

Florence C. Majerus - *1916-2007* W7QYA - Lewistown, Montana, once a daily stalwart on 20M CW. A most proficient operator and always showed professionalism. Birth date October 1916. Flo has been absent from the cw portion for a good while.

I can recall her daily schedules in the 1970's and 80's on the edge of 20M 14.025 kc or so, sounded like a keyboard type CW operation and marvelous code. It took a while before I realized W7QYA was a YL operator, but those 88's at the end of the contacts revealed her gender. An exceptional signal from the distance of Montana proved a good antenna system.



Together with a story this article might have others recall and the material pop. A school teacher by profession, a former FAA radio operator and also a former night club musician is a hint of the person behind the key at W7QYA. Add it to a private pilot's license with membership in the 99s and amateur extra class license, the picture comes up bright!

Florence was licensed 1950 while serving with the former CAA in Alaska - She and hubby transferred back to their home in Montana. Flo is primarily a cw operator but is also found on 20 or 75 meters with membership in YLRL, MINOW, FHC and ISSB - A1 operator certificate and holds DXCC.

Twenty Meters doesn't seem the same as the earlier ages, Flo's type seem to be missing and the newcomers are not stalwart enough to keep the flame burning on c.w. As my friend Mike W8MTC the old righthander from Donora says "It Happens."

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Florence has traveled around the world and has found it most interesting to meet some of the people she has chatted to over the air. Sometimes it can be more than just interesting, as the time when she tried to renew an acquaintance with someone who was having a ball with the DX-prefix -resulting in the discovery that the party was someone from an entirely different country operating illegally.

Flo's activities at W7QYA were rag chewing and DX with more interest in collecting friends than certificates. Melvin the love of her life expired in 1989 and Flo lived out her final days at Valle Vista Manor, Lewiston. She rests at Hillcrest Lawn Memorial, Great Falls, MT.

Partially scripted from YLRL.qst.column - QSL's from K8CX Collection Ham Gallery -Keep those cards out of the landfill.

w8su 2007 added 2018

