



The Sunfish are fine at Gilletts Lake. A place located in Southern Michigan has been known for much more than great fishing and camping over the years. **Lester Willis W8PY** *1915-1983* of L-W Electronic Labs route 2, Jackson Michigan was on the map and in much demand in the period of the late 50s and 60's. Les' electronic success kept the VHF crew busy mainly on Six Meters. It was a time of excitement when propagation favored the VHF spectrum daily.

Kalamazoo Radio Club in their 75th Anniversary History promotion mentioned our L-W Labs in their material written in August of 2007 - "A second VHF conference was scheduled for November 30th 1956. This year the event is credited solely to Western Michigan College's Physics Department. Afternoon sessions with a dinner presentation at Wallwood Union (East Campus) to conclude the conference."

The theme of SWR on transmission lines was continued this year, presented by Richard Boll W8EYD from the FCC in Allegan and Art Coveil W8HDM. "New types of radio apparatus for VHF were presented by **Lester Willis, W8PY of LW Labs** Gilletts Lake, Jackson, Michigan. For the younger crowd L-W made a series of VHF transmitters, for 6 and one for two meters., they were very attractive little rigs and stayed on the market until well into the 60's, where they met stiff competition from Heath, hallicrafters, the new Gonset II and others. It was obvious that Mr. Willis wanted the transmitters he engineered to be affordable by offering them, kit, or without tubes, or manufactured.

I asked friend Terry K8SMC about the LW-51 since he lived near by and enjoyed the VHF game. - Terry said: Sure thing, I used the product "Les had a Lab out there on Gilletts Lake, was married, believed his wife passed on before Lester did. He had some help in the business, Don Dancer W8WQP helped out part time. Mr. Willis was a Jackson VHF Club Member." Terry would try to locate more information about Mr. Willis and his LW Electronic Labs, however we had the basis for a good story and the fact that there were once a fair number of radio engineers and entrepreneurs featuring VHF in our radio history. Are there any other 6 Meter rigs you can think of? How about Whippany Labs Lil Lulu? Or the Black Widow? I have a feeling Les' secret weapon could have been a bounce off of Lake Gilletts for some super 6 Meter conditions.

The Gilletts Lake view by J. Ramos. LW Electronic Lab ad by QST May magazine 1960. Help from K8SMC. W8SU 2009

LW-51 DELUXE

6m Transmitter

ACTUAL SIZE OF METER SCALE WHICH READS % MODULATION AND R.F. OUTPUT

The LW-51 Deluxe is the well known 50 watt LW-51 that so many of the 6-meter gang have been using—with these added features: Meter, meter switch, VFO input, front panel final amplifier tuning, cabinet 5" wide x 6" high x 9" deep. The Kit prices are

\$69.50 with tubes and crystal

\$57.50 without tubes and crystal

and will furnish it factory wired and tested for an additional \$15.00.

(See back cover of this QST)
Please Add \$8.00 shipping charges for East Coast, \$1.00 for West Coast

LW ELECTRONIC LABORATORY
ROUTE 2. JACKSON, MICHIGAN