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1. Review Essay: Children's Fiction on Telegraph, Radio and Television

A. Semaphore, Telegraph and Telephone

Alger, *The Telegraph Boy*

Alger, *Adventures of a Telegraph Boy, or "Number 91"*

Bassett, *Ted and the Telephone*

Baum, *The Master Key*

Butters, *Four Party Line*

Eggleston, *The Signal Boys*

Ellis, *The Telegraph Messenger Boy*

Hamilton, *Tad's Telephone*

Jayne, *Check Number 2134*

Otis, *Telegraph Tom's Venture*

Ralphson, *The Boy Scout Electricians; or, The Hidden Dynamo*

Trowbridge, *The Electrical Boy; or, The Career of Greatman and Greatthings*

Webster, *Tom, The Telephone Boy; or, The Mystery of the Message*

Weir, *The Young Telephone Inventor; or, Winning with the Wire*

B. Wireless and Radio

Adair, *Death By Short-Wave*

Anderson, *Four Girls and a Radio: A Career Story for Older Girls*

Appleton, *Tom Swift and his Wireless Message; or The Castaways of
Earthquake Island*

Baker, *Bob Dexter and the Radio Mystery*

Bassett, *Walter and the Wireless*

C. Television

1. Review Essay: Children's Fiction on Telegraph, Radio and Television

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Children's fiction books, most of them published before World War II, help demonstrate the growing fascination with--and wonder at—various forms of electrical communication. This was especially true during the initial wireless and radio fad that followed World War I. Most but not all of these books were aimed at boys up to about age 15. While often wildly improbable in content (many of the young heroes are clearly wealthy and have not a realistic care save for the crisis at hand), the role of wireless (or less often, the telegraph or later television) is central to most of them. That the book's heroes were typically the age of the intended readers, or perhaps a little older, added to their appeal. And despite of an often breathless writing style and cliff-hanger chapter endings, the heroes *always* survive and beat the bad guys. A few books published in the late 19th century focused their stories on the semaphore flag system, and the wired telegraph and telephone.

Many such books were produced in multi-title series issued by publishing “syndicates” which hired scores of usually unknown writers to turn out the “baby pot boilers” on a tight schedule and to an established template. The Edward Stratemeyer syndicate was one of the largest and most productive in this field (active for decades, its 1,500 titles had sold some 150 million copies by 1979). The finished books would appear under a single author's name (Allen Chapman is one example) with royalties going to the publisher as the actual writer, often given no credit, worked for a flat fee (today called “work for hire”). They featured flashy colored dust wrappers, and sometimes a black-and-white illustration or two. They were printed on pulpy paper and bound cheaply (though in hard covers)—as they were made to sell and be read once or twice. Several publishers (many no longer in business) focused on such books.

Why the interest—for they have become hot collectibles--in these books today? Other than their nostalgia for a vastly different era, they are increasingly scarce. While virtually all were issued in hardcover, such books were used and abused by young readers, and often didn't hold up well. Countless thousands were discarded as their owners outgrew them. Many of the originals, especially the relatively few that have survived with dust wrappers intact, are becoming quite costly. That is especially true of the last titles published in the various series— fewer of them sold and they are thus harder to find today. The appeal of many such books, and the end of their copyright protection, has led to their being widely reprinted (the famous *Tom Swift* series comes to mind) while others can be found full text online.

I assembled the first version of this listing more than 40 years ago, which included 63 titles. Concerted searching and research brought the total up to 136 by 1979 and a fifth edition of the list by 1996. More than 180 titles are included here yet surely there are still more. Two useful guides that provides context for these kids' novels are (1) Arthur Prager, *Rascals At Large, or The Clue In the Old Nostalgia* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1971, 334 pp.)

which itself features the classic two-part title that many such books used; and (2) John T. Dizer, Jr. *Tom Swift & Company: "Boys' Books" by Stratemeyer and Others* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1992, 183 pp) which details those titles from one of the most successful and long-lived syndicates and provides background on how it operated.

Assembling this listing relied initially on many analog resources. The standard published library references are *United States Catalog* (1900-1928) that provides data on in-print titles for that period, and *Cumulative Book Index* (1928-42) which continues the first title. More specialized guides include Harry Hudson's *A Bibliography Of Hard-Cover, Series-Type Boys Books* (Inverness, FL: the author, 1970, 200 pp.); and *Girls Series Books: A Checklist Of Hardback Books Published 1900-1975* (Minneapolis, MN: University Libraries, Children's Literature Research Collections, 1976, 120 pp.) which showed early academic concern for the genre. Robert Morgan's "Collector's Guide To Radio Fiction, 1891-1978" (Cleveland Heights, OH: Radiographics Books, 1978, 25 pp.) lacks information on publisher and year, but estimated the rarity (even then) of the 107 titles listed. Online bibliographic searching (especially www.abebooks.com) has been invaluable in nailing down missing information for most entries (booksellers being great researchers). Many individuals also helped, chief among them Jerry and Marsha Simkin whose "Juvenile Radio/Wireless Fiction" (self published, 1991) helped fill in some holes, and who kindly reviewed and augmented an earlier version of this list. A useful on-line resource with details on the real authors of many of these books is James Keeline's "Radio Boys' Series" at <http://www.keeline.com/Chapman/>

Books are listed by author (though many of those are pseudonyms) in sections on (a) telegraph and telephone; (b) wireless and radio—the basis for most of the titles; or (c) television (a relative handful of titles). All the books included here either feature one of these media in their titles, or have subject matter largely devoted to same. Each listing is provided in a standard format including, where known, author pseudonyms, illustrator information, and a line or two on content if not clear in the title. And a few titles may be included which though promoted were never actually published, or should otherwise not be here. All books included are presumed to be fiction and aimed at youth. Generally excluded are titles dealing with electricity in general, radar, fanciful inventions other than communications, and those focused on film and print media. Nearly all the books were published in the U.S., though surely similar books must have appeared in other languages and countries.

A. Semaphore, Telegraph and Telephone

45:

The Telegraph Boy by Horatio Alger Jr. (Philadelphia: John C. Winston, 1879, 262 pp., illustrated cover) concerns one Frank Kavanaugh in New York and completes the author's series of "sketches of street-life in New York" begun 11 years earlier. But the term

"telegraph" refers to a speedy service as the story does not deal with the electric telegraph in any way, despite the poles and wires in the cover illustration.

45:

Adventures of a Telegraph Boy, Or "Number 91" by Horatio Alger Jr. (Philadelphia: Frank F. Lovell, 1889, 205 pp., illustrated cover) concerns Paul Parton of the American District Telegraph in New York. The same book was reissued as ***The Telegraph Boy; Or, Making His Way In New York*** (A.L. Burt, no date, 256 pp.; and also Hurst & Co., no date, 223 pp.) and finally as simply ***The Telegraphy Boy*** (New York Book Co., 1911, 141 pp.). Again, despite the title, the story does not deal with electric telegraphy but rather with doing work quickly.

45:

Ted and the Telephone: The Invention Series by Sara Ware Bassett (Boston: Little, Brown, 1922, 223 pp., four illustrations by William F. Stecher). Bassett (1872-1968) was a prolific American author. See also **XXXX** below.

45:

The Master Key, An Electrical Fairy Tale Founded Upon the Mysteries of Electricity and the Optimism of Its Devotees. It Was Written for Boys, But Others May Read It by L. Frank Baum (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1901, 245 pp., illustrations by Fanny Y. Cory, including 12 color plates). Baum, of course, is best known as the author of the famous "Wizard of Oz" series. The protagonist of the story, Rob Joslyn, is an ordinary American teenager with a passion for the then new science and craft of electricity. He has his own laboratory in the attic of the family home, and has rigged the house with his electrical gadgets. One day, amid the bewildering cluster of circuits and wires in his workshop, Rob causes a blinding flash of light, from which emerges the demon of electricity.

45:

Four Party Line by Dorothy Gilman Butters (New York: Stitt Pub. Co., 1905, 263 pp.) centers on a once common type of residential telephone service—the party line shared by two or more users.

45:

The Signal Boys; or Uncle Sam's Company by George Cary Eggleston (New York: Putnam, 1877, 218 pp.) is the earliest book on this list. Third of the "Big Brothers" series, it concerns semaphore telegraph (flag) signaling during the Civil War, set around Lake Ponchartrain and New Orleans. Included because of "signal" in title.

45:

The Telegraph Messenger Boy; or the Straight Road to Success by Edward Sylvester Ellis (Chatterton-Peck, 1889; and later reprints). See also under Jayne, below.

45:

Boy Scouts [series] by Archibald Lee Fletcher and others (Chicago: M.A. Donohue, illustrated bindings) concerns the then new Boy Scout movement and use of the semaphore (flag) system of code telegraphy.

Boy Scouts Signal Sender; or When Wig-Wag Knowledge Paid (1913, 147 pp.)

Boy Scouts in the Northern Wilds; or, The Signal From the Hills (1913, 154 pp.)

Boy Scouts Mysterious Signal; or, The Perils of the Black Bear Patrol is by a different author: G. Harvey Ralphson.

45:

Tad's Telephone by Kate W. Hamilton (Boston: D. Lothrop & Co., 1886, pages not numbered, drawings) is an odd one. The first brief 14 page story in an anthology describes an attempt by a child to communicate using a primitive telephone. Other stories fill the remainder of about 100 pages.

45:

Check Number 2134 by Lt. R. H. Jayne [pseud. for Edward S. Ellis.] (New York: American Publishers, 1896, and many later reprints) concerns the apprehension of bank robbers with the aid of a young electric telegraph operator.

45:

Telegraph Tom's Venture by James Otis (Chicago: M.A. Donohue, 1899, 126 pp.).

45:

The Boy Scout Electricians; or, The Hidden Dynamo by G. Harvey Ralphson (Chicago: M.A. Donohue, 1913, 251 pp.) is the first example in this listing of a common feature of such fiction books—the double title separated by “or” as if one had a choice of which title to use.

45:

The Electrical Boy; or, The Career of Greatman and Greatthings by John Trowbridge (Boston: Little, Brown, 1891, 390 pp.) features both telegraph and telephone, though the title doesn't indicate that. Trowbridge (1843-1923) was professor of physics at Harvard for 40 years and strongly advocated laboratory practice as an integral part of scientific education. Along with his many scholarly publications, he wrote popular titles, like this one for a general audience. A bizarre fantasy novel about how to succeed through loyalty, hard work, and electricity, it includes an encounter with a giant who inhabits a series of underground caves, and who may be from an unknown race.

45:

Tom, the Telephone Boy; or, The Mystery of a Message by Frank V. Webster (New York: Cupples & Leon, 1909, 204 pp., illustrations) is called the second of eight volumes in the “Books for Boys” series in an advertisement in the back. Story concerns a telephone operator who mans the telephone switchboard, leaving the girls a bit discouraged to be about their ability

to control the mechanism.

45:

The Young Telephone Inventor; or, Winning With the Wire by Hugh C. Weir (Boston: W.A. Wilde, 1917, 260 pp., illustrations by Frank T. Merrill) is a rare example of an early illustrator being identified and credited.

B. Wireless and Radio

45:

Death By Short-Wave by Dick Adair (Racine, WI: Whitman Publishing, 1938, 394 pp.) was a title in the publisher's huge "BIG-LITTLE BOOKS" series. Many more appear below in what were cheaply bound fat little hardbacks (hence the name) that featured a simple illustration virtually every other page. Shortwave had been used by international radio broadcasters for about a decade at that point.

45:

Four Girls and a Radio: A Career Story for Older Girls by Betty Baxter Anderson (New York: Cupples & Leon, 1944, 243 pp.) doesn't make clear what "older" means—but presumably younger teens. The overt "career" goal was unusual for such books, though doubtless many were attracted to radio by such stories.

45:

Tom Swift and His Wireless Message; or, The Castaways of Earthquake Island by Victor Appleton (pseud. for Howard Garis) (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1911, 211 pp., with countless reprints) is the sixth title in the most famous of the "boy book" series. In its original form there were some 40 titles issued between 1910 and 1941, originally selling for 40 cents each. Some titles sold hundreds of thousands of copies. For a later title in the series, see part C of this list.

45:

Walter and the Wireless by Sara Ware Bassett (Boston: Little, Brown, 1924, 256 pp., illustrations by William F. Stecher)—see also **XXX** above.

45:

Bob Dexter and the Radio Mystery by Willard F. Baxter (New York: Cupples & Leon, 1933, 211 pp.)—by this time, of course, there were numerous radio mystery drama programs on the air. This may have been the final (seventh) title in the Bob Dexter series.

45:

Wireless in Toytown by S. G. Hulme Beaman (London: Collins, 1930, 192 pp. with color and black and white illustrations by the author) is one of the few books published abroad—

there were certainly others.

45:

The Radio Imp: The Story of a Mischievous Radio by Archie Binns (Philadelphia: John C. Winston, 1950, 216 pp.) appears from its title to feature a possessed radio device.

45:

The Boy Inventors [Series] by Richard Bonner (New York: Hurst & Co., 1912-1915, illustrations by Charles L. Wrenn) featured six titles of which two are relevant here:

1. ***The Boy Inventors' Wireless Triumph*** (1912, 293 pp.)
6. ***The Boy Inventors' Radio Telephone*** (1915, 303 pp.)

45:

The Radio Boys [Series] by Gerald Breckenridge (New York: A.L. Burt, 1922-31) had ten titles, originally retailed at 65 cents each. The color paintings on their dust wrappers were repeated in two colors on each book's cover and in black and white on the frontispiece, varying with each title. This is one of the two larger and best-known "radio boys" series (see also Chapman, below).

1. ***The Radio Boys on the Mexican Border*** (1922, 231 pp.) was the only volume to include "Directions for Installing an Amateur Radio Receiving Telephone" with two diagrams, on pp. iii-viii.

2. ***The Radio Boys on Secret Service Duty*** (1922, 235 pp.)

3. ***The Radio Boys With The Revenue Guards*** (1922, 235 pp.)

4. ***The Radio Boys' Search for the Inca's Treasure*** (1922, 247 pp.)

5. ***The Radio Boys Rescue the Lost Alaska Expedition*** (1922, 227 pp.)

6. ***The Radio Boys in Darkest Africa*** (1923, 245 pp.) includes some of the racial stereotypes of its period.

7. ***The Radio Boys Seek the Lost Atlantis*** (1923, 222 pp.)

8. ***The Radio Boys With the Border Patrol*** (1924, 241 pp.)

9. ***The Radio Boys as Soldiers of Fortune*** (1925, 251 pp.)

10. ***The Radio Boys With the Air Patrol*** (1931, 256 pp.)—later titles are nearly always the hardest to find Why the six-year gap from this to the previous book is not clear.

45:

Sparky for Short by Martha B. Bruere (New York: Coward-McCann, 1930, 85 pp.)—"Sparks" was often the term used for a radio operator.

45:

Bob's Hill Boys on the Air by Charles Pierce Burton (New York: Henry Holt, 1934, 257 pp.) is one title from a larger series.

45:

Ginny Gordon and the Broadcast Mystery by Julie Campbell (Racine, WI: Whitman Publishing, 1956, 282 pp., illustrated, including endpapers, by Margaret Wesley) is interesting for its late date—and still involving radio, not television. Aimed at “young adults.”

45:

The Radio Boys [Series] by Allen Chapman [pseud for several different authors] (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1922-1930) was the longest radio series with 13 titles. Unusually for such books, each one began with a different two-page introduction by S.S. *Republic* wireless operator Jack Binns, who had become a hero of a 1909 maritime rescue. They sold originally 60 cents each and their light blue covers all bear the same logo of a circle with a period radio set and the words "The Radio Boys Series" around it. Dust-wrapper pictures and frontispiece pictures are different in most cases—the illustrator was Walter S. Rogers. This is the second large well known series (see Breckenridge, above). Specifically:

1. ***The Radio Boys' First Wireless, or, Winning the Ferberton Prize*** (1922, 214 pp.)
2. ***The Radio Boys at Ocean Point; or, The Message That Saved the Ship.*** (1922, 218 pp.)
3. ***The Radio Boys at the Sending Station; or, Making Good in the Wireless Room*** (1922, 220 pp.) The dust wrapper and frontispiece drawing are the same in this case.
4. ***The Radio Boys at Mountain Mass; or The Midnight Call for Assistance.*** (1922, 218 pp.)
5. ***The Radio Boys Trailing a Voice; or Solving a Wireless Mystery*** (1922, 214 pp.) As with the 3rd volume, the dust wrapper and frontispiece drawing are the same.
6. ***The Radio Boys With The Forest Rangers; or, The Great Fire on Spruce Mountain*** (1923, 216 pp.)
7. ***The Radio Boys With the Iceberg Patrol; or, Saving the Ocean Liner*** (1924, 218 pp.)
8. ***The Radio Boys With the Flood Fighters; or, Saving the City in the Valley*** (1925, 218 pp.)
9. ***The Radio Boys on Signal Island; or, Watching for the Ships of Mystery*** (1926, 244 pp.)
10. ***The Radio Boys in Gold Valley; or, The Mystery of the Deserted Mining Camp*** (1927, 222 pp.)
11. ***The Radio Boys Aiding the Snowbound; or, Starvation Days at Lumber Run*** (1928, 222 pp.)
12. ***The Radio Boys on the Pacific; or, Shipwrecked on an Unknown Island*** (1929, 222 pp.)
13. ***The Radio Boys to the Rescue; or, The Search for the Barmore Twins.*** (1930, 220 pp.)

45:

Tune-In Tales: Uncle Mal's Own Storybook by Malcolm Claire (New York: Grosset &

Dunlap, 1939, 228 pp., illustrations by Pru Herrick) may or may not deal with radio.

45:

On The Air by Denis Cleaver (London: Collins, nd, but ca 1947, illustrated by G. W. Backhouse) is a story concerning two dogs, Mr Willis and Mr Wallis, who want to be radio performers at the BBC headquarters (Broadcasting House) in downtown London.

45:

Sim Barton, Girl Radio Operator by Helen H. Cloutier (New York: Dodd, Mead; many reprints, illustrations) concerns a cargo ship operation in the Great Lakes.

45:

Isle Royale Calling by Helen Cloutier (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1957, 215 pp.; reprinted by Eerdman, n.d.) focuses on the national park in Lake Superior--radio plays a major part in the story.

45:

Jack Heaton, Wireless Operator by A. Frederick Collins (New York: Stokes, 1919, 245 pp., eight illustrations by R. Emmett Owen) was written by a major figure in early American wireless who also wrote several "how-to" radio books.

45:

G-Man and the Radio Bank Robberies by Allen Dale (Racine, WI: Whitman Publishing, 1937, 425 pp., illustrations by Herbert Anderson) was also one of the BIG-LITTLE BOOKS series. "G-men," in the parlance of the day, meant government, and usually FBI, agents.

45:

Navy Boys to the Rescue; or, Answering the Wireless Call For Help by Halsey Davidson (New York: George Sulley & Co., 1919, 216 pp.) was the only book of six in the series that was radio-related. Maritime stories figured large in this genre.

45:

The Short-Wave Mystery by Franklin W. Dixon [pseud. for Leslie McFarlane](New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1945, 217 pp.; reprinted 1966, 176 pp., illustrated by Russell H. Tandy) is the 24th title (of the more than 40) in the famous "Hardy Boys" series. Interestingly, while the *title* is the same in both editions, the *story* is different.

45:

The Brighton Boys In The Radio Service by Lt. James R. Driscoll (Philadelphia: John C. Winston, 1918, 228 pp.) is one of a series of 11 books.

45:

The Antique Radio Boys and The Garrulous Grebe by Stan Dryer [pseud for Frank

Beqaert] (Carlisle, MA: Antique Radio Classified, 1992---out of print, paper, ISBN 1-882452-00-3, 51 pp., drawings) was a bit of tongue-in-cheek humor by a specialist radio dealer. He recreated a classic "golden era" boy's radio book in a series of chapters first published serially in *Antique Radio Classified* in 1990-91, and then gathered together here. The cover and frontispiece feature the same picture.

45:

Bert Wilson, Wireless Operator by J. W. Duffield (Racine, WI: Sully and Kleinteich, 1913, 220 pp.; reprinted by Whitman Publishing, 1924) was the only one of eight titles in the "Bert Wilson" series featuring radio.

45:

The Boy Scout Aviators by George Durston (Akron, OH: Saalfield, 1921, unpaginated, illustrated) doesn't appear to be about radio, but in fact the story line centers on the use of wireless and its use by spies. This is the eighth title in a larger series about a British boy scout and his American friend.

45:

The Gumps in Radioland by Gus Edson (Racine, WI: Whitman Publishing, 1937) was also part of BIG-LITTLE BOOKS series and was a novelization of *The Gumps* radio show (which was based, in turn, on Edson's comic strip).

45:

The Radio Gunner: A Fable of the Navy [by Alexander Forbes] (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1924, 318 pp., illustrated by Herman Fay, Jr.) deals with a war in 1937. The author's name appears on neither the book nor the dust wrapper.

45:

Don Marshall, Announcer by J. Edward Ford (New York: Junior Literary Guild and Macrae-Smith Co., 1946, 235 pp.) may have been sold by mail subscription through the Guild, just as did its "adult" parallel, *The Literary Guild*.

45:

Uncle Wiggly's Radio by Howard R. Garis (Newark, NJ: Charles E. Graham Co., 1927, 32 pp., often reprinted) is part of a longer series on the Uncle Wiggly character.

45:

Dave Morrell's Battery by Hollis Godfrey (Boston: Little, Brown, 1912, 289 pp., illustrated by Franklin T. Wood) may not belong on this list (can't be sure it deals with wireless); is the third title in the "Young Captains of Industry" series.

45:

Microphone For David by Hal Goodwin (New York: Wm. Penn Publishing, 1942, 239 pp.)

45:

The Motor Boat Club and the Wireless; or, The Dot, Dash and Dare Cruise by Harrie Irving Hancock (Philadelphia: Henry Altemus Co, 1909, 256 pp., illustrations) is one of the earliest wireless titles and the fourth in the “Motor Boat” series which had six further non-radio related titles.

45:

Sea Hawk Calling by Hild Hendriksen (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1962, 157 pp.) received first prize for this novel in a competition sponsored by the Norwegian Shipowners Assoc., for the best book about the sea for young people; the author was the first woman ship-radio operator in Norway. Translated from the Norwegian by Holger Lundbergh, first published in 1959 as *Vestover Til Osten*

45:

SOS Radio Patrol by William Heyliger (New York: Dodd, Mead, 1942, 180 pp.)

45:

You're on the Air by William Heyliger (New York: Appleton-Century, 1941) is one of several books with this title—some were non-fiction career guides.

45:

The Bobbsey Twins in a Radio Play by Laura Lee Hope (pseud. for various authors of the Stratemeyer syndicate) (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1937, 212 pp.) was one of a large number of titles in this series. See also part C of this list.

45:

Pemrose Lorry, Radio Amateur by Isabelle Hornibrook (Boston: Little, Brown, 1923, 311 pp., illustrated by Nana Bickford Rollins) is a radio-related title from a larger series built around the Lorry character.

45:

The Boy Electricians as Detectives by Edwin J. Houston (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1912, 314 pp., six illustrations by Frank McKernan) focuses on wireless telegraphy, though other titles in the series do not.

45:

Coconut Wireless by Ray Kauffman (New York: Macmillan, 1948, 202 pp.) Kauffman wrote dozens of stories, mysteries, children's books, and non-fiction titles. He was the editor of the Bangor, Maine *Daily News* from 1941-1947.

45:

In the Clouds for Uncle Sam; Or, Morey Marshall of the Signal Corps by Lamar

Ashton [pseud. for H. L. Sayler] (Chicago: Reilly & Britton Co., 1910, 216 pp., illustrated by S. H. Riesenberg) was the first title in what came to be marketed as the "Aeroplane Boys" series.

45:

The Ocean Wireless Boys [Series] by Capt. Wilbur Lawton [pseud. for John Henry Goldfrap] (New York: Hurst & Co., 1914-1917) had six titles, all illustrated by Charles L. Wrenn except "Pacific" which was done by A.O. Scott. Book covers and frontispieces are different pictures. One source notes three further titles that were announced but may not have been published: ...**On The Ajax**, ...**On The Tropic Queen**, and ...**In The Trenches**. All dealt with young wireless telegraphers on steam ships.

1. **The Ocean Wireless Boys on the Atlantic** (1914, 308 pp.)
2. **The Ocean Wireless Boys and the Lost Liner** (1914, 308 pp.)
3. **The Ocean Wireless Boys of the Iceberg Patrol** (1915, 308 pp.)
4. **The Ocean Wireless Boys and the Naval Code**. 1915, 305 pp.
5. **The Ocean Wireless Boys on the Pacific** (1916, 301 pp.)
6. **The Ocean Wireless Boys on War Swept Seas** (1917, 309 pp.)

45:

The Boy Aviators on Secret Service; Or, Working With Wireless by Captain Wilbur Lawton (New York: Hurst & Co., 1910) was the only radio-related book in a series of eight titles.

45:

Steve Sears, Ace Announcer by William B. Levinson (Chicago: King Co., 1948, 160 pp., with drawings by Mary Gehr) has an author identified as being the "Asst. Superintendent of the Cleveland Public Schools." He clearly didn't have enough to do!

45:

The Voice From The Void: The Great Wireless Mystery by William Le Queux (New York: Macaulay Co., 1923, 318 pp.)

45:

Kay Everett [Series] by Amelia Lobsenz (New York: Vanguard Press, 1951-52, illustrated by Paul Brown) included one or two radio titles, unusual (but see next title) as by this time television was all the rage.

Kay Everett Calls CQ (1951, 213 pp.) is the story of Kay and two other girls who join a girl "ham" radio operator to spend the summer on the road handling emergencies, even trapping a jewel thief by going "on the air." The book includes a glossary of amateur radio abbreviations, aids to learning Morse code, and other instructional information for girls who want to become "ham" radio operators.

Kay Everett Works DX (1952)—this title may not have appeared.

45:

Radio Pals [Series] by Charles Ludwig (Wheaton, IL: VanKampen Press, 1952-53) is also (see previous title) unusual for its relatively late appearance given the focus on radio.

1. **Radio Pals Marooned** (1952, 80 pp.)
2. **Radio Pals On Bar-T Ranch** (1953, 82 pp.)
3. **Radio Pals Fight The Flood** (1953, 87 pp.)
4. **Radio Pals In The Flaming Forest** (1955, 72 pp.)

45:

The Big Five Motorcycle Boys Through by Wireless; Or, A Strange Message From the Air by Ralph Marlow (New York: A.L. Burt & Co., 1915, 256 pp.) was the only one of seven titles in the series to focus on radio.

45:

The Radiobuster, Being Some of the Adventures of Samuel Jones, Deep Sea Wireless Operator by Volney G. Mathison (New York: Stokes, 1924, 182 pp.) concerns a West Coast "brass pounder." Mathison was an American experimenter/hobbyist in early biofeedback, galvanic skin response technology, and lie-detector machine research in the 1940s and 1950s. He was also a chiropractor and an author of paranormal and science fiction books.

45:

Stand By: The Story of a Boy's Achievement in Radio by Hugh McAlister [probable pseud. for James Andrew Braden] (Akron, OH: Saalfield Publishing, 1930, 247 pp.) takes place in the frozen north and is part of the "Air Adventure" series.

45:

Tune In For Elizabeth, Career Story of a Radio Interviewer by Mary Margaret McBride (New York: Dodd, Mead, 1946, 191 pp.) was written by a then fast-rising radio interviewer in her own right.

45:

Calling W1XYZ, Jimmie Kean and the Radio Spies by Thorp McClusky (Racine, WI: Whitman Publishing, 1939, 292 pp.) was part of "BIG-LITTLE BOOKS" series.

45:

The Wonderful Electric Elephant by Frances Trego Montgomery (Akron, OH: Saalfield Publishing, 1903 or 1904, 253 pp., with 50 illustrations by C. M. Coolidge) is reported by some sources to deal with wireless. If so, it would be among the earliest of radio-related children's books.

45:

Billy Whiskers and the Radio by Frances Trego Montgomery (Akron, OH: Saalfield Publishing, 1927, 168 pp., illustrated by Frances Brundage) is one volume of a larger series.

45:

The Radio Mystery by John Mowbray (London: The Children's Press, 1941, 254 pp., with multiple later reprints) concerns espionage on the Yorkshire moors.

45:

Gang Busters and the Radio Clues by M. C. Nally (Racine, WI: Whitman Publishing, 1938, 32 pp.) is another in the "BIG-LITTLE BOOKS" series. By this point, *Gang Busters* was a popular network radio drama.

45:

The Wireless Station at Silver Fox Farm by James Otis (New York: Crowell, 1910, 348 pp.) is the only radio title among four in the "Silver Fox Farm" series.

45:

The CB Radio Caper: A Mystery by Gary Paulson (New York: Scholastic Books, 1977, paper, 119 pp.) was labeled as a "Mallard mystery story" (and bound with *Curse Of The Cobra: A Mystery*). The CB radio craze was then at its height.

45:

The Radio Girls [Series] by Margaret Penrose (pseud. for writers in the Stratemeyer syndicate). (New York: Cupples & Leon, 1922-24, same drawing on all dust wrappers and covers;) had four titles, and was fairly enlightened for its time in featuring girls. It was later reissued as *The Campfire Girls* (presumably when radio lost its sales aura), though with the same sub-titles:

1. ***The Radio Girls Of Roselawn; Or, A Strange Message From The Air*** (1922, 224 pp.)
2. ***The Radio Girls On The Program; Or, Singing And Reciting At The Sending Station*** (1922, 202 pp.)
3. ***The Radio Girls On Station Island; Or, The Wireless From The Steam Yacht*** (1922, 204 pp.)
4. ***The Radio Girls At Forest Lodge; Or, The Strange Hut In The Swamp*** (1924, 204 pp.)

45:

Mysterious Radio Code by Thomas F. Pursell (Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, 1977, about 35 pp., illustrations by George Overlie) concerns an intriguing CB message that sets two young detectives on the trail of a gang of thieves.

45:

Radio Boys Series by various authors (Chicago: M.A. Donahue & Co., 1922-23). The listing is in the numbered order found in second Duffield title. Most covers show a wireless antenna tower.

1. ***Radio Boys in the Secret Service; Or, Cast Away on an Iceberg***
by Frank Honeywell (1922, 235 pp.) Also published showing J. W. Duffield as author.
2. ***Radio Boys in the Thousand Islands; Or, The Yankee Canadian Wireless Trail*** by Frank Honeywell (1922, 230 pp.) Also published showing J.W. Duffield as author. Interestingly, apparently only this one title has been widely issued in print-on-demand format.
3. ***Radio Boys in the Flying Service; Or, Held for Ransom by Mexican Bandits*** by J.W. Duffield (1922, 251 pp.)
4. ***Radio Boys Under the Sea; Or, The Hunt for the Sunken Treasure*** by J.W. Duffield (1923, 238 pp.)
5. ***Radio Boys Cronies; Or Bill Brown's Radio*** by Wayne Whipple and S. F. Aaron (1922, 238 pp.)
6. ***Radio Boys Loyalty; Or, Bill Brown Listens In*** by Wayne Whipple and S.F. Aaron (1922, 254 pp.)

45:

Tom Turner's Adventures with the Radio by St. George Rathbone
(Racine, WI: Whitman Publishing, 1924, 221 pp.)

45:

The Boy with the U.S. Radio by Francis Rolt-Wheeler (New York: Lathrop, Lee & Shepard, 1924, 331 pp., includes 65 photographs, plus another on the illustrated cover) is one of a 19-title "U. S. Service" series. Despite the use of photos, the text is a typical thriller story. The photos depict various scenes from the developing wireless industry.

45:

Tony D'Alton's Wireless by Arthur Russell [pseud. for Arthur Russell Goode] (London: The Boy's Own Paper Office, 1931, 184 pp., color frontispiece by C.P. Shilton) was published by a popular British boy's magazine of the time.

45:

Twenty-Six Radio Stories by Arthur Russell [pseud. for Arthur Russell Goode] (London: The Boy's Own Paper Office, 1931, 288 pp., illustrated by Vernon Soper) is from larger series of "Twenty-Six Library" of tales.

45:

Miss Minerva Broadcasts Billy by Emma Speed Sampson (Chicago: Reilly & Lee, 1925, 329 pp., illustrated by William Donahey) contains humorous--though now they would be seen as clearly racist--stories of the South featuring black characters and stereotypical dialogue. This is one of the "Miss Minerva" series.

45:

Wireless Watson by T. H. Scott (London: Frederick Warne, 1933, 256 pp., color frontispiece by "Cuneo")

45:

The Boy Scouts of the Signal Corps by Robert Shaler (New York: Hurst, 1914, 160 pp.) is the third of the "Premium Boy Scouts" series.

45:

The Boy Scout Signal; or, The Camp on the Cliff by Capt. V. T. Sherman (Chicago: M.A. Donohue, 1913,) has a dust wrapper showing two boys working a wireless device.

45:

Quiz Kids and the Crazy Question Mystery by Carl W. Smith (Racine, WI: Whitman Publishing, 1946. 248 pp., illustrations by Isobel Reed) is another book based on a then-popular network radio show. The three kids help foil a ring of jewel thieves.

45:

Fun in the Radio World by E. Boyd Smith (New York: Frederick Stokes, 1923, not paginated, with 12 colored prints by the author) appears to be fiction.

45:

Radio-Phone Boys Stories [Series] by Roy Judson Snell (Chicago: Reilly & Lee, 1922-38) has eight titles in what are sometimes called the **Curley Carson Stories**. Several volumes are shown as being authored by James Craig. In fact, *both* names are pseudonyms for Ray J. Smith.

1. **Curley Carson Listens In** (1922, 238 pp.; known to have been issued in both red and green cloth; only the latter refers to series title)

2. **On the Yukon Trail** (1922, 223 pp.)

3. **The Desert Patrol** (1923, 213 pp.)

4. **The Seagoing Tank** (1924, 264 pp.)

5. **The Flying Sub** (1925, 282 pp.)

6. **Dark Treasure** (1926, 221 pp.)

7. **Whispering Isles** (1927, 268 pp.)

8. **The Invisible Wall** (1928, 297 pp.)

45:

Signals From The Bay Tree by Henry S. Spaulding (New York: Benziger Brothers, 1921, 208 pp.) was by a prolific priest (1865-1934) who wrote a number of "wholesome Catholic" adventure novels for young people, most infused with the wonder and excitement of the outdoors and often involving hunting, camping, fishing, etc. Many took place in Kentucky, Wyoming, Nebraska, or Michigan. He also wrote some stories set in Florida, and this novel is one of them. Three boys take a camping trip in the unexplored regions of the Ten Thousand

Islands and the Everglades, where they have various exploits and thrills, including rattle snakes, bear attacks, and a search for a stolen treasure chest. The story is interspersed with bits of bird and nature lore.

45:

Radio Patrol [Series] by Eddie Sullivan and Charlie Schmidt (Racine, WI: Whitman Publishing, 1935-40) was another brief set of titles within the "BIG-LITTLE BOOKS" series (the numbers are those of the "big-little" larger series), these being based on a syndicated comic strip about police car officers:

1. **Radio Patrol** (1935, No. 1142, 425 pp.)
2. **Radio Patrol Trailing the Safeflowers** (1937, No. 1173, 425 pp.)
3. **Radio Patrol Outwitting the Gang Chief** (1939, No. 1496, 425 pp.)
4. **Radio Patrol and Big Dan's Mobsters** (1940, No. 1498, 425 pp.)

45:

Wireless Patrol [Series] by Lewis Edwin Theiss (Boston: W.A. Wilde, 1917-22, last two illustrated by Frank T. Merrill)

1. **The Wireless Patrol at Camp Brady** (1917, 300 pp.)
2. **The Secret Wireless; Or, The Spy Hunt of the Camp Brady Patrol** (1918, 310 pp.)
3. **The Hidden Aerial; Or, The Spy Line on the Mountain** (1919, 332 pp.)

45:

Young Wireless Operator [Series] by Lewis Edwin Theiss (Boston: W.A. Wilde, 1920-24 some titles contain photos; remainder are illustrated by Frank T. Merrill)

1. **The Young Wireless Operator--Afloat; Or, How Roy Mercer Won His Spurs In The Merchant Marine** (1920, 319 pp., photographs)
2. **The Young Wireless Operator--As A Fire Patrol; Or, The Story Of A Young Wireless Amateur Who Made Good As A Fire Patrol** (1921, 352 pp.)
3. **The Young Wireless Operator With The Oyster Fleet; Or, How Alex Cunningham Won His Way To The Top Of The Oyster Business** (1922, 282 pp.) takes place off the coast of New Jersey.
4. **The Young Wireless Operator With The U.S. Coast Guard** (1924, 313 pp., photographs)
5. **The Young Wireless Operator With The U.S. Secret Service; Or, Winning His Way In The Secret Service** (1923, 310 pp.)

45:

"Radio" [series lacks an overall title] by Walter A. Tompkins (first three by Philadelphia: Macrae Smith; last three originated with the American Radio Relay League [ARRL] and appeared as paperbacks) featured titles each including a radio signal abbreviation:

SOS at Midnight (1957, 223 pp.)

CQ Ghost Ship (1957, 191 pp.)

DX Brings Danger (1962, 207 pp.)

Death Valley QTH (ARRL, 1987, paper, 187 pp.)

Grand Canyon QSO (ARRL, paper, 192 pp.)

Murder by QRM (ARRL, 1988, paper, 164 pp.)

45:

Story of a Wireless Telegraph Boy by John Trowbridge (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1908, 390 pp.). See **XXXX** for background on the author.

45:

The Radio Detectives [Series] by A. [Alpheus] Hyatt Verrill (New York: Appleton, 1922) is by the author (1871-1954) of countless adventure stories and some non-fiction.

1. ***The Radio Detectives*** (253 pp.)

2. ***The Radio Detectives in the Jungle*** (243 pp.)

3. ***The Radio Detectives Southward Bound*** (273 pp.)

4. ***The Radio Detectives Under the Sea*** (283 pp.)

45:

The Boys of the Wireless; Or, A Stirring Rescue From the Deep by Frank V. Webster (New York: Cupples & Leon, 1912, 202 pp., illustrations) is the 19th in the "Books for Boys" series.

45:

The Motor Rangers' Wireless Station by Martin West [pseud. for John Henry Goldfrap] (New York: Hurst & Co., 1913, 300 pp.) is from a series with five other titles.

45:

The War of the Wireless Waves by Percy F. Westerman (London: Humphrey Milford/Oxford University Press, 1923, 287 pp., color frontispiece and four other illustrations by A. Pearce) is unusual given its university press publisher. But it is a boy's adventure story, based on the Great War.

45:

The Wireless Officer by Percy F. Westerman (London: Blackie & Son, Ltd., nd but 1927, 320 pp., four illustrations by W. Edward Wigfull) is an adventure story.

45:

Janet Hardy in Radio City by Ruth S. Wheeler (Chicago: Goldsmith Publishing,

1935, 252 pp.) is the second title in a larger series--Hardy and her friend Helen obtain jobs acting in and writing radio plays.

45:

Danny Dunn and the Homework Machine by Jay Williams and Raymond Abraskin (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1958, 133 pp.) includes some amateur radio operations in plot.

45:

Take It Away Sam! The Story of Sam Hubbard's Career in Radio by Paul Wing (New York: Dodd, Mead, 1938, 310 pp.)

45:

Station X by G. M. Windsor (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1919, 317 pp.)

45:

Cathy Leonard Calling by Catherine Woolley (New York: Wm. Morrow, 1960, 191 pp., illustrated by Elizabeth Dauber) Ten-year-old Cathy enjoys being society reporter for the local paper but soon finds out that her position leaves little time for homework or family activities. The story appears to include radio as well.

45:

The Golden Boys [Series] by L. P. [Levi Parker] Wyman (New York: A.L. Burt, 1923, illustrated) has an author identified as holding a Ph.D. and being "Dean of the Pennsylvania Military College." The six-volume series has two titles that are relevant:

1. ***The Golden Boys and Their New Electric Cell*** (203 pp.)
6. ***The Golden Boys Rescued by Radio*** (244 pp.)

C. Television

45:

Tom Swift [series] by Victor Appleton [pseud. for Howard Garis of the Stratemeyer syndicate] (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1910-1941)—see also **XXXXX**

Tom Swift and His Photo Telephone; Or, The Pictures that Saved a Fortune (1914, 216 pp.)

Tom Swift and His Television Detector; Or, Trailing the Secret Plotters (1933, 217 pp.)

45:

On the Air: A Story of Television by Jack Bechdolt (New York: Dutton, 1950, 192 pp.) is about teens who air a TV variety show of their own—back when that genre was a staple of network television.

45:

The Electronic Mind Reader by John Blaine (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1957, 214 pp.) deals with attempt to rig a big-money TV quiz show by use of radio-equipped hearing aid. At the time, the real quiz show rigging scandals were just breaking out.

45:

Paddington Takes to TV by Michael Bond (New York: Dell, 1977, 124 pp. , illustrated by Ivor Wood) was originally published in 1966 in Britain.

45:

The TV Kid by Betsy Byars (New York: Scholastic Books Services, 1976, 123 pp., reissued in London by Puffin Books, 1979, 109 pp.)

45:

Linda Goes to a TV Studio by Nancy Dudley (pseud. for Lois Dwight Cole) (New York: Coward-McCann, 1957, illustrations by "Sofia") is the fourth title in a series.

45:

The Grumpy Television by Lillian S. Freehof (New York: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1951, 31 pp., illustrated by Hal Bachemin) is a Hanukkah story.

45:

The Bobbsey Twins in a TV Mystery Story by Laura Lee Hope [pseud. for members of Edward Stratemeyer syndicate] (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1978, 199 pp.) See also part B of this list. Just a year later, after nearly eight decades with this publisher, the syndicate moved to a new publisher.

45:

A Career for Vicky by Wynn Kinkaid (New York: Golden Press, 1962, 185 pp.) traces Vicky Loring in a television newswriting career.

45:

Tee Vee Humphrey by John Lewellen (New York: Knopf, 1957, 146 pp.)

45:

Emergency! 10-33 on Channel 11 by Hilary Milton (New York: William Morrow, 1960) is the second in series of seven titles and concerns CB radio.

45:

The Triplets Try Television by Bertha Moore [pseud. for Bertha B. McCurry] (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1954) is from a larger series which began about 15 years earlier but is the only one with a relevant title.

