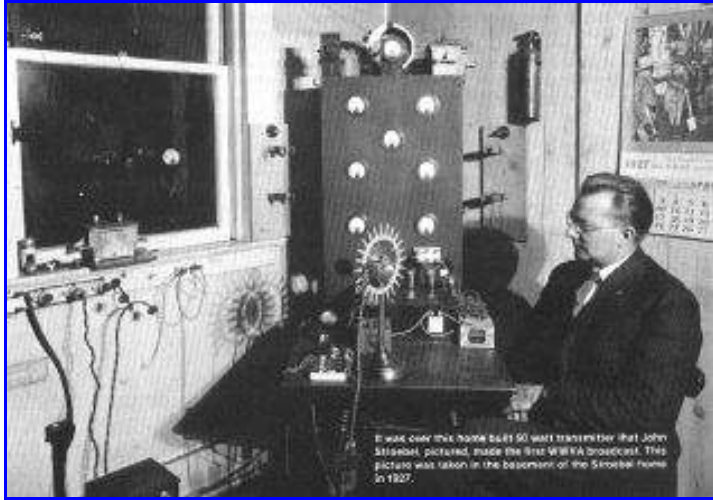


John Charles Stroebel Jr *1894-1957* 8ZW - John, son of a grocer was founder of the Big One WWVA which became a giant in the industry. Stroebel has a spot of honor on the **WV Broadcast Hall of Fame**. Born in Wheeling, residence National Road, was an early expert wireless pioneer on the air at a young age.

Mr. H.L. Kirk one time Mayor of Wheeling stated he recalled in 1912 when in the mayor's office, a young boy came to him and two other city officials asking for co-operation in advancing wireless in Wheeling and

the Ohio Valley. That boy was John C. Stroebel. "Even then he was interested in wireless and that was a time when most laymen thought of wireless telegraphy as a child's toy. I believe he was still in short trousers at that time," Mr King said. Also the radio station constructed by Mr. Stroebel is the greatest advertisement Wheeling could have.



Secretary Dillon because of the Ohio River Valley floods of 1913 had selected several special amateur radio station licensees. Issue date March 1915, John Stroebel was one of the issuants (8ZW) because of his abilities to run and operate a suitable station with emergency capabilities.

John was part of the Washington's Birthday National cross country radio relay in 1916. It may be of interest the participants were millionaires and poor, hardworking farm boys, several priests, six ministers, three ladies and members of radio clubs, schools, boy scouts. All working on the radio relay getting the job accomplished as Americans can do when they receive a task. Stroebel was registered for the draft in WW I and occupation stated was a R.I. for US Government NYC - By 1922 John was married to a local Wheeling lady, one Virginia Elnore born 17 June 1905. She expired at Bainbridge Island in Wash. state 5 Nov 1998.

John was very active with Westinghouse in 1922 where he assisted in the build of KDKA in Pittsburgh, then Chicago establishing KYW, from Chicago he went to Rio de Janeiro Brazil, building the huge station there known to listeners as SPC. His next appearance was construction of relay station at Hastings Nebraska KSKK and remedying troubles of radio stations in nearby localities.

Then in 1926 ended Mr. Stroebel's activities with Westinghouse company. His career as an independent continued with super power WOAI in San Antonio then to rebuild WCOA in Pensacola with the ultimate object a broadcast station in Wheeling always in his mind.

Stroebel (it was stated was a physics teacher at Triadelphia District School) was back on the Wheeling scene 13 December 1926 broadcasting from his parlor and starting WWVA A.M. running 50 Watts. Continuing on page two.

RADIO STATION	{ 8ZW 8BSY	Wheeling, West Va.,	192
RADIO	Your	Sigs. { Worked } { Heard }	E. S. T.
Audibility	QRM	QRN	QSS QRH
Receiving:	Super-Heterodyne Grebe C. R. W. E. Power Amp. Baldwin Fones		
Transmitting:	500 watt C. W. using 2-250 watt tubes, and 150 watt Fone Set using 7-50 watt tubes.		
Aerial:	2-4 wire cages 16 ft. spread, 45 ft. long, 75 ft high, 13 wire counterpoise directly under aerial.		
Plate Supply:	1500 watt, 2000 V. M. G., 1500 V. Willard Storage B. Battery		
Remarks:			
Opr's:	J. C. Stroebel, Jr. Earl W. Weimer	A. R. R. L. City Manager, Official Broadcast Sta.	Cul 73's
Pse QSL	QRK GLD QSR		

His broadcasting was short lived in a year or so he became disinterested and sold out for 50 thousand. WWVA was under new ownership growing to 500 watts and housed in the Fidelity Investment Building down town Wheeling. The date 1929 Stroebel served on the board of I.R.E. (Institute of Radio Engineers) He was in committee, membership services. The days of listening to choice DX from the high spot Mt. Wood, by the National Pike via auto would be over shortly.

We found a note that Stroebel at various periods of his life settled in Mexico, Brazil and Germany continually experimenting as he had accomplished in Wheeling. Nothing else is known about John other than his death at age 62 in Bellingham, WA 24 Feb 1957.

Stroebel truly was a major part of the main event in the Wheeling region early on. Very little credit has been his due from Westinghouse. We have the Stroebel QSL card and Wheeling articles from the Wheeling News-Register from Tom K8CX and his extensive collection at Ham gallery.

In 2010 a major setback occurred at WWVA when a micro burst blew over their St. Clairsville, Ohio tower site. All 3 classic Blaw-Knox towers were toppled knocking the station off the air. Work began immediately to replace the towers. Will the Jamboree keep on ? I hope so!

WWVA - It is good to hear the Stealers football network in the fall, a good signal over here in NE Ohio. I hope that DX spot at Mt. Wood is still there -Xmtr Days of YORE - A K8CX Card.



W8SU 2013

