



651 Sinex Ave. Apt. J-114,
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
December 5, 1979

Mr. William A. Breniman, President,
Society of Wireless Pioneers, Inc.,
Santa Rosa, California

Dear Bill :

Re : Lewis M. Clement S/SGP 153

Undoubtedly you will know far more than I
about what follows, but I thought I'd send it along FYI.

Last Saturday, December 1st, I had a telephone
QSO via Mother Bell with Thom Mayes and was informed
that he had just received information that Lew Clement
had passed on during the previous week.

In my paper "Trans-Pacific, Point to Point, etc"
I somewhat briefly touched upon Lew's career which by the way
was done with his full knowledge and approval. However, it
occurs to me that you may wish to say something about him
in your own words in the upcoming Sparks IV and/or in some
other manner. And, to this end I am making available to
you some of the high lights of his outstanding career
as he gave them to me in an exchange of correspondence
over the past several years.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Thom
Mayes FHI. I am sure he can fill you in on the Honors
and Awards bestowed upon Lew should this be of interest
to SOWP. I do know that Lew and Thom were friends of
long standing and that Thom is to file Lew's professional
papers with the Bancroft Library at the University of
California.

BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR.

Sincerely,


Alexander Seidl

cc Thom Mayes

Re : Lewis M. Clement S/SGP 153 .

Before I became acquainted with Lew Clement he had spent some time at sea as a radio operator. His first ship was the S.S. Spokane GE/WGE 1911.

I first met him when he operated his amateur station at his home near Lake Merritt, in Oakland, in about 1912. At this time he was attending the University of California, graduating with the Class of '14. He used the call SAG, then 6XC after amateurs were restricted to 200 meters and licensed. (I was licensed 6QI) His transmitter was a straight gap spark set which I believe had a rating of about 2 KW. It had a good range and he was able to QSO with stations in British Columbia. In later years he operated WA3CKE, K3AA and K4UV.

Clement and Haraden Pratt(S/SGP 252 Deceased '69) jointly wrote their graduation thesis on the subject of "The U.C. Radio Laboratory" after having built a 5 KW 500 cycle quenched spark transmitter and a receiver using a De Forest audion. They were able to copy Apia, in Western Samoa and Nauru, in the central Pacific, sending messages to Yap, in the Caroline Islands, for retransmission by cable to Hamburg, Germany. They were also able to read Arlington, Virginia, Key West, Florida and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The above activity on campus came to the attention of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company with the result that Clement was selected to go to Kahuku, Oahu, T.H. and Pratt was selected to go to Bolinas, California where the company was constructing stations to use 300 KW synchronous rotary spark gap transmitters linking the US and Japan via the Hawaiian Islands. Clement was at Kahuku from June 1914 to January 1916 and then was posted to Bolinas, California until May 1916.

In 1916 Clement joined the Western Electric Co. where he remained until 1925. And, while with this company he noted two assignments of special interest to himself.

He was aboard the S.S. Leviathan on the so called "Million Dollar Cruise" representing the Western Electric Company who had installed a 6 KW tube transmitter. On this voyage the radio traffic was so heavy that David Samoff, then President of the RCA and travelling as a passenger, stood watch to help move the traffic. Clement also did his stint at watch standing.

Also in 1920 Clement was in charge of the installation of the facilities for the radio telephone toll circuit linking the mainland with Avalon, on Catalina Island off the southern coast of California. At the onset this circuit operated without privacy equipment. In 1921 he presented a paper at the Institute of Radio Engineers on this particular installation.

In 1925 he became Chief Engineer of FADA and remained with this corporation until 1928.

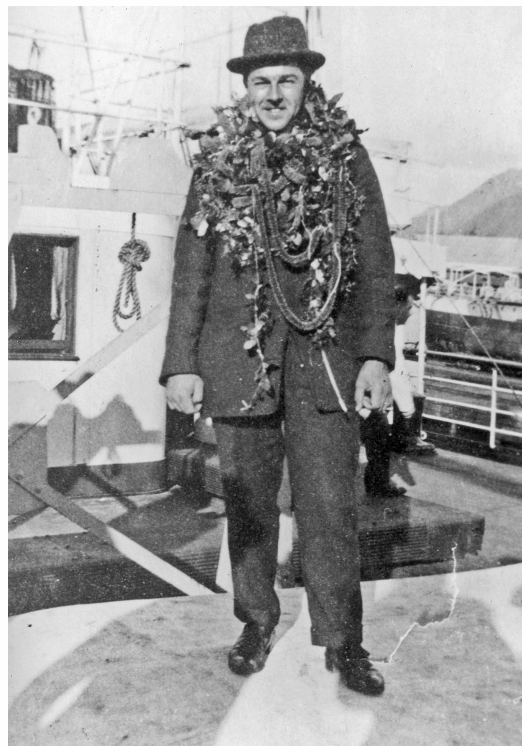
In 1929 he became associated with the Kolster Radio Corporation which was formerly the Federal Telegraph Company of Palo, Alto, California. By 1930, as a result of a series of mergers; the Kolster Radio Corporation, the Brandes Company, the McKay Telegraph Company, The Postal Telegraph Company and the Commercial Cables group had become a part of the International Telephone and Telegraph Company.

In 1931 and until 1935, Clement was headquartered in Paris, France, as Chief Engineer of the IT & T interests relating to the manufacture of broadcast receivers and related equipment in England, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Italy and Holland.

From 1935 and until 1940 he was Vice-President of Research and Development for the RCA at Camden, New Jersey.

Then, from 1940 until retirement in 1960, he was Vice-President of Research and Development at the Crosley Radio Corporation. During these years the corporation, in addition to its line of broadcast receivers, engaged in the development and manufacture of the following electronic devices ; Blind Landing Localizer, Glide Slope Receiver, Search Receiver, the MK 14 Gun Sight and the Proximity Fuse.

Alexander Seidl
December 5th, 1979
Pacific Grove, CA



Lewis M. Clement, SGP-153
January 16, 1916