



# RAG CHEW

GLOUCESTER AMATEUR RADIO AND ELECTONICS SOCIETY

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Your ideas, information, projects, old stories, jokes or cartoons, trips, interests or hobbies.

## Who Was Loren Windom?

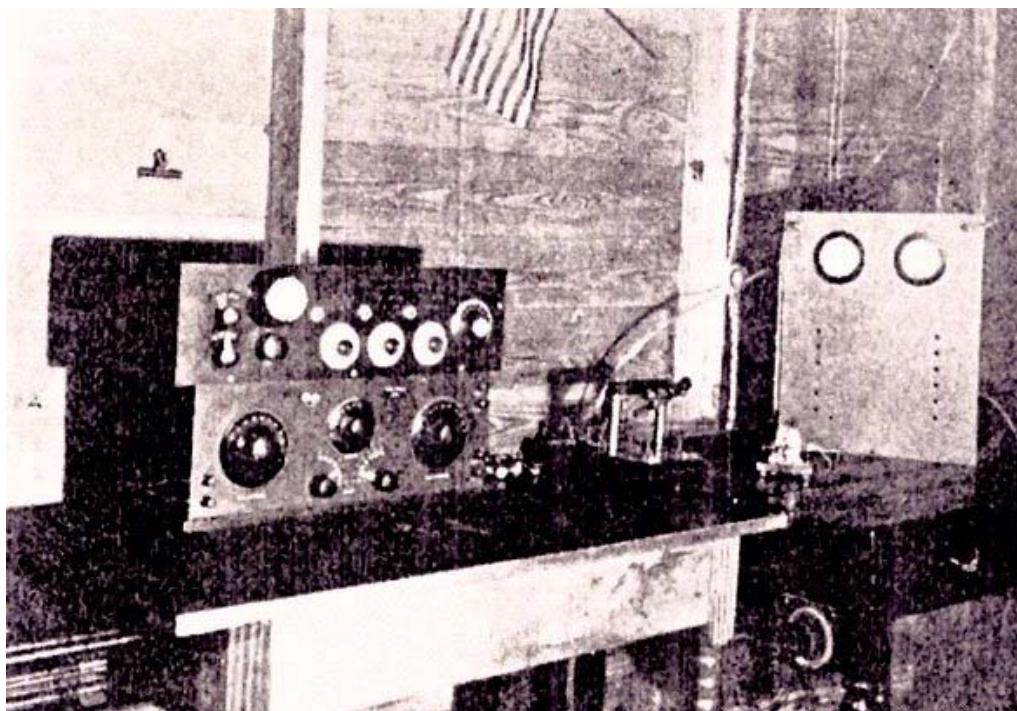
By Tom G3XMM

The obvious answer is “The inventor of the Windom antenna.” But although there is a grain of truth in this it is not the whole story. In the mid 1920’s Windom was a law student at Ohio State University and an enthusiastic radio amateur.

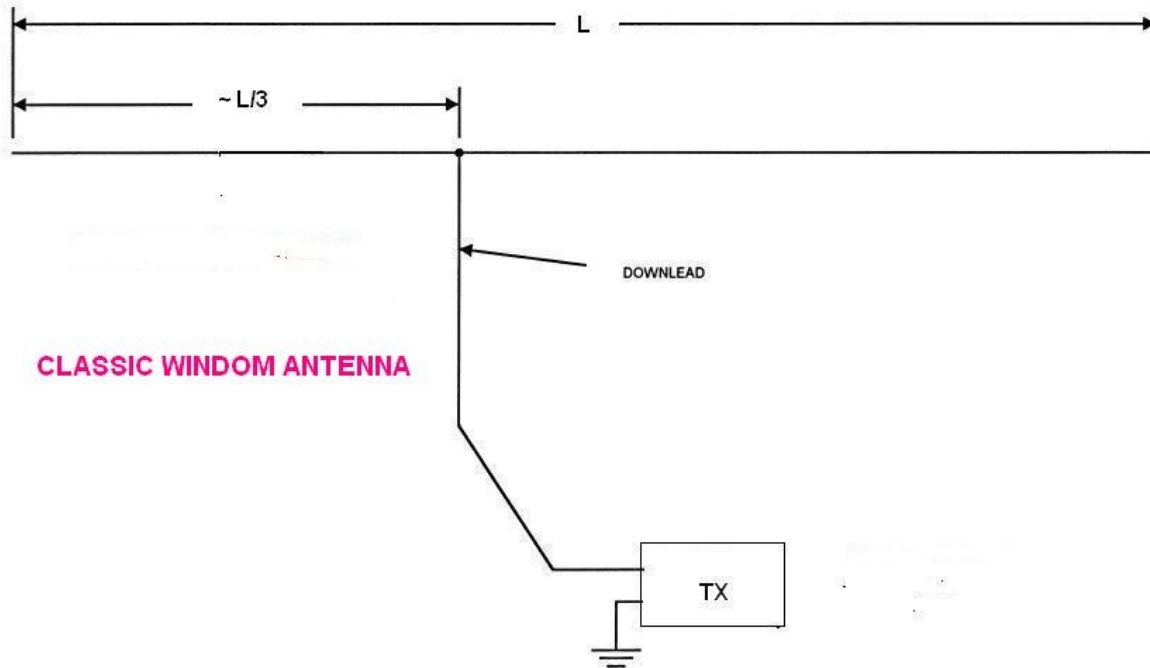
Some work on feeding and matching aerials using single wire feeders was going on in the Electrical Engineering Department and Windom helped by running practical tests in association with John Byrne who was leading the research at the time.

Eventually Windom published in QST magazine late in 1929 a description for amateurs of what became known as the Windom Antenna. At about the same time as Byrne and his associates submitted a detailed account of their research to the I.E.E.

The photograph shows the station in use at about this time.



A diagram of this antenna – a half-wave horizontal wire fed with a single wire feeder about 1/3 wavelength from one end – is shown.



This photograph is of a QSL card on which the antenna is described as a voltage-fed Hertz.



It was not known as a Windom Antenna in the United States until some time after overseas amateurs had read Windom's QST article and named it thus. This aerial is of course the precursor of the various 'Windoms' that have been described in the literature in recent years, these are better described as off-centre fed doublets – but that is another story!

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*If you have an article to share e-mail it to me or give it to me on paper* Brian M6BRI  
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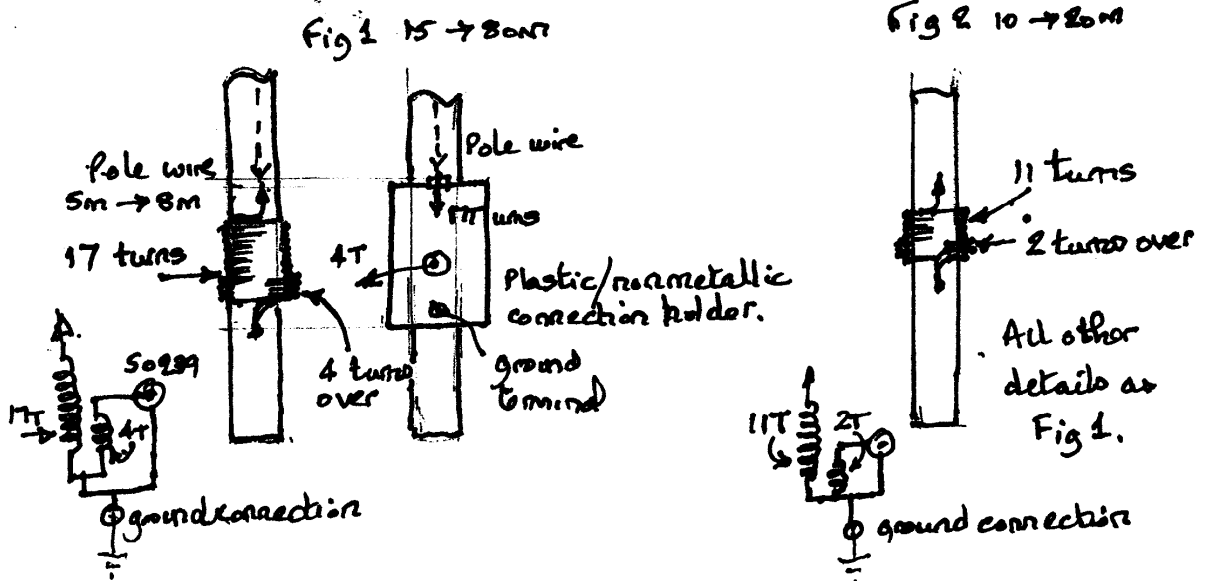
This next article by Les G0ULH is so well written and drawn it has a definite amateur radio characteristic look about it so I present it in the original format with supplementary photographs

### G0ULH VERTICALS

These utilise 1 3/4" (32mm) Plastic drain pipe material as the former for the coupling/loading coils.

The original design covers 80m → 15m with an atu(amu). This unit has 17 turns close wound of insulated wire (like "bell wire") on the former. A 4 turn coupling coil is overwound at the lower (1/4) end of the loading coil. See below Fig 1.

A variant (see Fig 2) has been used for 10-12-15-20m which uses 11 turns close wound as in Fig 1 model but with only 2 turns over at the ground connection end. The idea is to slide the coupling/loading coil over the lower end of a 5m reach pole (carbon fibre) with a wire loosely wound around the extended pole terminating in the small socket of the coil assembly. The top end is passed through the 'eye' at the end top of the fishing pole. The Fig 1 unit covers several bands with an ATU.





Images of G0ULH Verticals

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**Hve u hrd?**

**Txting dates back 120 yrs**

This is from The Metro newspaper it was highlighted to me by a club member.

The stripped-down form of writing that goes with texting has been with us for more than 120 years according to recent research.

Abbreviations like 'ha' and 'hw r u' were used by the original people who sent telegrams.

The operators who sent important information across the world by tapping out messages would also talk amongst themselves using text style shorthand.

This was covered by an article for a newspaper magazine in 1890 which was recently discovered by a researcher, '**THEIR PECULIAR CONVERSATIONAL ABBREVIATIONS,**' the article's headline read... It also noted that in their conversations telegraphers use a system of abbreviations which enables them to say considerably more in a short period of time than they otherwise could.

**Some 1890 Style texts:**

**HA - HA - HA** - long hearty laughter. (Today **Lol** - lots of laughter)

**Min Pen** – the operator needs time to adjust the pen before continuing. (Today **BRB** - be right back)

**How r u ts mng?** – How are you this morning?

**I'm pty wl, Hw r u?** I'm pretty well how are you?

**I,m nt flg vy well, fraid I've gt t mlaria-** I'm not feeling very well, afraid I got the malaria.

**No rest fo t wickd** – no rest for the wicked...

Thank you to those who have contributed articles to your Ragchew

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