

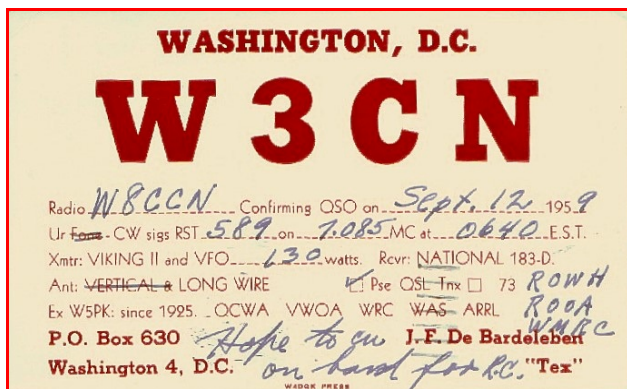
**E**thel M. Smith - \*1997\* - K4LMB - W7FWB - W3MSU - Originally from Wenatchee WA., Ethel founded the YLRL in 1939 and served as first president. Licensed in 1936, she was first YL ham active in the Naval Reserve Electronics service. The first WAVE to participate in the Military amateur radio system.

Ms. Smith was an electronics engineering aide at the Naval Research Laboratories in Washington D.C. She continued to be an active ham, operating both fixed and mobile. Ethel was in the same radio club in the Md/DC area that W3BKE our ex home town Cambridge Radio Boy Tom Hedges.

The actual story about Ethel's Naval career was simply Naval Intelligence, her stints in the Army and Navy during WW2 led to an offer from the Naval Research Lab in DC in which she examined photos of

Russian and foreign intelligence assets. She became very proficient, said W4HE. Ethel enjoyed cw and was found frequently on the 80 and 40 Meter bands. Your author remembers her steady clean fist and cheerful attitude.

Ethel married W4TE Tex DeBardleben ex W3CN with the FCC and they remained in the DC - VA area making it home. Ethel was not the pop organist who was in show biz for 50 years as some thought. That lady expired May of 1996 at age 85 in Florida.



In an article of the QCWA Bulletin, celebrating Smith's 60 years in the hobby, she was quoted as saying; "Amateur Radio is still the main focus of my life. It has brought me all the good things that ever happened to me. It gave me a challenging and rewarding career. It gave me a wonderful husband and the greatest collection of friends in the world. I owe more to Amateur Radio than I can ever possibly repay."

Ms Smith's many awards made her immensely popular and at her death in 1997 at age 79, ARRL Exec K1ZZ expressed sorrow at her passing, calling Smith "a leading light in the ham community." Sumner said that Ethel Smith "never stopped contributing, learning and growing. I don't think it ever would have occurred to her that she should." Scripted QCWA material, plus a K4LMB Memorial Scholarship - W3CN via [www.w8jyz.com](http://www.w8jyz.com)