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SUNDAY, MAY 22, 1960

One Hundred Years Of Communications

Yesterday at Ft. Huachuca, the home of the U. S. Army Electronics Proving Ground, the Signal Corps celebrated its 100th birthday in conjunction with Armed Forces Day.

It was fitting that this should happen at Ft. Huachuca, because the old fort, which has served the nation since it was built in 1877, has seen the use of practically every means of signalling known to the Army, and to the Indians themselves.

From smoke signals, wig-wag flags, the semaphore, the heliograph, the Morse wire, the field telephone, radio, television and radar, the Signal Corps now moves on to space satellites and their uses for speeding up world-wide communications.

Nor has progress been only in the military fields. The work of the Army communications men had much to do with the early growth of the West. For in many instances the only means of getting important messages from one point to another was the military wire, maintained by constant patrols, operating under extremely hazardous conditions.

In fact, it was Will C. Barnes, a famous Arizona pioneer, who as a young member of the Signal Corps won the first Congressional Medal of Honor ever awarded to the corps for his work in this area. Barnes came to Arizona as a Signal Corps private. He lived to learn to love his state and to bring honor to it through his various achievements. At the time of his death he had retired as chief forester of the U. S. Forest Service.

But it is interesting to note that the Signal Corps, which was organized in

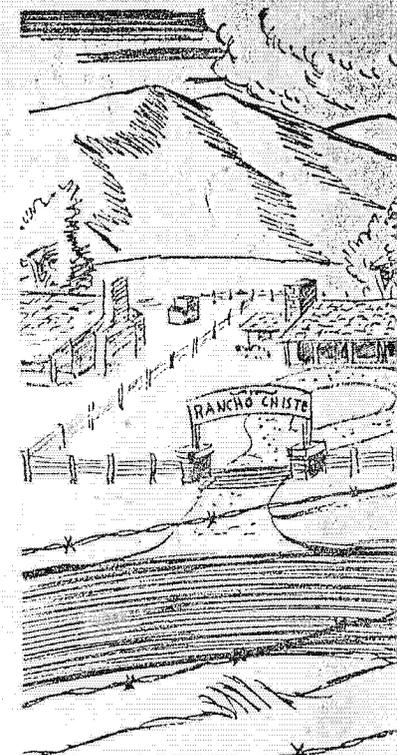
June, 1860, was the outgrowth of an idea of a doctor, not a technical man. Maj. Albert J. Meyer, a military surgeon with a desire to help the deaf find some method of communication, designed the first wig-wag system of signals, which he then applied to military use. He used flags by day and torches by night, waving them in a code system which was read by the use of telescopes between stations. The system came into wide use during the War Between the States, and Major Meyer was appointed the first Signal Officer of the U. S. Army.

The history of communications between that day and the present electronic devices being tested at the Ft. Huachuca proving grounds is one far more dramatic than any fiction could be.

Drone planes, without pilots, today carry the eyes of the Signal Corps, and the advances in avionics, communications between aircraft and the first "talking satellite," which relayed voices and teletypewriter messages from outer space—all will have their part in improving civilian travel and communications as well as military.

From the old wig-wag flags designed by Major Meyer the Corps has advanced to the lightning-swift electronics, computer-controlled, which operate faster than the human mind. It has been an amazing hundred years—but from the looks of the material at the proving grounds, the greatest changes are yet to come.

Salute to the U. S. Signal Corps as it moves into the future!



A RANCH WAS ONCE A P
WAS RAISED, IN QUANT
AND OFTEN IT INCLUD
THE LAND A MAN COU
NOW, "RANCHO THIS" AN
ARE HUDDLED THROA
ON LITTLE SKIMPY DAI
THAT WOULDN'T FEE

Adlai Answers .

WASHINGTON.—Adlai Stevenson be
a darkened closet with a bunch of us
And this was only the halfway mark
the strangest running interviews ever
Capitol Hill.

It ran all the way from a hearing
the fifth floor of the new Senate Build
far corner on the sixth floor.

The twice-top man on the Democr
pole wasn't trying to run away from u
looking for his hat. We were look
story—and I think we got it.

The reporters itched to talk to t
available former governor of Illinois
first spotted him through an open d
anteroom off the communications sub
hearing room.

He sipped black coffee leisurely an
bright-green cup. And then he stro
lights and cameras to testify for 95'n
why Presidential candidates shuld h
time, free, on the TV networks.

The swelling crowd listened intent
little man with the long, rambling
though they were listening to the next

How A Famous Novel Got Published