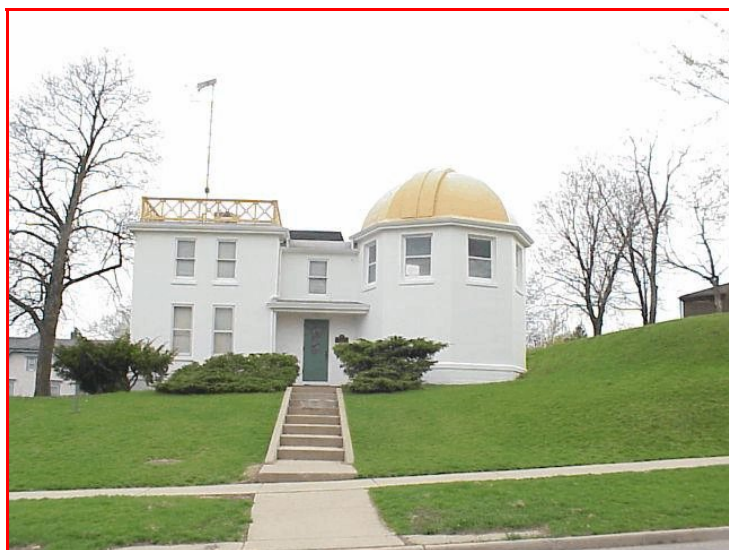


The Elgin Watch Company *W9XAM* not only made superb watches, it also reached into the radio/electronics realm in the time keeping mode via shortwave radio! Elgin Watch Corp transmitted time signals from its observatory in Elgin, ILL. We have proof in several areas that the time signals were engineered for the shortwave community in the form of a QSL request from W9EQV Dollar Bay, Michigan in 1930. Plus we have an Elgin Watch Co reply card to view.



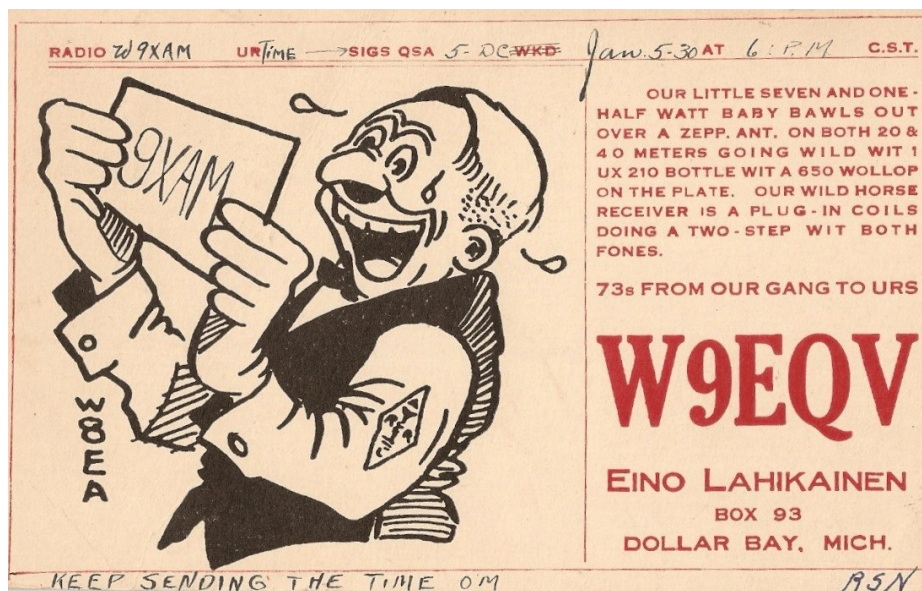
What makes this project prominent in our minds Bob W8JYZ pointed out having this card in his collection. Of course our old friend Otto Eppers W8EA is right in the middle of this project. We are collecting as many of Otto's creations as possible.

Elgin was the only watch company maintaining an observatory that observed, recorded and broadcasted time from the stars correct to the hundredths of a second. Located at Raymond and National streets overlooking the factory, the building still stands today and is used by Elgin

High School. The building was used by the watch company to measure time interval, using phenomenon that occurs in exactly the same interval of time.

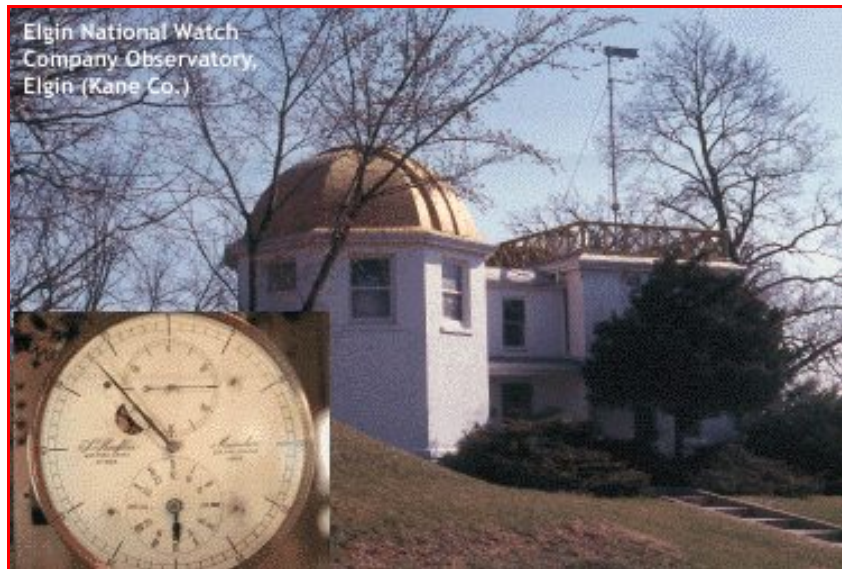
In order to compete with the accuracy of the timepieces being put out by Hamilton Watch of Lancaster, Pa, in 1910 Elgin Watch built the planetarium. The observatory was sited on the top of a hill just east of the watch factory.

Elgin possessed a shortwave transmitter, which operated under experimental license from the FCC for the transmission of radio time signals. A 500 watt crystal controlled transmitter W9XAM operated on a frequency of 4,797.5 kc or 62.5 meters. WWV had lots of company and our military was also using the same type of time apparatus. Card W8JYZ files.



Continued.

Our story continues with some Elgin keep sakes and more history concerning the special issue of experimental licenses to the world of business and contemporary research via eather.



Tom Kneitel's "Radio Treasury" Shows W9XAM in 1932 on frequency 4795 kc with the power of 500 watts and transmitted time signals daily (except Sundays) at 8:55, 9:55, 10:55 a.m. and 12:55 p.m. The Elgin Observatory closed its doors in 1958. One listener says "I remember hearing W9XAM's signals rather weakly in Washington, D.C., when he was a teenager using a home built regenerative receiver.



Some of our national treasures are gone but live long lives on Bob Green's www.w8jyz.com

