

Earl R. Roberts - SWL - *1910-1977* During the period of the early 1930s the Roberts family moved to Cambridge Ohio, from 50th Street Indianapolis. Then living on Gomber Avenue and then South Ninth Street, Cambridge Guernsey County. Committed to his listening post and medium wave. Earl born to Rev. Linn V. and Idelle Roberts. Listed in 1930 U.S. Census our subject Earl, as age 19 living with parents, occupation paper hanger. The Roberts' were all born in Ohio.

From what we've learned about our subject, he became a dedicated shortwave monitor specializing in BCB DX listener and editor helping other monitors with DX information. Earl's listening post consisted of a battery operated 1926 Superhet, 8 tubes with two antennas in Cambridge. He had a outdoor wire antenna and an indoor loop to challenge the ever present noise level and poor conditions.

I was aware of Roberts through a news stand DX Hobby magazine (RADEX The All-Wave Radio Log) files over the Internet, A monthly DX publication that tracked radio news and events thru the heyday years in which our subject had submitted many letters and medium wave reports. We had fun analyzing his letters and found he was living and listening in Cambridge a few short years.



Earl's other affiliations were with the Atlantic Radio Club out of Pleasantville, NJ -National Radio Club, International DX-ER's Alliance, Bloomington, ILL., and Newark News Radio Club serving as Shortwave editor.

Our RADEX, the popular All-wave radio log magazine published in Ohio then NJ time span 1924- until 1942, tracked radio news, featured a early "Crypto Quick" style radio puzzle that Roberts participated and had submitted at least one puzzle that was featured in the Dec. 1931 issue. His puzzle, a cleverly arranged call sign and letter substitution crypto style. His given address was 712 S9th Cambridge, Ohio. Mr. Roberts was in the painting/papering and contracting business.

Then page 20 of Radex May 1932 Banner lines read "Only a 1926 battery Set!" Of course a new, modern, s-teen tube extra superhet will bring em in but that isn't at all necessary as shown by the record of Earl R. Roberts of 712 S9th Cambridge, Ohio who has a six year old battery set with loop and outside aerials. Mr Roberts reports that his log now stands at 785 stations with all but 48 U.S. stations shown by our index by frequencies. The 785 include 93 calls now deleted as well as the Police and airport stations he has been able to pickup on his BC receiver. So cheer up owners of last years models, signals of some 800 stations are there in your room, all you have to do is tune them in!

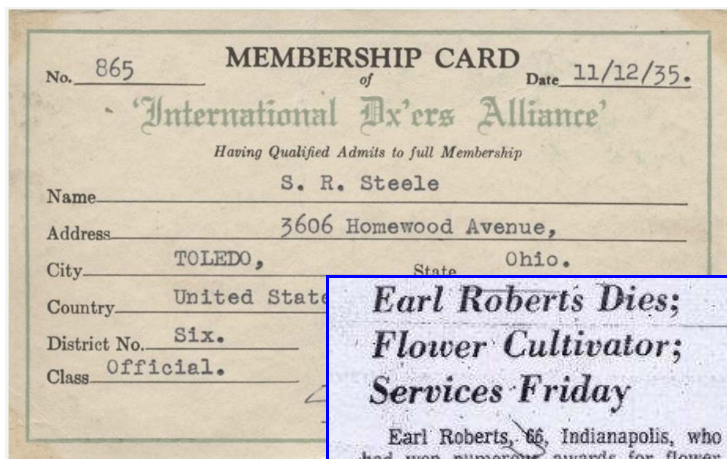
While Earl was residing in Cambridge, working hard in the decorating business, would listen to the bands after his daily work schedule which he wrote; (**January 1933**) "I've had unusually good luck this month in logging new stations. I succeeded in getting a new continent (South America) and finishing up 4 more states to a total of 32 completely logged." Earl explained he uses a loop antenna in doors when his outside aerial is plagued with serious atmospheric and noise.

Another Robert's submission to RADEX Magazine Jan 1934 has our subject living at 42 Burt Avenue Newark, Ohio, sending a MW report. Newark is in Licking County where Earl was born in Linnville, Ohio at Highway 40. Our subject was a good example by showing how to use Spanish to acquire those coveted QSL veries. He made very useful suggestions and helps. Continued page two

By January of 1935 Earl resides at 2308 Roosevelt Av Indianapolis. He is plugging the IDA and its establishment of Good Will Programs. Then May of 1936 another Roberts entry in Radex, living at 2308 Roosevelt Av. Indianapolis, in radio competition he has won replacement set of Radiotron tubes while coming in sixth in the national radio listening contest. By 1937 Roberts became editor of NNRC under director Irv Potts, a thriving membership in the craft. NNRC Bull 15 July 39 Earl and Roger Legge Jr were co editing "On The High Freq."

(From Chuck Johnston's Ancestry) Earl enlisted in the Army Air Corps during WW2 - 9 Nov 1942, from Indiana, grade Private. Has 4 years of high school. Listed as single without dependents. Height 64" weight 148 Lb. Five foot three doesn't seem right. Could they have meant 6 foot 4 inches?? Quite tall for the time.

Earl also renewed his IDA Radio Membership as listed in November before he entered the service. I am reminded that when I got home from the daily school grind in Cambridge period of the 50s, I searched the mail box for QSL cards and would get the S38 tuned to the 31 Meter band looking for new stations. It was a thrill to mail a 2 penny postcard and try to get confirmations. I remember the first time I heard Israel in the afternoon after school (31 Meter Band) in the summer of 1956, It was pure elation and accomplishment. Membership card from Jerry Berg material.



From Indiana State Library, Mr Roberts expired 22 Jun 77 - His sister Lenna expired at Indianapolis in 1979. Note the special interest in propagation of Iris and Day Lilies. We can truly say, we met Mr. Earl Roberts, listener extraordinaire.



The last word about Earls listening post in the late 1930's was a letter he submitted to RADEX from his home in Indianapolis before entering the Army Air Corps. His 8 tube battery set showing signs of heavy usage had to have weak tubes replaced and logged over 1000 stations heard. (That's just like us, older and worn) His reception was not good with plenty of noise. That is an unusually good total for medium wave DX. He was a pro!

Many hobby listeners like Earl Roberts had preferences for MW Dxing only. Their motto - USA First! Additionally Roberts was in staff membership services of the IDX Alliance out of Illinois and editor Newark News Radio Club from 1946 till Oct 50. With thanks to David Gleason and Radex files and Chuck Johnston.

Earl Roberts Dies; Flower Cultivator; Services Friday

Earl Roberts, 66, Indianapolis, who had won numerous awards for flower cultivating, died yesterday in St. Francis Hospital Center.

A native of Linnville, Ohio, and an Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, Mr. Roberts had lived here 63 years.

He was employed by Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company for 27 years as an estimator, retiring in 1973.

Mr. Roberts, an avid gardener, had specialized in the propagation of iris and day lilies and had named and registered several cultures of each. He was awarded the outstanding hybridizers medal of the American Iris Society in 1975. In addition he had been presented medals for iris in international competition.

He was the first president of the Median Iris Society and was active in flower associations.

He was a member of Edgewood United Methodist Church.

Services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Friday in G. H. Herrmann Madison Avenue Funeral Home, with burial in Sutherland Park Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Marjorie C. Roberts; a stepson, James E. Roberts of Indianapolis; two stepdaughters, Mrs. Karen Sue Anderson of Indianapolis and Mrs. Linda Carol McCullough of Westport; and a sister, Mrs. Lenna M. Creedon, also of Indianapolis.



INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, U. S. A.
 EARL R. ROBERTS, Chairman NNRC S.W. COMMITTEE
 2308 ROOSEVELT AVE. RCVR HALLICRAFTERS SUPER 7

NNRC

Radio *2 to 4* Ur Fone Sigs Hrd Hr 193.....
 At C.S.T. GMT on Abr Mcs
 QSA R QSB CRM OSO

Ur Crd Will Be Appreciated OM. Remarks:

ANY INFORMATION RE SW STATIONS OR HAMS IN YOUR COUNTRY IS WELCOMED FOR
 OUR COLUMNS IN **NEWARK NEWS RADIO CLUB**

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, U.S.A.
EARL R. ROBERTS, 2308 Roosevelt Avenue
 Vice-President and Short-Wave Editor of

N Newark **N** News **R** Radio **C** Club

Greetings to Your Phone on about kcs
 Heard Here 1938 at C.S.T., G.M.T.
 QSA R Average, R on Peaks, Fading to R Frequency of Fading
 Modulation QSO
 QRM from CW QRM from Phone Background Noise Level Local Static
 Electrical Interference General Conditions of Band
 Your Signal Compared to Others

Log

(Over)

INDIANAPOLIS, 1, INDIANA
EARL R. ROBERTS, 2308 Roosevelt Ave.
 AMATEUR EDITOR FOR

N NEWARK **N** NEWS **R** RADIO **C** CLUB

Greetings Your phone on kc.
 194 at GMT-EST R S T QSO
 194 at GMT-EST R S T QSO
 194 at GMT-EST R S T QSO

QRM QRN QSB Modulation
 Comparative Report PSE QSL

Rcvr. SX28. Ant. 7 60'x 40' N-S. Wx. 73's
 over