

Roy W. Waller - 8CL - *1894-1961*

Born 1894. Radio call source 1915 U.S. Government call book. W8CL is one of two son's of Jacob F. (a carpenter) and Alice B. Waller of 615 N. 4th St Cambridge. Fred a brother and a sister, at the same residence of which was Nellie M. Waller (Born) 1898 also Cambridge's 1st lady (YL) wireless operator.

Roy in his own words stated he had tinkered with radio as early as 1912 in a Zanesville Times Recorder interview and was the 1st licensed ham operator in Cambridge - At Mr. Waller's death in 1961 he held his original call W8CL. His son Clancy became the recipient of the call through the Amateur Vanity program. One reason for frequent call changes, in the early days, the amateur fraternity had to renew yearly and new call signs were issued when a lapse occurred.

When World War 1 commenced and the U.S.A. joined in 1917 all amateur licenses automatically expired for the duration of the war. Waller's Cambridge residences: 615 N. 4th- 837 N. 12th - 319 Wall Av. He held the various calls, 8CL 8DJ - 8CWX.

Waller was a very resourceful young man and entrepreneur, drove a Taxi Service and operated a Battery and Electric Service Company which was named after him located at 435 Wheeling Ave. At the turn of the last century while Marconi was doing experiments with communications in the British Isles, young Roy Waller was studying electricity and the sciences. Roy founded the 1st wireless club in Cambridge in 1913 per Jeffersonian article and was its first president elect. Roy had taken photos of his home ham radio station dated Jan. 1914 which are in the hands of his son Clancy in Norwich west of New Concord.

Dick Burgess writes, Roy established WEBE with 10 watts on 1210 kc & the studio at one point was located at the J.G. Bair Furniture store on Wheeling Av. It was known the WEBE antenna was atop the Central National Bank Bldg. Assumes the transmitter was also there. July 8th 1924 when Mr. Waller's broadcast station first went on the air, its location was in the bedroom radio room at the Waller home residence, located at 319 Wall St. Howard Rubicam writes: I recall Clancy Waller, called into his fathers station, a few years later and requested for them to play "Among My Souvenirs." Rubicam worked at the Waller Battery Store on Wheeling Ave.

In 1914 Roy & J. Homer McMunn a partnership, built the 1st wireless spark communications station in Cambridge. The original location, Lofland Bottoms, Lakeview Park. Mr. McMunn, would become Waller's brother-in-law. The young men telephoned weather information and news reports to the local Jeffersonian and other businesses in town.



*Photo courtesy of Dick Burgess
W5OUN*

Roy's father and brother were carpenters and would have helped build the Lakeview station. One sign on the wireless shack wall that could be read was "Do you ever go home?" Obviously they enjoyed the station. Roy and Olive G. married had three children, Clancy, Alice & Clarice. Alice was 7 years younger than Clancy. They kept in touch over the years.

The Waller/McMunn station was heard frequently on the radio bands in many reported listings see January and April 1917 QST Magazine. In later years, Roy built and operated Roy Theater and Old Trail Drive-in Theater also operated a successful TV & appliance store in New Concord.

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Roy truly was the main spark in Cambridge in the radio & electronics field and was a true pioneer.

Waller passed away on April 1st of 1961...rests at New Concord Cemetery with wife Olive (1895–1987). Mr. Waller a Member of Scottish Rite and 32 Deg. in Alladin Shrine Columbus & Concord Lodge. QSL and station pictures in file ..thanks to Waller family.

US Senator John Glenn (Dem.Ohio) who was born in Cambridge and raised in New Concord. Glenn writes in his Book (A MEMOIR) printed in 1999 by Bantam Books. "When I was born July 18th 1921 as a boy in New Concord, during the Depression, to earn money to purchase sports equipment, the boys would resell tickets for the local movie theater. Roy Waller, who ran the movie house downstairs from the bowling alley in the village hall, occasionally would allow the boys to resell the theater tickets for the normal price of fifteen cents." Mr. Waller showed double features Friday & Saturday nights and cowboy serials on Saturday afternoons. "The movies were a way most people could afford of forgetting the misery of the Depression," Glenn wrote.

Your author in looking over the Daily Jeffersonian wireless articles concerning the Cambridge Wireless Boy's, found an interesting story dated February 1914 which states "Five wireless instruments in the City are active." Article did not mention who the stations were but from my records, the following fit; Roy & Nell Waller; Homer McMunn; Ed (Tom) Sarchet; Paul Simcox; George Rubicam; Don Hinton. In addition, we must include Frank Duff in Byesville who had the first communications into Cambridge with the Waller station.

Those must have been marvelous days! The last individual that I could have interviewed concerning those early times would have been Raymond Sears in New Jersey, however he passed away in March of 1997. (See Page 52)

*UPDATE; To my amazement, I was contacted in July of 2000 by Clarence Waller stating a

firefighter in Cambridge one Dave Dugan, has possession of the old Waller Wireless building, moved it to South Tenth St. and reconditioned it to fine condition. Dave later told your author he had gotten inspiration to renovate and move the building from my article in the Jeff newspaper two years ago!

After my conversation with Dave Dugan, the Jeffersonian Paper came out and took photographs of the Wireless Station and printed an article in September 2000. History repeats itself. October 27 2000 Pat and I made a trip to Cambridge and checked court house records for the Waller's property ownership in an attempt to ascertain ownership links of the wireless shack over the years. Interesting attempt however details of their records were not precise enough to determine when the little building was placed in service. We did ascertain that friend and ham W8CXC George Smith at one point in the 40s' bought the old Waller property on north fourth street and the white radio shack was still on the premises.

Throughout the '40s and '50s Smith utilized the old wireless shack on the amateur radio bands as W8CXC in the manner that Roy Waller had many years prior. Smith owned Draher Drugs and was well known.

The Ohio 1910 Census listed Roy's Father; J.F.Waller age 42 born in Indiana, Mother Alice B. age 37 born in Ohio. Siblings Roy age 15, Fred age 14 and Nellie age 11. W8CL 1930's design QSL given to me by Clancy Waller.

W8SU modified added 2011

