



MARCONIGRAM

Connecting the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center Community

November 5 in Wireless History...

"America could not wait"



Owen D. Young

On November 5, 1921, RCA Chairman Owen D. Young spoke those words in an address delivered at the dedication of Radio Central, the great long distance station newly constructed at Rocky Point, on Long Island.

Less than two years had elapsed since the stockholders of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America agreed to sell to the fledgling Radio Corporation of America on November 20, 1919. In that short span, RCA had accomplished much, including the concept and construction of *Radio Central*, to consolidate America's global radio connections.

In his remarks, Young spoke of the achievements of the Radio Corporation and the effort to "mobilize the...technical resources of America."

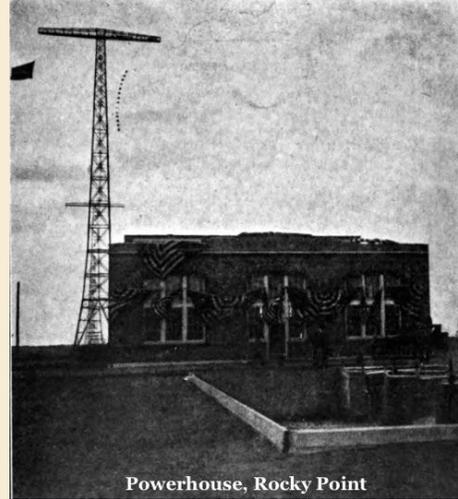
During 1920 and 1921, at the urging of Navy Commander S.C. Hooper, RCA had forged some remarkable alliances, whereby:

"...the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the Western Electric Company, the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, the United Fruit Company, and the General Electric Company, joined not only all the inventions which they then had, but undertook for twenty years to come, in the radio field, to turn their inventions in to the Radio Corporation of America, in order that America might quickly develop the best radio communication in the world."

Young continued:

"Our new art heretofore has been suspended in its development by patent litigation by energetic claims of engineers, by the great

*clash of large concerns and **America could not wait** for the duplication of the history of the Telephone Company, or the duplication of the electrical industry. She could not wait ten years while her people were fighting, because the communications of the world were at stake, and America's position in those communications was, at stake."*



Powerhouse, Rocky Point

The cross-licensing agreements signed during those two years serve as a prime example of corporate enlightened self-interest. Those behind-the-scenes efforts would prove to show very visible results.

Meanwhile, the consolidation of long-distance radio symbolized by Rocky Point was at first perceived as casting Chatham adrift, to serve no further purpose. But the 1921 inauguration of ship-to-shore service celebrated this year, employing the fruits of mobilized American technology, would soon secure Chatham's position as "The World's Greatest Coastal Station."

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C **CHATHAM MARITIME RADIO**

SHIP TO SHORE SHORE TO SHIP

LAUNCHED 100 YEARS AGO 1921

"The World's Greatest Coastal Station"

Click below to read Young's full address.

[READ THE FULL ADDRESS](#)

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Founded in 2002, Chatham Marconi Maritime Center is a 501(c)(3) organization that celebrates the rich history of 20th Century maritime radio and explores the innovative advances in science and

WEBSITE

technology that continue to transform our lives.