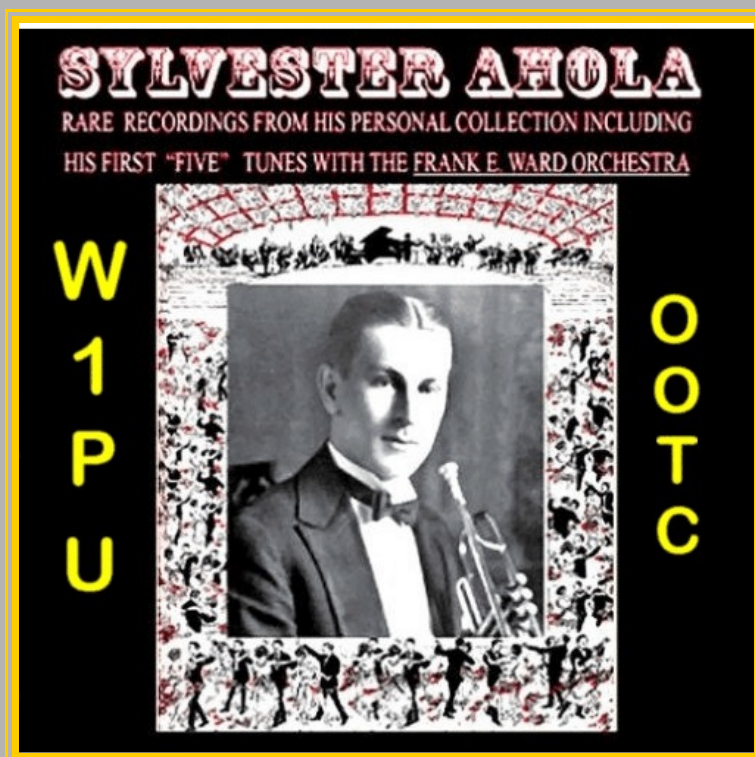


**Sylvester “Hooley” Ahola - W1PU \*1902-1995\*** Known as “The Gloucester Gabriel” Of Finnish descent, born in Gloucester, Mass., played the drums at age 6. Then studying trumpet at age 8. He refined his natural talent with lessons from Walter Smith of Boston and would become a classic jazz trumpeter and cornetist. In 1919 Hooley taught himself the Morse Code and would make his first two way QSO on the bands as 1PU.

After hearing Paul Whiteman’s Orchestra, the direction of his career was set. His first professional engagement was in 1921 with Frank E. Wards Orch in Mass. In 1926 he joined Paul Specht Orch in NY and traveled with the band to England. In a remarkable career from 1920 until his retirement in 1940, Hooley spent six years on the Fred Allen Show and performed with more than a dozen name bands in the Unites States and England.



Hooley accompanied more than 2 thousand records and played with dozens of orchestras and bands. He recorded with world famous stars such as Bing Crosby, Sophie Tucker, Gracie Fields, Paul Robeson and Noel Coward, to name a few. He recorded on forty different labels and played for Valentino. Mr. Ahola is regarded as one of the true pioneers in the jazz field.

When our subject was in England 1928-31 he played many freelance sessions, one of which was “A Christmas Party” on Decca. This was a typical jovial Christmas comedy record and at one stage in the participants turn on the radio or pretend to tune in, as a background effect, Hooley plays some Morse

Code on trumpet. He stated he was Morsing and sent “Bad weather off Cape Anne” or words to that effect. Cape Ann in Massachusetts is where Hooley came from! Catch also “Static Strut.”

Later on in life Ahola became interested in traffic handling and started the Deep Sea Dragnet, handling public service traffic from around the world. More than 100 stations in the NE states checked into the net which performed fantastic duties during the Worcester tornado in the mid 50's.

At age 90 with his health on the decline and vision somewhat impaired, Hooley didn’t operate the station much. He was a long time sustaining OOTC member (0175) - A young Englishman has written Sylvester’s biography which was published at Rutgers University. Titled, Sylvester Ahola, The Gloucester Gabriel! We learned W1PU’s XYL’s name was Saima who was a great hostess. This biography is intended to help restore Sylvester’s name to its proper place in American and British musical history.

With help from OOTC Article by J. Pallazola WB1CHJ SGT May 1992. W8SU 2009