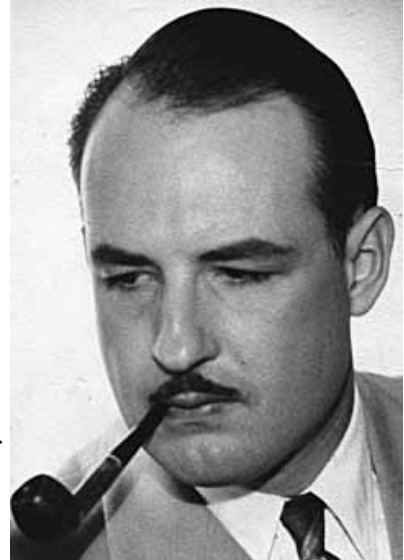


Maxwell Kelch *1911-1977* W6DZD - Max and his wife Laura Belle both Las Vegas Civic leaders with a gift of promotion, co founders of the first permanent broadcasting station in Las Vegas. Max, son of a LA Attorney born in 1911, earned his ham ticket while a young man in high school. Earning his degree in 1933 from UCLA, enjoyed chatting on his ham radio to stations around the world. His education continued with a Masters in Physics from CIT in 1936.

KENO, the lottery or bingo game, consisting of a glass enclosure mixing 80 balls would have significance in Laura Belle's and Max W6DZD future in the region.

Mr. Kelch looking for a career in academia which didn't happen, accepting engineering jobs in various California locations, Max met Laura in 1939 and were married. They planned their future dreams.

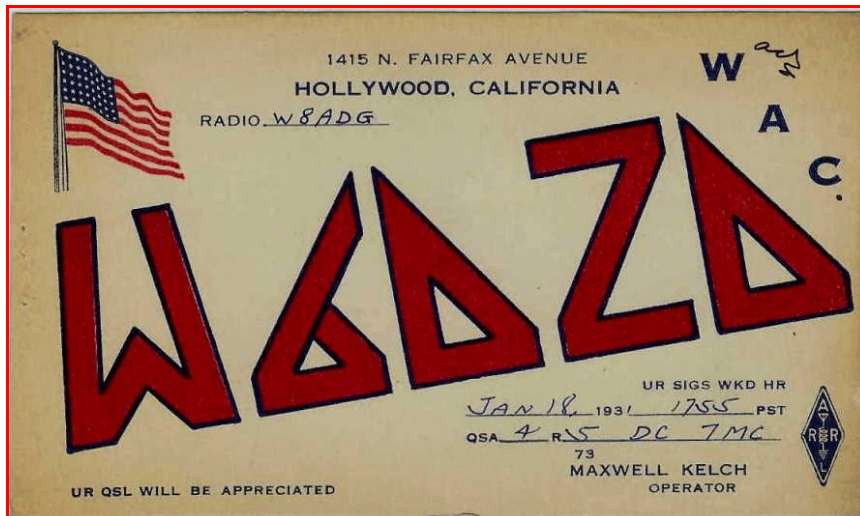
Making their way to Las Vegas and in the late fall of 1940 the Kelch's founding the Valley's first permanent radio station, obtaining KENO from the FCC in a by chance second choice of requesting the station call. They were elated with the good fortune.



Laura belle and Max were responsible for providing emergency information to Southern Nevada during World War 2 . Laura was one of the first women to become a member of the Rotary Club and supported a variety of civic organizations. Max was involved with the progress of Las Vegas and together with his know how of promotion got the ball rolling with The local Chamber's Live Wire Club. It was through a dedicated group of civic leaders donating a certain percentage of their proceeds to invest in the area. The Vegas Sun was very liberal with its glowing remarks about the Kelch family.

Max was a private pilot, skilled boatman, enjoyed teaching celestial navigation in his later years, expired at age 66. He and Laura had two children both engaged in the property management business. Laura lived to be 91 and expired in 2004. Thus more VIP's for the files for all to enjoy.

Partially scripted from the Vegas Sun, Wikipedia, Sun foto W6DZD, W8JYZ QSL card files.



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