

Lt. Victor DeLancy Gettys *1899-1938* 8AWX & W8EJ - Born in Ravenna (Portage County) Ohio - To Charles and Zoe Gettys with older brother Warner. Victor after college eventually making his home in Youngstown Mahoning County Ohio.



Gettys as he was known in high school, an athlete, registered for the draft in WW1 1918. Resided in Hiram holding amateur station call of 8AWX as of 1920, then Warren Ohio in 1927 then Youngstown Ohio. Vic attended Hiram, a small independent college but popular regional institution. Hiram once known as the training facility for the Cleveland Browns AFC football team.

Gettys wife Mabel from Indiana, having no children as we could determine. By 1930 the Gettys were living in Youngstown and Vic became the engineer for Youngstown Police Radio. By 1935 city directory 734 Brentwood Avenue Ytown, Chief Radio Engineer. Vic was very active in pioneering DX work in the region.

Gettys was credited for the design and building of the police system in Youngstown which was the seventh public safety station installed in the country by a municipality. Vic supervised installation and operations of C.W. which ran on the police statewide networks (WPDG) Two, five and seven MHZ. Another police operator here at station WPDG was the popular W8FRY Don Hoffman originator of the QSL card fad and Ham Flashes news letter. A very talented group of radio bugs and operators.

Gettys served in the U.S. Navy Reserve and by 1935 he had the rank of LtJG and had been in for 5 years. Unfortunately Vic expired on duty 25 November 1938 from a fall from a 60 foot tower on shared city property at the police radio station and Fire hall Number 8. His death is not listed under officers killed on duty and we take this opportunity herewith.

Reminiscing note found in the Vindicator; 1938 Lt Vic Gettys age 39 Engineer in charge of police radio station WPDG while installing an antenna, fell from atop No. 8 Fire station tower Market and Evergreen Avenue, he was taken to South Side Hospital. The problem was a defective safety belt. Station Number 8 opened at the corner of Market and (Evergreen) E. Glenaven on the south side in 1909. The fire system graduated from horse drawn to auto engines. Cutbacks closed this station in May of 1991 the departments 100th birthday.

We will endeavor to locate the W8EJ or 8AWX QSL card which we feel would make this entry complete. If anyone can, K8CX will locate one. (Located W8EJ QSL card on Ebay July 2016) View APCO material, our Associated Police Communications Officers Bulletin December 1938.

W8SU December 2014 and added 2016 MF/W8EJ Vic Gettys