



CREDITED MEMBER ACCOUNT:

SERIAL # 35 500 Dues 1968

Charter Member

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NO. 35-P

DATE 5-68

# 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 Ed G. Raser Date May 10, 1968

Ed G. Raser, W2ZI VETERAN.

SPARK GAP PIONEER (Service prior to 1915)

(Service 1926 to 1935 incl.)

PIONEER (Service 1915 to 1925)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE (Service after 1935)



## HISTORY SHEET

(Please type or print) "RA"

Ed G. Raser	A. Edward Raser	G.	RA	Pauline
Family Name	Given Name	Initial	Nickname	Sine Wife
[Redacted]	Trenton	N.J.	08628	(609 [Redacted])
Street or P.O. Number	City	State	Zip	Tph (Area) No.

## WIRELESS OR RADIO:

Date first license	Date assigned 1st ship	Name ship/stn	Call
July 6, 1917	April 1919	S.S. Lake Strabo	KEBR

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.
1917	1919	Navy Radio NAI, Phila. Pa.			
		(signed) "PG" Svc. G. S. Balmadge, Gunner, USN)			
1919	1920	S.S. Lake Strabo, KEBR	1935	1936	S.S. Haiti, WKEJ
1920	1921	S.S. Ethan Allen, KUJQ	1935	1936	S.S. Columbia, WKEG
1935	1936	S.S. Pastores, KDBD	(Additional - use reverse side.)		

## AMATEUR ACTIVITIES

FIRST CALL 3NG DATE Apr, 1915 PRESENT CALL W2ZI WORK FREQUENCIES 10 to 75 meters 3.5m stly

RADIO ORGANIZATION YOU BELONG TO: VWOA-1916, OOTC No. 38, QCWA No. 197, Morse Club,

MEMBER "CQD'ers CLUB ? (Those who have sent CQD or SOS and/or abandoned ship) ARRI since

NAME SHIP \_\_\_\_\_ DATE SOS \_\_\_\_\_ (Circumstances on reverse side) 1915, AWA.

WILL YOU SERVE AS OFFICER OR DIRECTOR ON BOARD OF GOVERNORS IF NOMINATED ?

(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).

Ed G. Raser, W2ZI -- Radio Pioneer

Here is the story of one amateur radio operator who has really lived over a half century of wireless and radio. His early interest in wireless soon developed into a lifetime of activity which has dominated most of his waking hours, providing a satisfying career as well as rewarding friendships among the amateur fraternity.

Experimenting with coherer detecting devices as early as 1908 at the age of nine, Ed joined up the next year with Hugo Gernsback's Wireless Association of America, one of the earliest wireless clubs in the world. By 1910 he had worked a distance of ten miles with a quarter-inch spark coil, homemade tuner, a piece of silicon mineral, and a 75-ohm telephone receiver. The call letters were then "RR", his initials in reverse!

After the Radio Law of 1912, he made his appearance at the Philadelphia Navy Yard and took the examination for an Amateur First Grade license. He recalls that the license was signed by a Lt. S. S. Payne, USN, as the Navy was the only government agency authorized to conduct examinations at that time. His brand new call letters were then 3NG. By 1915 he was working stations 400 miles away with a 1/2 KW Packard transformer and homemade rotary gap, using only a galena mineral detector, loose coupler and Brandes phones for receiving.

The impending war in Europe put an end to his experimenting. So not to be completely frustrated, he enlisted in the Navy as a wireless operator, and served a three-year hitch aboard various ships and at shore stations. During this period, while serving on detached duty at the Cape May Naval Air Station, he installed and test hopped the first E. J. Simon 1/4 KW, 500 cycle spark sets ever to go aloft in an airplane, and using long trailing wire antenna. Other duty stations were on sub-patrol boats, and after hostilities ceased, at coast stations NAH, NAI and NSD.

Ed had received his First Grade Radiotelegraph license before War I. After his Navy service he continued as a commercial wireless operator at both land and shipboard stations. In 1919 he was operator aboard the coaster S.S. LAKE STRABO, KEBR, on runs between New England and Gulf ports. In 1920 he transferred to the new collier S.S. ETHAN ALLEN, KUJQ, which carried a 2 KW Federal arc set. On its maiden voyage to Balboa and Chile he maintained contact over most of the trip with Charleston Navy Yard, NAO, and Colon, Panama, NAX, there being few stations along the way able to receive the ETHAN ALLEN's arc signals. During his maritime days he worked for such early operating companies as Kilbourne and Clark, Marconi Co., and Tropical Radio Telegraph Co.

In April 1915 Ed had joined up with the then newly organized American Radio Relay League. He became the 381st member of this organization, which now has over 100,000 members throughout the U.S. and Canada. He immediately became active in long distance relay and traffic handling, and was assigned in May 1916 to old Trunk Line C, the then very busy line operating between Boston and Washington, D.C. He also was one of the first ORS (Official Relay Station) appointees in 1922, the year when this appointment was created. During his some 47 years of traffic work, dedicated to serving the public and amateur radio, Ed has held all ARRL field positions and appointments, as well as that of elected Director of the League for a two-year term.

In 1922 he received Special Amateur Station License number 9, and with it the call letters 3ZI. This allowed him special wavelengths out of the 200-meter amateur band for long distance relaying of messages. He and Irving Varnilya, W1ZE, are the only two original east coast "Z calls" left on the air today as far as it is known -- all others are reassignments. Other early two-letter calls were 3NG and 3GS, both well known sparks until 1924.

Amateur radio-wise, having passed through all the various stages of spark transmission from 1/4 inch spark coil to the booming 1 KW sync-spark set in the middle 20's, Ed finally saw the light when a little 7 1/2 watt tube began to run rings around his "Big Bertha." In late 1924 he gave in to the less noisy tweet of the CW signal. Then came the 5 watt "Colpitts" and "TNT" circuits, with basket-weave coils and honey-comb tuners, all of which led up to the present pretty desk-top gear of today.

As a pioneer broadcast engineer on 1922, Ed was to help establish WMAL, Trenton's first station, and later to design and construct the city's first 500 watt station, WOAX, which was considered high-powered at that time. His last participation in commercial radio came in 1935-6, when he returned to sea for the Columbian Steamship Co. Plying the banana boat routes, he served aboard the S.S. COLUMBIA, WKEG, the S.S. HAITI, WKEJ, and the former United Fruit flagship, the S.S. PASTORES, KDBD. His trips to Haiti, Jamaica, the Canal Zone and Columbia brought him in contact with many a Caribbean wireless station operator.

Ed's interest in military radio stayed with him for many years. In 1926 he enlisted in the 112th Field Artillery, Headquarters Battery, N.J. National Guard, where he became regimental communications sergeant and senior signal instructor. In 1933 he transferred to the 119th Observation Squadron, Army Air Corps Reserve, based at Newark, N.J. He was Communications Chief of the squadron, with supervision over twenty communicators, two ground stations and 13 observation aircraft types O-46 and O-47. During World War II he was engaged in vehicular radio development work as a radio engineer for the Signal Corps Radio Laboratories, Fort Monmouth, N.J. He

traveled over most of the eastern United States on various communications missions, for the Army, Air Force and other agencies. One of his most notable assignments was to President Roosevelt's security network, with his headquarters in the White House.

With all his on-the-air activity, and with commercial operating in between, Ed has found time to be active in radio club work. He served in 1915 as secretary of the very early YMCA Radio Club of Trenton, N.J. He joined the Trenton Radio Assn. in 1920, and was a co-founder of The Delaware Valley Radio Assn., Inc., now (1963) in its 33rd year. He is also a member of many other radio organizations: The Radio Club of America (the world's first radio club), Charter Member of The DeForest Pioneers, The Veteran Wireless Operators Assn., Life Member of the Quarter Century Wireless Assn., Morse Telegraph Club of America, Charter Member of the Old Old Timers Club (40 years in radio), The Antique Wireless Assn., and Senior Member of the Institute of Radio Engineers.

He still holds Commercial Radiotelegraph License, First Class, and an Amateur Extra Class License of early issue. He has been cited five times for the ARRL Public Service Award Certificate, for the Delaware Valley Radio Association's Silver Cup Award for faithful service, the Achievement Statuette conferred by the Conamaugh Valley Radio Association of Johnstown, Pa., and the A-1 Operators Certificate.

Ed is probably best known for his Wireless Museum, with its large collection of antique radio equipment dating back to 1899, when Marconi first came to America. His collection of historical books and papers on the art of wireless and radio number over 250 volumes, and represent some 35 years of research work. This unique exhibit is open to all visitors by appointment, and is located at 19 Blackwood Drive, Wilburtha section, West Trenton, N.J. It is suggested that those interested in viewing the Collections, either call TU 2-6645, or write ahead for an appointment, so that no one will be disappointed in case Ed is not at home. There are over 500 pieces of old radio and wireless gear on display, so one can be assured that a visit will be most interesting and worthwhile.

Along with the above activity, Ed found time to run the original Old Timer's Nite Round-Up. Held in Trenton each year during the month of April, the annual event has run for 16 years. ~~The~~ His Old Timer's Nite Round-Up idea, which originated in 1945, has been perpetuated in Old Timer's Nite affairs being run all over the country.

Presently employed as Supervising Engineer and Technical Advisor to the N.J. State Police Radio System, he pioneered the early FM systems, having installed the second state-wide system in America or elsewhere. After some 22 years in mobile radio work, Ed is about to retire from police radio activity and settle down to enjoying his several hobbies. So ends the saga of a very active wireless man, now enjoying some 63 years on the air and covering just about all phases of "the wireless game".

# 35-SGP

ED. G. RASER, W2ZI

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08628

Feb. 27, 1982

Dear Bill,

Received the "Titanic" pin in perfect condition on Feb. 23 mail. Didn't do so bad for the "slow mule" at that. Not too bad a job for "chinks" in Taiwan I suppose. Gess I know the Titanic Story by heart, read it so many times. Nice SOWP tribute to oprs Jack Phillips and Harold Bride.

Have the Magnetic Detector and the Marconi 16 inch spark coil with Marconi transmitting key with name plate in the W2ZI Wireless Museum. All three pieces exact duplicates, that were aboard.

Had a special visitor to the Museum December last, a Mrs. Giola Marconi Brago. She heard that I had some real Marconi items and wanted to see the collection. She is sponsoring the Marconi International Fellowship in USA and Canada, celebrating the 80th. year her father sent the first wireless signal across the Atlantic on Dec. 12th. 1901. She asked me if I would loan them a few Marconi items for display at the Low Memorial Library of Columbia University, in NYC. I let them have 15 items for display. She was very grateful.

The most valuable item was the original and most significant historically, was a Marconi vacuum type coherer and tapper used in 1899, and made in the Chelmsford Shops in London. She was quite delighted to show this in her exhibit.

The last issue of "Spark Gap" Journal was an excellent tribute to the YLs who served aboard ship. Congrate. Happy birthday Bill, all the best, 73

Ed/W2ZI,..... 3ZI/3CS/3NG Ed

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Our new Director, Ed G. Raser puts us on the proverbial "horns of a dilemma" with super-charged voltage between. He has done so many things - contributing to each spectrum - that it is hard to start with the most important.

Since we are orientated toward the Professional Brass-pounder, we will probably have to say that Ed's collection of Antique Wireless Equipment from the early days of the art, probably would be hard to duplicate in any private collection. This collection dates back to 1899 when Marconi first came to America. His collection of historical books and papers on the art of wireless and radio number over 250 volumes, and represent some 35 years of research work - which still goes on. This unique exhibit is open to all visitors by appointment, and is located at 19 Blackwood Drive, Wilburtha Section, West Trenton, N.J. It is suggested that if anyone is interested in viewing the Collections, they call Ed at the "W2ZI HISTORICAL WIRELESS MUSEUM" 609/822-6645 ~~or~~ or drop him a line to avoid disappointment in case he is not at home. There are over 500 pieces of old radio and wireless gear on display so one can be assured that a visit will be most interesting and worthwhile. 08628

Ed started his first ham station 3NG in 1915 and except for the war years he has been very active in amateur circles ever since. His present call W2ZI is one of the only two "Z" calls left from original assignment.

During WW1, Ed joined the Navy and while on detached duty at Cape May NAS, installed and test hopped the first E. J. Simon 1/4KW 500 cycle spark set ever to go aloft in an airplane (this using the trailing wire antenna-fishline). Other duty stations included sub-patrol boats and after hostilities ceased, at Coast Stations NAH, NAI and NSD.

Ed received his first commercial license before WW1 but didn't go to sea commercially until discharge from USN. His first commercial ship was the SS LAKE STRABO/KEBR in 1919, followed by the ETHAN ALLEN/KUJQ, SS PASTORES/KDBD, SS HAITI/WKEJ, SS COLUMBIA/WKEG.

During WW2 Ed was engaged in vehicular radio development work as radio engineer for the Signal Corps Radio Lab, Fort Monmouth N.J. He travelled most of the Eastern U.S. on communications mission for the Army, USAF and other agencies. One of his most notable assignments was to Pres. Roosevelt's security network, with HQ in the White House. 14

15 Ed's amateur activities are well known to most of the fraternity. During 1915 he joined up the then newly organized ARRL and became MEMBER # 381. Today this organization is worldwide. Ed established one of the ~~early~~ first ORS (Official Relay Stations) with appointment in 1922. During his 47 years of traffic work, Ed has held all ARRL field positions and appointments as well as that of elected Director of the League for a two-year term.

Time out for a bit of BDCing! Ed helped establish WMAL, Trenton in 1922 later designed and constructed WOAX at Trenton which was the City's first 500-watt station.

Club activities include membership in the RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA (The world's first radio club); Charter Member of QCWA/Morse/Telegraph/Club De Forest Pioneers, VWOA, and Life Member of QCWA, Morse Telegraph Club of America plus Charter member of OOTC, AWA and the Society of Wireless Pioneers. He is also a Senior member of the Institute of Radio Engineers.