

**M**inford Starr **K2OJY** \*1887-1967\* The Grand OM of radio! - Minford evolved from Comfort Starr, the patriarch 1533 in the UK.. Min was one of 5 kids, born 1887 to a blacksmith Augustus and Arilla Davis Starr.

Minford married Florence Cyper, he managed a milk plant for Scheffield Farms at Billings, NY. Children, Sirieta, Mildred, George and Alton.

I met Min through a mutual friend Bob (Gene) Singer K2LEM of Trenton NJ. Bob and Minford had a regular schedule in the 1950's. I was fortunate to get in on the conversations at times from Trenton when a young teen.

Radio was an enjoyable release and making friends over the rig giving valuable experience. Mr. Singer designed and built a automatic keyer system for Min and presented it to him. (Min's fist was not the best in the world and the longer he sent with the hand key, the more difficult it was to copy) When K2OJY came on for the first time with the automatic keyer, it sounded like heaven! Mr. Singer really had to be proud of the great gift he designed. That keyer gave Min Starr many years of pleasure and I knew he enjoyed using it.

Bob Singer in the 50's had an open house for his close friends Minford and Florence and I was invited out to visit the gathering on Quaker Bridge Road, Trenton. Everyone attending brought a card or gift of remembrance. Bob was courteous to me, he gave me transportation and brought me back home when the visitation was over. I was young then and had no drivers license nor a car. Minford was a kind man and very approachable. I will never forget that gathering at Bob & Virginia's - - the courtesy, kindness and hospitality. A hot dog and some watermelon goes a long way in diplomacy. Ham radio left me with a great impression.

I can remember our QSO's on 80 Meters, Minford was retired by then and was working part time at a local gas station near his home. He would talk about his day and how busy they were and other banter about the family. He always asked us how we were. His ham gear became Collins equipment, the 75A1 and the 32V series transmitter. It was top of the line. The years would pass.

My hitch in the Coast Guard began 1958 and married in 64. By 1965 we were living in Boston, Mass - Min asked Pat and I to come out and visit. He had been working Pat on the air on 80 meters keeping schedules while I was away on the Ice Breaker. We got some time off and came over to Billings one weekend, driving down the beautiful Taconic Parkway and enjoyed wonderful scenery. It was in the fall of the year, meeting Min was just like old times. He had a way of making one comfortable. His daughter Mildred made a fine meal and we took a short trip to Valley View Cemetery in Dutchess County and paid respects to Florence who had expired the year before.

We could tell Min was a broken man but was trying to continue the best he could without Flo. We had a prayer before leaving. Pat and I learned Minford Starr expired a year later in 1967 and I believe relatives advised us of his passing. He was a true friend. K2UTS QSL. W8SU 2007

**K2OJY** **MINFORD STARR**  
**BILLINGS, NEW YORK**

RADIO *KN24+S UR 3730* MC. SIGS WKD HR *6/14/58*  
AT *1905 ED* S. T. UR SIGS Q *CW R 5 S 8 T 9 4599*  
XMITTER *AX 35 65 watts* RCVR *S 38 C*  
REMARKS *Very nice message C U ag all*  
QSL TXN  
*Antenna Long wire half wave End Fed*