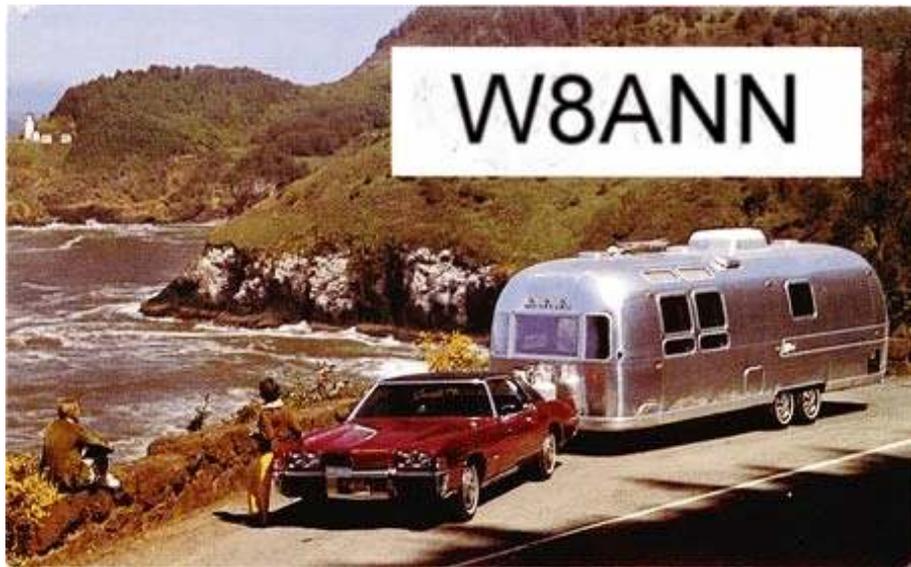


**Gilbert, Howard E. 1906-2004 - W8ANN - Howard (Slim)** born June 12 1906, Warren, Trumbull County. Of Clearview Estates Champion Heights. Warren, Ohio Age 95 at time of interview August 17 2001. Howard's father was divorced early in life and as a kid Slim had lost most of his old radio material including logs, magazines and pertinent material. He remained active until he expired, with HF and VHF equipment set up at the rest home mainly by his son.

September of 1919 was his first recollection of a QSO, it was on CW and they made contact one block using Ford Coils with his pal (ROS), Hugh Shaffer. It was just after the big war and radio ban had just been lifted. Slim was part of a group that did not take radio very seriously and utilized calls made up and were not licensed. The power of the sets were such that the FCC could not detect anyhow. The transmitters were 1/4 inch spark gaps with the Ford Coils and mineral detectors. Not much distance could be had with those minimum setups. He would lay in bed at night listening to the press wireless and dream about the future. Hugh Leach and Noah Carrington (NC) were a part of that early wireless group. Carrington did not pursue radio after that. Slim was aware of a couple of serious ham types that were licensed but was not willing to be in the class of their high elaborate stations. One gent lived at Parkman and West Market and the other Highland Ave and First Street.

Slim said he gave up CW and amateur radio in general in the 1930's and got started again in the 1940s. He had the very first issue of QST magazine however it got lost in the family changes when his father divorced and relocated. He recalls Don Huffman 8UX & 8ADJ who then was with the Youngstown PD, who was in a class of his own. Don could plan the stations and get them



operational, the remainder of the boys were just players that could not get anything to work the first time. It was a slow process in the 1920s and we brought up the rectifier jars and borax solution, Slim said that he could never get those jars to work. The first time he had heard a rotary spark gap, "It scared the hell out of me with all that racket!" Slim had been a member of the Warren Amateur Radio Assoc. since its inception. He enjoyed satellite QSO's & SSB skeds on twenty and 15 Meters.

Slim was a life long worker in the local steel plant and retired there in the 1970's. He was an avid camper and travel trailer man, making Texas a home in the winter many years in a row. Writer recalls his nightly travel to Lauri Ann Nursing Home in Newton Falls, using two meters on the local repeater, when his XYL was dying in the late 1970s.

One of Slim's camping buddies was none other than Claire Sutton W8CMS and wife. Slim has not been in good health the past 7 or 8 years, has had part of his leg amputated at the knee.

Mr. Gilbert becomes a Silent Key at age 97, expiring at St. Joseph's Hospital in Warren, Sunday 25 Apr 2004. I have seen one QSL of Slim's, believe it was in the W8CMS collection. Continued

