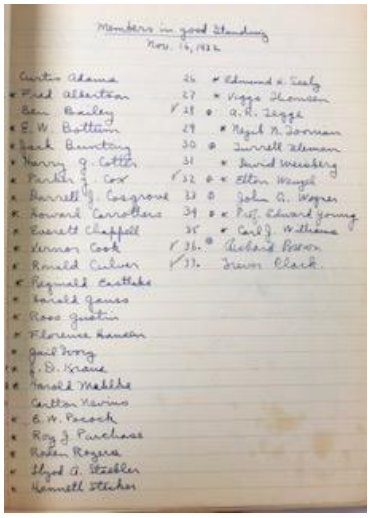
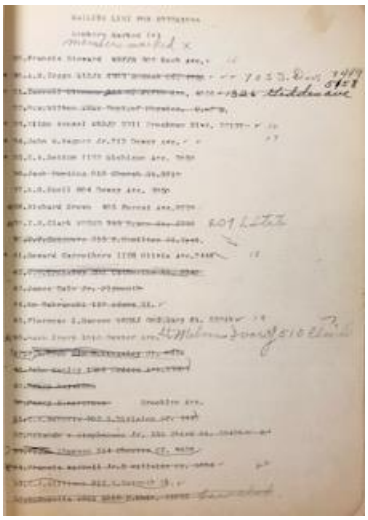
Show Me the "Ivory" Photographs

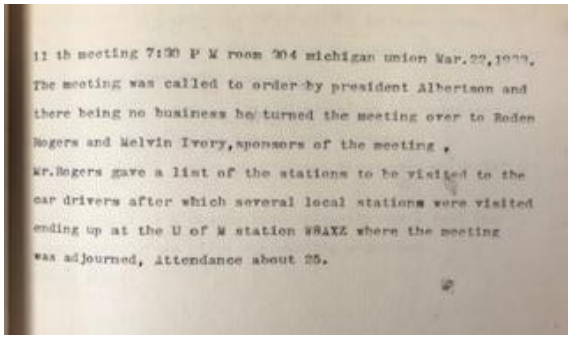

Members in good Standing
Nov. 16, 1932



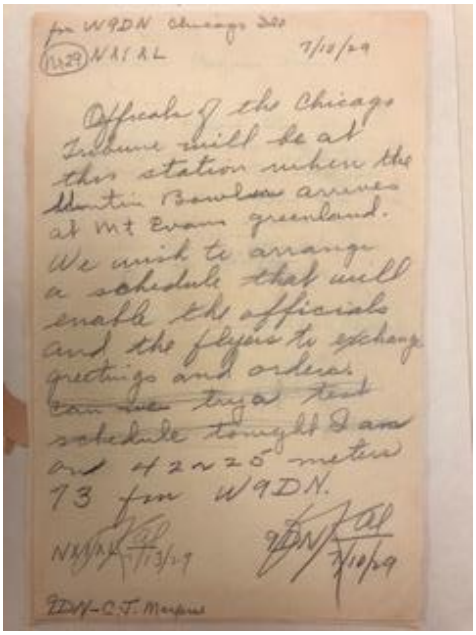
W8AXZ Membership Lists, November 16, 1932

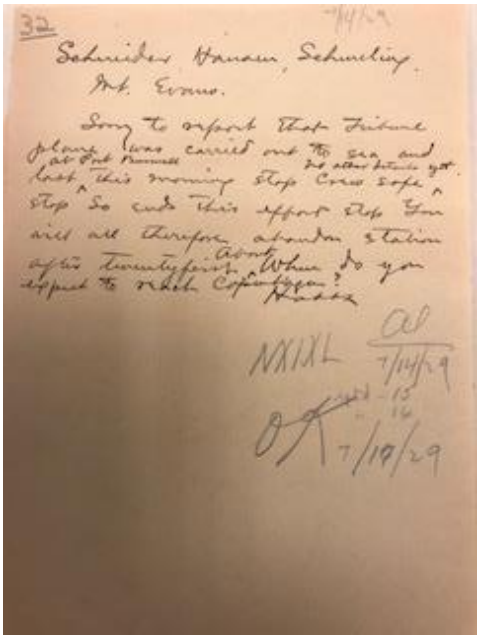
In the early 1930's, the University of Michigan Amateur Radio Club membership included five individuals of significant importance; John D. Kraus (W8JK), Roy Purchase (W8RP), Fred W. Albertson (W8DOE) and brothers Melvin (W8HSH) and Gail Ivory (W8FVP). The W8AXZ elected officers included; Albertson (President), Purchase (Vice-President) and Kraus (Secretary) while Melvin and Gail Ivory were members in "good standing" and sponsors of club activities.

W8AXZ Meeting Minutes, March 22, 1933


11 th meeting 7:30 P M room 304 michigan union Mar.22,1933.
The meeting was called to order by president Albertson and there being no business he turned the meeting over to Roden Rogers and Melvin Ivory, sponsors of the meeting.
Mr. Rogers gave a list of the stations to be visited to the car drivers after which several local stations were visited ending up at the U of M station W8AXZ where the meeting was adjourned, Attendance about 25.

During this period of time, the university wireless station, W8AXZ, was noted to be the "most powerful" wireless station in the country. In addition to messages sent to vessels at sea, the university wireless station also communicated with the Professor William Hobbs Expedition of Arctic Greenland (University of Michigan Geology Department), Richard Byrd's Antarctic Expedition and with the pilots of the Untin Bowler. The Untin Bowler, an amphibious seaplane owned by Robert McCormick, (owner of the Chicago Tribune, WGN Radio) was on its maiden flight from Chicago to Germany.


for W9DN Chicago Ill.
(W9DN) NX1XL 7/10/29
Officials of the Chicago Tribune will be at this station when the Untin Bowler arrives at Mt Evans greenland. We wish to arrange a schedule that will enable the officials and the flyers to exchange greetings and orders. Can we try a test schedule tonight I am on 42 m 20 meters 73 for W9DN.
NX1XL 7/13/29
W9DN 7/10/29
W9DN-C.T. Morgan


32
Schneider Hansen, Schneiter.
Mt. Evans.
Sorry to report that Tribune plane was carried out to sea and at 2:45 Pm was last seen this morning. Stop Crew safe. Stop So ends this effort. Stop You will all therefore abandon station after twenty-first. Stop When do you expect to visit Copenhagen? Kraus
NX1XL 7/14/29
OK 7/19/29

Left: Message from the Chicago Tribune, W9DN, to W8AXZ (7/10/1929)

Right: Message received from NX1XL, of the Hobbs Expedition, to W8AXZ (7/14/1929)

McCormick's intent was to establish international air travel using the "polar" route from Chicago to Europe. His plane would eventually sink in Port Burwell, Ontario, Canada while anchored to an iceberg during refueling. Both pilots and the radioman would eventually be rescued by Professor Hobbs and members of his expedition.

So, what where the contributions of those 5 members? The university's radio operator, for most of these communications was a student named Fred W. Albertson. Fred (Al) was instrumental in relaying messages between the Department of Geology and Professor Hobbs but also with members of the Byrd Expedition. On one night, Fred established radio contact between Ann Arbor and with both the Hobbs and Byrd Expeditions. All three station were able to communicate directly with each other. This marked the first time that radio communications would stretch from the North Pole to the South Pole. After obtaining his UM Law School degree, Albertson became a pioneer in the legal practice of communications law.

Nothing can be added to the many scientific contributions of John D. Kraus. They include textbooks on radio astronomy and antenna theory and inventing both the helical and the corner reflector antennas. He is perhaps most recognized for the construction of the "Big Ear" antenna at The Ohio State University.

In 1935, Roy Purchase opened his Purchase Camera and Radio store. After many years, Roy would relocate to a building on Hoover Street. Until its closing, in 2007, Purchase Radio was where hobbyists went for their amateur radios, tubes and other small components.

This is where my difficulties begin. Efforts to produce a "photo" history of the radio equipment, in use during this time period, have not been very successful. While several photographs have been located, at the Bentley Historical Library, they are of telephone linemen climbing telephone poles, reserve officer signaling (code semaphore class) and Morse code training classroom photographs. No spark-gap transmitter photographs.

Melvin Ivory (Ivory Photo) was the photographer for the University of Michigan from 1930 through 1970. During this same time, both Mel, and his brother Gail started Ivory Photo and Engraving. Gail would later serve in the U. S. Navy, during WWII, as a radioman. Following the war, Gail moved to Pasadena and opened Ivory's Photo with his twin brother Glenn. Mel would remain in Ann Arbor, with his family, and shortened the business name to Ivory Photo.



National Silent Key Archive ™

These photographs, the "Ivory Photo Collection", at the Bentley Historical Library, chronicles campus life from the classroom to social activities, the building of the campus; interior and exterior building photographs, local businesses and street scenes, students walking across campus, employees working at their desks and students working in groups.







However, the only “radio-related” photographs, contained within the Ivory Photo Collection, include a 1932 storefront photo of Purchase Radio (Left Photo), a photo of E. Lowell Kelly (Chairman of the UM Psychology Department) and his wife Lillian standing next to their W8KGG Huron Valley Amateur Radio Association bus (Center Photo) and backyard photos of John Kraus standing next to his “flat-top” antenna (Right Photo). No other radio photographs can be found.



Radio Friends At Last See Each Other

By MELVIN IVORY, '31

IN Ann Arbor recently two engineers met face to face for the first time. They were far from being total strangers, however, for as they shook hands they were actually reaching a high point in a friendship that began six years ago and has developed and ripened over a span of 8,000 miles by means of amateur radio. (See ALUMNUS, November 16, 1935.)

The two engineers concerned are Dr. John D. Kraus, '30, M.S.'31, Ph.D.'33, son of Dean Edward H. Kraus, of the Literary College, and the Rev. Carroll Stegall, graduate of Georgia Tech and Presbyterian missionary to the Belgian Congo. The occasion came about during a nine months' furlough to the United States, during which time Rev. Stegall came to Ann Arbor to actually see the man whom he had known only as a voice coming out of a radio headset.

When Rev. Stegall went to the Congo in 1915, he found the greatest hardship he had to endure was that of isolation. Travel was difficult and communication was slow. One-way mail took six or seven weeks. A fast cablegram took two days, for that was the time it took a native runner to reach the nearest cable office.

chanced to hook up with Dr. Kraus' station, W8JK, in Ann Arbor. Dr. Kraus is favorably located on a hill overlooking the Huron valley, and his station came into the Congo so well that Stegall suggested a twice-a-week

a portable one which he will mount on his truck when he drives out among the tribes. With this new unit he will be able to maintain his Ann Arbor friendship, which apparently neither time nor space will permit to die.

Since coming to the States last fall, Rev. Stegall has been much in de-

A GEORGIA TECH ENGINEER-MISSIONARY AND A MICHIGAN ALUMNUS COME FACE TO FACE

Rev. Carroll Stegall will soon go back to Belgian Congo, better equipped for future "round the world" chats with his Ann Arbor friend, John D. Kraus.

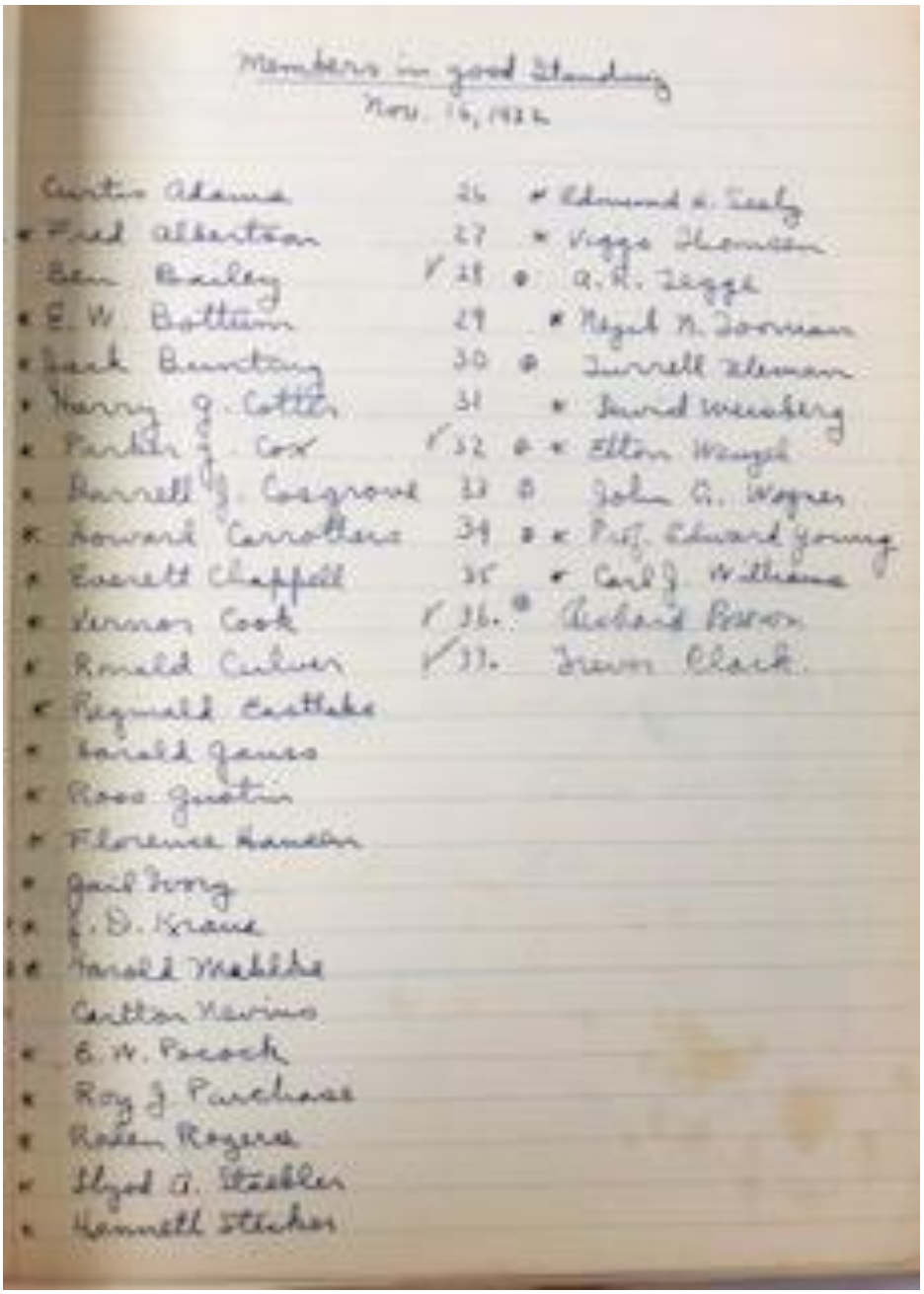
Finally, in the Michigan Alumnus, April 12, 1939,



appeared an article titled “*Radio Friends At Last See Each Other*”. The article details the close friendship between Kraus and a Missionary in the Belgian Congo that occurred via the airwaves. Coincidentally, this article was written by Melvin Ivory. This may suggest that Mel continued to have an interest in amateur radio and a professional relationship with Kraus that likely resulted from their meeting at the campus radio club. So, why didn’t Melvin preserve any photographs of the university radio equipment or club members during the time as the university photographer?

Communications with a daughter, Susan, confirms that Mel was an active ham radio operator and that the family does have Mel’s collection of QSL cards however the only photo they have is of Mel with a “broadcast” radio not with a “Ham” radio. The search continues…

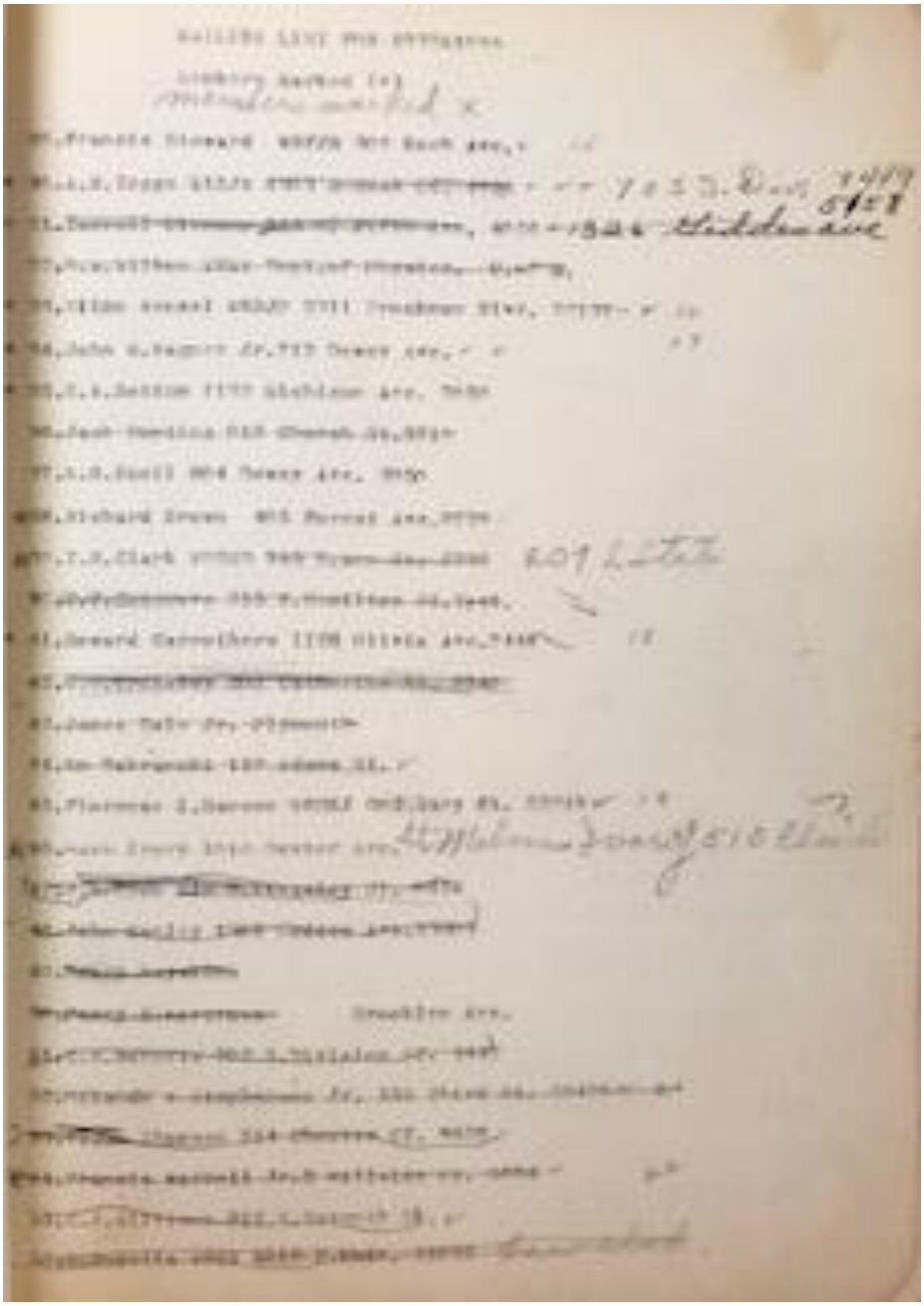
KB8OIS – John Palmisano



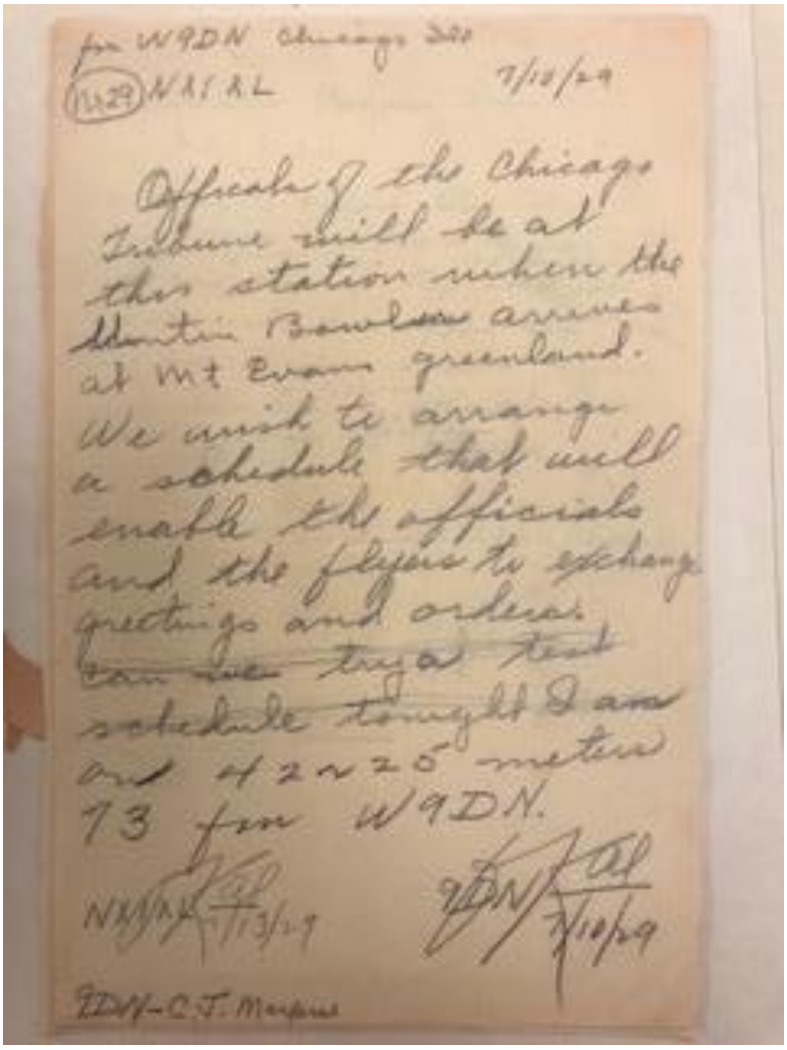
Members in good Standing
Nov. 16, 1934

Curtis Adams
* Fred Albertson
Ben Bailey
* E. W. Bottum
* Jack Buncton
* Harry G. Cotter
* Parker J. Cox
* Harrell J. Cosgrove
* Howard Carrothers
* Everett Chappell
* Vernon Cook
* Ronald Culver
* Reginald Eastlake
* Harold Gaines
* Ross Gustin
* Florence Hansen
* Gail Irons
* L. D. Kraus
* Harold Mahlke
Carlton Nevins
* E. W. Pocock
* Roy J. Purchase
* Roden Rogers
* Lloyd A. Stebbins
* Hamett Stichon

26 * Edmund A. Sealy
27 * Viggo Thomsen
28 * A. R. Zegga
29 * Nigel N. Zorman
30 * Jurrell Aleman
31 * Irving Weisberg
32 * Elton Wright
33 John A. Wagner
34 * Prof. Edward Young
35 * Carl J. Williams
36. Richard Porter
37. Irwin Clark.



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for W9DN Chicago 360
(1429) W1 1 AL 7/10/29

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W1 1 AL 7/13/29

W9DN 7/10/29

W9DN-C.J. Marquis

32

Schneider Hansen Schmeling

Mt. Evans.

Sorry to report that Fritsche plane was carried out to sea and lost this morning at Fort Kamuela. No other details yet. Crew safe. Stop. So ends this effort stop You did all therefore abandon station after twenty four hours. When do you expect to reach Copenhagen? Admiral

NXIXL

7/14/29

OK 7/19/29