

Gray Frierson Haertig, "Dr. Radio", is principal of Gray Frierson Haertig and Assoc., an engineering firm specializing in the needs of community and public radio stations.

Mr. Haertig was born at sea, just off the Firth of Forth, to a frigid Phrygian mother and an Italian cessbarge captain.

He started his career in radio apprenticing himself to James Clerk Maxwell, where he developed a number of equations which have proved to be of enduring interest in the radio field.

He then did a brief stint as manager of Leyden jars for Heinrich Hertz, where an experiment in origami with clothes hangers, led to fortuitous developments.

Finding that Hertz lacked any creditable scientific spark, he left his employ and entered into an unnatural relationship with Oliver Heaviside and a Leicester Longwool Sheep by the name of Belle. No lambs resulted from this union. It was at this time that Mr. Haertig's interest in chickens arose, and he was instrumental in the development a new commercial breed called the Heaviside Layer.

Fleeing England, mere steps ahead of an enraged ram, Mr. Haertig fetched up in Hungary, where, during a brief period as a dealer of psychotomimetic drugs in Buda-Pesht, he was fortunate enough to meet Niccola Tesla. It was a particularly fine example of Owsley Blotter, which Mr. Haertig provided, that led to Tesla's vision of rotating magnetic fields, thus saving the world from DC power.

Finding the Old World far too conservative and unreceptive to his modern ways, he sailed for the New aboard the Titanic, where he garnered a temporary berth as ship's radioman. It was while passing emergency traffic and considerable gas that he befriended a young radio operator working for the Marconi cartel by the name of Sarnoff. He suggested to Sarnoff that the road to riches in the up-and-coming radio industry was through a vigorous campaign of patent infringement.

After brief and unrewarding stints with Crosley and Farnsworth ("Dammit, it's just radio for people with no imagination!") and

seeking respite from the "professionals" in his life, Mr. Haertig found steady, if ungainful, employment with Edwin Howard ("The Major") Armstrong, having confused him with Major Bowes. He is famous for having said to Armstrong, "There is just as much screeching in your damned lab as on the REAL Major's Amateur Hour. You'd think somebody as bright as you could figure out something to do with all that heterodyning!"

However, it was a telephone call with The Major over a particularly bad phone line in which he misunderstood The Major's request that he display some "Decency and Moderation" in his life, that led to Mr. Haertig's greatest invention. Frequency Modulation has proved to be just as durable as he feared. "60 years from now people will be sitting around on Saturday afternoons listening to some damned git from Minnesota prove that he can't sing!"

In his twilight years he invented the internet, though, for political reasons, this is commonly attributed to Al Gore.

Mr. Haertig lives in the Boardman Swamp where he raises exotic chickens and hell, in equal measure, and gets a hell of a kick out of writing about himself in the third person.