

I was just thinking about the old adage, heavy artillery and little pistols. The N8S Expedition to Swain's Island in Am Samoa area, was not easy for me because of my low tower and a band not very hot. I was about 5 layers down and finally made the grade the first day on twenty and after two day stint at the controls cashed him in the log on 15 Meters.. The old 80 foot tower is gone and I paid dearly for it! Part of the evolving station routine in ham radio.

**Doc Wm. Hildebrand W8LOF - W8EX** came to mind from my days residing in Piqua Ohio. Hildebrand was a successful Veterinarian and had a regional animal clinic. Doc started out in the 30s as W8LOF and eventually became W8EX. Doc was truly a top gun and owned a wonderful station. The yagi's all stacked above each other and the antenna farm could be seen from the distance. You couldn't get away from the scene, at the Piqua 36 Drive-in, Doc's arrays overpowered the screen and it was rumored he sometimes caused BCI to the audio system at the 36 Drive-in!



The years passed and I saw Dock's QSLs for sale on Ebay around 2006. Such is life, even QSL cards go for a good price on Epay. Anyhow Doc can't use them any longer.

Doc. Hildebrand began as W8LOF in 1934. Doc could literally cover 160 to ----- any place. The mono-bander stacks (my guess the famous Telrex Christmas Tree) 40 thru 6 Meters and

telephone poles with wires comprising the top band and 80 meters. Hildebrand had another thing going for him, the Miami Valley which was a pick of the Voice of America for its take off point for South America and Africa. A wonderful location near Cincy for those places in the world. From Cincinnati to Lima Ohio, the valley was a natural for the chosen land DX take off point. Location, location, location! Our next material from Mr. Jones W8JE partially scripted Magnolia Dixer 1998.

Terry Jones W8JE said, "I can still hear Doc's voice when he talked about Dx'ing and how he snagged that rare one." I remember the conviction in his voice, the confidence that he would break the pileup and get a contact, just because he decided to do it. I hear him now and feel once again the swells of tension and anxiety as the DX goes back to yet another different station. I see the twinkle in his eye and the broad grin that must have surely spread across his face as he suddenly realizes the pattern in which the DX is answering calls. I feel the joy of the victory as he closes in, makes the kill and signs "TU DX" and claims another rare one for this total.

Doc started out as a little pistol with nothing but home brew equipment and earned his DXCC that way. Doc told Terry that he focused on his skills as an operator so that he did not develop bad operating habits that often come when an inexperienced operator gets a high-power, big beam station before he/she is ready. It's 2007 and Doc had been gone for a good while, yet the thrill is still here for the stalwart few that we call DX Bugs. Keep the flame boys and get that BS7 on Scarborough coming up this month from Asia. Conditions are not going to be good so keep the faith. I'll think of Doc Hildebrand W8LOF/8EX and the pileup for the new one! W8EX is still heard today by members of the SW Ohio DX Assoc. Greenville, Oh. Cards provided by [www.w8jyz.com](http://www.w8jyz.com)