

Notes by [William Riley \(1915-2019\)](#) from his talk to the Valley Radio Club of Eugene (circa 2008)



1. I received my ham license in 1932 and I've had the same call, W7EXB, ever since that time.

My first rig Xtal one, 210 final 10 watts, on CW. Receive: 1 home-built TRF

One 160-meter phone a year later – 8-30's final – 300 watts.

2. Joined VRC about 1933. Some of the original members:

W7KL – Wink Wintler

W7UJ Raleigh Wildman

W7AHZ Vance Clack

W7AHX George Heitzman

W7GQ Milt Koupal

Mildred Wildman

Vic Watts

Stan Miller

W7EHB – Roger Hougum

W7FHM Jim Fletcher

W7FBO Cal Smartt

Our meetings were at each of the member's homes, in alphabetical order I think every two weeks on a possibly once a month. We observed the Robert's Rules of Order

3. My first introduction to how radio was by way of my sister's broadcast set that I first heard W7AHZ and W7BEK Fred Voygt in a QSO at the edge of the B.C. [broadcast] band. My interest was whetted and I had to find out who they were and what they were doing. Milt Koupal was my "Elmer" and sold me my first radio set, and RCA Radiola III with WD-11 peanut tuber. Milt worked at the old Willard Battery store on Broadway and Pears Streets and I met him because he was one fo my Saturday Evening Post customers which I sold at the time. Incidentally, it cost me \$1.50, I bought it on time at 50¢ a week! My first "shack" was in clothes closet off my bedroom at 2315 Fairmount Blvd. My residence after my mother married George McMorran, one of the owners of the McMorran and Washbourn store. (Residence now of the U. of O. president.) Eventually I moved to a room on the top (3rd) floor where I had my 160 meters phone rig feeding a full ½ wave zep antenna 260 feet long!
4. The early members of the club had varied backgrounds and we had plenty of know-how people who helped us with everyday problems and early ham instalat[ions]. Vance about cars (he owned a garage). Wink about CW operation (he was our champ!). Vic about employment (he managed Western Union). Rollie about B.C., employment (he built and ran KORE), etc.
5. From my interest in ham radio, I chose broadcast engineering for my main job. Eugene's first commercial B.C. station was KGEH, first located in the then Vines Building (later the Medical Center Building). The owner of KGEH, Frank Hill and "shrimp" Phillips combined for the first KORE which was located upstairs in Frank Hill's Metropolitan Store on Willamette Street next to the Smeed Hotel. (Antenna on the roof between two wooden towers). They then moved to South Willamette Street with a vertical tower.
6. My first broadcast job after I got my 1st class Radiotelephone which was at KWIL, Albany, when it was a commercial station. (Combo man from there I went to KRVR Roseburg, KORE Eugene. After the war I helped build the first KUBN and worked as a combo man then until I became chief engineer at KASH, which station I built. From there I went to KVAL—where I helped build the station

and became chief engineer about 1957. Also helped build KPIC Roseburg and KCBY Coos Bay. I left KVAL about 1973 to teach at LCC and teach on the chief job at KLCC.

C.W. was my first love in phone radio and I still work it. I obtained my Extra class ticket in 1957. My wife Amy Wayne was also a ham, W7SBS, she passed away in 2004 from Alzheimer's.

7. I remember the good old days when we built our own stuff and the interest in fellowship was high. United Radio was our solo local source of parts, tubes and service tools and supplies. We always had a raffle at each meeting where the prizes were parts we used in our building. Heathkit was very much in evidence with their early kits.

Valley Radio Club of Eugene

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B. On 160 mtr phone a year later - 830's final - 300 watts.

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