



What

Hath

God

Wrought

The Official Publication of the Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.

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THE LADY GOT NO RESPECT

by Richard Inwood

It was August 1948 and I was 15-years-old. I was wandering around the Westmount Park area of Montreal's west end. Suddenly, I saw a huge plume of black smoke, rising to the sky. So, I hopped on my bike and pedalled eastward to find out where the fire was. When I got to Dominion Square, a bit more than two miles away, I gazed down Peel Street and I saw that Bonaventure Station, just a couple of blocks south of Canadian Pacific's Windsor Station, was in flames.

Bonaventure Station or, in French, Gare Bonaventure, was a 'grand old lady'. It was built

in 1847 by the Montreal & Lachine Railway, which was later taken over by the Grand Trunk Railroad which, in turn, was taken over by Canadian National. It was upgraded considerably in the 1880s to handle not only commuter trains, but also such prestige trains as the Ocean Limited to Halifax.

But, Gare Bonaventure didn't have an easy life. The bad luck started in 1886 with a devastating flood.

It took a while, but the water finally subsided. They cleaned up the mess and reopened the

continued on page 5 



Dots & Dashes

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The Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.

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Your Articles and Stories: MTC is always looking for original photographs, stories and articles about your experiences in telegraphy or radiotelegraphy. Please send articles and news stories to the Editor of *Dots & Dashes*.

Telegraph Talks and Demonstrations: If you or your local chapter should schedule any demonstrations, talks or other special events, please notify the International President so he can publish your event in our on-line calendar.

IN THIS ISSUE

ARTICLES

- The Lady Got No Respect
By Richard Inwood 1,5
- Taiwan's Small Band Of Wireless Warriors
By Stephanie Yangreporting 7,12,19
- 14th Annual Railroaders Reunion at the
McAdam Railway Station in McAdam 10-11
- Keeping Telegraphy Alive at
Heritage Park Railway Days 2022
By Michaelyn Redgwell 18-19

IN EVERY ISSUE

- Sidewire 3
- President's Line 3-4
- Letters To The Editor 8-9
- Chapter News 13
- Welcome Aboard 14
- A Penny For Your Thoughts 14
- Silent Keys 15-16
- Member Sample Biographies 17
- Book & Movie Review 20-21
- Do You Know? 21
- House Track 22

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

➡ 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.com



Sidewire

Comments from the
Editor of *Dots & Dashes*

By Jim Wilson



The Pandemic Continues

This third year of a global pandemic has become more complicated and deadly. We now have COVID spreading, plus a ten-year major increase in the FLU, version H3N2, plus a new respiratory problem referred to as RSV. These three diseases combined are termed a TRIPLEDEMIC. Our age group is particularly susceptible to all three of these respiratory diseases. So, please be extra careful!

Generous Donations

Recall that one of our MTC members challenged us with an anonymous donation of up to \$5,000 based upon your donations being matched. International Secretary-Treasurer, Richard Williams, reports a wonderful response to that donation challenge. Since donations continue to arrive, we plan to list names of donors in the SPRING issue of *Dots & Dashes* journal. Yes, the \$5,000 challenge has been exceeded, Bravo to you!

Member Articles

Thank you for sending me your articles and descriptions of your interesting experiences. This issue benefits from your stories. Yes, you have modest stories that will entertain and may amaze our readers. Please keep your stories coming for future issues of *Dots & Dashes* journal.

Jim Wilson

President's Line

Jim Wades, President
Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.



When I was a boy, there were no video games, computers, or smart phones. One lived what might be called an “experiential life.” The job of a child was to imagine and create through play and interaction with his environment. Playing “cowboys and Indians” evolved with age into venturing out on one’s own to go fishing or hunting. Riding a bicycle or collaborating with friends to build a “go-cart” evolved into one’s first automobile and the real work of making it run despite its deficiencies.

Children were also expected to be “productive.” On the farm, one had chores and contributed. In the city, one might have a newspaper route or work as a messenger. When not contributing, sports were part of one’s daily life. Rather than sitting in front of a video console playing “Call of Duty” or similar games soaked in technicolor carnage and fake combat in which no one truly dies, we played baseball and football and hockey.

Reading was once part of childhood. “Juveniles” led to adventure novels and biographies of great men who accomplished something meaningful. The schools stressed the canon of classical literature in which the great moral dilemmas were explored, and even if we didn’t appreciate it at the time, it impacted our understanding of the world and ourselves as adults.

When the parents and grandparents would get together, one had few electronic distractions, so one listened to their stories of life in the old country, growing up under difficult conditions or their experiences in wartime. One sensed a connection with the past and fortunately because the structure of society had allowed us to do our job of imagining and creating, we could interpret those stories and better relate to them, even if they were not our own.

Today, one can’t help but wonder if our society is losing our connection to the past in the same way that it is losing its connection

continued on next page ➡

to an “experiential life.” Many young people no longer hear of the past nor is there a personal connection to it forged by interaction with the older generation. Today, a child’s imagining and creating is done for him by others, and it is transmitted to him through electronic media. In many ways, such electronic content transmits a worldview and perspective that is contrary to that of his parents or grandparents. In so many ways, it is prurient and juvenile, and it suppresses the better angels of our nature. Perhaps worst of all, it is all so very passive.

Ask any railroad supervisor about new employees and he will tell you it is common to encounter new workers who have never used basic hand tools or read a ruler. Ask them to read a vernier scale or perform a few simple calculations and they find the task daunting. The same evidence of their past passivity applies to their knowledge of language, arts, culture, and history. They have only been immersed in the present and the emphasis has been on that which is base and hedonistic. The connection to the past and much of that which created the world in which they operate has been severed. Their attention span has been reduced as they absorb “Tik Tok” videos, “tweets,” and fake combat.

Historical organizations such as ours have little control over the broader culture, so we must ask how we can connect with this new, passive generation in a way that allows us to transmit our experiences and knowledge so that it is retained, if only in a broad context. The story of telecommunications is fascinating, but to understand it, one must also have a degree of imagination. How do we communicate the technical, social, and cultural impact of the telegraph and telecommunications industry to a generation conditioned to respond mostly to content saturated in stark primary colors, constant video and social media stimulation, and within an attention span limited to seconds? This is the challenge for museums, historical societies and educational institutions, and there are few quick or easy answers to this dilemma. However, one might argue that the fault is not in how we communicate, but in ourselves and our collective inability as a society to recognize that a child’s job is to imagine, create and experience life. If we allow others to do this for today’s children via electronics and entertainment alone, both our history and our culture may discover too late that there is a terrible price to pay.

30

ORT BADGES AVAILABLE

MTTC member John Springer has volunteered to offer you historic ORT patches [Order of Railroad Telegraphers]. For a donation to MTC of \$20 you can own an ORT patch. John’s address during winter is 3703 SE Jennings Road, Port Saint Lucie, Florida, ZIP 34952. John’s summer address is 261 Airline Road in Clinton, Connecticut 06413. The Morse Telegraph Club benefits from this sale.



continued from front page

station. However, that wasn't the end of the bad luck. On March 1st 1916, fire broke out. Montreal firemen were quick to respond and saved the structure. Gone, however, were the gothic turrets. The 'grand old lady' now had a flat roof.

Grand Trunk and CN were able to run trains out of Bonaventure again. But, over the years, traffic declined or was diverted to CN's huge and very modern Central Station, which opened in 1943. The writing was on the wall. The 'old lady' was dying. Then, there was the last straw, that 1948 inferno. The station and train shed were levelled.

She was tired and her time had come, but it was sad. They don't make waiting rooms like that anymore,

And, that's just the waiting room for ordinary folks. The lounge for first class passengers, through that lighted archway on the right, was even more posh.

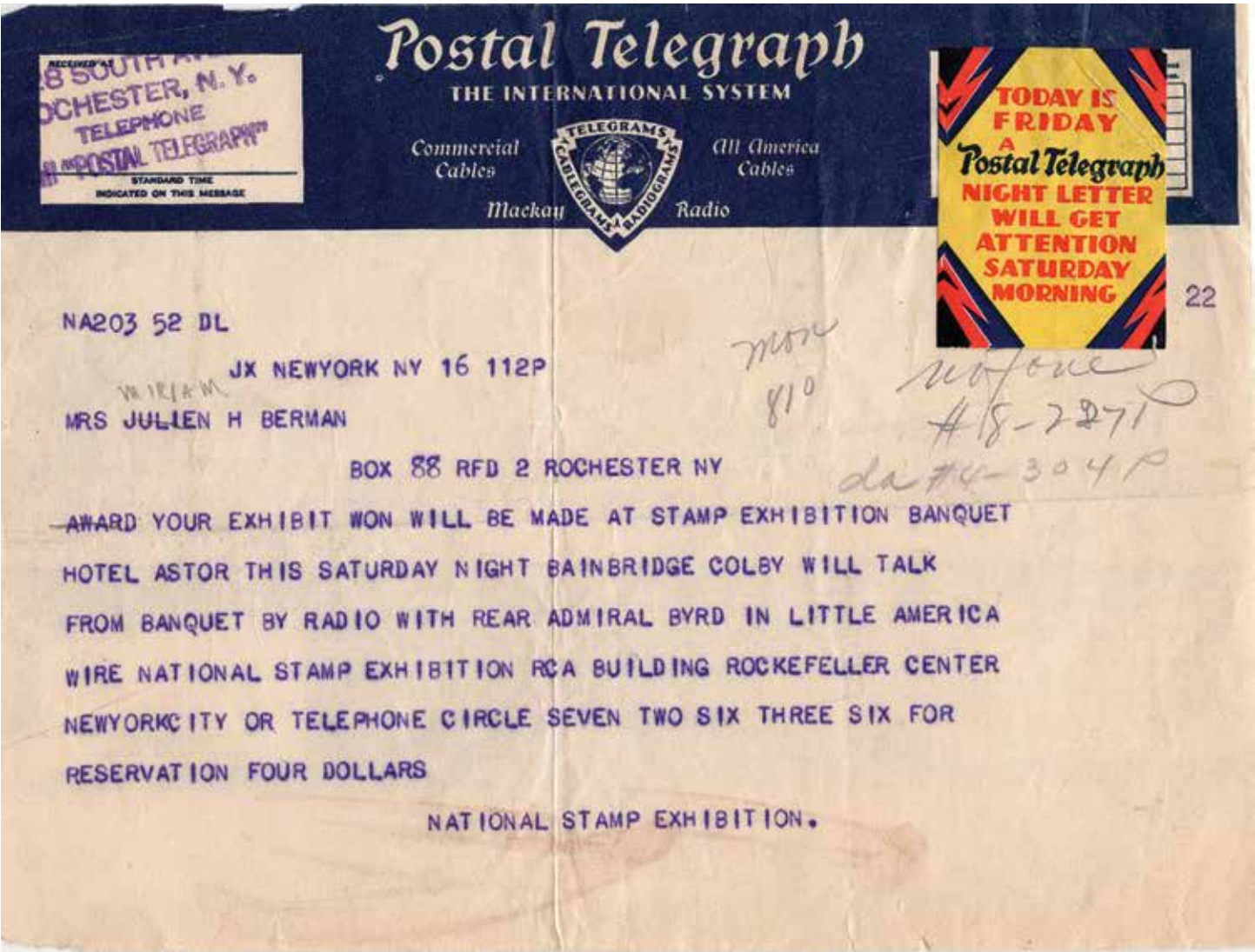




This is fall Luncheon of MTC Edmonton Chapter Members and wives attending at a restaurant in Edmonton.

Back Row: Bob Coulson, Fred Pylypow, Gerry Adair, Myra Crone, Jim Crone, Wally Footz, Olga Footz, Greg Blundell, Elaine Blundell, Cathy Metherell, Ron Hillis, Bob Gibeault, Gerry Schiele

Front Row: Bill Tchir, Cliff Metherell, Eric Dowdell. An enjoyable time was had by all.



TAIWAN'S SMALL BAND OF WIRELESS WARRIORS

Ham radio fans see a role if China attacks
by Stephanie Yang reporting from Taipei, Taiwan

On Tuesday nights, BX2AN sits near the Xindian River, motionless but for his thumb and middle finger, rhythmically tapping against two small metal paddles. They emit a sound each time his hand makes contact — from the right, a dit, or dot; from the left, a dah, or dash, the building blocks of the Morse code alphabet.

“Is anyone there?” he taps.

The replies come back in fits and starts: from Japan, then Greece, then Bulgaria. Each time, BX2AN, as he is known on the radio waves, jots down a series of numbers and letters: call signs, names, dates, locations. Then he adjusts a black round knob on his transceiver box, its screens glowing yellow in the dark.

There can be no doubt that this is his setup. That unique call sign is stamped across the front of his black radio set, scrawled in faded Sharpie on his travel mug and engraved on a plaque on his car dashboard. On the edge of his notepad, he’s absent-mindedly doodled it again, BX2AN.

In the corporeal world he is Lee Jiann-shing, a 71-year-old retired bakery owner, husband, father of five, grandfather of eight and a ham radio enthusiast for 30 years. Every week, he is the first to arrive at this regular meeting for Taipei’s amateur radio hobbyists.

They gather on a small, grassy campground on the city’s southern border, where Lee hunches over his radio from the back of his van, listening to the airwaves as the sun goes down. He doesn’t talk much; he prefers the dits and dahs to communicate. By 8:30 p.m. he has corresponded with six other operators in various countries.

U-R-N-A-M-E, Lee asks a contact in Bulgaria. G-E-K, the operator replies, adding a location, S-O-F-I-A. Lee taps out L-E-E and his city in response.

As more members of the Chinese Taipei Amateur Radio League, or CTARL, trickle in, two other operators are setting up stations several yards away. One of them, like Lee, starts tapping. The other prefers a handheld voice transmitter, tuning into some indistinct chatter across the Taiwan Strait.

In the age of smartphones and DMs, amateur

radio has become a niche hobby in Taiwan. Participants like Lee, many of whom are older than 50, tinker with electronics, exchange postcards with new contacts and compete to see who connects with the most far-flung places.

But ham radio might turn out to be more than just a pleasant pastime.

The self-governing island, about 100 miles east of China, is weighing wartime scenarios in the face of growing military aggression from its vastly more powerful neighbor. If cell towers are down and internet cables have been cut, the ability of shortwave radio frequencies to transmit long-distance messages could become crucial for civilians and officials alike.

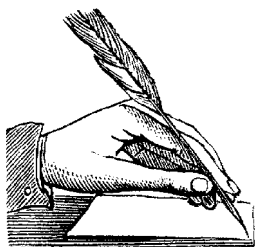
The recreational use of wireless radios, which transmit and receive messages via electromagnetic signals, became popular in the early 20th century, starting in the U.S. Since the federal government began issuing licenses in 1912, the number of noncommercial radio operators in the country has surpassed 846,000, according to the Federal Communications Commission.

Amateur radio operators (also known as “hams”) tend to use the high radio frequencies, a measure of the oscillation rate of electromagnetic waves. The higher the frequency, the shorter the wavelength, and the farther signals can travel. (Never heard of it? Ham radio still occasionally pops up in movies and TV — “A Quiet Place,” “The Walking Dead” — as a communication channel of last resort.)

The technology proved useful during World Wars I and II, when countries such as the U.S. and Britain limited civilian airwave activity but enlisted skilled hobbyists to help send and intercept covert messages. More recently, during Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the BBC used shortwave radio to broadcast its news service after communication towers were attacked. Ham radio operators were also able to listen in and interrupt communications among Russian soldiers.

Taiwan was not an early adopter. Under the Kuomintang, or Nationalist Party — whose leaders fled to the island in 1949 after losing to Mao Zedong’s Communist Party in China’s civil war — civilian use of amateur radio was all but banned

continued on page 12 ➤



Letters to the Editor

September 28th

Thanks for your good work with the Morse Telegraph Club. *Dots & Dashes* is perhaps the best newsletter I've ever seen.

I recall my first radio contact as a CW Novice class amateur radio operator. I was so excited hearing my call sign, WN2LDJ, that I temporarily forgot the Morse code! A few hours after I did contact the same station for my second logged contact. His QTH (location) was only one mile away.

Later when I earned my pilot's license, on my first solo flight, I DID REMEMBER HOW TO FLY!

Professor Glenn Showalter
Art & Communications

October 17th

Hi again, "Always choose happiness" are words to live by – and the decoded "Secret Message" in the FALL issue of *Dots & Dashes*. (Readers, this is the codes message in each issue along the top of each page.) My XYL (wife) of 65 years and I have just received our 7th and 8th great grandsons!

73 and good DX,
William, N0WM

October 17th

Greetings from Australia. COVID has made a bit of a dent in our volunteer telegraph activities over the past 2 years. But we are slowly getting our operation moving again. This year, we will probably send about 1300 telegrams around Australia and the world. We used to send over 3,000 annually, pre-COVID.

We had quite a few silent keys, which also slowed us down a bit. That unfortunately is a problem for groups practicing old talents. We can't last forever.

My station, Beechworth, is now the only venue in Australia which accepts and transmits telegrams via a dial up network and delivers them by Post every day. We are fortunate to have the venue of a former telegraph station, circa 1858, and a group of dedicated non-operation volunteers. I am the only operator left here, but have the support of 6 former ops working from home at various locations around Australia. I also get some help with printing by our National

Communications Museum. So, we keep Morse and telegrams alive.

We also cater to a lot of school groups. Beechworth is a major school camp venue for kids' years 5 & 6 from Victorian Schools. Additionally, Beechworth is a major tourist town, which attracts thousands of tourists annually. So, we keep ourselves busy and popular. You might look at a YouTube video titled, "Keeping it Alive," by Jack Morrow, a 20-minute story about our own history.

Cheers,
Leo Nette

October 18th

I thought you might be interested in this little story. In 1994, husband Earl and I set across Canada to Vancouver from St. Thomas, Ontario and caught the Alaskan ferry to Alaska. We saw this couple from Australia on the boat, and then on our tour of Yukon, taking the Whitehorse train and in Dawson City Yukon, we kept by chance meeting them.

We chatted and found out that the husband, Bob Sherrin, was a retired Morse Operator and station agent from Townsville, Queensland, Australia. What a coincidence! We agreed to meet when we both got back to Vancouver. So, we took them on a tour of Vancouver. Then they invited us to come to visit them in Australia.

In 1955, we visited them in Nambour, just north of Brisbane. A couple of years later, they came to St. Thomas. Friends of ours owned a van, so we took the Australians and the couple back to my brother's log chateau (5bedrooms) made of logs in Northern Michigan. We spent the day riding the tourist train in the Agawa Canyon in Northern Ontario. On another day, we took them on my brother's boat to Mackinac Island, where a lot of the rich and famous hang out. The Australians said it was the best holiday they ever had.

Oh, we stopped at the Townsville station on our train ride from Nambour to Cairns. It was a lovely station with beautiful surrounding gardens. Bob Sherrin died a year ago. But I still keep in touch with his wife.

73,
Lavina Shaw

October 28th

Here is an article of interest from today's LA Times. (Read this article on page 7)

**73, Richard Williams,
International MTC Secretary-Treasurer**

October 31st

I am submitting an article to be considered for publication in the next issue of *Dots & Dashes*. The article is about the involvement of their Heritage Park Morse Telegraph Club and about members of the MTC Calgary Chapter during Heritage Parks Railway Days 2022 event this past September.

Last year we wrote a similar article about Railway Days 2021, which you subsequently published in the Fall 2021 issue of *Dots & Dashes*. This year's article is a little different. It was written by a young, newly hired member of the park's train crew. She is also a prospective member of the Morse Telegraph Club. (Read Ken's article on page 18)

**73, Ken Ashmead,
Coordinator of the Heritage Park
Morse Telegraph Club
Member of the Calgary "CG" Chapter**

November 10th

To get the MTC moving, I implemented MTC board meetings with President Wades approval, suggested and approved color photos for *Dots & Dashes*, obtained an ISSN for *Dots & Dashes*, started a charity drive to raise thousands of dollars for MTC, implemented Amazon Smile to raise MTC funds, and worked with our webmaster to improve our website.

On Saturday, November 13th, I am turning 87 and celebrating by running a ten-mile race here in Coronado. (Richard won the race in his age category!)

**Richard Williams,
MTC International Secretary-Treasurer**

November 10th

I hope the following article of our demo at the McAdam Railway station will be of interest to everyone. (Read Neil's article on page 10)

**73 & Regards,
Neil Horsman**

November 25th

I disagree with the statement in the article about the CIA 75th anniversary that Fidel Castro was a dictator. (*This was a statement made by a National Public Radio Correspondent on page 5 of the previous issue*)

I visited Cuba four times and have had Cubans visit me when I lived in Ontario. I am not a Communist. On one visit to Cuba, I attended a Baptist church service (accompanied by a nun from New York) where the minister was the elected member for a Havana barrio of the National Assembly. The minister ran against seven other candidates. They do not receive campaign funds from corporations, etc. but hold town-hall meetings in a rent-free hall in the barrio every six months.

I was told that a meeting is held where the minister has to give a report on what he has done and what is taking place at the Assembly. If the residents aren't satisfied, they can ask for a re-election. I was in his constituency office which was quite small and simple.

I saw Castro speak twice. His speeches are long, but he had a terrific sense of humor and mentioned about his cigars being poisoned about 600 attempts on his life, and not by Cubans. I feel it is very unfair that there is still an embargo and sanctions against their country.

On another trip to Cuba, I landed in a hospital with a ruptured bowel. I had four blood transfusions and specialists were called in. I got the best of care. I was taken to a hospital within half an hour by ambulance, accompanied by a doctor and a nurse. They saved my life.

After three days, against my doctors wishes, I signed myself out of the hospital in order to join my group to take a plane back to Canada in a wheelchair. The bill for my insurance for three extra hotel stays, doctors, transfusions was only around a thousand dollars.

**Lavina Shaw,
Former International MTC President**

14TH ANNUAL RAILROADERS REUNION AT THE McADAM RAILWAY STATION IN McADAM, NEW BRUNSWICK SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2022

The long-awaited 14th annual Railroaders Reunion took place at the McAdam Railway Station in McAdam New Brunswick on Saturday September 17th. This highly anticipated event was postponed for two years due to COVID-19, and the McAdam Railway Station was thrilled to be able to hold the event once again.

The Railroaders Reunion does not just honour the current and past railway workers of the Canadian Pacific Railway, their families, and friends, but encourages former railway workers from other rail lines to attend. In fact, we had a special guest from the Maritime chapter of the Morse telegraph club, Neil Horsman, former Canadian National Telegrapher participate in this event with his good friend, Trent Bowser who was a much-appreciated help with setting up equipment and technology.

Neil brought some of his personal Telegraph keys and sounders and provided an in-house Morse Code demonstration in the former Agent's/ Ticket Master's office, along with Hollis (Holly)

Grant, former CPR train dispatcher in McAdam. Due to some technical problems, they were unable to make contact with Cliff Hine retired CPR wire chief of Langley, B.C. Neil also showed a short documentary showing the movement of trains on the Revelstoke Div. between Kamloops and Field B.C. during the heyday of telegraph communication. Also, the Morse club was very pleased to learn that Emily a volunteer at the station was so impressed with this type of communication would like to learn Morse code and become a member of the club.

Meanwhile, in the Maxwell Room, a variety of historic railway photos were provided by Danny McCracken, former CPR employee of the McAdam Railway Station and a model CP caboose that was built by Wendall Lemon was also on display (also a former CPR employee). A special display of CPR China was also on display (courtesy of Dave McInroy of the McAdam Historical Restoration Commission) which included a teacup and saucer draw for one of the beautiful pieces from





Former CPR employees and friends gather in the Waiting Room to catch up!



Holly Grant posing in the Agent's Ticket Master Office



Neil Horsman, former CN Telegrapher providing a Morse code demonstration



Student telegrapher Emily practicing Morse code

his collection. Many community volunteers and directors from the McAdam Historical Restoration Commission provided a BBQ for the guests and worked the Registration desk. "Ronnie Saunders and Friends" entertained the attendees with their fiddle music following the BBQ. The event was attended by over 80 guests and former railway employees.

The focal point of the day, however, was the reading of the names of the 34 former Canadian Pacific Railway employees who had passed away since the 13th annual reunion in 2019, followed by a Moment of Silence. The list of names was read by Wayne Vail.

The McAdam Historical Restoration Commission looks forward to the 15th Annual Railroaders Reunion, which will be held in September of 2023. Details on the next Railroaders Reunion will be posted on the McAdam Railway Station website at mcadamstation.ca and on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/McAdamRailwayStation>, in August of 2023.

The maritime chapter of the Morse telegraph club expressed their thanks to Jennifer Yamazaki operation's manager for all her help and support in promoting the Morse telegraph.



Maxwell Room Display, photos by Danny McCracken, CP Caboose by Wendall Lemon



BBQ and gathering in the Dining Room of the McAdam Railway Station

by a government that remained wary of mainland spies. The first licensing exams weren't offered until 1984. But today, with the threat of cross-strait conflict making headlines, Taiwan has about 25,000 licensed amateur radio operators, according to the National Communications Commission.

For years, China has asserted that Taiwan is part of its territory, a position the U.S. has acknowledged but stopped short of endorsing. As Chinese President Xi Jinping has pushed his vision for unification — if not peacefully, then by force — President Biden has hardened his rhetoric on defending the island's democracy, raising fears of an inevitable clash.

After U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited here in early August, the People's Liberation Army in China launched missiles, planes and warships around Taiwan for several days. The growing military pressure has also highlighted the vulnerability of the island's internet, which is heavily reliant on several major undersea data cables.

As Taiwan confronts the possibility of war, many civilians are making preparations of their own.

Shoichi Chou, 45, remembers using a wireless radio as a teenager to date and talk with his friends. But two years ago, watching Xi call more forcefully for unification, he decided to reacquaint himself with the technology in case war broke out and communication lines went down. Now a licensed operator, Chou, who lives in the city of Taoyuan, keeps a radio in his emergency bag, along with spare batteries, water and a hard hat.

"I feel like it's incredibly important," said Chou, the owner of a laptop customization studio. "If just a few bases don't have electricity, you won't have any way to use your phone."

Kenny Huang, chief executive officer of the Taiwan Network Information Center, a nonprofit that serves local internet users, said several government ministries have begun working on contingency plans for any conflict-induced outages. "This year," he said, "the government realized because the tension between Taiwan and China is getting worse, they have to prepare for the worst-case scenario."

The use of ham radio is not yet officially part of that equation. But for T.H. Schee, a Taiwanese tech entrepreneur who hosts lectures on civil defense, the devices seem like a natural solution to his topmost concern: securing communication capabilities in the face of an attack.

"Ham radio has been proven to be [a] reliable communication channel in several world wars, and the Ukraine-Russia conflict as well," Schee said. In Taiwan, amateur operators have helped train

military personnel and assisted in emergency communications for events including deadly natural disasters and the annual New Year's Eve festivities in downtown Taipei.

"Some people will think that with today's technological advancements, this thing is being phased out," said David Kao, secretary general of CTARL. "But ... new things are not always reliable."

Kao was 9 when he first encountered a basic broadcast radio in 1981. Intrigued, he scoured the library for literature on the novel devices and went from stall to stall at a local market seeking more information. At that time, obtaining an amateur license was illegal under martial law imposed by the Nationalists, also known as KMT. But restrictions started easing a few years before martial law was lifted in 1987. Four years later, CTARL was founded, and Kao finally got his license.

Some hobbyists found their own ways around the rules. In 1981, when Wayne Lai was 16, he was so eager to play with radios that he built his own contraband out of electronic refuse.

His self-selected call sign back then was U0, or youling in Chinese, a homonym for the word "ghost." His friends similarly styled themselves Apple, Snoopy, Frog, Mazda, Bandit, Chicken Leg, Spare Rib. A few years before Taiwan began to loosen restrictions, Lai and his friends were raided by the authorities. Their radios were confiscated, and they had to sign pledges to not use them again.

Today, amateur radio is very accessible, but Lai, one of the Tuesday night regulars at the campgrounds, worries that it doesn't hold the same allure for people who grew up in the internet era.

"Look. Old guy," Lai says, pointing at one of the operators who set up on a concrete bench. "Old guy. Old guy. Old guy. Old guy," he continued, gesturing around a table. "There aren't many young people coming to play anymore."

Luo Yi-cheng is quick to challenge that pronouncement. The 27-year-old accounting specialist, who learned about ham radio from a YouTube video last year, compared it to discovering Facebook — a different way to connect with people around the world.

The hardest part, he said, was picking up the receiver and uttering his first words — it was something akin to speaking in front of the entire class in grade school. But the sense of accomplishment from a successful connection was greater than anything Luo had experienced using his smartphone. "I was completely unaware that this existed," he said. "I think younger people aren't simply disinterested; they probably just don't know

continued on page 19

CHAPTER NEWS

WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE "WA" CHAPTER

Like most of our MTC chapters, during recent years the WA chapter has decreased in numbers. Forty-seven members were proudly listed on the roster for the Annual Morse Celebration on April 24, 1982. Today the membership is only 14. (See that list below)

During the past two years, the pandemic has restricted MTC activities. But live telegraph demonstrations are beginning to return.

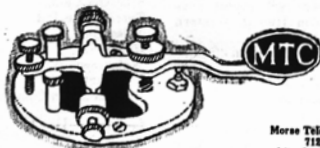
And the WA chapter has good news. Recall that our past WA President, Hubert Jewell, became a silent key on April 10, 2020. A request was recently announced for any member who might like to serve as the new WA President. One of our members stepped forward.

Let's welcome Walt Mathers as our new WA President. Walt and his wife Valorie have been active in the WA chapter for about two decades. He also has other connections to history. See Valorie's Want Ad on page 22 for her providing historic telegraph operator's attire. Welcome WA President Walt Mathers!

Morse Telegraph Club of America,
WASHINGTON, D. C. CHAPTER

John R. Adamson
Carl G. Anderson
George K. Ashenden W4BG
George M. Bartlett
Joseph W. Berlinski
Peter N. Borsi
John F. Boyd KA4GOI
Gardner L. Bridge
Milam B. Cater W4WC
Alan J. Coiro W4KSA
Joseph G. Corona
Charles R. Cowan
Percy L. Crenshaw
John B. Curry K5IMC
William C. Doherty
William B. Drury
Lee L. Elbrader
Pauline C. Florence
Gilbert L. Foster W5YNK
Jerry Grim
Clayton W. Hanson W4NPG
Francis B. Harding
Joseph M. Harris Jr W4MAV
Charles E. Hedrick W4WO

Peter M. Hurd N1SS
Gerald F. Hurley
Hubert H. Jewell
Howard B. Johnson W4IIG
Leslie R. Lewis Sr
Carroll S. Linkins
Laurence W. Lloyd Sr
William G. Moore
Ms Marie G. Neal
Leonard J. Nole W4OTN
Phillips H. Prince WB1EQY
Stephens Rippey
Bernard F. Rupp Sr W3DLA
James J. Schwantes
John N. Sim
Walter J. Stewart AA4I
Thomas A. Stunt
Robert G. Tuck
Edward R. Tyree KA3CXK
John G. White K1TKP
Mrs B. G. Whitt
Lynn C. Wilson K4DHB
Albert N. Williams WB3GPM



Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.
718 South 49
Lincoln, Nebraska 68510

W4KSA

EVERGREEN "SX" CHAPTER

On October 22nd, the Evergreen Chapter held its fall meeting via Zoom. President Kevin Saville officiated. He first thanked Les Kerr for hosting their chapter meetings. He reminded members that 2023 dues and donations could be mailed to himself in Olympia, Washington.

THE CALGARY "CG" CHAPTER

Good news: This chapter is coming back to life! Ken Ashmead held a meeting on November 7th. He wanted to know if any member would volunteer to take on the job of chapter president.

Meanwhile, Lavina Shaw was serving as temporary president by continuing the presidential duties. "I never thought of myself as being in that position, just treasurer for collecting dues," says Lavina.

Recall that previous club treasurer, Ed Cox, suddenly died. Thus, a new chapter bank account needed to be established and records transferred. So, look for a progress report in the next issue of *Dots & Dashes*.



Welcome

Annual
Morse Celebration

April 24, 1982



Thank you!





Welcome Aboard!

NEW MEMBERS OF MTC

Heather Davis of Canmore, Alberta

Brian Henderson of Calgary, Alberta

Paul Mercer of Calgary, Alberta

Selwin Morris of Calgary, Alberta

Clyde Bennish of Cebu City, Philippines

Russell Calabrese of Huntington, Maine

Roger Carver of Flower Mound, Texas

Jay Rowot of Allen, Texas

Craig Wadsworth of Pleasant Plains, Illinois



A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS



Recall that the new column, "A Penny for Your Thoughts," began its debut in a previous issue of Dots & Dashes. This new column is intended to be a safe place for you to air your thoughts.

Previous items that were on your minds included:

The unprovoked war by Russia against Ukraine

Current inflation in the price of everything

Our global climate disaster

Issues of growing older

The perceived decline in democracy

The worldwide rise in crime

Issues of declining sex in long time marriages

And for this issue we add the fear and likelihood of nuclear war.

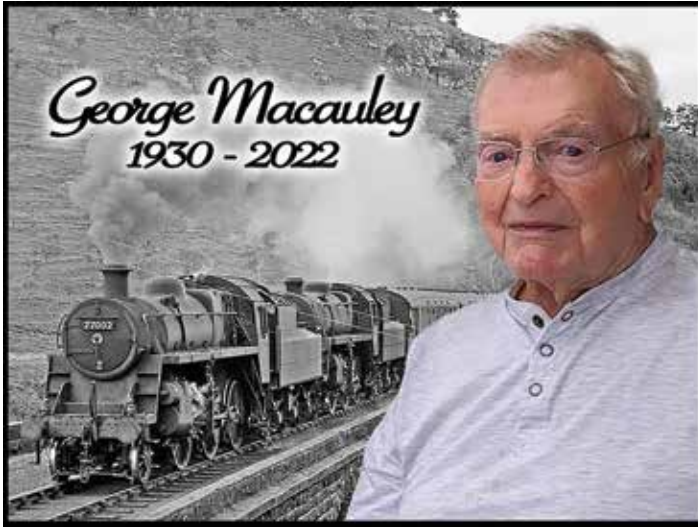
The U.S. Pentagon announced in an Associated Press story dated October 28th that China is still top threat. The 80-page report notes that Russia's war in Ukraine is a serious threat, including nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, China continues to manufacture more nuclear weapons and Washington's newest nuclear stealth bomber, the B-21, was just revealed to the public. The Pentagon plans to build 100 of the newly designed B-21's but hopes they will never be used in nuclear war.

“30” SILENT KEYS

News of our brothers and sisters who have closed the key



CALGARY “CG” CHAPTER



GEORGE EDWIN MACAULEY, age 92, left this world on September 13, 2022 after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson’s Disease. He leaves behind his wife of 69 years, Henriette Antoinette, and their five children plus ten great-grandchildren.

George was active in the Knights of Columbus, the RC Legion, the Order of Telegraphers, the CPR Pensioners Club and the Morse Telegraph Club. He was born on the family farm north of Markota, SK on August 17, 1930. Growing up in southern Saskatchewan in the 1930’s, he learned how to farm and survive in very difficult conditions. In 1949, George began working part time as a telegrapher for the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

In 1950, George and his dad worked for the PGRA at Val Marie Darn. That same year, he met the woman who would become the love of his life, Henriette Lebel. They were married on August 17, 1953.

George worked for the CPR as a Telegrapher, Station Agent, Operator a Dispatcher from 1949 – 1986, living in many communities in Alberta and Saskatchewan. He loved the railroad.

After his retirement, George and Henriette traveled Canada, eventually hitting every providence and territory with their truck and trailer. They also traveled to Europe and Mexico.

Thanks to Ken Ashmead and to Lavina Shaw for this information.

MAPLE LEAF “ON” CHAPTER

RUSS A. NICHOLS, age 95, of Huntsville, Ontario Canada, passed away on October 14, 2022. Russ was active in the Morse Telegraph Club and published several books.

Russ worked as a Telegraph Operator on the NYC Canada Division. During the 1950’s, Russ worked in Weiland, Ontario, residing for years in Fonthill, Ontario. When the sweeping cuts came, Russ left railway service to run his own business. He became the prime mover in re-establishing the Huntsville and Lake of Bays Railway, which developed as a popular tourist attraction, including two original steam locomotives.

Thanks to his daughter, Sherry, for this brief notice and to Charles Beckett for additional info.

WILLIAM BURGESS, age 93, passed away in December 8, 2022. He was born in 1929 during the depression and grew up in Flaxcombe, Saskatchewan when life was hard. When Bill was old enough, he played baseball in the summer and hockey in the winter, two sports that he excelled in and loved for many years.

Bill began his career with the Canadian National Railway (CN) when he was only 16 years old. His colleagues often became family friends. He was promoted many times during his career and four of his sons also became employees of the CN.

The highlight of Bill’s career was when he was selected to go to Montreal for three years in the 1980’s. He was then instrumental in computerizing a sector of rail traffic control. He was precise and conscientious and he had a regard for safety as a priority for CN Rail.

Later, Bill encouraged all of his children to get involved in sports, especially cross-country skiing. Bill and his family won prizes five times for the most kilometers skied.

When Bill turned 70, he started running marathons and biking. After retirement, Bill and Thora bought a plot of land near Smoky Lake. There they gardened, took long walks, skied and enjoyed nature. Bill and Thora also loved to dance. Bill became known as “the unofficial Fred Astaire of River Ridge.”

Bill is survived by his seven children, 19 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Thanks to Bill's daughter for this interesting information about her wonderful dad.

Edmonton "MO" Chapter



On Monday, November 7, 2022 **MRS. SUZANNE FRISSELL OF WAINWRIGHT**, Alberta passed away at the Wainwright Health Center at the age of 85 years.

Sue is survived by four children, Sheldon (Carrie) Frissell, Mike (Nancy) Frissell, Kerry (Sandra) Frissell all of Wainwright, Tracy (Neil) Howk of Calgary; nine grandchildren, Tanner (Alyssa) Frissell, Willow (Jeremy) Irwin, Coby (Ashlie) Frissell, Brett (Jaden) Frissell, Jessica (Cody Taylor) Frissell, Baylee Frissell, Kalli (Adam Sandau) Frissell, Lucas Howk, Troi (Joseph Mooney) Howk; as well as ten great grandchildren, Rey, Juno, Cora, Cooper, Aris, Cohen, Harper, Grace, Annie and Ivy; one brother, Bob (Marg) Carmichael; brother-in-law and sister-in-law. Jim and Alison Frissell; brother-in-law, Ken Frissell; as well as nieces, nephews, extended family and many dear friends. She was predeceased by her husband, Ed Frissell; her parents, Robert and Bell Carmichael; brother-in-law, Ronald "Duke" Frissell; and sister-in-law Victoria Budzilka.

A memorial service for Suzanne will be conducted on Saturday, November 19, 2022 at 11:00AM at the Wainwright Church of the Nazarene. Those unable to attend may participate via the "Watch Webcast" link below.

If so desired, in lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to World Vision or Wainwright Church of the Nazarene.

In respect for Sue Frissell, this information about her husband Ed is published again



ED FRISSELL, age 85, passed away on February 22, 2022. He was born in Vermilion, Alberta on October 22, 1937. In October 1955 Ed began training with the Canadian National Railroad – which led to an amazing career. Ed quickly and diligently learned Morse code to

become a sought after telegraph operator. By April

of 1956, he was ready to dot and dash his way across the west, working as a telegraph agent at Spedden, Roundhill, Bruderheim, Grand Centre, Hillard, Vermillion, Unity Saskatchewan, Alliance, Entrance, Wainwright and Edmonton.

Soon, Ed expanded his knowledge to become a train dispatcher in Winnipeg, Edmonton and Peace River, but eventually he returned to Wainwright as an operator and then station agent.

The Canadian National Railway valued Ed's talents. He was one of the few telegraph operator trainers and he spent many hours in his own home teaching new railroaders the craft. In his passing, Ed was still an active member of the elite Morse Telegraph Club, Edmonton Chapter.

Even though Ed thoroughly enjoyed his career with the CN and loved working with fellow employees at every location, after 37 faithful years of service, it was time for Ed to retire from the Canadian National Railroad on October 31, 1992.

Ed was an amazing athlete and coach, very involved in community organizations, loved to hunt and fish, and always enjoyed time with his family at their cottage on Clear Lake with his wife, Sue and four children: Sheldon, Mike, Kerry and Tracy. In retirement, Ed and Sue put many miles on their RV exploring the world.

Thanks to Bill Tchir for this info.



GILBERT L. VERRET, age 90, of Moncton passed away peacefully on November 28, 2022. Gil was born in Edmundston, NB. Gilbert retired from CNR as Regional Supervisor of Car Management with 40 years of service. He attended Notre-Dame-de-Grace Roman

Catholic Church and was a member of several organizations, including the Moncton Fiddlers Association. Gil was an avid lover of music who especially liked playing the fiddle at different events. He also enjoyed walking, gardening, bowling, Playing pool, curling, and canning fruits & vegetables with his dear wife of 65 years, Armande. Chris Hausler notes that for a while, Gil was very active on Wire 2.

Thanks to J. Chris Hausler for this info which was translated by him from French to English.

MEMBERS SAMPLE BIOGRAPHIES

*Here are sample biographies of some of our new MTC members and of loyal continuing members.
You will appreciate this new column about our Morse Telegraph Club members.*

BOYD K. FERRELL

In January 1955 I enrolled in the Commercial Extension School of Commerce in Lincoln, Nebraska. This guaranteed my first job typing American Morse code. My certificate of completion was dated April 1955; I placed 6th out of 24 students. Then my first job was with the DRG&W in Littleton, Walsenburg and Durango, Colorado on the narrow-gauge line. But...I was fired because I could not copy the code well enough!

In January 1956 I was hired by Chicago Burlington & Quincy Relay office, remaining in that Morse position for eleven years until the job was eliminated in January 1967. (This position included U.S. Navy Top Secret communications.) In 1967, at age 71, I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology. From there I worked in various leadership roles in the industry.
Boyd currently lives in Blackduck, Minnesota

WAYNE JUNOP

I have always been interested in trains and the telegraph system and have been collecting telegraph items for a long while. Also, I have been collecting telephones and related items, including insulators for over 50 years.

Wayne currently lives in Palmer Rapids, Ontario

STUART J. NELSON

I served as a telegraph operator on the Soo Line 1957, a U.S. Army radio operator 1958-1962, and as a train dispatcher for the Soo Line/Canadian Pacific 1964-2001. My sine was NE.

Stuart currently lives in Anoka, Minnesota

VIRGIL JUREK

In 1951 I began work for the Great Northern Railway as an Extra telegrapher. 40 ½ years later I retired from the GN, BN, & BNSF railroads. Loved it!

Virgil currently lives in Centerville, Minnesota

ALLEN ED SILKY

I love communications history, the early equipment, and especially land-line telegraphy. I run and maintain the KOB server (mtc-kob.dyndns.org) and a number of wire feeds. I am

also one of the primary developers of the latest version of the MorseKOB application (MKOB 4.0). I started working on this with Less Kerr a few years ago. But I need to create an installer to make it easy to use. It has the advantage of running on Windows, Mac, and Linux, including Raspberry Pi. And I get Wire 11 when possible. You can identify me there as "ES Ed" (usually on Mac or a RPi testing out new features).

Ed currently lives in Port Orchard, Washington

EARNEST OLSON

Upon graduating from high school, I was awarded a scholarship at School of Mines College in Rapid City, South Dakota. However, I did not have money for living expenses. So, a local depot agent at Rutland, SD sold me on an offer by the great Northern Railway to send me to telegraph school at the Gale Institute in Minneapolis and to hire me as an agent telegrapher if I would agree to work for them for one year.

After six months, 3 months of apprentice training, I filled open vacancies at Badger, South Dakota, Hills, Minnesota, Lester, Iowa, Sioux Center, Iowa, and finally earned a swing assignment at Garretson, South Dakota.

After a year, I was bumped, but thanks to the encouragement from others, I was invited to the Relay Office in Willmar, Minnesota. In 1954 I was invited to break in as a dispatcher. After 60 days and passing the rules exams I receive a dispatchers seniority date. Then someone said, "oops," he is only 20 years old. Others said "he is doing the kind of job we want." After ten years as an Extra dispatcher at Willmar, Kelly Lake and Minot got me a regular assignment at Grand Forks.

After the BN merger, I was moved to Minneapolis where I worked various assignments for the Twin City region. After the BNSF merger, I worked a year in Fort Worth, Texas before retiring in 1996. Little did I know that the job description of a station agent was "representing" the railway to people. Now I know it is God, faith and promise to people. It has been good.

If you like this new column, you may wish to add your brief bio for publication in the next issue of Dots & Dashes journal. ~Jim

KEEPING TELEGRAPHY ALIVE AT HERITAGE PARK RAILWAY DAYS 2022

by *Michaelyn Redgwell*

This year, during the first weekend of September, Calgary's Heritage Park hosted their 35th annual Railway Days, an event railway fans look forward to all season. Starting in May, the park opens and offers guests a chance to step into the past. Although not lacking in railway attractions throughout the year, during Railway Days the park's railway collection is really given prominence!

One thing seen during Railway Days 2022 was the double-header steam passenger train, something you are certain to only find at Heritage Park. Another popular item is the chance to ride in an authentic railway caboose, something not seen anymore. The most interesting thing to experience is the telegraph display.

Telegraphy has a special role during Railway Days just as it did on the Canadian Pacific Railway. Messages written in railway Morse code are sent between the park's train stations. Heritage Park has four former Canadian Pacific Railway stations, three of which are wired to send and receive Morse code. The most prominent of these is Midnapore station, built in 1910.

From Midnapore station train orders are hooped up by hand, just as they were many years ago. A yellow flag is displayed on the platform as the telegraph

operator holds up the hoop, orders attached. As the train passes the station, the engineer in the front of the train catches one hoop, while the conductor at the tail end of the train catches a second hoop containing duplicate orders. At Heritage Park conductors read the orders to the passengers, gifting them to one lucky guest who seems especially interested.

Hooping demonstrations used to only take place during Railway Days, but thanks to the formation of the park's telegraph club just prior to the pandemic, they can now be observed on a weekly basis!

When the train stations are staffed, the distinctive sound of Morse code being sent and received echoes throughout the stations, bringing them to life and offering guests a glimpse of what folks living in 1910 experienced whenever they visited the stations.

Telegraph club member Larry Isenor says: "Telegraphy is something more auditory than visual. You have to hear it to appreciate how it works. It's

nice to demonstrate for people and let them hear the sound. Morse code has a really distinctive sound that you used to hear in the railway stations and most people today have never heard it before."

The sound gets the guests' attention, giving them a chance to appreciate and learn about the



Conductors Chris Meade and Michaelyn Redgwell demonstrate hooping with the help of Heritage Park's Ken Ashmead

instant communication of telegraphy. Members of the telegraph club provide the chance to expand the guests' knowledge of the history of telegraphy and perhaps even the chance to send and receive a personalized telegram, bearing an official station stamp!

Although Railway Days started at Heritage Park in 1987, telegraphy was not included in the event until 1988, when demonstrations were given at Midnapore station by members of the Morse Telegraph Club, all former railway telegraphers.

In 1989 telegraphy was expanded to Laggan station and to Shepard station after that. At one time Heritage Park saw more than two dozen former railway telegraphers manning the stations. Since then the number of former railway telegraphers being involved in the event has dwindled as time has taken its toll. In 2017, only four former railway telegraphers were able to attend Railway Days and this year only two.

It has become increasingly difficult to find individuals fluent in railway Morse who are able to take the experienced telegraphers' place and provide the next generation with an understanding of Morse code. It was evident that Morse code was fast becoming a lost language, overshadowed by the ever-developing technology of the future. It was time to take action before it disappeared altogether.

In 2019 the Heritage Park Morse Telegraph Club was formed by interested volunteers and members of

the Morse Telegraph Club, Calgary chapter with the goal of keeping Morse code alive at Heritage Park. Club members and park staff believe that the past holds valuable lessons that should not be forgotten. Volunteers dedicate hours of their time to Heritage Park and Railway Days in particular, learning telegraphy and what a day in the life of a telegraph operator station agent was really like 100 years ago. You can see in their eyes and hear in their voices how much they love history and enjoy sharing it with visitors to the park.

Telegraph club member Marilyn Maguire adds: "Heritage Park is doing a fantastic job in keeping Morse Code alive. We really work hard and guests are fascinated by it. It's like another language, a lost language. It's important to keep that alive."

History can bring people happiness and inspiration, old and young. At Heritage Park a younger generation of individuals with a passion for history are taking the stage. As we continue on, hopefully more and more youth will be encouraged to become involved in the Morse Telegraph Club. It is this younger generation on whom we rely. To them we pass the torch of keeping Canadian railway history and the language of American Morse code alive.

Note: Michaelyn Redgwell is a newly hired teenaged train conductor at Heritage Park with a special interest in Morse telegraphy. This is her first article for *Dots & Dashes*.

Taiwan, continued from page 12

about this."

For the most part, ham radio is a solitary activity. Nonetheless, there's a festive atmosphere by the river. Lights strung up in a nearby tree illuminate screens and dials in the dark. Someone digs out a stack of ring toss hoops, while others fuss over small cups of tea.

Amid the sound of crickets and radio static, it's common to hear hams chat about the weather, their latest devices and how to best hide their gadget addictions from their wives. Some of them band together to purchase new electronics via a group chat called "Buy, Buy, Buy."

"With so many electronics, there's no way you can use them all," one member reasons.

"But when I see it, I still want to buy it," another insists, to the commiserating laughter of the group.

Meanwhile, at the back of Lee's van, another message arrives in halting beeps. He writes down the corresponding characters — E71A — before tapping out a response.

He waits but gets nothing.

In the radio silence, a colleague uses his phone to look up the call sign. "What is this flag?" he asks

Lee, who is also at a loss. Upon closer inspection, the icon, a blue-and-yellow rectangle, is labeled "Bosnia and Herzegovina" in tiny letters.

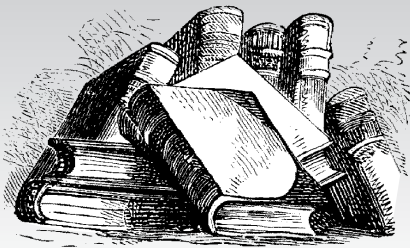
Others gather behind them, looking over Lee's shoulder. "Where is that?" they ask eagerly. "Did you respond?" "Did you make contact?"

"Didn't go through," Lee answers, his voice telegraphing dejection. "Hearing them, but not being able to reach them, is really depressing," he said, tapping his fingers over his heart.

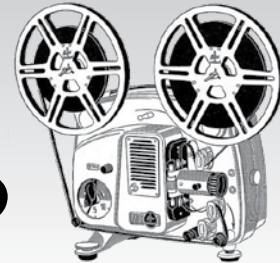
But all is not lost; there's always the possibility of another exciting connection in the days ahead. Plus, it's a peaceful night, and the threat of war — for now — seems as distant as the operators the hams are hoping to reach.

The night's attendees pack up their equipment and return supplies to their cars. A few of them help pull the lights down from the tree, stowing them in Lee's van for the next Tuesday gathering. And the regulars know Lee will probably be back at the river by the weekend, unable to stay away for long.

David Shen of The Times' Taipei bureau contributed to this report.

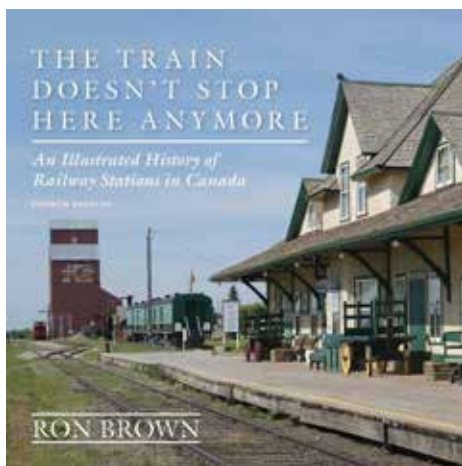


J. Chris Hausler's BOOK & MOVIE REVIEWS



If you started working as a telegraph operator for the railroads, you likely got your start working in a railway station and may (or may not) have fond memories of the experience. If you worked in a small town, you might have found yourself housed within that station. Even if you weren't a telegraph operator but are of a senior age as I am, you might have memories of visiting the station for travel or maybe it was just hanging around the station as a child which first interested you in telegraphy and/or railroading. Sadly, with the loss of classic timetable/train order control and the significant reduction in the use of the railroad for personal transportation, most small town stations and even some large center city ones have disappeared from the landscape.

A book which examines this situation is titled, "The Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore" by Ron Brown.



It's subtitle is "An Illustrated History of Railway Stations in Canada" and it is the Fourth Edition of this book. It's ISBN is 978-1459727816. Once again I thank MTC member Robert Weare for

making me aware of another interesting book.

This book looks at the entire history of train stations in Canada from their rude beginnings, to their expansion and improvement and finally to their eventual demise. It examines the stations from a number of perspectives, those of the station's architects and the changing design aspects over time, those of the agents who manned and maybe lived in these stations and finally those of the general public. There is frequent mention of the telegraph as of course it was the principal form of long distance communications available during the time period represented. If there was a need to send a telegram, as the station was likely the place where

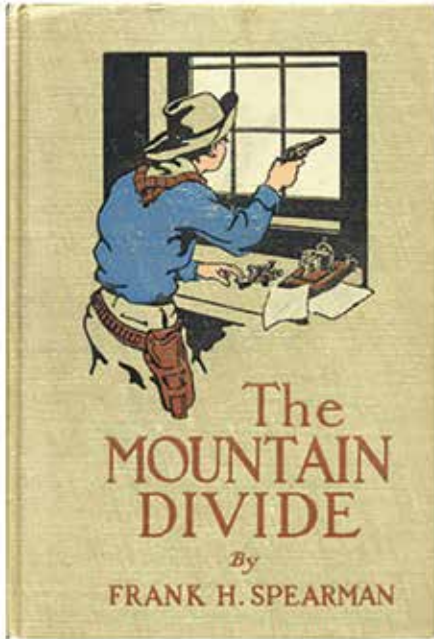
local telegraph service was available, it provided yet another reason for a visit to the station. It also looks at the different ways a station was used above and beyond basic transportation and communications needs and the differing reasons for constructing them. Large center city sometimes "union" stations, the "palaces of the public" some of which still exist in some form, are studied. As important as these were in their day, the small town station is not forgotten either. Although frequently very basic they might well be the most important and maybe even most imposing structure in a newly formed rural village and the center of activity and action in that place. In either case, they were important structures in their time and place and most everyone living in that era was familiar with them.

The book then goes on to look at the slow demise and decline of railway stations in Canada. It tells how some of this came about as rail companies merged, abandoning duplicate rights of way and their associated structures including the stations. The arrival of paved roads, particularly the Trans-Canada Highway and other such expressways, along of course with the automobile and the motor-bus, reduced the need for rail transportation particularly local service in rural areas. Some railroads actually started their own bus services as providing such service allowed them to keep the business but at a lower cost. Finally in the 1950's air transportation led to a further reduction in demand for rail transportation.

The book also examines efforts to preserve some of these stations, sometimes successful and sometimes not, an effort which was apparently spurred on by the demolition of CPR's West Toronto Station. CPR seems to be one of the villains in the story demolishing stations even when they were aware a local community or group was in the process of raising funds to save them. Finally the book provides a requiem for these once vital facilities and a lament about how most people today have no understanding of the important part they once played in a community. I quite enjoyed reading this book and think if you have any interest in railway stations that you will enjoy it as well.

Back in the spring 2016 issue of *Dots & Dashes* I reviewed a film and the book from which it was made

titled, "Whispering Smith". This is one of a number of fictional western novels by Frank H. Spearman and is probably the best known of them due to it having been made into films on a number of different occasions. Although Spearman was not a railroader, in fact he was a bank president, his "westerns" tended to feature railroad scenes and employees. As my review stated, the Whispering Smith film did



have some telegraph content. His stories are quite engrossing and I have found another one with good telegraph content. So if you are looking for some good reading on these cold and dark winter nights, this book might just provide it.

It is titled, "The Mountain Divide" and

one of the principle characters is only known as "Bucks". He is a young, somewhat inexperienced and wet behind the ears telegraph operator of only seventeen years of age. Having heard about the building of the Union Pacific part of the transcontinental railroad and knowing a little telegraphy he comes out west to Omaha from Pittsburgh to seek work. Although he had planned to go to college, the death of his father during the Wilderness Campaign in the Civil War interrupted these plans and now required that he go to work to

make a living. He is hired immediately and sent out to the fictional town of Medicine Bend as the night trick operator where the book opens a few hours after his arrival.

The rest of the book details the adventures of Bucks and the other characters in the book. Bucks proves himself and at the end of the book, although still only seventeen, is advanced in the ranks to despatcher. But if you want to learn how all this comes about, all the excitements experienced and hazards overcome in between, you will have to read the book. Reprints can be purchased from Amazon and others but it is also free to download in various formats from a number of sources including Google Books, Project Gutenberg and the Internet Archive. Just Google The Mountain Divide by Frank Spearman.

Interestingly, Spearman reused both places and characters in a number of his novels and although "Whispering Smith" was written some years before "The Mountain Divide", the action in "Whispering Smith" apparently takes place a decade or more after that in "The Mountain Divide". One of the characters in "Whispering Smith" is the president of the railroad, a man named Bucks. Did Spearman intend his readers to think that in this later writing he was describing how the young Bucks in "The Mountain Divide" first came to the railroad and was the same man who had later risen to the presidency of the railroad? I can't say for sure but it is an interesting thought.

If it surprises you that a telegraph operator could rise to be president of a railroad, consider that for the celebration in 1944 of the 100th anniversary of Morse's first message, the man at the key in Washington was E. E. Norris, president of the Southern Railway and receiving in Baltimore was R. B. White, then the president of the B&O and he had also formerly been president of Western Union. In any case I think if you like these kinds of stories you will quite enjoy this one.

DID YOU KNOW?

Do You Know What a Cloud is?

Not long ago, the word "cloud" referred to our weather. Today, a new meaning of "the cloud" refers to internet data storage. This is the on demand use of computer information. The cloud is composed of electronic servers in huge data centres all over the world. Your home computer files and photographs may be stored in these data centers.

HOUSE TRACK **Want Ad Section**

For Morse Telegraph Club Members

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

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.

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. Contact Valerie Mathers at (410) 768-3162.

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 (705) 472-8860.

AVAILABLE: Book. Hubert Jewell, President of the Washington-Baltimore Chapter, offers us his biography 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.rfandp.org. The price is only \$25.15 postage paid.

Hubert Jewell is now a Silent Key, but his interesting book is still available.

AVAILABLE: Vintage Canadian Morse code club patch
www.ebay.com/itm/1949326228100.

AVAILABLE: I have a few switches for sale. These were pulled from telephone test sets model 35-F. The 35-F test set can be viewed on line. The switches have the look of a telegraph key, complete with gap adjustment, shorting lever and adjustable return spring. This is just the ticket for someone putting together a Phrase radio. I have used these guys on the air. The knobs are numbered 1 thru 4, your choice while they last. Make that only one per customer, please.

The price is \$10 plus shipping, which usually runs about \$5. Call for availability 574 607-5441.

73, Pete Ostapchuk, N9SFX

PS: In the past, these have been sold by folks who claimed that they were used by allied spies in WWII.

This rumor is not true!

Please, only one to a customer

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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.

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Dots & Dashes

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Richard Williams
International Secretary-Treasurer

PO Box 181591, Coronado, CA 92178
runnerrichard@hotmail.com
(619) 818-9017

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 four current web sites that I find useful:

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

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By Dean Young and John Marshall





Dots & Dashes

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