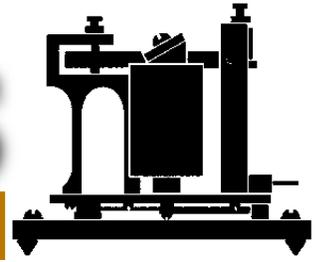


# Dots & Dashes



*What*

*Hath*

*God*

*Wrought*

The Official Publication of the Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.

Winter 2004-2005

## NSA & Smithsonian Show Interest in Dots & Dashes

by Jim Wilson

The United States National Security Agency and the world renowned Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC have become interested in preserving past and future issues of the MTC publication Dots & Dashes.

Walt Mathers, a WA Chapter member who calls himself an “instigator,” contacted the NSA, Smithsonian, and a few other agencies to suggest that the historical information contained in Dots & Dashes might be of both national and international value. The NSA and the Smithsonian agreed with Walt on the value of preserving Dots & Dashes.

Currently Brother Walt has been authorized to have past issues of Dots & Dashes professionally bound for long term archival preservation. While Walt has these historic issues, each page of each issue will also be scanned into digital format. This digital

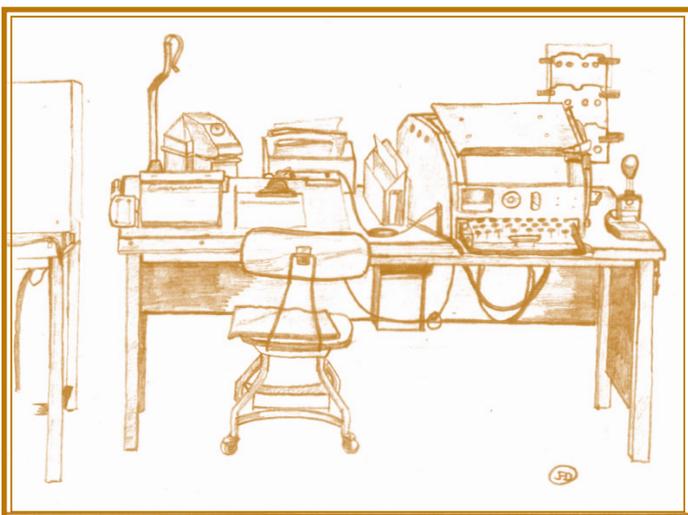
format will then be made available to researchers via the World Wide Web. This will increase our readership from our seventeen hundred members to potentially hundreds of thousands of readers!

Why are these prestigious agencies interested in our MTC quarterly newsletter? Dots & Dashes contains valuable detailed information about the evolution of telegraphy, message handling procedures, and personal stories of the operators who lived through history. Among the many famous people who began their careers as telegraph operators were President Ronald Reagan, Movie Star Cowboy Gene Autrey, Inventor Thomas Edison, and You.

Former editor of Dots & Dashes, John Barrows, says he is delighted to hear of the interest shown by NSA and the Smithsonian. John and Walt are both proud to know that they are playing an important part in this significant project. However, this project is just in the beginning stages. More info will follow as this project proceeds.



**This sketch by GO Chapter member John Dicker** of Orleans, Canada may bring back some fond memories for some of our MTC members. John explains that while attending high school from 1955 to



1960, he worked as a part-time Messenger Boy for the Canadian National Telegraphs in North Bay Ontario. He states that during the weekday evening shifts from six to eleven PM, things were occasionally very quiet, which was great for doing homework and studying for his ham ticket! John further explains, “On one such occasion, I made the enclosed sketch of our small office’s Operator’s Position, circa 1956.” He adds that this circuit was connected to Toronto. John continues, “At the time, I was sitting at my little messenger’s desk at the back of the office and out of sight of the Duty Wire Chief in the back room.” So John offers us this original sketch, never before published. Thanks, John, for this bit of special history!



# Sidewire

Comments from  
the editor of  
Dots and Dashes



## By Jim Wilson

Hello from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. After decades of enduring the perpetual traffic jams of the Washington DC area, my family and I just moved here in July. So now, my wife Becky, son Matt, and I have a new home in a new location and, I have a new volunteer job, editor of Dots & Dashes.

Thank you, John Barrows, for your eight years as editor of Dots and Dashes. John, you produced a professional publication that clearly was a work of love for the members of the Morse Telegraph Club. Your father would be proud of your work. I know that your wife, Roberta, and daughter, Elizabeth, will appreciate the extra time that you can now spend with them.

Thank you also, John, for your confidence in me as the new editor of Dots and Dashes. Now that you and the MTC Board have handed me this hot potato, it is time for us all to get back to work!

After interviewing six local printers, I found that prices for publication are much higher here in central Virginia than they were in Montana. So to keep the cost reasonable, I have decided to change the format from newspaper size to a magazine size. I hope you, the reader, will be pleased with the new "bite size" Dots & Dashes. This first issue is a trial balloon. Your suggestions and comments are welcomed.

I feel honored to be selected as your new editor. As your editor, I believe that my job is to gather and publish timely news of interest to you, members of the Morse Telegraph Club. I look forward to working closely with Keith LeBaron and Lavina Shaw.

Please help me out by writing stories and sending photographs. From my past experiences with the Baltimore-Washington Chapter, I know that our MTC members often participate in fascinating telegraph events and demonstrations. Some of these successful and interesting events go unreported.

So I ask you to take the initiative to become a Reporter for Dots & Dashes. Please type your stories and e-mail or send them by mail so that all of the MTC brotherhood can benefit from your experiences. If you prefer a handwritten article or prefer to telephone your story, that's also fine. But please do let us all know what you are up to.

If the National Security Agency and the Smithsonian Institution make our newsletter available worldwide, then your mission as an observer and writer is even more important.

Yes, my new mission is Dots & Dashes editor. Your new mission is Dots & Dashes reporter. Go for it!

~Jim Wilson

# President's Line

Lavina Shaw, President  
Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.



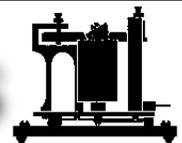
Dots and Dashes has entered a new era--a new editor and a new publisher. We welcome, Jim Wilson, our new editor, and I hope that our members will co-operate in helping him to make our newsletter interesting and informative. John Barrows, our former editor, certainly deserves a lot of credit for publishing a "high-class" paper. Thank you, John, for dedicating eight years of your valuable time. We will miss your impeccable style, but hope you will continue sending in articles when you have any spare moments.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to Keith LeBaron for continuing to take on the responsibility of Grand Secretary/Treasurer so that Jim Wilson could take the job as editor.

Jim Wades, our new director, organized an event on October 16 in Owosso, Michigan to dedicate Ace Holman's hub, which was recently re-installed at the Steam Railroad Museum in that historic town. Ace's two daughters, from Pennsylvania, were present at the dedication, as well as one of our senior directors, Wes Burnham, from Vermont. No

See **PRESIDENT'S LINE** on Page 3

# Dots & Dashes



The official publication of

## The Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.

**Jim Wilson - Editor, Dots and Dashes**

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# President's Line Continued from page 2

doubt you will read more about this event in this issue or a future issue of Dots and Dashes.

This past summer, my husband Earl and I participated in a number of Morse demonstrations. One of the objectives of our club is to promote the heritage of telegraphy, and I know of no better way than to take part in demonstrations at fairs, model railroad shows, etc. It is also a lot of fun, particularly when you see children's eye light up when they are presented with a certificate for spelling their names in Morse, using the practice key. They are also amazed when they receive a message sent to them from across the room.

Just recently, we attended a demo at the Saanich Agricultural Fair on Vancouver Island. We were assisted by two excellent telegraphers, Chris Naylor and Alf Johnson, who are now ministers of the gospel. We were stationed next to the historical displays at the fair, and I was amused to see the identical CCM bicycle on display that I rode to work while a telegrapher in Saskatoon. Really--I don't feel that ancient!

I really appreciate receiving emails, letters and pictures from our members. Thank you for sending them, and keep up the good work!

Lavina Shaw  
International President

## Chuck Stay – Oldest MTC Member

Charles A. Stay is probably the oldest living member of the Morse Telegraph Club. This February 7, 2005 Chuck will celebrate his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. If any of our readers tops this, please let us know.

Charles spent his working career as a communications officer in the US Navy. He also earned the amateur radio call W4HE and he continues to actively sign in to the local radio net from his high-rise unit at the Goodwin House assisted living facility in Alexandria, Virginia.

Chuck is proficient in both the International and American Morse codes. But Chuck gave up his prized key and sounder when he sold his single family house about ten years ago. He donated most of his communications equipment to a local radio club.

Maria, Chuck's wife of many decades, deceased in the year 2000. Recently Chuck had to give up driving his big colorful Cadillac, but that didn't slow him down. Charles says he especially likes the meals served at his current home. He looks forward to every new day and he hasn't yet gotten board with his busy life.

If our readers are interested, I'll contact Chuck with your questions. Perhaps you would like to know Chuck's advice on how to stay healthy or how to obtain longevity or how to get rich! Readers, send us your questions.

## An Invitation from the Canadian Hub

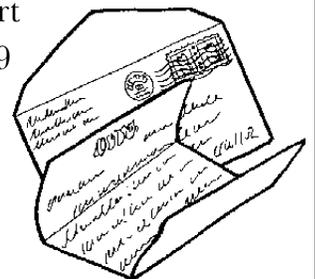
For the fifth season, the dial-up slow sending sessions will begin at 9:30 pm EST Monday through Friday. The Canadian hub is located in Toronto and can be reached toll free at 888 822-3728. The hub has the capacity of eight hook-ups. J.G. Hamel welcomes newcomers.

## About letters:

Dots and Dashes welcomes letters on any telegraph related subject. Please include your name and address and send them to:

Jim Wilson, Editor  
Dots & Dashes  
2742 Southern Hills court  
North Garden, VA 22959

Or e-mail to:  
[telegraphjim@ceva.net](mailto:telegraphjim@ceva.net)





## Old Florida Days Celebration Features Morse's Relative at the Telegraph Key

By contributing writer  
Don Andrus of the FX Chapter

This event, the Old Florida Days Festival is held each year in November by the Collier County Museum and the Historical Society. This event is a model to be replicated by other chapters.

Chapter members John, Rob and Cathy Feeney, and Don Andrus donned their 1860's period garb and for three days participated in a living history exhibit of Morse telegraph operations circa 1865. The county bussed in 4,400 middle school kids for school day, creating what can best be described as "nearly organized chaos." Still, John and Don managed a series of nine minute mini presentations, from 8:30 am until 1:30 pm on the origin and history of the Morse telegraph up thru the Civil War era.

The demonstration included an actual clandestine wire tapping operation of overhead lines. One minute was allowed for one group to leave and the next to assemble, and then the entire presentation was repeated. Usually a couple of minutes were available for questions. It was an exhausting but satisfying day. At the same time, Rob Feeney, John's son, and Rob's friend were next to the telegraph field office presenting a Civil War ear apothecary and medicine demonstration.

*Dots & Dashes - Winter 2004-2005 - Page 4*

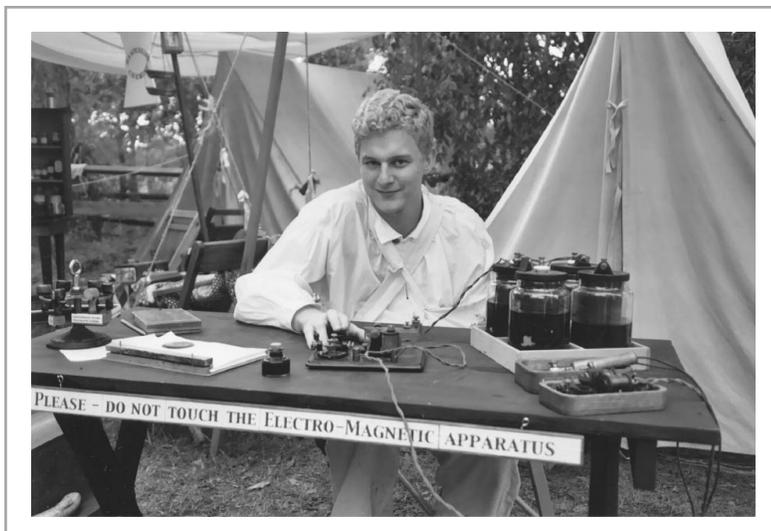
The following two days were more relaxed and much more informal, giving us a chance to demonstrate and talk with folks about the telegraph and any aspects they were especially interested in. Most satisfying was to have some of the kids who attended the school day event on Friday return on Saturday or Sunday with their parents and friends, wanting to show and tell them all about the telegraph they had seen there previously.

The Old Florida Days festival included displays and living history demonstrations from Native American settlements, the Spanish explorers, the American Revolution, the Civil War, and the WWI and II eras, as well as many pioneer trades and crafts.

To our delight, one of the re-enactors at this event was Henry Blackford, the great, great, great grandson of Samuel F.B. Morse. Henry participates in various reenactments throughout Florida. This was the first that he had attended where the FX Chapter had a telegraph exhibit. Even with his left arm in a sling due to recent shoulder surgery, Henry still was delighted to pose at the telegraph key as we celebrated the notable contribution and invention of his great, great, great grandfather.

Thanks to good year round weather, FX Chapter members participate in a number of events, both small and large, held throughout the year in Florida. Model train shows, Pioneer Days events, and Civil War reenactments are some of those events. Members have found that these events are very enjoyable and satisfying and are well worth the effort that it takes.

Demonstrations at public events are a great way to help keep Morse alive. And that's what it is all about!



# GO Chapter Telegraph and Model RR Demo

By Contributing Writer Roly Lauriault

The Montréal/Ottawa Chapter transmitted 108 messages at a public demonstration at Eastern Ontario's largest model railroad display at Algonquin College in Ottawa on October 16 & 17, 2004. The operators working the two telegraph circuits included Maurice Auger, Bob Seguin, Dick Inwood, Roly Lauriault, and Wire Chief Ken Gustafson. Many individuals who attended this event expressed interest at seeing telegraphy for the first time. Among the attendees was a group of Ottawa boy scouts. This group was led by scout master

Angus Palmer, who was also one of the organizers of the model railroad display. Also attending was a scout group from Deep River Ontario. Other Chapter members who dropped by to watch were Ed Sieb, Les Weir, Guy St Laurent, Bruce Chapman, Normand Rajotte, and Tom Wright. As a result of this public demonstration of telegraphy and model railroading, two new members joined the GO Chapter: Ralph Cameron and Ken Perrin. Check out these fellows in the New Member column.

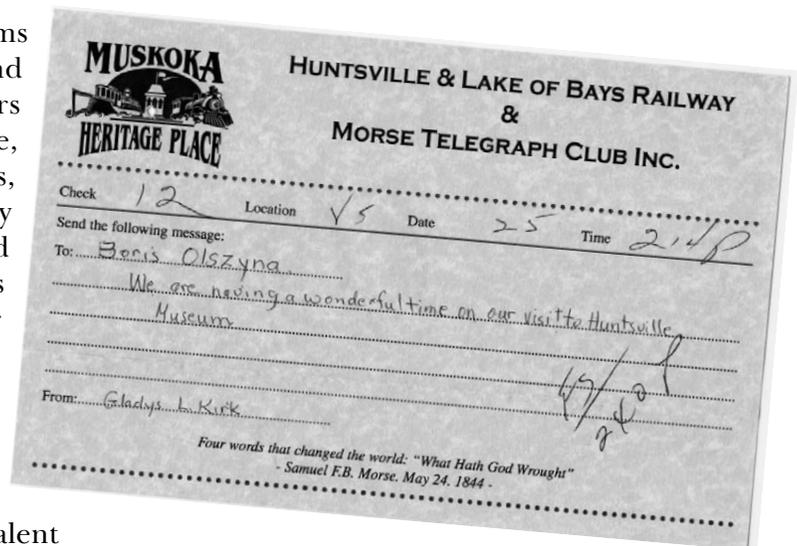
## Ontario Railway Museum Demo Wows Visitors

By Contributing Writer Russ Nicholls

"Public interest has simply taken off," exclaims Russ Nicholls after observing the August 25<sup>th</sup> end of the demonstration season for MTC members at the Muskoka Heritage Place in Huntsville, Ontario. "The children, and yes, their moms, dads and grand parents stand by totally mesmerized as they watch this historic method of communication being demonstrated," adds Russ. A sample telegram is printed here for your viewing.

"I would like to recognize the dedication of the gentlemen who came forward for yet another summer to relive those fond memories of previous years," states Russ. The telegraphers who volunteered their time and talent included Brothers Fred Abonyi, Keith Austin, Ron Austin, Willard Bandy, George Brownrigg, Wade Brown, Jerry Ferguson, Doug Huffman, Paul Laver, High McNamara, Gren Schrader, Vic Snyder, Frank Stanfield, Jack Wager, and Russ Richolls.

Teri Souter, General Manager of Muskoka Heritage Place thanked MTC members in an official letter dated August 31<sup>st</sup>. "On behalf of all of us at Muskoka Heritage Place, please accept our heartfelt thanks for the enormous contribution of your volunteer group in our 2004 season." Mr. Souter continued, "Of special worthiness among your volunteers are the telegraphers. These loyal individuals have traveled from all over the province at their own expense to present telegraphy as an



important component of Canadian culture to visitors from all over the world. In many cases, telegraphy is a dying art. We are exceedingly fortunate that this art is very much alive and so adeptly practiced at Muskoka Heritage Place. We especially enjoy seeing the faces of people of all ages and nationalities illuminated with understanding of our past by witnessing your demonstrations in the present."

Russ Nicholls adds his comments, "So to all Dots & Dashes readers, I am very pleased and proud of the fine job the boys from the Maple Leaf Chapter of Morse Telegraph Club have been doing here in Huntsville. Their contribution is indeed very much appreciated by everyone."

# QST Magazine Will Promote Telegraphy

Thanks to an article written by WA chapter member Marcus Harton, NZ4E, the international amateur radio magazine QST will soon publish a story that promotes telegraphy. The article by Marcus is titled "Newseum Prepares Telegraphy Video." Marcus is a professional television producer for the Museum, a "museum of news," which will open its gigantic new museum in 2006 on the mall in Washington, DC.

The video included two members of the WA

chapter who were dressed in authentic garb of the 1860's. The video was filmed in high definition digital imagery and some of it was extremely close-up, showing the spark made as the telegraph contacts click together under the operator's skilled hand. Maty Weinberg of QST just notified Marcus in November about the Board's decision to publish the article. Expect the telegraph article to appear in the December or January issue of QST magazine.

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## An Introduction to Morse Message Formats and Handling Procedures

By Ken Miller, K6CTW

*The article below has been produced by Ken Miller (a telegrapher in training at station RI, sine KM and amateur radio call K6CTW) with the assistance from Dave Phillips (station NX, sine R and amateur radio call WB7VSN) and Ed Trump (station FB, sine D and amateur radio call AL7N).*

The following is a step by step procedure used to call another station and then send that station a message in a telegraph format.

The station receiving is FB and the sending station is RI. FB and RI are the call signs of these stations respectively. It is also important to note here that an operators SINE is his telegraphic signature. The receiving station here is assumed to have a SINE of D and the SINE of the sending station is KM. As you follow this text and the accompanying commentary, you will see that the procedure is quite straightforward, and easy to learn. This example should help to explain how a message is prepared by an originating station and then sent on a morse wire. For those of you who have had experience with sending and receiving formal message traffic on the radio, these procedures will be quite similar.

First establish a wire connection using dial up morse, or whatever other means is available, and then the operator at station RI, will call station FB as follows.

FB RI

and then the sending operator will close the shorting switch on his key so that he can listen to his sounder for a response. Note that the operator sent the call of the station he would like to communicate with followed by the callsign of the station making the call. After hearing the receiving operator then answers the call by sending

I FB

and then the receiving operator will switch back to receive

mode by closing the keys shorting switch. The response is the character I followed by the callsign of the station making the answer. After the receiving operator closes the switch on the key, this shows the sending operator that the receiving station is once again listening and that the sending operator should now continue. The sending station would then send the following

HR 1

The HR means hand ready and is sent to advise the receiving operator that something is coming that will need to be copied and this is then followed by the number of messages that will be sent by the sending station, this is RI in this example. Then the sending station would pause for a few seconds to give the receiving operator time to roll a message blank into his mill. Mill is telegraphers jargon for a typewriter. In the absence of this, the receiving operator would just get a new message blank and a pencil. The sending operator would then begin sending the preamble of the message. Continuing with the example will result in the following block of data being sent.

NR 46 RI KM CK 5 DL PAID RICHMOND BC 0842 FEB 3.

The first group, or block of characters, is the abbreviation signifying that the message number or NR is next. This prosign is not copied down by the receiving operator but is used to signify the start of a message. Then the actual number of the message is sent. The next group is the callsign of the office where the message originated. Following this is the sine of sending operator. Immediately following this is the prosign CK which identifies the next number sent as the check. The next group sent is the check number. The check is the number of words in the text portion of the message. It is interesting to note that punctuation is considered to be a word. Remember that when these were sent for real money, every word was charged for so

continued on next page

## *An Introduction to Morse Message Formats...cont.*

any useless punctuation or unnecessary words were usually left out. The next group identifies the type of this message. Each of these message types had different billing values, or costs per word of text. Examples of these codes are, DL for Day Letter, NM for Night Message, NL for Night Letter, LCO for Deferred Cable, NLT for Cable Night Letter, WLT for Weekend Letter, DPR for Day Press Rate, etc.

The next group identifies how this particular message is paid for. That is to say that it was either paid at the originating station, or that the receiving station should collect payment when delivering the message. These would be sent as PAID and COLLECT respectively. However, since these messages are no longer sent for profit as a business, and are only sent as a public service, this can be dispensed with in current practice. The place of origin, which includes the city and state or province is the next group sent. Also, there is no comma between the city and state or province. The last groups in the preamble are the filing time values which may include the optional local standard time in 24 hour, military time format, then the required month and day. The period is sent to signify the end of the message preamble and to separate it from the next block in the message which is the address. The first group sent in the address section is the word TO. This also is procedural and is NOT written down by the receiving operator. It just further delineates the name and address for which this message is destined.

TO JOHN DOE , 105 ANYOLD ROAD , FAIRBANKS ALASKA 99999 , 907 555 1234 .

It should be noted that the commas in the address section are used to separate the elements of the address block. In addition, a period is once again sent at the end of the address block to further separate it from the text of the message. An interesting note here is that the comma (.-.- in American Morse) used here to separate address items is still in use amateur radiogram formats put out by the ARRL as the prosign AA used to separate item in the address block. With all the address and billing and record keeping now sent, it is finally time to send the text of the message. Our message here is only five words, but it does provide an adequate example. The sending operator would then transmit

YOUR MESSAGE RECEIVED THANKS 73 .

Here, as in the previous sections a period is once again used to identify the end of a section of the message. In this case it is the text block. The final section of the message is the signature block. This block, like the address and preamble has a special prosign which starts it off. As with the other sections, the operator does not copy down the SIG group, it is there to better identify that the signature section is to follow.

SIG BOB SMITH .

A period is once again used to identify the end of a section of the message. In this case it is the signature block and therefore the end of the message. In our example, there was only the one message to send and thus the sending operator needs to tell that to the receiving operator. The prosign to use for that is the group NM. If there had been more messages to send, then the sending operator would send the number of messages remaining. Continuing this example, the sending operator now sends

NM

Now to turn the wire back to the receiving operator, the sending operator would send the call sign of the receiving station, FB in this case, followed by the call sign of the sending station, here RI, and then close the shorting switch so that the receiving operator can transmit to request any missed or confused words or numbers, or to signify that all was received correctly. Thus our sending operator would key

FB RI

If the receiving operator had copied all of it perfectly, then he would send back an OK followed by his SINE. When the sending operator receives this, he can then mark on his message blank, the one that contained the original message, that the message was received by writing the current standard time and the date and the SINE of the receiving operator at station FB. This is referred to as servicing the message. Now that the message has been sent and serviced. It would be sound like this

OK D

Once the receiving operator sends this last piece of information and confirmation of receipt, he would then close the shorting switch on his key. Now that BOTH operators have their switches closed. This returns the wire to anyone for use. Although there is a lot more to actually getting a message through and verified, this simplified version of a perfect session should illustrate most of the important features, as well as the simplicity of this form of record or business messaging.

Now here is a copy of the message as it would appear on the "mill" at station FB

46 RI KM CK 5 DL PAID RICHMOND BC 0842 FEB 3

JOHN DOE  
105 ANYOLD ROAD  
FAIRBANKS ALASKA 99999  
907 555 1234

YOUR MESSAGE RECEIVED THANKS 73

BOB SMITH

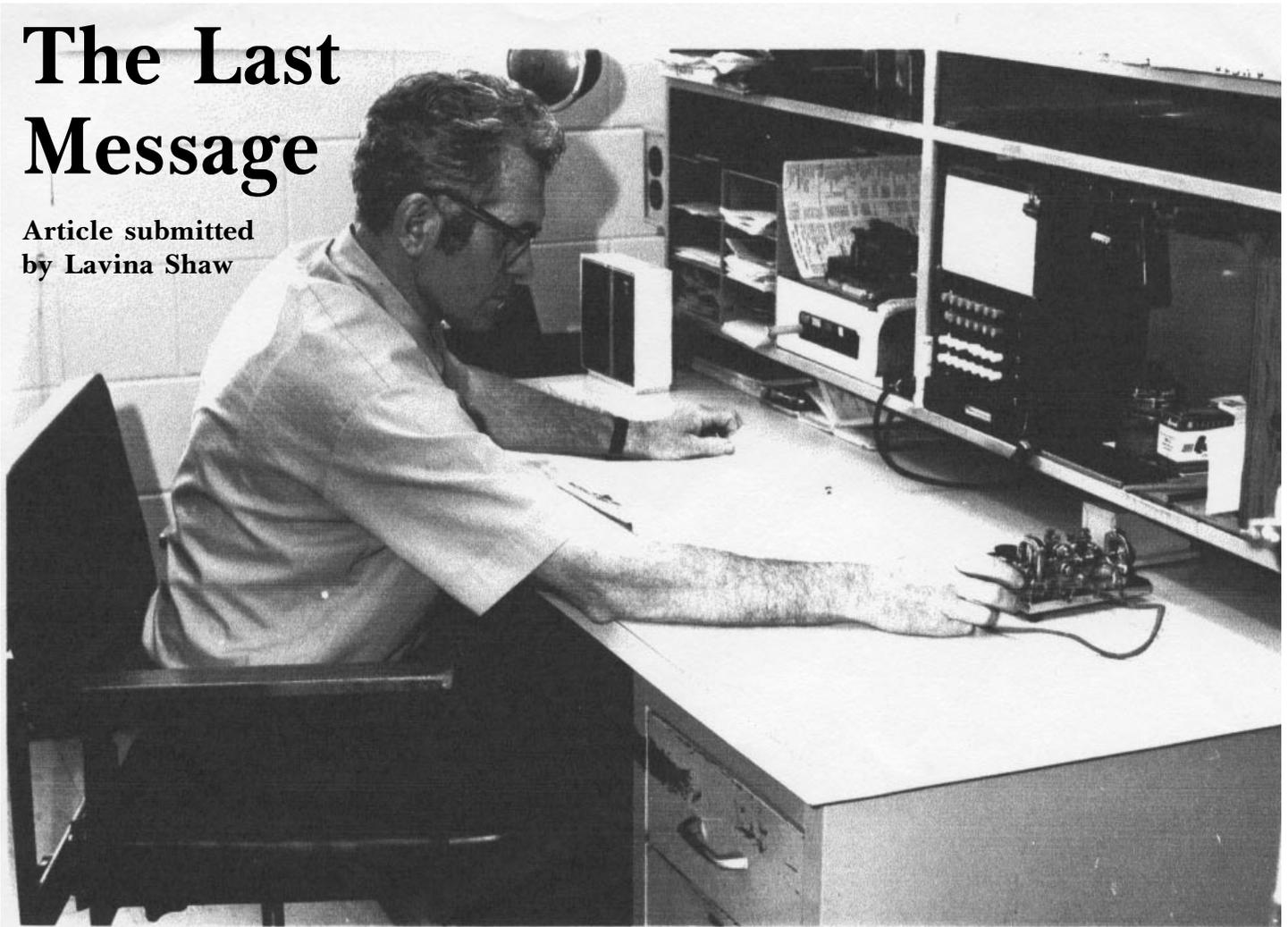
## **Special Notice to MTC Chapter Secretaries...**

**If you have a recent member who has not had his biography published yet in dots and Dashes, please forward the member's information to:**

**Editor • Dots & Dashes • 2742 Southern Hills Court • North Garden, VA 22959 • Email: telegraphjim@ceva.net**

# The Last Message

Article submitted  
by Lavina Shaw



“What you are hearing is a live, working Morse telegraph wire on this day, Thursday, July 12, 1973, on the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Division of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Victoria, British Columbia.” With these words, telegrapher Stan Humphrey had sent what he described as the last live Morse message on the CPR in Canada and the last live message in Morse on the North American Continent. “On this day this Morse circuit is to be terminated and that sound will not be heard again; it will become part of our history,” added Mr. Humphrey.

The western terminus of the planned Canadian transcontinental rail system was to be Esquimalt, then an important naval base near Victoria, BC on Vancouver Island. But studies proved this to be impractical. The charter to build the railway was then given to Robert Dunsmuir and Sons, the 1883 coal barons. In 1886 the line from Esquimalt to Nanaimo was built. Two years later a rail line to Victoria was added. In 1905, the line was purchased by the CPR, but was made a separate division. Rapid expansion followed with rails laid to other Vancouver Island towns to serve a growing population.

The telegraph operator, Stan Humphrey, was a section foreman on the railroad. Early in his career, Stan was inspired by what he saw and heard on the railroad telegraph. He rigged up his own apparatus with a couple of spoons, and then he set out to learn the Morse code. Eventually he became a train dispatcher and served as local chairman of the E&N Telegraphers Union. After 40 years as a telegrapher, Stan retired in 1983. His last message for the CPR was one of the highlights of his career.

# Recent Newspapers Describe Telegraphy



## The Ottawa Citizen:

The front page story Friday, November 5, 2004 in the Ottawa Citizen newspaper featured a photograph of the Canadian War Museum. But the article is titled, “French Experts at a loss to explain Morse code phrase.” In his article, Joanne Laucius explains, “The windows set in a wall of the new \$136 million Canadian War Museum form Morse code dots and dashes that spell out the words ‘Lest We Forget’.” Joanne explains that these famous words come from a line in a poem by British writer Rudyard Kipling. She also explains some problems with translation of this phrase into French!

Our thanks go to Douglas Rowlands of Ottawa, ON, Canada for sending this interesting newspaper story.

## The Record Herald:

A front page story on Saturday, September 11, 2004 in The Record Herald newspaper in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania featured telegrapher Bill Meyers. The article, titled “A World at his fingertips,” was written by Shari Sanger. The story opens by explaining, “After suffering a stroke two and a half-years ago, Bill Myers became wheelchair bound and had lost

almost all of his ability to communicate.” The story continues, explaining that Myers is a member of the Morse Telegraph Club Inc, a worldwide organization dedicated to preserving telegraphy. Shari states, “Thanks to technology that’s more than 150 years old, the Fairview Avenue resident is once again chatting it up.”

This front page story notes that on May 5<sup>th</sup>, the president of the organization, Lavina Shaw of British Columbia, paid him a visit at this home. In the article, Bill, age 81, says telegraphy gives him an outlet. “It’s an art,” he states. The article goes into other details of telegraphy and of Bill’s life.

Our thanks go to Bill Myers of Waynesboro, PA for sending this unique newspaper story.

## The Ottawa Citizen:

A feature story in The Ottawa Citizen on Monday, October 26, 2004 is titled “Telegraph signaled a revolution.” Writer Laura Bonikowsky begins her article, “We are accustomed today to sending and receiving messages with little delay.” Further into her article Laura notes that “The first telegraph message transmitted in Canada was sent from Toronto to Hamilton on October 22, 1846 by the Toronto-Hamilton-Niagara and St. Catharine’s Electro-Magnetic Telegraph Company.” Laura explains that the inaugural message in North America was sent May 24, 1844 between Baltimore and Washington but that the telegraph had already in use by British railways since 1837. In summary, Ms. Bonikowsky states that, “We may consider the telegraph the 19<sup>th</sup> century precursor of the Internet.”

Our thanks go to Doug Rowlands of Ottawa, ON, Canada for sending this story.

# W6MTC

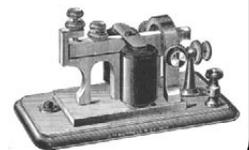


CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DAY	MONTH	YEAR
UTC	Mo.	FRI	MOE

PLS QSL    TNX QSL  
QSL printed by W6MTC

We meet every Saturday morning at 7:30 AM [1530 Z] on 20 meters 14055 +/- and at 8:30 AM [1630 Z] on 40 meters 7084 (rarely qsy +/-). MTC members, who have worked W6MTC, can request our QSL card. Non-members must send us a SASE.

Morse Telegraph Club • SQ Chapter  
17371 Alta Vista Cir • Huntington Beach, CA • USA. 92647-6130  
[www.w6mtc.org](http://www.w6mtc.org)



# Amazing Rescue of the V

By contributing writer Tom McConkey, UN Chapter

Down along the "Gold Coast" of the New Jersey, not far from Atlantic City, stands the restored Woodbine switch tower. This is a railroad structure that was long ago written off as surplus. Credit for its resurrection goes to Tony Macrie, who revived passenger service as a tourist line over a portion of the abandoned, former Atlantic City Railroad branch that extended southward from Tuckahoe to the southern most tip of New Jersey at Cape May.

With track up-graded and with new ties, with the swing-bridge across Island Creek repaired, and a train made up on three Budd Rail-Diesel Cars (RDC's), in June 1999 the inaugural run was made over 13 miles of track. There were still ten miles more to go to reach Tuckahoe, and a connection with New Jersey Transit (NJT) commuter trains from Philadelphia. It is hopeful that at this point the transfer of passengers on a joint operational basis will give legitimacy to the tourist line as a full-fledged common carrier in the eyes of the N.J. Public Utilities Commission.

Presently, Macrie's Cape May Seashore Line runs daily six trains in both directions during the summer months, with a likewise schedule on weekends through December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

When the Pennsylvania Railroad electrified its affiliated West Jersey and Seashore RR in 1906, it sought permission



Southbound Atlantic City Railroad Express passing Woodbine Jct. tower on way to Cape May sometime after consolidation of services with West Jersey & Seashore Line. Circa, 1920's. (All photos from: MacDonald Graphic Arts)



Double-headed, Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines southbound passenger train in late 1930's (or early 1940's) approaches Woodbine passenger shelter, the converted remnant of former BD Tower, a flag stop on the jointly-operated lines since 1933 when the merger took effect.

to re-route its steam driven trains to Cape May by way of the Atlantic City Railroad, owned by the Reading Company, whose tracks paralleled those of the West Jersey line. This led to the restructuring of Woodbine Tower just south of the junction, and in the interest of both roads. The Atlantic City Railroad gained extra revenue from the joint venture, and the Pennsy got rid of the smoke and soot along its immaculately clean, new electrified right-of-way.

The arrangement was most harmonious for the next twenty-seven years until 1933, when the two parent companies decided to merge all southern New Jersey rail operations into one giant conglomerate company with stock ownership split fifty/fifty between them. Thus evolved the Pennsylvania-Reading Sea Shore Lines. Along with economies resulting from the merger; the elimination of services, reduction of personnel, savings in maintenance cost, was the case of BD Tower which was declared superfluous, and closed down as an integral part of the new organization.

The interior of the BD Tower was gutted of all its mechanical apparatus of levers and interlocking devices, and reduced to a shell of its original purpose. To make matters worse, the roof was lifted and the upstairs, super structure demolished. The roof assembly was then lowered into the bottom portion of the remaining

# Woodbine Junction Tower

building and made into a passenger waiting room under the new designation Woodbine Junction station.

Never more than a flag stop, the sparse number of trains that stopped at Woodbine Junction each day could be counted on the fingers of one hand. By 1959 the number of trains run had been reduced to two in each direction on week days, with only one run on Saturdays and Sundays in a similar manner. Finally, early in the Nineteen sixties, passenger service was eliminated entirely. One track of the double track mainline was torn up. The line was then used for freight only, and eventually abandoned, with the rails left in place.

There was still life left in the former Woodbine switch tower base. The building was purchased privately and moved to another town where it was used for storage and lay dormant for a number of years. In 1975 the structure was acquired by an historical village and re-located in Cold Springs, NJ. At its new location the building was modified and refurbished and used for various purposes, including village print shop. About 1992, when Tony Macrie was getting his Cape May Seashore Line organized, his attention was drawn to Cold Springs Historic Village where the remnant of Woodbine Junction station was still quite visible. Surprisingly the old railroad depot was in good condition 30 years afterwards and after a migration of 30 miles from its original site then back again onto the same line on which it originally stood. Only this time it was at a new location where the Township of Cold Springs was situated.

An architectural firm was engaged and research was made as to the actual dimensions of the tower itself



Just beyond the work bench is located the operator's desk at BD Tower as seen in this photo by Asher Goldinger. Communication for the Atlantic City Railroad was by Morse telegraph, while the West Jersey & Seashore Line employed Bell telephones for dispatching trains.

before drawing up plans for its restoration. The height of the building, the pitch of the roof and the number of windows were of paramount concern before supplying the proper paint job on the exterior. Cold Springs was made a regular stop on the tourist line where riders could stretch their legs, climb the stairs to view inside the tower, or visit the antique village before journeying on to the next attraction.

In the meanwhile, the railroad situation in this country was becoming more and more ominous. With the construction of the Interstate Highway System, the changing habits of the traveling public, and the advancement of airline travel, six eastern railroad companies were forced into bankruptcy. To come to their rescue, in 1976 Congress had created the Consolidated Rail Corporation, Conrail for short. Principal among the six bankrupt lines were the Pennsylvania, and the Reading Railroads, owners of the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines, whose demise followed that of the parent companies.

South Jersey commuters did not fare well under Conrail. In 1983 operation of passenger trains were transferred to New Jersey Transit, a state run authority under whose guardianship service has been improved and upgraded. Most noticeable was the expansion of the station connection at Lindenwold, NJ, where riders could transfer directly to subway trains that cross the Delaware River Bridge into the city of Philadelphia.

Asher Goldinger was the day operator at Woodbine Tower during the mid-1920's. Verification of his presence has been confirmed from his picture that appeared in

continued on following page

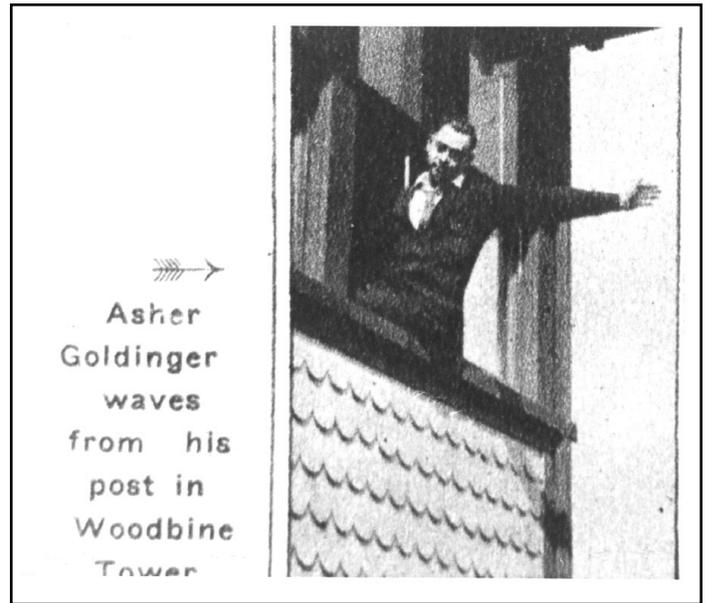


Picture of interior of Woodbine Tower provides a look backwards in time to Sept. 1926. Most of the area inside the tower building was taken up by a series of interlocking, switch and signal control levers. Asher Goldinger photo.

Reading Company Magazine for February, 1926. He was a telegrapher employed by the Atlantic City Railroad, a Reading subsidiary that used Morse for dispatching their trains. The West Jersey and Seashore Line was a Pennsylvania Railroad subsidiary who dispatched trains by telephone.

Thanks to pictures by Asher Goldinger, we get a good insight into the interior of BD Tower. These fine views reveal the switch and signal control levers as they pertain to the interlocking nature of the tower operation. Also pictured are the furnishings of the era, in particular the kerosene lamp for lighting at night and the Regulator station clock on the wall displaying standard-time for September, 1926, one month before the end of Eastern Daylight Savings time. Also, in a closer view is seen the operator's table with its assortment of telegraph keys, instruments, and one lone telephone, all mementos of the past when steam was king and flange wheels were meant for carrying people.

(Tom wrote this fascinating article for us in October '04)



Asher Goldinger waves from his post at Woodbine Jct. Tower. Picture from Reading Company Magazine, Feb. 1926



With the exterior restored to its original pristine appearance, BD Tower rests on a new foundation on the same branch of the former Atlantic City Railroad in the year 2000, but at a different location at Cold Springs, NJ, now a stop on a tourist operated railroad.

# WA President Jogs on Telegraph Road

Baltimore-Washington MTC Chapter President, Richard Williams, was a natural for the job. Not only is Dick an experienced executive, but he runs and often wins marathon foot races in his 60's age category.

Ironically, Dick lives within a mile of the intersection of Telegraph Road and Telegraph Lane in Alexandria. Dick can be seen jogging nearly every morning along Telegraph Road. Dick also followed in a family chain of five generations of railroad men. With a background and location like that, Dick was destined to be the WA President!



## Morse Day 2004 at the SQ Chapter

By Contributing Writer Kathy Stanfill, KS6CW, Secretary-Treasurer SQ

We met at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Fullerton. This restaurant was originally the Fullerton Train Depot and later converted into a family dining facility. The new Fullerton Train Depot is across the parking lot.

Christie Edinger, K0IU brought part of her extensive telegraph collection for display. She had a few rare sounders, keys, logo plates, buttons, a telegraph sign, and a Western Union CALL BOX.

The luncheon was nice and seeing the many trains roll by our window along with the clicks and clacks of our sounder added the perfect ambience. At 12:30 pm we viewed, "Telegraphy: How it Changed the World" by the MTC-Grand Chapter-2003. Thanks to Jeff Korman for providing us with an excellent sound system, movie screen, and video projector to view this MTC presentation.

### Business Meeting Highlights:

- Our chapter decided on doing away with the "Los Angeles" name and replacing it with the "Southern California" for SQ since there are no other chapters in southern California.
- Ken Miller, K6CTW, was made a visiting SQ chapter member with full privileges. (Ken's chapter is DI)
- Ken Miller, K6CTW talked to us about the dial-up Morse system and how we can get started. He also donated three books on the Phillips Code for our door prize drawing. We ended up with five door prizes.
- The SQ chapter decided to conduct an American Morse Code test at its next meeting (October 30, 2004). Those who can pass 5 WPM or higher will be given a certificate for their accomplishment.
- Our chapter has its own FCC vanity call: W6MTC [KS6CW, Trustee]
- W6MTC CW net started on January 24, 2004 and is going strong. We meet on 40 meters (7084) at 1530 UTC every Saturday morning. NCS is Jim Edds, KA6G of Anaheim. John Dawson, WA6RND of Orange is the ANCS and he runs the net on the first Saturday of every month.
- W6MTC QSL cards were purchased and donated by John Orton, WA6BOB of Chatsworth, CA.
- W6MTC is FISTS 10350 for those of you that would like to make contacts with members of the FISTS CW club.
- Since September 2003 Tom K6TV & Kathy KS6CW of the SQ chapter gave presentations to various organizations and will be giving one in May 2004.
- The cake, designed by KS6CW, had a telegraph sounder projected image that was admired and enjoyed by all.

We broke last year's attendance record. Our telegraph display and sounder demo attracted folks from other parties. One lady from the red-hat society came looking for her group and discovered us – The Morse Telegraph Club. She took some MTC flyers and a membership application.

**Editor's note:** This summary of a meeting by Kathy is admirable. Every club could use this as a model. Did you see that the California Chapter changed it's name? - Jim

# KEEP IN TOUCH...

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

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

## A Prairie Saga

*This nostalgic poem was written by SK member Margaret Bartholomew. You will appreciate and identify with these word pictures from an earlier era.*

I was borne on the lonely prairie with never a tree for shade,  
Rolling hills and endless plains for the sweeping winds were made.  
I think of the burning sunshine, crisping the prairie grass,  
Baked the sod and ripened the wheat while we hoped for the heat to pass.

I see Dad as he stands in the field, picking some grain with a laugh.  
He rolls the wheat in the palm of his hand and blows away the chaff.  
Still smiling, he says, "It's ready to cut, on Monday we'll get the crew."  
He strides to the house with lengthy steps: I run like the wind that blew.

On Sunday the sky was dark and mean, but out to the field I crept.  
Father stood with his head held low: I could see that he had wept.  
The stand of wheat lay flat on the ground, as far as the eye could see.  
The darkened sky held the black top-soil, and it flew on the wind to me.

The wind had begun the night before, and howled the whole night long.  
My Dad had listened while Mamma prayed, till they fell asleep at dawn.  
Black dirt lay on the window sills, black dirt on the floor,  
It settled into the cups and bowls through cracks in the cupboard door.

Our drinking water and dipper too, so muddy we could not use,  
I heard my Dad say, "I've had enough, to Calgary we'll have to move."  
Seven crops my Dad had planted and only three of these were saved.  
The Dust Bowl Days had just begun in spite of the way they slaved.

While tumbleweed and thistle might over-run the plain, I still see the broken  
and shattered stalks and the ruined crop of grain.  
Whatever happened to the puppy I loved, and the horse Kate drove to school?  
Did some other kid get the wagon we pulled, full of buffalo chips for fuel?

I wonder if Dolly still lies in the field where I left her one summer day,  
Her arm broken off and her hair not curled, still waiting for me to play.  
The prairie land where I grew up, once again grew crops that paid;  
And we grew used to the city streets, but my heart on the prairie stayed.





# “30” Silent Keys

News of our brothers and sisters who have “closed the key”

## AT Chapter: Alton, Illinois

**Wayne Beaver**, age 80, was a telegraph operator in Burlington. He was also an amateur radio operator with the call W0NHK. Wayne died on August 4, 2004. No other information was available.

## GC Chapter: Grand (Illinois)

**Richard D. Cox, Sr.**, age 78, was born on April 7, 1927. He earned the amateur radio call K9PGN. Richard died on September 14, 2004. Unfortunately no additional information was available.

## SQ Chapter: Southern California

**William C. Hess**, age 91, was a former leader of the SQ chapter. Bill worked as a telegrapher in North Dakota while attending school. He earned a PhD in Psychology then practiced in California. “Doc Hess” also attained the rank of Colonel in the Civil Air Patrol and earned his extra class amateur radio license with the call W6CK. William died on April 28, 2004.

**Del Roberts** joined MTC in 1996. In 1941 Del was an apprentice for NP in Missoula. In 1947 Del attended the Spokane Telegraph School. Beginning in 1949 he worked many agent and operators positions. In 1965 he left Thompson Falls to spend the next 19 years at Cheney. In 1984 he left Cheney for Yardley as Chief Rate Clerk. Del said, “I am proud to be an accomplished brass pander and still know what 73 means!” June Peterson, Secretary-Treasurer of the Spokane Chapter, attended the funeral for Del. She reports that this was one of the most impressive funerals she had ever attended. June says that Del and his wife had four children. Del died on October 31, 2004.

## GO Chapter: Montreal/Ottawa, Canada

**Keith I. Coultart** worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway as a telegraph operator and dispatcher at Smiths Falls and at various other locations. He was also a traveling auditor from Toronto. Keith died on

September 26, 2004 in Perth, Ontario. Unfortunately, information on Keith is sparse.

**Milton Gould** of Ottawa Ontario died in June 2004. He worked for the CPR in Montreal at the RA office. Regretfully, this is all the information that is available.

## MS Chapter: MPLS/Saint Paul, Minnesota

**Leo J. Hertz** worked for Western Union in 1942 & 1943 before joining the Army Air Force during WW II. While in the military he became a high speed International Morse Operator. He was able to proficiently copy both codes. Leo died early in 2004.

## OK Chapter: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**James C. Cowles**, age 83, of Broken Arrow, OK joined MTC in 1994. James was born on April 14, 1921 in Peckham, OK. He learned telegraphy in 1939 & 1940 then started working for the Frisco Railroad as an extra board agent operator. His first assignment was at Sulphur, OK. In 1943 James began dispatching trains in a territory that used Morse for dispatching. With modesty, Jim says that he was “nothing more than an average operator on the wire.” Jim died October 10, 2004.

**Elton J. Nickel**, age 89, of El Reno OK was born on August 3, 1915 in Lucas, KA. He says that “As long as I can remember, I could copy Morse.” Elton’s mother and father were both telegraph operators on the Union Pacific Railroad. Elton worked for 45 years on three railroads: the Union Pacific in Kansas 1930-1937, CMSTP&P in Wisconsin 1937-1946, and CRI&P in Kansas and Oklahoma 1946-1975. He also earned the amateur radio call W5UD. Elton died September 14, 2004.

## PD Chapter: Portland, Oregon

**Arthur Christman**, age 81, was born January 10, 1923 in Havelock, ND. Art served during WWII in the 347<sup>th</sup> tank Battalion in France and Germany. Art worked as a telegraph operator for the UP & SP&S railroads prior to the merger. In May 1951 he began work on the SP& S at Vancouver Telegraph

office. During the 1970’s, he worked for the Burlington Northern and was also a dispatcher. Later Art worked for the BNSF Railroad in Vancouver and was a ticket agent until his retirement in 1986. After retirement, he and his wife Patsy managed the Quarterdeck Restaurant. Art died on July 5, 2004.

## SK Chapter: Spokane, Washington

**Joe Kolodrubsky** died on October 28th. Joe was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba. In 1941, at the age of 17, he was employed as a temporary railway messenger in the very busy “WI” office of Canadian National Railways in Winnipeg. There he learned to telegraph and in the summer of 1943, was assigned as an operator to work at several stations east of Winnipeg before enlisting in the Royal Canadian Navy to serve as a wireless operator at sea during World War 2. Upon his discharge, he resumed his duties as an operator and in February of 1948, qualified as a relief train dispatcher in the east end office at Winnipeg and worked in that capacity until establishing his seniority date as a train dispatcher in January 1951. While working in Winnipeg, he was frequently called upon to relieve both the night and day chief train dispatchers. In the early 1960s, he was promoted to chief train dispatcher at Prince George in British Columbia. He was later transferred to Kamloops, British Columbia and subsequently to Edmonton, Alberta as the chief train dispatcher at both locations. While in Edmonton, Joe was assigned several special projects including the development of the curriculum for CN Rail’s train dispatchers school in Gimli, Manitoba. He took an early retirement to assume duties as a regional inspector for the Railway Transport Committee of the federal Board of Transport Commissioners, later known as the Transportation Safety Board with temporary residence in Calgary, Alberta. Upon his retirement from that position, he returned to Edmonton where he enjoyed his leisure time golfing and enjoying his family and his many friends. Joe was a charter member of the Edmonton Chapter of the Morse Telegraph Club Inc. and acted as the Secretary Treasurer for many years before resigning because of his failing health. Joe gained the reputation of being

a colourful but likeable character during his railway and government careers. He leaves to mourn his wife Dorothy, one son and five daughters, several grand children and a few great grand children. Joe was a competent and well respected individual and will be missed by his fellow telegraphers and others he worked with on the railway and with the federal government.

**Meredith Sadler**, age 86, was born September 30, 1918. He learned telegraphy in 1936 at Haileybury Ontario. That year he began his career as a telegraph messenger boy. As his skills grew, Meredith became bookkeeper, then telegrapher for the Canadian National Telegraphs. In 1942 he joined the Canadian National Railways. In 1945 he joined the Canadian Navy, later returning to the CNR as an operator in Tomogram. After twenty years as a telegrapher at Tomogram, Meredith went on to New Misheard and Hailey bury. He was a member of MTC since 1994. Meredith died on August 11, 2004.

**Frank James Smith**, age 71, was born on March 24, 1933 in Trascona, Manitoba. He was raised and educated in Trascona. As a young man he was employed by the Hudson Bay Northern Stores Fur Trade Department. Then he became a telegrapher for the CNR. Frank says his true love was trains. He was a member of the Manitoba Morse Society and of the Win-N-Trak Model Rail Road Society. Much of his career was as general manager of a funeral business. Frank died on July 5, 2004.

**Vince H. Quayle**, age 90, was born on November 20, 1913 in Chicago, IL. He was a rail fan and was the editor of "The Railroad Capital" for the Railroad Club of Chicago. Vince was strongly influenced in his youth by his favorite uncle who was an official with the Big Four Railroad at Indianapolis. In 1931 Vince earned his amateur radio call W9BFU. Vincent died September 28, 2004.

#### FX Chapter: Florida

**Paul H. English**, age 86, was born on November 10, 1918 in Tifton, GA. For most of his life, Paul worked for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and its successors, Seaboard Coast Line and CSX. He was a second generation railroader who began his railroad career in 1937 as a student clerk in Winter Garden, FL. In 1947 Paul was promoted to Train Dispatcher at the Ocala District office. He remained there until 1967 at which time he transferred to the Mulberry office of the merged railroads. He retired from there in November 1979. After his retirement, Paul became active in MTC, serving as President of the FX Chapter for

several years. He also earned his extra class amateur radio license. Paul died on October 26, 2004.

**Larry H. Holt**, age 97, was born January 17, 1907 in Hamilton, Ontario. He became a naturalized US citizen in December 1942. In May 1925 Larry joined the Associated Press as a telegrapher. He retired from that position in 1969 as assistant to the general manger of the AP at the New York City corporate office. Larry also served in the US Army 1943 to 1945 as a teletype and telephoto supervisor. In this job Larry provided daily news and photographs throughout the world on behalf of the Army News Service. Larry also earned a second class radio telegraph operator's license, call sign K4GZL. Larry died on July 31, 2004 and was buried in Saint Petersburg, Florida.

#### ON Chapter: Toronto, Ontario

**Curtis L. Brought**, age 79, was born in Pictor Ontario on January 21, 1924. He became a telegrapher in June 1940 with the CNR at Campbellford, ON. In May 1941 He moved to the CPR in Saint Catharines, ON. In November 1941 He became an operator for the CPR at Niagara Falls, Ont. Then in 1942 Curtis joined the Canadian Armed Forces and was sent overseas for the next four years. Part of this time was spent as a wireless operator. Following his tour of duty, Curtis returned to Civvy Street in Niagara Falls an operator and Chief Clerk. But by this time, the teletype had crept into the telegraph office as the latest advancement in communications. Later Curtis worked for the CPR in Toronto. In June 1949 Curtis became an agent at Port Colborne and Leamington. In 1960 he left that job to become the Agent of Telecommunications for the CPR at Brantford ON. In 1963 he held the same position in Kitchener ON. Curtis joined MTC in March 1963. He died October 13, 2003 (last year).

#### DI Chapter: Vancouver, British Columbia

**Helen M. Lane**, age 93, of Evanston, IL was born on May 1, 1911 in Kaveman, TX.

She completed a Western Union course at Tyler, Texas and was sent to manage the telegraph office at Baird, TX. At that time she was only 18 years old! She was later sent to learn the new simplex system which was

replacing Morse. Helen states that, "I loved working with the Morse code and might add that to this day [year 2000]; it is still as clear to me as when I first learned it. I often find myself thinking words in code." Helen learned about the Morse Telegraph Club by reading an article in the Dear Abby column! She joined MTC in June 2000. Helen died October 4, 2004.

**Ernest Edy** of Kelowna, BC passed away on Nov. 10 at age 82. Ernest worked for the CNR as an agent/operator, although his father was a CPR agent who taught both Ernest and his sister telegraphy.

Ernest worked at many locations as a relief operator and finally got a permanent position at Hilliard, Alberta. He worked at Winter, SK, Lavoy, AB, Beiceker, AB and settled down in Kelowna in 1963 where he worked until retirement in 1987.

#### SX Chapter: Seattle, Washington

**Eddie Power**, age 82, became a silent key on January 3, 2004. He learned Morse while working the 3<sup>rd</sup> trick at Somas on the NP in 1941. He retired from the BN following the merger.

*Editor's note: In writing these 17 brief descriptions of our telegraph Brothers and Sisters, I came to appreciate these folks. I feel sad that so much history, so many fascinating experiences pass with these people. Please put your memory, your contribution, and your part in our American history on paper for all of us to appreciate!*

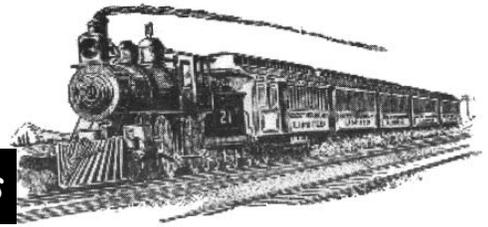
*Many of these silent key notices arrived by e-mail without listing the member's chapter. Some guess work was involved. I apologize is I have listed any of these members in the wrong chapter. - Jim Wilson.*

## Remembering Ace...



A memorial luncheon for Ace Holman was held at Casey's Restaurant in Malvern, PA, USA, on December 4, 2004. The idea for a luncheon began with Brother Paul Taylor. Pictured, from left to right: Michael C. Migliaccio, Paul Taylor, Ace's daughters: Toni (Holman) Collins, Cindy Holman, and John Scanlon.

# Welcome aboard...



## News of our new Morse Telegraph Club members

### AB Chapter: Albany, New York

**Bill Truran** was born on Valentine's Day February 14, 1951 in Franklin, NJ. He is currently employed as a professor of engineering and earned the amateur radio call WW2B. Bill was inspired by his great uncle, who was a dispatcher on the L&HR Railroad in Franklin, NJ. Bill plans to use his great uncle's telegraph equipment as part of an interactive museum diorama.

### GC Chapter: Illinois

**Gregory J. Harris** was born September 21, 1958 in Chicago, IL. He learned the Morse code by copying W1AW and W9JMG. Greg is retired from the US Navy and is a Gulf War Veteran. Greg reports that his "Elmer" teacher was Everett Ellsworth, a recent silent key in the GC Chapter, who also inspired him to join MTC. Keith LeBaron reports that "Slim" Ellsworth was also his Elmer during the 1940's!

**Raymond E. Ltuehring** was born on a farm September 4, 1927 in Cedar Count, IA. He began working in 1949 as a telegraph operator. His first permanent job as a billing clerk came in 1951 in Cedar Rapids. Then he was advanced to rate clerk. Raymond comments that they had over 800 tariffs on hand and that they handled about 700 stations, which kept him plenty busy. Eventually his company went bankrupt which put him out of a job. Ray says, "I loved railroading, but always wanted to be a brakeman." He especially liked steam engines.

**Thomas Richards** was born November 29, 1956 at La Grange, Illinois. He used old instruction manuals to teach himself the Morse code. Thomas is currently a college professor. Tom says, "I came to telegraphy through a lifelong interest in railroads and model railroading." He says that he has a goal of recreating a telegraph dispatch railroad environment of the late 1940's for his model railroad layout. Tom says he plans to research and write about telegraphic practices especially those like the Milwaukee and Burlington lines. Hey, can any or our readers help Thomas?

**Melbourne E. Lenczewski** was born January 16, 1948 in Detroit, Michigan. He currently works as a building inspector for the B&F Technical Code Service in Detroit. Melbourne has an amateur radio call KG7EV and has a general interest in telegraphy.

**Jack V. Read** was born on May 16, 1926 in Pattonsburg, MO. He learned telegraphy in 1949 at the Midwest Business College in Pueblo, Co. Jack's career began in 1949 at the AT&SF Railroad in Cimarron, KS. His telegraph career ended in 1989 on the BN Railroad in North Kansas City, MO. Jack says that during his career, he used the telegraph, teletype, and computers on six different railroads in eight states. Today, Jack says he demonstrates telegraphy at various events. His amateur radio call sign is WB0IJJ.

**Leslie T. Klar** was born on December 24, 1946 in San Francisco, CA. Terry is a retired aircraft mechanic and earned the amateur radio call K7AJ. He says that he operates almost entirely CW on the amateur radio bands but that he would like to learn the American Morse code.

### SQ Chapter: Southern California

**Frederick V. Adsit** was born September 10, 1934 in Corning, NY. He is a retired USAF Signal Corps officer. His ham call is NY2V. Fred notes that as a boy he spent as much time as possible at the Erie RR station in Addison, NY, waiting for newspapers to arrive by train for him to deliver to his paper route customers. Fred states that he was fascinated by the RR telegrapher, the sounder and the key. This inspired him to earn his amateur radio license at age 14. Then he got interested in model railroading. Fred says, "It is a pleasure to join the truly active chapter of the MTC."

**Sam T. Kelly** was born on October 2, 1934 in Long Beach, CA. Sam currently works as a professor at California Polytechnic in Pomona. His ham call is W6JTT. Sam was influenced by his grandfather who was a railroad telegrapher. His grandfather began his career at age 12 in 1863 and worked in that profession until 1922!

**Chris H. Owens** was born on March 21, 1961 in Van Nuys, CA. He currently

works as an electronics technician and holds the ham call KB6MYR. Chris says that he became familiar with Morse code as a child but that he is far from proficient at the telegraph key. He adds, "I promise to keep trying. I know that when all other modes fail, Morse code always gets through!"

**Stanley C. Swanson** was born on November 26, 1927 at Ottumwa, Iowa. Stan comments that his father was an operator for the CB&O in Ottumwa, Iowa. Stan says he still has and cherishes his father's old equipment and that he intends to donate this original telegraph equipment to the Fullerton, CA Railroad museum. He says he is searching for additional telegraph equipment.

### MW Chapter: Milwaukee/Madison, WI

**Mervin E. Nimbar** was born on April 25, 1925 in Adams County, ND. He began his telegraphy career as an agent operator, then relay operator. Eventually Mervin became the Wire Chief in Chicago. He retired in 1985 when the Soo Line took over the MILW.

### GO Chapter: Montreal/Ottawa

**George Emile Comeau** of Lachine in Quebec Canada, born October 7, 1938, is a retired railroad enthusiast.

**Robert Curtis Foote** was born on February 27, 1930 in Truro, Nova Scotia Canada. He has 32 years of experience with the CNR as agent, operator, and supervisor.

**Ralph D. Cameron** was born January 9, 1932 in Toronto, Ontario Canada. He learned the international Morse and brags a current speed of 45-50 wpm! In his youth, Ralph was hired as a summer student delivering telegrams in Leaside Ontario and North Bay Ontario. He visited many telegraph offices coast to coast including the Yukon. He worked seven years with CN telegraphs in Toronto. Ralph is also proficient at copying landline Morse and Japanese telegraph code and has some ability to copy Russian code. His amateur radio call is VE3BBM.

**Ken Perrins** was born January 1, 1925 in Toronto, Ontario Canada. He first learned

the international code in 1942. In 1943 he became a radio operator for the Canadian Army. In 1949 he was hired by Bell Canada and learned land line Morse code. Ken's amateur radio call is VE3DWR.

**Guy Saint Laurent** was born on December 31, 1927 at Montreal, Quebec. He learned telegraphy at the Montgomery Telegraph School and then spent 38 years in service with the Canadian National Railroad.

**Robert G. Sayer** was born August 12, 1934 in North Bay, Ontario. He learned the Morse code in 1950 in London, Ontario. Bob says he worked numerous telegrapher jobs starting on the London Du then transferring to Sudbury in 1955. Later he worked various wire jobs in Scheiber and North Bay and Moor Lake. He also worked as a train dispatcher in Sudbury. In February 1988 Bob retired after 37 years of faithful service.

**James A Webb** was born January 3, 1926 at Fairville, NB Canada. He began his career in 1942 with the Canadian Pacific Railway. His division used telegraphy for the operation and movement of trains. He joined the Canadian Army Signal Corps in WWII, where he learned the international Morse code. James worked 43 years as a telegrapher and train dispatcher.

#### MS Chapter:

##### MPLS/Saint Paul, Minnesota

**Edward R. Decker** was born March 9, 1928 in Little Falls, Minnesota. He was a self taught telegrapher. Ed's first job was at Cyrus, MN as a traveling agent. With a little help from his friends, Ed moved on to his next job at Gregory on the main line. For the next three years he worked more than 30 different jobs. In 1949 Edward began working the CS job in the GN depot. "This gave me great exposure to telegraphy," states Ed. After returning from the Army in 1954, Edward became a dispatcher at Hartvig Dahl. In August 1976 he was promoted to Chief Dispatcher. He retired from "the brick" in December 1983. Ed summarized his career as, "Telegraphy came easy for me and I really enjoyed telegraphing." He says that he had some jobs that were tough to handle, "but I buckled down and made it work."

**E. Wayne Hitchcock** was born November 19, 1929 in Enderlin, ND. In 1949 he learned the skills of a telegrapher at the Gale Institute in Maples, Minnesota. Wayne's first job began in June 1949 with the Soo Line Railroad. Most of his time was spent at the Divn office in Kenmare, ND. In June 1953 he moved to Minneapolis working for the NP of the GN depot. In April 1960,

Wayne quit the railroad business and became an insurance salesman for the Lutheran Brotherhood Life Insurance Society.

#### KN Chapter:

##### Saskatoon

**Fred C. Lozoway** was born in 1938, in Bratton, Saskatoon. In 1958 he learned the code at a six month course in Avonlea, Saskatoon. Fred began his telegraph career serving in several small towns, later transitioning to the main line CNR. "My thrill was to hoop Woo OR train orders to steam engines like the famous CN6060," states Fred. He adds, "These are memories never to be forgotten!"

#### SK Chapter:

##### Spokane, Washington

**Raynold V. McDeid** was born on December 28, 1938 in Storm Lake, IA. He learned telegraphy at the Commercial Extension School of Commerce in Omaha, Nebraska. In high school, Ray reports that he was the fastest typist in his class. His teachers at telegraph school were Union Pacific Railroad employees. "We have a job for you," they told Ray as the Union Pacific RR snapped him up in September 1956. Ray also learned how to operate and repair the teletype and how to use punch ticker-tape. In 1958 he transferred to the GR relay office in Green River, WY. At that location Ray worked as wire chief, train order operator and teletypist. In 1964 he transferred to the Claim Department and served for 30 years as a claims agent, retiring from Spokane, WA in December 1993.

#### FX Chapter:

##### Florida

**William W. Loomis** was born on August 31, 1934 at Garrett, IN. He learned Morse code from his father and grandfather who were both railroad telegraphers. Bill is a retired engineer from the US Department of Defense with degrees in Mechanical engineering, high energy physics and a MBA. William began his career in telegraphy 1943 through 1945 as a Western Union messenger for the B&O Railroad in Garrett, IN. His grandfather was the chief telegrapher there. So it was easy for Bill to learn the code at the age of six! By age 12 he considered himself as "a working quality telegrapher." William is also self-taught in the Continental Code. His other hobbies include the history of mankind and of technology.

#### DI Chapter:

##### Vancouver, British Columbia

**Leslie Bakos** was born on September 23, 1932 in Saint Brieux, Saskatchewan. From 1952 to 1957 Leslie worked as a student

telegrapher, assistant agent, ticket clerk, and cashier at various places in Saskatchewan. From 1957 to 1964 he worked as a telegraph operator, agent operator, relief agent in approximately 50 to 60 locations all over Saskatchewan. He also worked for the Canadian National Railroad. Whew!

*Editor's note: In typing a brief summary of our new members, I see that many come from the ranks of amateur radio. I also realized that the Grand Chapter and the Montreal/Ottawa chapter had great success in recruiting new members. GC and GO, how did you do that? Say, I count 25 new members and 20 deceased members in this issue. Let's figure out how to live longer and how to make those new members numbers grow!*

*— Jim Wilson*

## Change of Address

Please send all changes of address, including deaths and new members to:

### **Keith LeBaron**

Grand Secretary-Treasurer

550 N. Greenfield Dr.

Freeport, IL 61032-2943

Tel: 815-232-2564

keithlebaron@worldnet.att.net

## Submission of material

Submissions to Dots and Dashes are welcome. All material will be retained by the publication, unless return is requested. Please write or type plainly, and please mark photographs with descriptions.

Send them to:

**Dots & Dashes,**

**2742 Southern Hills Court**

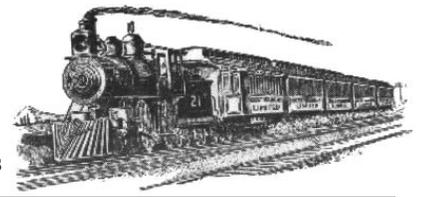
**North Garden, VA 22959**

**Email: telegraphjim@ceva.net**

*MTC dues are \$10 per calendar year in the U.S. and Canada, \$14 (U.S. funds) elsewhere, and entitle members to all issues of Dots & Dashes for the year. (U.S. members desiring First Class mail delivery of D&D may have it by paying \$14 instead of \$10) Please send all applications to your chapter secretary of Keith LeBaron, Grand Secretary-Treasurer, 550 N. Greenfield Dr., Freeport, IL 61032-2943, and not to the Dots and Dashes address.*

# House Track Want Ad Section

For Morse Telegraph Club Members



**Wanted:** Train order board levers/rods for historic NPRY museum depot. Contact: L.R. Keith W. 401 Broadway #203 Ritzville, WA. 99169 or: Gaynel Gering Museum director, 403 S. Palouse Ritzville, WA 00169 509/657/1279 or [gnering@agyitel.net](mailto:gnering@agyitel.net).

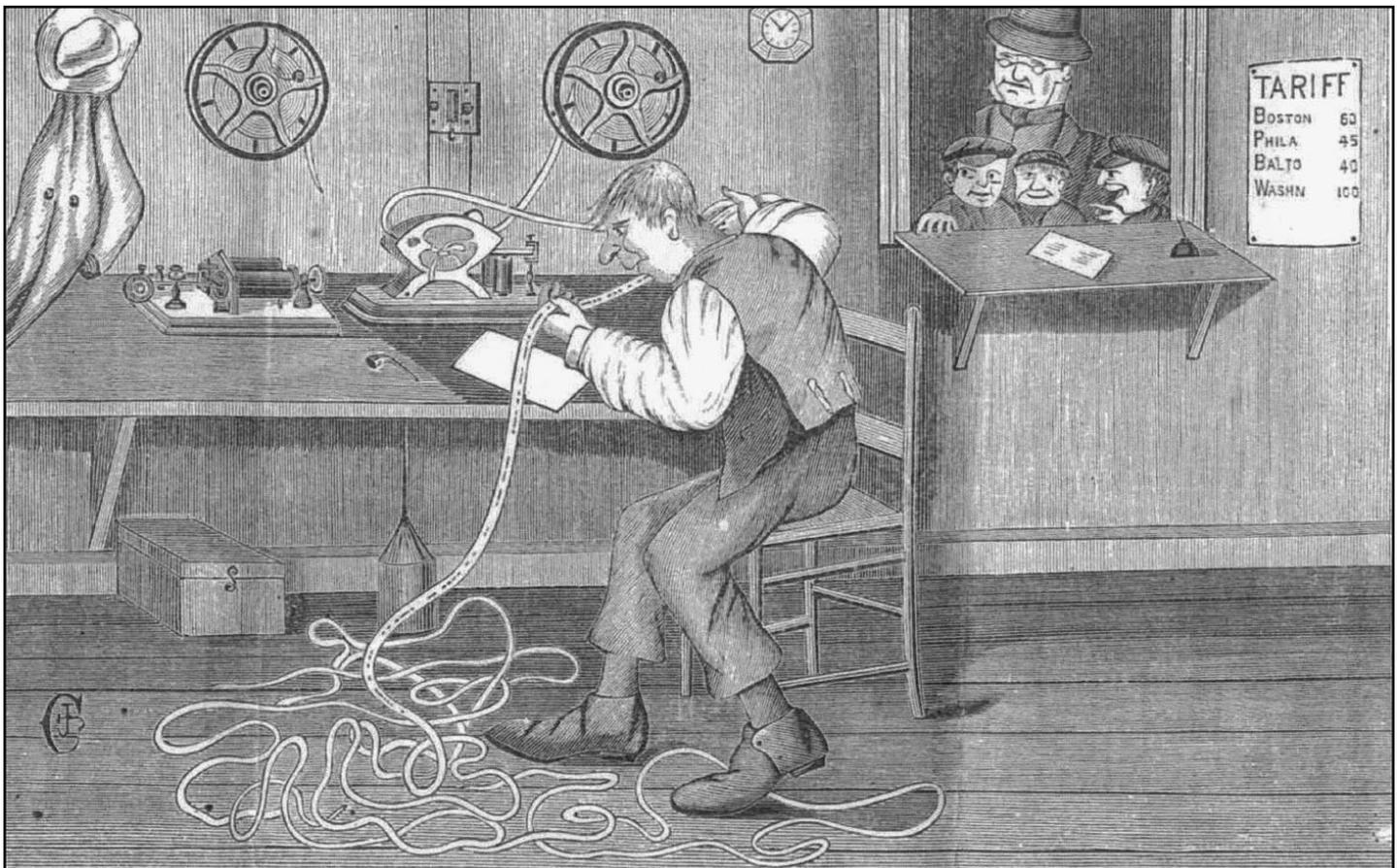
**Wanted: PC Code Program** – The Mill is a many featured American Morse and CW program with teaching, historical, and nostalgic features for users of all experience levels. Download free from: <http://home.comcast.net/~w4fok> or order a 3 1/2" floppy. MTC Members \$5.00, others \$10.00. Jim Farris

**Wanted/Trade:** I am looking for special US telegraph items to buy or swap. I have a lot of European items to swap. See my website "courtesy Greg Raven" for lots of ideas: [http://www.faradic.net/~graven/fons\\_images/fons\\_museum.html](http://www.faradic.net/~graven/fons_images/fons_museum.html). Those photographs come out of my book "Classics of Communication" which concentrates on 19<sup>th</sup> century telegraphy. Fons Vanden Berghen, Lenniksesteenweg 462/22, B-1500 HALLE; Belgium, Telephone +32-2-356 05 56 (European day-time) [fons.vandenberghen@pandora.be](mailto:fons.vandenberghen@pandora.be)

**Wanted:** Fork style train order hoop. Contact Doug Hebert, 204 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South, #302, Seattle, WA 98104

Note: The publication "Morseum Magnificat" has been discontinued. MM was an English publication devoted to radio telegraphy. This information comes from Tony Smith G4FAI in England: [g4fai@connectfree.co.uk](mailto:g4fai@connectfree.co.uk).

**Note:** Since many of the previous want ads were obsolete, the suggestion was made to start afresh. The want ads listed here were newly submitted. Please notify Dots & Dashes if you have a want ad that you would like to be continued. Thank You.



This item is a woodcut showing the harried life of an early telegrapher, clearly depicting a weight-driven embossing register and a relay. It's from a book entitled "Lightening Flashes and Electric Dashes" by W. J. Johnson (1882). Most interestingly, if you translate the message on the paper tape, it reads, "EVER OF THEE I AM FOND L (OVE) DSEA" - Submitted by Dave Pennes, Grand Rapids, MI

HISTORIC APPLICATION FORM:

# MORSE TELEGRAPH CLUB, INC.

GRAND CHAPTER, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



### GET A NEW MEMBER

The Morse Telegraph Club (Inc.) successor to the Morse Telegraph Club of America, Inc., which was organized in 1942 with Grand Chapter headquarters in Los Angeles County, California, to provide a medium for the purpose of promotion renewal and continuance of friendships and fellowships made during the progress of the telegraph, between those interested therein, recalling and perpetuating the facts and traditions attaching to the development of the industry, preserving the names and record of the participants in the establishment and extension of the great telegraph systems and the encouragement of such other meritorious objects consistent with the foregoing as may be desirable.

A banquet and entertainment is held on the fourth (4th) Saturday in April each year in local chapters in the United States and Canada to commemorate the birthday of our benefactor Samuel F. B. Morse, inventor of the telegraph, and also to honor and remember telegraphers who worked at the profession.

At these annual affairs, all telegraphers, active, retired or in other business, together with wives, sweethearts, and friends are cordially invited.

Morse code and Professional Continental Wireless Operators who have had one or more year's experience are eligible for membership.

### **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME  
FIRST MIDDLE LAST

MAILING ADDRESS  
CITY ZONE STATE OR PROVINCE

BIRTHDATE  
CITY STATE OR COUNTRY YEAR DAY MONTH

DATE LEARNED TELEGRAPHY AND WHERE

OCCUPATION, TITLE, EMPLOYER, ETC.

(PERSONALLY SIGNED)

*On a separate sheet of paper, please give list of any Morse telegraph documents or apparatus relic owned, also a record of your telegraph experience.*