



Early Wireless Companies: One "Monumental Fraud" or Two?

by Bob Ryzewski, Deputy Archivist, CHRS

On October 26, 1909 John Schuyleman accused United Wireless of "Monumental Fraud":

Portland, Ore., Oct., 26, 1909.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

A wireless concern which calls itself "United" Wireless, and which is little more than a shipwrecked De Forest Wireless, revamped, has sold, I am informed, over One Million (\$1,000,000) Dollars of its WATERED SECURITIES to the people of Oregon, at prices ranging from \$10.00 to \$35.00 per share.

This stock is sold by the horde of deluded agents upon the most flagrant exaggerations, misrepresentations, and falsehoods.

In exchange for about One Million (\$1,000,000) Dollars in hard earned cash, Oregon people can now boast of having about Ten Thousand (\$10,000) Dollars. And what makes matters worse, these stations, I am informed, are not even earning their operating expenses, let alone earning any dividends to pay on Seventy Million (\$70,000,000) Dollars, the present selling basis.

The money collected in Portland alone, I am informed, would build ten times the stations now in the entire state of Oregon.

Eastern Financial Magazines have for months denounced this GIGANTIC FRAUD as a rank swindle and estimate, (taking the United Wireless own financial statement) that this stock is not even worth \$1.45 per share.

United Wireless stock-holders need not look beyond the state of Oregon to see what their company is doing.

I made a public offer, published in the Journal, Oct. 21st offering One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars for a 100 word message to be sent from the Perkins Hotel station, at Portland, to Astoria direct, an air line distance of about 75 miles. So far my offer has NOT been accepted.

When this MONUMENTAL FRAUD is exposed, the faith of hopeful investors in these next to WORTHLESS securities will receive a jolt, to which the San Francisco earthquake will seem a mere tremor.

To you whose money has been obtained by the grossest misrepresentations and fraud, the LAW will tell you what to do.

It will either mean for Fred S. Stewart and Geo. H. Parker the unscrupulous promoters of this enterprise, to cough up, or go to jail.

I am ready to help you in every way I can to bring these men into court and put them where they belong.

Yours very truly,

John L. Schuyleman,
702 Oregon Bldg.

Sound like a public-spirited crusader? Read on...

Turns out the same John L. Schuyleman, just happened to be peddling the stock of a competitor, Clark Wireless. Here he is in the *Morning Oregonian* for October 6, 1909:



**CLARK WIRELESS TELEGRAPH EQUIPMENT
INSTALLED IN DETROIT JOURNAL, DETROIT, MICH.**

The CLARK WIRELESS TELEGRAPH-TELEPHONE CO., of Detroit, Mich., is preparing for the immediate construction of a 25 kilowatt high power Clark Wireless Telegraph station at Portland. This station will be $12\frac{1}{2}$ times more powerful than the wireless now on Council Crest owned by a New York Co., and will be the finest and most modern on the American continent.

A limited amount of 25,000 shares of stock is being offered for sale at \$1.00 per share, par value.

Equipments for other high power stations have been ordered to be built at Seattle, Astoria, Tacoma, Bellingham, Everett, Vancouver, B. C., Victoria, B. C., San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other Pacific Coast points.

Within 12 months the Clark Company expects to have complete control of the wireless business on the Pacific Coast. Their high power machines will have a range of 500 to 1000 miles at any hour of the day or night.

Upon the completion of the Portland and Seattle stations stock will be advanced to \$2.00 per share.

For further information, write

JOHN L. SCHUYLEMAN
701-2-3 Oregonian Bldg., Portland.

As we've noted in another [Society of Wireless Pioneers](#) post, in a move that reeks of desperation, Clark Wireless used its "interference machines" to block United Wireless messages on the Great Lakes. Just another case of the pot calling the kettle black...