

A HISTORY OF THE ORANGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - Part 2

by Bob - WB6IXN, Club Historian

In 1939, the Club met in the Santa Ana YMCA. Another pre-war activity of the Club was the "Century Club", representing members who had worked 100 countries or more. From its beginning, the Century Club was a challenge! Swelling its ranks were: Shelley Trotter, W6BAM, leading with 116 countries worked, 106 verified; Noral Evans, W6ADT; S.T. McNeal W6LDJ; Tom Hudspeth, W6LHN; and Al Hill, W1QMI.

This time, the Club remained active into 1942, and then once more disbanded because its members became involved in winning a war. Shelley Trotter, W6BAM, turned the Club records over to Howard Bogue, W6CFN, before Shelley 'trotted' off to war. However, between 1936 and 1942, the Club prospered and it had many notable members. A few are listed:

W6MNP Cecil Hamilton, Santa Ana; W6SIX, Will Schaffer, San Diego; W6IDJ, Tom McNeal, Santa Ana; W6GSZ, Ed Wood, Santa Ana; W6IBN, Roy Cumpston, Santa Ana; W6JMA, Norm Hicks, Santa Ana; W6NRM, Bob WeitBrecht, Tustin; W6DHP, John Willcutt, Santa Ana; W6QUQ, Dick Pearson, Santa Ana; W6BVX, John Trotter (BAM's brother), Santa Ana; W6BFE, Hayden Helt, Tustin; W6UFG, John Farwell, Santa Ana; W6LXS, George Tokar, Buena Park; W6KLU, Harry Christensen, Fullerton; W6QXL, Alyce Raffi, Fullerton; W6HQX, Ray Wood, Santa Ana; and Bob Haven.

Either before the war or shortly thereafter, the Whittier ARC became active in Orange County. The OCARC was made up mostly of "DXers" and it met once every two weeks.

Below, is a list of a few more hams who operated in Orange County. Some were Club members, and some were not. However, I will list them for nostalgic reasons:

W6NMP, Cecil Hamilton (worked at the post office);

W6LDJ, Tom McNeal (Mac), treasurer of Club, member of OC Century Club, 1st amateur radio instructor at OCC, great grandson of famous Ross family after whom Ross St. in Santa Ana was named;

W6GSZ, Ed Wood, an Engineer at radio station KFI, licensed in 1933, had polio as a youngster;

W6IBN, Roy Cumpston, vice pres. Of Club in 1938;

W6JMA, Norm Hicks, now probably in San Diego (1978), was on refreshment committee;

W6NRM, Bob Weitbrecht, an Edison in radio, inventor, college man, handicapped in speech and hearing (LDJ could understand him well);

W6DHP, John Willcutt, Club officer in the 30's, won HV transformer for home brewing, 1st ham in Orange County on 15m (probably used a harmonic freq.), got his call in '30 or '31, worked for the post office in Tustin;

W6CFN, Howard Bogue, possibly secretary in 1942;

W6QUQ,?;

W6BVX, John Trotter, Shelley's brother, now a silent key May 27, 1968;

W6BFE, Hayden Helt, 1st ham in Tustin, He, Shelley, and John Trotter all took their tests together in LA for a ham license;

W6CIG, "Bob" Burton Baird, post office employee now a silent key;

W6UFG, John Farwell, worked for the post office;

W6LXS, George Tokar, was engineer at KFI;

W6KLU, Harry Christensen, still around (in 1978), has a 2-letter call, very intelligent, was first active in 1934;

W6QXL, Alyce Raffi, came to last meeting in 1941 when Shelley was president, had her picture in QST;

W6HQX, Ray Wood, worked with RCA Communications along with John Shick, W6LQX;

W6LQX, John Shick, vice pres. 1941, Was he ever president? When?

(to be continued - Next month)