

Karl E. Hassel *8AKG* Licensed in 1915 of Sharon, Pa and Ralph H.G. Mathews *9IK* licensed in 1912 - Both formed Chicago Radio Laboratory in 1919 as a small manufacturer of radio equipment. The brand name **Z-NITH** came from the call letters of their small Chicago radio station (9ZN) Then in 1923 were joined by investor E. F. McDonald, Jr then forming the Zenith Radio Corp., which soon moved into a large factory on South Iron Street, Chicago.



Both Hassel and Mathews earned college degrees and met each other in the U.S Navy while teaching at Great Lakes Training Center during WW I.

The ZENITH multi-multi million dollar business would flourish up into the 1990s. I personally had great pleasure in the Zenith Trans-Oceanic portable radio, the most romantic and expensive series of portable radios of its day. The Oceanic was a long time choice of yachtsmen and world explorers. Also carried into battle by American troops in three wars. Its popularity can be laid at the feet of several generations of armchair travelers who used the shortwave capabilities of the Trans-Oceanic and are now famous in collecting, preservation and restoration circles.

Ralph Mathews built his first ham station (9IK) Chicago in 1912, he attended Chicago's Lane Technical High School in 1913-14, perfected an aluminum saw-tooth, rotary spark gap disk which had such a distinctive quality that it could be identified instantly by his amateur contacts. He began to accept requests from other amateurs to build equipment of his own design.

Karl Hassel *8AKG* was born 1896 in Sharon, PA - He attended Westminster College and continued his studies in 1916 at the U of Pittsburgh. Visit our friend K8CX Ham Gallery for radio history of Shenango Valley Pa, of which Karl Hassel was a part of the pioneer effort in 1915. Be prepared to spend some time in Tom's popular Internet page. www.hamgallery.com QSL via K8CX collection.

W8SU 2008

9CA

RADIO STATION 9ZN, 5525 SHERIDAN ROAD.
Chicago, Ill. Nov. 8 1921.

Your signals heard here *7.1 m.p.s.* Audibility *QSA*

Characteristics *Clear* Note *OK* Wave *OK*

Other information *copying*

Equipment at 9ZN comprises:—
 Transmitting—2 K.W. 500 cycle Telefunken panel quenched set.
 2 K.W. 60 cycle, non-synchronous set.
 1 K.W. CW and radiophone set.

Receiving—C. R. L. Paragon-Amplifon (3-step) combination.
 Aerial—10-wire vertical fan, 90 ft. high, 150 ft. long.
 Wave lengths—200, 250, 375 meters.
 Hours of operation—10 P. M.—2 A. M., nightly.

9ZN is the Central Division Distributing Station of the A. R. R. L. and will be very glad to handle any traffic you may have at any time. Please QSL.
 QRK ?

R.H.G. Mathews
 Operator, 9ZN.

Note the signature of R.H.G. Mathews (9ZN) and ARRL affiliation.

Dated November 1921. Only one (T) In Mathews.