

Once in a while something surfaces concerning old friends in the ham radio and commercial ranks. It is good to find these records and is a help understanding our people and their personal history. This time it was W8FYX friend Harvey Ball (1927-1983) from the Soo. Upper Michigan of course, the Soo Electronic Wizard at 1603 Superior Street. Harvey was the resident engineer for (LEC) Lorain Electronics at the Soo.

Some personnel records were released into the net from CWA Union Bargaining Unit concerning members of Lorain Electronics Corp. FCC issued (W.M.I.)

LORAIN WMI OHIO
MARINE RADIOTELEPHONE

500 WATTS ON AM. AM Freqs. KC			250 WATTS ON FM. FM Freqs. MC	
2182	2550	4422.5		156.8
2514	2582	4434.9		161.9
	8799.2			

Antennas - 1/4 wave verticals and horizontal dipoles.

This will verify reception of WMI at Lorain, Ohio
on date of 8/8/68 at 0728 EST on 2550 KC.

LORAIN ELECTRONICS CORPORATION
2307 LEAVITT ROAD • LORAIN, OHIO 44052
(Area Code 216) AVenue 2-8116

W.O. Goodell Aug.

Harvey Ball was a long time member and employee with LEC Lorain, with his tenure starting in 9-20-51. He was fourth on the personnel list in seniority with the firm. His expertise and know how spanned 32 years for that organization.

I had heard from John D. Flood, KC9QWP former Lorain employee and one of Harvey's Magical Basement fellows. From the Soo days, John told me he appreciated the Harvey Ball file and tribute I had written. It was one of those rare moments that I receive something from the hinterlands in appreciation. It made my day.

LEC instituted a then amazing Inland Seas 14 station VHF net over leased lines consisting of repeater stations controlled by a central monitoring point. It was the first of its kind. It was short lived however, due to shipping and industry changes. In 1985 the location of 2307 Leavitt Road Lorain closed its doors.

Thus the demise of WMI Lorain that was founded in 1928. Maritel operated the VHF system until 1990 and shut it down for lack of business. So piece by piece the network was sold off or disbanded. The years of LEC engineering sales and service to the public and Inland Seas Mariners still lives on (Inland Marine Radio History Archive) QSL property of Ken Bobel.