

**Ralph H.G. Mathews - 9IK - 9ZN - \*1897-1982\*** In 1908 Mathews built his first amateur radio station in Springfield, Ohio. Then attending Lane Technical High School in Chicago, built his first radio transmitter in 1912. Matty Mathews co-founder of Zenith Corp raised in Chicago. Our subject would grace us with his presence in our hometown of Cambridge Ohio in the June 1937 Regional 2<sup>nd</sup> Hamfest. See the flier supplied by the CARA.

Ralph, early radio enthusiast and ARRL supporter, appointed Manager Central Div., in 1916. Then 1917 appointed to the A.R.R. L., board of directors. Loved to work distant stations- At first only 4 miles in 1912 then distances 3 thousand miles - Matty was part of the unheard of record of a transcontinental radio relay message 6 minutes and 50 seconds across the United States in 1921. He found time to be Director of ARRL National Convention in the fall of 1921 in Chicago and was toastmaster of the banquet.



*R. H. G. Mathews, of Chicago Radio Laboratory, who has a conversation with Robert F. Gowen, inventor, of New York City, practically every night between 10 and 11 P. M. Mr. Gowen generally gives current New York news and follows this with music from his Victrola. Mathews hears signals of stations on both coasts, and from ships on the ocean and gulf as well as lakes. At times he can hear French and German stations.*

Together with Matty was Co-founder of Chicago Radio Laboratory in 1918 Karl Hassel - (Mathews military friend) who would be joined with Eugene F. McDonald Jr in 1923 forming an empire in the fledgling radio industry with McDonald's financing and leadership skills.

Thus Zenith Radio Corp was formed in 1923 and would constantly vie for best popularity with the likes of RCA and Westinghouse.

Mathews didn't stay with the company long enough to enjoy its later success. 9ZN gave up day to day responsibilities at Zenith in 1928 and established R.G.H.

Mathews and Associates Sales Engineering Consultants. In 1933 officially an ex-Zenith employee, he created Ford, Browne and Mathews Advertising Agency of Chicago. He then rejoined the Navy during WW2, assisting with recruiting. In 1954, he joined Magnavox and then worked for Westinghouse starting in 1957.

After stints at several other companies during the next decade, he retired in 1967.

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9CA

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

Your signals heard here... *F. J. Smith* Audibility... *OSA*

Characteristics... Note... *Clear* Wave... *OT*

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.  
4 K.W., CW and radiophone set.

Receiving—C. R. L. Paragon-Ampifigon (3-step) combination.  
Aerial—10-wire vertical fan, 90 ft. high, 150 ft. long.  
Wave lengths—200, 350, 375 meters.  
Hours of operation—10 P. M.—3 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. G. Mathews*  
Operator, 9ZN.

After retiring, Mathews moved to Mexico, where he was a lay leader of St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Jalisco. He expired in 1982. During Matty's ARRL affiliation he was former ARRL Vice President and Central Division Director. That post caused the frequent appearance of himself at many ARRL meetings and special conferences. Thus he visited our fine city of Cambridge Ohio in our second attempt to sponsor a regional hamfest.

Added, Mathews, LCDR USNR - Ralph's wife Mrs R.H.E Mathews sponsored the LST-172 (NQBN) Launched 12 May 1943 at Evansville, Indiana - the ship served in Asia and mainly China.

Mathews was married earlier in the mid 20s to Mildred Josephine Finn, which ended in divorce. Mathews and his friend and Zenith Corp. partner Karl Hassel shared more than enthusiasm for radio - they were married at one time to the same woman, Mildred Josephine Finn. Hassell married Mildred Finn in 1925 and that union lasted until his death in 1975.

The L.S.T. 172 U.S. Navy Landing ship tank, mentioned previously had an unusually tragic incident aboard in China where 9 crew were killed by a shipmate in 1946 shortly before the ship was decommissioned. Seaman Smith from N.Carolina was described as a loner and kept to himself, but was stopped by crewman on Smith's killing spree but not before Smith stabbed himself fatally.

Matty was well known by all and over the years represented himself on the bands at W9ZN. Thanks to K8CX QSL files. CARA W8VP 1937 club folder. Partially scripted CE.ORG (Sponsoring a Ship) It was custom that a lady would christen a military or commercial vessel when launched at the water ways.

Zenith; Along with the size of the company, the volume of radios manufactured also increased. By mid 60's Zenith had more than 15,000 thousand employees. Who can ever forget those old large lighted all wave dials!

I probably have divulged more personal material than I should have however with the World Wide Web which makes a lot of information otherwise impossible to find.

W8SU 2010