



The True History of Morse Code

By Gregory Smith

This is an account of the partnership between Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail and his family. Morse had the vision to see the potential for electricity to play a role in communications, and the concept of the telegraph was rightfully his. However, Vail's family provided much of the financial backing to bring the concept to fruition, while Vail provided much of the engineering and the labor.

More to the point, however, is the system of dots and dashes which make up what is commonly called "Morse Code." This method, as it was eventually used by telegraphers and by CW operators to this day, is almost entirely the invention of Alfred Vail. Turn to page 8 for the full story!

C O N T E N T S

Meet the QSL Mistress 13

By Christopher Friesen

July 12, 1999, marked the day when coastal station KPH sent out the last commercial Morse code message from the United States. Dick Dillman was there to commemorate the heritage and tradition of commercial Morse stations and their operators: Denice Stoops was there to mourn the end of her career as the first female operator to be hired by KPH.

To their delight, Dillman and Stoops and many former operators are back at their positions, except now they are volunteering their time at common carrier coastal station KSM, preserving the equipment and tradition of KPH. If you log KSM when it's on air (you'll have to copy CW to get the ID), you'll get a QSL from Denice. If you call her the QSL Mistress in your reception report, you can be guaranteed a reply!

Radio France International 16

By Eric Bryan

There's more than one way to skin a cat, and if Radio France won't broadcast to North America in English, there's lots of English and streaming audio on their website. And on your cell phone. And on your satellite receiver or your local FM station... Despite all these options, it feels like RFI, among many other broadcasters, is trying to force us to the internet for international broadcasts. No doubt you'd be right.



Reviews

page 66

We all know technology marches on, but if you get a chance to try out the Perseus software defined radio, you'll be shocked at how far forward technology leapt when you weren't looking! Couched in this tiny package is a blazingly fast, versatile receiver that is ready to provide a universe of listening possibilities. (See First Look, page 66, for the review.)

With the Perseus' ability to record whole swaths of spectrum, you can keep listening to the same selection, each time "DXing" a different portion of the signal as

if it were live. On the other hand, *Computers & Radio* reports on an amateur radio QSO that doesn't require a ham license or even any radio equipment at all!

Hamsphere takes place entirely over the internet, but it mimics the atmospheric conditions of shortwave and encourages the same operating procedures and etiquette as on-air operation. What better way to practice operation of your "receiver" and proper behavior with other "stations" from around the world?! (See page 70.)



MONITORING TIMES
(ISSN: 0889-5341;
Publishers Mail Agree-
ment #1253492) is
published monthly by
Grove Enterprises, Inc.,
Brasstown, North Caro-
lina, USA.

Copyright © 2009 Grove Enterprises, Inc.
Periodicals postage paid at Brasstown,
NC, and additional mailing offices. Short
excerpts may be reprinted with appropri-
ate credit. Complete articles may not be
reproduced without permission.

Address: 7540 Highway 64 West,
Brasstown, NC 28902-0098
Telephone: (828) 837-9200
Fax: (828) 837-2216 (24 hours)
Internet Address: www.grove-ent.com or
www.monitoringtimes.com
Editorial e-mail: editor@monitoringtimes.com
Subscriptions: order@grove-ent.com

Subscription Rates: \$32.95 in US; \$42.95
Canada; and \$58.95 foreign elsewhere,
US funds. Label indicates number of is-
sues left. Renewal notice is cover sheet 3
months before expiration. See page 76
for subscription information.

Postmaster:
Send address changes to *Monitoring Times*,
7540 Highway 64 West, Brasstown, NC
28902-0098.

Disclaimer:
While *Monitoring Times* makes an effort
to ensure the information it publishes is
accurate, it cannot be held liable for the
contents. The reader assumes any risk for
performing modification or construction
projects published in *Monitoring Times*.
Opinion or conclusions expressed are
not necessarily the view of *Monitoring
Times* or Grove Enterprises. Unsolicited
manuscripts are accepted. SASE if material
is to be returned.

Subscription Questions?
belinda@grove-ent.com

Owners

Bob and Judy Grove
judy@grove-ent.com

Publisher

Bob Grove, W8JHD
bobgrove@monitoringtimes.com

Managing Editor

Rachel Baughn, KE4OPD
editor@monitoringtimes.com

Assistant Editor

Larry Van Horn, N5FPW
larryvanhorn@monitoringtimes.com

Art Director

Bill Grove

Advertising Svcs.

Beth Leinbach
(828) 389-4007
bethleinbach@monitoringtimes.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Departments:

Letters 4
Communications 6
Stock Exchange 76
Advertisers Index 76

First Departments

Getting Started
Beginners Corner 20
Better Audio from your SW Radio
Global Net 22
Want Your iTV?

Scanning Report 24

"Open" and Shut Systems

Ask Bob 27

Utility World 28

Spy Numbers Intrigue Continues

Digital Digest 31

Digital Utility Mysteries Solved

Programming Spotlight 32

More Small Countries, Booming Voices

Global Forum 34

Sino-Swearing on Shortwave

Broadcast Logs 37

The QSL Report 38

Name That Tune!

English Language SW Guide 39

Second Departments

Milcom 52
New 380-400 MHz Trunk System
The Fed Files 54
In Search of the Great White Whale
Boats, Planes, TRAINS 56
Amtrak photo policy: An editorial
Below 500 kHz 58
LF Receiving Antennas, Part I
Outer Limits 59
Numbers Stations Puzzle National Press
On the Ham Bands 60
Time to Amp Things Up

Technical Departments

Antenna Topics 62
How to Deal with Received Noise
Radio Restorations 64
The S-20-R Finds its Voice
First Look 66
Perseus Software Defined Radio
Computers & Radio 70
*SW QSOs - No License or Equipment Re-
quired*
What's New 72

EDITORIAL STAFF Email firstname@monitoringtimes.com

TJ "Skip" Arey On the Ham Bands
Rachel Baughn Letters to the Editor
Kevin Carey Below 500 kHz
John Catalano Computers & Radio
Mike Chace Digital Digest
Marc Ellis Radio Restorations
Bob Grove Ask Bob
Glenn Hauser Global Forum
Chris Parris Fed Files
Ken Reitz Beginners Corner
..... Communications
Iden Rogers Planes
Clem Small Antenna Topics
Doug Smith American Bandscan

Hugh Stegman Utility World
Ernest Robl Trains
Gayle Van Horn Frequency Manager
..... Broadcast Logs
..... QSL Corner
Larry Van Horn Milcom
..... Reviews Editor
..... What's New?
Loyd Van Horn GlobalNet
Dan Veeneman Scanning Report
Ron Walsh Boats
Fred Waterer Programming
..... Spotlight
George Zeller Outer Limits

WRITE FOR MONITORING TIMES: See how at
www.monitoringtimes.com/html/write_for_mt.html or
write_to_editor@monitoringtimes.com