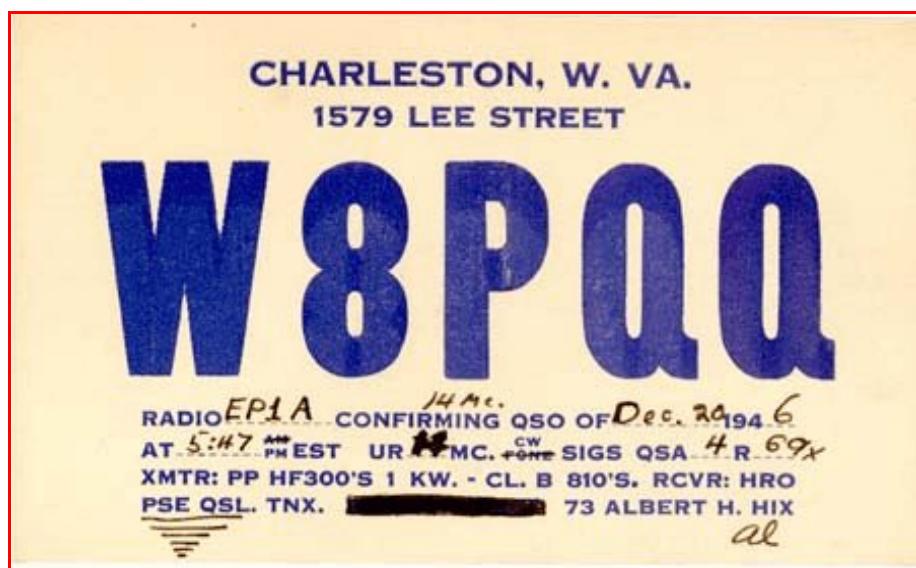


Albert H. Hix W8AH - W8BT - W8PQQ - *1917-2003* An Enigma in ham radio. Al was first licensed in high school, Charleston WV. Upon graduation in 1936, he attended WVU. Then 1942 a graduate of WVU with an Electrical Engineering degree. While at WVU he was also in ROTC training program and after graduation, he joined the military. He was a second lieutenant in the Army Signal Corps and served in World War II in the European Theater. Being - England, Belgium and France.

After the war Al returned to Charleston and accepted a position at Union Carbide in 1947 and worked in their control and communication department for 28 years. During his career, he provided his expertise in electrical engineering and control systems to Union Carbide facilities around the world.

It is little known that Al and W6SAI and others in the group are among the first of the post war major Dx-Peditions, to Andorra and Monaco. Al got his extra class in 1960 as W8BT and in 1977 filed for W8AH, a call which belonged to a friend who became a silent key.

Charlie N8RR a close friend knew Al well. From the age of 14, W8AH was his mentor. Charlie said "If there was a person who lived ham radio 24-7 it was Al Hix. From Al's mountain top QTH overlooking Charleston, he was loud everywhere, on all bands, especially into Russia and deep Asia over the pole." His awards too many to mention.



Al's basement shack was superb. It had a thick copper plate for a floor, he was a talented engineer. You would have to see the wiring harness in person he built to link up all of his equipment, especially the home brew 4-1000 amps for each band. He had equipment and repair parts in great quantities.

The aggressiveness in DX pileups and technique he used was 180 degrees opposite from his demeanor in person. Chas said "I would classify Al as downright meek and mild in person, very soft spoken and polite." Your author heard, AL took no prisoners when working DX, he was relentless. You just can't argue with the result. His awards many, always at the top of the Honor Rolls. Al expired 25 June 2003, at home after a short illness. He is survived by wife Constance of Charleston and brother, James of Parkersburg. Today there is the Albert H. Hix Memorial Scholarship Award given via ARRL Foundation.