

**D**onald A. Hoffman \*1899-1956\* - W8FRY - 8ADU - 8UX - Lived in the Cleveland-Akron area and served in the Armed Forces during WW 1 with 7<sup>TH</sup> Signal Corps at Fort Sam Houston Texas. He would later serve in the U.S. Navy. Hoffman relocated to Youngstown pre 1930's.

Hoffman was a Chief Radioman in the Youngstown Navy Reserve in 1932. Later gaining his commission. A radio parts distributor, police radio operator in the CW operating hey days at station WPDG Youngstown Police Department. Those police desk communicators deserve our respect because of the long unpaid extra hours through midnights, holidays and weekends.



Don held (8UX) in the Army and for a short time 8ADU, he was a faithful contributor to QST Radio Amateur Magazine. This man got the credit in QST for we amateurs having walls full of QSL cards. His idea developed into amateurs trading these beloved treasures. "Hoffman 8ADU 29 Aug 1919 gives a suggested form of a QSL card in that QST issue." Author note, some other valid claims on the "Who was the founder of the QSL issue?"

Don became the first staff artist for ARRL's QST publication and I'm sure at gratis. He was gifted with cartoon design also author and publisher of "Ham Flashes" a subscription got you the mailing and it was well respected in the Youngstown region. This was a newsy 8 to 10 page booklet mailed monthly. The amazing thing about "Ham Flashes" was this little regional gem commenced in 1932 and ran its limit in 1956 with 77 issues. Sadly, Don appeared in the July 1956 QST under silent keys. Hoffman's art work & editorials appeared in the monthly Ohio-PA newsletter. It is believed in the period of the 40's Don put out two editions per month. See the W8MTC July 1955 postcard.

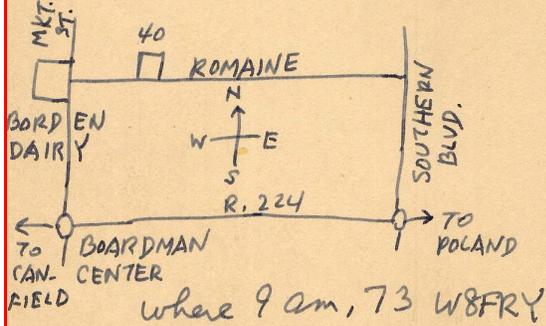
Hoffman conducted amateur radio classes Tuesday Nights in the 40's for aspiring hams. He was a tireless worker in the amateur ranks. During WW2, Don was called again, this time a Lt. Commander in charge of a radio school turning out many much needed (Sparks) USN Radiomen.

Claire Sutton W8CMS advised me he knew Don personally, "Don attended all of the regional hamfests." He played in a small band and one year at a hamfest they were playing "She'll be Coming Around the Mountain when She Can" Mr. Sutton loaned me a QSL to copy for my records and the contact was on Thanksgiving Day "November 1954" 10 Meters.

Check out the note on Don's QSL card which states "Originator of the QSL Card Fad" Your writer has a small collection of Don's "Ham Flashes" and looking for more. Hoping that someone can assist in this matter, appreciation in advance. A small note, there has been an incorrect version of Don's first name, usually viewed on UK articles, Don's name from the Amateur Radio Call Book (D.A. Hoffman) It is also noted Don's spark era call (8UX) still lives and K8CX has a copy of that QSL too! The idea and commitment of saving those old gems is a great fondness I appreciate.

Inx for card full of news! Don't forget you are entitled to a free classified ad each year as a token of my appreciation for your services so send it along if have anything to sell.

Drop in sometime when over this way. This ↑ map shows TO YOUNGSTOWN



Don was a social butterfly, enjoyed meeting the regional hams and worked diligently with his "Ham Flashes." To left, here is a postcard sent to W8MTC in Newton Falls dated February 1955.

Inx for news. Feeling a little better but suppose it will take a year or more to recover like it did last time.

Been eleven years now. I recall it was July 1944 the docs shook their heads and tagged me for return trip to U.S. Sometimes it seems only last year. Mobile trip this year? 73 W8FRY

To the right a postcard mailed to W8MTC of Newton Falls dated July 1955, Hoffman was having health issues and lived only for one year after this was written. Material from W8MTC estate.

Below earliest Hoffman QSL found in 1923 credit to K8MFO and K8ZH from the W8BF estate.

W8SU 2010 added 2015 and 2018

8UX

RADIO 8BF

In spite of a terrible howl on the second step, I heard you QST on detector and one step Radiolatt portable

I use \_\_\_\_\_ for receiving and \_\_\_\_\_ for transmitting.

Have you heard me?  
Have you any suggestions for QST cartoons?

may. 26/1923  
11 PM

D. A. HOFFMAN, 8UX  
499 Elmwood Court, AKRON, OHIO  
"QST's Cartoonist"

GRACE PARK STATION

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

O. Baumgardner,  
8BF 4409 Lorain Ave.  
Cleveland,  
Ohio.