

BART LEE

AWA ARTICLES,

as listed in the *AWA Review* Master Index, since 1990,
with abstracts since 2008:

VOLUME 5 – 1990:

AMERICA’S WIRELESS SPIES

by Bart Lee..... 21
[1914 into the 1920s.]

VOLUME 13 – 2000:

MARCONI’S TRANSATLANTIC TRIUMPH – A SKIP INTO HISTORY

by Bartholomew Lee..... 81
[Zero sunspots favored the attempt.]

VOLUME 15 – 2002:

RADIO SPIES: EPISODES IN THE ETHER WARS

by Bart Lee..... 7
[Radio espionage through World War Two -- Hauck Award]

VOLUME 21 – 2008:

THE MARCONI BEACON EXPERIMENT OF 2006-07

by Bartholomew Lee, Joe Craig, Keith Matthew..... 1

ABSTRACT: The success of the 2006-'07 Marconi Beacon Experiment shows the skill and tenacity of amateur historians and amateur radio operators on both sides of the Atlantic. The International Telecommunications Union defines amateur radio: “A radio communication service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and *technical investigations* carried out by amateurs that is, by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely

with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.” This technical investigation not only shed welcome and favorable light on Marconi’s claims of transatlantic signals in 1901, it also resulted in revisions to one of today’s most sophisticated radio propagation models to account for its success. Moreover, the critical role of engineer John Ambrose Fleming and his high power pulse transmitter in Marconi’s success now comes to the fore.

VOLUME 22 – 2009:

HOW DUNWOODY’S CHUNK OF ‘COAL’ SAVED BOTH DE FOREST AND MARCONI

by Bartholomew Lee..... 135

ABSTRACT: The success of wireless telegraphy pioneers Marconi and de Forest owes much to the invention in 1906 of a simple, reliable detector of wireless signals by a then-retired Army General, Henry H.C. Dunwoody. He showed that carborundum could act as a stable and sensitive detector, permitting the wireless operators of the day to hear even transatlantic signals. The carborundum detector got de Forest out from under what would otherwise have been a company-killing injunction obtained by Fessenden, whose electrolytic detector patent de Forest infringed. It also facilitated the development of a noise cancelling circuit essential to Marconi’s long wave transatlantic success as early as 1907 and up to the vacuum tube era. For a decade it was state-of-the-art, stabilizing the circuits and operations of wireless telegraphy and thus fostering new directions of innovation.

VOLUME 23 – 2010:

SWAN ISLAND, ITS RADIO HISTORY, INCLUDING THE CIA AND THE REVENGE OF UNITED FRUIT

by Bartholomew Lee..... 115

ABSTRACT: Swan Island in the Caribbean, once a pirate lair, can tell many related radio stories. It shows a century of communications technology in the real world of commerce, geo-politics, war and

weather. United Fruit Company put Swan Island to work as its long wave spark wireless relay station for its sea-borne commerce in bananas and sugar. Swan Island thereafter provided an ideal site for researching the Caribbean hurricanes. In the Cold War, Latin American insurgencies surrounded Swan Island. In opposing them, the American Central Intelligence Agency, with remarkable connections to United Fruit, once again put Swan Island to work — for “black ops” and propaganda. The CIA enjoyed Swan Island’s advantages for nearly four decades of covert action. Now, Swan Island once again provides a sunny, peaceful lair for its big Iguanas, with an occasional visit from amateur radio operators.

VOLUME 24 -2011:

WIRELESS COMES OF AGE ON THE WEST COAST

by Bart Lee..... 241

ABSTRACT: Radio as we know it had many fathers. California enjoyed unique circumstances that gave rise to independent development. Young men explored and advanced devices and means of communication as soon as they read about earlier advances, especially Marconi’s use of wireless spark systems. The arc as a generator of high power continuous wave energy for communications came to California and then the world. Doc Herrold began the first regular broadcasting to a known audience around 1912 in California, using an arc. Lee de Forest perfected his “Audion” triode in California in 1913. Amateur radio trained thousands in the new radio arts. The Navy led the way from the beginning, from the earliest spark systems around San Francisco Bay, to playing music from the Great White Fleet, to its world-wide networks at the time of the First World War. Radio grew up in many places, and the West Coast was one of the more important of those places.

VOLUME 25 – 2012:

WIRELESS — ITS EVOLUTION FROM MYSTERIOUS WONDER TO WEAPON OF WAR, 1902 TO 1905

By Bartholomew Lee..... 147

ABSTRACT: The following four events are covered.

- 1) Wireless Spying on Marconi at Porthcurno, Cornwall, UK – A First
- 2) Lee de Forest Fails in Ireland and Wales in 1903 –’04: One Door Closes, another Door Opens ...
- 3) Rejection and Renaissance: A. Lee de Forest Sails Away From “Perfidious Albion,” but Makes a Deal [with] B. Lionel James — Naval Spying on Russians and Reporting at Sea
- 4) Commander Kurakichi Tonami’s Wireless Wins the Russo -Japanese War, 1905. In the midst of this, a Japanese master spy enables Lee de Forest to snatch renown from the jaws of rejection, with a little help from Fessenden’s electrolytic detector.

TITANIC – LESSONS FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
by Bartholomew Lee.....253

ABSTRACT: [AWA abstract is erroneous – an analysis of the RMS Titanic’s wireless traffic as a dangerous distraction.]

VOLUME 26 – 2013:

LETTER TO THE EDITOR by Bart Lee 1
[Re Radio Archeology]

THE SAN FRANCISCO RADIO CLUB, SINCE 1909
by Bart Lee 133

ABSTRACT: The San Francisco Radio Club has enjoyed more than a century of the advancing radio art, fraternity and public service, as an exemplar of the Amateur Radio Service at its best. Its technical investigations have explored radio’s potentials since 1909. The Club’s earliest days show enthusiasm with which young men took to the new art, both as a hobby and as professional preparation. It also established, from its beginning, cordial relations with its government regulators, from whom it received the first Amateur Radio license issued by the Federal Radio Commission in 1927. Its members pioneered pre-war VHF work on 5 meters and 2 ½ meters, and then 2 meters. The Club adopted the call sign of an early member, W6PW, as its own, for its

repeater and field operations. In recent decades it has continued its public service, education, and social activities in the best traditions of amateur radio, on its deep foundations as one of the oldest radio organizations in the world.

VOLUME 27 – 2014:

CLARENCE D. TUSKA (1896-1985)

by Bart Lee..... 255

ABSTRACT: Born in the last years of the 19th Century, Clarence D. Tuska started out as a kid with a coherer at the beginning of the 20th Century, and ended up as RCA’s Director of Patents. As a teenager he nurtured the nascent American Radio Relay League as its chief (and only) operating officer. He helped the Army implement the new technology of radio communications. He turned to manufacturing parts and then elegant, now collectable, radios for the burgeoning home market of the “Radio Fad” 1920s. The Superdyne circuit he invented cured a flaw in the vacuum tube circuits of the day. He flourished as an inventor, and wrote often about the creative process of invention. In joining RCA, he joined the cohort of talented radio pioneers that David Sarnoff brought together to manage one of most successful companies of the electrical age.

VOLUME 28 – 2015:

RADIO ARCHEOLOGY, MT. TAM WIRELESS AND A CALL TO ACTION

by Bart Lee..... 25

ABSTRACT: [AWA abstract is erroneous. The article tells the story of several radio sites, and outlines some potentials for an archeology of radio and radio sites.]

VOLUME 30 – 2017:

THE WIRELESS NEWS

By Bart Lee 141

ABSTRACT: For well over a century, radio has provided ships at sea and their well-off passengers with current news of the world (and at times, war news), market data and sports. From Marconi’s wireless telegraph to satellite delivery, the wireless news has been indispensable to voyagers of many sorts, especially on transoceanic routes. Steamship lines saw money to be made in providing this amenity. The technologies of communications and of the printing of newspapers at sea paced each other. Many of these seagoing “newspapers” themselves tell nautical tales and social stories about their readers. But they also illumine their producers in Europe, North America, and Asia, including the shipping lines, the shore side press, and the radiomen at sea. The radio technology evolved from long waves to satellites, and from spark sets to vacuum tube gear and then to modern solid-state circuits. A demand for current information at sea, far from its sources, created an important maritime revenue stream. The economics of news at sea and the higher socio-economic class of the passengers helped to further the development of the radio art.

[Inaugural Murray Award; AWA Fellow 2020]

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