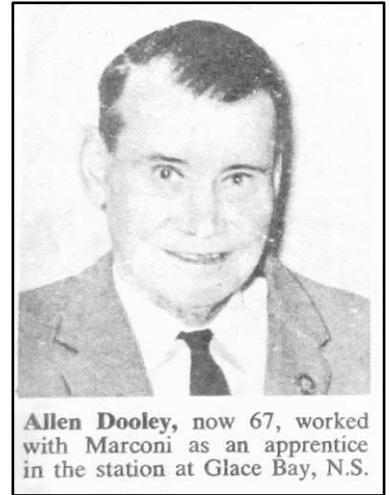


Said Marconi, "You Are Disrespectful!"

This story was provided by Steve O'Grady, nephew of Alexander Dooley, Marconi's pioneer employee of 53 years. Steve is the gentleman from Nova Scotia who donated the DeForest radio (Now in the Ham Radio Room) used by Marconi at the transmitting-receiving station at Glace Bay, NS.



On Dec. 12, 1901, Guglielmo Marconi astounded the world by receiving a wireless signal (The letter "S" in Morse code . . .) 1,800 miles from Cornwall, England.

Marconi's assistant Allen Dooley tells the story.

"At the age of 13, I went to work in the machine shop where Marconi, or 'G.M.', as we called him, spent much of his time making parts for the station," Dooley recalls. "When experimenting got him down, he used to say, 'Come on Dooley, let's go fishing.'"

One day, Dooley was told to help fill a large battery with sulfuric acid. "Metal pails were useless," he says. "The acid would eat right through them. So, we borrowed China basins and pitchers from the neighbors. Pouring the acid into the cells was difficult to do without spilling or splashing it, but Marconi, always being one of the boys, worked right along with us. We finished the job late that night.

"The next morning, Marconi was at work on the bench behind mine when I heard him say, 'Dooley, you are disrespectful' I turned, looked down to where he was pointing and found no seat in my trousers.

"I looked at the inventor, who was laughing very hard and said, 'G.M., you are disrespectful too!' He stopped abruptly and looked down. He had no seat in his trousers either and his whole outfit was beginning to fall apart. Acid from the previous night had destroyed the fibers of our clothes and as we are moving around the motion was breaking up the fibers."

Said Marconi to his helper, "Dooley run down to my house and get me some clothes."

Leland L. Hite - September 2022

Source: [Weekend Magazine](#), London, Canada, "Three Dots That changed The World," Vol 11, No 49, 1961