above average" means temperatures in the warmest third of all summers in the current climatological record from 1981 to 2010.



Fire Weather Outlook... Significant moisture that spread across the Central U.S. is expected to produce below normal significant fire potential, especially coupled with green-up occurring throughout this area. Precipitation from several spring storms left most of the interior with much above normal conditions, as much as 400 percent of normal across the northern Rockies, the northern Plains and south to the Texas Coast.



Darker colors mean greater chances of a hot summer, not how much hotter it's projected to be. So, for this summer the full suite of probabilities is 50-60% chance of well above normal temperatures, 33.3% chance of near-normal temperatures, and 6.7-16.7% chance of well below normal temperatures.

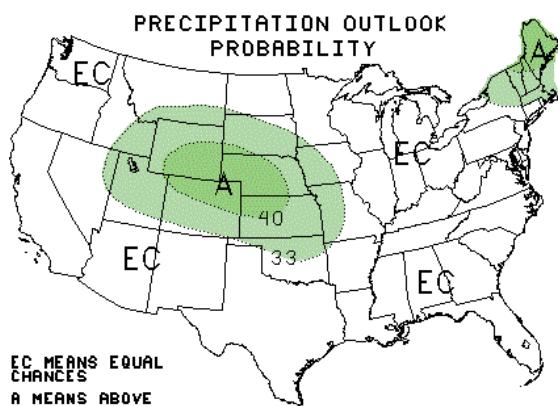
Although there is potential for a hotter than normal summer, it likely shouldn't deviate much from a normal summer, based on a 10 or 15-year normal.

Generally speaking the remainder of the U.S. is normal to below normal fuel conditions which indicates normal increases in fire activity should be expected throughout the fire season in these areas throughout the summer fire season. However, there is at least some anticipation of a drier and hotter mid to late summer timeframe into next fall which could present some challenges.



The expected precipitation coupled with increasing green-up will serve to increase both live and dead fuel moistures mitigating some of fire potential. Though it is important to note, that normal fire activity still represents a number of significant fires occurring and acres burned.

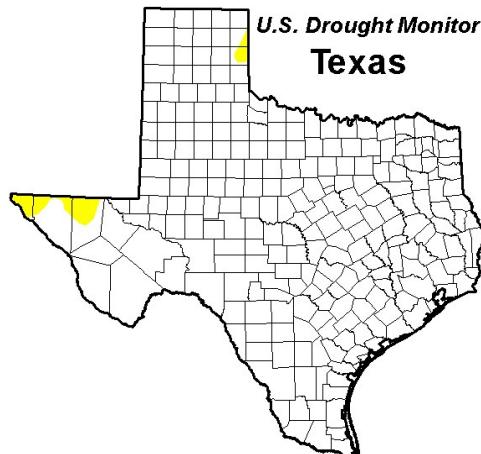
Precipitation Outlook... A fading El Niño will still allow some moderate to locally heavy rain activity to develop across the Southern Area early in the period, primarily west of the Mississippi River Valley. While rain fall activity is expected over the summer, it will likely be more isolated to scattered which will result in a mosaic of rainfall.



Expect some significant lessening of the wet springtime pattern heading into summer. Though not likely to the extremes of 2015 (very wet spring to a very wet summer). There's more dry potential than wet projected for this summer, though the hurricane season could alter that pattern.

Overall, this will likely be a wetter summer than last year (with some drier exceptions West). The summer of 2015 ranked as the 27th driest in the past 121 summers and the 2nd driest of the past 15 years. So not likely any drier than that. But like the temperatures, we can't completely rule out a drier scenario.

Drought Outlook... Persistent rain in Texas has eliminated most drought categories. As of early June, less than 2% of Texas is abnormally dry (but no drought) with the dry regions being limited to the Panhandle and far West Texas. State-wide, area lakes and reservoirs are on average, at 88.3% capacity. That's a good starting point heading into the summer season. Very limited or no significant hydrological drought concerns are expected developing over the next several months. The only concerns that may arise, are those areas previously mentioned as abnormally dry.



The "Foxhole Radio"

The name "foxhole radio", and perhaps the concept, seems to have originated from the construction of simple crystal sets by soldiers during World War 2 after landing at Anzio, Italy in 1944. From March through early May, 1944, fighting was light, "living was leisurely" for the thousands of soldiers on the beachhead, which was a honeycomb of wet and muddy trenches, foxholes, and dugouts.

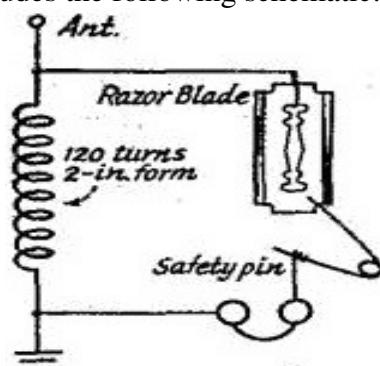
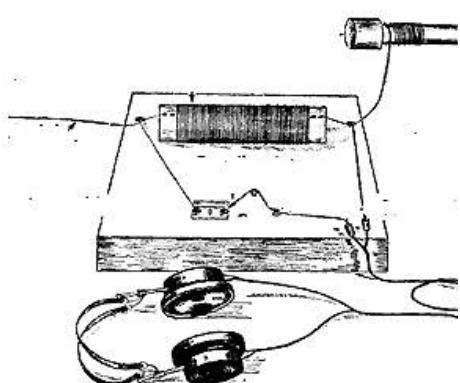
The first references to the "foxhole radio" appeared in July, 1944 with that month's issue of *QST*. The mention of it appeared in a "Stray" which reported, several of the radio men at Anzio rigged up a field version of a "crystal" set using a razor blade for a detector. Their efforts were rewarded by the reception of a "jive" program along with some German propaganda aimed at the American forces from an Axis station in Rome.

About that same time, *Time Magazine* for July 17, 1944 reported, that Lieutenant M.L. Rupert, was one of "hundreds of U.S. infantrymen" who made the foxhole receiver to kill time and boredom at Anzio. Lt. Rupert wrote to Marlin Firearms Company (the manufacturer of the razor blades) with a description of the set.

There were two follow-ups in *QST*. The August issue contained the following Stray: "Further details on the foxhole radio sets now have been received from a correspondent in Italy. The razor blade and safety-pin detector is described as follows: a station was found by moving the point of the safety pin, anchored at the other end, over the opposite end of the blade from where it is connected to the coil and antenna. The 'phones are inserted between the pin and the grounded side of the coil." He adds that "reception was very good."

Finally, a letter appears in the October issue of *QST* from Justin Garton, who reported that the boys on the Anzio beachhead were able to receive Rome during the day and Nazi propaganda programs from Berlin at night. Garton also includes the following schematic:

The 1950's era book *All About Radio and Television* by Jack Gould, a staple of many elementary school libraries, includes the crystal set shown here, which was constructed using a razor blade and pencil lead as the detector. Gould recounts how such a radio was used by soldiers in the foxholes of World War 2, and it is suspected that it was the appearance in Gould's book that popularized the name.





Enter Madame 'Jean Sargent'

John Shepard III was a controversial figure in Boston radio from the 1920s through the 1940s; some people found him ruthless and abrasive. He was president of the Shepard Stores and owner of station WNAC, which signed-on the air July 31st, 1922. He was also one of those men who believed women had their place in life - and they should stay there.

In radio's early days, titles often meant something very different from what they mean today. A station secretary, while usually a "woman's job" with a comparatively low salary and not much prestige, was often pressed into service on the air, especially if she could sing or had some expertise in domestic arts such as cooking or sewing.

Bertha Mitchell was hired to be executive secretary to John Shepard III, and ended up doing a successful daily show for homemakers. She was assigned the "house name" of 'Jean Sargent' while doing her programs.

Bertha worked for men whose attitude about women's proper role was very traditional and not supportive of her goals. As long as she remained in the role considered normal for a woman, she was encouraged, but when she asked to do shows considered men's jobs, she was not even considered for a try-out.

Frustrated by the fact that her boss refused to give her more opportunity to move beyond a 'women's show' she left WNAC, moved to the mid-west, and took a radio job with more opportunities at station WHT, in Chicago. There she was recognized as one of the few women's show hosts who had prior experience in broadcasting as well as a background in business and advertising, and she was put in charge of the station's women's programs.

Back at WNAC, her persona as "Jean Sargent" had become so well-known that when she left there, the name remained. A succession of women who filled the secretarial role also served as "Jean Sargent" on WNAC.

Thus, while it is true that many women in early broadcasting were listed as 'secretary' or 'studio hostess', a closer look at what they actually did proves their role was far more extensive than just typing letters or answering the phone. Many were doing work we associate with managers - they often produced their own shows, hired the talent, brought in the guests, and even surveyed the audience to find out what topics interested them. Their duties changed constantly, and sometimes they even got on the air themselves. Early stations could not have functioned effectively without versatile women such as her.



Bertha Mitchell a.k.a. Jean Sargent