

Stan (Mike) B. Mateske 9PJ - W9PJ \*1873-1945\* Originally from West Prussia - Poland and emigrated as a youngster. One of the pioneer licensed amateur operators in 1924 of La Crosse WI - Better known as "Blind Mike" Merchant and all around talent known regionally. His original call in a Tribute was once alive and well issued to the LaCrosse Wisc Amateur Radio Club.

#### **FIFTY YEARS AGO—1923**

Four bandits hold up the Pioneer Limited, crack passenger train of the Milwaukee Road, as it nears Milwaukee; check with passengers reveals they got nearly \$600, \$200 in Canadian money.

J. L. Erickson, proprietor of the Monitor Brewery, member of pioneer family, dies at his home, 917 King St.

Blind Mike Mateske grocery store, 1110 St. Andrews St., robbed second time in three days; Wet Wash laundry and A. Levenstein store also entered.

La Crosse Tribune 1973

Mike appears in many articles mentioning his keen radio ability and his determination to run his confectionery business in La Crosse with difficulty. Mike was a member of the Chair Warmer's Club. His store was shot at, breaking and entering and robbery armed. Many felons have no heart!

FAGave 71031562 Rests La Crosse Catholic Cemetery. 2017

Bismark Tribune 16 May 1929

### **Blind Wisconsin Man Assembles Radio Set**

La Crosse, Wis.—(AP)—For six years Michael Mateske, blind, has been looking at the world through his radio transmitting and receiving set.

Despite his handicap Mateske assembled the units of his transmitter and has been working amateur stations in every state except Maine and Vermont. He copies messages on a machine that makes perforations in a tape. The messages are deciphered by touch.

Mateske is proficient in handling various types of transmitters, and has repaired sets.

In addition to operating station ~~W9PJ~~, Mateske operates a store.

