



RADIO LOG

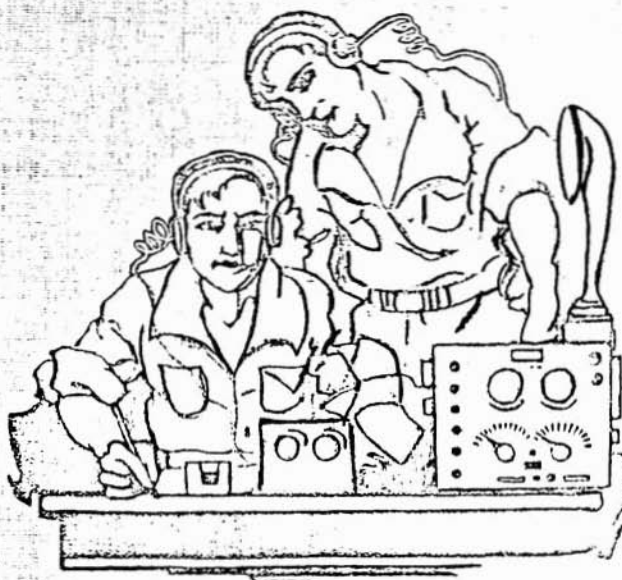
AUGUST , 1980

Vol. III

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

Log 3

The RADIO BOYS ON THE MEXICAN BORDER



GERALD BRECKENRIDGE



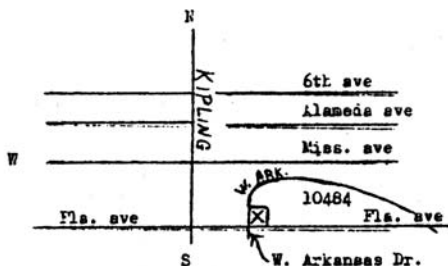
ROCKY MOUNTAIN ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION
9131 Gail Ct THORNTON, CO 80229

AUGUST, 1980

Next Meeting...

Flea-Market SWAP-SALE

Once again will be held at the home of Jan & Doug Furney, on Sunday August 24, from 1 - 5 PM. Ads will be run in the papers, as the public will be invited. Bring anything radio related you wish for sale, swap, or trade. The address is 10484 W. Arkansas Dr. in Lakewood.



Coming south turn left off Kipling on to Fla. ave. Go east on Fla. ave one block, then left on Arkansas Dr. 10484 is the first house at the corner of Fla. ave and W. Ark. Dr.

Note...

The new club address which appears in the heading above is the Seo-Tres address, that is 9131 Gail Ct Thornton, Co. 80229.

Dues...

Are \$5, mail to our club address or present at the Feb. meeting. A new Senior Citizen policy will be in effect regarding dues. If you are 65 dues will be free. We value our older members for their knowledge of radio and wish to retain them as members. We ask that our members who are 65 please send us your name, address, and phone number to be listed as a member, and receive the Radio Log. Send this information to our club address.

From the Editor...

As you know all ads are free. This is your newsletter. If there is anything you wish to contribute I welcome it. This can be an article, old material to be copied, anything on radio. Send to me at 915 Potter Pl., Co. Sprgs., Co. 80909. Thanks.

Wanted...Any Tri-City Battery sets, and information or history of that company. Also want a pair of Crosley headphones. John Geyer, 8345 Mitze Way, Denver, Colo. 80221 Phone 429-5039.

a reminder... Flea-Market Swap-Sale
bring anything means literally that.
Sets, parts, paperwork, etc.

Wireless Was Developed in Colorado

(1904-1907)

By E. N. PICKERELL*

A chain of ten inter-city wireless telegraph stations, the first network of its kind in the world and the financial forerunner of the entire radio industry of today, was set up in Colorado in 1905. This was the real beginning of what later became the Radio Corporation of America.

During a period of two and one-half years, approximately two million dollars worth of wireless stock was sold in the Rocky Mountain area. Stations on the chain were erected in Colorado at Denver, Boulder, Fort Collins, Cripple Creek, Altman, Leadville, Trinidad, Pueblo and Colorado Springs; and in Wyoming, at Cheyenne.

The purpose of this chain of stations was principally for demonstration of wireless telegraphy and for the sale of stock in the American De Forest Wireless Telegraph Company, with headquarters at 42 Broadway, New York City. Abraham White of New York City was president of the company. A firm called The International Loan and Banking Company, of which Christopher C. Wilson was president, with offices in Room 202, Mining Exchange Building, corner of Fifteenth and Arapahoe Streets, Denver, Colorado, was appointed to handle all stock sales of the De Forest Company in the Colorado and Wyoming areas.

Like all American pioneering enterprises, this one found it necessary to raise capital to finance the wireless industry. Because there was much speculation in mining stocks throughout the Rocky Mountain region in those days, Colorado was selected as the site in which to promote the sale of wireless stock.

At the early stage of wireless development, most people doubted the merits of the invention, and these doubts had to be overcome by practical demonstrations, in order to sell stock. Therefore, it was necessary to build and operate stations. Hence, the ten stations came into being in the Rocky Mountain region.

Early in 1905 a radio engineer, Charles B. Cooper, and myself erected and installed one of the stations at Colorado Springs, and officially opened it for commercial traffic on July 5. The next morning the *Colorado Springs Gazette* carried a front page spread announcing the official opening of the wireless station by Governor

* Through the courtesy of Ray Colwell and Kenneth E. Engert of the Historical Society of the Pikes Peak Region, this article by Mr. E. N. Pickerell, of Mineola, L. I., New York, has been made available for publication in *The Colorado Magazine*. Mr. Pickerell is a member of the Sons of the Revolution in New York and a member of the Museum Committee of that Society, at its headquarters in Fraunces Tavern. In 1906, he attended the Zebulon Montgomery Pike Centennial Celebration in Colorado Springs, at which time a large granite marker was erected to Pike's memory in Antlers Park.—Editor.



DR. LEE DE FOREST

His invention of the 3-Electrode Grid Vacuum Tube fifty years ago in 1906 was the birth of today's Electronics Industry.

Jesse F. McDonald. The *Evening Telegraph*, July 6, 1905, printed a copy of a congratulatory message which was transmitted over the newly inaugurated wireless circuit from Denver. It read as follows:

The Denver Chamber of Commerce sends greetings to the beautiful city at the foot of Pikes Peak. Every additional method of communication knits us the more closely to each other. We congratulate *The Telegraph* on its enterprise and wish it unbounded prosperity.

J. S. Temple, President
Denver Chamber of Commerce.

A three-column story and picture of the Colorado Springs wireless station appeared in the *Evening Telegraph* of April 28, 1906. An illustrated and highly descriptive six-page article, written by me, about the Colorado Springs wireless station, appeared in the

WIRELESS WAS DEVELOPED IN COLORADO

May, 1906, issue of the *Railroad Telegrapher*, a magazine published by the Order of Railroad Telegraphers in St. Louis, Mo. This magazine had a nation-wide circulation of many thousands. As this was one of the first articles explaining the techniques and operation of the new wireless art, it caused many railway telegraphers to quit their jobs in order to seek employment in the wireless field. I also wrote a similar article for the *Commercial Telegraphers' Journal* published in Chicago.

The original wireless station at Denver was installed at the old, abandoned Grant smelter, in order to erect the antenna on the 350-foot brick smokestack, said to be the tallest smokestack in the world. Early in 1907 another station, using a 50-kilowatt transmitter, was built six miles west of the center of Denver, at a siding on the Denver, Lakewood & Golden Railroad, a small railway only fourteen miles long, which boasted ownership of two small locomotives, one passenger coach and a few freight cars of various types. The railway company named the siding De Forest, Colorado. There were no houses in the vicinity, except the buildings connected with the wireless station.

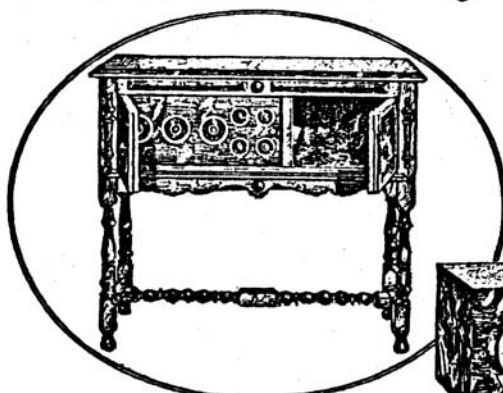
Prior to my wireless work in Colorado I had in 1903 and 1904 made some glider flights in the state. Near Roswell, Colorado, a small railway station near Colorado Springs, I used a Chanute type glider; and in the vicinity of the Garden of the Gods, also. Some of the flights were accomplished by having the glider towed by an automobile. Others were free soaring flights. Then came the final destruction of the glider in one of those summer wind-and-snow squalls on Pikes Peak, when parts of the glider landed in the Bottomless Pit, back of the mountain.

Having made several short glider flights from some of the hills back of the gateway to the Garden of the Gods, where many tricky air currents were encountered, I later succeeded in getting a man to tow the glider by means of a rope hooked onto his Winton automobile, out on the open mesa, where the air currents were more constant. I encountered great trouble while being towed, from the dust being kicked up by the automobile. If I failed to get off the ground quickly and to disconnect the tow rope, the dust in the air was almost blinding, and my landings were sometimes quite hazardous. Finally I decided to attempt soaring from the summit of Pikes Peak, where I could get off to a good start, and glide down to the open plains below. A sudden wind squall, however, hit the peak and wrecked the glider.

At the time I was interested in the glider flights in the Pikes Peak area, one of the world's most noted scientists and inventors, Mr. Nikola Tesla, who was suffering from tuberculosis, was living in Colorado Springs for his health. He was experimenting with



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C & W Receiver 11A—At left—A 3-tube set of remarkably long range and clear reception. Price (without tubes or batteries) **\$135**
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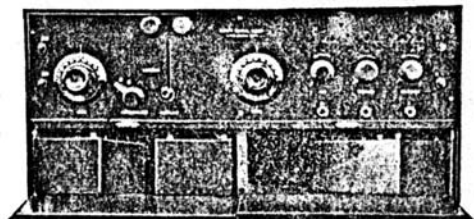
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"transmission of electric power without wires," near the Garden of the Gods, where he built a tower and a small laboratory. For many months he conducted experiments with his famous "Tesla Coil," an invention now known to scientists the world over. During those experiments he succeeded in lighting electric lamps by wireless more than a mile away from the power transmitter. Nikola Tesla also was the inventor of the "Alternating Current," which revolutionized the electrical industry. He invented more than 900 devices, some of which, no doubt, were conceived by him at his little laboratory on the Colorado mesa.

In 1905, probably not more than half a dozen automobiles were owned by the residents of Colorado Springs; certainly not more than a dozen. Surreys with the fringe on top stood along Pikes Peak Avenue every day, waiting for tourists who wanted to ride out to the Garden of the Gods and the Balanced Rock. It was a very slow and dusty ride, indeed. Trolley cars ran out to Broadmoor and Stratton Park; also, to Colorado City and Manitou. There was no automobile road up Pikes Peak. The only method of getting up to the Summit House was to travel by Cog Road, by burro, or by walking.

After the misfortune with my glider on Pikes Peak, I went to St. Louis, Missouri, where I met Doctor Lee de Forest¹ at the Lewis & Clark Exposition. The next year I returned to Colorado to install and operate his stations.

Late in 1907, the American De Forest Wireless Telegraph Company was refinanced and renamed the United Wireless Telegraph Company. Mr. Christopher C. Wilson became its president. Four years later, Mr. Wilson was tried in Federal Court in New York, for having used the United States mails to defraud. He was found guilty and sentenced to three years in Atlanta prison, along with three other officers of the company. The charge made against Mr. Wilson was that he said he had sent statements through the trans-Atlantic wireless communication. This the jurors considered a mis-statement of fact. Today most any boy amateur radio operator can transmit messages to any part of the world by using only a single radio tube, no larger than his thumb. Many amateurs communicated daily with the Admiral Byrd Expedition in the polar

¹ Lee de Forest was born at Council Bluffs, Iowa, August 26, 1873, the son of Reverend Henry Swift de Forest, a missionary. Throughout his childhood he displayed inventive ability. Lee entered the Sheffield Science School at Yale University, on a missionary scholarship. In his autobiography published in 1950 he said that at college he was "a 'greasy grind,' a creature held in general contempt by all normal Yale undergrads, myself among them." His doctoral dissertation in 1889 was entitled "Reflection of Hertzian Waves from the Ends of Parallel Wires." After six years of experimentation, de Forest applied for a patent on his tube which he called an audion. Meantime he had been discharged "from the company that had been created around him," but he formed a new company and launched his new invention for which he received a patent on January 15, 1907. His audion opened the door to the field of electronics. A bronze bust of Doctor Lee de Forest, modeled by Frederic Allen Williams, is at Yale University to honor the man universally recognized as the "Father of Radio."—Leonard M. Fanning, "Lee de Forest," New York: The Mercer Publishing Co. 1956.

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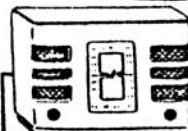
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BUT,
MOM...
I AM
DOING MY
HISTORY
ASSIGNMENT.



WIRELESS WAS DEVELOPED IN COLORADO

regions. Mr. Wilson died of a broken heart in Atlanta prison before serving all of his sentence.

On April 1, 1912, the United Wireless Telegraph Company was taken over by the American Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company. In October, 1919, the American Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company was reorganized and renamed Radio Corporation of America!

As a result of knowledge gained during the operation of the Colorado stations, Doctor Lee de Forest, in 1906, invented the radio tube, technically known as the grid three-element electron tube. The invention was made in October, 1906, and a patent was applied for in 1907. Hence, the year just closed—1956—was the Golden Jubilee 50th Anniversary of the invention of the radio electron tube which made the "Electronic Age" possible. Radio broadcasting, television, radar, talking motion-pictures and guided missiles are only a few of the things made possible by this invention.

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Doctor de Forest's invention of the radio tube, the Veteran Wireless Operators' Association held a dinner on February 18, 1956, at the Sheraton Astor Hotel in New York. I attended this dinner and on that occasion I talked with Dr. de Forest at his home in Hollywood, using his great invention which made our two-way conversation possible.

On March 16, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent a letter of congratulation to Dr. Lee de Forest which read:

Dear Mr. de Forest:

In this fiftieth anniversary year of a great invention, I congratulate you on your many contributions to scientific progress. Through your long and distinguished career you must have experienced many moments of pride that your imagination and talent furthered the development of modern radio, television and radar. You must also feel great satisfaction in remembering your past decades of service and in anticipating future achievements that your handiwork has made possible. May you enjoy many more years in which to witness the fruit of your labors.

Sincerely,
Dwight D. Eisenhower

President	Doug Furney
Vice Pres.	Bill Miller
Sec. Pres.	Ron & Sherry Harmon
Editor	Ray Windrix

RMAWA is a non-profit organization with the intent of preserving early radio.

Radio Log will be printed quarterly and distributed at no charge to members of the club.

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(The Radio Boys on the Mexican Border)

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THE RADIO BOYS ON THE MEXICAN BORDER

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