

W7AOF — Mrs. A. S. Moody — Killed

Contact With High-Voltage Plate Lead Takes Life of Well Known Amateur

● The "night network"—that world-wide cobweb of ham stations—always interesting, always colorful, always dramatic—experienced a ripple of tragic horror early this month when one of its beloved figures, W7AOF, Mrs. A. Skene Moody, 47, of Portland, Oregon, was electrocuted at the controls of her transmitter.

There have been electrocutions before and always they have brought shock to the entire fraternity. It is so easy to reach out where 3,000 to 5,000 volts races through the copper bird-cages and sign "30" to the sunshine of life. It is all the more tragic when the thing is done accidentally and the eternal



● The illustrations show Mrs. A. S. Moody, W7AOF, of Portland, Oregon, and her receiving and transmitting equipment. A separate relay rack, not shown in the photos, was used for holding the high-voltage power equipment with which

she came in contact, causing her death.



darkness drops its sable wings unexpectedly.

Mrs. Moody was a familiar personality on the air. A licensed radio operator, she had a station that used the world for a playground. What gave her position in radio a double interest was that she was the mother of two radio operators—one in Berkeley and the other in New York with which she chatted daily over her transmitter.

William Moody, the oldest son, lives at Schenectady, N. Y., Alfred Moody, the youngest, is a student at the University of California. Both boys have radio transmitters. The three-way contact was the chief joy of Mrs. Moody's life. All other skeds gave way before it. When she had "spoken" her pals, she took what time was left to chat with other hams in other parts of the world in the pathos of the profession.

On the fatal night Mrs. Moody was working station VE2FQ, Sydney Walker, in Montreal, Canada, on CW. She worked with an eye on the clock for she had a schedule with her son, Alfred—one she never missed. She must have keyed her amplifier with one eye on the clock for suddenly she "broke" Walker.

"QRX fr min", she said, "while I switch to fone . . ."

Walker assumed she was having some trouble with her set. He stood by for half an hour, but she never returned. Down in Berkeley, Alfred Moody stood by, waiting for the call from his mother that never came. He called her several times. There was no answer. There was a reason—the best reason in the world. W7AOF was dead.

Reconstructing the accident afterward it appeared that Mrs. Moody had taken hold of an uninsulated clip lead in the modulator unit to remove a wire shorting the secondary of the class B modulation transformer which

was used when the station was working CW. Her heel was on the ground wire which ran along the floor at this point so that she received the full impact of 3200 volts between hand and heel. Death came mercifully quick.

Signe Maki, a maid in Mrs. Moody's home, found her body in the upstairs room of her home, 3433 Northeast Davis street, when she went to take the morning mail to her mistress. This was about 11 o'clock. Doctors and ambulances came then but nothing could be done. It was then that the sad word of what had happened was sent to the two grief-stricken sons.

Mrs. Moody's passing leaves a hole in West Coast amateur radio. Her voice was well known to hundreds of fone operators who liked to "kid" with her over the air. Her interest in radio began when she became a student at the Oregon Institute of Technology in order to obtain a license and communicate with her sons. In 1932 she won her coveted "ticket"—an amateur license. Recently she passed the Federal requirements for the special privilege "class A" license.

Mrs. Moody was born in Auburn, Calif., and moved to Portland in 1910, a year after her marriage. She was a member of the Town Club and a director of the Girl Scouts. Her husband and the two sons survive. Her friends on the air were legion and her log book was filled with QSOs from every part of the globe.

A short time before her death Mrs. Moody was talking with a station at Belton, Mo. This and the Canadian contact serve to fix the time of her death, although she lay beside her dead transmitter for several hours before she was found.

So with sorrow and deepest regret we, of the ham fraternity, list among the "silent keys" that of Mrs. A. Skene Moody of W7AOF.

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Mother Dies Talking To Son On Short Wave Radio

BERKELEY, Calif., Oct. 5. —

(AP)—Alfred Moody, senior student in engineering at the University of California, and his mother, Mrs. A. Sken Moody, of Portland, Ore., are amateur short wave radio enthusiasts.

Nightly they held conversations between Moody's fraternity house here and his mother's home in Portland.

They used sets Alfred's brother, William, engineer with the General Electric Co., constructed for them.

Every night after dinner the mother and her son would converse.

Friday night Alfred tuned in on his mother's wavelength.

"Hello, Hello, how are you mother?"

"Very well, son, how are—", Mrs. Moody responded. Then with a burst of static her radio went dead. Alfred tried to raise her station again, but to no avail.

Saturday, he was enroute to Portland to attend her funeral. She became entangled with live wires and died while he listened.