

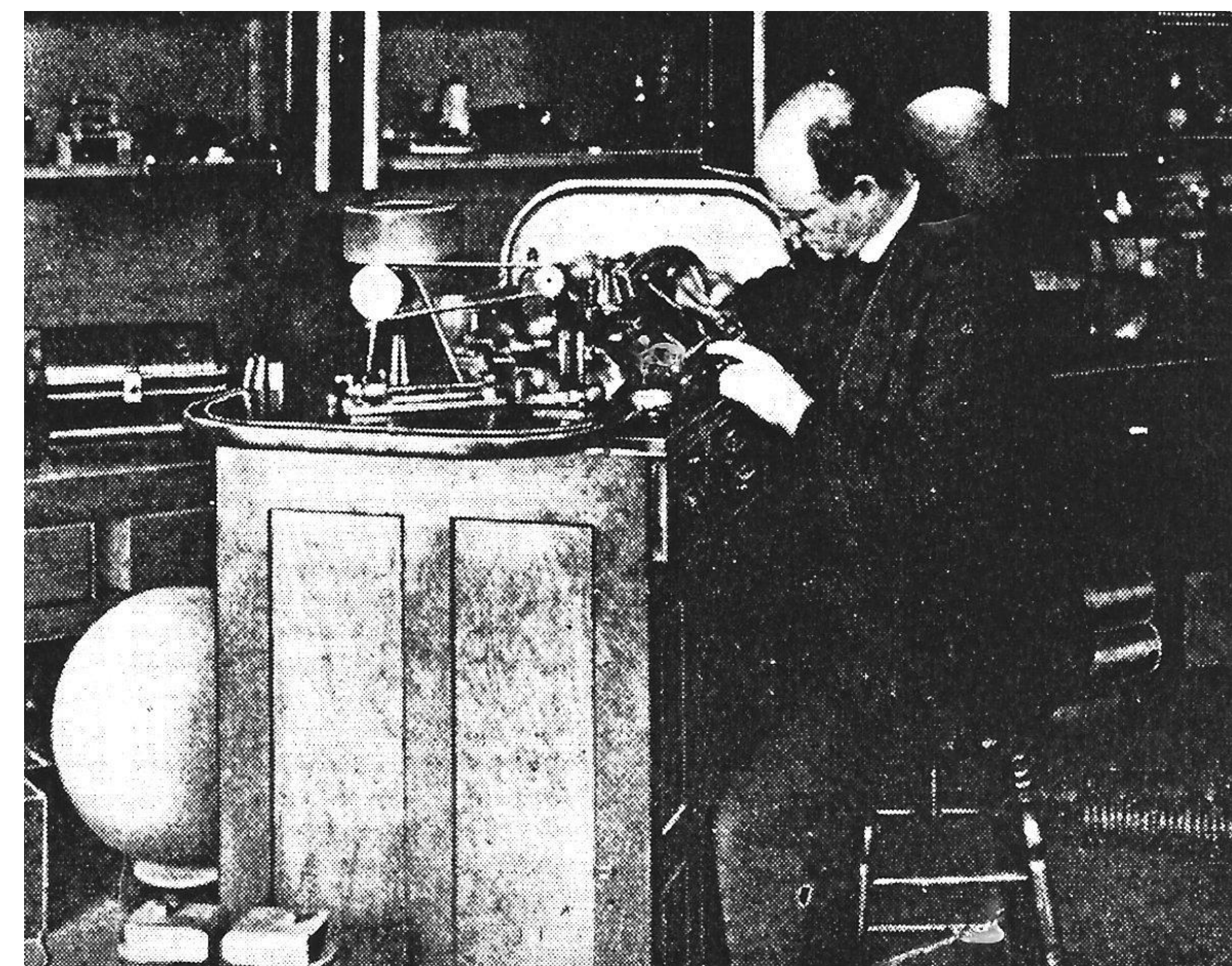
Father Joseph Murgas "The Radio Priest"

Scientist, Inventor, Artist, and Naturalist

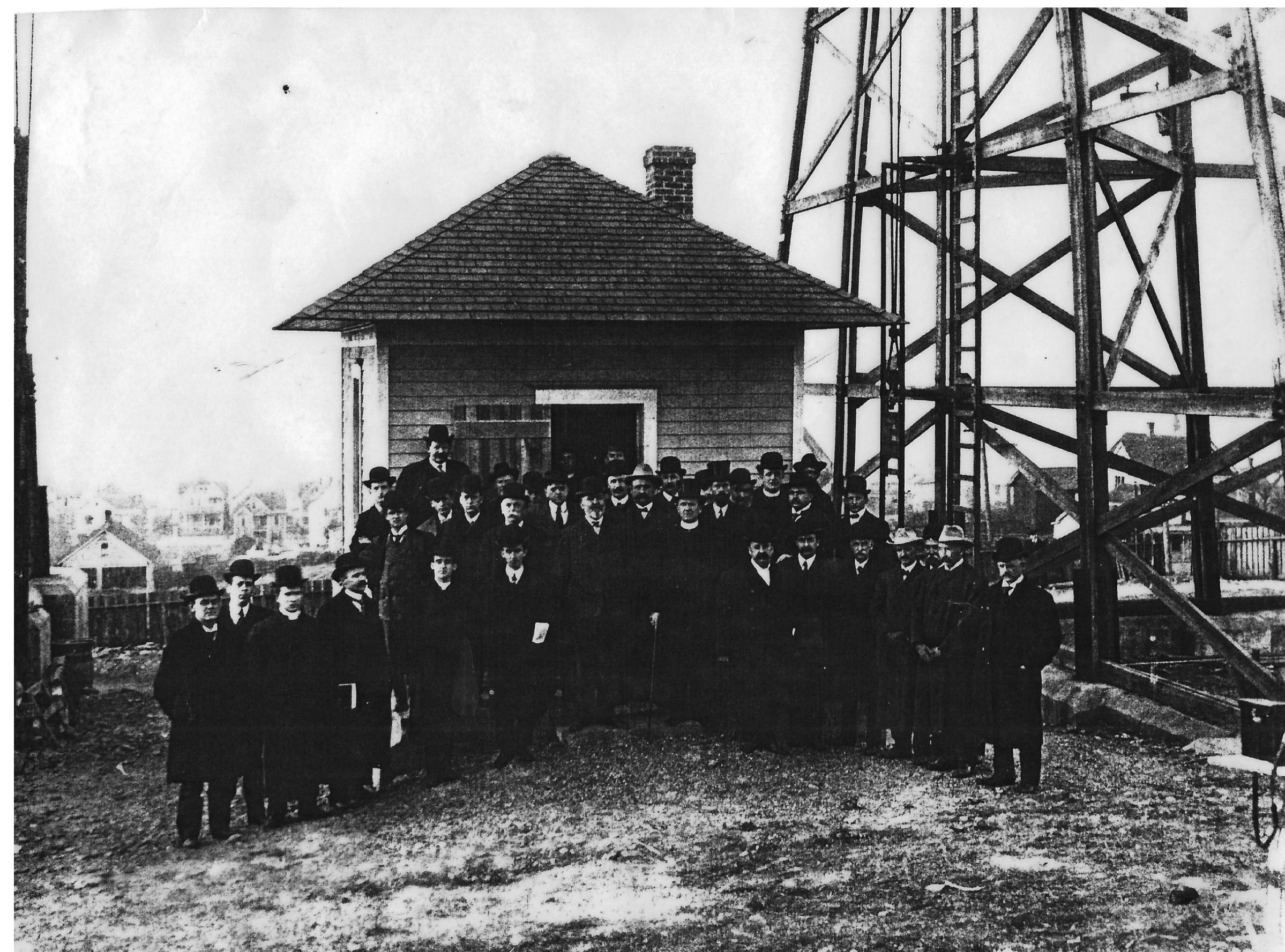
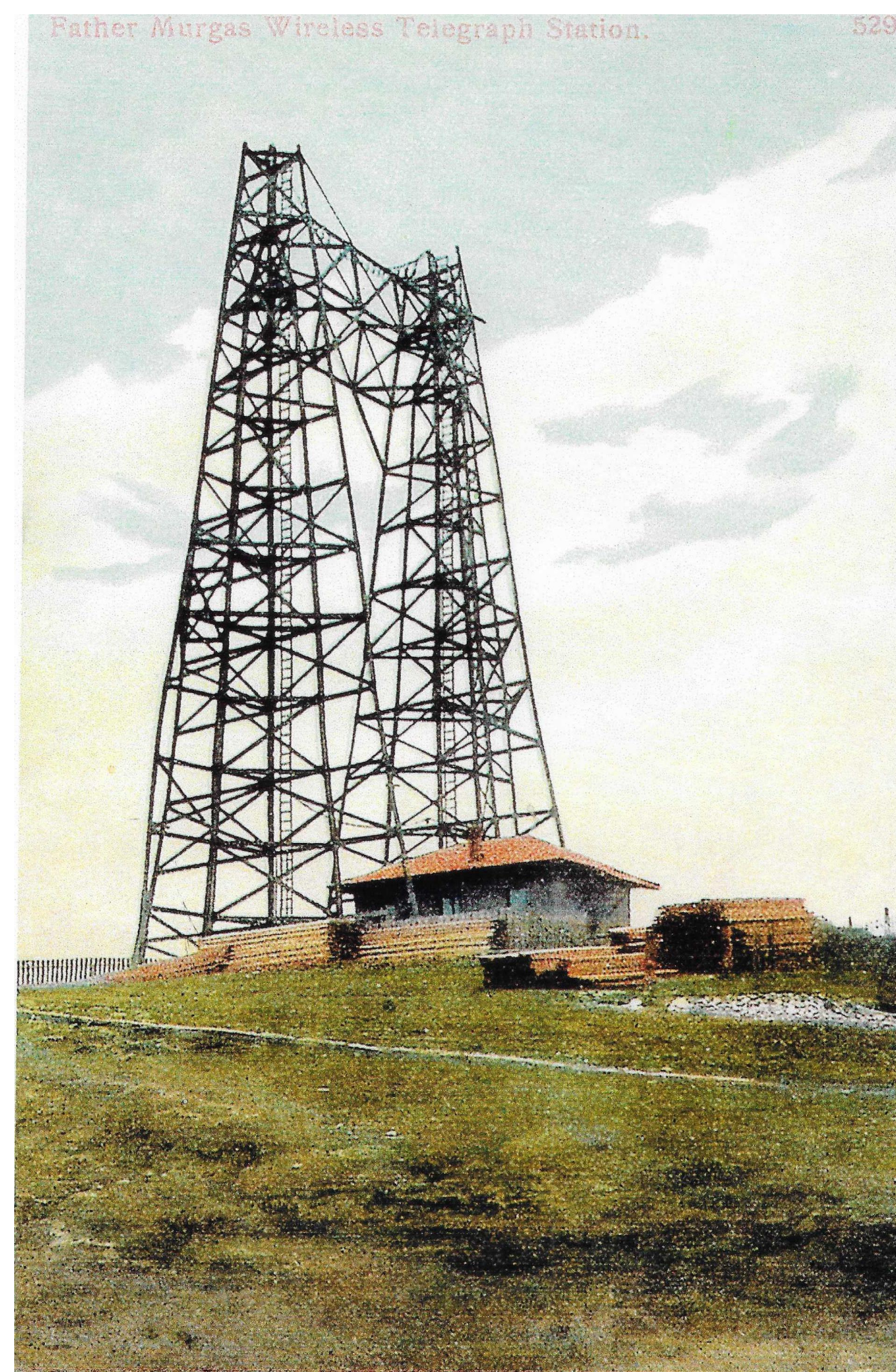


On November 23, 1905, U. S. Naval Officers, investors, local dignitaries, scientists, and the public gathered in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton to witness the first public demonstration of Father Joseph Murgas' two-tone wireless system for sending messages. Messages were sent 20 miles over land, a feat which had never been done before. The demonstration was a huge success and provided the basis for modern radio and other communication.

For political reasons, Father Murgas left his beloved Slovakia in 1896 and immigrated to Northeastern, PA. Eventually he was appointed Pastor of the Sacred Heart Church in Wilkes-Barre. Having studied at the Electrical College of Vienna, Father Murgas continued his experiments in wireless telegraphy in his workshop in the basement of the rectory.

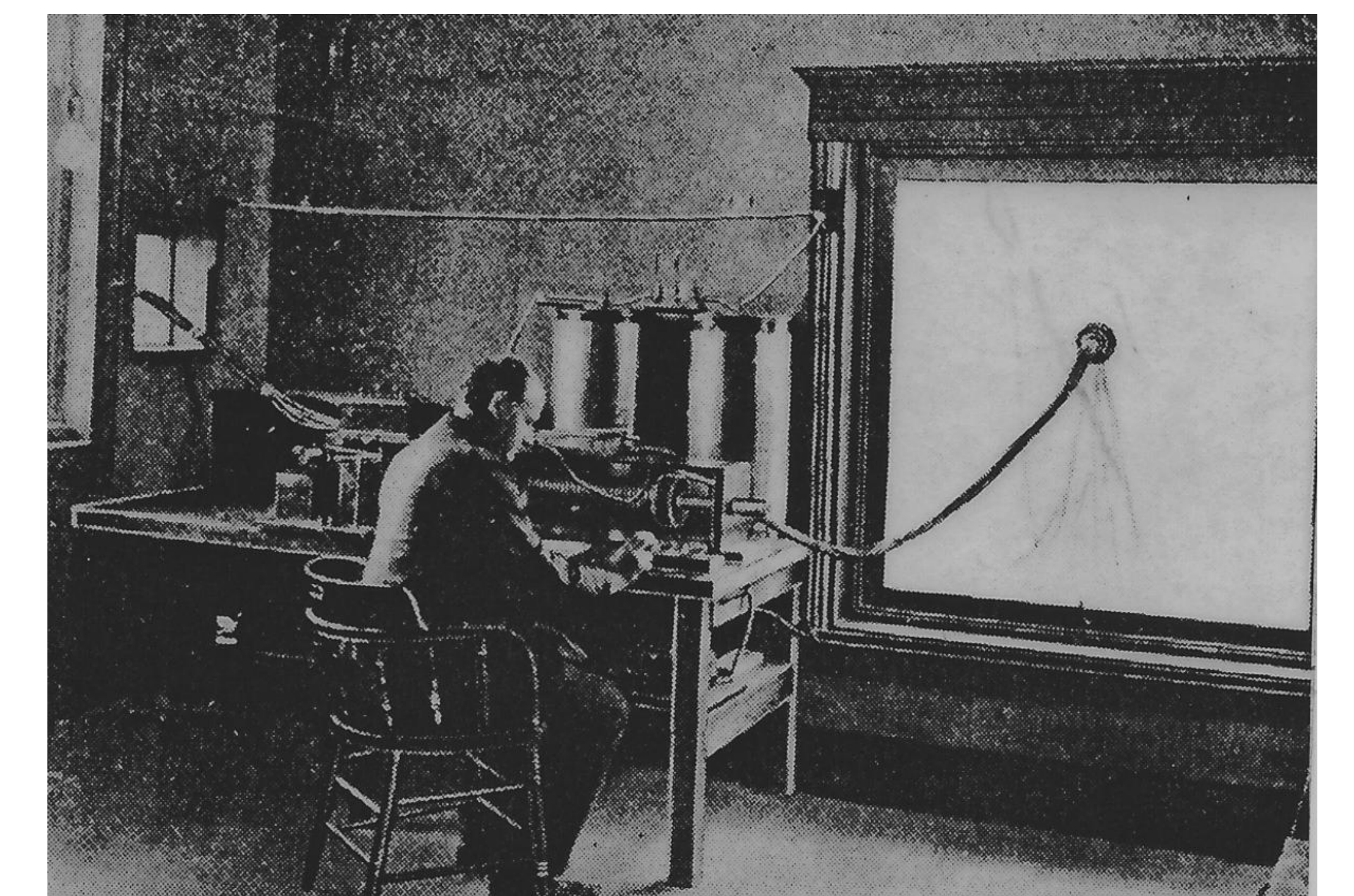


On September 18, 1902, the Boston Herald printed "Wireless telegraphy experiments between Washington and Annapolis are over." It was deemed useless for land purposes. But Father Murgas knew it was possible, because he was using his "Spark Gap Method" to send messages between Wilkes-Barre and Scranton.



Dignitaries gather to watch the demonstration of Murgas' system.

The twin towers were 200 feet high and of wood construction. The cost to build the antennas was \$4200.



For more information see "*Rev. Joseph Murgas Priest-Scientist*" by Stephen J. Palickar.

Poster created by Elaine Kollar K3VQR of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club.