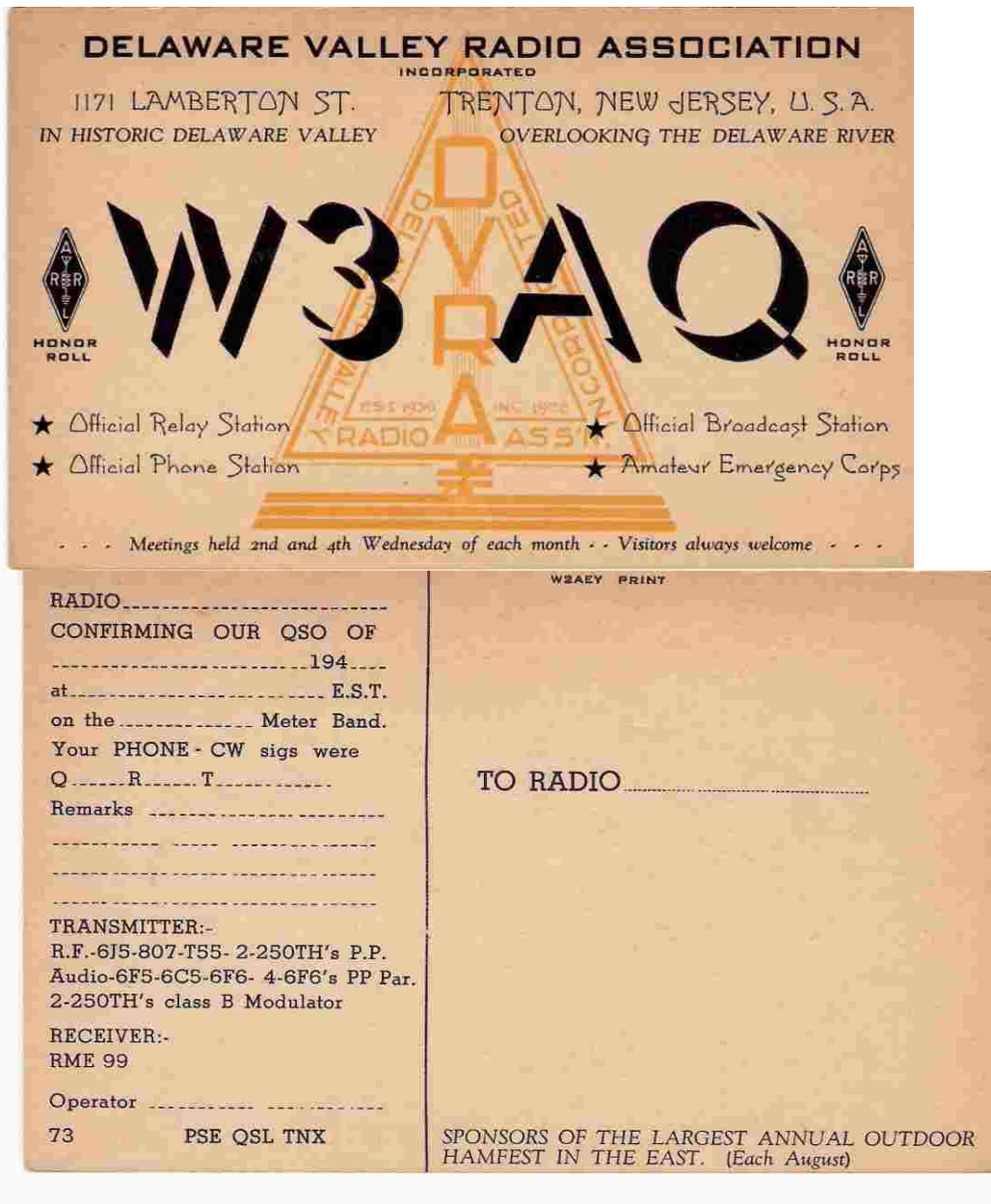


It's All in the Cards

By Gary Wilson, K2GW



As we continue to explore club history through the DVRA's QSL cards, here's another one using the W3AQ callsign. As can be seen by the 194__ date spot, this was used in the 1940's and due to the pre-war callsign, most likely before December 1941 when all Amateur radio activity was suspended for the duration.

Note that the address is now on Lambertson Street near where the Waterfront Park ball field is today. I believe this was the Trenton Yacht Club.

The accomplishments listed on the front include being on the Honor Roll (for traffic handling, as the DXCC Honor roll didn't start until after WWII) being an Official Relay Station of messages, and being an Official Broadcast Station of ARRL bulletins. The club's longstanding involvement in emergency communications is demonstrated by being designated an Official Emergency Station. One unique thing is that we were a pioneer in the then advanced mode of speaking so we are an Official Phone Station!

Activities of the club are on both the front and back of the card. The front shows that the club met twice a month on the 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays and the back shows that we sponsored the largest Hamfest in the East. This was before the Dayton Hamfest which only began in 1951. This Hamfest was held at the State Fairgrounds where the Grounds for Sculpture is located today.

Continuing on the back (notice we can now afford two sided, two color printing!) we now emphasize the two modes of CW and Phone. Phone at the time meant AM as few hams were using FM, and SSB was still a dream. We are still logging in EST, leading one to believe that most contacts are still domestic. The signal report is a Q R T (Quality Readability Tone) report instead of today's RST. I just hope people didn't get the card and thought we were telling them to QRT!

The club's transmitter is home brewed using a variety of listed tubes in the RF and audio stages. Remember phone was new to hams at this time, so this was pretty state of the art transmitter for a ham station.

The receiver is an RME 99, a fairly good commercial 12 tube communications receiver at the time. It had three stages of IF amplification and one stage of RF amplification. Here's a picture of one:

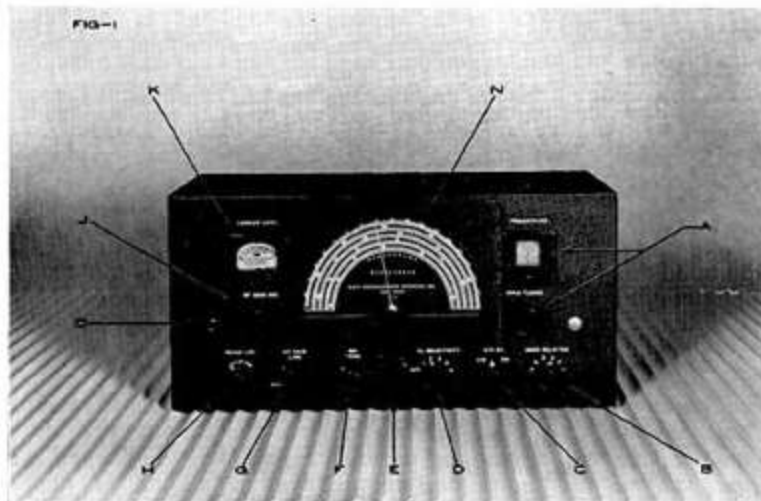


Fig. 1 — Front View

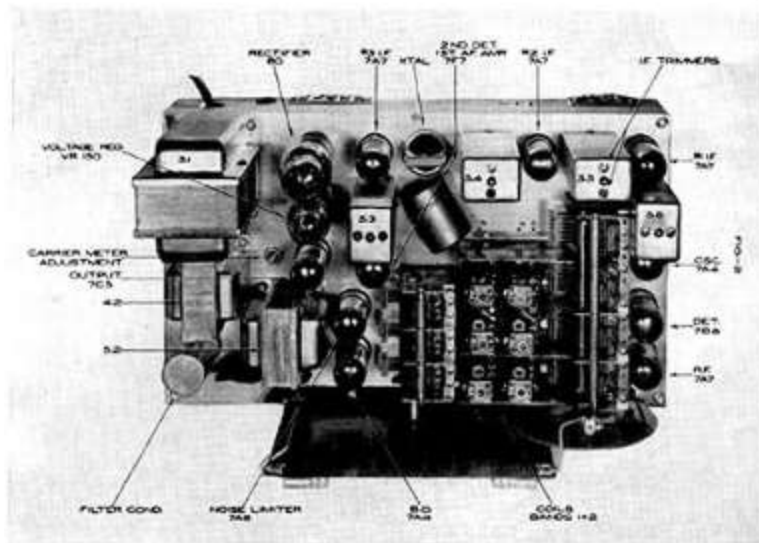


Fig. 2 — Top View

That's it for this time. Next time will look at things just after the war.

73

Gary, K2GW