



AMATEUR RADIO STATION AB5TY

Macalee Hime

Goldthwaite, TX 76844

April 3, 1999

Email: _____

Web site: <http://www.fortunecity.com/greenfield/vine/82/>

David J. Ring, Jr. N1EA

Green Harbor MA 02041

Dear Dave:

Attached is the tape, as well as transcripts, of W4RGX Jack , AB5TY Lea, WØBMU Tex, and AB5TY again, in that order. When playing mine back, I realized my O's sounded like I's when sending on the sounder, and on CW my "Me" sounds like a G. So this was good practice for me to hear what I sound like.

You didn't ask for mine, and probably can't copy a word of it. I am sending it just in case you need one from a YL.

As you know, I accidentally deleted some of Jack's tape the first time and had to record another when condx were not too good. I am sending copies of the tape, as well as this letter, to Tex and Jack, and if you need further information, they will be glad to supply any information. Tex does not have email.

Jack did not tell you that he started his career on a bicycle for Western Union, and also that he met a young beginning telegrapher there and married her. She became an SK several years ago. Tex's wife is in a nursing home. So they both spend a lot of time on the air. What a way to pass the time in their "golden" years!! Same for me.

You are to be commended for making a CD and hopefully the Smithsonian will accept it. I visited there a couple of years ago and was able to transmit on the key of NN3SI. The railroad department had things to look at, but they had no operators on duty. Said they have about all retired or become SKs and can't find anyone to man the station. It occurs to me that they could play audio Morse tapes and that would make it more authentic.

Anyway, I will be looking forward to receiving a copy of the CD when you finish.

I have asked WØAKL Keel to make a tape but he says his sending is not good anymore. We think it is. He will be 98 years old in June and still sending on the bug. He is the oldest living of three Associated Press wiremen still living and has received much publicity in the recent past. He is very, very alert and has a great sense of humor. He joins us regularly on QBN.

We are very pleased to participate in your project. Now make us famous.

73/88

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lee".

Cc: W4RGX
WØBMU
WØAKL

P.S. The howling you hear at the end of my sounder portion is my dog Suzy barking at the train.

WILLIAM H. JACKSON W4RGX
Nashville, TN
(born 11/24/1908)
American Morse on tones
Recorded March 31, 1999 on 7.035 at 8:05 a.m. CST
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AB5TY: Play it pretty. You are on the air so go. DE AB5TY K

W4RGX: OK. Here here goes. DE W4RGX the oldtimer. Was Morse was Morse operator for Western Union about 17 years before WW2 and Navy got me and went into radio communications and have been hamming ever since end of war. So the CW CW is the only way for this old dude. HI. Love my bug and don't think RTTY is the way to go for us oldtimers. Also been (?) SSB (?) wha is. Now Lea how am I doing AB5TY de W4RGX

AB5TY: Sounds smooth es pleasing to the ear. HI. So tnx and now let's join the bees up band. TU TU es 88. AR DE AB5TY SK GM

MACALEE HIME AB5TY

Goldthwaite, TX

(born Apr 2, 1927)

American Morse on sounder

Recorded March 27, 1999 on sounder with J38 key

AB5TY: My name is Macalee Hime. I was a girl telegrapher for the Santa Fe Railroad during WW2 when most of the OMs had gone to war. I am using an old J38 hand pump. I still have my old Vibroplex. I did my apprenticeship in Temple TX but worked mostly in Galveston during that time. I now live in Goldthwaite Texas located deep in the heart of Texas. I am proud to be among the railroad OP OOTs . May the memories of the telegraph live forever. 73 73 DE AB5TY AR . .

HOWARD L. HARVEY WØBMU

Creve Coeur, MO

Born Feb. 7, 1911

CW recorded March 26, 1999 on 7.038 at 7:40 a.m. CST

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WØBMU: GM all. This old mule man up Creve Coeur and I
am going be recording star mebbly if Lea does good job.

(QRM)

WØBMU: GA. QRMR sure was bugging the QRG.

W2BNA: GM Tex. W2BNA

AB5TY: Ken please AS. I am having Tex send
and recording him CW. GA Tex.

WØBMU: HI. OK Lea. Well old mule man been pounding
brass for 75 years ... Began as unlicensed spark back in
twenty-four and still trying send CW some say with Lake Erie
swing ... others say Banana Boat swing. But as long as it
got that swing it OK ... and this old Vibroplex same key I
used when I went on river boat as radio OP back in twenty-
nine ... Used it for seven years on river boat as the CW OP

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... My first call on river was WYDE again WYDE and this ole bug has that call scribbled on base. Now they don't have OPs on river boats ... Old skipper just grabs a mike and makes out like a C bea. The old river has changed in the last 70 years.

AB5TY: OK Tex.

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MACALEE HIME AB5TY
Goldthwaite, Texas
Born April 2, 1927
Morse on tone
Recorded April 4, 1999

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This is Morse the mother tongue on a Bencher paddle. I can't make a long dash so the L will be in CW ... HI. My name is Macalee Hime and was an OP for the Santa Fe in 1944/45. They soon went to teletype so didn't get to use the bug very long. My old Vibroplex bug sits on the shelf now. HI 73/88 AR DE AB5TY .