

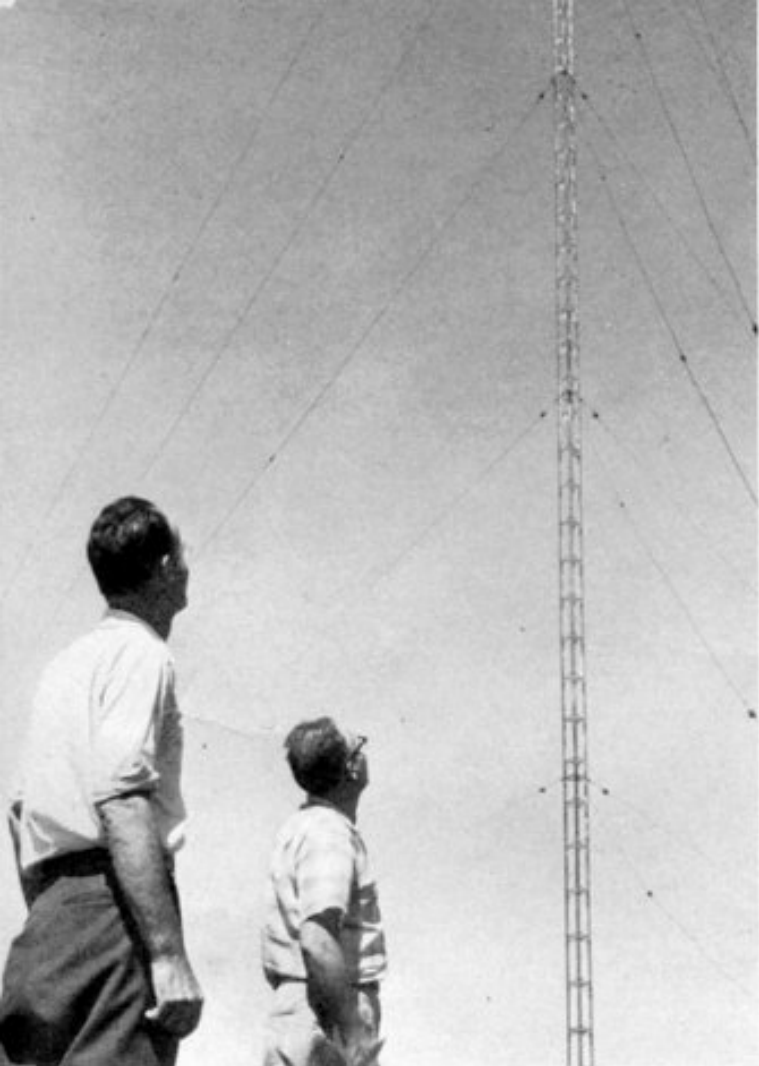


THE INTERLAKE

LOG



JULY 1958



■ Ray Gerbrand and Carroll Peabody check for any flaws in the lines to one of the transmitter towers.

■ "Ship to shore" calls up to 500 or more per day can be handled by the operators at Station WMI. Seated behind the switchboards from left to right are: Carol Hazelwood, operator; Raymond Gerbrand, chief operator; Dick Ross, radio operator; and Dorothy Rhone, operator. Carroll Peabody, service engineer, is seated in the background.

24 HOURS

"WMI Lorain with a call to all ships. 'Laweb' bulletin will be broadcast on channels ten, thirty-nine, and sixty. — This is WMI Lorain with 'Laweb' bulletin. The correct time is two minutes past twelve noon, eastern standard time. Land stations—Oswego Harbor, west twenty-nine, Rochester Harbor, north fifteen—."

These are familiar words to the men who navigate Great Lakes vessels. Four times a day The Lorain County Radio Corporation broadcasts the Great Lakes Weather Bulletin ("Laweb") and four times a day



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A DAY SHIP TO SHORE RADIO FACILITIES ARE AT WORK

they broadcast the Lakes Weather Forecast ("Lafot"). Navigation officers, with special weather sheets before them, jot down the information passed on by Lorain—"Cleveland, east forty-three". A typical reaction in the pilot house may be "There is a forty-three mile-per-hour crosswind at Cleveland tonight. Guess the Cap will want to take her in the east breakwater—."

This is only one of the many services of Lorain Radio to vessels on the Great Lakes to help provide for more efficient and safer sailing. Besides

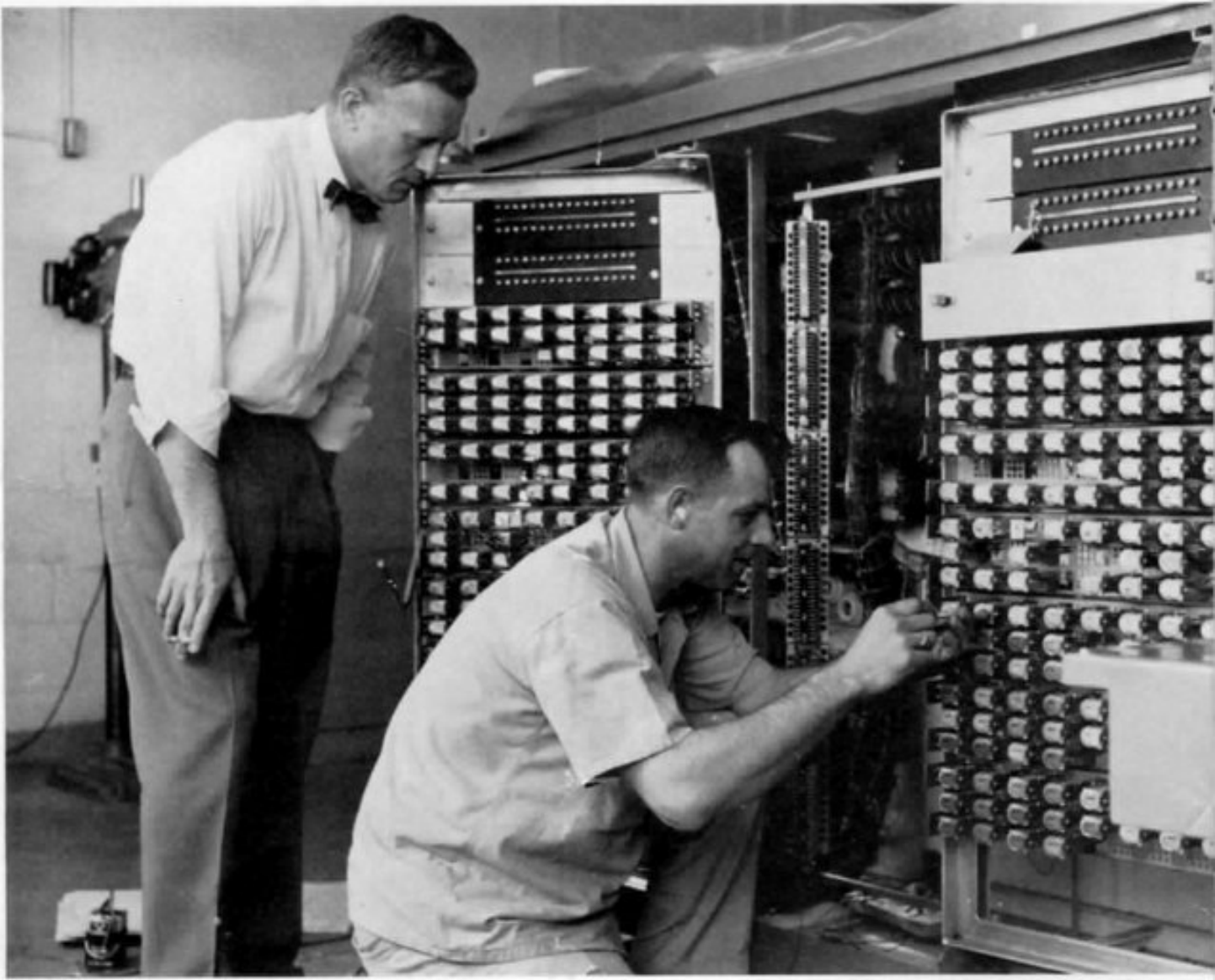
maintaining a complete weather reporting service to all ships, it acts as a location report agency to the companies. From four to six a.m. every morning, the ships en route call in their position to Lorain. By eight a.m. the reports are sorted out by fleet, gathered together on master lists, and sent to the respective companies. This service provides valuable assistance to fleet dispatchers and docks in arranging the movement of vessels in and out of port and to keep track of cargo movements on the Lakes. However, one of the chief



■ Bob Carver is shown here wiring a remote control unit in the company's downtown factory. This piece of equipment is slated for the famous Coast Guard Cutter, Mackinaw.



■ Carroll Peabody services equipment aboard ships while in Lake Erie ports upon call from headquarters. He receives many of his assignments over the radio which is installed in the company car.



■ Frank Bako, assembly testman, checks some complicated wire work while Ray Cox, factory manager, looks on.



functions of Lorain Radio is to provide "ship to shore" radio telephone service for the ships and the companies. Today a company official can call the captain of any ship at any time of the day. Also if the need arises, a crewmember may call his home or vice-versa. For instance, many a crewmember has been informed via Lorain Radio that, "wife and child are doing fine" upon the event of fatherhood.

■ Raymond Gerbrand, chief operator, makes an adjustment on one of the transmitter panels. The loudspeakers above him are each tuned to a different channel and are in use whenever an operator removes his headphone.

Founded in 1935 by H.E. Hageman, president of The Lorain Telephone Company, The Lorain County Radio Corporation now serves 80-90% of all the cargo ships on the Great Lakes. The main station, WMI, is located on an open field two miles west of Lorain, Ohio. Equipment includes five transmitters plus a spare, direct telephone lines to all major centers of the U. S., an emergency power generator unit, and many other units of equipment necessary to maintain complete radio telephone facilities. Inside the small brick building a staff of from three to six people man the switchboards and radio panels twenty-four hours a day. They can handle up to 500 calls per day in addition to their regular weather and location reports. Besides WMI, Lorain Radio has three other transmitting stations, WAS at Duluth, Minnesota, WAD at Port Washington, Wisconsin (on Lake Michigan), and a VHF

transmitting station at Geneva, Ohio. Also in every major port, a specially trained man is available to service any Lorain Radio equipment aboard the vessels.

The company has a small factory and a research center in downtown Lorain where VHF and AM radio telephone equipment and miscellaneous units are assembled and tested prior to installation on the vessels. Also automobile, airplane and yacht radio equipment is constructed in this plant.

Through modern transportation and communication facilities, this world of ours has "been placed at our feet". Interlake Steamship has helped to put the ore mines in the "backyards" of the steel mills. By the same token, Lorain Radio has helped to place the far off ships on the desks of officials and in the homes of the men who sail them.



■ Located two miles west of Lorain, Ohio, in an open field, this inconspicuous building is a beehive of activity all year round. Even during the slow winter months, staff members are busy servicing equipment to keep it in tip-top shape.