



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Charles Cohill Harris Collection

NMAH.AC.0049

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## Collection Overview

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|--------------------|--|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives Center, National Museum of American History   |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Charles Cohill Harris Collection   |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1904-1961  |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | NMAH.AC.0049   |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Beakes, William Edgar<br>Harris, Charles Cohill, 1898- (radio engineer)  |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 1 Cubic foot (3 boxes)   |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .  |
| <b>Summary:</b>    | Collection documents the Tropical Radio Telegraph Company through correspondence, articles, photographs, reports, and manuals. |

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## Administrative Information

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

### Ownership and Custodial History

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Electricity.

### Processing Information

Collection processed by NMAH Staff, undated

### Preferred Citation

Charles Cohill Harris Collection, ca. 1906-1976, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical Note

Charles Cohill Harris (b. 1898) in St. Louis, Missouri was a radio engineer and executive who served in various capacities in the Tropical Radio Telegraph Company, a subsidiary of the United Fruit Company, 1916-1963.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondence, notes, articles, and photographs assembled by Harris on the history of the United Fruit Company and Tropical Radio Telegraph Company (TRT), 1904-1961. Also includes manuscript histories of companies; material on the application of teletypewriters to radio circuits; blueprints, schematics, reports, and manuals concerning the technical work on TRT; and a scrapbook of William Edgar Beakes, president of TRT, 1939-1943.

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## Arrangement

Collection arranged into one series.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Communications
- Electric equipment
- Electrical engineers
- Electrical science and technology
- Radio
- Radio engineers
- Technical literature -- Electric equipment
- Telegraph, Wireless

Types of Materials:

- Blueprints -- 20th century
- Correspondence -- 20th century
- Reports
- Scrapbooks -- 20th century
- Technical drawings

Names:

- Fessenden, R.A.
- Tropical Radio Telegraph Company.
- United Fruit Company.

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## Container Listing

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1   | History of the Communication System of the Tropical Radio Telegraph Company (by C.C. Harris), 1976  |
| Box 1, Folder 2   | Pictorial Wireless History of the United Fruit Company and the Tropical Radio Telegraph Company, Volume I, 1904-1924, 1976-02-20  |
| Box 1, Folder 3   | Pictorial Wireless History of the United Fruit Company and the Tropical Radio Telegraph Company, Volume II, 1925-1960, 1976-02-21   |
| Box 1, Folder 4   | Schematic circuit diagrams, 1928  |
| Box 1, Folder 5   | Miscellaneous correspondence and reports, 1930-1961 (bulk 1930-1932)  |
| Box 2, Folder 1   | Employee biographies, undated   |
| Box 2, Folder 2   | Rates, Rules and Regulations for Wireless Telegraph Department, 1910  |
| Box 2, Folder 3   | Simplex Manual for electrical engineers, contractors and wiremen, 1940  |
| Box 2, Folder 4   | Radio Equatorial Belt, 1945   |
| Box 2, Folder 4   | World Radio Trunk System, 1945  |
| Box 2, Folder 5   | Tropical Radio Telegraph Company, history, 1948-1952  |
| Box 2, Folder 6   | Radio Broadcast, 1922-09  |
| Box 2, Folder 7   | Unifriutco Golden Jubilee, 1949-07  |
| Box 2, Folder 8   | Tropical Radio Telegraph Company, annual report, 1954   |
| Box 2, Folder 9   | Diversity Receiver Operating Instructions, 1930   |
| Box 2, Folder 10  | Commercial radio receivers instructions, 1930s-1940s  |
| Box 2, Folder 11  | Short-wave Transatlantic Radio-Telephony, 1929  |
| Box 2, Folder 12  | Losses in twisted pair transmission lines at radio frequencies (by C.C. Harris), 1936   |
| Box 2, Folder 13  | Single-Sideband operation for International Telegraph (Edward Becken), 1956   |
| Box 3, Folder 1-5 | Photograph Album of William Edgar Beakes<br>Notes: Beakes was president of Tropical Radio Telegraph (TRT) Company, a subsidiary of the United Fruit Company from 1939-1943. The scrapbook contains photographs of persons, equipment, and |

locations related to Beakes' work with the TRT and his work with F. A. Fessenden on the Machrihanish, Scotland test station. Photographs include: Havana, Cuba; New Orleans hurricane destruction (1915) and Mardis Gras; Honduras village images; Cape Gracias, Nicaragua; Santo Marta, Columbia; Scotland; skeet shooting images; Guatemala; and Panama.