

# VWOA NEWSLETTER

Email Issue #70

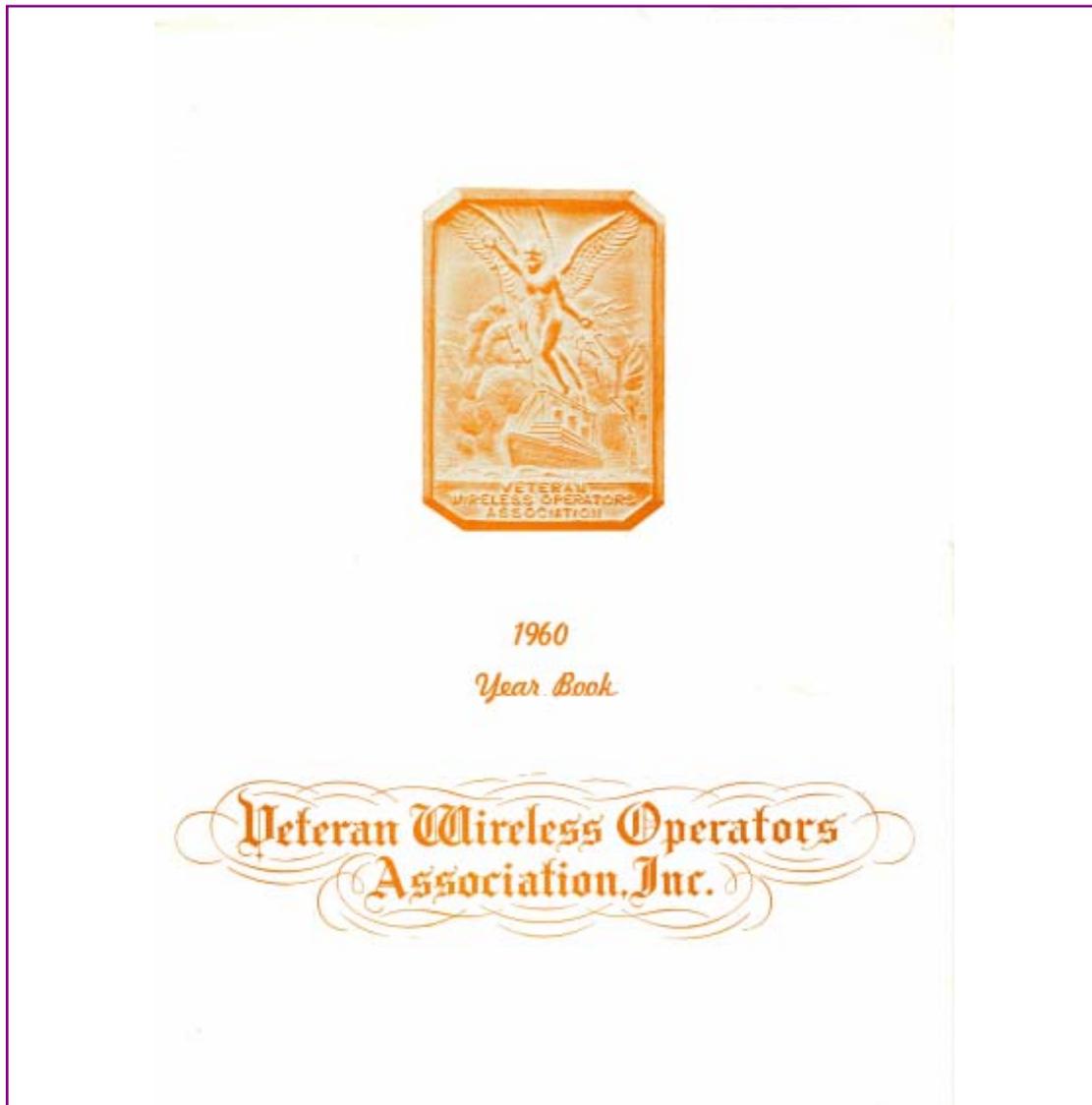
Francis T. Cassidy Editor

2013



FLASH BACK IN VWOA HISTORY EDITION

1960 YEAR BOOK OF VWOA



**THE  
VETERAN WIRELESS OPERATORS  
ASSOCIATION**



*THIRTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY*

*1960 Year Book*

ISSUED

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL  
DINNER-CRUISE, HOTEL EDISON, NEW YORK  
AND WORLD-WIDE CHAPTER DINNER CRUISES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1960

# THE VETERAN WIRELESS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

INCORPORATED

RCA Building, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N. Y.



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VWOA "Ham" Network, **A. E. OLSON**  
Ways and Means, **ROBERT H. WENDEBORN**

VETERAN WIRELESS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Once again we are delighted, indeed, to welcome those of you present at this our Thirty-fifth Anniversary Dinner-Cruise at the Hotel Edison, New York City, and send greetings to those assembled throughout the world at Chapter Dinner-Cruises.

We are happy to announce the unanimous decision of our Awards Committee, John Lohman, Chairman—making the following awards:

*Marconi Memorial Service Award Plaque*

to the

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
COMMEMORATING THEIR GOLDEN JUBILEE  
1910-1960

In Recognition of Their Individual and Cooperative Contributions,  
Progress and Improvement in Communications for Scouting

In tribute to our Honorary President "The Father of the Electronic Age," a "Doctor Lee de Forest Scholarship" to the Boy Scouts of America, the winner to be chosen by them from among top ranking Scouts in America with a keen interest in Electronics.

The "Doctor Lee de Forest Scholarship" comprises a three year course in Electronics at the Capitol Radio Engineering Institute Residence School in Washington, D. C., with a nominal value of Three Thousand Dollars and includes all Books and Laboratory Fees.

A Marconi Memorial Gold Medal of Service to Frederick E. Meinholtz—Recognizing his Half Century of Outstanding Service in the Radio Art.

A Marconi Memorial Wireless Pioneer's Gold Medal to E. L. Commagere—In tribute to his Pioneering efforts in the Radio Art for over Fifty Years.

Marconi Memorial Scrolls of Honor will be accepted by the Norwegian Consul-General The Hon. Knut Thommessen in behalf of heroic Norwegian Radio Officers Ingvald Bernhard Klokstad and Trygve Alnehagen who distinguished themselves aboard the Norwegian passenger ship M/S Skaubryn on a trip from Bremerhaven, Germany, to Australia, in which well over one thousand persons were successfully rescued.

We have a note from Doctor 'DOC' de Forest and we gain that he is not up to his usual buoyant self. A note from each of you, whether you have met him personally or not, will be very much appreciated. Address 'DOC' (and he likes to be called that) at 8190 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, Calif.

We wish to express our sincere thanks for their hearty cooperation to our fellow officers and directors—to our members and friends—and particularly to our advertisers who make this Year Book possible. A special word of thanks to our Association's most efficient Secretary, William C. Simon, for his untiring efforts in behalf of the Association and to Raymond F. Guy, our Dinner Chairman.

We are happy to have you with us again at this Thirty-fifth Anniversary Dinner-Cruise and trust that we shall all be doing this again a year hence.

73,

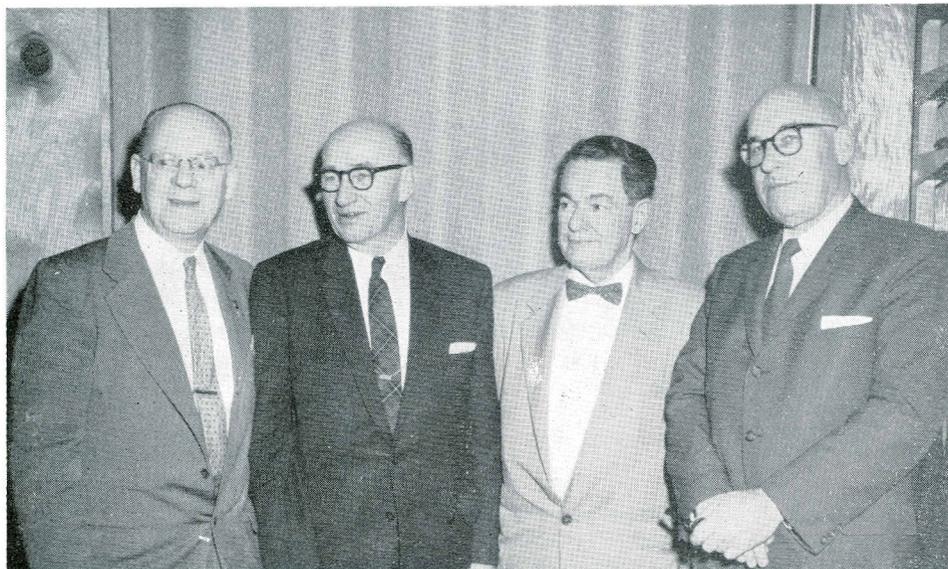
*William J. Mc Gough*

President

VETERAN WIRELESS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

**NATIONAL OFFICERS**

1960



Left to Right—Richard C. Griffiths, Treasurer; William C. Simon, Secretary; William J. McGonigle, Sr., President; Raymond F. Guy, First Vice-President.

***"Aims and Purposes"***  
***Veteran Wireless Operators Association***

- (a) To foster and extend an esprit de corps among wireless operators.
- (b) To afford opportunity for social intercourse, and to promote a fraternal and comradely sentiment between and among its members.
- (c) To recognize meritorious service rendered by wireless operators on land, at sea, or in the air, by the erection of memorials and by the bestowal of testimonials, medals, scholarships, or other suitable rewards.
- (d) To acquaint the public with the work, traditions and ideals of wireless operators and to perform and encourage any other purely fraternal activity or activities adjudged helpful to the wireless profession.

VETERAN WIRELESS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

## *Marconi Memorial Service Award Plaque*

AWARDED TO

## THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

*Commemorating Their Golden Jubilee*

1910-1960

In recognition of their Individual and Cooperative Contributions, Progress and Improvement in Communications for Scouting.



**I**MPRESSED with the helpfulness of an unidentified British Boy Scout in 1909 who declined a gratuity for his "Good Turn," the late William D. Boyce, Chicago publisher who lost his way in a London fog, learned about Scouting from its founder, Sir (later Lord) Robert Baden-Powell, and incorporated the organization in Washington, D. C., on February 8, 1910.

Men from 34 national groups interested in youth met on June 21, 1910, to develop the organization. From that modest beginning the Boy Scouts of America has grown in 50 years to an active enrollment today of more than five million boys and leaders and an alumni of 28,500,000 others who have been influenced by the Scout Oath and Law.

Colin H. Livingstone of Washington, D. C., the first President of the Boy Scouts of America, served in that post until 1925. Daniel Carter Beard was National Scout Commissioner from 1910 until 1941 when he died at 91.

James E. West, a young attorney of Washington, D. C., became administrative officer. He opened the first National Scout Office at 200 Fifth Avenue, New York City, on January 2, 1911, with seven employees.

In 1912 the Boy Scouts promoted a campaign for a safe and sane Fourth of July. This was the first of many National Good Turns.

At Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in 1913, Scouts aided Civil War veterans who gathered for the 50th Anniversary of the famous battle.

Scouts gave a good account of themselves in Ohio and Indiana spring floods. This and other civic service led Congress, in 1916, to honor the organization with a federal charter.

A tremendous demonstration of boy power, trained and organized for service came during the first World War. Scouts took orders for 2,350,977 Liberty Loan Bonds totaling \$147,876,962, and \$53,043,698 in War Stamps. They located 20,758,660 board feet of walnut and 100 carloads of fruit pits used in gas masks. They distributed over thirty million pieces of government printed matter and helped food and fuel conservation. They grew thousands of Boy Scout war gardens.

(Continued on Page 21)

## *The Boy Scouts of America*

(Continued from Page 9)

In its second decade the Boy Scouts of America had a prominent part in furthering the world-wide aspects of the movement.

The United States sent 301 Scouts and 55 adult leaders to the First World Jamboree in England, in 1920, which attracted 18,000 Scouts of 27 countries.

In 1922 the Boy Scouts International Bureau was established. Today there are more than eight million boys and leaders in 67 Boy Scout associations.

Scouts served as aids and guides at the Limitation of Arms Conference in 1921. Outstanding civic service included forest conservation and assistance at the Knickerbocker Theatre disaster at Washington, D. C., and floods at Pueblo, Colorado, and San Antonio, Texas.

In 1925 Scouts gave outstanding aid in the Illinois tornado, California earthquake, and Louisiana fire, and the following year in the Florida hurricane and the Arkansas flood.

A big Scout adventure came in 1927 when eight Chicago Sea Scouts sailed with the John Borden-Field Museum Expedition north of Bering Sea. The following year Commander Richard E. Byrd took Paul A. Siple, Erie, Pennsylvania, Sea Scout on his first Antarctic expedition. That year three Eagle Scouts accompanied the Martin Johnsons on a safari in Africa.

During the depression Scouts rendered outstanding service in relief work. They mobilized throughout the nation on February 10, 1934, to hear by radio, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's call for a "National Good Turn." They responded by collecting 1,812,284 items of clothing, household furnishings, foodstuffs, and other supplies for needy families.

While camping has been a feature of Scouting since its earliest days, this activity received new impetus in 1938 through the gift made by Waite Phillips of the Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron, New Mexico, where each summer thousands of seasoned Scout campers go for rugged Rocky Mountain camping experiences.

Several thousand Boy Scouts and Sea Scouts rendered valiant aid during the New England hurricane in September 1938.

Boy Scouts rendered notable service to officials at the Golden Gate Exposition and at the New York World's Fair in 1939 and again in 1940. At the latter exposition Scouts lived in their own camp adjacent to the federal building.

Boy Scouts in Honolulu and Pearl Harbor rendered valiant services immediately following the surprise attack on December 7, 1941. The full resources of the Boy Scouts of America were placed at the services of the government with the declaration of war.

Sixty-nine requests by the government from 1941 to 1945 for Boy Scout war service were received. This service included the distribution of defense bonds and stamps posters, air raid posters, and other government literature; collection of aluminum, wastepaper, and rubber. Scouts served as government dispatch bearers and helped harvest crops in addition to raising victory gardens.

It is estimated that over four million men in the armed forces were once Boy Scouts or leaders. Many of them testified that skills they acquired in Scouting helped them immeasurably during their war duty to survive in strange lands or on Pacific island bases.

In 1952 and again in 1956, Boy Scouts took part in nonpartisan "Get-Out-the-Vote" campaigns, working with Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge. A million posters and 30 million Liberty Bell doorknob hangers were placed at residences from coast to coast.

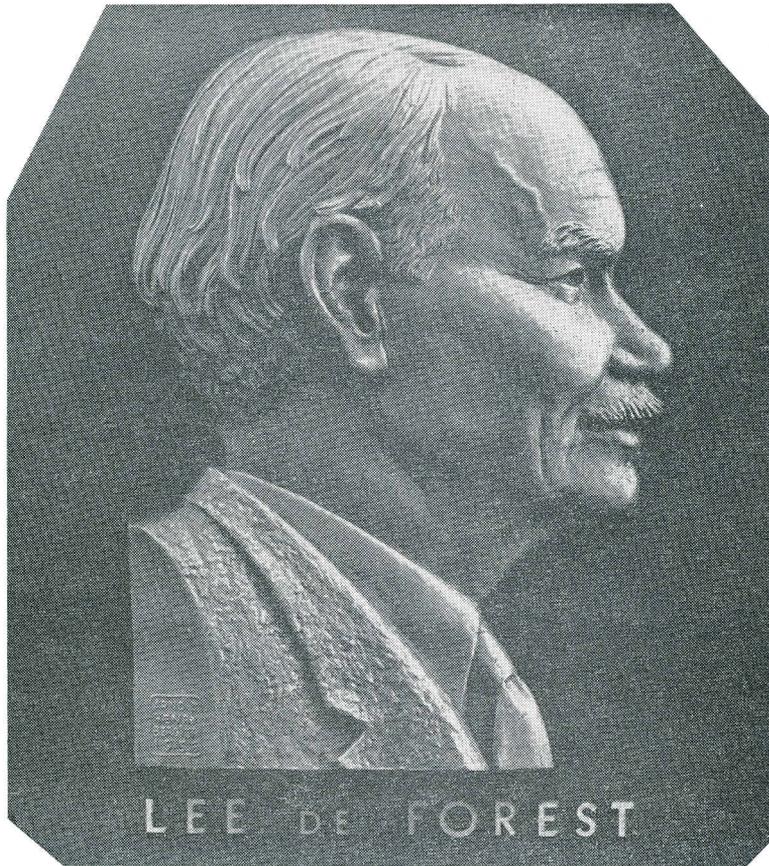
The organization undertook an extensive educational and technical conservation program in 1954 at the request of President Eisenhower, their Honorary President, who has been on the National Executive Board since 1948.

Eagle Scout Richard Lee Chappell of Eggertsville, New York, was chosen to represent the Boy Scouts of America as a scientific aid at Little America, Antarctica, during the International Geophysical Year in 1957-58. He made a fine contribution, leaders reported.

The launching of the new Exploring program for young men of high school age in 1958 came after a study of adolescent boys by the Institute of Social Research of the University of Michigan and the Research Service of the Boy Scouts of America.

VETERAN WIRELESS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

*Dr. Lee De Forest Scholarship*  
at  
*Capitol Radio Engineering Institute*  
presented to the  
**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**



The Dr. Lee de Forest Scholarship of the VWOA comprises a three year course in the Residence School of Capitol Radio Engineering Institute in Washington, D. C., with an approximate value of \$3,000 and includes Books and Laboratory Fees and Supplies.

All applicants of the Residence School must be high school graduates or have the equivalent educational background. Preparatory Mathematics and English are not required for students having an adequate background in these subjects.

(Continued on Page 24)

VETERAN WIRELESS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

*Marconi Memorial Wireless Pioneer's Gold Medal*

**E. L. COMMAGERE**



**E. L. COMMAGERE**

Born in that grand old city of New Orleans on February 9, 1892, E. L. Commagere attended public school and business college before embarking on what has been one of the longest continuous radio careers in the annals of the art.

Ed's first venture into the new field of wireless communication was in 1906 when he constructed and operated an amateur station utilizing the, then, well known Spark Coil and electrolytic detector, selecting his own call letters "HK". He learned the code, and very well indeed, at various Postal Telegraph and Western Union offices during school vacations and worked some light telegraph circuits (the-woods as it was known) whenever permitted to do so by the Chief Operator.

With a knowledge of the code and some technical background Ed worked for United Wireless under the supervision of Chief Operator Arthur A. Isbell in 1908 at a wireless station atop the Grunewald Hotel—since renamed the Roosevelt—in New Orleans. Since remuneration for his wireless operating was slight he supplemented his income by working as a relief moving picture operator at various 'Nickleodeons' throughout the city.

In May 1909 Ed began what proved to be a half century career with the United Fruit Company and later Tropical Radio. He served in various capacities with Tropical Radio and was appointed Chief Operator of their New Orleans station "HB" on the first day of January 1913. Ed served in that capacity until

1917 when America entered the First World War he accepted the rating of Warrant Officer in the United States Navy assigned to Communications, Censorship and Intelligence Services at the United States Naval Station at Algiers, La. He continued as Warrant Officer until after the termination of the War and in 1920 resigned from the Navy to resume his activities with the Tropical Radio Telegraph Company.

Ed took up where he left off returning to Tropical as Chief Operator of their New Orleans Station. Promoted to the post of Assistant Division Superintendent under H. O. Easton in 1923, he was appointed Division Superintendent on 1 January 1930 succeeding Mr. Easton who had then retired. Ed served in this post for three decades retiring as of the first of the year 1960.

In retirement Ed continues active, wireless-wise, keeping amateur station K5VMP buzzing away on CW—which he prefers to phone. Old wirelessmen never completely retire for Ed has just accepted the post of Deputy Chief of the Radio Branch of the Civil Defense Unit in his area finding this an interesting outlet for his knowledge and energies.

In 1911 Ed Commagere assisted in the installation and testing of Fessenden's first Hetrodyne Receiver at Tropical's New Orleans station. The oscillator of the receiver consisted of an Arc, burning in an alcohol vapor. The headphones used with the receiver were pioneers, too—they were condenser type phone units.

The tests were conducted under the supervision of Louis Cohen and a Mr. Lee. Professor Fessenden, personally supervised some of the testing. While the unit worked well at times it was almost impossible to stabilize its functioning. The tone- or pitch- of the signals was extremely high and some operators had difficulty reading them. Traffic was handled over the revolutionary type receiver between the San Antonio, Cuba relay station and the station at New Orleans. Not satisfactorily developed for commercial use the Hetrodyne-Arc-Receiver was abandoned.

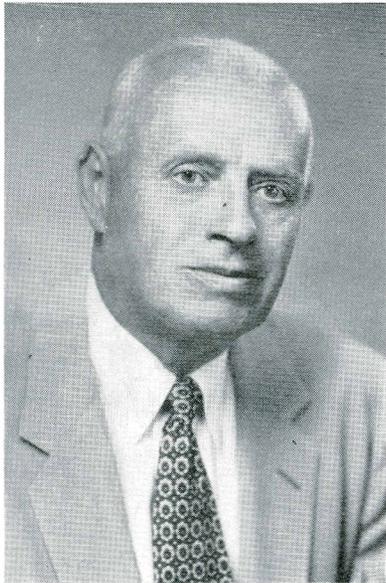
Ed notes with interest that about that time the late W. E. (Bill) Beakes was Chief Engineer of the Fessenden Company (National Electric Signalling Company) and was in New Orleans for some of the Tests. Beakes left the Fessenden Company to become Chief Engineer of Tropical Radio advancing to Vice President and retiring as President of TRTCO.

The Veteran Wireless Operators Association recognizes Ed Commagere's half century of service in the radio art by awarding to him our Marconi Memorial Wireless Pioneer's Gold Medal.

VETERAN WIRELESS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

*Marconi Memorial Gold Medal of Service*

**FREDERICK E. MEINHOLTZ**



**FREDERICK E MEINHOLTZ**

The recipient of the Marconi Memorial Gold Medal of Service of our Association, this year, is, and has been since 1931, the Director of Communications and Manager of the Syndicated News Department of the New York Times.

A distinguished communications engineer these many years, Fred Meinholtz was born in Saint Louis, Missouri on Friday January 17, 1890; son of Fred John and Anne (Bullerdieck) Meinholtz and was a student in St. Louis public schools; married Mae Covington Mackall November 22, 1922; children—Frederick Louis, Lillian Mae and Harry Becker.

Fred was office Manager for the Western Union Telegraph Co., St. Louis, 1907-1917; Manager, Radio Dept., The New York Times, 1920-1931; Director of Communications, Manager of Syndicated

News Department since 1931. Installed trans-atlantic press receiving station News Traffic Bd., Ltd., Halifax, N. S., 1922; pres., dir. since 1933; handled North Pole communications, Amundsen, Byrd expeditions 1926; initiated high frequency regularly scheduled press transmissions to ships at sea 1926; radio cons. Byrd's first Antarctic expedition 1928-1930; assisted orgn. and bldg. Press Wireless, Inc., 1929, secretary 1932-1943, now director.

Advisor U. S. delegation International Telecommunications Conference, Cairo, Egypt, 1938; Third Inter-American Radio Conference, Rio de Janeiro, S. A., 1945, British-American Telecommunications Conference, Bermuda, 1945; International Telegraph and Radio Conference, Atlantic City, 1947; International Administrative Telegraph Conference, Paris, France, 1949; member of U. S. delegation, International Plenipotentiary Telecommunications Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1952; International Administrative Telegraph Conference, Geneva 1958; Plenipotentiary Conference of International Telecommunications Union, Geneva 1959.

He served with the U. S. Navy 1917-19; a member of American Legion (past county vice-commander, adjutant, post commander); 40 et 8; American Polar Society. Clubs, Garden City Country; Admiral's; Stratoliner and the Veteran Wireless Operators Association. Home, 123 Wickham Road, Garden City, L. I., New York. Office, 229 West 43rd Street, New York, N. Y.

# Veteran Wireless Operators Association

## LIFE MEMBERS

- CAPTAIN PIERRE BOUCHERON  
Farnsworth Television & Radio Corporation  
Fort Wayne, Ind. (Ret.)
- RAYMOND E. BROWN  
Radio Officer
- ELMER E. BUCHER  
Radio Corporation of America (Ret.)
- JAMES F. BURNS  
Baltimore Coach Co.
- A. G. COOLEY  
Westrex Corp.
- A. J. COSTIGAN  
RCA Communications, Inc. (Ret.)
- CHARLES B. COOPER  
Manufacturers Representative (Ret.)
- ORRIN E. DUNLAP, JR.  
Vice President in charge of Advertising and  
Publicity, Radio Corporation of  
America
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U. S. N. R.
- GUY ENTWISTLE  
President, Massachusetts Radio School
- PAUL GODLEY  
Consulting Radio Engineer
- RAYMOND F. GUY  
National Broadcasting Company
- W. J. HALLIGAN, SR.  
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The Hallicrafters, Chicago, Ill.
- O. B. HANSON  
Vice-President, R.C.A. (Ret.)
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- J. V. MARESCA  
U.S. Army Signal Laboratory
- T. R. McELROY  
World's Champion Radio Telegraphist
- WILLIAM J. MCGONIGLE, SR.  
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- BENJAMIN J. MIESSNER  
President, Miessner Inventions, Inc.
- FRANK ORTH  
Technical Supervisor, Columbia Broadcasting  
System
- ROBERT H. PHEYSEY  
Tropical Radio Telegraph Co.
- J. R. POPPELLE  
"Santa-Land"
- HARADEN PRATT  
Consulting Engineer
- E. H. RIETZKE  
President, Capitol Radio Engineering  
Institute
- J. FRANK RIGBY  
Vanby Corporation
- GENERAL DAVID SARNOFF  
Chairman of the Board, Radio Corporation  
of America
- SAM SCHNEIDER  
Retail Radio, N.Y.C.
- WILLIAM C. SIMON  
General Manager, Tropical Radio  
Service Corp.
- THOMAS M. STEVENS  
Federal Communications Commission, (Ret.)
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Manufacturers Representative
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- J. McWILLIAMS STONE  
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RCA Laboratories (Ret.)
- LEWIS WINNER  
Editorial Director
- ARTHUR F. WALLIS  
Radio Officer
- G. V. WILLETS  
Author and Lecturer

## WENDELL'S NEWS CORNER

The WVOA received a response from WVOA Member John Dilks, K2TQN on a request to make a Presentation on Ed Raser W2ZI, who lived and worked a long life with radio. Ed Raser became one of the first historians who knew pioneering people and communicated by letter, and on the air, gathering radio history from many other pioneers. He was a founder of the Antique Wireless Association and had a large wireless museum at his home, one of the first. His collection lives on at other museums today.

I'll be happy to present Ed Raser to our WVOA group. I'm sure you will find his life interesting and exhibited by a life well lived through radio.

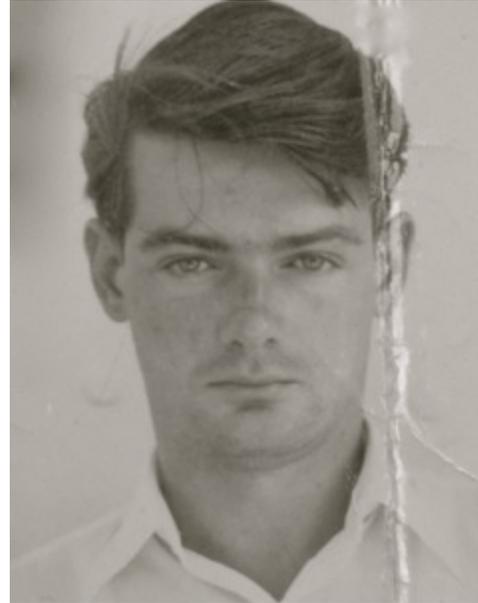
My presentation shows many photographs of W2ZI and his tells about his personal history.

John Dilks, K2TQN

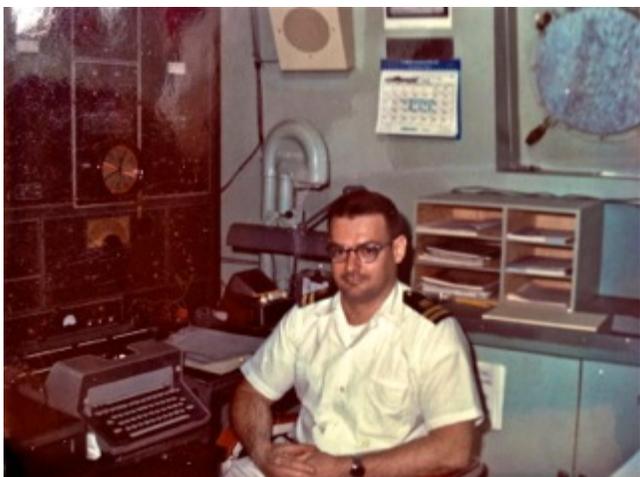
**June 9, 2013** Speaker at the WVOA Luncheon to be held at:

**DON PEPE RESTAURANT  
844 Mc Carter Highway  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

The last WVOA Newsletter #69 announced:  
**GORDON GRAHAM WHITE** became SK February 21, 2013



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WVOA Life Member **WARREN TUCKMANTEL**  
became SK June 20, 2011

WVOA Member **BIMAL SARKAR**  
became SK May 29, 2012

WVOA Member **DONALD R. WILSON**  
became SK April 6, 2013



WVOA Member **WILLIAM G. CAMPBELL**  
became SK May 5th, 2012



**WILLIAM G. CAMPBELL, 85**  
Lodi, CA - William G. Campbell,  
85, was called home on May  
5th, 2012, in Lodi, CA. He had

been a resident of Ocala for over 20 years until moving to California to live with his daughter in 2005. "Pop" was the beloved father of William (Sandra) Campbell of Willingboro, NJ, Douglas (Delrene) Campbell of Cameron, WI, and Sherry Campbell of Lodi, CA; grandfather of Kimberly Edwards of Oakland, CA, Stewart and Zachary Campbell of Cameron, WI, and great-grandfather of Aatiya and Aiden Edwards of Oakland, CA. He is preceded by his brother and parents, his daughter Margaret Campbell, and his wives Genevieve Campbell (mother of his children), Marion Campbell of Ocala, FL, and Ann Campbell of Staten Island, NY. He will be greatly missed by all, including his many nieces and nephews and his cherished friends. A Celebration of Life will be

The above 4 photos taken at various periods of his life are published to remind WVOA Members of the many WVOA Volunteer Hours he spent educating the Public Visitors to the South Street Seaport aboard the Light Ship AMBROSE on the role of the Radio Officer in Maritime Navigation and history of the operation of the Light Ship AMBROSE.

Hopefully this will jar some WVOA Member to provide information as to when this Photos were taken.

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held in his honor on Saturday, June 2nd from 10 a.m. to noon at the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lodi.

Published in Ocala Star-Banner from May 18 to May 19, 2012

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## NEW VWOA LIFE MEMBER



### **John W. Reiser WQ4L QCWA #30080**

John Reiser was born and raised in Cadillac, Michigan. He claims his fascination with radio started at a very early age with by listening to distant broadcast stations on the family radio that was connected to large wire antenna array on the house roof supported by a tall pipe.

During the period of WW-II he became even interested in radio by seeing how both short-

wave and two-way radio was frequently featured in many of the motion pictures and in the reports of military activities.

There were no licensed amateurs in Cadillac at the time, and consumer radio receivers were impossible to buy because all electronic products were directed to the war effort. The one radio repair shop in the town kept busy by recycling tubes and parts that were available. However, John built a number of one to three tube battery operated radios with the assistance and a few from parts from the radio shop owner.

When John started high school, the local Civil Air Patrol Squadron sponsored a cadet program which offered classes to train and obtain FCC licenses for radio operators. The head of the local Western Union office was the instructor who also conducted Morse code training. John obtained his first FCC Commercial Radiotelephone Operator Permit through the CAP program. John also worked for a local jewelry store repairing clocks of all kinds.

Immediately after WW-II ended and when John was a junior in High School, a long-delayed 250-watt AM broadcast station was built in Cadillac. John spent time watching the 150 foot antenna tower as well as the studio and transmitting equipment being installed, and of course asking a lot of questions. John helped form a radio broadcast club at the high school

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that produced several weekly programs and assisted with the remote broadcasts of athletic events. At that time most small stations had combination announcer and transmitter operators who were required to hold FCC First Class Radiotelephone Licenses. John enlisted in the Naval Reserve and qualified for electronic training classes. John and another member took a correspondence course preparing for FCC license examinations, which they took at the Detroit office. He and his friend also bought a Webcor wire recorder to practice radio announcing and making on scene news reports.

After graduation from high school, John enrolled at Purdue University as physics major, and also immediately applied for a job at the school's 5000-watt AM station WBAA. He was assigned primarily to studio work helping with remote broadcasts of music performances. John also continued his participation in the Naval Reserve program, attending naval training classes during the summer.

After finished at Purdue, John returned home to Cadillac and started working full time at WATT. During that time the station power was increased to 1000 watts, and a local TV station was constructed. John then left commercial broadcasting to work at the University of Michigan Broadcasting Service in Ann Arbor as chief engineer of the radio and TV studio facilities for instructional purposes. Here he designed and supervised the

construction of all new and expanded studios. John was also discharged from the Naval Reserve as a Chief Communications Technician to receive a direct commission as a Lieutenant JG.

While in Ann Arbor John also took graduate courses in broadcasting and obtained a degree in Electrical Engineering. One of his fellow engineers was an avid amateur DX contester and talked John into becoming a ham. As soon as John received his novice call KN8YFV, he built a one-tube crystal controlled transmitter to immediately get on the air. Within a month he went to the Detroit FCC office to take the General class exam to become K8YFV. At that time the engineer-in-charge talked John into leaving the academic climate of Ann Arbor for an exciting career as a FCC field engineer. John started working at the Detroit office in July of 1961 and was transferred to the Buffalo office in December 1965 as the assistant engineer-in-charge and soon promoted to the EIC. His call was changed to W2BLR. While living in the Buffalo area, John was a member of the Radio Association of Western New York, and took part in his first field day as an 80-meter CW operator.

In 1972 John was transferred to the FCC field office headquarters in Washington as chief of the branch responsible for all license examinations and operator and field station licensing activities. A year later he was made

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chief of the inspections and investigations branch. With his residence in Virginia he call was changed to W4ARL. Like most FCC field engineers, John can tell many interesting stories of hunting for unlicensed stations and finding unusual sources of interference to radio services.

Because of his experience in broadcast engineering John was appointed to the FCC Chairman's Broadcast re-regulation taskforce in 1976 and continued in broadcast engineering standards work. During this time when extra class licensees could be FCC-selected 1X2 or 2X1 calls, John turned in his W4ARL call and was issued WQ4L. He plans to keep as he has enough QSL cards to last many years. In 1990 John retired from the Naval Reserve.

In 1886 the Department of State designated John as chairman of the United States Committee for ITU Study Groups on radio and TV broadcastings. He attended numerous ITU standards and conference preparatory meetings at many foreign locations until he retired from government service. This was an exciting period because of the rapid development of digital television and radio and in the launch of satellite broadcasting. During his many stays in Geneva, Switzerland during conference meetings, he enjoyed operating CW at the station 4U1ITU at the International Telecommunication Union headquarters.

John has also had a long time interest in sound recording. For over 20 years he has been recording concerts of many of his musician friends and local performing groups, and started using digital recorders when the equipment became first available in the mid 1980's, and has mastered several commercial CD recordings. John and his wife Patricia have five children, none of which had any interest in radio, but have shown a great love for music.

John is a senior life member of the IEEE, a fellow of the Society of Broadcast Engineers, Certified Professional Broadcast Engineer and program chairman for Association of Federal Communications Consulting Engineers. John has received numerous professional honors including the Board of Governors Award from the Audio Engineering Society and Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Broadcasters for his work in advancing radio broadcast engineering standards. He is a member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association and the Mt. Vernon (Virginia) Amateur Radio Club. He has served as president of both the QCWA Vic Clark Chapter 91 and the MVARC,

John enjoys operating CW on the HF bands, in the local 2-Meter FM nets, participating in local public service events, and operating during field day with the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club. He is not a serious contest or DX chaser but will answer some "test" calls the other

operator another contact points. He also enjoys writing specialized utility programs.

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## ANOTHER VWOA LIFE MEMBER

### GARY DAVID GRAY W6DOE

Gary David Gray, W6DOE, retired as the Chief Telecommunications Engineer for Orange County, CA.

Having accumulated 40.58374 years of service with the County of Orange, and after surviving "the system" to become Orange County's most senior employee, Gary decided to retire from Orange County service.

"This was a difficult decision for me, as Orange County has been my home for the vast majority of my life," said Gary.

"Thank you sincerely for your years of support and friendship, and I hope to continue to see you all on a regular basis. May God richly bless you and yours."

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From: Ben Ballard

Date: April 28, 2013 3:42:42 PM EDT

To: "Wendell R. Benson"

<[wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)>

Subject: Land line QSO

Wendell,

Thanks for the call. I really enjoyed talking about the old days and appreciate your connecting me with the Newsletter again. Comments by Jules Sackman brought to mind the sunny day I returned from China aboard the General Anderson. There were few dry eyes among hundreds crowding the starboard side as we passed the Statue of Liberty entering NY Harbor. A day to remember, for sure.

73

Ben W6VJ

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The VWOA Editor is desperately in need of news stories. Can you take some time out of your Daily Chores and submit something, short, medium or long. We would prefer to hear from you by Email at:

[ftcassidy@optonline.net](mailto:ftcassidy@optonline.net)

Or

[wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)