

## **W6ZE IS BORN!**

**(A History of the OCARC Call Letters)**

**BY Bob, WB6IXN**

In the 1950s, W6LRP/W6ZE, Earl Griffin, and his XYL, Mildred, W6PJU, were both members of the OCARC. Mildred worked with Roy Maxson, W6DEY, at the FCC Field Office south of Edinger St., in western Santa Ana.

In April, 1951, Earl Griffin, then W6LRP, was a member of the Dog Patch group. (At this time, the OCARC was meeting (near what is now "The Block" shopping center) at the Orange County Communications Center next to the Dog Pound, thus the name Dog Patch group.) The Club History contains a picture of Earl Griffin and the Dog Patch group taken in June, 1951. Earl Griffin, along with Rehse Mowry, W6OZO, Horace Bates, W6QZQ, and our very first mysterious `RF' editor, Dr. Marinus Conway, WA6UPP, sponsored the first `RF' newsletter publication called, "RF of Western Wireless", becoming `RF' as we know it today with Vol. 2, Number 1, dated Nov. 13, 1954.

Due to their close association, LRP/W6ZE, W6PJU, and W6DEY were steadfast friends! Earl Griffin was employed by the Santa Ana Water Works, and received a new call, W6ZE. Earl died from a heart attack in 1956.

Three years later, Roy Maxson, W6DEY, and Mildred Griffin were married. The Club, under past-president Ted Glick's (K6LJA) urging, moved to have Earl's call, W6ZE, assigned to the OCARC as our Club Call. The position of Roy Maxson, W6DEY, in the FCC was instrumental in acquiring Earl's call for the OCARC.

At the Feb. 18, 1959 meeting, Roy Morris, K6IQ, first Trustee of the W6ZE club license, announced that the call was officially ours! Other trustees of the club call have been Alex Alexander W6RE, Ken Konechy W6HHC, and currently Bob Eckweiler AF6C.