

SERIAL # 5.00

5.00 OK # 203 for Book 6<sup>00</sup> & Dues 5.00 To WAB.  
WAB record ok # 604 F. & Dues.



LEAVE BLANK  
NO. 5-P  
DATE May 18

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & HISTORY SHEET

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WIRELESS PIONEERS OF THE SEVEN SEAS, INC.

P. O. Box 530 Santa Rosa, Cal. 95402 USA

I hereby apply for "**LIFE**" membership in the Society of "**WIRELESS PIONEERS**" (\*) and certify that I meet membership requirements for classification marked below, by having held a commercial U.S. Gov't. operator's license and having been employed as a wireless(radio) telegrapher at a ship or shore station, handling commercial traffic by C.W. code. (Military operators are eligible if they can document service at stations which have handled a sizable volume of "PG" traffic). I agree to furnish records or documents if requested by the Membership Committee. I agree to keep my address current at all times and acknowledge failure to do so will be sufficient grounds to drop my membership. (\*Short title).

Signed Frank Geisel Date .....

SPARK GAP PIONEER  
(Service prior to 1915)  
 PIONEER  
(Service 1915 to 1925)



VETERAN.  
(Service 1926 to 1935 incl.)  
 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE  
(Service after 1935)

## HISTORY SHEET

(Please type or print)

Family Name GEISEL Given Name FRANK Initial - Nickname "FG" Sine "FG" Wife MARY  
City WALNUTCREEK State CALIF Zip 94529 Tph (Area) No. 95

## WIRELESS OR RADIO:

Date first license Oct. 22 1919 Date assigned 1st ship Dec 22 1919 Name ship/stn SPOKANE/WGE Call \_\_\_\_\_  
Navy or military assignment where "PG" traffic handled (attach documentation) \_\_\_\_\_

## SHIP OR SHORE STATION/S WHERE YOU HAVE SERVED:

| FROM  | TO   | NAME SHIP/SHORE STN. | FROM                             | TO    | NAME SHIP/SHORE STN. |
|-------|------|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|----------------------|
| 12/19 | 2/20 | Spokane/WGE          | 2/21                             | 5/21  | Capt. A.F. Lucas/WDY |
| 2/20  | 4/20 | Klamath/WSY          | 7/21                             | 9/21  | Multnomah/WMA        |
| 4/20  | 6/20 | Barge 95/WTY         | 9/21                             | 10/21 | Manoa/WMQ            |
| 6/20  | 2/21 | Richmond/WTR         | (Additional - use reverse side.) |       |                      |

## AMATEUR ACTIVITIES

FIRST CALL \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ PRESENT CALL \_\_\_\_\_ WORK FREQUENCIES \_\_\_\_\_  
RADIO ORGANIZATION YOU BELONG TO: VWOA OOTC AFCEA WorldShip Society

MEMBER "CQD"ers CLUB ? (Those who have sent CQD or SOS and/or abandoned ship)  
NAME SHIP MultnomahWMA DATE SOS Aug 1921 (Circumstances on reverse side)

WILL YOU SERVE AS OFFICER OR DIRECTOR ON BOARD OF GOVERNORS IF NOMINATED ? Yes  
(Please use reverse side or additional 8 1/2 x 11" sheet/s for additional biographical data. We may use in future issues of "PORT O' CALL" et cetera).

Society of Wireless Pioneers - California Historical Radio Society

GEISEL, FRANK - "Service" Record Continued

| <u>From</u> | <u>To</u> | <u>Ship/Shore Stn</u> | <u>From</u> | <u>To</u> | <u>Ship/Shore Stn.</u>             |
|-------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 10/21       | 10,21     | Barge 91/WTU          | 11/22       | 12/23     | K.R.Kingsbury/KDRE                 |
| 10/21       | 12/22     | F.H.Hillman/KDVK      | 1/24        | 5/24      | S.C.T.Dodd/KDML                    |
| 2/22        | 5/22      | Col.E.L.Drake/WTS     | 5/24        | 6/26      | H.M.Storey/KDVV                    |
| 5/22        | 7/22      | H.M.Storey/KDVV       | 7/26        | 2/43      | "KPH"-Marshall/Marconi             |
| 7/22        | 11/22     | CharlieWatson/KDLA    | 2/43        | 9/45      | RCA MRI S.F.                       |
|             |           |                       | 8/45        | 4/67      | "KPH" PointReyes Stn.<br>(Manager) |

"SOS"- McCormick Steam Schooner Multnomah after loading lumber in Puget Sound early August 1921 left for S.F. running into heavy fog in Straits of Juan De Fuca, kept too southerly course, grounded on rocks of Tatoosh- damaged bottom but able proceed which did in continued heavy fog. When off Eureka, vessel lost tail shaft, began dangerous drift eastward to shore. Early evening Master ordered "SOS" which "FG" transmitted only to hear another vessel "WMA QRT QRT SOS" ! Shortly thereafter another vessel said "OH its OK, WMA is another SOS"- Apparently preceding that from WMA which "FG" could not hear on carborundum detector. WMA SOS transmitted many times without response from nearby vessel- this was before auto alarm requirements when R/O off duty-Also distress signals from ships whistle and shooting off rockets without effect in heavy fog. Ultimately another Steam Schooner almost ran down Multnomah- picked up ship and laboriously towed WMA to San Pedro where repairs to bottom and propeller shaft made.

During many years at KPH, this station participated in hundreds of SOS cases- some of which on "FG" watch. Unfortunately, many records destroyed. Some available since 1945. still

Also on Dec 7, 1941 "FG" on duty at KPH when NavRadio San Diego/NPL called CQ and specifically KPH asking that station rebroadcast details of Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. "FG" has original log and in due time with assistance of Thorn Mayes will tape this episode.

5 /  
Tempe Ariz 85281  
Tues. 11 June 1968

Dear Bill:

Responding (promptly,) your memo of 9th.

Your order for less heat too late. Its going up again. But quite acceptable.

Pleased learn membership "Pioneers" now up to 143. Imagine will not increase rapidly now until we put forth sustained mail solicitation.

Regret no info on Murray Bollen and Walt Maynes.

Lots of luck in your POC activity. Do not understand yet, how you accomplish so much! Seriously, unless you get some of your VP's trained, "Pioneers" apt fall apart if you become incapacitated for any reason.

Trust following adequate as biographical material-if not, holler can amplify.

FRANK GEISEL:

Born 1902. Learned Morse telegraphy in 1917 while working at SP RR in Los Angeles. Same time studied Elec Eng, neering at Polytechnic Night School. "Hooked" on Wireless in 1918. Dropped Elec Engineering. Attended few months night classes YMCA Radio School L.A. Obtained first Coml Radio Telegraph License in 1919. Held continuous since then. Current license valid thru 1972. Served as Wireless/Radio Opr onboard variety of vessels, mainly SO Tankers from 1919/1926. Came to RCA KPH in 1926, where worked continuously until retirement as Mgr in 1967. Except for period 1942/1945 WW2, served as MRI RCA SF (KPH "Silent"). Currently member F&AM SIRS HI-12, Wireless Pioneers, VWOA OCTC, AFCEA, World Ship Soc. Past member SF Marine Exchange. Presently living in with wife in Rossmoor Walnut Creek, Calif. Father of 3 children, 7 grandchildren.

Pls delete/add as required.

Our Son (Frank #2) finally recd phone call from Washn Army Engr personnel, prelim info on next orders which coming by mail. We are hopeful not back to Viet. But will know within couple of weeks.

As previously noted, we should be back home in afternoon Monday 17th. If you are picking up granddaughter at Newark on 18th perhaps you can squeeze in few mins in visit enroute either way ?

Mary joins in sending you both very best,

73

Frank

PS: Having seen some of typing turned out by the Lt Col on this Elec-can hardly believe its same machine.

fg

~~The sine "FG"~~

~~The side ... "FG" is known~~

The sine ... "FG" ... is perhaps known by more operators than any other in the world and not without good reason as he has been actively "on" the job" at one of the world's major traffic stations - "KPH" - for over four decades, retiring as its manager in 1967. It is not merely that Frank has ~~been~~ seen so much daily activity as the fact that he has the friendly touch of a friend and humanitarian. You can literally feel his sincere dedicated presence when you close the circuit or have an eye-ball QSO.

~~Since retirement and the start of the WIRELESS PIONEERS, Frank has given literally hundreds and hundreds of hours of his time - mainly because of his intense interest in keeping contact with his legion of friends and in the promotion of an organization whose principals clearly set forth the high ideals which all of us recognize~~

Frank has given literally hundreds and hundreds of ~~his~~ hours of his time in carrying the word of the Wireless Pioneers to those <sup>OPPORTUNIST</sup> who should join and in securing the fine cooperation of members in assisting our membership drive which has proven most effective. He has given so freely of his time because of his deep interest in keeping contact with his legion of friends throughout the communications field and because of his devoted interest in a Society whose principles clearly set forth the high ideals adopted, which we all clearly recognize.

With over a half-century of active wireless/radio service one would think of him as one of our venerable SPARK-GAPPERS ... but Frank missed this coveted designation by only a few years. He learned Morse back in 1917 while working at the Sou.Pac. RR. in LA., then after taking a course in Electrical Engineering he "hooked" on to wireless - <sup>graduating</sup> ~~(matriculating as it were)~~ from the "Y" School in L.A. His <sup>summa</sup> ~~first commercial job was aboard the SS SPOKANE/WGE, followed by a variety of vessels, mostly Std Oil Tkr.~~

August 1921 found "FG" aboard the 'palatial' McCormick passenger liner (?) SS MULTNOMAH <sup>with</sup> bound for S.F. from Puget Sound. Due to heavy fog and plotting of a course a bit too far South, the Multnomah/WMA grounded on the rocks of Tatoosh Island as she ~~came~~ <sup>came</sup> out of the Straits of Juan de Fuca. The damage proved not too great so the Multnomah continued down the coast to a point near Eurka where she lost her tail shaft, again in pea-soup fog and with a dangerous easterly drift toward shore. The skipper ordered "FG" to send "SOS" which he did but when he ~~turned~~ <sup>returned</sup> his receiver, ~~a~~ a ship near him was sending "WMA QRT QRT SOS"! Shortly another ship opened up ~~with~~ with "OH ITS OK, WMA IS ANOTHER SOS". "FG" evidently did not hear the first "SOS". "FG" continued to send SOS while rockets were being shot from deck, and distress signal was being ~~shounded~~ <sup>shounded</sup> by the ships whistle. Ultimately another steam-schooner nearly ~~ran~~ <sup>ran</sup> the Multnomah ~~down~~ <sup>down</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~picked~~ <sup>picked</sup> then gave her a tow to San Pedro where repairs to the bottom and propeller shaft were made.

*in the dense fog bar*

FG.

While at KPH, Frank has handled so many distress calls that he has lost all count of them. Frank says that the most exciting event occurred in 1941 when the Navy Radio Station "NPL" at San Diego called "CQ" and specifically ask "KPH" to rebroadcast of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The Date was of course Dec. 7th. "FG" still has the original log which he cherishes as a exciting memento of ~~the/night~~ this historical event.

Not only have 50 years of wireless/radio been good to "FG" but he has become sort of a "Radio man's - Radio Operator" and has had, perhaps, more continuous experience under his belt at a busy station than any man in the world. At least we'll put him up against all comers !

This is of course why we induced Frank to take over the office of (Vice President) Chairman Membership & Credentials. We can't pay you in money OM but we sure can remunerate you with the high esteem of all our members for the wonderful work you are doing !