



Dots & Dashes

What

Hath

God

Wrought

The Official Publication of the Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.

Vol. 37, Issue No. 3 • Summer 2011

A TELEGRAPH LEGACY

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MORSE
TELEGRAPH CLUB
"KN" CHAPTER

This article was written for Dots & Dashes by Bill Ryan of the KN Chapter in Saskatoon.



The KN Chapter decided to present a video production to help ensure that our telegrapher's legacy would be carried on throughout generations to come. Our membership has been declining through age, sickness and silent keys. The telegraphers participating in this production were Dennis Ogresko, Victor Pankoski, Len Solomon and I, Bill Ryan, who wrote and produced this video.

In this video, we all explained how we learned the art of telegraphy, and then we proceeded to recount the scientific inventors who are responsible for founding the electric telegraph. We listed Michael Faraday, Professor Charles Wheatstone, and the inventor of the electro-magnet, William Sturgeon.

American Joseph Henry in 1830's used the electro-magnet to send an electric current 2 kilometers, causing a bell to strike. This was the ultimate test in proving that sending an electric signal to a distant device was possible.

We discussed the partnership of Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail and Professor Leonard Gale, together creating the foundation of telegraph devices and transmitting signals to the successful sending and receiving the message, "What Hath God Wrought," on May 24, 1844 for the U.S. Congress.

Telegrapher Len Solomon then described how the Pony Express, stagecoach, and railways preceded telegraph communications, but took weeks, even months for mail to reach its destination. We then

continued on page 5 ►



Sidewire

Comments from the
Editor of Dots & Dashes

By Jim Wilson



The spring issue of *Dots & Dashes* took unusually long, up to five weeks, to reach some of our MTC members, especially in Canada. Our International Secretary-Treasurer, Roger Reinke, and our International President, Jim Wades, investigated to determine the cause of the long delay.

All copies of every issue are mailed using a first class postage permit. Roger determined that the mailing delay was not the Virginia mailing service, but was a problem with the postal service in Canada. We at MTC are working to get this issue to you in a timelier manner. This summer issue is expected to be mailed around June 30th. Please inform your chapter secretary-treasurer if the summer issue arrives later than July 15th.

We have good news for recruiting New Members of MTC. International President Jim Wades and his MTC helpers at the May Dayton Hamvention recruited 14 new members. Let's welcome these new folks and strive to keep them as MTC members for years to come. As of the moment, we have only sparse information about these new recruits, but I hope to provide more info about these folks as it is sent to me.

This issue of Chapter News includes information sent in by only three chapters. I know that the other 28 MTC chapters are likely doing demonstrations and holding meetings. Please send in descriptions of your chapter events along with photographs. Members want to hear what your chapter is doing. We want to share your stories.

And as usual, please continue to look for opportunities to show the public the sound and the fury of a telegraph sounder in action!

Jim Wilson

President's Line

Jim Wades, President
Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.



Dayton Hamvention 2011



Planning for this year's Dayton Hamvention began several months in advance of the event. Our goal this year was to correct several technical deficiencies, which hampered our exhibit last year while expanding the telegraph demonstration to accommodate requests for remote telegraph offices at the exhibits of Begali Manufacturing and the Vibroplex Company.

continued on next page ►

Dots & Dashes



The official publication of

The Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.

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This year, we developed some specialized equipment, which allowed us to use a 802.11 wireless router to link to the Begali exhibit located some distance away. A high-gain Yagi antenna was procured and a complete transportable telegraph office consisting of a dial-up system, "MorseKOB" loop-supply/terminal unit, router, computer and associated equipment was built into a transport case. In addition to providing a long-range wireless link to one or more remote MorseKOB terminals,



the system also provided a 50-VDC local loop to operate multiple telegraph instruments at the MTC booth and the nearby Vibroplex exhibit.

Derek Cohn built a very nice portable telegraph display consisting of a local sounder on a White arm, standard key, small switchboard, ammeter and main-line sounder. This exhibit allowed Derek and others at the booth to demonstrate how a switchboard worked. It also proved useful for explaining the differences between local and main-line sounders, the application of the telegraph relay, the nature of the current loop, and so forth.

Chris Hausler and Derek Cohn also brought a number of telegraph instruments for exhibit while a variety of telegraph items such as photographs, code charts, and so forth were also provided by members. ►



► This ad runs routinely in the *World Radio News*:

Morse Telegraph Club

Landline Morse is Alive and well!

"Dots & Dashes" newsletter

The Ace Holman national telegraph office & hub

Internet Telegraphy Railroad Telegraphy

Morse Telegraph demonstration

Learn more about the history of the telegraph or simply enjoy using American Morse Code and authentic telegraph equipment.

www.morsetelegraphclub.org

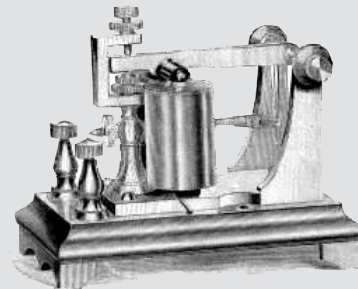
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The next issue of *Dots & Dashes* is scheduled for publication on September 30th, with submission deadline three weeks prior to that date.

President's Line continued from page 3

In prior years, we found ourselves running out of MTC brochures and membership applications. Therefore, we printed nearly 3000 of them this year and many of them were distributed to interested visitors.

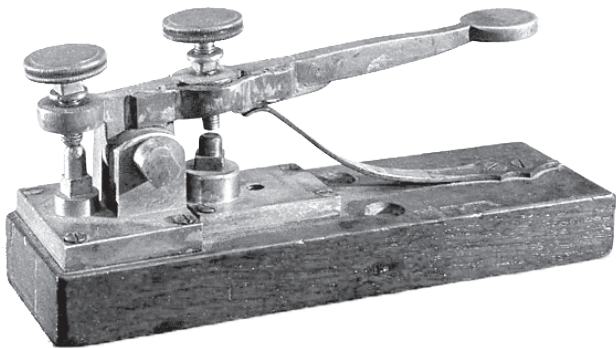
Another popular item at the exhibit was the "MorseKOB" printed circuit board. We sold quite a few at cost and far more MorseKOB boards were purchased than MTC memberships. Interestingly, several individuals informed us they were not "joiners," but they were nonetheless interested in the MorseKOB program. This is an interesting trend, for which we will try to develop an approach in the future. Ideally, we hope to tie MTC membership more directly to participation on the MorseKOB network.

Mike Cizek also assisted by occasionally staffing a remote telegraph office at the nearby Vibroplex exhibit. Our corporate partners at Begali Manufacturing and the Vibroplex Company did much to assist our efforts. The presence of these remote telegraph offices proved beneficial for all parties. On one hand, the telegraph sounder attracted attention to the manufacturer's booth while publicizing MTC to interested parties and directing them to our primary exhibit.

This year, fourteen new MTC members joined on the spot, and many more brochures and applications went home with interested visitors.

We want to take some time to thank the following MTC members who invested considerable time to staff the booth during the event:

Derek Cohn, Chris Hausler, Mike Cizek, Lou Axeman, Robert Wades and Curt Black represented MTC at the booth. We also want to thank Pietro Begali, the owner of Begali Manufacturing and Scott Robbins, the owner of Vibroplex for their support of MTC. If I missed anyone I offer my most sincere apologies. After four days of intense activity, it's very hard to remember it all!



A Telegraph Legacy, continued from front page

described the amazing growth of the electric telegraph, how it spread across North America and how Western Union became the largest telegraph communications network in the United States, and how other companies grew in Canada.

Telegrapher, Vic Pankoski, discussed telegraph expansion in Eastern and Western Canada, emphasizing how the railroads benefitted from telegraph communications and immigration. Vic made a hands-on presentation of building an electro-magnet for students to try out. He also explained how he deciphered Morse code into English letters and numbers.

Telegrapher Dennis Ogresko talked about Cyrus Field successfully laying cable in the Atlantic Ocean to Britain and France and later to Australia and Russia. Dennis then gave a demonstration using a telegraph sounder, demonstrating how the two coils acted under the electro-magnet circuit to cause the clicking in dots and dashes. Dennis also showed how the vibroplex "bug" assisted in

sending Morse code more quickly.

After the students had their hands on try at sending and receiving Morse code, we presented them with certificates for their achievement, stating "They now belong to the Ancient Order of Telegraphers." The students especially enjoyed this event.

We entertained questions at the end of their visit and presented the students with copies of the telegraph history of Saskatchewan, plus copies of the Morse code. I also pointed out that according to the Science Museum of London England; the electric telegraph has placed third on the top ten list of the greatest scientific inventions in the world. Yes, the electric telegraph became absolutely necessary for the well being of society worldwide.

Now in the words of Morse code, I will sent you "73," which means "our best regards to you." Thank you for taking part in our production of "A Telegraph Legacy."

73 & 30 from Bill Ryan

CALAMITY IN THE CHICKEN HOUSE

This article was written for Dots & Dashes by J.P. Johnson, Conductor on the Union Pacific Railroad. Read J.P.'s brief letter, dated April 5th, on page 6

After becoming agent at the C.M. Street P&P Railroad station at Denton, Montana, my grandfather, J.P. Shannon, built a small chicken house out of old grain doors to the rear of the depot. His motivation, besides just enjoying raising chickens, was to feed the family and make a few extra dollars selling chicks to the locals.

Following the downsizing of the depot and moving his family into a larger house, grandpa continued to maintain the chicken house for the next 37 years at the same site. When the C.M. Street P&P abandoned their Lines West section of their railroad, the bulk of its North Montana branch came under the direction of the Burlington Northern railroad. This included the line through Denton.

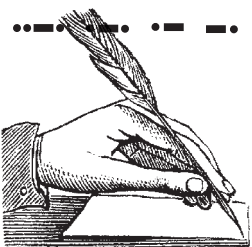
In this particular instance, grandpa's chickens got loose and were on the right-of-way, feeding on spilled grain. This led Lewistown agent E.V.

(Vance) Sheppard to get clearance and issue Slow Order No. 661.

Upon learning of this and reading the Slow Order No. 661, grandpa rounded up his chickens and dispatched a note of rebuttal to agent Sheppard at Lewistown.

When my grandpa, J.P. Shannon, passed away in December 2006, I found this Train Order and rebuttal among his papers. He often told me of this story and we would get a real laugh from it. I now share this with you as I think my grandpa would want *Dots & Dashes* readers to share our laughs about his calamity in the chicken house.

PS: Burlington Northern Train Order #661, dated May 29, 1980, read "AT DENTON WATCH OUT FOR CHICKENS ON RIGHT OF WAY - LEG HORNS AND RHODE ISLAND REDS - NO PLYMOUTH ROCK VARIETY. "



Letters to the Editor

February 7th

I noticed this article in our local paper. It was really interesting so I thought the telegraph club might like to read it. Being a Morse telegraph operator during my younger days with the B&O and Illinois Central was the most interesting and rewarding job in my career.

*Thanks and 73,
Charles Arado
Chesapeake, Virginia.*

Read Charles' newspaper article on page 20

March 2nd

I've attached another possible article for the next issue. This article encourages MTC members to do telegraph demonstrations, a favorite MTC summertime activity. Several folks have been encouraging me to write something like this, so here is my attempt.

*73,
Chris Hausler*

Read Chris's article on page 8

March 8th

I thought this memory should be put into words, before it's too late.

A family named Peterson, all now deceased, worked in the Brandon area and Winnipeg area, for the CPR. Two of the Peterson family worked on the line west of Brandon as telegraphers. The older son, Dave, became a dispatcher in Brandon and later in Saskatoon, and it was from him that I learned of this story.

Dave's father was an agent for the CPR in a number of points. As it was quite unusual at that time, his father took up smoking cigarettes. As a result, he developed throat cancer. At that time, the only treatment was removal of the larynx. As a result of the surgery, his father could no longer talk. He had to resign (retire) from the CPR and to my knowledge, moved into Portage la Prairie, Manitoba to live.

The house they bought was quite large, so they set-up telegraph keys and sounders for

Mr. Peterson to "talk" to the family. Even Mrs. Peterson, who had learned the code over the years, could "talk" to Mr. Peterson. There were keys set up all over the house, so it worked out quite nicely for all concerned. This was a great use of Morse code; I'm sure you'll agree.

*Yours truly,
Earl G. Bartley
Brandon, Manitoba, Canada*

PS: Keep up the good work. I don't put down Dots & Dashes until I have read the whole thing.

April 5th

Enclosed is a story and attachments for publishing in *Dots & Dashes*. The story involves a former MTC member, my grandfather, and an active MTC member, Vance Sheppard, so I think it will make a great addition. Keep up the good work and I hope to be writing more stories in the future

*Best Wishes,
J.P. Johnson,
Conductor on the Union Pacific Railroad,
Railroad Historian, and Lecturer*

Read J.P.'s story, "Calamity in the Chicken House," on page 5

April 17th

I always followed my mother's advice, and enjoy the code messages. Please keep 'em coming, cuz it keeps me on my toes. Many thanks for another fine business job on *Dots & Dashes*, my bible.

I have a question about the George Hack article on page 10 or the previous issue. Does "Uncle Wes" refer to the Western Union? Is that what they called it? This must be like the name "Maw Bell" for the telephone company. Morse Day is getting me excited.

*73 and good DX.
William Egelston, NOWM, at the DS office*

Yes, William, "Uncle Wes" was a common reference for the Western Union Company. ▶

May 1st

I just want to pass on my kudos to Larry Marnes and his friend, Chris Trombley, for a job well done on the restoration of the Mooers, NY depot, as featured on the front cover of the spring 2011 issue of *Dots & Dashes*. This is a true “restoration” in my book, as opposed to what I would term “renovation” to apply to most depot renewal projects that I have seen. All too many times the building is altered in some way to conform to existing building code regulations or to make it energy efficient. I am not knocking this as I realize it is a necessity when making a building available for public use. Most museums don’t have the money to be throwing away on un-necessarily high heating bills, etc.

What I do object to though, is the sanitized look of these buildings, especially the office, after completion of these projects. The walls are usually bare, except for maybe railroad photos, and the desk tops and operator’s table are clear with the exception of maybe some telegraph instruments.

But look at the photos of Larry’s depot. It looks like the operator just stepped out for his lunch break, or to check the yard. The ticket window looks like you could walk right up to it and buy a ticket to Anywhere, USA! Larry has paid a lot of attention to detail. That extra effort has paid him back in dividends in the compliments he must receive whenever a real “rail fan” comes to have a look.

So, way to go Larry; you have created something to be very proud of and you have preserved a slice of time in railroad history that can be enjoyed by all of the senses. I can almost smell the “essence of depot” odors coming from the walls. If only the walls could talk; great job!

73,
Allen Miller
Darrington, Washington

May 11th

Thank you so much for sending me a copy of *Dots & Dashes* in which you published the passing of my husband, Percy A. Galvin, under “Silent Keys.” This was a nice finale to Percy’s railway career, and I really appreciate it. Thanks again. Good health and fortune to you and all your readers.

Sincerely,
Lillian Galvin
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

May 28th

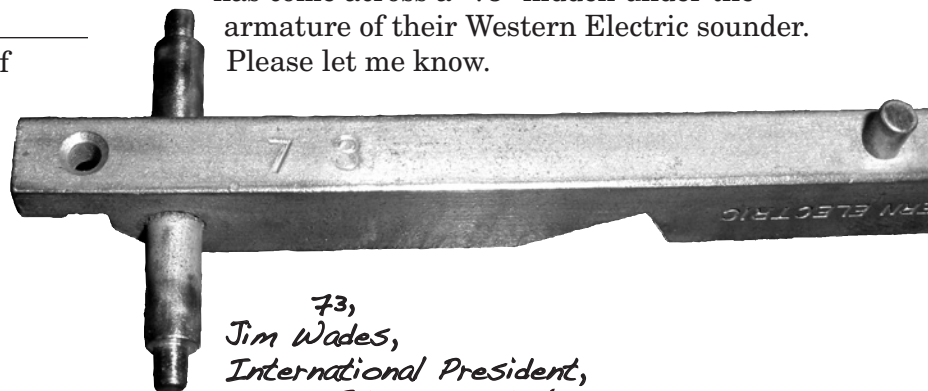
We finished the historical background of the electro telegraph production of “A Telegraph Legacy.” We can now proceed with the many demos for the spring and summer. Dennis Ogresko and Len Slolomon are now in North Battleford for a large demo at their Western Development Museum. At “Weekly Wednesdays” we will be demonstrating the art of telegraph at our Saskatoon W.D.M. We will be moving into our new “digs” in Saskatoon’s “Boom Town” street very soon. This will save us setting up our equipment every time as we did in past demos. This summer, demos will be held in Moose Jaw, Yorkton, Langham, and Borden at Our Railroad Museum at Pike Lake. Our largest event will be “Pioneer Days,” in Saskatoon. Last year, about 3,400 visitors came through the turnstiles, keeping our members busy with four shifts to entertain the crowds.

Bill Ryan,
KN Chapter
Publicist and Canadian International
MTC Director.

June 3rd

While restoring a Western Union Special Event Set, I disassembled a Western electric sounder as part of the restoration process and I discovered an engraved “73” hidden under an armature. It was hidden out-of-sight and was therefore invisible when the sounder was assembled. I wonder if someone at the Western Electric factory left a hidden message of good will to be “discovered” by some telegrapher in the future. Did someone hope that it would bring “good luck” to the user or office at which the sounder was installed? I checked an identical sounder in an identical “special event set” and there was no “73.”

I would be curious to know if anyone else in MTC has come across a “73” hidden under the armature of their Western Electric sounder. Please let me know.



73,
Jim Wades,
International President,
Morse Telegraph Club

A FIELD EXPEDIENT



The above drawing titled, “A Field Expedient” first appeared in September 1889 issue of *The Century*, a popular quarterly magazine. It was part of a ten page article titled, “Telegraphing In Battle” by J. Emmet O’Brien. It was one of a number of such drawings on Civil War telegraph subjects included in that article. Since widely reproduced, from the first time I saw it I have been intrigued by it. As a trained electrical engineer, I know that a ground return telegraph circuit needs good grounds to function properly. This drawing had lead me to wonder whether a Civil War bayonet plunged into damp earth would constitute such a ground. In the spirit of the upcoming Sesquicentennial of the Civil War, I decided to find out for myself and attempt to re-create the drawing, at least as much as possible. What’s more, it would be a fun project.

The first thing I decided that I needed, mostly for the fun of it, was the bayonet. Due to the popularity of Civil War re-enacting, replica Civil War weaponry is easily available. Searching around, I found an inexpensive replica bayonet for an 1861 Springfield rifled musket offered on Amazon. What arrived looked the part although it was not as sharp a blade as I would have expected. But I suppose we don’t want our Civil War re-enactors accidentally slicing and dicing each other

as they go about their simulated battle now, do we?

That in hand, I came up against a stiffer problem. Civil War era telegraph instruments aren’t easily found and if you do find one, the price is likely outside the range of most of our budgets, at least certainly mine. In the drawing, the young telegraph operator is using a pocket set.



Chris Hausler is seen here re-creating the Civil War experiment

Not having anything like that, even a much more modern Bunnell lineman's set, I decided to focus more on the Brady photo which was published in last winter's edition of *Dots & Dashes*. The operator there is using a relay KOB. The oldest design relay KOB in my collection is a Bunnell box relay KOB. Now there is evidence that "sounding relays" were first developed during the Civil War but it appears that they were not in the form of what has come to be known as the "box relay". Civil War telegraphers out in the field such as shown in that photo would not have a local circuit with a sounder. As one author put it, they just listened to the "gentle tick" of their relays. So you can see the importance of developing a "sounding relay". However, what we now know of as a box relay was apparently developed some years after the Civil War. Certainly the one I have with it's Bunnell steel lever key is post Civil War by a number of years, but it is the closest thing I have and so was going to have to do the job.

With the instrument decided upon, all that remained was to set up my ground return circuit. Since this was all going to happen in my back yard, my "wire" was going to be rather short. According to Plum, field wire in the Civil War was 14 gauge seven strand iron wire insulated with a rubber coating. I acquired about 100 feet of 14 gauge plastic insulated stranded copper, which was as close as I could come to historical accuracy.

I wasn't sure how much voltage I was going to need for my "battery". MTC member Ed Trump has written on ground return circuits for re-enactments and from his writings I decided I might need 60 volts. I acquired two 30 volt DC power bricks from Radio Shack.

Setting it all up, I ran the wire from my kitchen window out to a tree at my back lot line. Thinking of the Brady photo again, I took an old wooden shipping crate to use as a table and placed it near the tree. I then set my box relay KOB on the crate and connected it between the wire and a short wire run to the replica bayonet. Finally the bayonet was plunged about 3/4th the way into the ground in front of my little field office.

Inside the kitchen I set up a more modern office at that end of the wire using a main line sounder (15B) and key and the copper cold water run as the ground. Starting carefully, I just connected up one of the two power bricks along with a 40 watt incandescent lamp for over current protection as Ed had suggested. With both keys closed, the measured current was about 40 ma, a little low but workable. The ground was quite moist as the snow had recently melted and so I suppose that is why I didn't need more voltage. Operation of the circuit was quite snappy. So, I answered my question, The bayonet worked fine.

All that remained to do was to take the adjacent photo. Once again, historical accuracy went out the window. Your telegrapher is a relatively old man and obviously hasn't been on short rations any time recently. Civil War telegraph operators were mostly quite young and suffered from many privations in food and other things while in the service of the U.S.M.T. But for me, it was quite a fun experiment. I hope you've enjoyed coming along on this little venture with me. With almost four years of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War coming up, think about ways in which you too can go out and join in the fun.

DO YOU KNOW?

Who invented the World Wide Web?

Tim Berners-Lee is considered the creator of the World Wide Web (WWW). This is a massive collection of interlinked documents which travel over the Internet global network of computers developed in the 1960's and 1970's by the U.S. Department of Defense. The concept of the Internet was to provide redundancy of communications in case of nuclear war. The inception of the WWW in 1990 and 1991 is considered one of humanity's greatest communications achievements.

Source: Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

CHAPTER NEWS

C.D. Combs FN Chapter



The FN Chapter held its annual meeting on Morse Day, April 30, 2011 at the Junction Café in Missouri Valley, Iowa. Eighteen members plus nine spouses and guests attended, total 27. The meeting was opened by FN Chapter President Charles (Mac) McMillan, with introductions and stories about his first railroad job. A prayer was presented by Paul Calhoun of Sioux City, Iowa.



Following a tasty lunch, the business meeting was held and new officers were elected. The newly elected officers for 2011-2012

include: President Charles (Mac) McMillan of Omaha, Nebraska, Vice President Don Tucker of Omaha, Nebraska, and Secretary-Treasurer Richard Behrens of Omaha, Nebraska.

Ron Peters of Lincoln entertained the group with his accordion. The date was set for the next year's Morse Day meeting. That will be April 28, 2011.

*Don Tucker,
Secretary-Treasurer of the FN Chapter*

Washington-Baltimore WA Chapter

Since the previous issue of *Dots & Dashes* was published, the WA Chapter sponsored and participated in three events. These include Morse Day – April 21st, Civil War Day – May 21st, and Smithsonian Civil War Balloon Reenactment

– June 11, 2011. Much of the success of the WA chapter is due to its location in an area that is rich in Civil War history and thus rich in opportunities to demonstrate Morse telegraphy to a thirsty public.

Morse Day – April 21, 2011:

MTC Chapter member, Dr. Frank Sheer is the owner and curator of the Postal Railroad Museum near Winchester, Virginia. Dr. Sheer invited WA chapter members to celebrate Morse Day 2011 at his museum on May 21st. Two sounders clicked away all afternoon as MTC members chatted, munched hotdogs, and watched several high speed freight trains whiz past the former train depot.

Civil War Commemoration – May 21, 2011:

This descriptive story is written by Cindy Jewell Galyen, who appears along with her dad, "Hubie" in the attached photograph.

Among the hustle and bustle on a beautiful Saturday in the middle of Falls Church, Virginia sits a peaceful little white farmhouse on Cheery Hill Farm. Still gloriously standing, though destruction raged all around from 1861 into 1865, it reminds everyone of a past that included heartache and laughter, struggle and perseverance, and ultimately victory if only for its ability to survive through a long and grueling war. Falls Church was the home of many northern immigrants as well as those of a southern background. This made for an often combustible situation involving politics or decision making.

However, on this morning, time rolls back 150 years, and if not for the many visitors roaming the grassy and shady grounds dressed in modern attire, you would think you were back in time to 1861. Soldiers carry on their duties in camp, tired and dirty, scared and homesick. A Medical doctor dashes among the groans and moans trying to help the many young men that need his attention – blue or gray – he just wants to save lives.

Ladies of the newly formed United States Sanitation Commission gather in a circle and chat as they sew pajamas for those in the hospital, roll bandages and make dolls to sell to raise money for the wounded men and their families. They fill a need the government cannot – providing better health conditions, collecting provisions, establishing soup kitchens, and seeing to needs as

CHAPTER NEWS *continued*

they came to their attention.

A man of God strolls between bloodied bedsides trying to give peace and hope to the young men who are alone and afraid. "Mr. & Mrs. Vincent" are there representing another form of "encouragement and companionship" in the form of the very popular local tavern. "Mr. Thaddeus Lowe" shares his stories of trying to persuade the government of the benefits of using balloons to "spy" upon the enemy. His desire to help win the war is met with frustration and opposition, though in the end he is successful in launching a balloon that is ahead of its time and opens the door for future possibilities. Mr. Lowe's "First Message From Space," on June 18, 1861 was sent to the President of the United States, Abe Lincoln. His to the President message reads:

"Sir: This point of observation commands an area nearly 50 miles in diameter. The city with its girdle of encampments presents a superb scene. I have pleasure in sending you the first dispatch ever telegraphed from an aerial station, and in acknowledging indebtedness for your encouragement, for the opportunity of demonstrating the availability of the science of aeronautics in the service of the country. T.S.C. Lowe."

In the barn, music is playing and letters from the past from local families are read that remind us of the strong dedication and emotions that were conveyed with every word.

This is the Boyce, Virginia depot museum, site of the Was Chapter Morse Day event. In the distance, WA Chapter President Hubert Jewell watches for passing freight trains.



Hubert Jewell, President of the Washington-Baltimore Chapter, poses with his daughter, Cindy Galyen at the Civil War Day in Falls Church, Virginia on May 21, 2011.

Nearby is Mosby's Hanging Tree, where many souls gasped their last breath. One lady proudly but sadly told the story of the hanging of her husband for the "crime" of teaching young blacks to read in a time when they weren't allowed even basic rights.

On the edge of the lawn sits the "Telegraph Office," where a lone telegrapher works day and night to send and receive important messages using the Morse Code. In the chill of the morning, the heat of the afternoon, and last glow of sunshine of the waning day, he sits ready to play his part in this belief moment in history that was the American Civil War.

Hubert Jewell,
President ▶



CHAPTER NEWS *continued*

of the Washington-Baltimore Chapter, and his daughter, Cindy” were honored to be invited guests of the City of Falls Church Recreation and Parks Department, the Victorian Society at Falls Church, and the Falls Church Historical Commission to play a part in this Celebration of Civil War Day – 150th Anniversary on Saturday May 21, 2011. Hubert was thrilled at the interest the public showed in the history of Morse code. It is interesting that at every event where we have demonstrated Morse Code, most people confuse Morse Code as being synonymous with the International Code. Hubert pointed out that Morse Code was used on land line circuits and the International Code was used via radio for ship-to-shore communications. International Code was also used in Europe. Nearly everyone knows “SOS” in International Code. Adults and children alike seem fascinated that anyone can “read” code by listening to the dots and dashes! It was lovely day, a very well attended and successful event.

Cindy

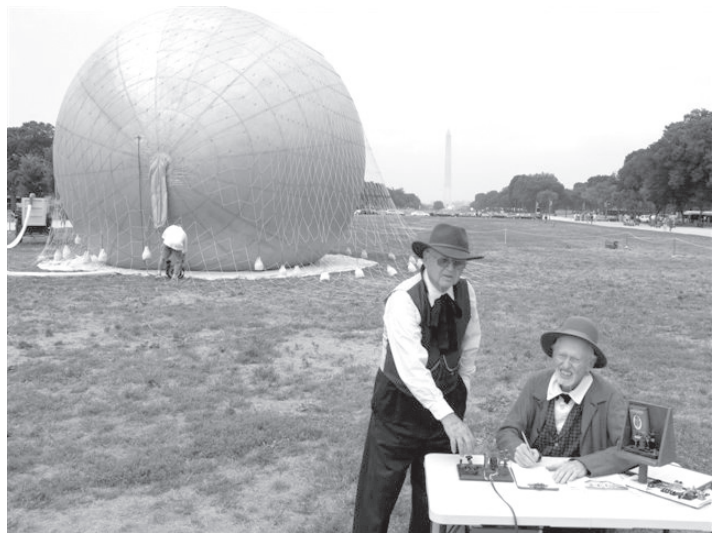


MTC member Chris Hausler explains the electronics of his HUB device. Note that Chris is wearing has a stylish shirt with the new Morse Telegraph logo. You can order one of these shirts for yourself!

Smithsonian Civil War Balloon Reenactment: June 11, 2011

The Washington-Baltimore chapter was represented at this event by MTC members Hubert Jewell and Jim Wilson. This hot sunny Saturday drew hundreds of visitors to see two telegraph stations in action next to a June 17, 1871 replica

hot air balloon in front of the national Air & Space museum on the Washington, DC mall. President Lincoln received his message sent to him from the Union spy balloon. This event turned out to be a major opportunity for educating the public about the Morse Telegraph Club.



Hubert Jewell & Jim Wilson get set to demonstrate the telegraph to hundreds of visitors in front of the Air & Space museum near the Washington Monument.

Florida FX Chapter

This year found FX Chapter participating in several new events, some of them one-time events, others on an annual basis.

The year kicked off in mid-January with a return of the Southern Telegraph Field office to the Brooksville Raid Civil War Re-enactment, one of the largest re-enactments held in the state, followed in early February by The Battle of Townsend’s Plantation, another Civil War re-enactment. Members Don Andrus, John and Cathy Feeney, Rob Feeney and Bethany Waricka are active participants in these events.

At the Farm Festival, held at the Pioneer Florida Museum, Dade City, FL on the same weekend as the Battle of Townsend’s Plantation, chapter members Tom Bjorkman, L.A. Bailey, Clyde Francis and Warren McFarland operated a telegraph wire between the entrance to the museum and the old Trilby Depot, located on the grounds, providing a much appreciated opportunity for visitors to send souvenir telegrams. Many of the visitors had no previous experience with telegrams and expressed amazement that it had even existed. ▶

CHAPTER NEWS *continued*

The Southern Telegraph Field office was again in operation at the Pioneer Festival in Zolfo Springs in early March, with members Don Andrus, John and Cathy Feeney, Rob Feeney and Bethany Waricka all participating. This was a new venue for the chapter, consequently many of the visitors had never had an opportunity to see the Field office in operation. Interest was so great, that the Field office was pressed into opening on Friday afternoon, the time normally used for set up.

The chapter's portable, mini-telegraph office was set up inside the annual Model Railroad Show in Plant City, FL on March 12. This event attracted its largest number of vendors and visitors ever this year. Members Don Andrus and Clyde Francis report that they were kept busy all day long responding to the crowds of interested visitors.

Levy County (FL) Railroad Day, March 19th, was in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Florida Railroad from Fernandina, FL across Levy County to Cedar Key, FL. Various activities took place in the communities of Bronson, Otter Creek and two locations in Cedar Key. FX Chapter members Tom Bjorkman and Warren McFarland were located in Bronson and Cedar Key, respectively, 35 miles apart, with antique and replica telegraph instruments and equipment for demonstrations, and with access to a toll-free telephone line between the two sites. Modems were connected at both sites and souvenir telegrams transmitted for interested visitors. There was a high level of interest in the telegraph demonstrations, with many visitors spending considerable time, watching and asking questions. (See photos of various activities at www.levycountyhistoricalsociety.com.)

Approximately 4000 people attended the Old Florida Festival in Naples, FL during the weekend of March 19-20, 2011. The Southern Telegraph Company Field Office was in action and had high interest both days. Chapter members John, Cathy & Robert Feeney and Bethany Waricka participated. Working telegraph equipment, along with explanations of the history of the telegraph, provided the enthusiastic crowd with plenty of information. A potential new member, Buck Buckley also assisted with the Field Office. Chapter members actually had three separate

displays: the telegraph office, an 1800's surgeon tent staffed by Robert Feeney, and a demonstration of weaving and crocheting by Cathy and Bethany, who were dressed in 1800s style clothing.

Chapter members Tom Bjorkman, Clyde Francis and Warren McFarland provided Morse telegraph demonstrations at the Depot Museum during the annual two-day Springtime On The Mall Festival at Avon Park, FL, March 25-26, 2011. There was a steady stream of visitors for most of the two days, with many of them spending considerable time watching and asking questions. One child was able to learn the code for her name during several repeat visits and by the end of the day could send her name in Morse code without referring to a chart.

Chapter members Don Andrus and L.A. Bailey demonstrated Morse instruments and equipment and the use of Morse telegraphy in the Trilby Depot during the annual Hernando County Model Train Show, held March 26th on the grounds of the Pioneer Florida Museum, Dade City, FL. A good turn out was experienced, highlighted by an attentive Brownie Troop, full of questions. The Brownies were delighted and fascinated as each had their name spelled out slowly, then fast, in Morse code. The museum is beginning renovation and restoration of the old depot and has asked for the Chapter's help in identifying any needs which might further improve the telegraph setup, and the depot. When they learned that member L.A Bailey had worked at the depot for six years beginning in 1949, they pounced upon him with a deluge of questions as to how everything looked at that time. They plan to restore the Trilby Depot to as near its 1950s appearance as possible.

The annual Trains, Planes and BBQ event, produced by the city of Tavares, FL, and held this year on April 2nd, had a train show, a car show, a model train layout, telegraph demonstrations and BBQ, capped by a country music show in the evening. All of these activities drew large crowds which streamed through the lobby of city hall all day, where chapter member Warren McFarland had telegraph instruments set up for demonstrations of the art and practice of telegraphy. The sound of American Morse code attracted the attention of many visitors, intrigued by the early technology. ▶

CHAPTER NEWS *continued*

The Southern Telegraph Company Office was set up on the porch of the Wagner House, the oldest structure (1857) in Miami-Dade County, during the annual Miami River Day event, held this year on April 2nd, in Lummus Park on the Miami River in downtown Miami, to highlight the history of the river and the area. A wire was strung to the Ft. Dallas (original name of Miami) building across from the Wagner House and a KOB was connected. There was a steady stream of visitors all day with considerable interest as Chapter members John and Robert Feeney and Bethany Waricka demonstrated how telegraph messages were sent and received. Cathy Feeney and Bethany also demonstrated quilting and weaving to visitors.

The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Pierson, FL depot, now located on the grounds of the Pioneer Arts Settlement in Barberville, FL was once again alive with the sound of trains and telegraph instruments during the annual Spring Music Festival, held April 16, 2011. Although the train sounds came from a model train layout in the freight warehouse, the telegraph sounds were the real deal as chapter members Tom Bjorkman, Don Andrus and Warren McFarland had a telegraph wire strung between the depot and the historical Huntington, FL post office, which has also been moved onto the Arts Settlement grounds. Many of the approximately 2000 visitors took advantage of the opportunity to send souvenir telegrams to themselves. Among the many visitors was one Leah Morse, a young lady who said that she was the five-times great niece of Samuel F. B. Morse. She said that her grandfather had attempted to teach her Morse Code, but was not successful. Chapter members also installed a permanent telegraph display in the Pierson depot, which includes a Morse code generator, activated by a motion sensor; a KOB which visitors may use to try their hand at sending Morse code; and a display of the chapter's handout with information about landline and wireless telegraphy and the chapter's website. The display was constructed by member Don Andrus.

Lakeville Elementary School in Apopka, FL, located between two sets of railroad tracks and with a caboose on the school grounds, has used railroad themes for many of its activities, one of which is an annual Casey Jones Safety

event. The event, which most likely is a break for students after the period of state mandated annual testing, nevertheless serves an important purpose. Operation Lifesaver, and other railroad representatives are on campus to remind students of the importance of safety around railroad tracks and, at the same time, educate them about the various aspects of railroading. This year, The Morse Telegraph Club was also invited to participate in the event, held April 26th. Chapter member Warren McFarland was set up in a classroom and over the day, individual classes from grades three through five were brought to the classroom where Morse code and telegraph instruments were demonstrated, the history of telegraphy was discussed, questions were answered, and every student was given the opportunity to operate a telegraph key to send their name in American Morse code. It is hoped that the students will remember their exposure to Morse telegraphy.

FX Chapter members gathered at the Central Florida Railroad Museum in Winter Garden to celebrate Morse Day, April 30 this year. Chapter members brought their most unusual telegraph instruments and equipment for display and demonstration and took advantage of the gathering to trade "war" stories with their fellow members. Internet access was provided, courtesy of the museum, and the Morse KOB computer program was activated, turning the Internet into multiple telegraph wires. The museum recently installed a 55 inch flat screen television in order to show railroad videos to museum visitors, but on this day it was converted into an oversize computer monitor, displaying the Morse KOB screen so that non-telegrapher museum visitors could follow along as chapter members from all over the U.S. and Canada exchanged telegraphic greetings. This proved to be the most popular event of the day, as visitors basically ignored the display of telegraph instruments and equipment to watch the exchanges on the screen. From time to time the display was changed over to the wire transmitting Civil War news stories, which also proved to be very popular.

After lunch at a nearby restaurant, chapter members returned to the museum for a short business meeting and a Samuel Morse birthday ►

CHAPTER NEWS *continued*

cake and coffee, prepared by John and Cathy Feeney. During the business meeting, chapter officers – Tom Bjorkman, president; Rob Feeney, vice-president; and Don Andrus, Secretary-Treasurer, were re-elected for another term.

The Tampa, FL observance of National Train Day took place May 7 in and around Tampa Union Station. There were attractions such as an Amtrak train on display, model train layouts, a computerized locomotive simulator, a working telegraph office staffed by Florida Chapter members Tom Bjorkman, Don Andrus and Warren McFarland, Operation Lifesaver, and much more. Large crowds of visitors were in attendance all day, with the simulator and the telegraph office drawing the most interest, after the train. Many of the visitors had neither seen nor heard telegraph instruments before and expressed amazement at the technology. Florida Chapter has been invited to participate again next year and will most likely do so.

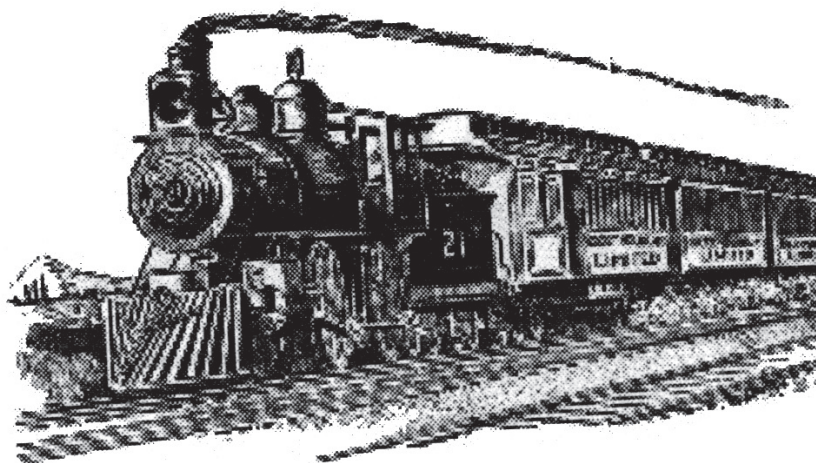
To celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding, the City of Auburndale, FL held a four day affair, May 25-29, with many different events over the four days. Florida Chapter members Tom Bjorkman and Warren McFarland were set up in conjunction with three separate model train layouts to demonstrate the role that Morse

telegraphy would have played at the time of the city's founding.

In addition to the many adult visitors, approximately 2200 school children were bused in over the first three days of the event, most of whom knew nothing about Morse telegraphy, but were well informed by the time they left.

For further information as well as to see photographs of these and other events, please see the Florida Chapter's website at www.floridamorse.com.

*Warren McFarland,
Florida Chapter*



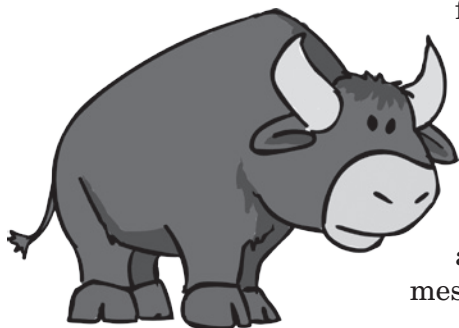
PICK'D UP ON THE CYBER-WIRES

This is a Telegraph Joke, sent in by Walt Mathers of the WA Chapter

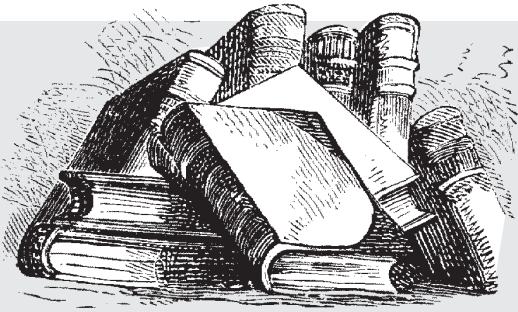
Ole and Lena's bull took sick and died, so they needed to go to the auction to buy a new one. Ole had to get the crops in and couldn't leave the farm, so Lena took the train to the city to buy a bull. If she was successful, she would take the train back to the farm, then she and Ole would go to town with the truck to pick up their newly purchased bull. The bidding was furious at the livestock auction, and Lena found herself bidding on the last remaining bull. It took everything she had but ten cents, but she was finally the successful bidder.

Unfortunately, the train home was fifty cents. "Please, Mr. Conductor, couldn't you make an exception just dis vunce?" pleaded Lena. "Sorry lady," he replied, "but you can send your husband a telegram to tell him your problem. The office is just down the street."

At the Telegraph office, Lena asked, "Mister, how many vords can I send to my husband for a dime?" "It's ten cents a word," the clerk answered. Lena pondered her dilemma, then finally said, "OK, here's da message: "COMFORTABLE".



BOOK REVIEWS



With the arrival of the sesquicentennial of the U. S. Civil War I have been investigating what writings are available on the use of the electromagnetic telegraph during that war. Most of you probably know the Civil War was the first war to be significantly prosecuted by the use of Morse's invention, particularly in the north. This is my second installment in this effort. Last time I reviewed Civil War telegrapher, W. R. Plum's work. This time I'm reviewing *Telegraphing in Battle* by another Civil War telegrapher, John Emmet O'Brien. *Book reviewed by Chris Hausler*

This title actually refers to two works by Mr. O'Brien. The first is a ten page article which appeared in the September 1889 issue (volume 38 issue number 5) of *The Century*, a popular quarterly magazine of the time. It starts on page 782. In this article in addition to the writing there are a number of interesting pen and ink illustrations of Civil War telegraph activity.

In 1910 Mr. O'Brien published an entire book by this title containing what he called his, *Reminiscences of the Civil War*. Unlike W. R. Plum's work which is an overall history of the U. S. Military Telegraph, this book is more a personal account of the war. It includes Mr. O'Brien's experiences as a telegraph operator along with those of his older brother, Richard. Richard O'Brien was one of the four telegraphers selected by Andrew Carnegie at the beginning of the war to initiate operations which became the U. S. Military Telegraph. The book is dedicated to Andrew Carnegie. Richard had gotten his start in telegraphy in 1856. He invited his brother John, nine years his junior and less than 8 years old at the time, to join him at the telegraph office as a messenger boy. John shortly decided that being a messenger was not to his liking and he resolved, with his brother's assistance, to learn to be a telegraph operator. This resulted in him being hired as the youngest telegraph operator on the Pennsylvania Railroad when he was only 10. The book includes a number of John's experiences at this first job. He got the call to join his brother in the U. S. M. T in January 1862 when he was just 3 months beyond his 13th

birthday, thus becoming the youngest operator in that service as well.

The book is organized pretty much in time order from some time before the war, to educate us about both John and his older brother's backgrounds and pre-war experiences, up to the end of the U. S. Military Telegraph at the end of the war. In his book Plum wrote very little about his personal

experiences whereas in this book O'Brien writes mostly about his and his brother's. Where he wants to illustrate certain events to which neither he nor his brother were exposed, such as being captured by the enemy, he does include the experiences of others. He sometimes borrows from Plum's work for this information. Other telegraphers are named but not anywhere near to the extent of Plum. Richard kept a diary during some of his service and John borrows heavily from it in certain areas of the book as well. Although both this book and Plum's contain a number of "ripping yarns", many of the stories in this book were actually



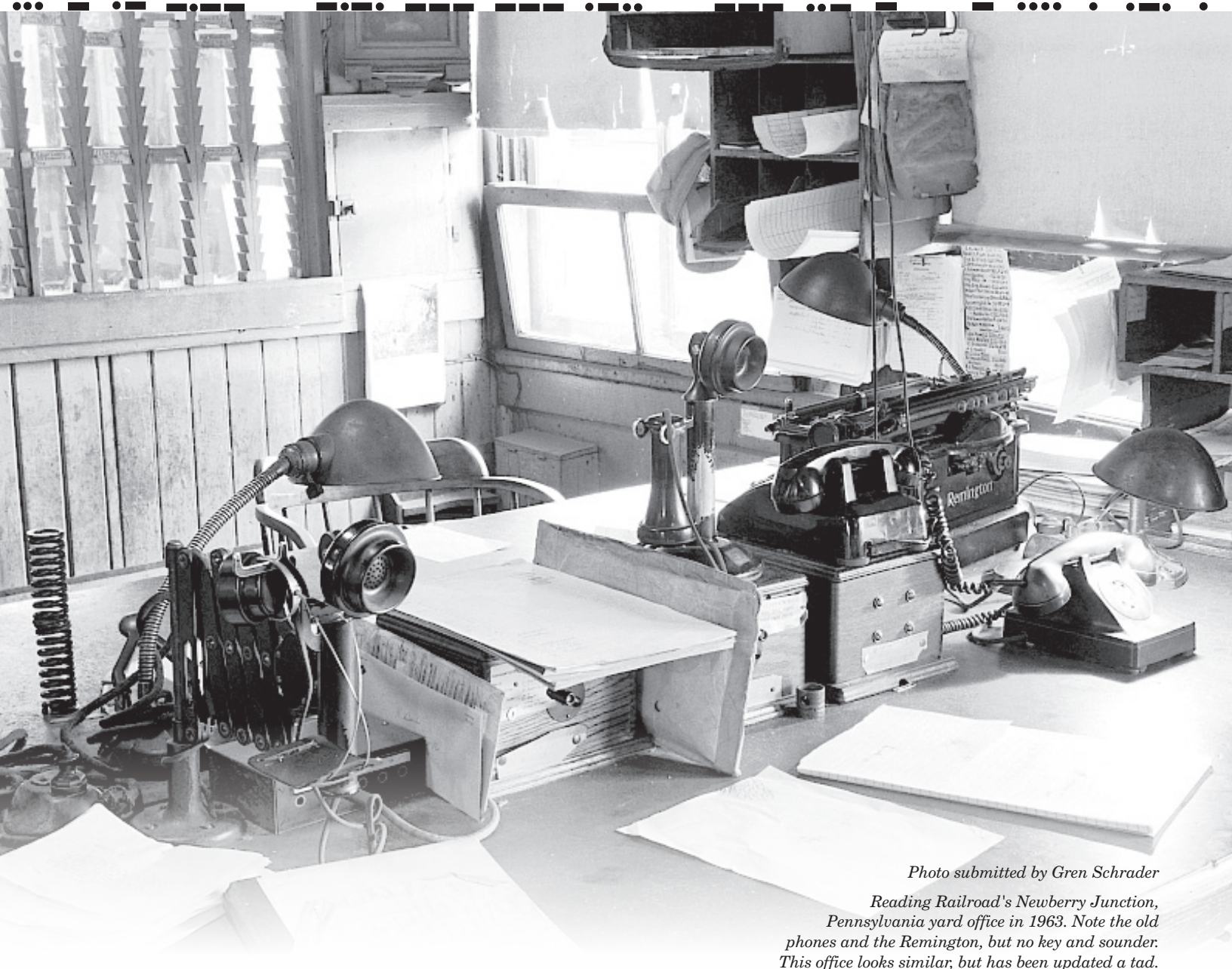
TELEGRAPHING IN BATTLE;
REMINISCENCES OF THE CIVIL
WAR

lived by either John or Richard and thus they give a much more personal and "day-to-day" feel to the war. We get to share in the wonder, joy, fear, privations and simple pleasures of what was essentially one young man's first great adventure. That said, the book does provide some overview of the war and the maps provided, what there are of them, are less detailed and thus much more readable than those in Plum. Like Plum, this is a story of the U.S. M. T. but John includes some information about southern telegraph activities and telegraphers in the last chapter. The ▶

wonderful drawings which appeared in the original ten page article are repeated in this work as well.

I found this book a much easier read, harder to put down, than Plum. At 312 pages though I did have to put it down a few times. As to availability, when I first went looking for it in 2009 on Amazon I did not find any hard copy reprints available although there was a Kindle version. So I downloaded both it and the original ten page article in “.pdf” format free from the digital library at Cornell. Since then, it appears that a number of reprints have become available. Some however have a much shorter page count and indicate that there are no illustrations. I would avoid these if you are going to buy a reprint and get one which

shows more than 312 pages as the illustration pages and some others are not numbered. I eventually did order a copy from what appears to be a reprint on demand source as the copies of both this and one of the two volume Plum book reviewed last issue had dates printed in them right after the date on which I had ordered them and all appeared to be of the same format. This source can be identified because the cover of the books shown on Amazon has a meaningless photograph over the title, in the case of the O’Brien book, showing a rocky treed shoreline. But there is no further identification of the printer both on Amazon and in the actual books themselves. They are reprints of scans, but high quality ones. Enjoy!



*Photo submitted by Gren Schrader
Reading Railroad's Newberry Junction,
Pennsylvania yard office in 1963. Note the old
phones and the Remington, but no key and sounder.
This office looks similar, but has been updated a tad.*

“30” SILENT KEYS

News of our brothers and sisters who have closed the key



Members at Large GC Chapter

LAWRENCE ALLAN MORROW, age 84, passed away on March 30, 2011. Al was an employee of the Canadian Pacific Railroad for 42 years. Since retiring, Al enjoyed golfing in Arizona. He will lovingly be remembered by his wife Karline of sixty-three years and by his children: Wayne, Bill, Glen, and Eileen and by his ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Thanks to Roger Reinke for this brief information.

RICHARD L. SMITH, age 75, passed away on April 24, 2011. Dick was born in Ottawa, Kansas on April 7, 1936. In his younger days, Dick served as a “boomer” telegraph operator for the Western Pacific, Missouri Pacific, and Santa Fe Railroads. At various times he had worked as a relay operator, wire chief, and dispatcher. He also served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Dick is survived by his wife Donna, three children, eleven grand children and many friends.

Thanks to Don Reser for this brief information. Don adds, “He was a good friend and will be missed.”

JOHN E. VIDA OF SYCAMORE, Illinois, age 89, passed away on April 4, 2011. He was born on June 15, 1921. John worked for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroads for 35 years, including time as station manager at DeKalb and Maple Park. John also served in World War II. John’s wife, Virginia, died two years earlier. He is survived by five children: one boy and four girls.

Thanks to one of his daughters, Paulette, for this information about her father.

Noting that she was influenced by her dad’s railroad career, Paulette adds that she rarely flies anywhere. “I always go be rail if I can. You see more that way.”

Spokane SK Chapter

SIDNEY K. VAUGHN, age 87, passed away on April 18, 2011. Sid was born on July 31, 1923 in Chicago, IL. Following high school graduation, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in music from Vander Cook College in Chicago, then a Master of Science degree in education from Northern Illinois State University. Sid taught public school band, was a high school counselor, and a vocational counselor and audio visual specialist at

Cornell College. Later he opened a TV sales and service store in Solon and later in Newhall. He also served in the army from 1943 to 1946.

Early in his career, Sid was a railroad agent with the CB&O railroad in Illinois. One of his retirement hobbies was donating and installing telegraph displays at several railroad depot museums, including Ushers Ferry Pioneer Village, where he also served as a volunteer host. Sid was a member of the Morse Telegraph Club for many years. He served as a past president of the Rochelle Chapter and was one of the International Directors for the MTC.

Sid is survived by his wife, Charlotte, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Thanks to Keith LeBaron for this information.

VICTOR PANKOSKI, age 77, passed away on May 28, 2011 in Saint Paul’s Palatine Centre. Vic learned telegraphy in Saskatchewan in 1950 and became a train order operator-telegrapher with the Canadian National Railroad in Winnipeg in 1951. He then worked many stations between Winnipeg and Superior Junction on the CNR North Line. In 1961, Centralized Traffic Control caused Vic to seek a private business experience.

Vic joined the Morse Telegraph Club KN Chapter in 1993, becoming the Secretary-Treasurer for the next ten years. He participated in telegraph demonstrations throughout Saskatchewan and attended the last MTC convention in Montreal. Another of Vic’s hobbies was the building of John Deer miniature tractors, showing then at county fairs to the delight of children and farm families. Vick is survived by his wife, Natasha, and their family.

Thanks to Bill Ryan for this information.

Bill adds, “Vic was a valuable member of the Morse Telegraph Club and will be greatly missed by all members.”

Maple Leaf ON Chapter

RONALD MURRAY AUSTIN, age 86, passed away on April 1, 2011 at Huntsville, Ontario, Canada. He was born on October 2, 1925 in the Village of Haliburton, Ontario. Ron trained in telegraphy and railroading under Gordon Tobin at Haliburton. Upon completing those courses with Gordon, Ron became employed

by the Canadian Nation Railways Northern Ontario District (N.O.D.). Ron's 42 years of railroad service included stations at Kearney, McCraney, Brule Lake in the 1940's, plus many others. He retired from the station in Huntsville.

Ron was also an active member of the Masonic Order and was an active volunteer at the Muskoka Heritage Place and the Lake of Bays Railway in Huntsville.

Thanks to Gren Schrader for this information.

Gren notes that he also was born and raised in Haliburton that he also knew these people personally.

Thomas Edison TD Chapter

WALTER L. QUINN, age 76, of Auburn Hills, passed away on December 7, 2010. Walt worked as a telegrapher for the Grand Trunk Railroad for five years. He also worked as a letter carrier and trainer for the U.S. Postal Service. Walter was also a U.S. Army veteran and was an ordained deacon, Sunday school teacher, and usher. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Pontiac.

Walt loved trains, enjoyed reading, camping and outdoor activities. As a teenage tinkerer, he even built his own motorcycle. He became a member of MTC in 1995. Walter is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Carolyn, and by his brother Gene, and by many nieces and nephews and friends.

Thanks to Al Skornicka, Secretary-Treasurer of the TD Chapter, for this information.

Edmonton MO Chapter

HARRY KRASOWSKI, age 84, passed away on March 24, 2011. Harry was born on December 26, 1926. As a young boy living in Edmonton, Alberta near the DNR yards, Harry developed his love for the railroad. During the war years, while he was still in high school, Harry worked at the CN Stores Department. Then he began his first job as file clerk at the CNR superintendent's office. At that time, he found amazement watching and listening to the telegraph operators. Following a series of training jobs, he bid for an assistant agent's job at Oyen. He worked there during 1946. Later, he held jobs in Hanna, Mannville, and Ryley. Ryley was a busy place on the CNR mainline.

In December 1947, Harry passed his Morse test. He was immediately sent to Jarrow as a telegrapher. He next worked in the North Edmonton Tower in Calder, later returning to Ryley as an operator. In 1948 he married Myrtle Anderson. Harry and Myrtle then had the privilege of living in several train stations. After nearly 39 years of railroad service, Harry retired in

1982. After that, he volunteered at the Camrose station museum, demonstrating to the young and old how the Morse telegraph worked and sounded.

Harry is survived by his wife Myrtle, three daughters, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren. During Harry's funeral service, the family placed on display his telegraph key along with his CNR cap and mug.

Thanks to William for this information.

ELWOOD H. EDWARDS passed away on March 26, 2011.

Thanks to Bill B. for this brief information.

Sacramento SA Chapter



E.C. "Doc" DYER passed away on January 26, 2011 after a long bout with cancer. More details of Doc's life can be found in an article in the spring 2008 issue of *Dots & Dashes*.

Thanks to Larry Cardoza, Secretary-Treasurer of the SA Chapter for this information.

Podunk Hollow AT Chapter

JOHN M. JOLLEY, of Cuba, Missouri passed away in April 2011.

Thanks to Nancy Jolley Mank for this brief notice about her dad. She adds, "He loved your magazine and all things related to the telegraph."

Grace Pond K Chapter

ROBERT P. TROTTER, age 86, passed away on March 31, 2011 in Laramie, Wyoming. Bob was born on May 1, 1925 in Dickens, Nebraska. He grew up in Nehawka Nebraska and attended business colleges in Lincoln, Nebraska. On June 23, 1948 he married Joan Emily Johnson. In Laramie he was employed by the Union Pacific Railroad as a manager printer and telegraph operator as well as ticket agent. After 37 years with the UPRR, he retired.

Bob also served in the U.S. Navy during WWII on board the destroyer USS Tingey in the Pacific Theater. His ship survived ten major naval engagements and several typhoons. During the Korean War, Bob also served with the Wyoming National Guard. He was also a Mason, a member of the Methodist church, and a member of the Quadra Dangle Square Dance Club.

Bob is survived by his wife, Joan, his son, granddaughters, nephews and nieces.

Thanks to James Ehemberger for this information.

ALL THINGS LOCOMOTIVE

Teresa Thomas was published in the Mail Tribune on Friday November 26, 2010 and submitted for this issue of Dots & Dashes by Charles Arado. Read Charles' letter on page 20 dated February 7th.

If it chugs, choos or runs on a track, you'll find it at the 33rd Rogue Valley Railroad Show. Model trains, large-scale steam locomotives and even Thomas the Tank Engine will roll into the Medford Armory for the annual holiday show, to be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28, at the Armory, 1701 S. Pacific Highway, Medford.

Whether you're a hobbyist or just want to see what the fuss is about, the show offers model railroad layouts, exhibits, railroad presentations, a swap meet, door prizes, 57 vendors and a raffle for dozens of items from books to a completed model railroad set worth more than \$600.

In 2009, more than 5,000 people attended the show.

"Something like the railroad show is as much visual as anything else," says Tony Johnson, president of Southern Oregon Live Steamers Club.

"I would guess that 80 percent of the people (attending) only have a mild interest in trains, and I'd say the other 20 percent are modelers or historians.

"You don't need to be an expert to enjoy it."

Local nonprofit groups operate the Medford Railroad Park and host the show. They include: Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club, the Southern Oregon Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, Southern Oregon Live Steamers, Southwest Oregon Large Scale Trains and the Morse Telegraph Club.

New this year is a replica of the Rev. W. Awdry's fictional character Thomas the Tank Engine, a fussy little engine who has "six small wheels, a short stumpy funnel, a short stumpy boiler and a shorty stumpy dome," as described in the television show "Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends."

The engine and its three passenger cars were built and designed by Dale Butler, vice president of

Southern Oregon Live Steamers.

"All the little boys know about Thomas the Train ... so I decided to build one," he said.

The new train and his green friend Percy the Small Engine will ride the rails of the Medford Railway Park when it opens in April for the season. A 900-foot track is being installed at the park, where young children can ride the two engine buddies for free.

Two live steam locomotives and 10 operating model railroad layouts, Z- to O-gauge, also will be at the show. The public can try their hand at operating a train on the "switching puzzle" and HO scale model trains.

The Southern Oregon chapter of the National Railway Historical Society will have a historical exhibit, featuring photographs, railroad artifacts and video footage taken during the Medford Logging Railway operation days, which from ran from 1922 to 1962.

Tickets to the railroad show cost \$5, \$4 for seniors

and free for ages 14 and younger, accompanied by an adult. All proceeds benefit the Medford Railroad Park.

The park, located off Berrydale Avenue, features miniature to full-sized locomotives, an operating outdoor Garden Railway, a working telegraph system, five steam engines, an HO model railroad club, a railroad handcart and, new in April, a railroad museum.

"It's Medford's best-kept secret," says Johnson. "It's the second busiest park in Medford."

The park, open on the second and fourth Sundays of the month from April to October, saw nearly 2,000 people each Sunday in 2010. Admission to the park is free.

"If you love the railroad park and want to support it, you should come to the show because that's how we keep this park going," says Johnson.



HOUSE TRACK **Want Ad Section**

For Morse Telegraph Club Members

AVAILABLE: Videos (DVD or VHS) available to members only of "Telegraphy: How it Changed the World" – Contact Jeff Korman, Spectra Laser Systems, 877 570-LASER (toll free).

AVAILABLE: I can duplicate small coil springs for lineman relays. Send \$1.00 and I will mail you a new spring. If you are not happy I will refund your buck. Verle Francis WOSZF, 211 East 4th Street, McCook, NE 69001, telephone 308 345-3010.

AVAILABLE: O.R.T. lapel pins, 4 styles. Also 3 inch five color cloth crest of O.R.T (sounder in wreath emblem) \$5.00 each or all 5 for \$20.00. Paul D. Roy at 3874 Winlake Cres., Burnaby, B.C. V5A 2G5 Canada. E-mail: proyd@shaw.ca

AVAILABLE: Railroad Greeting Cards. Visit the web site of Canadian artist and *Dots & Dashes* member Fraser Hine for a look back at some railroad memories. Original paintings. Limited edition prints and greeting cards are available. Fraser Hine: www.fraserhine.com

AVAILABLE: Rail Tales books. The first four books include: *Rail Tales*, *Blow the Whistle Softly*, *Whistles of the Night*, and *Call of the Rails*. These are \$12.95 each plus \$2.00 shipping & handling. Washington state residents must include state tax (8.8%). The most recent two books include: *Down the Track* (406 pages, 120 pictures) and *Sparks, Smoke and Cinders* (342 pages plus pictures, maps, and cartoons). These are \$19.95 each plus \$2.35 for the first book, \$1.00 for each additional book. (Plus Washington residents state sales tax). The entire series of six books are \$70.00 plus \$4.50 postage and sales tax if you are a resident of Washington State. Ruth Eckes -35603 Military Road South, Auburn, WA 96001.

AVAILABLE: Book *Tales of the American Telegraph*. Issue #3 includes a photo layout. John B. Ryan, 11017 E. Sprague Avenue, Spokane, WA 99206.

AVAILABLE: PC Code Program – The Mill is a many featured American Morse and CW program with teaching, historical, and nostalgic features for users of all

experience levels. Download free from: www.home.comcast.net/~w4fok or order a 3 ½" floppy. MTC Members \$5.00, others \$10.00. Jim Farris. Contact info. 904-277-9623.

WANTED: Re-enactors for Locust Grove, the Samuel Morse Historic Site in Poughkeepsie, NY. Please contact Andrew Stock, Curator of Education and Public Programs at a.stock@morsehistoricsite.org or 845 454-4500 x13 if you are a Signal Corps re-enactor who may be interested in participation in history of telegraphy, including the annual Civil War weekend.

WANTED: A Bunnell "Secret Sounder" earphone (a miniature sounder mounted inside the ear piece). Will pay or trade. Roger Reinke, 5301 Neville Court, Alexandria, VA 22310 or rwreinke@cox.net.

AVAILABLE: 2011 Railroad Calendar. The Inland Empire Railway Historical Society offers a stylish 2011 wall calendar of historic railroad events. To order a calendar, write to the IERHS at P.O. Box 471, Reardan, Washington 99029. Their annual membership is \$25.00 which includes a calendar. The IERHS is a 501-c nonprofit corporation, so all donations are tax deductible.

AVAILABLE: I can duplicate small wooden resonator boxes for both 4 ohm and 30 ohm main line sounders. You will varnish or paint these to suit your desires. The cost is \$25 each. Milton Hegwood, 206 Kleven Avenue, Culbertson, NE 69024, telephone 308 278-2152

AVAILABLE: Period attire for telegraph operators of any era. Authentic reproduction hand crafted clothing will be made to your exact fit by a certified seamstress at reasonable prices. Several MTC members already have attire provided by this talented and well educated lady. For details, contact Valerie Mathers at 410 768-3162.

WANTED: Code practice cassette tapes of railroad Morse telegraphy at a speed of 30 to 50 words per minute. Contact Gene Dussault, 405 Ross Street Medford, Oregon 97501 or e-mail at genedoso@aol.com.

AVAILABLE: "Let's Talk Trains" is now available every Sunday morning 10:00 to 12:00 noon, California time. Past shows are also available at www.blogtalkradio.com/letstalktrains. Cathy Stanfill, Secretary-Treasurer for the Southern California SQ Chapter moderates this weekly PODCAST.

AVAILABLE: Pen & ink railroad drawings on stretched canvas, frame print, art print and greeting cards. See these on the website of *Dots & Dashes* member Peter Hamel at Peter Hamel Fine Art American.com. Telephone 1 705 472-8860.

AVAILABLE: New book. I am a 38 year telegraph operator who has written a book about every tower along the old C&EI Railroad (1891-1975). My book has diagrams of 84 of those interlocker towers as well as 64 photographs of tower operation. A list is included of every known station on the C&EI with the telegraph call letters. Send \$15 postpaid to Robert McQuown, 15 Woodland, Hills Drive, Bismarck, IL, with the words "Telegraph Book."

AVAILABLE: New book. Hubert Jewell, President of the Washington-Baltimore Chapter, offers us his new book titled, *Working on the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad*. This book is chalked full of facts and descriptions of railroading and of Morse code communications. Hubert's book is available from the RF&P Historical Society, Inc. PO Box 9097, Fredericksburg, VA 22403-9097 or from the web site www.frandp.org. The price is only \$15 plus postage.

AVAILABLE: Telegraph sounders, keys and other equipment for sale from the estate of a former railroad telegrapher. Contact Ray Proefrock at 562-866-3233 (home) or 562 822-6813 (mobile). *Mr. Proefrock previously donated \$1,000 to the Morse Telegraph Club in memory of his father, Jack Proefrock.* ~Editor Jim

WELCOME ABOARD

News of Our New Morse Telegraph Club Members



Winnipeg WG Chapter

EARL E. SYMONDS was born on May 13, 1934 in Sandy Lake, Manitoba. At the age of 9, Earl started learning telegraphy from his father, who was an agent there. Earl later began his railroad career as an assistant agent for the Canadian National Railway on July 9, 1950. On May 27, 1952 he had worked his way up to agent/operator. Earl then worked at various locations until his retirement.

Earl owns a large and elaborate model railroad display in his home at Sandy Lake. His basement replica of the Manitoba & Northwestern Railroad includes four control boards to operate the 28 foot by 38 foot model railroad. Up to eight people can operate simultaneously, directing up to ten trains at one time. Earl's elaborate display includes 400 power units which are used to pull the 1,000 freight and passenger cars over the entire landscaped layout.

Earl, you think big! Welcome to the Morse Telegraph Club.

IVAN C. FORSYTH was born on July 30, 1928 at Yorktown, Saskatchewan. He learned telegraphy in 1947 in Lauder, Manitoba. Ivan began his employment on September 23, 1947 with the Canadian Pacific Railway as an assistant agent. On February 15, 1948 Ivan became an agent/operator. On December 26, 1947 he had advanced to working in the dispatchers' offices in Brandon, Manitoba, later in Kenora, Ontario, and Winnipeg, Manitoba. While working as a train dispatcher in Winnipeg, Ivan was promoted to Supervisor at the System Operation Centre in Montreal, Quebec, retiring from that position in 1986.

Ivan, we welcome you to MTC as a valued new member.

Toledo Chapter

JOHN I. WHITTEN of Groveport, Ohio joined MTC during the Dayton Hamvention. He was born on November 16, 1943. More information will be forthcoming when we receive it.

BOB BURTON of Caledonia, MI joined MTC during the Dayton Hamvention. He was born on February 13, 1945.

SAM ORLANDO of Bloomfield, MI joined MTC during the Dayton Hamvention. He was born on February 12, 1952.

SHANNON BARBER of Brice, Ohio joined MTC during the Dayton Hamvention. She did not reveal her birth date!

Southern California SQ Chapter

MITCH MITCHELL of San Diego, California joined MTC during the Dayton Hamvention. He was born on February 23, 1947. His ham call is K6BK.

Leonard Larks of West Covina, California joined MTC during the Dayton Hamvention. He was born on April 29, 1937.

JAMES H. HICKS of San Marcos, California was born on March 22, 1930. He is retired from the Santa Fe Railroad so he knows both American Morse and International Morse code. James is a U.S. Navy veteran and holds the amateur radio call sign K6SPV.

You will add value to MTC, James.

Maple Leaf ON Chapter

NORMAN FREIDIN of Burlington, Ontario joined MTC during the Dayton Hamvention. He was born on October 19, 1944.

DON DASHNEY of L'original, Ontario joined MTC during the Dayton Hamvention. He was born on January 23, 1929.

Hoosier TH Chapter

LARRY MITCHELL of Indianapolis, Indiana joined MTC during the Dayton Hamvention. He was born on February 15, 1947.

Members at Large GC Chapter

PAUL D. MANOLI of Mystic, Connecticut was born on August 31, 1948. He is a past member of the French Cable Station Museum in Orleans, Maine. His interests include submarine cables: Trans- ▶

Atlantic, Trans-Pacific, and the Caribbean, plus speaking galvanometers. His amateur radio call sign is KB1NCD.

You bring special knowledge to MTC, Paul!

ROBERT M. YOUNG (MARTY) of Spring Hope, North Carolina was born on March 2, 1958. Marty states that he is interested in learning American Morse code. His amateur radio call sign is W4MY.

Welcome to MTC, Marty!

ROBERT O. DARLING of Owensboro, Kentucky joined MTC during the Dayton Hamvention. He was born on December 1, 1949.

ROBERT B. NEWBERRY of Pegram, Tennessee joined MTC during the Dayton Hamvention. He was born on February 23, 1958.

MICHAEL R. KINCAID joined MTC during the Dayton Hamvention. He was born on July 6, 1942.

GEORGE E. HALL joined MTC during the Dayton Hamvention.

TERRY D. WATERS of Winnsboro, South Carolina joined MTC during the Dayton Hamvention. He was born on April 28, 1954.

THEODORE DIEHL of Zeewordde, Netherlands notes that his ham call sign is PA1Z. He paid his dues for five years! Theodore says that he is extremely interested in Morse history and telegraph keys. He says he hopes to master basics in the near future.

We extend a special welcome to you, Theodore.

MOYES E. WILLIAM of Layton, Utah says that he was introduced to the telegraph and to amateur radio in 1957 by Keith Anderson, station agent at Ririe, Idaho. He was born on January 3, 1947 and he notes that he is a former member of the Golden Spike Chapter.

Welcome back to MTC!

Montana MA Chapter

DENNIS H. DROGITISOR of Harrison, Montana joined MTC on April 30, 2011. He was born on November 21, (can't make out the year). I hope we will get more info about Dennis.

Florida FX Chapter

CATELYN N. CHABLIN of Lecanto, Florida is a high school senior who wants to learn more about telegraphy. Caitlyn's grandfather taught telegraphy.

Don Andrus, Secretary-Treasurer of the FX Chapter, describes Catelyn as a charming young female.

Welcome Catelyn; the FX Chapter MTC members will help you learn and appreciate your grandfather's skills at the telegraph key.

We also extend a welcome to the fourteen new MTC members who joined during the Dayton Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio during this annual May event. If we receive additional information on each of these new members, I'll share that with you. ~Editor Jim



This is a photograph of the U.S. Post Office in Telegraph, Texas, which was established in 1885.

MTC member, Gene Wood, of Madill, Oklahoma, loaned us this unusual postcard which he received in 1999 from his son, Russell.

The Village of Telegraph, Texas once received notoriety in Ripley's Believe It Or Not. Telegraph, Texas had no telegraph

KEEP IN TOUCH...

Your participation in Dots & Dashes is important. We need your stories, club news, announcements and reminiscences to keep it lively and interesting for everyone.

Jim Wilson
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Dots & Dashes

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For membership changes, address updates, dues and other information dealing with membership or with chapter operation, contact your local Chapter Secretary or:

Roger Reinke
International Secretary-Treasurer

5301 Neville Court
Alexandria, VA 22310
Tel: 703-971-4095 • E-mail: RWRinke@cox.net

Please do not send address changes for Dots & Dashes, dues renewals, etc., to the Editor. All mailing lists and membership rosters are prepared through the office of the International Secretary.

Ham Radio Web Sites

For those of you who are amateur radio operators, here are three current web sites that I find useful:

www.arnewsline.org
www.usrepeaters.com
www.qth.com

NOTICES & INVITATIONS

Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.
Dial-Up Information

U.S. (KB) HUB
1-269-697-4506/4508/4513
(Michigan-Ace Holman)

CANADIAN (HN) HUB
1-888-822-3728 (toll free)

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