During August 1903 I was telegraph operator at Palm Springs, Calif., on the SP Ry being a regular operator three months. When he returned he excitedly told me: "They have a wireless station at San Pedro which handles messages with Avalon, Catalina Island, and they are looking for a man." He said he would very much have liked to try for the job but did not want to jeopardize his seniority on the SP. So I went to San Pedro and talked to Mr. Sever, chief operator for the company (the Pacific Wireless Telegraph Co.). They were then using American Morse, and I had no trouble putting down about 75 percent of the staff sent from Catalina. Reception was then ear phone. Resigned from the SP extra list, broke in for 2 weeks at San Pedro and then went to Catalina Island (Avalon) where I worked for about a year and a half.

At Avalon, the wireless station was up on the hill above "Sugar Loaf" and the source of power was a gasoline engine that drove the electric generator. Breaking the sender was impossible. At the end of transmission the receiver asked for the words he had, after starting the gas engine. The Los Angeles Times sent over their synopsis of the day's paper -400 to 600 words, which even the office contented was a small paper which was set up and printed at Avalon and sold on the street at 10 cents. Called "Wireless News."

In February 1905 the Pacific Wireless Telegraph Co. put up a station at 7th and Alameda, and I was in charge there sending messages direct to Avalon. In February 1906 I was called to B.T. to help with the station they were then building on top of Mt. Baldy. It was to reach Los Angeles. We had our own cook and stayed right there with the construction gang. Also during that time we put a small station on top of the Merchants Exchange Bldg., with an office on the 14th floor. The earthquake hit 8 July 1906. The town on Mt. Baldy which was-s up, was wrecked - the Merchants Exchange Bldg. gotten; fourth day after the quake left 5 F. for La.
Was out of wireless work until about November 1908 when the United Wireless Co sent me first to Hotel Green in Pasadena for several weeks and then to San Diego. I have no recollection whatsoever of who hired me or the company's home office, nor do I remember any correspondence, shipping or pictures. The object of going to San Diego was to establish contact with ships which might have radio coming through the Panama Canal. The station was on top of the Orange Bell, 5th and Broadway, and did not last long. I cannot say how long--when I was advised to close the station, I was married then and to pay our rent went to work for Hellers delivering groceries.

In 1910 I noticed in the paper that a wireless company (called wireless Telegraph Co, Poulsen Arc system) were acting and spreading out a new station up on the Spreckels Hotel and asked over the roof and possibilities of putting a station up there. Dan the then manager Mr. Holmes, who was sympathetic to the idea, then wrote to the Federal Wireless Co in SF and explained the situation at San Diego and especially the Spreckels Hotel. The following week their chief engineer called at Hellers for me and we went over to the Spreckels Hotel. After he had looked the roof over we talked to Mr. Holmes & they came to terms on the rental figure, permission to house their machinery for anchors & bolts etc. The chief engineer said to me "we will send you the blueprints from SF also insulation and cables etc and you are in charge of putting up the masts and building a small office building on top. When everything was finished they shipped the set (transmitter etc) up from basement where the direct connected Westinghouse generator was located. We tried it out and it functioned OK. Then I got a messenger boy and scrambled for business in competition with hell and postal.

The Poulsen Arc system was very hard for amateurs to pick up, but the Western Union and Postal people used the argument that our messages could be read by all the amateurs and did not discourage some of my customers.
I am not sure but I think it was in 1915 when a heavy 3 day storm hit San Diego. It started blowing from the south, then slowly veered around and finished blowing from the north. Heavy rains accompanied the wind—the Bay Dam went out and the resulting flood carried live stock, horses etc. down to the ocean. In fact the US Navy had a destructor standing by to rescue any people caught by the flood. At the mouth of the river Dan Diego was isolated so far as communications were concerned except the wireless on the Grand Hotel. I handled the messages for the Post Office and Postal to their officers in regard to reestablishing their lines. In addition I handled thousands of words sent out by reporters for the press service. I stayed right at the Grand Hotel for the three days as the agent - Will Holmes - as his guest. In the clerk at the main desk in lobby acted as receiver for me — they knew the rates and over my messages by best item up to me. Suffice it to say that after the third day I took the money I had taken in during the three days to the bank and asked the teller to please count it and credit our company. There was over $1,200.00 in the money and there were charge accounts of our regular customers. Those three days and nights were the most hectic in my telegraph career. All the press dispatches went out with the heading "Via Federal Wireless Telegraph Co." and gave a tremendous boost to the reliability of wireless.

The morning of April 1, 1917 I was sworn in as a Chief Electrician in the U.S. Navy active reserve and was sent to Site Line and served until the end of World War I. The station on the Grand Hotel was of course closed down and the Federal Co. leased a move to L.A.

After the end of World War I came up to SF and worked at "Goose Island" for 18 or 9 months as a civilian radio operator, working in the Honolulu (WPI), Balboa (WBA), Washington (N5s) circuits and also naval Fox Station stations. Then when the appropriation was exhausted we went back into the naval reserve, when the naval reserve was discontinued (winter 1917) went to work for the Naval Base (Communications) in SF. Last 9 years Mare Island, where I retired after the 2nd world war on in 1945.

At Bros Island for the army worked one circuit from Mare, direct to SF. Now for 58 years but the job is quite a stretch — Postales are system.