

**Lester A. Cushman W1AWZ - W1BX \*1905-1991\*** Les, born in South Paris, Maine, received his first amateur license in 1918. In 1929 he moved to Fall River, Mass., where he worked as a radio service technician and later operated Cushman Radio Company. They sold parts and equipment to radio amateurs and to the general public.

During WWII he served with the U.S. Signal Corps as chief radio engineer at Grenier Army Air Base in Manchester, New Hampshire, installing and maintaining communications equipment. He traveled extensively to the Arctic the Azores and Bermuda, he helped pioneer the installation of lightweight VHF communications radios in military aircraft.



In 1950, Les established a business to manufacture and install television antennas. As part of that activity, he designed the first amateur VHF antennas to be sold under the Cushcraft brand name.

During his career, Lester Cushman created a number of new antenna designs. "His philosophy was to achieve maximum performance while keeping the design simple," his son Robert Cushman, WA1QFY, said. "He remained an active participant in the Cushcraft Corporation until shortly before his death.

Cushman expired 12 November 1991 at age 86, an ARRL Life member and lived in Manchester, New Hampshire. CQ Magazine Hall of Fame electee. He had many awards and made a large contribution to the electronic and military community.

Many of us have invested extensively in the Cushcraft antenna line, especially the VHF Boomers. At one point the Ringo Ranger was a family word on two meters! My pal W8MTC Chief operator Mike, called the Ranger - the "Ringo Stranger!"

Besides his son Robert, Cushman leaves a daughter, four grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He is at rest in Manchester.

Thanks to the K8CX Ham Gallery and QST February 1992 page 77 for the Cushman Tribute.

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RADIO. W1AWZ. UR SIGS. WKD HR AT. M. ST. 2/17, 1999.  
QSA. R. NOTE. QSQ. QRM. QRN.  
ARRL  
**W1AWZ**  
XMTR: h.l.b./HY 205/PR 25T 400mhz RCVR. RME 69  
REMARKS: 5.0mhz to 19.60-70.1K  
ESE QSL TNX DX not much 73 L. A. CUSHMAN, Opr.  
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