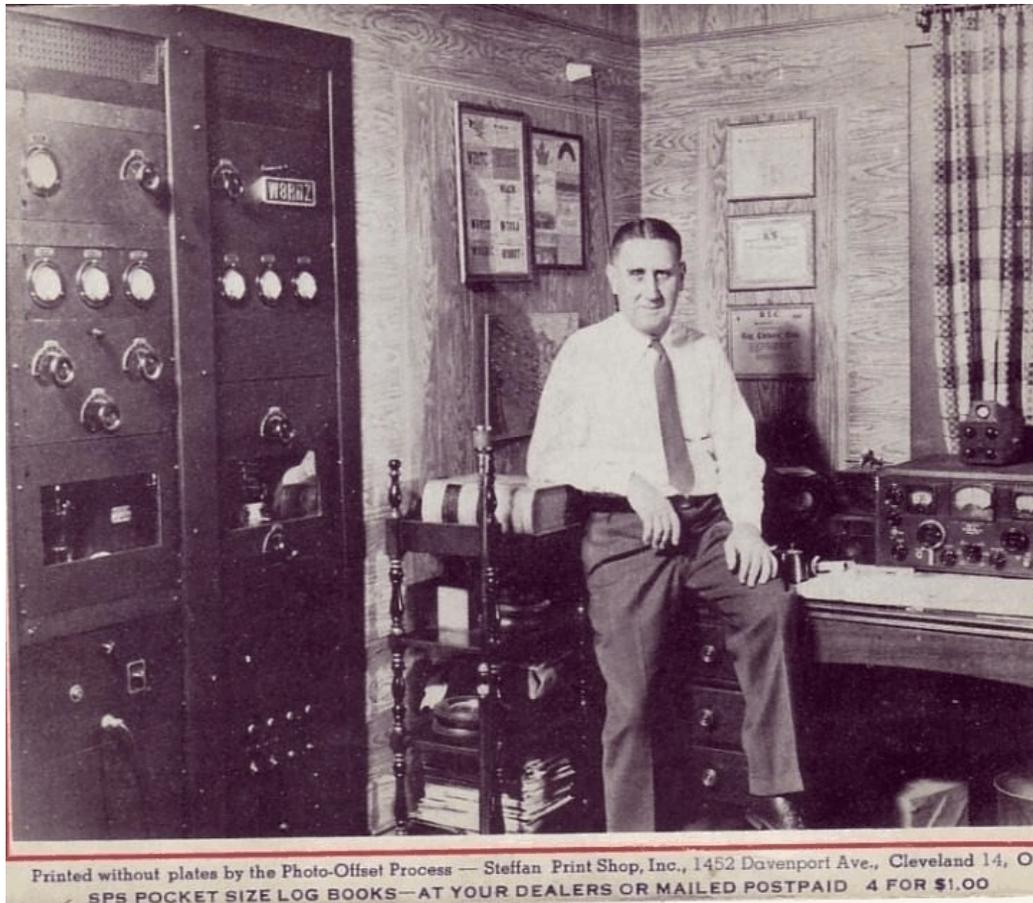


W8RHZ - Harry Steffan, Twinsburg, Ohio *1893-1975* - A business man operated a professional printing company from the 1930s - Always would remember Harry and Winnie - Harry had the antenna and power to be heard all over the region and then some. The '50s when I was a kid in Cambridge, SE Ohio, the W8RHZ signal would easily block my Hallicrafters receiver week nights.

Harry was well spoken, had interesting things to say over the air and held nightly schedules on 3955. He sometimes lamented about 160M – how communications were splendid during the war times.

When I moved out to N.J. with my mother in 1956, Harry still blocked the old favorite S38D and was using a 20M folded dipole that I won in a SWL contest with the Boy Scouts.



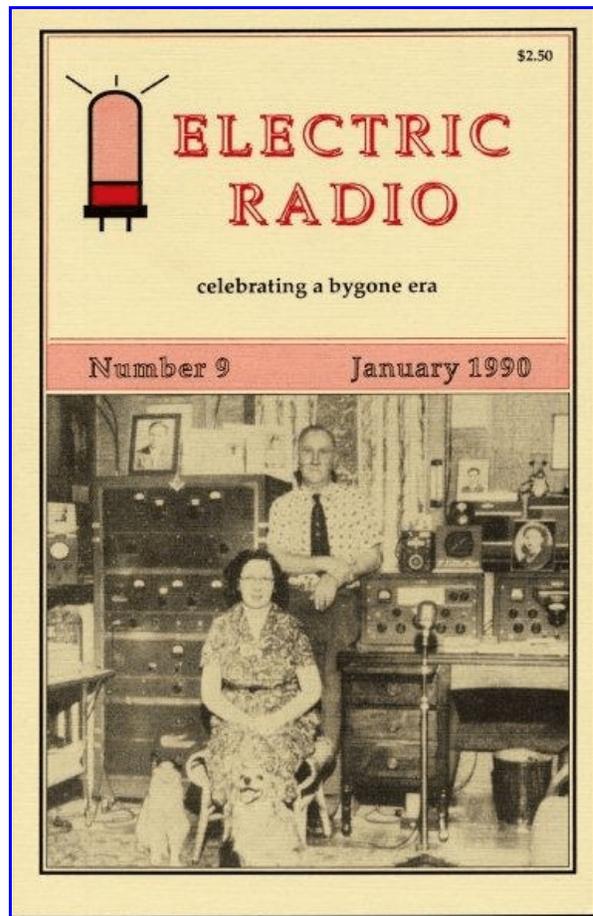
Harry had a QSL card collection and sometimes would rail on the Twinsburg Post Office, they had a habit of marking his incoming QSL's and defacing both sides. He was furious and you could count on him blasting the local post office. His love was wife Winnie, she had a hobby too, clipping articles out of the news papers & magazines making up her scrap books. Harry had not a bit of trouble making QSO's. I too had a QSO with him after I got my general class in Trenton, W2RIE, using an 807 and a WRL screen grid modulator. He had some problems hearing me but acted as if I was an old friend. Mr Steffan sent a fine two folder QSL that was has been lost over the years however, I found one on the internet and copied it. W8RHZ had the very best equipment and had the means for someone to come in and fix his high powered station. He had 4 half waves in phase on 80M and you can imagine how well it radiated. The antenna was stretched out from the barn out into the expanses of Twinsburg. It appeared that he was in the printing business and had W8RHZ print. He mentioned about his son helping out. Continued

I had another chance contact with Harry when I was in the Coast Guard out in the Atlantic. We were running phone patches out in the Atlantic and he was CQ'ing, I advised Harry of the interference and he acknowledged it and simply turned the 20M beam the opposite direction, he was then S8 from about 40 over 9. Not a bright move, but that was power hungry 20Meters. I wondered how he would feel overseas, attempting to talk home and being interfered with.

My neighbor at Phalanx Mills W8SHR, Phalanx Dale advised me he worked on Harry's equipment frequently and the house was well lived in. They had animals all over the place and he recalled one of the cats got into the heavy duty power supply and they never saw the cat again. The radio shack picture is quite revealing of Harry's and Winnie love for family pets.

Harry was a staunch AM guy and was holding on to AM as long as he could! He would eventually succumb to SSB and would be found in later years on 3850 or thereabouts on the 75Meter band. We can see by the QSL and the Cover of Electric radio Harry was a Lodge Member.

I hear comments still in 2005 about Harry Steffan and everyone agrees his signal was a barn burner. He & Winnie appeared on Electric Radio's cover in 1990. Many including myself call Harry a real influence in getting those interested in ham radio. Winifred hung on to life a lot longer that Harry did. She expired in Aurora, Ohio - Portage County the year 1995.



The type of conversation those folks were capable of in those days had not been matched since. Times have changed.. www.hamgallery.com

Below a W8RHZ Print from Steffan Print Shop circa 1930's.

W8SU 2008

