



# ARASWF

## Newsletter



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### In This Issue:

- *From the Presidents Shack*
- *Membership Meeting minutes*
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- *Trading Post – Buy/Sell/Swap!*

**Next Meeting will be held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
2011 at 7.00pm back at the Red Cross, Naples!**

## **From the President's Shack**

Well we are into the new year 2 months and things seem to be going along well. The Club will be moving to the Red Cross building for this months meeting. I will be looking for a Field Day Chairman. It will be coming up real fast. The Club has to find a Field Day site. We had about 8 people that come out to help Joe and Myself to do the Winter Field Day. We did not expect to get over 100 contacts because of last years logs. We did get 312 contacts and that was great for the first time. We set up in Joe's Tiki Hut. For those who have not paid your dues, please send Bob a check or pay at the next meeting. I hope to see you at the next meeting.

George AA4GT

(P.S Good attendance the last meeting)

## **Meeting Minutes**

(Many thanks to Frank (W4RBW) who, in the absence of our Secretary Bob (W2HI), put together some minutes of the meeting as follows:)

### **Meeting Minutes**

Meeting was called to order by George (AA4GT) our new President at 7:00 P.M.

There were no new members to report and all in attendance introduced themselves.

**Treasurers Report:** Joe stated that at the close of 2010 treasury had \$3,032 and that before the beginning of this meeting we had \$3,350.25 dollars and that that was mostly collection of yearly dues.

**Officers Report:** Frank (W4RBW) reported that he had conversations with the American Red Cross in establishing communications with their shelters and welcome any assistance that this club could offer to this organization. A husband and wife, who are involved with this

organization would follow up on a possible meeting room that we could use and also re-establishing a communications center.

Karl (N1DL) talked about a presentation he will give on the WinLink and other topics related to subject next month.

General discussion was brought forth about the D-star communication system that is presently under the control of the I.T. department of the county. Fred (KF4MJJ) reported that the repeater was up and running but was not interfaced with the internet as of his report.

Discussion was also brought forth about the Eco-link system and who would be in control of the repeater. It was determined that hopefully a solution would be brought forth in the next meeting.

George asked if he could get volunteers to be V. E.s and to put together a group who would teach and administer test for persons who may want to get their HAM license.

George brought up another subject of a person who would assume the duties of a Membership Chairman. This may come forth in full discussion next general meeting when members of the club think about this.

Discussion of where we will meet again next month was brought forth. The place if it changes will be sent out to the membership.

Bret (W4GSF) made a presentation on a very interesting topic of a "Five band trap antenna" along with some of his other intriguing antenna projects just using things that can be found at the local hardware stores and local hobby shops. For further information on the "five band Trap antenna's go to; [degood.org/coax-trap](http://degood.org/coax-trap) Bret also show the club the many ideas he had assembled with old used coax and copper tubing for impedance matching . Very good presentation. Held everyone's interest's.

No old business

No new business

(didn't get the name of person who won the money of the fifty-fifty raffle)

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

73's  
Frank W4RBW

## **New Members**

None this month

## **News Items**

### **2011 CLUB ROSTER HAS BEEN PUBLISHED!**

The "official" 2011 ARASWF club Roster of Active and Family members has been published on the club web site [www.araswf.org](http://www.araswf.org).

All members are urged to check the web site (click on the "Roster" tab at the left of the Home page) to check the correctness of your name and call sign.

If your name and call sign are not included in the Roster, it means that your 2011 dues have not been received, and you are in danger of being deleted from the club mailing list.

Please report any discrepancies to the club Secretary at [secretary@araswf.org](mailto:secretary@araswf.org).

### **WINTER FIELD DAY – some photo's!**

As mentioned by George (above) a Winter Field Day was held at the QTH of Joe (K9KNW)







And finally, every Fire Marshall's favorite picture. Electricity, gasoline and water - all very close and just guaranteed to break the ice at parties!



**United States Early Radio History** ((c)Thomas H. White) – a series of articles (continued)

*(Click the hyperlinks for further reading)*

## **Part 2 (a) - News and Entertainment by Telephone (1876-1925)**

### **ELECTRIC TELEPHONE**

In 1946, William Peck Banning wrote that "historians of the future may conclude that if there

was any 'father' of broadcasting, perhaps it was the telephone itself". After the invention of the telegraph, numerous inventors worked to transmit audio along wires, initially with limited success. The first to finally achieve quality sound reproduction was Alexander Graham Bell -- [Bell's Articulating Telephone](#) from the 1876 edition of the annual *Journal of the Society of Telegraph Engineers* introduced the invention to British readers. (This review noted that "one cannot but be struck at the extreme simplicity" of Bell's invention, and eventually home telephones became easy enough to use so that a four-year-old could operate one, as reported in ["Children Cry For It"](#) from the March, 1908 *Telephony*.)

The development of the telephone in the 1870s and 1880s included adapting it to distribute entertainment and news. In the January, 1908 issue of *Telephony*, C.E. McCluer reviewed some of his early experiences, including hearing experimental musical concerts in 1876, which were transmitted along commercial telegraph lines for the entertainment of the operators on the wire, as recounted in [Telephonic Reminiscences](#). In the March 22, 1876 issue of *New York Times*, a review of [The Telephone](#) highlighted its potential for widely distributing entertainment, noting that "By means of this remarkable instrument, a man can have the Italian opera, the Federal Congress, and his favorite preacher laid on his own house." At the 1881 Paris International Electrical Exhibition, Clément Ader demonstrated the transmission of music from local theaters using telephone lines. Ader's use of dual lines also introduced the phenomenon of stereo listening -- at the time referred to as "binauricular audition" -- reviewed by [The Telephone at the Paris Opera](#), which appeared in the December 31, 1881 issue of *Scientific American*. Edward Bellamy's influential 1888 utopian novel, *Looking Backward: 2000-1887* (home music extract), included a future where, via telephone lines, individual homes had access to music 24-hours a day. A couple years later, an American Telephone and Telegraph Company executive, in [Extension and Improvement of Telephone Service](#) from the September 20, 1890 *The Electrical World*, reviewed efforts to establish a mealtime music service, noting that while there were problems with the sound quality, they were hopeful that "When we have overcome this difficulty we shall be prepared to furnish music on tap." (While most were intrigued by this possibility, not everyone was favorably impressed, and in the same issue of the magazine a reviewer warned of the potential intrusiveness of the idea, fearing "a vista of dreadful possibilities" that might "make incipient deafness bliss", in [Music on Tap](#).) In the October 9, 1890 *The New York Times*, [Music Over the Wires](#) also reviewed AT&T's development plans, with hopes that ultimately "the lines used in the daytime for business affairs will at night carry music, lectures, and various oral entertainments to all the cities of the East".

Arthur Mee, in the September, 1898 *The Strand Magazine*, suggested in [The Pleasure Telephone](#) that a telephonic entertainment system, operating throughout Great Britain, had the potential to "make millions merry who have never been merry before" and would revolutionize British society, to "make all classes kin". In 1902 Theodor Herzl published a utopian novel, *Oldnewland*, about a planned city twenty years in the future. In extract appearing in the January, 1903 issue of *The Maccabæan*, the characters talk about the city's advertising supported "telephonic journal", with its commercial announcements "often made in so humorous a form that you do not recognize that they are advertisements until the end". In the May, 1904 issue of *Telephone Magazine*, Dr. Alfred Gradenwitz wrote about a proposal by

Danish inventor Valdemar Poulsen in [The Use of the Telegraphone in Telephony](#), who suggested that "a special application" of his recently invented magnetic wire-recorder would be to continuously repeat news and music transmissions as part of a "telephone newspaper" setup. In its October 23, 1907 issue, the London humor weekly *Punch*, in [Warning to Fleet Street](#), speculated about the name changes that the British press would have to undergo -- for example, the *Daily Mail* would become the *Daily Wail* -- should papers be forced to convert into audio services.

In spite of the varied attempts to set up telephone-based news and entertainment services, none achieved long-term success in the United States. The major problem was weak signals, for until the mid-1910s there were only very limited means for quality amplification. In the May, 1916 *The Electrical Experimenter*, Hugo Gernsback's [What to Invent—Tele-music](#) predicted that "An 'industry' rivaling the moving picture business can be created when some genius perfects a means supplying telephone subscribers with all kinds of music". Actually, at the time this article appeared, most of the needed technical advances were already in place, for AT&T engineers, lead by Dr. Harold Arnold, had recently taken Lee DeForest's crude Audion amplifier and perfected it into a much more effective device, making possible more sensitive microphones, quality line amplification, and better loudspeakers, that finally made the establishment of home entertainment distributed by telephone-lines practical. In view of these advances, in the April, 1919 *Electrical Experimenter* Gernsback returned to the topic of entertainment by telephone distribution, predicting in [Grand Opera in Your Home](#) that individuals would now welcome "spending 50 cents or even a dollar for the privilege, and at that he would think he was getting it cheap because he, with his entire family, would hear the music in his own home without having to travel to and from the opera". But, ironically, the same vacuum-tube advances that made telephone-based services practical also doomed them, because an additional development, vacuum-tube radio transmitters, also made radio broadcasting practical, with the added benefit that programs could be more widely distributed at minimal cost.

Meanwhile, Well Clay, blissfully ignorant of the radio broadcasting boom already beginning to gain momentum, mused in the July 9, 1921 edition of his weekly *Telephony* column, [Sundry Snapshots Along the Trail](#), about the possibility of using telephone lines to distribute concerts to regional audiences. Even more exuberant was AT&T engineer R. W. King, interviewed in the December 11, 1921 *The New York Times*, who, after reviewing the nationwide telephonic links that were now possible, was moved to [Predict Audiences of 50,000,000 Soon](#) for telephonic distribution, although most of the audience would be located in scattered auditoriums. The February, 1922 *Science and Invention* covered the same topic in [If President Harding Spoke to 120,000,000 People](#), noting and illustrating the fact that President Harding would have to grow to a monstrous height of 173 feet (53 meters) if he wanted to personally address this massive audience, instead of using the more practical system of vacuum tube amplifiers and telephone lines. However, in the end, instead of auditoriums, the long-distance telephone lines would actually be used to link radio stations together, to form national networks that allowed citizens to listen to the distant speeches in the comfort of their own homes.

## **PARIS THEATROPHONE**



Although most of these early entertainment and news efforts were experimental or one-time-only events, a few on-going services were established, mostly in Europe. The first permanent telephone-based entertainment service, which grew out of Clément Ader's earlier work, appears to have been the *Theatrophone*, organized in Paris in 1890. A short note in the August 30, 1889 *The Electrical Engineer*, [Theatrophone](#), reported on plans to build the system for Parisians and make it attractive enough to "catch their ears and their centimes". [The Theatrophone](#) in the June 21, 1890 *Electrical Review* briefly noted that the new service was now close to being put into operation, and a first-hand account of the innovation appeared in the August 29, 1891 issue of the same magazine, reporting that [The Theatrophone in Paris](#) was "certainly more amusing than the weighing machines and pull-testers that so overcrowd our waiting-rooms everywhere". A more detailed review of [The Theatrophone](#) appeared in the May 29, 1891 *Times* of London, whose "Our Own Correspondent" was both favorably impressed by the new service and moved to predict that the "theatrophonic network" would soon move beyond mere entertainment to offerings that "will be more and more numerous, complicated, and astonishing". [The Theatrophone](#) section of Charles Henry Cochrane's 1896 book *The Wonders of Modern Mechanism* reviewed the system's organization, which allowed individual subscribers to choose which theater programs they wished to listen to.

### **BUDAPEST TELEFON HIRMONDÓ**

Although not the first, the most influential telephone-based service would be the *Telefon Hirmondó*, set up by inventor Tivadar Puskás in Budapest, Hungary, which began operation on February 15, 1893, just a month before Puskás died at the age of 49. An [obituary](#) for Puskás appeared in the March 24, 1893 issue of *The Electrical Review*-- in the April 7th issue of the same magazine, [A Telephonic Journal](#) reviewed a test transmission that had linked the system to listeners in Vienna, Graz, Trieste, Prague and Brünn, with Puskás claiming that the potential existed for "half a million subscribers spread all over Europe". Meanwhile, a [short notice](#) in the May 12, 1893 *The Electrical Engineer* noted that the inventor had hoped to one day "arrange a telephone system to be heard by millions of speakers at once", however, "the secret of which probably died with him".

Two early reviews of Puskás' innovation appeared in *The Electrical World*: [Telephonic News Distribution](#) in the March 18, 1893 issue, followed by [Telephone Newspaper](#) on November 4, 1893. Two years later, a detailed review of the production of [A "Newspaper" Without Paper](#), reprinted from the *Daily Chronicle*, ran in the September 27, 1895 *The World's Paper Trade Review*, with the author noting that the service, featuring continuous news reports, plus entertainment, including original fiction sometimes read by the authors themselves, was considered "almost indispensable" in the capital. However, not everyone was impressed. In an early attack on the electronic media by the written press, the [September 28, 1895 issue of Harper's Weekly](#) opined that "If all this really happens at Pesth, and not in the moon" then "Pesth must be the finest place for illiterate, blind, bedridden and incurably lazy people in the world" and "it would not appear, however, that a telephone newspaper is of value as a time-saving device". Also, on the first day of 1899, the *Atlanta Constitution* reprinted a short first-

hand account from the *New Orleans Times-Democrat* about the [Telephone Newspaper of Budapest](#), which concluded that although "The thing was certainly great fun until the novelty wore off", many of the local residents regarded the service as "a toy to amuse foreigners".

Most reviews of the service, however, were favorable. Thomas S. Denison's [The Telephone Newspaper](#), from the April, 1901 edition of *World's Work*, reported in detail on a personal visit to the *Telefon Hirmondó's* offices. Frederick A. Talbot's article about Budapest's "newspaper of the future", [A Telephone Newspaper](#), appeared in the July 4, 1903 issue of *Chambers's Journal*, and in 1908 W. B. Forster Bovill wrote about a first-hand encounter with the service in a hotel in [Hungary and the Hungarians: Telephon Hirmondo extract](#). Over the years, the existence of the *Telefon Hirmondó* was constantly being rediscovered. [Why I Believe in Government Radio--Hungary's "Telephone Newspaper"](#), from the October, 1922, *Popular Science Monthly* reviewed Robert B. Howell's impressions of the now 28-year-old service. In 1925, the system added a radio station and operated as the *Magyar Telefon Hirmondó és Rádió*, with the telephone relay available for subscribers until 1944. (Beginning in Rome in 1910, a number of affiliate systems, known as the *L'Araldo Telefonico*, operated in Italy, and a Bologna system survived until 1943. These were barely noted in the United States, although in the July, 1914 issue of *Munsey's Magazine*, R. H. Titherington noted in passing in "The Rome of Today" that residents of that city could "subscribe to a 'telephone newspaper'--a novel invention which neither New York nor Chicago possesses--and the first two items of news that he receives may refer respectively to a tango tea and to some discovery of prehistoric monuments".)

## LONDON ELECTROPHONE

In 1895, another telephone-based system, the *Electrophone*, was established in London, England, organized along the lines of the Paris *Theatrophone*. An early trial of [The Theatrophone in London](#) entertained listeners at the Savoy Hotel, and featured coin-operated receivers where "inadequate coins were contemptuously thrown out through a hole at the side", as reported in the December 9, 1891 *Times* of London. An announcement of the pending introduction of [The Electrophone](#) appeared in the September 3, 1893 *San Francisco Call*, and after the service went into regular operation, test transmissions were soon performed across the English Channel, as a *London Truth* notice, [Paris by Telephone](#), reprinted in the June 21, 1896 *Washington Post*, reported that operas performed in the French capital had entertained an audience in its British counterpart. A technical overview of [The Electrophone](#), by J. Wright, appeared in the September 10, 1897 *The Electrical Engineer*, which noted that "one can sit comfortably at home in all weathers and listen to the latest comedy, opera, or tragedy, as the case may be, by the payment of a purely nominal rental". The August 28, 1898 *San Francisco Call* reviewed Britain's Prince of Wales' use of the Electrophone in [Music, Singing and Dialogues Brought Direct to Your Bedside by Wire](#), and the service soon claimed his mother, Queen Victoria, as a listener, according to [The Queen and the Electrophone](#), from the May 26, 1899 *The Electrician*. (Henry Thompson, in the [Telephone London](#) section of the 1903 edition of *London Living*, reported that the Electrophone had been used to transmit a special performance for the monarch, conducted by 2,000 school children to "cheer her and sing 'God Save the Queen' on her last birthday".) In the October 5, 1901 *Electrical Review*, [Electrophone in](#)

[England](#) reported that "the popularity of the electrophone is increasing", with a decrease of the subscription charge from \$50 to \$12 per year.

The August 5, 1898 *The Electrical World* reported that the company was in the process of installing receivers at "the principal hospitals free of charge, beyond the cost of installation". And two decades later, the same free service was provided to some jolly chaps photographed recuperating in a London hospital, as reported in [British Wounded Hear London's Favorites via Telephone](#), which appeared in the August, 1917 *The Electrical Experimenter*. (A. P. Herbert was less than enthusiastic about the service when he was hospitalized -- "It was horrible", according to his [Modern Nuisances](#), from the August 7, 1920 *Living Age*.) In early 1923, there were reportedly around 2,000 *Electrophone* subscribers in the London area, and [Entertainment by Wireless: The Future of the Electrophone](#) from the January 10, 1923 London *Times* speculated about the effect the introduction of organized radio broadcasting would have on the service. (The British Broadcasting Company had been formed in 1922, and listeners had to pay an annual licence fee to own a radio receiver). Although a company director was reported to be optimistic, in truth the service was doomed, and a notice in the June 17, 1925 *Times* reported that the Postmaster-General had withdrawn the company's licence, and the thirty-year run of the [Electrophone, Ltd.](#) would cease at the end of the month. Not that it would be unmissed -- years later a nostalgic review in the May 9, 1957 London *Times*, [Theatre-Going By Telephone](#), remembered that "There was something very satisfying about listening to a live broadcast from a real theatre, by actors and actresses playing to and having contact with their own audiences" which radio and television broadcasting could not match. And in the mid-1920s a new service arose in numerous British towns, "wireless relay exchanges", where subscribers could listen to radio broadcasts, received at a central location, over telephone lines, avoiding the need to purchase an expensive radio receiver.

## U.S. DEVELOPMENTS

In two countries, Hungary and Italy, the country's Telephone Newspaper services -- the Budapest *Telefon Hirmondó* and Italy's *L'Araldo Telefonico* systems respectively -- survived long enough to be merged with the emergence of radio broadcasting in the early 1920s. However, in the United States the small number of telephone-based news and entertainment services that had been introduced before 1915 were all extinct by the time radio broadcasting began.

When the *Telefon Hirmondó* was reviewed by W.G. Fitz-Gerald in [A Telephone Newspaper](#) in the June 22, 1907 *Scientific American*, its editor noted that the service had been in operation for 14 years, and "I have often marveled why a country like America with its amazing enterprise and development has not produced a 'Telefon-Hirmondo' of its own". However, telephone-based news and entertainment services did not prove economically viable in the United States. In the July 5, 1890 *Electrical Review*, [Wanted, a Theatrophone](#) had suggested adopting the Paris system in the U.S., including its five-minute news reports, predicting that "We should imagine that a similar venture would meet with great success in New York, especially with the addition of the news message service, as the craving of Americans for 'news' is known to be insatiable." However, George Iles noted the absence of audio services in the U.S. in his 1904 book, "Flame,

Electricity and the Camera", and suggested this was due to the impossibility of making a permanent record, thus "This is why the ticker, which prints the news in thousands of American offices and clubs, has never been ousted by the Budapest plan of a continuous news service by telephone." Eventually a number of U.S. based firms were created, but all proved to be financial failures. I have put together a corporate summary of many of the [Early U.S. Telephone-based Entertainment Companies](#) that are reviewed below.

## TELLEVENT

James F. Land of the Michigan State Telephone Company was responsible for the development of a short-lived telephone-based entertainment system, which was variously known as the "Tellement" and the "Televent". A test of [Speech Reporting by Televent](#) was reported in the April, 1906 *Telephony*, followed by a short announcement in the March 23, 1907 issue of *Electrical Review* about the formation of a Detroit company, [The "Tellement"](#), to "supply subscribers at their homes with the latest happenings of the world, with special music, performances at theatres, concerts and churches". There was at least one demonstration transmission, originating from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, as the May 11, 1907 issue of the school's *The Michigan Daily* reported [Detroit Enabled to Hear May Festival Concerts](#). However, the Tellement does not appear to have gone into commercial service, and the Michigan Tellement Company was dissolved in 1909.

## TELEPHONE HERALD COMPANIES

The most ambitious U.S. effort to establish a telephone-based news and entertainment service was organized by Manley M. Gillam, who formed the United States Telephone Herald Company, based in New York City, with plans to set up local affiliated Telephone Herald news and entertainment services, patterned after the Budapest *Telefon Hirmondó*, throughout the country. A short announcement in the October 30, 1909 *Electrical Review and Western Electrician*, [The New Telephone Newspaper](#), teased that "pretty soon we'll be able to flop over in bed mornings, turn on a telephone-like arrangement and listen to a summary of news from all over the world without getting up out of bed". On February 14, 1911, [U.S. Patent #984,235](#), describing "a telephone system... adapted for supplying innumerable subscribers... general news, musical compositions, and operas, sermons, correct or standard time and other happenings at stated intervals of day and night" was granted to Hungarian Árpád Németh and assigned to the United States Telephone Herald Company.

The June 15, 1910 *Meriden Morning Record* reported that an enthusiastic company representative, Ladislaus de Doory, was promoting the establishment of a [Newspaper by 'Phone For Chicago](#), proclaiming that "within a year everybody in Chicago, from hod carriers to millionaires, will have the Telephone Herald in the house". In the September 9, 1910 *New York Times*, [News Bulletins By 'Phone](#) reviewed a demonstration of the proposed service at the company's New York City headquarters, given by company president Gillam. Early the next year Ladislaus de Doory was back in the news, heading north of the border to Canada, with the announcement that "the Telephone Herald company may soon establish a plant in Montreal",

according to [News and Opera over Telephone](#), from the January 12, 1911 *Montreal Gazette*. (Two months later, in a plot that would have made a good telenovela story line, the front page of the March 8, 1911 *Pittsburgh Press* reported that Doory's 16-year-old [Girl Bride Now Wants to Leave "Baron"](#), as his young wife was asking for an annulment while her parents were threatening to have him arrested for desertion; meanwhile a second woman was contemplating a "breach of promise suit", plus federal authorities were reportedly investigating the Telephone Herald company.)

There is no evidence that the proposed companies were ever formed in either Chicago or Montreal, but at least ten associated Telephone Herald companies were established throughout the United States, although most do not appear to have progressed much beyond an initial charter or demonstration transmissions. [News is Told Through 'Phone](#), from the August 24, 1911 *Los Angeles Times*, reported that "Los Angeles is to be the first city in the United States to boast a 'telefon hirmondo'", as "W. A. Grimes" of the recently incorporated Southern California Telephone Herald Company claimed that demonstrations of the system would begin shortly. This was followed by an [Advertisement for the Southern California Telephone Herald Company](#) in the September 3, 1911 issue of the same newspaper, which informed local residents that "You Want The Telephone Herald", however, even if they did, there is no information that this system progressed past the promotional stage. Moreover, Grimes, whose full name was actually Peter Archbold Gordon Grimes, turned out to be a con man, who soon fled town with company funds -- his exploits and later brushes with the law were reviewed in ["Kenneth Gordon, Aviator" Turns Out to Be Plain Peter Grimes](#), from the July 26, 1912 *Hawaiian Gazette*.

Two apparently unsuccessful efforts were organized in San Francisco, California. [New Invention Enables One to Hear News, Concerts, Lectures and Sermons at Home](#), in the September 10, 1911 *San Francisco Call*, reported demonstration transmissions in that city -- "a source of continual joy to all, both rich and poor, old and young" -- by the California Telephone Herald Company, but there is no evidence this effort progressed any further. A year later, on October 31, 1912, [Corporation Undertakes Culture by Phone Wire](#) in the same newspaper reported the formation of the San Francisco Telephone Herald Company. An advertisement in the January 5, 1913 *Call* for the San Francisco [Telectrophone or Telephone Herald](#) announced demonstration transmissions and solicited both subscribers and investors, boasting that "Large net profits in sight right now, as soon as we can commence our Commercial Service" and "We confidently expect 50,000 subscribers within a year", however, the company's corporate charter would be forfeited for non-payment of its state license fee before the end of the year. An advertisement in the March 12, 1913 *Call* invited the public in nearby Oakland to [Come and Listen to a Demonstration](#) of the Pacific Telephone Herald, but this system appears to have gotten no closer to full commercial service than its San Francisco counterparts.

The first of two Telephone Herald systems known to have gone into full commercial operation was the New Jersey Telephone Herald Company, which was organized by Manly Gillam and based in Newark, New Jersey. This company had some difficulty procuring leased telephone lines, with the dispute eventually resolved by the Public Utilities Commission of New Jersey,



resulting in an announcement in the September 15, 1911 *Lewiston Journal* that [News by Telephone](#) was expected to become available by the first of the next month. The actual debut date turned out to be October 24, 1911, and the following day's *New York Times* reviewed the inauguration in [500 Get the News by Wire at Once](#), while Arthur F. Colton's [The Telephone Newspaper--New Experiment in America](#), from the March 30, 1912 issue of *Telephony*, provided a detailed overview of the new service. Seeking subscribers, in the 1912 edition of *The Resources for Social Service of Newark, New Jersey* the owners of the New Jersey company [ran an advertisement](#) suggesting that "The Twentieth Century Newspaper" service "ought to be in every institution" and that some far-seeing philanthropist might want to pay for the service to entertain charity patients. This ad also noted that the Herald "ought to be in your home for yourself and your children", and during that year the family of Roger Garis, then a schoolboy, subscribed to the Newark Telephone Herald service -- he later remembered the "great thrill to pick up the small receiver and hear a voice telling about world events" which "was such a novelty that I could scarcely wait to get home from school and listen to it". Roger Garis' father, Howard Garis, was a writer, and one day Roger Garis was startled and excited to hear one of his father's "Uncle Wiggily" stories being read over the Telephone Herald -- the events are recounted in an extract from [My Father was Uncle Wiggily](#). The elder Garis went on to write a series of original children's stories for reading over the system, forty of which were later collected into two books published in 1912, beginning with [Three Little Trippertrots--Adventure Number One](#). Richard D. Arons, one of the original "stentors" (announcers), reminisced about the experience in [America's First Announcer Hailed From Springfield](#) in the February 12, 1928 *Springfield (Massachusetts) Sunday Union and Republican*. However, although popular with its subscribers, the Newark system was not a financial success, with its death announced and short life reviewed in [Phone Newspaper Service](#) from the April 13, 1912 *The Publisher's Weekly*, and [Broadcasting in 1912](#), written by G.C.B. Rowe, which appeared in the June, 1925 issue of *Radio News*.

Shortly after the Newark service expired, the Oregon Telephone Herald, based in Portland, became the second -- and apparently last -- associated company to begin commercial operations, although once again its lifespan was brief. Readers of the May 9, 1912 *Morning Oregonian* were proudly informed [Portland to Have the Latest Electrical Marvel](#)-- featuring news, music, song, sermons, vaudeville and opera by telephone -- as daily (except Sunday) demonstration transmissions to two local sites had begun. Additional advertisements followed, offering subscriptions to the new service for five cents a day, and in the June 27, 1912 *Oregon Daily Journal*, interested members of the public were invited to [Come and Listen](#) to the free demonstrations of "The Acme of Modern Civilization", promising "Never a Dull Moment" for a service "Always on Tap!". A second [Come and Listen](#) announcement, in the June 30, 1912 *Oregon Sunday Journal*, stated that regular service would begin "about October 1st". [Another advertisement](#), from the July 9, 1912 *Morning Oregonian*, promoted the wide range of entertainment which would be provided to "the business man", "mother", "the wife", and "the children".

In the January 7, 1913 *Los Angeles Times*, an Oregon Telephone Herald official claimed in a [Personals](#) entry that "more than 10,000 Portland residents have installed the service".

Advertisements continued to appear, such as the one that solicited subscribers for [The Talking Newspaper and Amusement Purveyor](#) in a January, 1913 edition of the *Portland Orpheum* -- the hours of operation were now listed as 8:00 AM to midnight. Later advertisements referred to the service as the "Te-Lec-Tro-Phone" -- in the April 14, 1913 *Morning Oregonian*, the company suggested that [Everybody--Play Ball](#), for, beginning with baseball season's opening the next day, "our stentor will talk or herald all the local games". (That December, the head of one of the Northwestern League's ball clubs would complain that the service had hurt attendance, and recommended "the ousting of the various telephone herald and signaling systems from the ball parks"). An additional promotion offered [Election Results Tonight](#), listing twenty-five business sites where one could listen for free, according to an announcement which appeared in the May 3, 1913 *Portland Oregonian*.

In the August 7, 1912 *Morning Oregonian*, investors had been invited to [Get a Small Interest In a Local Money-Making Amusement Company](#) -- although presumably large interests in the Oregon Telephone Herald's \$300,000 stock offering would have also been acceptable. There may have been a company reorganization in early 1913, as the March 16, 1913 issue of the same newspaper reported that two representatives from the parent United States Telephone Herald Company had visited with expansion plans, although their assertion that [Phone Device Assured](#) proved to be unduly optimistic. Like its New Jersey predecessor, the Portland enterprise soon faced financial trouble, and [Blue Sky Law Applied](#), from the August 29, 1913 *Morning Oregonian*, reported that Oregon Corporation Commissioner Watson had declined to issue a permit for the company to do business in the state, while a month later the same newspaper noted, in [Corporations Under Ban](#), from the October 1, 1913 issue, that Commissioner Watson was withholding a business permit because "the company had not proved the business would be a safe investment for shareholders". And this appears to have been the end of the line for the United States Telephone Herald Company and its associated companies. In the November 28, 1918 edition of the *New York Tribune*, Harry Weiss asked the paper's [The Ad-Visor](#) column about the value, if any, of his United States Telephone Herald Company stock, and it was their sad duty, as part of their job of "separating the sheep of advertising... from the goats", to inform Mr. Weiss that the defunct Telephone Herald fell into the "goat" category, and "in our opinion, the stock at this time is of no value".

*(continued next month)*

## **Trading Post**

Nothing this month.

## Club Information

Meeting Time: 4th Tuesday 7:00pm at (the restaurant),

Joe's Crab Shack  
1355 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. South  
Naples FL

**Club Repeater:** WB2QLP  
146.670 (-600) PL 136.5  
EOC Repeater:WB2WPA  
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**Club Web Site:**

<http://www.araswf.org>

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