

IN MEMORIAM 2000



Robert H. Hoiermann Jr. - W8FBM - *1918-1958* Born December 23, (relatives advised us Bob was born a Blue Baby) 1918 to Robert H. Sr. & Lela G. Missimore Hoiermann of Massillon, Ohio later of 401 E. Milton St. Alliance, Ohio. Two brothers Richard E. and Raymond also a sister consist of the family. Bob held 2 early calls, W9FTS possibly at Angola, Ind at college & W7MFH location 910 11th Safford AZ in 1949. As a young man, Bob enjoyed the short wave hobby, as we have evidence of that in his 1940 Short Wave Listener's card, stating his receiver being a Hallicrafter's SX-25 Super Defiant and a 35 foot wire antenna for listening. Mr. Hoiermann later received the call "W8FBM" In 1950.

Our subject was a resident of Alliance for 34 years, his parents Bob Sr. & mother Lela insured that their son Bob received a good education. He graduated from Alliance High School in 1937, from Mount Union College in 1941 with a BA degree and Tri-State College, Angola, Indiana with a degree in Electronic Engineering. In 1951 Bob was appointed chief communication officer for the Alliance Civil Defense. Prior to Bob's death in 1958 he was assistant manager for the Alliance Credit Bureau. Bob had been ill two weeks and expired at the Alliance City Hospital 0730 Sunday December 14th 1958. Surviving are his mother Lela at the family home on E. Milton Street at Alliance and two brothers, Richard E. of Dallas, Texas and Raymond of St. Petersburg, Fla. A sister one Mrs. Donald Albright Jr., of Rockville, Md. also survives. Cassaday and Turkle Home were in charge of arrangements with Rev. Ralph W. Reamsnyder, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church presiding and burial was made in Fairmount Memorial Park. Bob's father Robert H. Sr. preceded him in death, May 21, 1937. Op note; Bob's brother Raymond of Florida expired July of 1992 in the state of Florida, mother Lela expires in 1989 at Alliance.

While as a boy (your author) visiting my Aunt & Uncle John Seward on S. Linden Alliance one summer in 1955, Mr. Hoiermann invited your author a budding SWL into his home at 401 Milton St. Alliance to view his W8FBM in operation. It was fascinating to see Bob working the station on 10 meters phone and view the panadapter which could monitor band activity on the scope. He had a HF beam on a 40 foot self supporting tower on the west side of the house. My favorite Uncle, John Seward took me out and dropped me off at Hoiermann's and picked me up later when the visit was complete. Incidentally the Seward's were there that year working for The Ford, Bacon & Davis Pipeline Co. I had heard Bob W8FBM on my Hallicrafters short-wave set and looked up his location in my 1955 Call Book directory. That way I was able to ascertain where Bob lived, to make the visit.

My Uncle John Seward had taken your author to an Alliance Radio Club meeting at Mt. Union's - Chapman Hall, one evening that summer when I visited and we both saw excited new novices chat about their latest QSO's on 40M CW using their newly built Heath AT1's at that club meeting. Many years later in the summer of 1986 I was stationed at Warren, Ohio with the State Highway Patrol and attended a newly reorganized radio club meeting at Alliance in one of the members home and thought of my favorite Uncle and Bob Hoiermann. I shall never forget their kindness and patience.

How can people like Seward and Hoiermann repaid for their generosity? I can still see Bob's National HRO 60 and the plug in coil rack and the D104 station microphone in an upstairs ham shack, 1955 to year 2000 makes it 45 years ago.

Alliance was and still is a lovely town. Pat and I go there to shop and have a lunch. One day we will return and pay respects to Bob Hoiermann's memory. Continued

A few years ago Pat and I found Seward's old home location on South Linden where I spent a week out of a busy summer in 1955 and also shot photo's of Hoiermann's home on Milton St. Alliance. A quiet neighborhood in a nice part of town., near the old WFAH studio.

Mr. David Glass W8UKQ of Alliance advised your author, Bob W8FBM was Radio Officer for Civil Defense at Chapman Hall in those days Glass attended radio classes there and was first licensed in 1954. Hoiermann gave me a lot of help getting started, Glass said. It was at this point in June of 2000 that I (W8SU) had not realized that Bob W8FBM was deceased at the early age of 39 years. It is ironic, I received my first ham ticket July 1957. I would have been honored to chat with Bob with my 1st ticket (WN2RIE) in New Jersey. It was not to be. It was not in the Plan. As Bob Hoiermann expired next year December 14th 1958. I think of him frequently.

Recently I had contact with Mr. Lou Whitaker K8LW in June of 2000 and Lou advised me, he too was a visitor at W8FBM's in the 1950's and Hoiermann had acquired a Collins 75A4 and a matching 32V transmitter. Bob enjoyed 20 Meter phone, Whitaker said.

Update, a computer check advised writer the location of Fairmount Memorial Park and on a leisure Saturday afternoon October 14, 2000 Pat and I headed for Alliance, first stop the coat factory, second the antique store on Main street, chatting with the owner who was an ex submariner in 1970, then on to Fairmount Park.

Not knowing where W8FBM rests, we entered the memorial park on South Union Street and noticed no personnel or caretaker at the office. It was an outstanding sunny fall day, we proceeded to center park area where a flag memorial was set and continued down the center corridor, I had Pat stop in the vicinity of a giant Cedar tree and we commenced looking for Mr. Hoiermann. I took the center right area to find Bob and Pat took the center left area to search. About 15 minutes later, Eagle eye Pat, my XYL asked what Hoiermann's first name was and we were very pleased the search had ended. Bob's father and mother rest with him. This park doesn't allow up right monuments and the beauty of this kind of a memorial park surpasses the usual cemetery. We had parked our car within 50 to 75 yards of W8FBM's place of rest without knowing it. We reverently cleaned the plaque and trimmed the grass around the marker.

I had always felt that we were getting an incorrect spelling of the Hoiermann family name, since Bob's radio license in the 50's had the correct spelling. Computer records did not nor did Bob's obituary in the Alliance paper in 1958 have the correct spelling of the surname. The ultimate proof were the three plaque's at Fairmount with the surname *H O I E R M A N N*

Leaving Fairmount, with the good exercise and not having lunch, we looked for a relaxing place to have dinner. Pat was in charge and stopped at "Texas Roadhouse" 2033 West State St. and had a good meal and in the plaza entered an antique mall which was fascinating. We purchased an Underwood antique typewriter to present to Mr. Dugan, curator of the Waller--McMunn station in Cambridge. The 1914 rebuilt Waller--McMunn wireless station had the Underwood Model 5 typewriter in the spark radio telegraph position which will make the radio station rather authentic. Original wireless station photos showed the Underwood typewriter clearly. I also found a reasonable old style antique goose neck desk lamp that I had been searching for to use in my station at home.

One beautiful fall day in the year 2000, W8SU and KK8W departed home to locate W8FBM a fine and very generous guy, gone but not forgotten. Bob had a gifted voice and could have easily been a staff announcer in any major broadcast market. -30-