

Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
Yeggs return Obie's Radio

There was room at the shop where his daddy made and sold gravestones for Obie to set up the first radio in town with his high school friends in 1922. By summer, folks were convening at the monument shop to hear concerts from Indianapolis, 100 miles away. One of the singer, in fact, was a local boy whose mother listened at Obie's radio while her son sang "Goodbye Mother". By winter, there were five radios and Obie's business was underway.

Early in 1923, Obie installed a radio in a Ford and is visiting prospective customers to demonstrate its wonder. They are receiving signals from South Bend and Indianapolis and even New York. They were also transmitting signals to Monon, about 30 miles away.

In 1924, yeggs<sup>1</sup> stole Obie's principal radio, valued at over \$400. (That's about \$6,000 today.) Two weeks later, under cover of dark, it's left at the entrance to a lumberyard. Speculation was that this was the work of amateurs who would have had difficulty selling their swag. By March, four young men were indicted and arrested. One admitted having the car likely used in the heist.

In 1926, after high school, Obie attended radio school in Valporaiso. He spent the remainder of the year as a ship radio operator, traveling from Maine to South America.

In 1927, after his adventure, Obie settled into the radio business in Winamac.

Obie died in 1989.

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<sup>1</sup> A common early 20<sup>th</sup> century term for a burglar.

# Stalking My Hometown 1924-1947 Yeggs return Obie's Radio

## Wireless telegraph installed

A wireless telegraph outfit has been installed in Winamac and will be in operation within the next few days. It is the property of the Winamac Radio Club, an organization of young men recently formed for the study and practice of wireless. The charter members are Eugene Volz, Obed McKinley, Harry Chapman, Louis Houlton and John Baugh. Quarters have been secured in the office building at the Lon McKinley monument shop.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 2 Feb 1922. Microfilm.

## Radio installed (will be stolen in 1924)

### HEAD LOCAL BOYS IN NEW RADIO

Winamac Boys Install Sounding Horn and New Equipment to Improve Listening in Game

The young men who have organized themselves into the Winamac Radio Co., with headquarters in the McKinley monument works office, have just installed a new receiving outfit, with amplifier and up-to-date horn to make the concerts and other reports audible to anyone in the room.

The new outfit is a large Western Electric equipment and was put in place on Monday of this week. The first concert which came in over the new equipment was a recital by the Davies Light Opera Company from Indianapolis Star sending station, with Clair Howard of Winamac as one of the performers. Howard sang two numbers and at the close of the last number said, "Goodby Mother." Mrs. Howard was listening in at the McKinley radio outfit.

The Davies company is playing comic opera at the larger independent Chautauqua cities in the middle west, and has been secured by the Winamac Methodist Sunday school for an afternoon recital and an evening performance of the comic opera "Said Pasha," when the company is on its way back to Chicago the first week in September, at the close of the present Chautauqua season. Clair Howard who has been taking the bass part in the comic opera will of course appear in the Winamac production.

The Davies company has two companies on the Chautauqua stage this season, one in charge of Mrs. Davies, appeared at the Chautauqua here this afternoon, and will present the comic opera "The Mikado" as the grand finale of the Community Chautauqua program tonight.

On Friday evening the Music Masters Orchestra of South Bend, of which Harry Hoffman and Willis Overholser of Winamac are members will give the South Bend Tribune radio program and which can of course be heard by local radio fans. The program will start at 7 o'clock.

Winamac (IN) Republican 10 Aug 1922: 1. Microfilm.

## Wireless set up at Frain Hotel

Much interest in wireless telephony has been created in Winamac this week by an outfit that has been temporarily set up in the Frain hotel by Samuel Cook, a railway wireman now engaged in switchboard work at the depot.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 30 Mar 1922. Microfilm.

## Frain Hotel has radio in lobby

**20 Years Ago—March 30, 1922**  
Hotel Guests Hear Radio—A new feature of the Hotel Frain in the near future will be a radio-phone service, with amplifier attachment permitting guests in the lobby to hear news, market reports and concerts while seated in front of the fireplace. An outfit with individual receivers has already been installed.

Winamac (IN) Republican 30 Mar 1922. Microfilm.

Stalking My Hometown  
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Greatest Accomplishment of the Age

**RADIO**

**The Greatest Accomplishment  
of the Age**

**Have a Receiving Set  
in your home**

Receive speeches, sermons, voice and instrumental music and opera—or market and weather reports and latest news of the world—right in your home.

You will be surprised to know how reasonable is the cost. We have the agency for one of the best home sets made and will install it for you complete. Here's a Xmas idea for your home.

**WINAMAC RADIO CO.**  
At McKinley Monument Works

Winamac (IN) Republican 20 Nov 1922: 3. Microfilm.

Radio Entertainment at Community Hall

**Radio Entertainment**  
**Community Hall**

**Friday Evening**  
**December 1**  
**At 7:30**

Winamac (IN) Republican 30 Nov 1922: 6. Microfilm.

Radio Concert

**Radio Concert Friday.**

Winamac people will be given an opportunity on Friday evening to hear a radio concert, when the Winamac Radio Co. will give a public program at Community Hall. The special feature of the program for Friday evening will be a concert by the Philharmonic Orchestra of New York city, the largest orchestra in the world. The program will begin at 7:30 o'clock. In addition to the concert other features from various sending stations will be given to demonstrate just how radio outfits can "tune in" on programs from all over the country.

The Winamac Radio Co., originally established by several local young men, is now under the control of Obie McKinley, who has given the subject a lot of study. He has one of the best outfits made, much larger than the original outfit which the boys purchased.

His equipment consists of a large receiving box with three-stage amplifier, and a large sized "Magnavox" or horn suitable for use in a concert hall. McKinley has been having especially good success recently, as the cooler weather avoids most of the electrical disturbances experienced in summer. There are now five radio outfits in this community. McKinley has the agency for the outfits and has a stock of supplies.

Winamac (IN) Republican 30 Nov 1922: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking My Hometown  
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Yeggs return Obie's Radio

McKinley's selling radios

A vintage advertisement for Winamac Radio Co. featuring a logo with the word 'RADIO' inside a cross-like shape with radiating lines. The text reads: 'The Greatest Accomplishment of the Age Have a Receiving Set in your home'. It describes the benefits of receiving sets, such as hearing speeches, sermons, and news. It also mentions a Christmas special offer. The company name 'WINAMAC RADIO CO.' and location 'At McKinley Monument Works' are at the bottom.

**The Greatest Accomplishment**  
**of the Age**  
**Have a Receiving Set**  
**in your home**

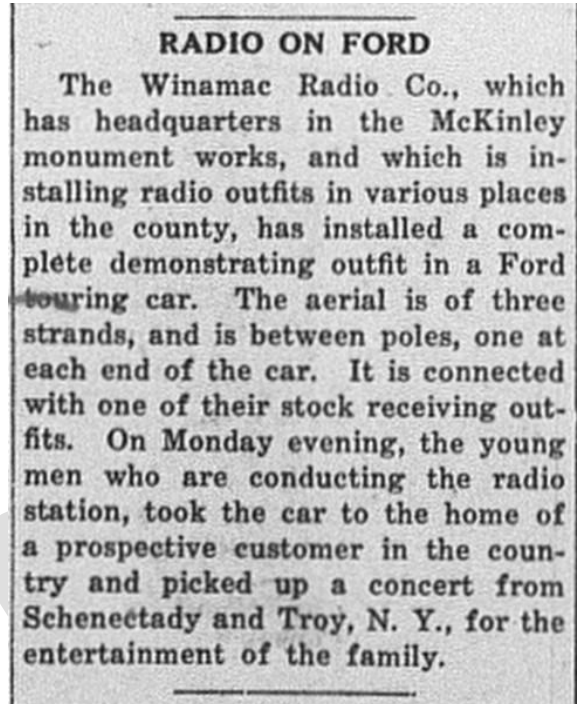
Receive speeches, sermons, voice and instrumental music and opera—or market and weather reports and latest news of the world—right in your home.

You will be surprised to know how reasonable is the cost. We have the agency for one of the best home sets made and will install it for you complete. Here's a Xmas idea for your home.

**WINAMAC RADIO CO.**  
At McKinley Monument Works

Winamac (IN) Republican 21 Dec 1922: 4. Microfilm.

Radio in car!

A newspaper article titled 'RADIO ON FORD'. It describes how the Winamac Radio Co. has installed a complete radio outfit in a Ford touring car. The article mentions that the aerial consists of three strands connected to stock receiving outfits. It also reports that young men from the radio station took the car to a prospective customer's home for a concert.

**RADIO ON FORD**

The Winamac Radio Co., which has headquarters in the McKinley monument works, and which is installing radio outfits in various places in the county, has installed a complete demonstrating outfit in a Ford touring car. The aerial is of three strands, and is between poles, one at each end of the car. It is connected with one of their stock receiving outfits. On Monday evening, the young men who are conducting the radio station, took the car to the home of a prospective customer in the country and picked up a concert from Schenectady and Troy, N. Y., for the entertainment of the family.

Winamac (IN) Republican 18 Jan 1923: 1. Microfilm.

'German band' radio broadcast from Winamac

A newspaper article titled 'A "German band" is to broadcast next week from 9CMZ, the Winamac radio station operated by the Winamac Radio company. A transmitting set has been built by Obed McKinley and Frank Gaede. The band is an organization of high school lads composed of Marshall Parrott, Obed McKinley, Louis Houlton, Eugene Volz, Garland Flites, Harry Chapman and Raymond Smeltzer.' The article lists the names of the high school students in the band.

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Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 1 Feb 1923. Microfilm.

Stalking My Hometown  
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Transmitter reaches Monon  
[Monon is about 30 miles from  
Winamac.]

**WILL TELL THE WORLD.**

The young men who are conducting the Winamac Radio Co. are having some good success in using their equipment for broadcasting as well as receiving. They have rigged up a telephone transmitter and last Saturday were able to get a message through the air as far as Monon.

Winamac (IN) Republican 1 Feb 1923: 1. Microfilm.

Farm gets radio

**INSTALLS NEW RADIO**

Eli Heater had a new radio outfit installed at his farm home southwest of Kewanna, by the Winamac Radio company this week. The outfit is working in good shape, he reports.

Winamac (IN) Republican 21 Jun 1923: 1. Microfilm.

Radio stolen

## Thieves Carry off Complete Radio Outfit

A complete radio outfit, valued at about \$400, was stolen Saturday night from the Winamac Radio company, located in the office of the McKinley Monument works on Pearl street.

Entrance was gained through a side window; the glass in which was broken and a portion of the sash removed so that a person could crawl through. The latch on the front door was easily opened from the inside and the loot was carried out to an automobile.

Wires leading to the outfit were carefully disconnected, and a loud speaker was removed from another outfit in another room. The circumstances indicate that the theft was committed by persons familiar not only with radio, but with the premises where the outfit was located.

The Winamac Radio company is composed of Lon McKinley and his sons Lon Jr. and Obed. The stolen outfit was the one in daily use. Except for the loud speaker, none of the other outfits or material on hand were molested.

The thieves left practically no clew as to their identity.

### INDIAN CREEK HOME ROBBED

The home of Robert Galbreath and family, between Star City and Pulaski, was entered by thieves Saturday evening while members of the family were at Star City. Articles missed on their return home included a watch and chain and a flashlight.

Because of defective locks the house doors were not fastened and the thieves easily gained entrance. The watch and chain were hanging on the kitchen wall. The chain was one that Mr. Galbreath had made from shells taken from the Tippecanoe river. Years ago it was presented to Mrs. Sarah Decker, but after her death was returned to Mr. Galbreath, and was regarded highly as a keepsake.

The china cabinet, the library table and other things were opened by the prowlers, but no other articles have been missed. Auto tracks showed the method by which the "visitors" arrived and departed.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 31 Jan 1924: Microfilm.



Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
Yeggs return Obie's Radio

Radio stolen

**RADIO IS STOLEN  
SATURDAY NIGHT  
FROM M'KINLEY'S**

**OUTFIT VALUED AT OVER \$400  
MISSING SUNDAY MORNING—  
ENTERED THROUGH WINDOW  
REWARD OFFERED.**

The valuable radio outfit located in the Lon McKinley monument was stolen last Saturday night, the property taken amounting to \$422 worth.

The thieves entered by breaking out a side window near the west front of the office, breaking glass and window frame in making entrance.

The large radio set, including the big sized Magnavox and an extra Magnavox were taken, the wires connecting the outfit to the batteries being torn loose, as if the job were hastily done.

A Yale lock on the front door permitted the intruders to unlock it from the inside and leave by the regular entrance. Auto tracks, apparently from a Ford car, were plainly seen in the snow in front of the building the next morning, and foot-tracks indicated the activities of the thieves.

All the batteries used with the outfit were left, including the small auxiliary dry cells. No definite clue as to who the parties were could be figured out.

The McKinley radio was the pioneer outfit in Winamac, having been installed about a year. It was a high class equipment throughout. Some excellent results had been secured by the McKinley boys with their outfit and the office has been a popular place when anything of importance was announced as coming by radio. They have a smaller outfit which has been connected up for use.

Winamac (IN) Republican 31 Jan 1924: 1. Microfilm.

Radio returned by thief

**Thief Returns Radio  
Outfit, Stolen Here  
Three Weeks Ago**

The radio outfit that was stolen three weeks ago from the office of the Winamac Radio company was returned Monday night of this week, in practically the same condition as at the time of theft. However, two horns were taken, one of them off a loud speaker in another room, and only one of the horns was returned.

The outfit was not left at the office of the radio company, at the McKinley monument works on Pearl street, but was left near the Magee lumber yard on Logan street. When James Wolfe, employed at the lumber yard, went to open the buildings on Tuesday morning he found two strange boxes sitting near one of the doorways.

On finding that they contained radio equipment, he notified the Messrs. McKinley, who identified the material as theirs. It was in the original condition except that the horn was scratched, apparently from being hauled about in a car.

The supposition is that the thief or thieves became fearful of detection, as officers were known to be on a rather wide search for the outfit. It is presumed also that the driver of the car left the boxes in a dark place near the lumber yard rather than risk detection by stopping in a more lighted place in the business part of town.

While it was generally considered hereabout that the theft of a radio outfit was decidedly out of the unusual, recent statements in Chicago papers are to the effect that at least 100 such outfits have been stolen recently in the Rogers Park suburb.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 14 Feb 1924: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
Yeggs return Obie's Radio

Radio returned by thief

**STOLEN RADIO IS  
FOUND ABANDONED  
NEAR RAIL ROAD**

**JAMES WOLFE DISCOVERS OUTFIT NEAR LUMBER YARD IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS —NOTIFIES SHERIFF.**

The McKinley Monument Works is again in possession of the radio set which mysteriously disappeared early Sunday morning, January 27. The outfit was found early Monday morning at the front door of R. L. Magee's cement block shed by James Wolfe, an employee at the lumber yard, when he went to unlock the door. Wolfe reported the find to Sheriff Joseph Wagerman, who turned the outfit over to the McKinleys. Everything was in fair condition, about as it had been taken except that the large magnavox horn and one transformer were missing.

At the time there was some question as to whether the theft was local talent or whether it was the work of professional radio thieves. It now appears that the thief must have found that he had something on his hands that was not as easily disposed of as he had supposed and felt that it would be better to return it, than attempt to sell it after it became generally known that the outfit had been stolen. The theft of radio sets has become quite common throughout the country. A recent Chicago paper states that over a hundred expensive radio sets have been stolen in the Rogers' Park district of Chicago. These robbers ignore everything else in the way of valuables. They also leave the "crystal" short distant sets because they are not nearly so valuable as the rest. Chicago police have not yet worked out a satisfactory system for catching the robbers.

Winamac (IN) Republican 14 Feb 1924: 1. Microfilm.

Radio theft may be close to closure

**7 GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS**

True Bills Reported to Court Just Before Close of Term—Arrests Yet to be Made.

Seven indictments were returned Friday by the grand jury, which completed its work that day and adjourned. For the reason that the action came near the close of the term, warrants were not placed in Sheriff Wagerman's hands until yesterday. Information concerning indictments is not made public until arrests have been made.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 20 Mar 1924: 1. Microfilm.

Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
Yeggs return Obie's Radio

Radio yeggs charged

## Four Young Men Accused of Thefts by Late Grand Jury

Arrests were made by Sheriff Wagerman this forenoon on four of the indictments returned by the recent grand jury.

The accused are four Indian Creek township young men, who are charged with complicity in the theft of the radio outfit from the Winamac Radio company on January 26, with the theft of a watch from the Robert Galbreath home the same night, and with burglary of the J. P. Gilsinger store at Pulaski some time previously.

Leroy Shaw is charged with burglary and accessory to the fact; Cloyd Moyer with burglary in the first and second degree, and grand larceny; Adrian Needham with burglary and accessory before and after the fact; Everett Herrick with accessory before and after the fact.

The three first named have each given \$1,000 bond for appearance at the next term of court; Herrick's bond is \$500.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 27 Mar 1924: 1. Microfilm.

Radio yeggs charged

## FOUR ARRESTS IS RESULT FROM THE GRAND JURY

### INDIAN CREEK TOWNSHIP LADS FACE BURGLARY CHARGES IN CIRCUIT COURT — THE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETS

Four Indian Creek township lads, all between the ages of 18 and 20 were arrested this morning, by Sheriff Joe Wagerman, upon bench warrants following indictments returned by the grand jury.

Those arrested were Leroy Shaw, Adrian Needham and Cloyd Moyer on charges of burglary and accessory to the same and Everett Herrick was arrested as an accessory.

The charges grew out of the loss of some gun shells, jewelry and other articles from the Gilsinger hardware store at Pulaski on the night of November 26, last. It appears that the shells were sold and then resold finally coming into the hands of an innocent party who brought them back to the store to exchange them. The deals were traced back to some of the lads arrested, and it is understood that at least part of them confessed to the burglary affair when confronted with the grand jury. Herrick is charged with driving the car in which the other lads are charged with going to the scene and to have driven them on afterward.

On the night of January 26, the radio outfit from the McKinley shop was taken and the same night a watch from the home of Robert Galbreath, living between Pulaski and Star City. The lads will be charged by the state with complicity in these affairs as well.

Shaw, Needham and Moyer were placed under \$1,000 bond, and Herrick with half the amount, relatives of the youths signing their bonds.

Winamac (IN) Republican 27 Mar 1924: 1. Microfilm.



Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
Yeggs return Obie's Radio

Radio outfit thieves possibly  
identified

### Auto Tracks Lead to Grand Jury Action on Theft of Radio

An interesting little story of the part played by auto tracks in connection with the theft of a radio outfit from the Winamac Radio company is related by Sheriff Wagerman.

The theft took place on the night of January 26. It was discovered next morning and the sheriff was at once notified. There was a light layer of snow on the ground at the time, and the tracks of the car that stopped in front of the Radio company's shop, on Pearl street, were easily discernible.

The car had turned at a point near where it stopped, and the marks of all four wheels could be seen. Each wheel carried a different kind of tire. On one the tread was worn off; the others were of various makes.

One night a few weeks later the radio outfit, packed in a box, was left on Logan street and was identified by the owners.

Meantime officials had been making some inquiry concerning thefts that had taken place in Indian Creek township, including the Gilsinger store at Pulaski and the Robert Galbreath home east of there. Subpoenas for desired witnesses were issued about the time the recent grand jury met.

The sheriff made a trip to Indian Creek to serve the subpoenas, but found some of the witnesses away from home. Next day several young men who learned on their return that their names were on some of the subpoenas, drove here and told the sheriff that he did not need to make another trip to see them, and he then served the writs on those named therein.

"While they were talking I glanced at the tires," relates the sheriff. "I was satisfied they were the combination we had been looking for. So I said to them:

"Boys, this is the car that hauled off the radio."

"Yes," one of them finally answered, "it is."

Information concerning the car was presented to the grand jury, it is said, when that body was investigating the thefts that led to the arrest last week of four Indian Creek township young men. They have given bond to appear for trial at the next term of court.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 Apr 1924: 4. Microfilm.

Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
Yeggs return Obie's Radio

Radio student home from school

**Obed McKinley, who attends a telegraph and radio school at Valparaiso, spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lon McKinley.**

*Winamac (IN) Republican 4 Feb 1926: 3. Microfilm.*

Obie is radio operator

**OBIE IS RADIO OPERATOR**

Obed McKinley left several weeks ago for New Orleans. From there he went by boat to old Mexico, where he will sail as a radio operator on a ship. He is a graduate of the local high school and of the Dodge Radio school at Valparaiso.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 20 May 1926: 1. Microfilm.*

Obie radios home

**PICKS UP RADIO MESSAGE**

Mrs. Hattie Ambler on Thursday night picked up a message from Obed McKinley sent out from his sending apparatus aboard the oil boat where he is employed as radio operator. The message said, "This is Obed McKinley. I am having a good time." Obed sailed last week from Portland Maine, back to Mexico, along the eastern coast, according to a letter received by his father, Lon McKinley. He stated that the boat would take on another load of oil and sail from Mexico to a South American port. In the message picked up by Mrs. Ambler on her Ozarka Jr. radio set, the exact location of the boat from which the message was sent, could not be determined.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 10 Jun 1926: 1. Microfilm.*

Local boy reports on travels

**LOCAL BOY TELLS OF RADIO WORK ON SHIPS**

Obed McKinley came home last Friday noon from New Orleans, to visit until next Tuesday morning, when he will return to go on duty again as radio operator on a tanker of the Pan American Petroleum & Transport Company. McKinley has been with the company for the past few months and his ship is now in dry-dock being refitted for the transportation of gasoline. It has been transporting crude oil from Tampico, Mexico, to New Orleans and ports on the Atlantic coast.

He enjoys his work immensely, he states. The radio room is located in the center of the cabin deck, amid-ship, with his stateroom adjoining. The ship's equipment has a sending capacity for 1,000 miles in addition to the receiving equipment. He goes on duty after morning mess, and in the morning sends and receives the ship's messages to and from the business offices of the company, as well as any commercial messages that the members of the crew or its officers wish to send. At noon the exact position of the ship is given him by the captain and this is sent to the offices of the company, as well as probable arrival time at port when the place is approached. The afternoon has little work for the radio operator, unless he wishes to tune in on something of interest. At ten in the morning and at ten at night, the United Fruit sending station on the gulf furnishes a news service, which McKinley receives in code and copies on the typewriter, as the ship's daily newspaper.

The trip from Tampico to New Orleans requires about two and a half days. McKinley's ship made one trip from Tampico to Portland, Maine, requiring nine days for the journey. Other trips were made to Baltimore, New York and Boston. There is no time when the coast ships are not in position for instant communication with stations on the coast, naval radio stations being located about every 150 miles along the coast with commercial stations and stations of the shipping companies in the larger cities.

An interesting feature of radio at sea is the courtesy of sending all messages pertaining to medical assistance without charge. On one trip a sailor suffered an attack of appendicitis and the ship's inquiry was picked up at Miami, Fla., delivered to a hospital, where a physician prescribed perfect quiet and ice packs on the affected place, as the ship continued on its course. There is no physician on the usual freighter.

When the ship on which McKinley is located is again placed in commission, it will soon be placed on the route from San Pedro, Calif., to Atlantic coast ports, via the Panama canal.

*(Continued from first page)*  
*(Continued on last page)*

*Winamac (IN) Republican 29 Jul 1926: 1&8. Microfilm.*

Obed returns

**Obed McKinley came home yesterday after spending several months as radio operator aboard a freighter, operating along the Atlantic coast and other points.**

*Winamac (IN) Republican 11 Nov 1926: 6. Microfilm.*

Stalking My Hometown  
1924-1947  
Yeggs return Obie's Radio

Radioman returns for visit

Obed McKinley came home yesterday after spending several months as radio operator aboard a freighter, operating along the Atlantic coast and other points.

Winamac (IN) Republican 11 Nov 1926: 6. Microfilm.

Obed's home and fixing radios

**RADIO REPAIRING**  
  
Will repair or  
adjust any make  
radio set.  
  
**OBED MCKINLEY**  
**Phone 2141**

Winamac (IN) Republican 6 Jan 1927: 5. Microfilm.

Six tubes, one control

Six tubes ~ One Control  
**FRESHMAN  
MASTERPIECE**



Come in and see and hear them  
**Winamac Radio Co.**  
Obed McKinley

Winamac (IN) Republican 3 Mar 1927: 6. Microfilm.

Obie's home and in business

**Announcing**  
We have accepted the franchise for  
**THE FRESHMAN  
MASTERPIECE RADIO**  
We believe this Radio will  
give the most in service for the  
least money, and invite you to  
call at our shop for a demonstration.  
  
**Obed McKinley**  
Winamac Radio Co.

Winamac (IN) Republican 27 Jan 1927: 6. Microfilm.

World's Greatest Radio

**THE WORLD'S GREATEST RADIO**  
Six tubes ~ One Control  
**FRESHMAN  
MASTERPIECE**



**\$49.50**  
Less Accessories  
Sold on  
Convenient Terms  
**Winamac Radio Company**  
Obed McKinley

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 10 Mar 1927: 8. Microfilm.