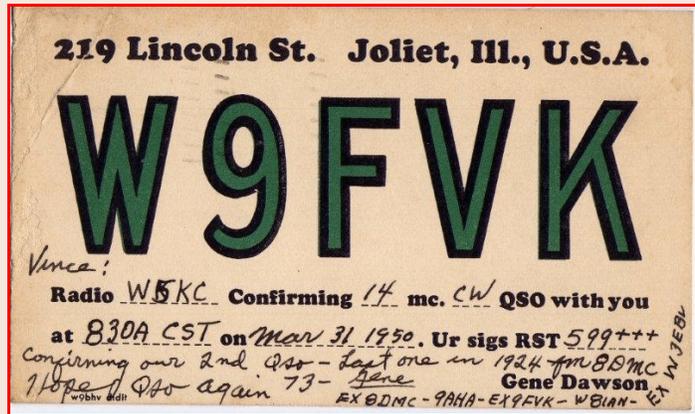


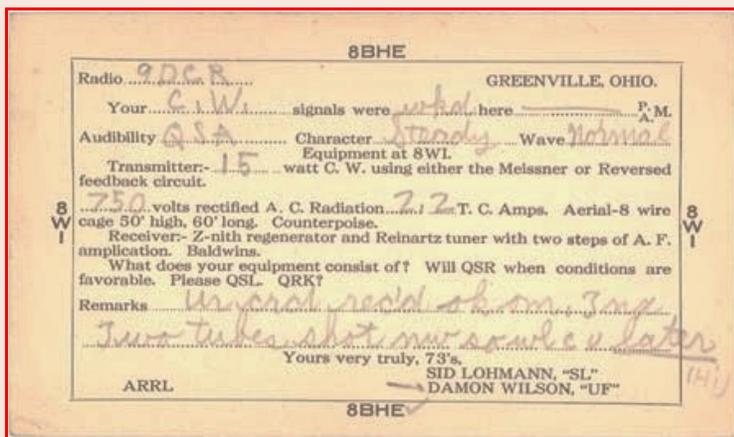
Eugene Dawson W9FVK *1907-1981* The first time I recall knowing about Gene was hearing him regularly on 40 Meters CW in the mornings from our home in Western Ohio in the late 60's. Gene hung with a group that enjoyed each others company including W4KF, Check in Alabama -W4YHZ, W4CBA, W8GA in Detroit and others stations around the Inland Seas. Oh, that Lake Erie Swing!

The years that I knew Gene, he resided in Joliet, Ill., with his wife. Gene became a personal friend and had relatives where we were living in Western Ohio (Damon Wilson) in Greenville in the 60's - We had daily 40 CW contacts and asked Gene and Loretta if we could visit one Easter weekend in the 70's. They gave us the go-ahead and we had a wonderful trip out and a very enjoyable time. They were good entertainers. It was a time when amateurs enjoyed each others company and had more time for social events. Gene and Loretta's daughter Mary lived in a upstairs apartment with them there at the house 322 Pine in Joliet. Gene gave us his antenna tour and used a small 40 Meter dipole that radiated well.



Prior calls of Mr. Dawson; 8DMC - 9AHA -9FVK -W8IAN - W3EBV- Gene had a relative he used to radio schedule from Greenville, Ohio in Western Ohio. On one of Gene's visit over to Greenville, he dropped by one weekend at our old home in Piqua Ohio. We entertained the Dawson's with a home cooked country meal. We enjoyed entertaining them. Below Damon Wilson of Greenville, Gene Dawson's relative.

It's strange what can be learned about a person. In this manner long after Gene passed away, I see that he was a very early ham radio Pioneer in 1924. I remember that visit to Joliet long ago, we even attended Catholic Church Easter Services with Gene and Loretta, I recall the prayer kneeling benches just like yesterday. It was old an school service with Latin etc.



We watched TV, had good meals with the Dawson's and talked ham radio for hours on end.

His small station with the Heath Transmitter and VFO sat on a small operating table and he put out a fine signal on his favorite band, 40 Meters. Gene enjoyed a cigarette when sending. I miss Gene's dry wit and common sense chats. As usual we lost touch moving around the region and got a post card from Gene

and Loretta from Europe on a cherished vacation. Mr. Dawson expired in the 80s. It was a special treat to work W9FVK on the key and here is a toast to those fond memories. Credit K8CX Card files.