

THE ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS – HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

THE ARRL HERITAGE MUSEUM

Presents

THE HISTORIAN'S VIEW

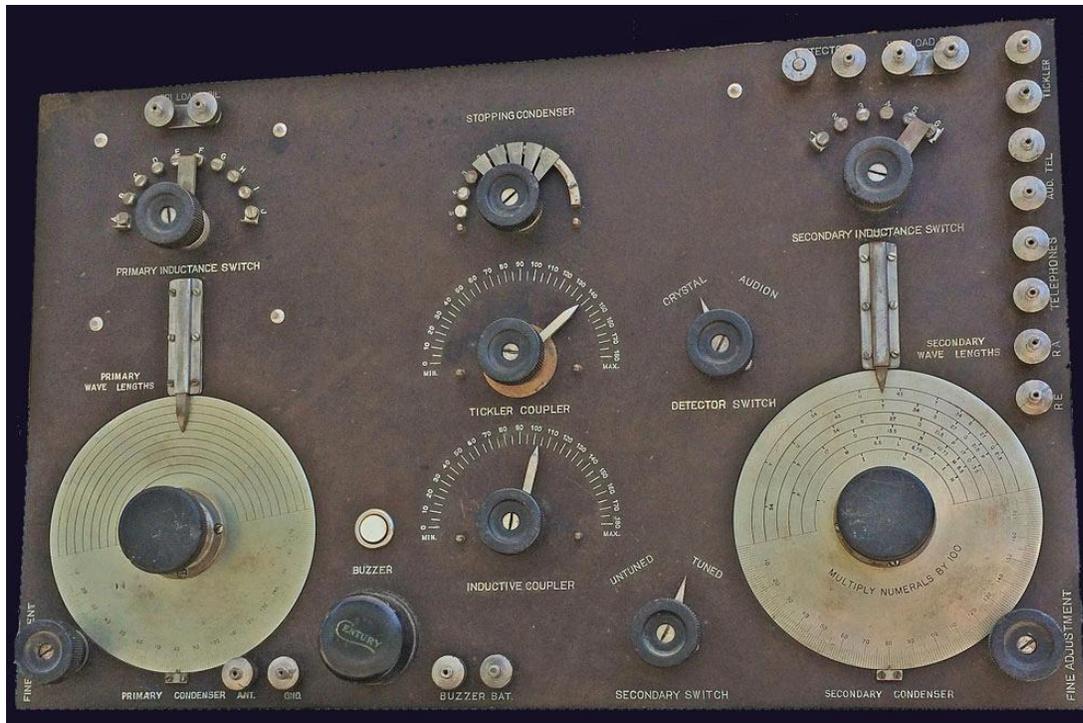
**Chapter eight
Revised 5/1/2017**

***Eruption-the Second ARRL National Convention 1923
and International Expansion***

Prior to adjoining the first ever ARRL National Convention of 1921 the Board of Directors resolved to hold similar gatherings every two years. Accordingly the second convention was held in Chicago in September of 1923.

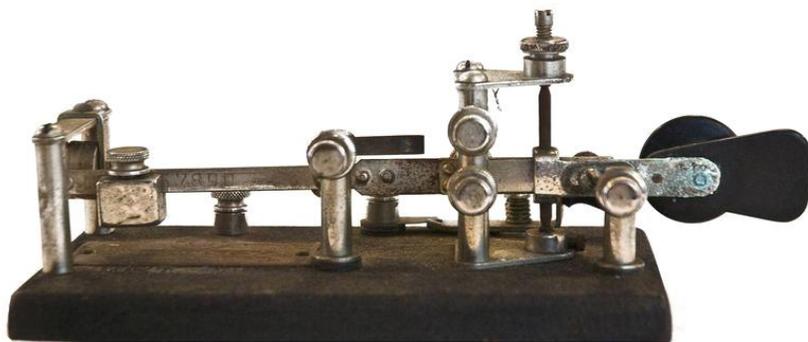
The Interim:

The two year period between the first two National Conventions was dynamic. It was marked by enormous growth in the Amateur ranks and the positive moves from spark to continuous wave transmission; the increased use of the shorter wavelengths and technological improvements in receiver, transmitter and antenna designs.



PERIOD CLASSIC RECEIVER NAVY SE-1420 AND COMMERCIAL IP-501

Operating achievements during the period exceeded all expectations. The signals of 26 US Amateur stations had bridged the Atlantic during the one way Transatlantic Trials in December of 1921. This achievement was eclipsed in May of 1923 when the signals of over 150 US and Canadian stations were heard in Australia and New Zealand bridging a distance of over 7000 miles during the one way Transpacific tests. These were heady times with more operating excitement to come. The second National Convention of 1923 set the stage for even more significant operating achievement.



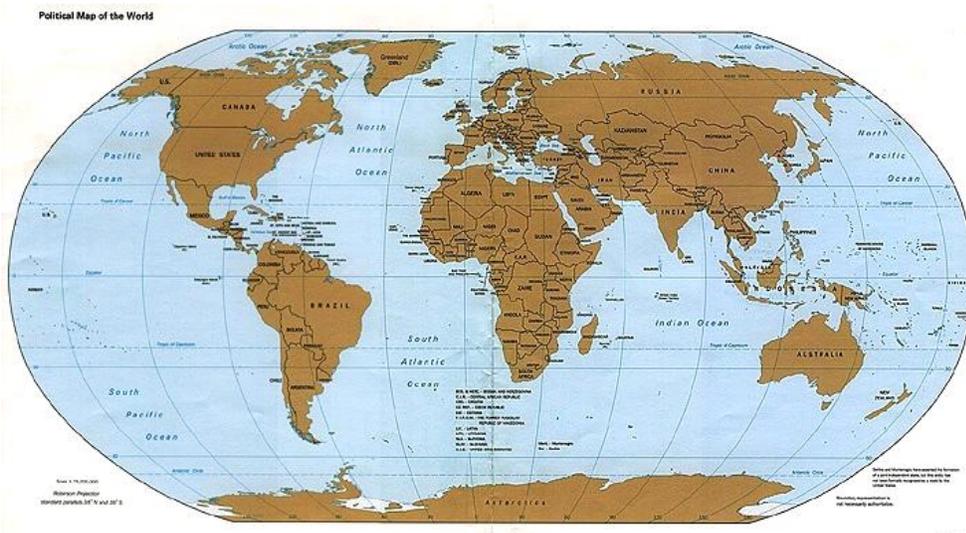
The Convention:

The convention was again held at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. Founder Hiram Percy Maxim was not able to be present however, his remarks were read as the keynote speech to the assemblage at the banquet held on the first evening. He prophetically asserted that the ARRL was the..."representative Amateur Radio organization in the world"...and ..."we shall grow and expand our activities and our influence will spread and our efforts to advance the art of radio communications will accomplish results". Thus Maxim shared his vision of an international Amateur Radio confederation which concept was realized two years later in Paris with the creation of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). Maxim broadened the horizons of the organization beyond the one way operating achievements. These prospects were shared by a distinguished foreign participant seated at the dais, France's Leon Deloy, 8AB.



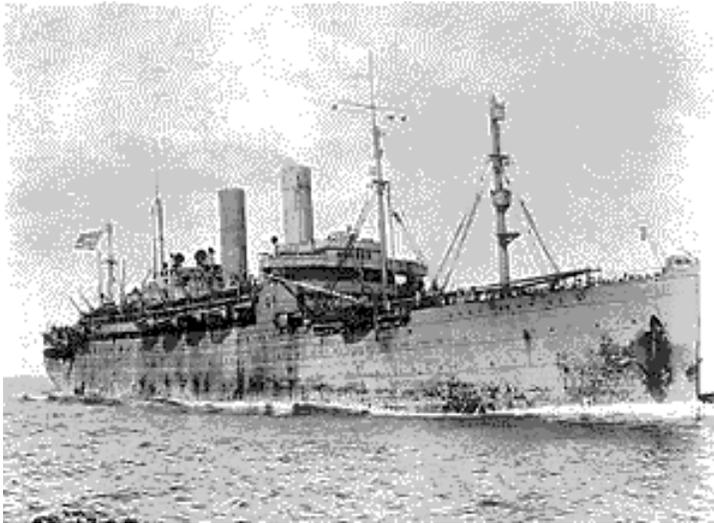
LEON DELOY, 8AB

The four day convention went on to include technical meetings with presentations by individuals and representatives of manufacturers; traffic sessions attended by Operating Department officials and functionaries; tours of local amateur and commercial broadcast stations and athletic events. The extensive program was concluded with a grand banquet at the LaSalle Hotel. The attendees departed not only with a heightened sense of camaraderie but broadened perspectives.



Internationalization:

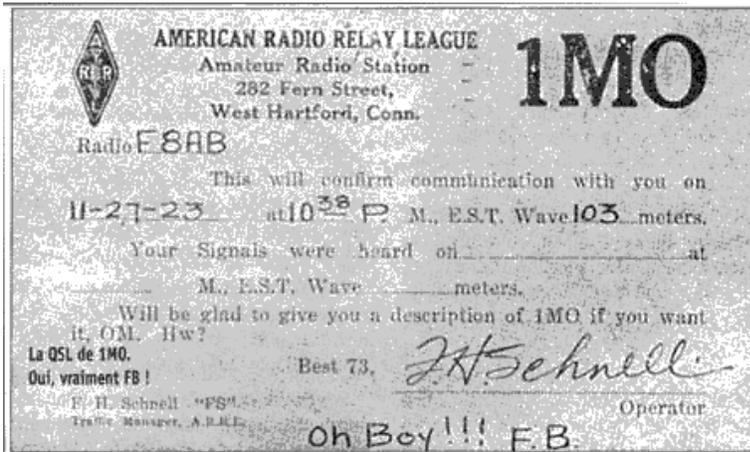
The ARRL Traffic Manager, Fred S. Schnell, 1MO had made the acquaintance of 8AB while serving as a US Navy chief radioman. At the end of the First World War Schnell accompanied the President Woodrow Wilson treaty party aboard the *USS George Washington* during their passages to and from Europe and likely at Versailles. Schnell and Deloy shared a common vision to bridge the Atlantic in two way communication. The technology was available and the shorter wavelength of 100 meters was the spectrum portion to do it in. Everything was in place for the implementation.



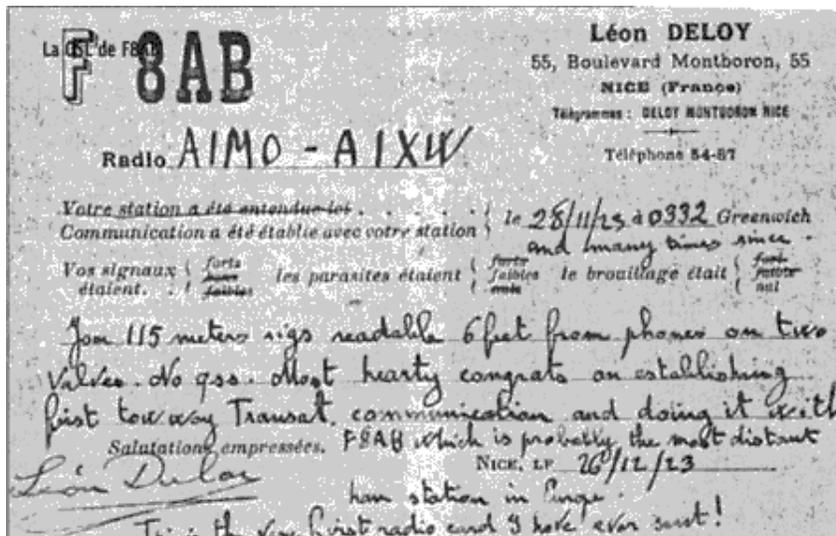
PRESIDENT CARRIER SS GEORGE WASHINGTON

Deloy visited the US during mid year 1923 intent on gathering the technical knowhow to build a station at Nice. He was an honored guest at the convention, visited Maxim's 1AW station, and consulted with John L. Reinartz 1QP/1XAM as well as others. He purchased American made station components and departed for home confident that the feat could be accomplished. Shortly after his arrival the station was operable and he conducted trial operations with British station 2OD in October. By late November he was ready for the big step and cabled Schnell the details of the calls he would make commencing on November

25. The 8AB signals were copied during the evening of the 26th and on the 27th 8AB heard both 1MO and 1XAM and transmissions were exchanged. American Amateurs linked with European Amateurs for the first time! A new era was begun.



QSL CARD EXCHANGE



Quickly contacts between the US and Europe became a common event and other two way firsts were recorded. US amateurs linked with Australia, New Zealand, South and Central America and these continents communicated with each other.

These events confirmed the advantages of the shorter wavelengths and resulted in international governing regulatory authorities formally opening the short wave bands to

Amateur use. These allocations roughly approximated the bands that Amateurs utilize today namely 75, 80, 40, 20 and 4 to 5 meters. Broader horizons were opened to the Amateur and a new era begun.



The IARU:

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was founded two years after the convention adjoined. Hiram Percy Maxim shared with the convention his perception of the internationalization of Amateur radio. As we related above, the world of wireless had under gone enormous growth in the period following the First World War, almost instantly expanding from a local phenomenon to an international activity. Maxim, as cofounder of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), had engaged successfully with the U.S.

governmental regulators, He envisioned similar conflicts confronting the Amateurs of other nations. These struggles for amateur spectrum and privileges were already in motion in other nations; particularly in Europe where most wireless was already stringently controlled by government monopolies. Maxim recognized that the International Telegraphic Union (ITU) was expanding from the regulation of world telegraph and telephone to becoming the sole international regulatory body in the wireless world. There was a need for a concerted Amateur Radio front.



HIRAM PERCY MAXIM AT SEA

Maxim began to do what he excelled at-organizing. He presented his ideas to a small gathering of international Amateurs in Paris in 1924 which led to the convening of a larger assemblage in Paris the following year. This Congress of two hundred and fifty delegates from twenty four nations created the IARU. The body, having grown today to a membership of over one hundred and sixty nation Amateur associations continues to function successfully. It is the advocate for Amateur Radio to the ITU and other world bodies. Defending Amateur Radio interests world wide the IARU is the sustainer of the present and assurer of Amateur Radio's future.

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