



Hiram Percy Maxim *W1AW* 1869-1936 - The Old Chief would be pleasantly surprised that his early 20's QSL card would fetch \$2125 in an auction the year of 2002. Previously a card AC4YN brought a sum of \$1100 dollars.

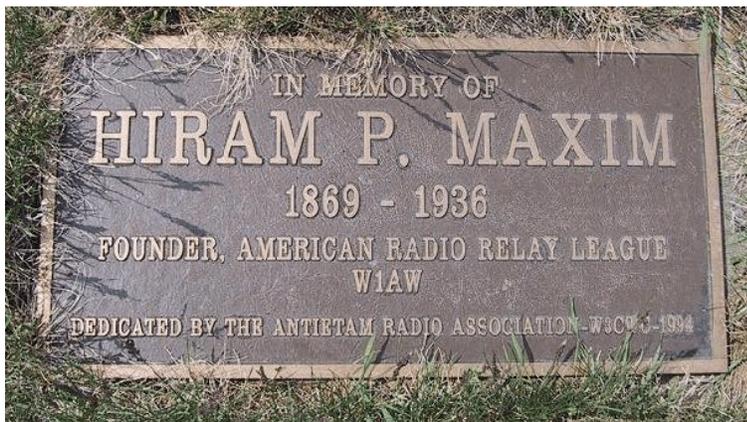
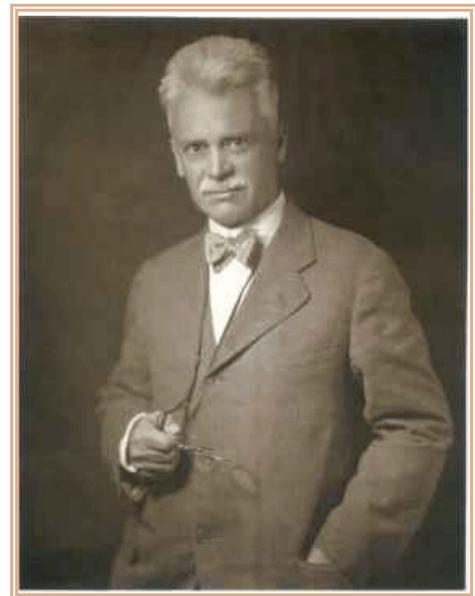
Maxim was journeying with his wife (the daughter of former Governor of Maryland Alexander T. Hamilton) to the southwest on a vacation when he contracted a throat infection. Despite treatment between trains in Kansas City he became worse and at LaJunta Colorado, he was removed from the train dangerously ill and put in a hospital there. Despite every modern medical aid, despite two days of encouraging progress, the grand old fellow who gave us birth passed on to join his fathers, on February 17th 1936. He was 66 years old.

H. P. Maxim W1AW was a mechanical engineering graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Co founder of the American Radio Relay League. His rotary spark gap transmitter “Old Betsy” has a place of honor at the ARRL Headquarters.

Maxim tinkered with internal combustion engines before contacting the Pope Manufacturing Co. About the possibility of manufacturing a gasoline power automobile. Albert Augustus Pope hired Maxim to run his Motor Vehicle Division. In 1899, with Maxim at the controls, the Pope Columbia a gasoline powered automobile, won the first closed circuit automobile race in the US at Branford, CT. Columbia later began manufacturing an electric automobile. Maxim recounted his days as an automobile pioneer in his book “Horseless Carriage Days.”

Maxim is also noted as the inventor of the Maxim Silencer or suppressor for firearms patented in 1909 as well as a silencer or muffler for gasoline engines. His father Sir Hiram S. Maxim, was inventor of the Maxim Machine gun.

H. P. Maxim created the ARRL in 1914 with 1AY Clarence Tuska, a college student in May of 1914. They saw a need to build up an organized group of relay stations to pass messages via amateur radio. This allowed messages to pass further than any particular station of the time could reach.



“The Old Man”