

**Herbert W. Irving 8FC - W3FK \*1899-1993\*** - Herbert's dreams came true and his personal story is not widely known. Irving was first licensed as 8FC in 1917. He was a life long OOTC radio member and ham radio enthusiast. Enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1917 Irving held the Petty Officer rank of Electrician First Class, he was discharged at Hampton Roads VA in 1919. And apparently accepted sea duty with the U.S. Merchant Marine Department.

The dreams of KDKA founder Frank Conrad were just coming true. Modern broadcasting is born November second, 1920 our subject Mr. Irving 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.

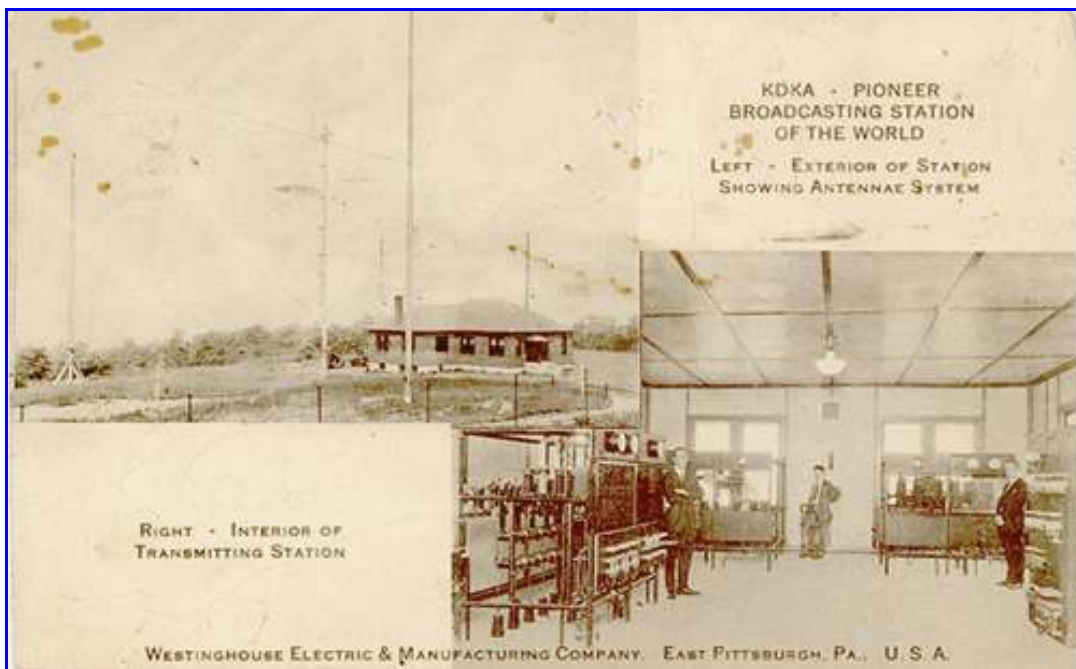
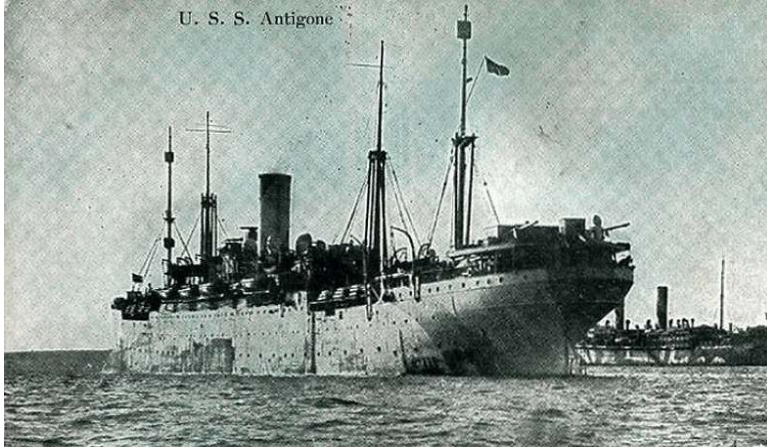
Throughout that stormy night, while the usual crowds stood in a driving rain before outdoor bulletin boards to see returns, a fortunate few early radio fans equipped with crystal sets and earphones were hearing the same returns in the comfort of their homes and military duty posts over the wide spaces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

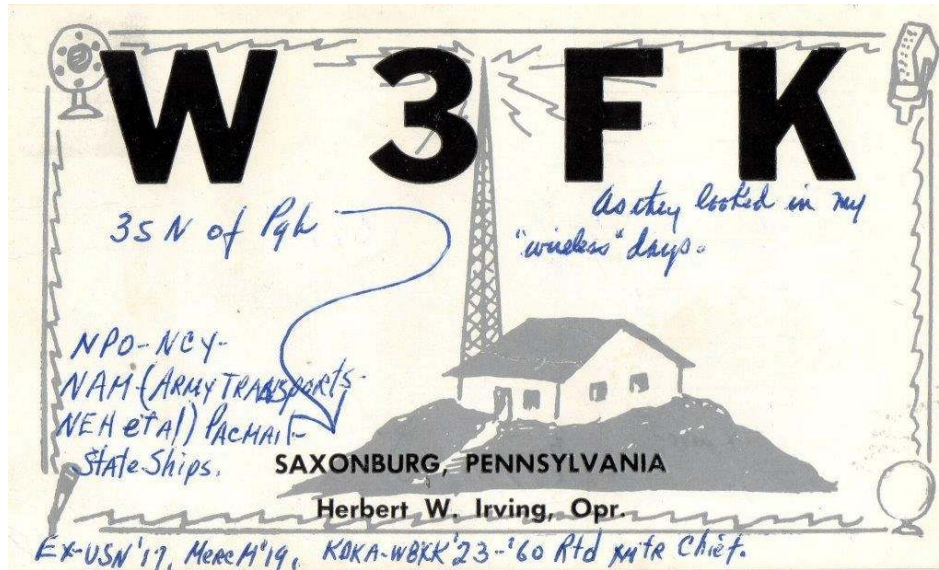
Card courtesy of The Paper Gallery, La Mesa, Ca. - KDKA Picture 1928 Continued on page two.



The U.S. Army Transport Antigone is pictured plus the seal of the USAT Service, Plus KDKA QSL card dated 1928. W8SU 2009 see last page material the Grant Morse Code Beacon.







A Factoid we recently learned “Morse Code in The Pittsburgh Skyline.” In 1928 the Grant Building was erected in the city of Pittsburgh. The Grant Building was considered the first skyscraper in the city. The Grant Building was home base to the KDKA Broadcasting operation.

Affixed to the top of the Grant Building was a bright red signal tower spelling out **P I T T S B U R G H** in Morse code. The mechanical system had fallen in disrepair and was removed to be updated and at last check it was not in operation. We hope that will be corrected soon.

Note Irving’s assignments he printed on his W3FK QSL card.

W8SU 2020 MF/Irving 8FC for W8JYZ

