

Alice Bourke *1891-1956* W9DXX - As a well known Chicago Tribune police beat reporter about town when the Bronzeville section was usually a big subject in the Tribune. Alice could walk the streets there without confrontation. She had gained respect of the cops and the locals alike usually getting her scoop. (Bronzeville, the south Chicago area center of the great migration which was the home of several black newspapers and over 700 businesses.

Alice started out with HF equipment and ventured into VHF. All of her prewar contacts were on the CW mode. All of her equipment was built by the venerable W9CTN Charlie Corliss. There were

some years as W9ENP as she operated from her sky scraper location adjacent to the Loop. She enjoyed two meters post war. Alice was considered "The First Lady of Two." Loved being net control for the Chicago land Mobile Radio Club on Ten meters. It was estimated Ms. Bourke had over 5,500 QSOs in her years of operating CW and Phone DX.



The picture posted of her station has a green asphalt tile floor and set in the center

with red letters *W9DXX* - Alice earned her first ticket in Chicago date of 1930 and upgraded to class A in 1935. She was married and would eventually live in Homewood Illinois the remainder.

There were reports that she was in ill health in the early 1950s but recuperating.

Ms Bourke during the war was a member the U.S. Army amateur radio system and completed

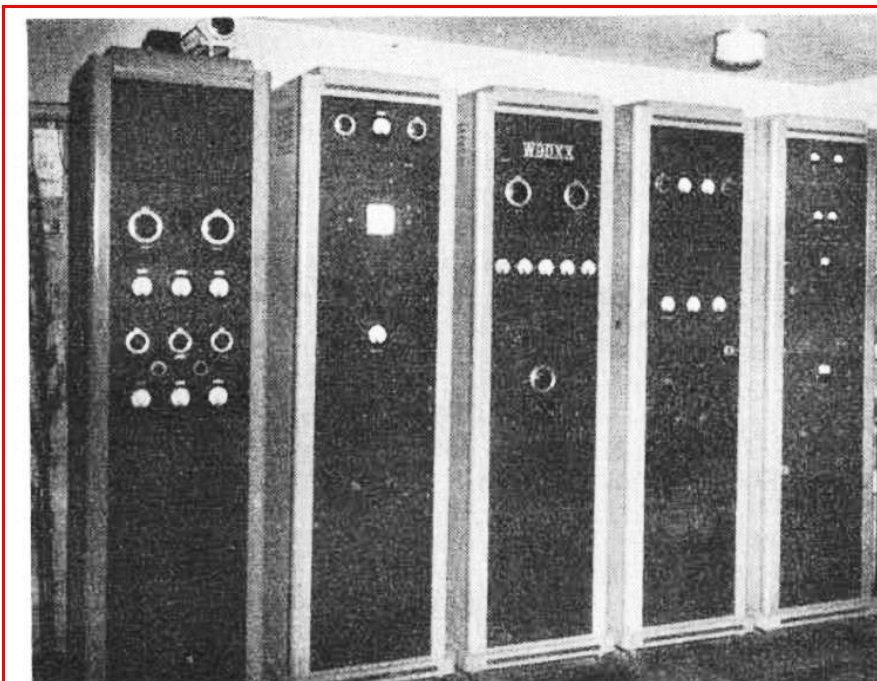


U.S.Army Cryptography courses with a grade of 92.5 percent. Material from WA5VJB dot com., Western Historic Radio Museum and K8CX Ham Gallery QSL files of Tom Roscoe. Pictured the Bourke home in Homewood, IL. Bourke Continued on page two.

Page two Bourke; There was a display of W9DXX and her operations at the Museum of Science and Industry at Chicago. I had sent an email to ask what the display entailed. No reply since 13 Jan 11. Hoping that they will communicate.

Alice was to have had some magazine articles in following; Radio Magazine December 1934 and 1935. I am trying to order from my connection in Cleveland. PLTP. Also article Short-wave and TV July 1948. That one is not available as of yet.

We gave ample credit to W9PK Jack Woodruff for his station of the month article in VHF magazine and WA5VJZ. It appears as if she did in-fact expire in 1956 at age 65. W8SU 2011 added.



Regarding the beautiful station in the picture, Alice says, simply, "Charles Corliss, W9CTN, built all of the equipment used at W9DXX."