



## CHATHAM MARCONI MARITIME CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Chatham Marconi Maritime Center is to enrich the lives of children and adults in Chatham and surrounding communities through the preservation and appropriate use of the historic Marconi site in Chatham. The goals are to beautify and improve access to the property and to establish programs for all ages that will create job and training opportunities and emphasize historic traditions, education and recreation, especially Chatham's maritime history and its relationship to the 21st century.

## CMMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS and OFFICERS 2004 - 2005

### Honorary Director

Princess Elettra Marconi

### Officers

Roslyn B. Coleman, President  
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Frank Messina, 2nd Vice President  
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Walter Mason  
Lewis Masson  
Andrew Rigg  
Jim Watson

### Emeritus

William C. Ryder

## CHATHAM RADIO: WCC 1914-1993 THE UNTOLD STORY

The CMMC will launch the world premier of *The Untold Story of Chatham Radio: Wireless Cape Cod* at its first ever film festival. We are proud to introduce our historic

film made possible by the generosity of the Chatham Cultural Council, the Edward Bangs Kelley & Elsa Kelley Foundation, Inc., the Cape Cod Five Charitable Foundation Trust and gifts from individuals. Chris Seufert of Mooncusser Films worked closely with Barbara Cotnam and Dick Kraycir to write and film this story. Walter Cronkite narrates the story. [See story on page 2.]

Plan to bring your family to enjoy the premier of *The Untold Story* and the CMMC Film Festival. There will also be a Kite Flying Demonstration by Cub and Boy Scouts with Dr. Gravity's Kite & Toy Shop.

**When:** Saturday, April 30, 2005 from 2:00 - 4:00 [see flyer for film times]

**Where:** Chatham High School Auditorium, 425 Crowell Road.

VISIT CMMC'S NEW WEBSITE: [www.ChathamMarconi.org](http://www.ChathamMarconi.org)  
for more details on the Film Festival and other CMMC-related events.

## CMMC TEAMS CATALOGUE 74 ARTIFACTS

AT WORK DAY ON MARCH 10TH



Bill Ryder, former engineer in charge of the South Chatham Transmitting Station, and Bill Farris, the last manager of Chatham's RCA Global Communication's Ship-to-Shore Radio Station, explained how original artifacts were used while Ed Moxon recorded their comments. Other teams cataloged some 74 artifacts on March 10, 2005. Dick Lumpkin kept the central record book, Lewis Masson and Roz Coleman photographed artifacts, while Bob Ryder, Fred Peach, and Frank Konecnik identified newly donated radio equipment. John Cotnam, Len and Betty Magnusson, and Parker Wiseman carried and recorded artifact information.

CMMC's collection of vintage wireless radio artifacts, now well over 200 items, will be central to the interactive communication science center envisioned for the Marconi Operations Building.



## CMMC'S NEW FILM OPENS ON APRIL 30, 2005

By Barbara Cotnam

### The Chatham Marconi-RCA Wireless Receiving Station

Chatham Marconi Maritime Center volunteers are committed to educating the public about the WCC Receiving Station which was the premier marine-radio station in this hemisphere for most of the 20th Century.

The Chatham site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its significance in architecture and communications at the local, state and national level. It may well be the only Marconi built wireless station in the world that remains virtually as it was when constructed by the J.G. White Engineering Corporation of New York in 1914.

The station became the first exclusively marine and air traffic communications station in early 1920 and remained the busiest commercial station in the RCA system for seventy years. The station participated in many notable events, e.g., Richard Byrd expeditions to the South Pole, the 'Graf Zeppelin', Anne and Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, Howard Hughes and SOS rescues at sea.

Chatham Marconi Maritime Center volunteers are working with the Town of Chatham to preserve this unique site and to establish a Marconi Education Museum in the Operations Building. Offering the public interactive displays of 'WCC' history and programs in coastal science and maritime traditions. CMMC has received funds from the Chatham Cultural Council, the Edward Bangs Kelley and Elza Kelley Foundation, Inc. and the Cape Cod Five Cents Saving Bank Charitable Foundation Trust.

Join the growing number of people who visualize a renovated 'WCC Operations Building' and Museum for the 21st Century. You support our efforts by becoming a member of Chatham Marconi Maritime Center.

'Preserve the Irreplaceable'



From left to right: Chris Seufert, Lewis Masson, Walter Cronkite, Barbara Cotnam, and Greg Metzner

### WALTER CRONKITE ADDS VOICE TO CMMC FILM



On Thursday, February 10, 2005, CMMC board members, Barbara Cotnam, Lewis Masson, Mooncusser film maker, Chis Seuffer and photographer Greg Metzner traveled to Walter Cronkite's CBS Studio in New York City to record the narration for the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center film, WCC Chatham Radio: The Untold Story.

Barbara Cotnam writes, "How fabulous, I'm still on cloud nine! What a wonderful experience and great day it was. Naturally we have a great narration for our video! Walter is charming, genteel and everything you would expect from a living icon and the most respected and revered journalist of the 20th century."



Not to anyone's surprise, Walter Cronkite made the recording in one take.

Photos by Greg Metzner



Photo by Roz Coleman, 2003

The Marion Station in Marion, MA, was the sister station and transmitting site for Chatham Radio: WCC. The "Hotel" (pictured above) still stands on Marconi Lane, but the significance of that street name has been lost on the neighborhood of former Marconi buildings.

## CHATHAM MARCONI CAMPUS UNCHANGED AFTER NEARLY 100 YEARS

When you drive by the Chatham Marconi campus on Orleans Road in Chatham, you are in a 1914 time warp. The brick buildings on your right and left are nearly exactly as they were when the J. G. White Engineering Company built them for the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America. In just nine years, 2014, this beautiful Chatham landmark will be one hundred years old.

Guglielmo Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company of America expanded between 1912 -1915 by building at least four, nearly identical pairs of transmitting and receiving stations. They were designed by the James Gilbert White Company. The pairs we know about were located in California, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Hawaii. In California, Marshall was the receiving station and Bolinas the transmitting station. In Massachusetts, Chatham was the receiving station and Marion the transmitting station. In New Jersey, Belmar was the receiving station and the New Brunswick the transmitting station. In Hawaii, Koko Head, Oahu I. Was the receiving station and Kahuku, Oahu I. Was the transmitting station.

In Belmar, New Jersey, a group of volunteers has been working with the township to place this site on the National Register of Historic Places and to qualify to receive it from the federal government since 1993.

The Belmar Station Marconi group will receive its lease for all the buildings from the Wall Township in April 2005, but they are already using the historic Marconi buildings. Their project is called Information Age. Their sister station at New Brunswick, New Jersey was torn down in July of 2000. Their website has over 800 pages and links. website: <http://www.infoage.org/home.html>

Chatham has the opportunity to keep its Marconi Landmark as the only remaining Marconi Campus which is essentially unchanged after nearly one hundred years. CMMC wants to assist the Town of Chatham in preserving its important architectural and communication history.



Circa 1922 photo of the Marconi Campus "hotel" or dormitory for single employees with its original red tile roof.

## MARINE & COMMUNICATION HISTORY AND SCIENCE OFFERED AT FILM FESTIVAL

Marconi's wireless ended isolation at sea. CMMC's film festival brings together maritime wireless history, communication science, seamanship and fisheries research.

**CMMC Speaker's Bureau** is now scheduling dates for your organization to see the 14-minute Chatham Radio: The Untold Story. Roz Coleman: 508-945-1985 or [RozColeman@comcast.net](mailto:RozColeman@comcast.net).

**Chatham Radio WCC:** CMMC with Bose Radio In Harmony with Education plans a sound and radio waves fieldtrip in November 05 at the Chatham United Methodist Church. Teachers contact Barbara S. Waters 508-945-3631 or [bwaters14@verizon.net](mailto:bwaters14@verizon.net).

**Pleasant Bay Community Boating PBCB:** Learn to sail at Jackknife Harbor on Pleasant Bay and learn to row on Long Pond in Harwich. To register, visit PBCB website at [www.pccb.cc](http://www.pccb.cc).

**Cape Challenge Sea Scouts:** Learn to sail, row, and navigate a 38 foot wooden boat called a Bantrey Bay gig in Nantucket Sound between Chatham and Hyannis. Coed, age 14 to 25. Call Lee Scarbrough, Director at (508) 432-8023.

**Cape Cod's Maritime Traditions Inc. (CCMT)** teaches traditional boat building, restoration and maintenance and offers a traditional sailing vessel as a classroom to teach seamanship, navigation, and respect for coastal ecosystems to compliment the experiences offered by PBCB and Cape Challenge. [ccmt@verizon.net](mailto:ccmt@verizon.net) or P.O. Box 262, Chatham, MA 02633

**Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen:** Fishermen working to protect the ocean bring fisheries awareness to students and the community. Contact Melissa Sanderson 508-945-2432 or [www.ccchfa.org](http://www.ccchfa.org)

# J. G. WHITE'S BRASS PLAQUE

## MADE FOR MARCONI STATIONS, VIEWED IN BELMAR



CMMC members got a treat when they saw an exact copy of Chatham's missing brass plaque during their visit to the Belmar, New Jersey Marconi Station on March 19th. Fred Carl, station curator, promised to supply a plaster casting to make another plaque for Chatham Radio.

While Chatham Radio was used exclusively

as a ship to shore station, Belmar was a World War II testing site for secret weapons such as radar and proximity fuses. Their Information Age website [www.infoage.org](http://www.infoage.org) describes the exciting science center being planned at Belmar. The two managers cottages are now in use and restoration of the hotel is under way.



Above, visitors see what is left of Belmar Operations building after a fire.

From left to right: Dick Kraycir, Don Gagne, Betty Magnusson, Bill Coleman, Fred Carl, Vern Brownell, and Len Magnusson. Roz Coleman, photographer

### SAVE-THE-DATES!

#### CMMC MEETINGS

1st and 3rd Wednesdays  
Chatham Methodist Church at 3:00 pm

#### INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY

Special Events Radio, Saturday April 23  
Details TBA

#### CMMC FILM FESTIVAL

Saturday April 30, 2:00 to 4:00 pm  
Chatham High School Auditorium

#### CHARTER MEMBERSHIP

Mail to Treasurer, P.O. Box 294,  
North Chatham, MA 02650  
Student=\$10, Adult=\$25, Family=\$40  
Supporting=\$100, Patron=\$250,  
Benefactor=\$500, or Other.  
To join or make a donation using your  
credit card, please visit our website.  
Your Contribution is tax deductible.

#### CONTACT CMMC

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Web: [www.ChathamMarconi.org](http://www.ChathamMarconi.org)



THE CMMC MARCONIGRAM

CHATHAM MARCONI MARITIME CENTER, INC.

P.O. Box 294, NORTH CHATHAM, MA 02650