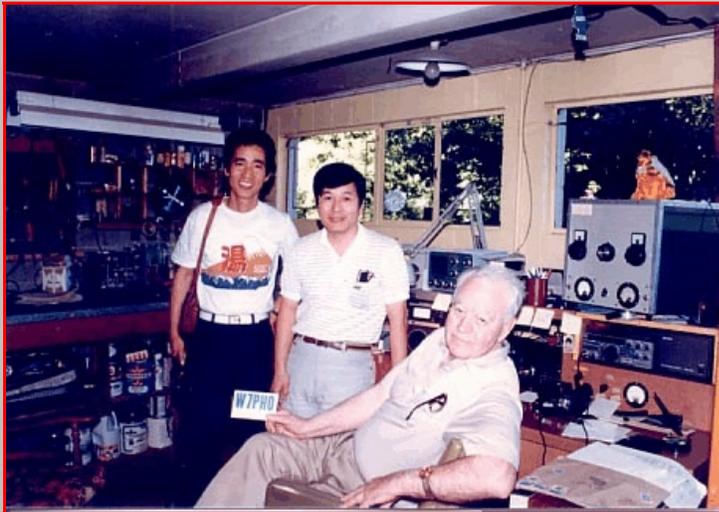


William H. Bennett - W7PHO *1909-1985* Bill became a silent key December 23rd 1985 suffering a heart attack while in communications with TI8CBT and discussing the TI9 Cocos operation heard in December. Mr. Bennett had gotten active in ham radio prior to WW 2. He was founder of Family Hour DX (a Directed net) in 1961 which has been in continuous operation for 48 years.

The Northwest W7PHO was a DX mover and featured a lot of DX to the deserving over the years on the W7PHO Family hour. This was an especially good area to watch for Pacific DX, but it also drew in DX from a lot of other areas. One had but to see Bill in action at a DX convention to realize that this was a big gun in DX'ing, ready to push where needed, quickly and loudly to advise when anything affecting DX might show. He was a DX'er and did not hesitate to let anyone know it. Most DX'ers instantly recognize his call. Bill was also quick to recognize a lot of other DX'ers.



At one point Bill had been a businessman in the construction industry, being a contractor in sheet-metal. Then having spent a lot of his working career as a public school teacher and coach in Oregon, Bill never lost his interest in the training and education of youth.

Retirement hardly slowed his drive and enthusiasm. He traveled extensively with his XYL, Ruth., in a large recreational vehicle and he was at the Northwest DX convention every year. He lived in the southern part of Seattle.

Many feel a loss at the passing of W7PHO - He was a Dx'er who worked hard for the DX community and helping others. Bill was one of the best. At the rig, (long moving force in DX, this is Bill Bennett who became a silent key in December. A true-blue DX hound W7PHO suffered a heart attack while at his rig. Here in another day, Bill is working DX on the Family Hour. He was always where there was DX and DX'ing (CQ DX Column April 1988.

Bill a Rotarian of West Seattle was always alert looking for ways to use his hobby for service. He made Rotarian Radio friends in Napal and India where he was able to arrange shipments of hearing aids to be given to disabled children.

There is the W7PHO Memorial scholarship, an annual award for undergraduate students enrolled in a 4 year institution. The award was established by the Western Washington DX Club and friends of W7PHO with the ARRL Foundation. Bill was a former Member and President of the Western Washington DX Club starting in 1952.

After Bill expired, the Dayton Ham-Vention in 1988 chose W7PHO Ham of the Year for making significant contributions to the Amateur Service. With thanks to dxshack.ninja-x.jp - W8SU 2009