

Is there any evidence that popular Handi Hams of the day, technical contributors John Frye W9EGV & Herb Brier W9EGQ knew each other? In a letter dated 19 April 2009 sent to QCWA Chapter 36. from Gene Wiggins W9CWG former Valparaiso Staff Faculty retired, we learned thus.



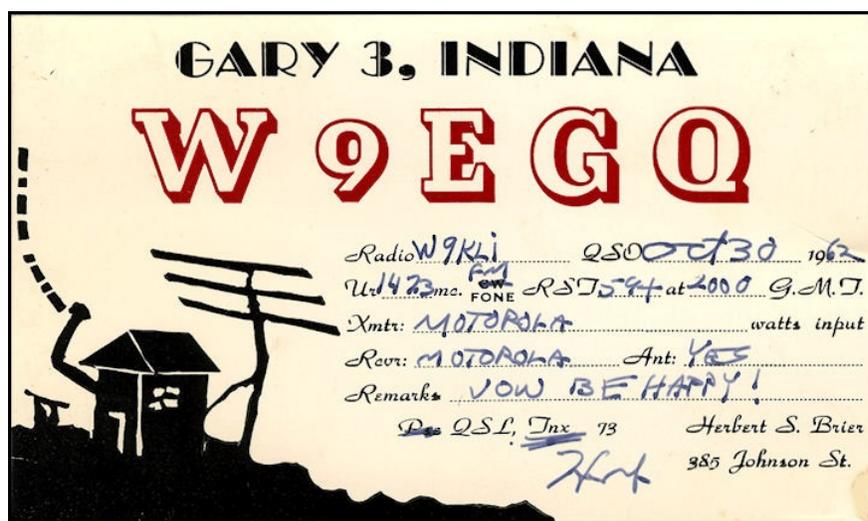
Wiggins stated; I came to Valpo Indiana to attend Dodge Telegraph and Radio Institute in 1942. (Following WW2 Dodge Institute was renamed Valparaiso Technical Institute under new ownership.) Attendance was small due to the fact that WW2 was in full swing. Within a very short time I was told about Herb Brier in Gary Indiana.

Lake County Indiana had good activity on two meters with modulated oscillators and super regenerative receivers., including Herb Brier, W9EGQ. Soon after meeting Herb on the air we went over to visit him. In those days we built most of our stations, except receivers. I don't recall what Herb was building when we visited that first time. He had a table set up that straddled his bed and he did everything on it, drilling, soldering, etc.

One afternoon Wiggins contacted Herb on two meters and they got into a discussion of tubes used for power amps. That led them into the matter of using a high MU triode or a zero bias tube designed for Class B modulator service as a Class C RF amplifier. Both had data and curves on the tubes they were discussing and would calculate data for each type, discuss pros and cons. Wiggins believes the conversation ended such as they should leave the zero bias tubes for Class B modulator service as the industry was doing.

In the early 60's or possibly before, the Lake County Indiana Radio Club held a banquet at Teibel's Restaurant. There were probably 200 or more in attendance, the big event for the year.

Then it was moved to another nearby restaurant for some reason. At the latter place, they had an ambulance bring Herb in his portable bed as the honored guest and speaker. He gave a terrific talk on his own history and ham radio in general. It was then that Wiggins first heard about the neighbor kid that loaded a car transmission onto his wagon and brought it into Herb's room where they dismantled it to see how it worked. Herb said, "There was a little oil on the floor, with a chuckle." Continued page two.



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Wiggins continued, "There was another Handi Ham John Frye W9EGV who lived in Logansport, Indiana. I have no info on how Herb and John first got together, but the closeness of their calls suggests they may have taken tests together.

Back in the 50's Herb and John were heard daily on 75 Meters. They obtained text books on Spanish, each day they would discuss lesson pages, do the homework involved, meet the next day to go over the homework, discuss the next step, on and on.

Then it came to where they would talk Spanish in discussing the homework. They did the same thing learning calculus. That is a rough course to say the least but they finished a text book on it.

Author; We shortened text here slightly, by D.E. Wiggins - Valpo Tech Faculty, retired. (Note Dodge Telegraph and Radio Institute became Valparaiso Tech after WW2. It was the largest telegraphy and railway instruction institute in the USA at one point. The operation ended in 1991 after 117 years of continuous operation!

Credits; W9EGQ QSL Dan Sheetz W9DWS - See the fine data from QCWA Chapter 36. & Mr Wiggins W9CWG comments.

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