

That's him! A good Elmer. Howard K2VPG from my Trenton NJ days, now W8LRD Detroit Mich. I heard Howard's fine Morse Code and at once I sprang to attention at my ham radio set. School chum Howard Vincent ex K2VPG in 1957. Goodness sakes over 58 years ago, I remember the incident like yesterday.

Your author was having a hard time with the curriculum in Trenton High School and had an opportunity to join the new Vocational High School wing. There were several hams there at the High School and the Vocational section. I was just learning the code and taking theory classes at Trenton High School. One of the gang was a quiet but very knowledgeable young man, Howard Vincent K2VPG, who had been into radio longer than we upstarts and looked up to him for guidance. I would think to myself "If only I could get my ticket like Howard did!"



Howard suggested we take some code practice and he would send at a slow rate from his station at home. After school I tuned my trusty S38D to the 80 Meter Novice band and at the prescribed time after school, there Howard was, very loud and sending VVV VVV De K2VPG BT (He continued for a very nice over the air session and it was very memorable)

Howie was the type of guy who was quiet and did not embellish like some of the guys customarily did. You could always count on what Howard said because he had been in the game. Antennas, rigs and general licensing questions, Howard was the go-to man! I was very pleased he would take time out and offer code practice. Morse code is not easy to learn.

About 1987 after I had retired from the Ohio State Highway Patrol, I was in contact with Howard via telephone one evening and we discussed old times. He also told me he lost his wife and was lost without her. He was also bringing up a little youngster. At the time Howard advised he had completed his career with the Detroit PD Communications branch.

Thursday night 14 April 2005, yours truly picked up Howard Vincent (W8LRD) chatting with a fellow in the New England area. I waited until they were through and commenced calling Howard. We had an enjoyable QSO and I reminded him of his kindness towards me in those fledgling days in Trenton. It was a thrill to receive the personalized code practice and helped us in the long run to obtain my first amateur license July of 1957.

When we were teens, I recall Howard joining the Civil Air Patrol and I believe he received credit with military service when he joined the U.S.A.F. Again in our teens I am sure he was using a Heath Kit, probably a DX 20 or a DX 40 with the VF1 VFO. Those Heath Kits worked well and were easy to build. Time marches on, thanks Howard OM.

Detroit PD has a proud communications heritage. 1883 gets first telephone, only one of 7 in the entire city. 1889 Detroit Police creates the 1st Police communications Division, the Police Signal Bureau.

W8SU 2005 added 2015

