Herbert W. Irving 8FC - W3FK *1899-1993* - Herbert's dreams came true and his story, not widely known until now. Irving was first licensed as 8FC in 1917. He was a life long OOTC radio member and ham radio enthusiast.

Modern broadcasting is born November second, 1920 our subject was listening while on watch as a Merchant Marine radio operator assigned to the U.S. Army Transport Ship Antigone.

Radio officer Herb Irving heard the KDKA Pittsburgh tiny 100 watt outfit broadcasting the Harding-Cox Presidential Election returns. The Antigone was plowing the Atlantic waters off the Virginia coast while enroute with troops from Puerto Rico to New York.

Irving receiving the returns of the 6 PM continuing broadcast of the Presidential candidate Cox and Senator Harding. He hastened to deliver the returns to the captain expecting them to be posted on the ship's bulletin board for all to see. But the skipper victim of a "Radio hoax" several months earlier, was dubious and would not permit the returns to be posted.

Throughout that stormy night, while the usual crowds stood in a driving rain before outdoor bulletin boards to see returns, a fortunate few early radio fans equipped with crystal sets and earphones were hearing the same returns in the comfort of their homes and military duty posts over the wide spaces of radio coverage.

After Herb Irving got his Honorable Discharge, he was hired by Dr. Frank Conrad 8XK at the Westinghouse giant KDKA Pittsburgh as transmitter supervisor!

Card courtesy of The Paper Gallery, La Mesa, Ca. - W8SU 2009

