



# Dots&Dashes

*What*

*Hath*

*God*

*Wrought*

The Official Publication of the Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.

Vol. 43, Issue No. 3 • Summer 2018

## TAPPING OUT: B.C. MORSE TELEGRAPH CLUB SAYS GOODBYE TO AN ERA

*Club signals its end as elderly telegraphers consign it to history*

*Printed with permission from writer Tom Zutaruk of the Terrace Standard newspaper.*

Are you reading this story in print? Or perhaps on your smartphone, that indispensable device you ritualistically pin your eyes to every day and night?

One day, that oh-so-important gadget will surely become an anachronism as new modes of communication take over.

One day, you might well find yourself explaining to your grandchildren or great-grandchildren what it was like to use an Android or iPhone as you view, from behind the display case glass in some dusty museum, a rare specimen that survived the march of time unbroken.

As the Good Book says, we're all dust in the wind, and that applies to technology as well. Take, for example, Morse Code telegraphy, a system of text messaging consisting of dots and dashes, combinations of which represent letters or numerals. Considered to be one of humankind's top

10 inventions, well before there were telephones, fax machines or computers, Morse Code beepity-beeped from a tapping device called a "straight key" along telegraph lines to bring people news of births and deaths, weddings, tragedy and joy, emergencies and disasters, and other news of

personal and global import. This medium of communication was, in a word, indispensable.

But that was then.

The last surviving members of the B.C. Chapter of the Morse Telegraph Club held their final meeting on Thursday, April 26, in room A123 of the Oasis building

at Fleetwood's Elim Village retirement community, saying goodbye to this important era in the history of communications.

"We're dying off. There's very few of us left," member Chris Naylor, 87, bluntly explained. When it comes to words, the elderly generally don't kid around.

*continued on page 4*



*Lavina Shaw, 89, passes the sandwiches after pastor Alfred Johnson, 92, 'says' grace by tapping out a prayer in Morse Code. (Photos by Tom Zytaruk)*

# Dots & Dashes

The official publication of

## The Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.

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**Local Chapter Members:** Members of local chapters should send all correspondence regarding address changes, membership renewals and similar information to their local Chapter Secretary/Treasurer. If you do not know your Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, please inquire with the International Secretary/Treasurer to obtain the necessary contact information.

**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.

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The next issue of *Dots & Dashes* is scheduled for publication on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 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.org](http://www.morsetelegraphclub.org)



## Sidewire

Comments from the  
Editor of *Dots & Dashes*

By **Jim Wilson**



The Spring issue of *Dots & Dashes* gave you more for your money -- an electronic issue along with your paid membership for a paper issue. This Summer issue gives you even more for your payment of annual dues.

With this Summer issue, you are treated to many COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS!

Also with this issue, you have something new and innovative, YOUR NAME printed on the back cover. This innovation will save MTC more than a hundred dollars per issue on the cost of envelopes and it will personalize your copy of *Dots & Dashes* journal.

Morse Day 2018 was a success. Many of our MTC chapters participated in events commemorating the birthday of Samuel. F. B. Morse. View photographs of some of these events in CHAPTER NEWS. Be sure and send me your future Chapter News. If all 28 of our MTC chapters sent in their news, we could fill the next issue! Enjoy the photographs from my own "WA" Chapter on page 13.

As a June birthday gift, I received from my family a fully assembled and tested "Turnkey MorseKOB Interface." This was ordered from one of our advertisers listed in House Track Want Ads. Previously, I had an old telegraph modem, but it was difficult to operate. Now I can again join the fun on the Morse wire.

The U.S. postage stamp commemorating the 175th anniversary of the electric telegraph is currently winding its way through the United States Postal service. Look for this colorful 50 cent first class "forever" postage stamp in March 2019.

Meanwhile, keep on pounding out telegraph messages for the public as you explain to them the invention that began the worldwide revolution in communications, the electric telegraph.

*Jim Wilson*

## President's Line

**Jim Wades, President**  
Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.



**T**here is no doubt that age is taking its toll on our club. We have lost several chapters and, for a time, particularly 2016 and 2017, keeping up with the number of silent keys was nearly overwhelming.

Borrowing a phrase from John F. Kennedy, "the torch has been passed to a new generation." Most new members come from the ranks of radio amateurs. The radio amateurs use a somewhat different code, but they are inheritors of many of the traditions of telegraphy.

Over the past years, we have invested considerable time and effort to reach-out to the Amateur Radio community. The results have been a bit mixed. There are numerous "CW clubs," and it is occasionally difficult for some ham radio operators to understand how the Morse Telegraph Club is different.

For a good number of years, a small group of MTC members put on demonstrations at the World's largest ham radio convention at Dayton, Ohio. With regular attendance in the range of 20,000, it was an excellent opportunity for outreach. However, it was common to obtain only five to ten registrations each year. The cost of travel, hotels and the like (paid by the volunteers) simply did not warrant the continued expense.

I remain convinced that there are many ham radio operators who would have an interest in telegraphy and MTC if they were exposed to it. Certainly, outreach on a more basic level can be conducted. A small display of telegraph instruments and a few sample copies of *Dots & Dashes* can be displayed at local ham radio swap meets. A brief talk on telegraph history can be conducted at local ham radio club meetings. Many clubs are starving for speakers to fill slots at monthly meetings and telegraphy is certainly a worthy subject.

Demonstrations of telegraphy are also an important form of outreach. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find American Morse operators to partner with for local demonstrations. However, MTC recently reached an agreement with Radio Relay International to

*President's Line continued on page 6* ➔



*Tapping Out, continued from front page*

“It is the closing of an era,” he said. “Nobody knows Morse Code any more.”

It’s named after inventor Samuel F.B. Morse who, along with physicist Joseph Henry and engineer Alfred Vail, created the electrical telegraph system in 1836.

This means of communication played an immense role in critical moments in history — such as the RMS Carpathia receiving Titanic’s wireless distress call to save 705 souls, and train dispatcher Vince Coleman bravely sacrificing his own life to alert an incoming passenger train to the imminent Halifax explosion in 1917, saving nearly 300 lives.

Locally, the first telegraph message sent along a line linking the U.S. with New Westminster, by way of the Kennedy Trail, brought news of President Abraham Lincoln’s assassination.

The last train order sent by telegraph in North America was in the mid-1980s.

The surviving members of B.C.’s club marked the bittersweet occasion of putting their going concern to rest with a cake that was decorated with a small straight key and the words “What Hath God Wrought.”



It’s a phrase from Numbers 23:23 in the Bible and was the first message Morse dispatched, on May 24, 1844, witnessed by the U.S. Congress and sent from Washington D.C. to a railroad station in Baltimore, Maryland.

The 21 people present at Surrey’s luncheon and final meeting — those 10 remaining members who could make it, some of them accompanied by their adult children — sat solemn as retired Lutheran pastor Alfred Johnson, 92, tapped out grace on a straight key, thanking God, by way of dots and dashes, and beepity-beeps, “for the privilege we had to be part of this wonderful system of communication which the Morse Code has been.”

Johnson worked as a telegrapher while attending seminary and raising two children. He started his career as a Morse telegrapher in 1944, as an assistant station agent with the Northern Alberta Railways in Hythe, Alberta at age 18.

After lunch, the club’s final business was done, finances were sorted out, and members decided to donate the remaining \$78.28 in the kitty to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

And that was it, but not before they honoured Lavina Shaw, 89, a living legend among



telegraphers. She had served as president of the Morse Telegraph Club, which had 37 chapters in Canada, the U.S. and seven other countries.

The club had 75 members in the B.C. chapter, and close to 4,000 in North America, when she was president in 2002.

“It’s down to under 1,000,” she said. At the time of its closing, the local chapter had under 30 members scattered throughout B.C., three of whom recently passed.

Shaw remains the only woman and Canadian since 1943 to have held the office of International President of the Morse Telegraph Club, a position

which took her to every state in the U.S. and every province and territory in Canada. She recently resigned as B.C.'s secretary treasurer.

"The reason why it's the last meeting is because I resigned and nobody else would do the work," Shaw told the Now-Leader.

"They're dying right and left.

"I'd say one of the highlights was I telegraphed

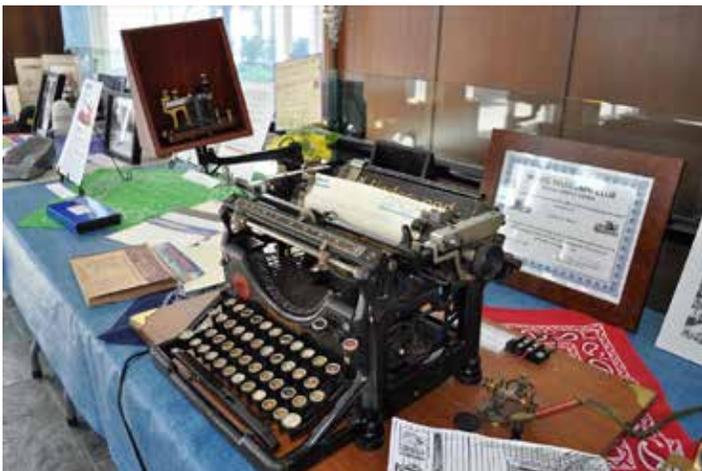


with the last living war veteran of World War I, John Babcock, at age 107," Shaw said.

"He was a former telegrapher and he could still telegraph at age 107, and I consider that one of the highlights of me being president. He lived in Spokane, and they got him on the wire and because I was, you know, the president they put him on."

Born in 1900, Babcock was the oldest surviving veteran of the Canadian military. He died in 2010, at age 109.

Shaw was born in a railway station. "I could hear this click-clacking all the time and I was a bit curious, so I asked my dad, who was a station agent, to teach me the code. So I would get on line



with other guys on the line who were in their teens and what-not, and talk back and forth," she told the Now-Leader.

"I learned Morse Code from about age 10. First I went to work for the Canadian National Telegraphs, I got married and moved to Vancouver."

She then worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

"I worked on the commercial end and I used to copy a lot of news from the Vancouver Sun, and from Reuters and the Canadian Press.

"In 1952 I was working down at the corner of Richards and Hastings, at the CPR, and they put me on all day on the line to TIME magazine during the U.S. election."

Shaw said she earned good pay.

"Very good for a woman. I was getting about three times as much as a secretary. I was paid equal to a man. You had to be absolutely accurate and very confidential, you didn't dare say anything."

Meantime, Naylor shared some parting words with the by-now former club members.

"We're a dying out breed, aren't we," he said.

"From all of those we contacted, there's only 10 of us here today. We are a dying breed, but it's so good that we could be together just to say goodbye."

Naylor worked as a train dispatcher in Victoria before he became a Baptist pastor. A highlight of his career as a telegrapher, he said, was sending out the press about the 1951 royal visit to Canada, when he was the "second-trick" operator in Duncan.

There was also an office for commercial telegrams and the lady running it was busy, so she asked him for a favour. "When Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip (visited) in 1951, she asked me if I would come in and send the press for Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa."

Doug Turner, 78, was also at the last meeting.

"Our ranks are thin. There's about 10 of us here," he said. "I'm a bit sad. It's so profoundly the end of an era."

Turner worked for a railway company from 1957 to 1962.

"I grew up in a little town, Salmon Arm, and the railroad was a complete link with the outside world," he recalled. "There was operators 24/7 in the station, which meant four operators."

"Everything came by train, from coffins to groceries. Telegrams were the main outside means

of communication, in the days before cheap long-distance telephone calls, you sent a telegram.”

“I’ll never forget when I was a little boy, during the Second World War, when my mother came home with this nurse crying her eyes out; she just got a telegram that her brother was killed in France.”



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*President’s Line, continued from page 3*

support the origination of telegrams from Morse demos. Three RRI operators have volunteered to serve as “gateways” for telegraph demonstrations, thereby allowing a single MTC member to demonstrate telegraphy at an event. These RRI operators are first class men, all of whom can hold their own on a circuit and all of whom know how to handle a telegram. The only catch is....they are International Morse Operators.

The process is simple; one sets up a telegraph demo at a museum, railroad event or the like. A competent operator establishes contact with the RRI gateway via the “MorseKOB” system. Telegrams are originated for the public, typically in book format. The “gateway” operator then refiles them to Radio Relay International network where they are routed and delivered to any location in the United States. The standard radiogram format is used, which is a close approximation of a commercial telegram format.

It would be nice if we could use American Morse for such events, but the real goal is to keep the history of telegraphy alive. In keeping with this

Bruce Edwards, 92, was also at the Surrey meeting.

“I like to tell people I was born in a wheat field in Saskatchewan,” he told the Now-Leader.

“I had to make my own way; my father died when I was four years old. So I looked around for some means of getting a vocation together; my mother couldn’t afford to send me beyond Grade 9 so I found a job as a telegraph messenger, delivering telegrams at three cents apiece commission.”

Edwards had worked for CN telegraphs in Regina.

As his beloved club came to a close, he was filled with nostalgia.

“I just prize the old friends; it’s a fraternity,” Edwards said wistfully.

“Something near and dear to my heart.”

goal, it remains important to display the correct code at telegraph demonstrations, explain the differences between the codes and stress the role of telegraphy as a transformative factor in human history.

We will be adding a document to the web page explaining how to set-up a telegraph demo using the RRI-MTC connection. Any decent CW operator who has some familiarity with CW traffic net operations should be able to do the job. Just make sure you use telegraph instruments and not radio equipment!

There’s many ways to get the word out. Temporary displays of telegraph instruments at libraries and museums, telegraph demonstrations at railroad museums, and talks for community groups, radio clubs and engineering societies are all options. Let’s ensure that telegraphy survives us!

73,  
*James Wades*  
*International President*



# Letters to the Editor

## April 11th

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I thought you might find this of interest. I am not sure of copyright status. Some Model Builder magazines are available on line at <http://original.trainlife.com> and mention being used by permission of the current Lionel Corporation.

Raymond Yates, a model railroader and author, wrote an article for Lionel's Model Builder Magazine, published in March 1941, describing building a telegraph set. I built two each of the sounders and keys and seem to remember the drawing did not show the key's internal wiring correctly, which I changed.

I used coils from the bells of house's long unused doorbell system for the sounders. (A month later I found where the dead No. 6 dry cell battery was located, high up on a shelf in a pantry.)

I even found terminal posts identical to those shown in the article. An acquaintance had stored a bunch of old (ancient) ham radio stuff in our barn, then abandoned it. This was a trove of old panels, telephone keys, high quality panel meters, and unidentified transformers.

My mother took a couple of the transformers, which had smooth drawn metal cases, put rubber feet under them, and used them for door stops!

I think I still have one key that I made, but my parents must have dumped the sounders and other key when I left home. The system worked, but the sounders were not too snappy. Being made of soft orange crate wood, that is not surprising. I only had two cells on it; should have tried more.

Back then, late 1940's, our phones had Western Electric No. 6 "BlueBell" cells in each house. They were charged annually and the friendly telephone people would often give us the old cells.

Ray Yates also wrote an article on making telephone, including homemade carbon transmitters. Those were the fun days of being a kid.

*Steve Bartlett*

## April 24th

---

Take a close look at the badge on page 7.

73,  
*Joe Flamini*  
W4BXG

*The photograph on page 7 of the spring issue of the Chief of Railroad detectives badge contains a misspelled word: "Chief." I wonder if anybody ever noticed!*

## May 7th

---

In 1982 the MTC Roanoke Chapter had 37 members. Back then, when you used a typewriter and mailed letters, communications were cumbersome. The only function of the "RK" chapter had was the annual business meeting and lunch on Morse Day. Otherwise, no one kept in touch and there was no real communication. The only letters put out were the ones announcing the annual meeting and asking for dues.

I asked the old timers: Who was Harry C. Nichols, for whom the chapter is named? Someone replied, "He was an old timer who came from somewhere out west and got the chapter organized." When was that? I asked. "Oh, sometime back in the early 1950's." Who has the records? I asked. "Well, there really ain't no records, but Tootie Myers is the Secretary and he has some old papers."

That's the way it went. I should have asked Tootie, who worked the second Trick "DO" office in West Roanoke, to see the records. But I was a snot nosed newcomer, an outsider because I was a brakeman and that request would probably have been seen as a threat.

*Abraham Burnett*

## May 7th

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I read with great interest J. Chris Hausler's article, "Telegraph Cordless Jack Box" in the most recent issue of *Dots & Dashes* [Spring Issue, pages 4 & 5]. I have attached pix of my jack box and peg



switchboard, which I obtained from the New York, Ontario & Western depot in Oriskany Falls, NY.

I have been puzzling how to connect this jack box for a long time and perhaps I can figure it out now.

My box is a 385A, which I suppose means the railroad added additional jacks at some point. The wiring

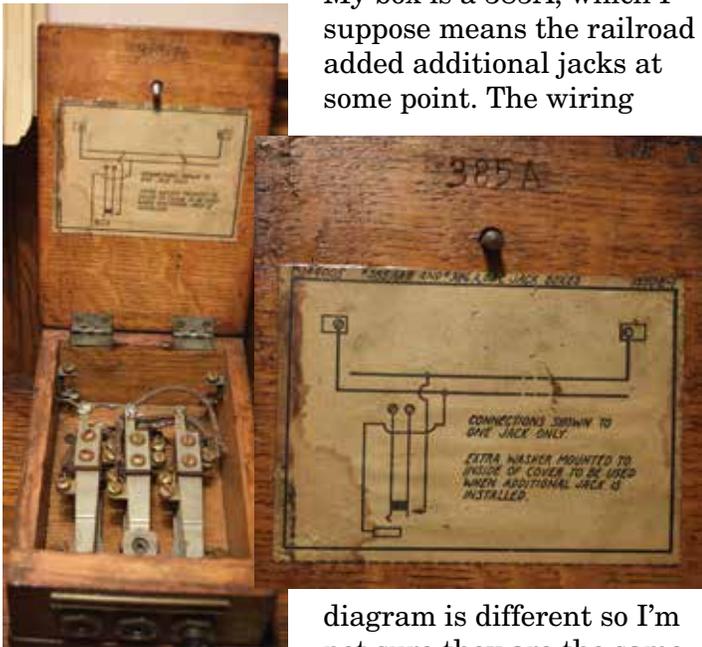
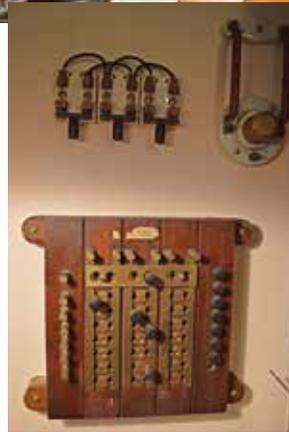
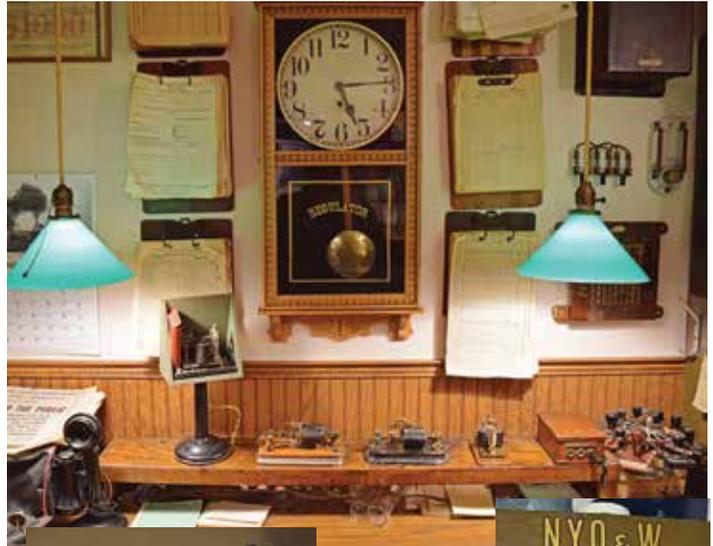


diagram is different so I'm not sure they are the same

jacks as in the article, My box is on the original shelf which, while it had no instruments on it, clearly showed the outline of the relays, which had been varnished around many times. Other holes told me where the sounders were mounted.

I have attempted to collect instruments to represent the originals. My friend and fellow MTC member, Don



Mahoney, a former Soo Line dispatcher, has been valiantly trying to teach me railroad Morse. The knife

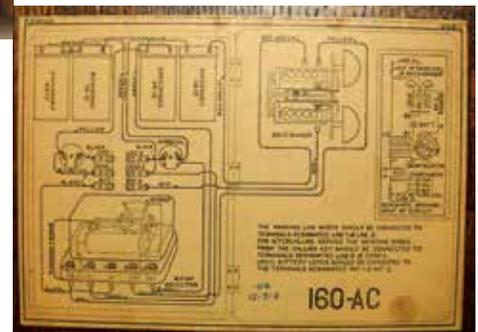


switches and the line fuses were still connected to the wires going into the pegboard, but I'm not sure if that was for the company phone line or low voltage power for the instruments.



I have also included photos of the inner workings of the bell box. I assume there must have been a pulse code that rang the bells, but so far, I haven't found anyone to decipher its workings. There are numbers pasted into the glass housing of the mechanical parts. This is also from Oriskany Falls.

Lastly, this picture is of a large street case switchboard, using the same type of jacks, only with



ords. This is from the New York Central depot at Cayuga, NY. In a fit of youthful pique, I added the NYO&W decals on top

If Mr. Hausler could shed any light on the jack box connections, pegboard connections, or the bells, I would appreciate it. Feel free to share this with him or anyone else.

*Ken Hojnacki*

### **May 7th**

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After our recent Morse Day event, I sat down and hammered out a few memories about Morse Day 40 years ago. A few photos are attached; wish I had taken many more! [Read "Biography of a Telegrapher" and see Abe's photographs on pages 16-17.]

Since I am the last living member of the Philadelphia Leased Wire, I will do a write-up of that in the near future.

*73,  
Abraham Burnett  
"SW" Telegraph Office*

### **May 8th**

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*This valuable information is a response to the May 7th letter by Ken Hojnacki.*

These 385 boxes had two types of jacks in them, either a 208 for bridging a phone circuit or a 224 for switching a telegraph circuit. A 385 box as shipped had two 208 jacks installed in it and a dummy in the center. Of course, with use, if yours has been used, jacks were swapped out over time as needs changed. There were many types of jacks. I've attached a pdf excerpt from a Western Union Electric catalogue with data on the jacks and jack boxes. It is pages 81 to 90 and the type 208 and 224 jacks are documented on page 86 at the top and the data on the 385 and 386 jack boxes is on page 87. The jack numbers were usually stamped into the frame of the individual jacks. As they were usually configured in the boxes, to see the number without removing the jacks from the box, you need to remove the bottom plate from the box. Then you should be able to see the jack numbers.

When you say "bell box," I'm not sure exactly what you are describing. It may be a telephone selector used for railroad dispatcher lines to allow the dispatcher to ring a specific office on his line. There were several kinds of railway phone systems, both for telegraph and telephone use. The 60AP and 60BP and related were used for railway phone systems. Here are some links: <http://www.decadecounter.com/vta/articleview.php?item=1203>.

Also: [http://doc.telephonecollectors.info/dm/WECO\\_Instruction\\_Book\\_IB-672\\_-\\_Railway\\_Train\\_Dispatching\\_Tel\\_Sys\\_OCR.pdf](http://doc.telephonecollectors.info/dm/WECO_Instruction_Book_IB-672_-_Railway_Train_Dispatching_Tel_Sys_OCR.pdf).

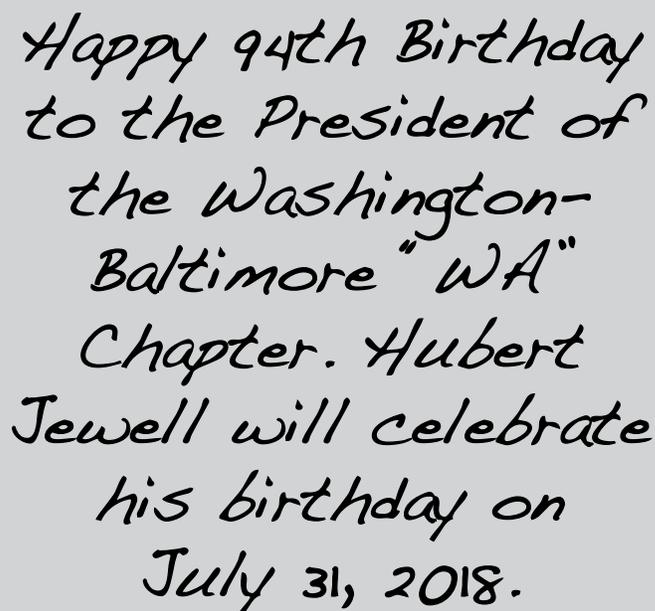
I have found a number of other docs on the 60BP downloadable on the web. Just GOOGLE 60BP selector. Again, I'm just guessing about what you are asking about.

For telegraph use, there was the Gill Selector, but it had a sort of an opposite purpose to the telephone selectors as it allowed the individual stations to "ring" the central relay office. Data on that can be GOOGLED as well.

There were two kinds of switchboards used in railroad stations for telegraph use. The original cross bar peg switchboard (photo of a four wire board is attached) and the later Fahnestock units which could be used singly for telegraph or in pairs for telephone (the telegraph was a single wire and the telephone was a pair of wires). They are too large to include in one email, so I will send you two pdfs describing WU units of this latter type in a following email.

Please feel free to ask further questions. But realize that I am not a telephone guy and so cannot say any further about telephone circuits. BTW, where you located as the materials you have collected seem to be from central NY. I'm just south of Rochester.

*73,  
J. Chris Hausler*

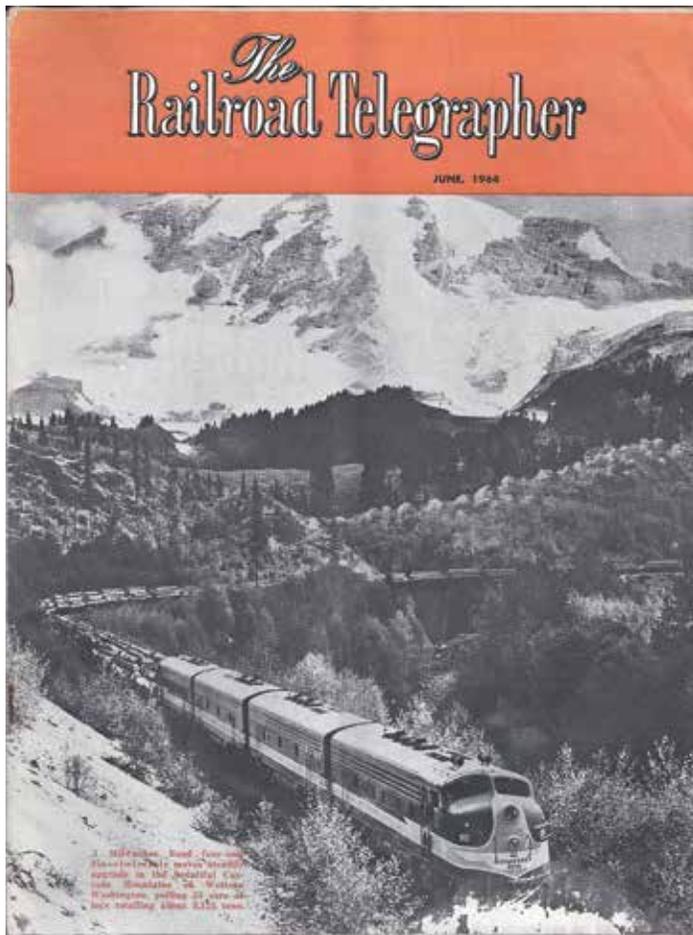


*Happy 94th Birthday  
to the President of  
the Washington-  
Baltimore "WA"  
Chapter. Hubert  
Jewell will celebrate  
his birthday on  
July 31, 2018.*

# A LOOK BACK...

by J. Chris Hausler

For some time I've been trying to research the history of the MTC. We all know that the club was originally founded in California in 1942 but beyond that the information is somewhat sketchy. Although we are now essentially an historical society, we haven't done a good job of keeping a detailed record of our own history. Several years ago, shortly before he passed away, Keith LeBaron sent me some materials that he and several other members had collected toward this effort but unfortunately the material is very hit and miss. I have also found occasional references to the



Morse Telegraph Club in various old publications. Although far from what would be required to develop a cogent history of the organization these bits and pieces can, on their own, make for interesting reading. So, I plan on an occasional column in "Dots & Dashes" titled, "A Look Back...", each containing material from one or more of these

references. I think at least some of you might enjoy them. Please let me know your thoughts.

Speaking of keeping our history, as our President Jim Wades said in his column in the spring 2018 issue of D&D, if any of you have old MTC documents or other material that you don't want or want to be preserved, please send them to Jim, his address is listed on the D&D masthead. If you have any documentation about the history of the MTC that you think might be interesting to other MTC members, please send it to me for possible use in an upcoming column. When done with it, if possible, I will forward it to Jim for inclusion in the MTC archives.

For this first column, I was recently made aware of some mid 1960's issues of, "The Railroad Telegrapher", the ORT's official publication, stored in the files at the AWA Museum. A few of them contain a column titled, "Morse Club Notes". The June 1964 issue contains an entire such page which includes reports from four different MTC chapters about their Morse Day celebrations for that year as well as other musings, including references to the Western Union provided hook-up. According to one report, 70 chapters were on the wire that year from across the U.S. and Canada. As we've just recently celebrated our annual Morse Day for 2018, it seems appropriate to start this series with these four reports, transcribed below, verbatim.

Speaking of the W.U hook-up we had a number of folks on its modern replacement, MorseKOB wire 11, for Morse Day this year as we've had now for a number of years. Were you on with us? If not, why not? It's easy to do. You too can help the MTC keep it alive! And don't forget, we have regular sessions on wire 11 each week. I am frequently on the one which takes place beginning at about 2 PM Eastern Saturdays, sometimes from home, sometimes from the AWA Museum.

## The Reports:

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### *Toronto Maple Leaf Chapter*

Members and friends enjoyed a buffet dinner, renewed acquaintances, had a good time. It was 120th birthday tribute to Samuel F. B. Morse.

The sad fact is that too many telegraphers were

too backward in asserting the value of their great contribution to the growth of our country. The employers were quick to sense that condition and saw to it that their value was kept obscure which reflected directly on the poor wages that existed for so many years. I have met many telegraphers who expressed very little interest in the Morse Club on the grounds that they were trying to forget that they were ever telegraphers. I have always done my best to instill in our members a sense of pride for having participated so effectively in their vast contribution and their first hand observance of history in the making. I am very proud to admit that I was a telegrapher for some 47 years and my father for a like period.

Congress paid a belated tribute in 1944 which not only commemorated the centennial of telegraphy, 1844-1944, had a plaque designed which hangs in the Library of the Supreme Court in Washington. We are still waiting for the Post Office Department to comply with a request to issue a special stamp, honoring Morse telegraphers for their contribution to society.

#### *Washington Chapter*

The annual Morse Club dinner was recently held at the Hamilton Hotel. More than 50 of the faithful attended. There are only a few of us left but we still have quality!

Messages of greetings came from President Johnson and O.R.T. President Leighty from St. Louis. The Chief Executive's telegram was transmitted over the Morse circuit, donated by the Western Union, to 70 chapters throughout the United States and Canada.

Ambassador and Mrs. William C. Doherty, both of whom are telegraphers, were unable to attend this year because of their absence from the city.

The principal speaker, Mr. Richard I. Phillips, News Chief of the State Department, most interestingly pointed out some of the "whys and wherefores" of the foreign policy of the world's greatest nation.

Mr. Earl Gilbert, professionally known as "The Birdwatcher," regaled the audience with magic tales about birds, both known and, until then, unheard of species. Mr. Glibert is quite a comedian.

A good time was had by everyone and until you "brasspounders" foregather for next year's feast - and libations - good luck to one and all.

#### *Inland Empire Chapter*

Spokane's Inland Empire Chapter, MTC, manned the international Morse circuit on April 25 at the Coeur d'Alene Hotel. Dinner was served at 6:30 P.M. to a rather small group of members, wives, and visitors.

H. M. Shapleigh, GN Ry. Superintendent, delivered a fine talk on the history of the Morse development on American railroads.

Entertainment was furnished by the Cecilian Singers from Spokane's Marycliff High School.

The members also decided to arrange more social activities throughout the year as well as possible joint meetings with other railroad clubs in the area.

#### *Wm. F. Doran Chapter*

In spite of a predicted storm, 20 members of the Wm. F. Doran Chapter of the Morse Telegraph Club, Inc., attended the Chapter's 12th Annual Banquet honoring the birthday of Samuel F. B. Morse, the inventor of the telegraph. The meeting was held in the Boulevard Cafeteria in Oklahoma City.

The nationwide Western Union circuit provided a lot of enjoyment for those present.

The meeting was called to order by President Wm. R. Wilday with informal visiting, including personal introductions and residence, at 6:00 P. M.

Jacob P. Gibbs spoke on the benefits of the telegraph, communications having aided all lines of business, and he also paid a tribute to Henry Ford in placing a reasonably priced automobile on the market.

Historian and Publicity Director J. M. Harrison gave a run-down on events of the past three years, such as expansion in Canada, revision of the bylaws and several popular changes to aid in our growth.

The chapter's next meeting, probably in August, will be a watermelon bust and covered-dish dinner to be held in the North East Amusement Park.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## CD Combs "FN" Chapter

The C D Combs Memorial Chapter held their 33rd annual Morse Day meeting on April 30 th, from 11am to 145pm at "The Edge" restaurant in Missouri Valley, Iowa. President McMillan called the meeting to order around 1130 with 12 members and 10 spouses or friends attending. Each member briefly introduced themselves, spouses and guests giving some of their history. One of the guests, Jim Kilby, joined the club that day. He is a HAM operator and lives in Omaha. The oldest attending was Roger Sogard, age 91 from Ames Iowa. The youngest was Jim. Coming from the longest distance were Ron Kollmann from Newton IA and David London from Newman Grove, NE.

walkers and wheel chairs, and a table to display telegraph information and keys. Photos were taken and the meeting was dismissed.



Front Row L to R; Wanda McMillan, Carol Behrens, Lorraine Peters, Rose Kollmann, Ruth Tucker

Back Row L to R; Jennifer London Gobel, Darlene Albin, Judy Butler, Pauline friend of Larry, Sandy Zdan



Front row L to R; Roger Sogard-Ames IA, Charles McMillan-Omaha, David London-Newman Grove, John Albin-Valparaiso, NE, Ron Kollmann-Newton IA, Richard Behrens-Omaha

Back Row L to R; Larry Bailey-Bellevue, NE, Paul Butler-Omaha, Ron Peters-Lincoln, Don Tucker-Omaha, Sandy Zdan-Omaha, Brian Zdan-Omaha, Jim Kilby-Omaha

Before lunch the prayer was keyed by Ron Peters. Table service started at noon with three entrees. For desert, Wanda McMillan , Ruth Tucker and Carol Behrens provided about 6 dozen cookies. The meal fee was \$10 with the tip provided by the eaters...After lunch Ron Peters entertained with his accordion, which is always enjoyed. The minutes of last year's meeting and a financial report were given by the Sec/Treas. Chapter membership was 29.

The current president, Charles McMillan, and secretary/treasurer, Richard Behrens, were reelected for the coming year. No one volunteered to be vice president so that position was left vacant... We agreed to hold next year's meeting at the same place. There was plenty of room for



Ron and Rose Kollmann  
Ron was a Western Union telegrapher



Brian and Sandy Zdan -  
Both are HAM operators,  
KMOY & NOGWX

# CHAPTER NEWS *cont.*

## The Washington-Baltimore “WA” Chapter



The WA chapter was represented at the Morse Day celebration on April 28th at the Railway Postal museum in Boyce, Virginia. See the separate article on page 21.

On June 9th two members of the Washington-Baltimore MTC Chapter, WA Chapter President Hubert Jewell and WA Secretary-Treasurer Jim Wilson, educated and entertained hundreds of visitors at Civil War Camp Day at Fort Ward Park & Museum in Alexandria, Virginia.



*Hubert Jewell explains the telegraph to Quien, a young visitor to Fort Ward*

Although the weather was hot and humid, Hubert and Jim were assigned a location in the shade of a large stately tree. This telegraph table site was directly across from the Civil War medical tent and near the Union soldiers battle practice field.

Many kids and their parents studied the two telegraph sounders and asked lots of appropriate questions. The visitors went away realizing that

the simple electric telegraph was the beginning of the electronics revolution that changed the world. From the telegraph came the telephone, teletype, television, computers, cell phones, and more.

Visitors left anticipating the March 2019 unveiling of a first class U.S. postage stamp commemorating the 175th anniversary of the electric telegraph.



## The Maple Leaf Chapter

We have been having a good time doing Morse demonstrations at various locations this year. We are starting to make use of the Morse KOB program to introduce the kids and their parents to Morse.

Tom Hamblin did three demonstrations for the Black Creek Pioneer Village: Father’s Day, the Port Hope Model Railroad show, and the Lindsay and District Model RR Show.

Claire did a telegraph demo for the Peterborough Canoe Museum and the Pioneer Village.

Harold Morrison did a demo at the Pioneer Village and Russ Nicholls did a demo for the former CPR station in Huntsville.

Don Laycock did a demonstration in November at the Anniversary Masonic Lodge in Etobicoke and another in Georgetown at the Credit Valley Shrine Club on March 27th. At both of these demos, contact was made with people who might be involved in future demos.

# CHAPTER NEWS *cont.*

## Thomas A. Edison Memorial Chapter

Date of event April 7, 2018



A Presentation of "Telegraph History" at the Ypsilanti, Michigan District Library that was well received by Adults and Children. It started out with an introduction to the Telegraph, followed by a Lavina Shaw Telegraph Video, a Hands on Telegraph and Key demonstration and Morse Code

A little Girl typing on a 1920 Western Union upper case Underwood Mill.

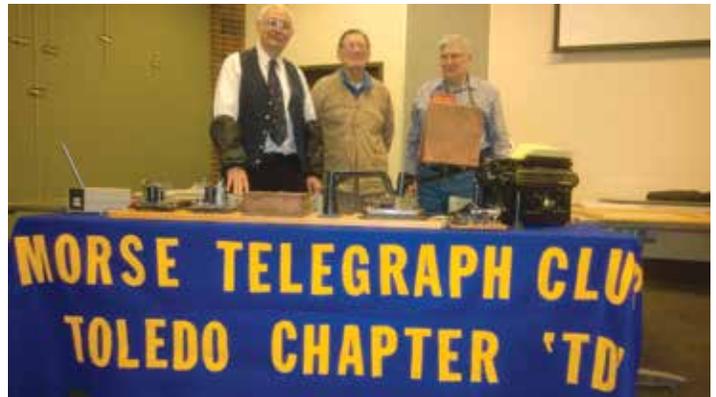


Bob Hibbard sending a Form 19 Train Order on a 1920 Model "X" single contact Vibroplex Bug.

Handouts. Various Railroad Memorabilia was on Display. We were connected to the Internet and demonstrated the MORSEKOB Telegraph Hub.

A special thank You and credit to Paula Drummond Head, Adult Services Department at the Ypsilanti District Library for arranging the time, room space, Flyer and taking Pictures/Videos for the Presentation.

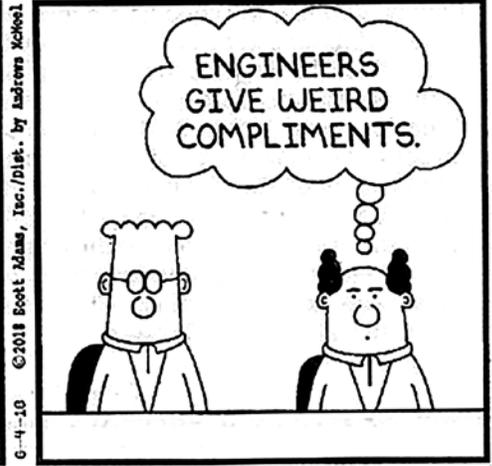
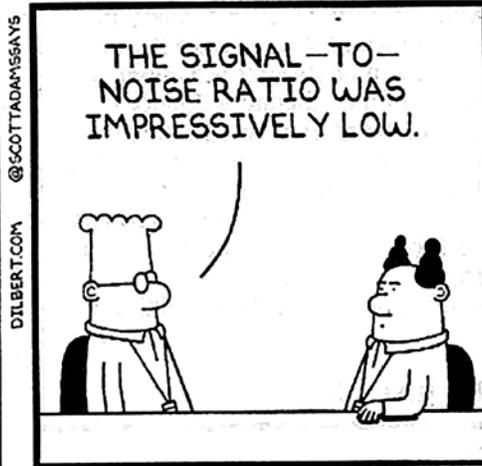
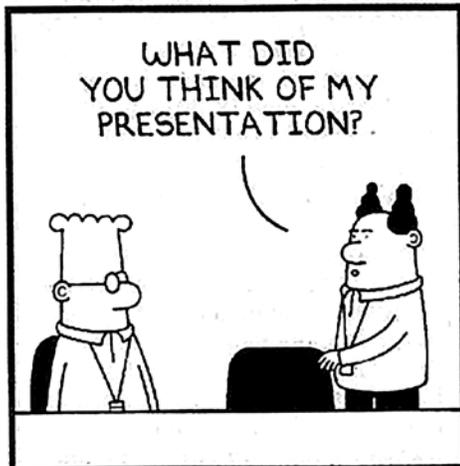
*Al Skornicka  
MTC TD Chapter  
Secretary-Treasurer*

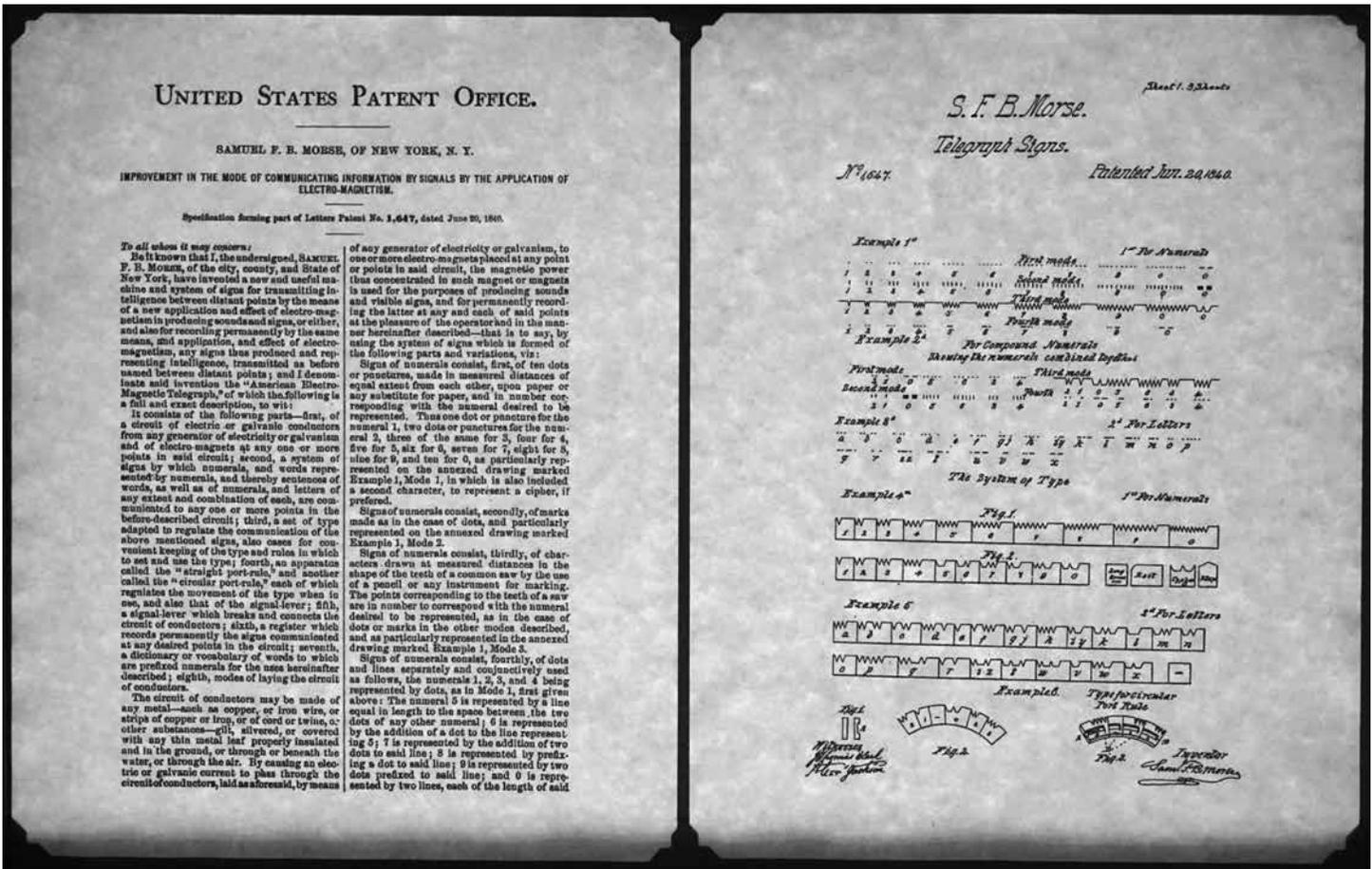


L to R: Al Skornicka MTC TD Chapter Sec/Treas, Bob Hibbard MTC TD Chapter President and Member John Rinn a Retired College Professor. Bob just turned 88 years old and was a Grand Trunk Telegrapher.

## DILBERT

By Scott Adams





This is the United States Patent Office application by Samuel F. B. Morse, dated June 20, 1840. Patent #1,647 is described as an "improvement in the mode of communicating information by signals by the application of electro-magnetism."

This framed item was presented to your Dots & Dashes editor, Jim Wilson, by his son, Matt Wilson, as a Christmas gift last December. The famous framed patent now proudly hangs on the office wall at Jim's home.



Washington-Baltimore "WA" Chapter member, Harry Dannals, W2HD, received an unexpected visit by two ARRL members on June 23rd, the beginning of Field Day 2018.

ARRL Roanoke Director, Dr. James Boehner, N2AA, (wearing a black shirt) and ARRL Roanoke Vice-Director, Bill Morine, N2COP, (red shirt) visited Harry and presented him with an award of appreciation for Harry's life long leadership in amateur radio.

Harry served as the President of the American Radio Relay League from 1972 - 1982. Harry turned age 91 on April 15th and now lives at Our Lady of Peace in Charlottesville, Virginia

# BIOGRAPHY OF A TELEGRAPHER

*By Abram Burnett*

I learned telegraphy in Roanoke, Virginia, as a youth, and joined the Harry C. Nichols Chapter (“RK”) of the Morse Telegraph Club as soon as I heard about the MTC, which was around 1977. By 1978, I was in Philadelphia and joined the Brotherly Love Chapter (“PA”) of MTC in that city, and got on the Philadelphia Leased Wire (Ace Holman and associates.). For several years I belonged to both RK and PA Chapters. Here are some memories of celebrating Morse Day with those two Chapters, forty years ago.

“RK” Roanoke was a true Civil War veterans’ club. There were 40 members, and almost to a man they had been railroad telegraphers and Train Dispatchers. When I asked to join, there was some controversy as to whether I was eligible for membership since I had not been a professional telegrapher. Because I was young and was only a Trainman, no one took me seriously, save for the man who had taught me Morse, Harry Clark, and one operator who had been a friend of my father. But then, I wasn’t very good with Morse at that time, anyway.

The RK Chapter annual business meeting was held on Morse Day, in a restaurant, and Western Union dropped the circuit into that restaurant. The business meeting was held before lunch, then there was about an hour of tinkering with the wire, then everyone went home. RK meetings were never well attended.

When the Roanoke Transportation Museum (now the Virginia Museum of Transportation) established a railroad-themed park, RK Chapter began holding its Morse Day event there, and WU made an annual drop of the circuit into the building there. Someone would bring a beat up key

and sounder and the fellows would hang around for a couple hours. Their sending was usually abysmal, because they were long out of practice, but a few, including Harry Clark, my former teacher, were letter-perfect. None of the members knew much about hooking up instruments -- they had never had to do that before. Once meetings shifted to the park, there was no lunch, but members generally hung around and listened to the wire from mid-morning until mid-afternoon. But for them, Morse was just a curious thing from their past, and one hour a year with it was enough.

By 1978, I was in Philadelphia. PA Chapter held its annual Meeting on Morse day in a restaurant in downtown Philadelphia. Western Union always sent an installer to put in a terminal block at the restaurant on Friday, and

WU left the circuit active until Monday (in one case, until the following Wednesday.) The installer would “blind the loop” (put a wire across the terminals,) and we

connected our instruments and removed the shunt to cut ourselves in on the wire. After the meeting, we “blinded the loop” again.

“PA” Chapter, although much smaller than RK (15 members vs. 40 members,) was blessed to have at least three electrical engineers, one man who had worked press wires, plus Ace Holman and Wes Burnham and several others for whom Morse was an active, avid interest. There was enthusiasm, and there was vitality. It was those great fellows who spent hours getting me up to speed in the evenings and on weekends. They were all cracker-jacks.

I recall the last year WU gave us the free



nationwide circuit, probably around 1990. We all gathered around the sounder at the restaurant, but no one could make sense of the signals. Finally, Dick Hoffman, a 1940 hire Reading Ry telegrapher who had gone on to become vice president of his railroad, said, "I can read that. The signals are just upside down!" Meaning that the marks were spaces, and the spaces were marks. So, Mr. Hoffman interpreted the chattering sounder for the rest of us. During the session, Ace Holman called the Western Union test board in Philadelphia, and the young fellow said he could offer no help, because he did not know what a Morse circuit was. That meeting was a real let-down, because we all knew it would be the very last one.

After WU ceased giving us the circuit, Ace Holman began hosting the Philadelphia Morse Day event at his home. Not long thereafter he built his dial-up Morse boxes and his "Dial-Up Morse Hub," and the various chapters and telegraphers would dial in and connect on Morse Day. As I recall, his hub could handle about ten inbound calls at a time, and tie them together in one big closed-loop Morse circuit.

I was transferred to Harrisburg in the early 1980s and thereafter had to commute to Philadelphia for Morse Days, and keep in touch with Ace by dial-up Morse.



MORSE TELEGRAPH DAY, Philadelphia, April 30, 1983. L to R, Back Row: George VanDyke, John Holman, Unknown, Frank Marshall, Art Grumbine, Abram Burnett, Norman Righter, Aubrey & Penny Branham. L. to R., Front Row: Unknown, Col. Minton Sayers, Jim Caldwell, Richard Loveland, Art Breiner.

Both the RK and the PA Chapters are now long defunct.

For about five years in the early 1990s, Wes Burnham, Martin LeRoy, several others and I would go to Locust Grove, the Samuel Morse estate in Poughkeepsie, NY, for the big "Telegraph Open House" event on the Friday-Saturday-Sunday of Morse Day weekend. We had a wire strung from the veranda to the old shop room at the back of the mansion. Visitors would write out a ceremonial telegram on the veranda, where they began their tour, and pick up the transmitted copy in the shop, at the end of their tour. Wes, having seniority, always worked the inside job, and Marty and I shivered out on the Veranda. At a



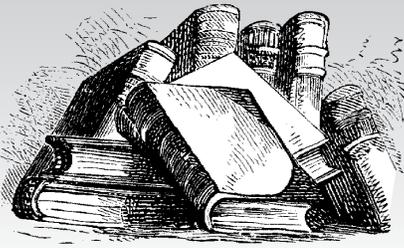
predetermined time, Ace would phone us from his Dial Up Hub, and put us on the wire with other MTC chapters for about 15 minutes. A new Director assumed leadership at Locust Grove and was not interested in



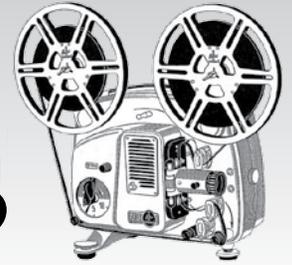
the telegraph, so our entire "roster" was "fired" and Morse at Locust Grove came to an end.

I remember two impressive things about the Morse Day events of four decades ago. First, starting at 11:45AM, someone from National would do a roll call of the chapters. And then, at Noon, the National President would come on the wire and offer greetings to everyone, which was a five minute message. Then everyone piled on the wire, trying to call their buddies in far away places.

I am truly, TRULY thankful for Mr. Les Kerr's MorseKOB program, for interfaces, for those who have paid for the server time over the years, for Mr. Chip Morgan who now keeps the server humming, and for those who invest their time to keep the MTC functioning. Without those things, Morse would be totally gone from the face of the earth today. Think about that. We have a very precious gift.



J. Chris Hausler's  
**BOOK & MOVIE  
REVIEWS**



*One of our members, Derek Cohn, recently pointed me to an old poem celebrating the railroad dispatcher and suggested that our membership might enjoy reading it. It was written by Berton Braley (1882-1966) who was a prolific author, not only of poetry but books, publishing 20, and he even wrote the lyrics to John Phillip Sousa's marching song for the University of Wisconsin, "Wisconsin Forward Forever".*

I found the poem, titled, "An Unsung Hero", in the June 1913 issue of *The Santa Fe Magazine* published by the railroad for its employees. Here it is:

An Unsung Hero  
by Berton Braley

They have told you for years of the "brave engineers"  
Who pilot the trains to the station;  
And they've caroled to you of the "overalls blue,"  
The badge of a worthy vocation.  
Now I'm full of praise for the engineers' ways,  
And to glorify them none is quicker,  
Yet let me be heard as I venture a word  
For the man at the telegraph ticker.

Clickety-click! Clickety-click!  
Hear how the instruments chatter and dicker.  
Daytime and night, swifter than light,  
Orders for trains from the man at the ticker!

The engineer's brain is concerned with one train,  
Dispatchers must think about many,  
And to handle the lot with the Morse dash-and-dot  
Needs a head that is equal to any.  
So the engineer smiles as he reels off the miles  
With his train orders fresh as he takes 'em;

But the hero to me is the man at the key,  
The nervy dispatcher who makes 'em.

Clickety-click! Clickety-click!  
There goes the limited – flash and a flicker –  
One little hitch – train in the ditch!  
Nice ticklish task to be man at the ticker.

When the flood's running high and the traincard's awry,  
And the schedule's busted to flinders,  
He must "get the line clear" for the trains far and near,  
No matter what obstacle hinders!  
Till the tangle is straight he is "Boss," he is Fate;  
There is no one to question or bicker;  
Whether four tracks or one, all the traffic is run  
By the man at the telegraph ticker.

Clickety-click! Clickety-click!  
"Send on the wrecker at once if not quicker,  
Train's jumped the rails!" somebody wails,  
Action's the word for the man at the ticker!  
It's a big game of chess with no "chances" or "guess."  
And the board is a busy division,  
For a move that is wrong might be death to a throng  
In a smash or a head-on collision.  
Your life's in his hand when you travel on land,  
And, as heroes are measured, his stature  
Will loom up right near to the "brave engineer" –  
I drink to the nervy dispatcher!

Clickety-click! Clickety-click!  
Wife may be sick and the baby be sicker;  
Still he must stick right at his "trick."  
Here's to the man at the telegraph ticker!



*Donald Young working the midnight shift at Wi" office located on the second floor of the Canadian National Railway station. The form we are copying is the 999, which took most of the night as there were several places reporting in at various times. The year is 1955. The operator beside me is Gordon West. The visor I am wearing was made from a blotter. Operators used them to shield their eyes from the glare of the overhead lights. Read Donald Young's story on the front page of the Spring 2018 issue*

# “30” SILENT KEYS

*News of our brothers and sisters who have closed the key*



## Winnipeg “WG” Chapter

**GEORGE BRUCE BURROW**, age 86, passed away on April 27, 2018. He was born in Yorkton, Saskatchewan on January 23, 1932. He is survived by his wife Ardelia of 50 years, three children, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Bruce began his railroad career in 1947 as a telegraph messenger in Yorktown, Saskatchewan. Moving to Winnipeg in 1950, he worked as a Morse operator for the Canadian Pacific Telegraphs for six years. Subsequently he became Wire Chief at Virden, Brandon, Kenora and Dryden.

Bruce retired in 1987 as an area supervisor for Manitoba and North Western Ontario for NCP, later Allstream.

It was through a co-worker that Bruce met and married his wife Ardelia in 1967. While raising three children, he became an active coach and fan of numerous soccer and hockey teams with the River Heights Community Centre. Later, when grandchildren were involved, he was there to cheer them on with soccer, football, volleyball, ultimate Frisbee and dance recitals.

In retirement, Bruce was also involved in the community and was active in hockey, bowling, curling and golf. He was also a volunteer with the Children’s Hospital Book Market and for over thirty years served as a volunteer with the Meals on Wheels organization.

*Thanks to Bert Johnson of Winnipeg, MB for this interesting information.*

## Edmonton “MO” chapter

**J.F. MUNSEY** of Edmonton, Alberta recently became a Silent key.

The only information that I have is his returned copy of the spring issue of *Dots & Dashes* marked “deceased.” If anyone has more information on him, please send it to me for later publication.

*Thank you,  
Editor Jim.*

## Maple Leaf “ON” Chapter

**THEODORE L. SPRACKETT**, age 88, passed away on April 17, 2018. He was born on April 28, 1930 in Bancroft, Ontario. Ted learned telegraphy in 1951 at Sterling, ON and he worked as a “Spare Operator” on

the Belleville Division CNR for three years. Ted then worked at Bancroft 1956-59, as Operator at Napanese in 1959, then Operator at Belleville Yard & Bellville 1959-63.

In 1963, Ted was promoted to Freight Sales at Belleville. He was very proficient as a telegrapher and enjoyed success in the Freight sales Department.

Ted joined the Maple Leaf Chapter on March 1, 1990. He was active in our Eastern Division, serving as Vice President for several years.

*Thanks to Don Laycock, Secretary-Treasurer of the Maple Leaf Chapter for this information.*

*Don adds: Members don’t come any better than Ted or work any harder. He will be greatly missed by other members of our Chapter.*

**DONALD A. GUSE**, age 88, of Mississauga, Ontario passed away on January 25, 2018. He was born on January 1, 1930.

*Thanks to W. Donald Laycock for this brief notice.*

**CHARLES KEITH AUSTIN**, age 90, of Huntsville, Ontario passed away on March 26, 2018. He was born on January 27, 1928.

*Thanks to Don Laycock for this brief information.*

## Navajo Code Talker a SK

**ROY HAWTHORNE, SR.**, a “Navajo Code Talker,” who used his native language to confound the Japanese in WWII, died on April 21, 2018. He was age 92. Hawthorne enlisted in the U.S Marine Corps at age 17 and was assigned to the 1st Marine Division in the Pacific. He became one of a famed group of Navajos who transmitted hundreds of sensitive messages for the U.S. military in their native language. The Japanese never broke the Navajo code.

Following World War II, Roy enlisted in the Army and served in the Korean War. In 2001, Roy Hawthorne was presented a Congressional Silver Medal of Honor.

*This information comes from the obituary of Roy Hawthorne as published in several newspapers and was submitted to us by MTC member Pat Shackelford.*

# MORSE DAY AT THE RAILWAY POSTAL MUSEUM

On Saturday April 28, 2018 the old railroad depot came alive with the sound of Morse code telegraph sounders clacking out messages. This was annual Morse Day, one of many similar events across the United States and Canada, at the Railway Postal Museum in Boyce, Virginia.

Morse Day celebrates the birthday of Samuel F. B. Morse, inventor of the electric telegraph.

MTC member, Dr. Frank Scheer, hosted this event at the Postal Museum. Several dozen Morse Telegraph Club members attended and tried their hand at the key. Weather cooperated nicely. And a few freight trains whizzed by the depot as messages were being sent.

The Railway Postal Museum is open most Saturdays between 11 Am and 3 PM. The museum is located at 117 East Main Street in Boyce, Virginia 22630-9639, (571) 379-3409. Here are a few photographs from Morse Day at the Postal Museum snapped by your editor, Jim Wilson.



*(Above) Frank Scheer and his lovely wife Arja.*

*(Right) Dan Rollyson and Abram Burnett at the key*



# 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.frandp.org. The price is only \$25.15 postage paid.

**AVAILABLE:** Crests, "Order of Railroad Telegraphers" with emblem in the center, \$12 each. Email Mary Roy at terttu@shaw.ca or mail Mary at 3874 Winlake Crescent, Burnaby, BC V5A 2G5, telephone (604) 420-1292.

**AVAILABLE:** Vintage Rule Books of North American Railroads, at least 30 volumes, as far back in time as 1890. To purchase this valuable set of historic documents, call, e-mail, or write to James Gaw at 54 Colonial Drive in Kemptville, Ontario, Canada K0G 1J0, j.gaw@bell.net, or (613) 258-0243

**AVAILABLE:** "Morse code machine" and old billing forms from the estate of Jack Griffin. Phone Kay Griffin at (321) 231-0447 or write to Kay at 12239 Montevista Road, Clermont, Florida 34711.

**AVAILABLE:** Six "bugs" including 2 Dow and 3 Vibroplex, (one old with no markings), all working well, two sounders - relay, resonator box - many blank, train order forms, defunct Northern Alberta Railways schedules and many other Railroad items. These will make an excellent start or an addition to any museum or personal collection. Price \$500 Canadian. Contact Al Renflesh in White Rock, British Columbia at (604) 531-1082.

**AVAILABLE:** Book titled *Principles of Telegraphy* by the Department of the Navy. Teletype - Printing Telegraph Systems. Description and Adjustments, Signal Distribution Test Set Teletype - general description and theory or operation for Model 28 printers. Teletype Adjustments (2) Type Bar Printer Page Printer Models 15 & 20. Maintenance Track Bulletin #248. Parts Transmitter Distributor Bulletin 1041. Tele printer Circuits

and Equipment by the U.S. Army. Call Hubert Jewell at (540) 423-1014 and make him an offer on these rare items

**WANTED:** Old telegraph keys to be restored. I restore vintage telegraph keys from the 1800's to the turn of the century, no cheap or contemporary keys and you must have all of the major parts. No steel lever Triumph keys please. Donate your old key and I will restore it for my own use. If you send a photograph of your key, and you want to sell it to me, let me know the asking price. Edward D. Biter, Jr., 320 Walker Road in Dover, Delaware 19904.

**WANTED:** A Vaughn automatic telegraph instrument which runs off a reel to reel tape recorder. This gadget causes the sounder to click away with no operator present. Years ago, Sid Vaughn, a professor from Iowa, made a batch of these. If you have one available, I would like to purchase it from you. Donald Mahoney Telephone (608) 444-0898, 1237 North Westfield Road in Madison, WI 53717.

*Your Wanted or Available Ad Could Go Here!*

## REPRODUCTIONS & OTHER ITEMS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS AND DISPLAYS

### Turnkey MorseKOB Interface

- Fully assembled and tested
- Integrated USB adapter - no external cable adapter required
- Also available in RS-232 version
- **NOW AVAILABLE IN OAK REPLICA WU BOX** - perfect for office walls.



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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.

**Jim Wilson, Editor**  
***Dots & Dashes***

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***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](http://www.arnewsline.org)**  
**[www.usrepeaters.com](http://www.usrepeaters.com)**  
**[www.qth.com](http://www.qth.com)**  
**[www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)**

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**CANADIAN (HN) HUB**

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# **DID YOU KNOW?**

*How Fast Are You Moving When You Are Sitting Still?*

**A**s the earth makes one complete revolution each 24 hours, any point on the equator is spinning at approximately 1,000 miles per hour.

And the earth is whizzing through space in orbit around our sun at 67,000 miles per second.

And our solar system is zooming around a super black hole at the center of our galaxy at approximately 515,000 miles per hour.

And our Milky Way Galaxy is zipping around something at an astonishing speed of 1.3 million miles per hour.

So you are sitting still at your telegraph key...really?



# Dots & Dashes

*What*

*Hath*

*God*

*Wrought*

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