



Here is the hero of the radio telegraphers in our time. **Mr. Ted R. McElroy - W1JYN - \*1904-1963\*** As legend has it, Mac astounded the audience by not doing anything when the sending competition started in the July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1939 Hamfest at Asheville N.C. –

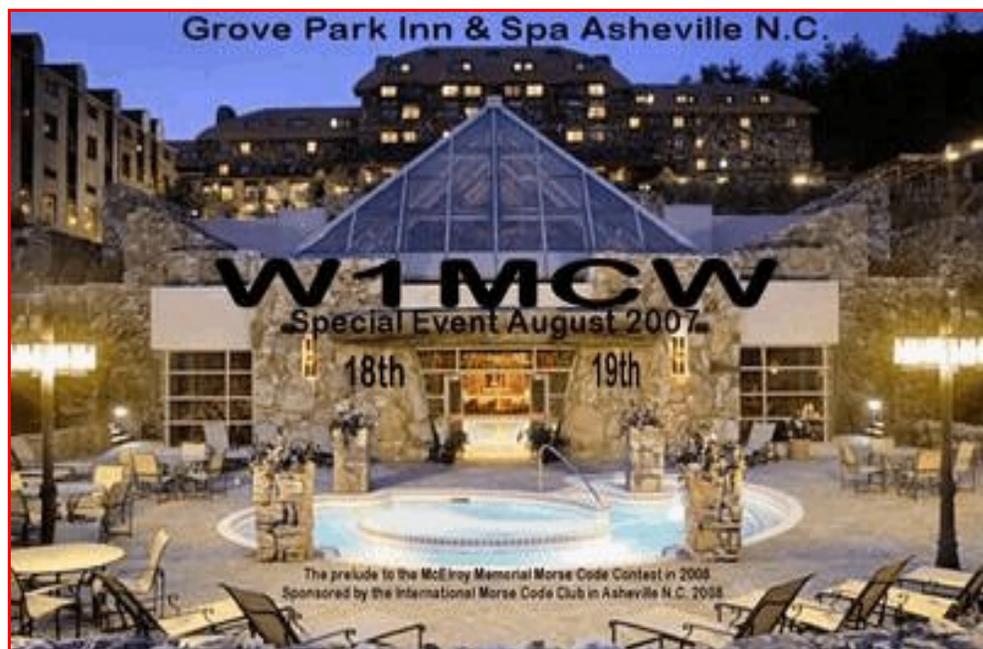
The competition commenced and Ted took a drink of water and light a cigarette. He didn't start typing until a full 15 seconds of code had taken place. When the tape finished he kept typing for that same 15 second period and it is no coincidence that he also won touch typing contests. He left that Hamfest with the Worlds Title for fastest telegrapher at 75.2 WPM, never to be broken.

Ever the showman and business man, Ted put his name and “World's Champion Radio Telegrapher” on his

keys and bugs, which are highly prized today by discriminating operators and collectors. I have in my small collection the “Hole in The Wall” the Model 700 and prize it totally. It is a heavy brute semi auto key. Mac began making telegraph keys (his Mackey) in late 1934. By 1941 he had put out twenty variations of his semi-auto keys and several variations of straight keys. Mac made millions of dollars during the war but when the demand shriveled after the war, he lost most of it. In 1955 Ted sold his company, then in Littleton, Mass., near Boston.

T. R. as he preferred to be called, began his telegraphic career at age 14 as a Western Union messenger and within a year he was a telegraph operator. He grew up in Boston where a neighbor and life long friend Bill Halligan W9AC

who founded Hallicrafters Radio Corp. had also. By age 21 Mac was winning code receiving competition and setting world records. Continued



The Code King in later years demonstrated code and became interested in local politics. He rests at Calvary Cemetery in Boston, Mass, he expired Nov 1963.

A QST search reveals; Oct 1922 - T.R.McElroy speed contest. Nov 1935 - New Code Champion. May 1943 - Chart from McElroy Mfg Corp. Jan 1964 - Theodore R. McElroy ex W1JYN S.K.

THE ASHEVILLE TIMES MONDAY, JULY 3, 1939

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**WORLD'S RECORD  
ESTABLISHED IN  
CODE RECEIVING**

**T. R. McElroy Takes Down  
75 Words Per Minute At  
'Hamfest' Here.**

A new world's record of 75 words per minute in code receiving was

established in a tournament conducted here yesterday in conjunction with the second annual "Hamfest" of the Asheville Amateur Radio club.

T. R. McElroy, holder of the world's championship professional radio receiving title, established the record. L. R. McDonald, engineer with the American Telephone and Telegraph company at Detroit and holder of the amateur receiving title, was second in the class A contest.

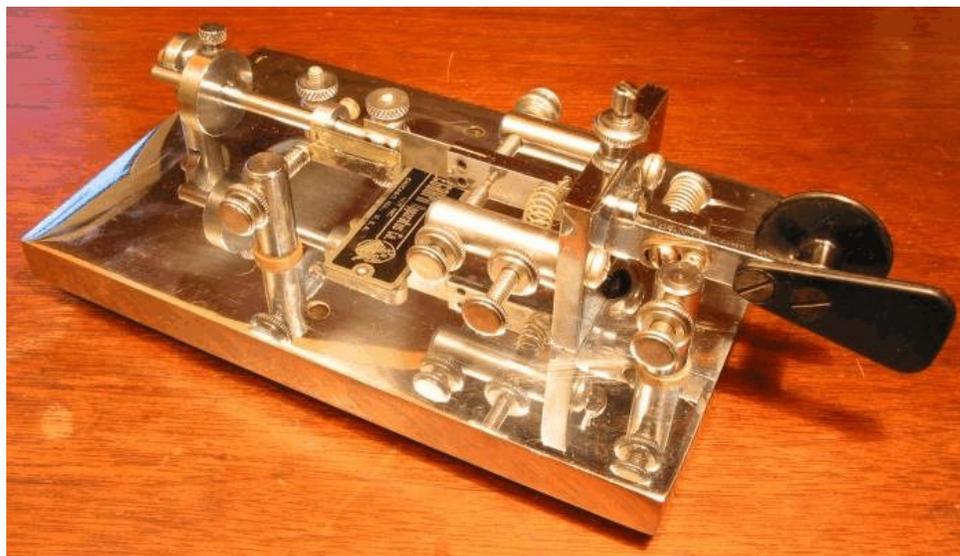
Miss Jean Hudson, 14-year-old girl from Laurel, Del., who at the World's fair in 1933 captured the world's championship in class E competition, won class B honors yesterday.

Hugh Anderson, of Greenville, S. C. won the class C title.

An address by Dr. Sherwood Githens, professor of physics at Wake

Forest college, on "Influence of the Ionosphere on Radio Transmissions" was a feature of the one-day meeting of radio amateurs. A banquet was held last night with a feature being the distribution of honors and trophies to winners of the code contest.

Opening yesterday morning, the early convention features included welcome addresses by Mayor Holmes Bryson and John Whisnant, president of the Asheville club. Talks were made by H. L. Caveness, of Raleigh, W. J. Wortman, of Morganton, Mr. McDonald, Mr. McElroy, E. J. Clark, of Charlotte and Gene Turney, of New York. Approximately 350 persons representing several states attended the sessions.



My "Hole-In-The-Wall" bug pictured. It is the TAC (Telegraph Apparatus Company) Ted McElroy's key operations. This key got its nickname "Hole-In-The-Wall" characterized by a frame with a large circular hole drilled through it for the lever. They are quite common. Pictured is the chrome version CP-810 and the dark finish is CP-510. c1936 - You will find lots of data on the Web.

My key was obtained from the W8CMS Claire Sutton Estate. I am sure previously the key came from the Bud Bailey Estate. A book was written about Mac and TAC - "McElroy, World's Champion Radio Telegrapher" Artifax Books 1993. The book is out of print and difficult to find.