

R-018

History of Radio in Campbellsport Obituary for Carroll Arimond

Entered on computer by S. Connie Halbur, March, 2006

Note: *This folder contained the typescript of the following article as well as the actual news clipping from the Advertiser GUIDE of September 11, 1979. Except for one short section which was missing in the printed news clipping, the following was copied from the news clipping rather than the typescript.*

When Radio Was King

By Henry Weld

In the early 1920's a young Math Teacher joined the faculty of Campbellsport High School. His name was S. Gordon Shipman, and with him he brought what was known as a (wireless set) now known as radio. Shipman set this thing up on the third floor of the old Campbellsport High School and soon was pulling in stations like KDKA Pittsburg, and KMOX St. Louis. You will note that these pioneer stations call letters all began with a K --- so KFIZ in Fond du Lac is one of the older stations in the nation.

Local young men became interested in the wireless short wave sets and Marvin Barnes and the late Earl (Rip) Roethke, built their own sending and receiving sets. These sets were known as Crystal Sets because glass was used as insulators. Marvin Barnes operated a grocery and appliance store at 135 East Main Street from 1934 to 1964. The appliance store property was purchased by him from Mrs. Ida Schmidt in 1945. Barnes sold the property to Clarence Jaeger in December 1973 and now is occupied by the Jaeger Floral Shop. Earl (Rip) Roethke was the eldest son of Emil Roethke a pioneer Campbellsport depot agent. The Roethke home was located at 133 Cherry Street. Barnes and Roethke could speak to each other but could only receive from the commercial broadcasting stations. Marv had two sets of ear phones so he invited me to listen to the World Series between the New York Yankees and the New York Giants. This was in 1922 or 1923 and was quite a thrill.

About this time commercial sets became available on the market. They usually were a long black box with four or five dials. Each dial had to be adjusted before you could "pull in" a station. It was quite a trick to get the dials set so you could hear a voice or music over the static. Each set had to have three batteries, an A wet cell similar to a car battery and B and C dry cells. The A battery had to be re-charged frequently, and battery charging soon became a thriving business in Campbellsport.

Names now forgotten soon became household names. Ernest W. Kloke sold Westinghouse and Atwater Kents at his appliance store at 122 East Main Street. The building is now occupied by Wright Veterinary Clinic.

Herman J. Paas sold the Zenith and Sonora models. The building now houses the Village Apothecary. Fada, Crosley and Philco were sold by J.H. Kleinhans and Sons at 122 West Main Street. Charles Van de Zande and Alex Kraemer sold the Kellogg in the old Matthias Schlaefer building at 128 West Main Street and Michael Jaeger was the agent for the General Electric Line in his garage at 137 West Main Street.

The first big break-thru in listening pleasure was the development of the loud speaker which sat on top of the radio itself. This enabled the whole family to listen at the same time. The next big improvement was the transformer by Kellogg called the "Triple Charger". This device allowed electric current to be directed into the set and did away with the cumbersome battery hook-ups. Crosley led the way with the built-in speakers which led to the building of the beautiful console models with each manufacturer trying to outdo the other in beauty and style. Some of these models are still around and are rated as collector's items.

One of the earliest popular programs nationwide was a pipe organ program from the Federal Prison at Jefferson City, Mo. The artist was an inmate by the name of Harry Snodgrass and his theme song naturally was "THE PRISONER'S SONG". Other big stars included Wendall Hall known as "The Red-Headed Music Maker". One of his big hits was "It Ain't Going to Rain No More, No More". Many old timers blamed him and the song for the floods of 1924.

Theme songs were the rage and some of the stars and their songs were Gene Austin, "My Blue Heaven", Morton Downey, "Carolina Moon, Kate Smith, "When the Moon comes Over the Mountain", Rudy Vallee "My Time Is Your time".

The big band was Coon-Sanders and the Kansas City Night Hawks playing at the Hotel Muelenbach in Kansas City. The gang used to sit in Alfred and Charles Van de Zande's Insurance until the wee hours of the morning to listen to this great band. The biggest broadcast of all time was the 1924 Democratic National Convention which lasted for weeks. Another biggie was the Jack Dempsey – Tom Gibbons heavyweight title fight held in Shelby, Montana, July 4, 1924.

The most popular stations were:

WTMJ (The Milwaukee Journal) *[Not on news clipping]*

WGN (World's Greatest Newspaper owned by the Chicago Tribune)

WLS (World's Largest Store owned by Sears Roebuck)

Others were: WMAQ, WBBM, KYW, KMOX, KDKA, KLA Los Angeles.

Bitter rivalry existed between the Chicago stations especially in the broadcasting of sports events. WGN had Quin Ryan and later Bob Elson, WMAQ had Hal Totten and WBBM had Pat Flanagan all broadcasting the Cubs and White Socks games.

This was great for the ball clubs as fans from all over the Midwest flocked in to the parks to see the stars they had been hearing about.

Stations set up what was known as remotes in famous night clubs, hotels, and dance halls, and this gave rise to the big bands and names such as Guy Lombardo, Fred Waring, Wayne King, Jan Garber, Cab Galloway, Lionel Hampton, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Jimmy and Tommy Dorsey, Louis Armstrong became household names. Lawrence Welk came along later. The king of the crooners was Bing Crosby followed by Sinatra and Como.

Network broadcasting came along in the early 1930s. The Red and Blue Chains combined to form NBC. Columbia became CBS and Mutual came along later. Ah! Yes, radio has come a long way from Shippy's wireless set to the present AM-FM, Panasonic and portable sets.

During all this time a hard core of amateur broadcasters continued with their hobby. The veteran of the field starting in 1929 is Clarence "Shucky" Bauer. Mr. Bauer has added an addendum to history which proves he is still interested. *[The following is a short account written by Clarence Bauer, and included in the newspaper article.]* Campbellport, Wis., 1978 I Clarence Bauer established an amateur radio station W9CDD *[Sic]* in 1929 where I applied and received my license. My first transmitter had an output of 25 watts. As the years followed with more knowledge and experience, I increased my power output to 200 watts. With this transmitter output I could work or talk all over the world. I got a lot of enjoyment in Amateur radio and it is a wonderful hobby. Respectfully, Clarence Bauer

Others were Chet Hendricks on Main Street; Herman "Nap" Paas on Fond du Lac Avenue, Dr. Leo A. Hoffmann, and Dr. Robert Huspen.

The two fellows that made ham radio a fine art were Donald Kohn of 114 N. Fond du Lac Avenue and Robert Lade of 117 West Main Street. These two parlayed their hobby into good jobs in the electronics field.

CB radio is now the thing. I know nothing about it except that once in a while they raise havoc with my TV picture.

TV is really too new to have history written about it. Roman Anders tells me that he and the late Clem Kleinhans saw one at a trade fair in Chicago and Clem purchased a 1948 ten inch Philco. They brought the set to Campbellsport, hooked it up and the only pictures they could get were test patterns. Programming improved and the first two sets sold in the village were to George Kleiber and Gordon Raymond.

Like radio, many different TV sets were manufactured and now have dropped out of sight. There were just a few sets in the village in the 1950s but now every home has at least one set and most of them are colored.

Henry J. (Hank) Weld

[On the bottom of Mr. Bauer's handwritten account is a note in Mr. Reese's hand:

E.L. Peck to Christian Kierig for the sum of \$500. Lot 4, block 2 on May 27th – 1891 – V – 120 – Page 348 First purchase of lot. House number – 223 East Main Street. The station was on the second floor of the house and was in the south room. The out going hangers are still near the gable of the house as of the present time of January 1979 [*End of Mr. Reese's note*]

Obituary of Carroll Arimond

[Also a news clipping]

Famed newsman to be buried in Campbellsport

Chicago (AP) Carroll Arimond, who spent three decades as city editor of the Chicago bureau of the Associated Press, died Saturday in a Sarasota, Fla., hospital after a lengthy illness.

Arimond, 69, was a facile writer whose ability to turn out page after page of copy on some of the most spectacular news stories of the time earned him widespread respect and honors.

He was born Christmas Day, 1909, in Milwaukee, and was graduated from Marquette University in 1931. After brief stints on newspapers in Watertown, Wisconsin, and Daytona, Fla., Arimond joined the Associated Press in Milwaukee in 1934. Three years later he transferred to the Chicago bureau, where he remained until his retirement in 1974.

One of Arimond's best stories concerned a St. Louis priest who worked with ex-convicts. It later became a movie, "The Hoodlum Saint".

He was the main writer for the AP on stories ranging from the 1946 LaSalle Hotel fire to the National Democratic Convention riots of 1968. He spent several hours without moving from his typewriter, composing the tragic reports of the Our Lady of the Angels School fire in 1958.

As city editor, Arimond was the trainer and tutor of hundreds of Associated Press newsmen and newswomen who worked in Chicago. He was a soft-spoken teacher whose pencil stripped away hundreds of superfluous words without any accompanying verbal rebuke.

He wrote dozens of colorful, witty AP feature stories during his career, and his visits every fifth year to his school reunion were vehicles for some of his best writing.

Only a story of major magnitude could keep him from rising quietly from his desk each morning at 11:30 a.m. and softly announcing to the handiest person, "Lunch". He would be back by noon.

He was a stickler for style and grammar, but simply would make the needed changes on copy himself without a stream of criticism toward neophytes.

Arimond had a humorous disdain for sports stories that dealt with preparations for games. He would take such copy and remark, "Are they going through light contact workouts or stressing their kicking game?"

He directed coverage of many notorious crime stories including the murder of eight nurses in 1966 and the slaying of Sen. Charles Percy's daughter in that same year.

Earlier he worked the 1946 murders which became famous as the "Catch Me Before I Kill Again" slayings. William Heirens was convicted of the crimes.

Funeral services were scheduled for Wednesday night in Winnetka, a suburb north of Chicago where Arimond lived for 30 years before moving to Florida in 1978.

Survivors include his wife, Cecilia; three sons, the Rev. James Arimond, S.J., headmaster of Loyola Academy in Winnetka, John, who lives in Philadelphia, and Joseph, who lives in suburban Bloomingdale; and a daughter, Mrs. Donald MacGregor of suburban Skokie.

Interment is scheduled to be in Campbellsport, Wis., on Thursday.