

THE FIRST LADY WIRELESS OPERATOR



MRS. H. J. HUGHES
(Nee Anna A. Nevins)

MISS ANNA A. NEVINS has the unique distinction of having been the first Commercial Wireless Operator of her sex in the world. She entered the service of the DeForest Company on January 6, 1906 at old "NY", 42 Broadway, New York City. Having learned the telegraph code with the Western Union, Miss Nevins was attracted by this mysterious new form of communication and soon unlearned the click of the sounder for the very different buzz in the ear-phones. Her adaptability to the cumbersome key was a marvel to the masculine operators at "NY" and her light touch as she cleared the traffic to "DF", "G" and ships at sea was regarded as equal to any of the so-called old timers.

Considering the type of equipment in use during that era, with its rattling motor-generator and crashing spark gap it was next to phenomenal the manner in which Miss Nevins adjusted herself to a regular trick at "NY". When the station "WA" was erected on the roof of the old Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Miss Nevins was assigned to a regular trick there where she operated for some time, handling the job like a Veteran.

In July 1910 Miss Nevins became the wife of Henry J. Hughes, then Superintendent of the United Wireless, and she foresook the wireless key for the more important duties of a housewife. During the ensuing years the Hughes family has grown to four, with the addition of two fine boys, 15 and 18 years old respectively. "Strange as it may seem" neither of these lads appears to have the least indication of becoming a future brass pounder.

Mrs. Hughes is a full Veteran Member of the V.W.O.A., the Association having two Lady Members on the Veteran Roll.