

Craig Henderson, the Producer/Host

I am an amateur historian in Naramata and Penticton, BC. I worked in private radio in the late 1970s and early 80s and have enjoyed my involvement as a volunteer with Peach City Radio over the past three years.

Messages from a P.O.W.

This documentary tells the story of a woman in her 70s, Mona Thornton, and her efforts to piece together her father's experiences as a World War II prisoner-of-war in Japan. The program brings to light a little known effort to bring word of a P.O.W.'s condition to families and loved-ones at home in Canada and the United States. Our documentary includes never-before-heard audio clips from shortwave Radio Tokyo in which Mona's father broadcast messages to his family in New Brunswick. Only through the kindness and generosity of HAM radio listeners on the west coast of North America, these broadcasts were recorded on crude 78 r.p.m. machines and the recordings were mailed to Mona's family in New Brunswick. These radio monitors were unsung heroes of World War II, spending hours per week listening to enemy broadcasts and then jotting messages or making recordings to send to strangers – the families of P.O.W.s – around North America. This effort brought great comfort and relief to thousands of families. Messages from a P.O.W. is a program that was enjoyed nationally at gatherings of veterans and their families in 2013 of the Canadian Hong Kong Veterans Association. The program was also noted in a 2013 book by USA author Lisa Spahr about this generous civilian effort during World War II to give comfort to prisoner's families and loved ones.

Full program, 59 minutes:

<http://peachcityradio.org/programs/variety/craiginthecommunity.php>