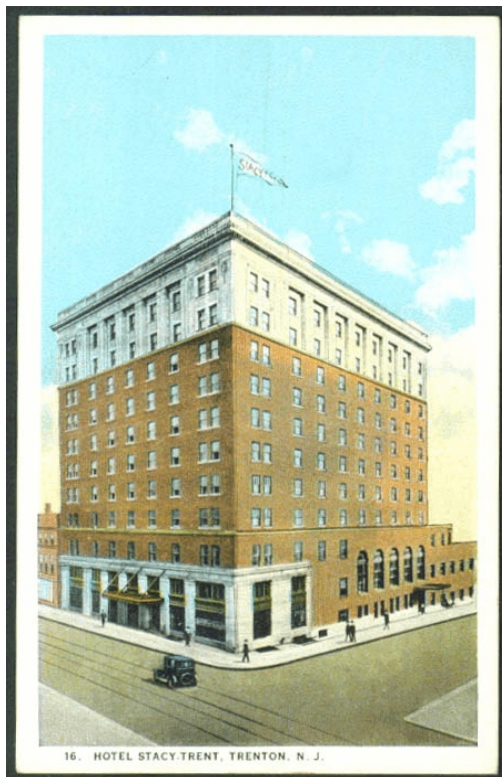


One important part of my life the decade of the 50s was the Trenton experience. There is still a sharp fondness for Trenton's "Old Timers Night Round-Up & Banquet" A radio happening second to none for some 18 years sponsored by the Delaware Valley Radio Association., or by the generosity of founder and General Chairman W2ZI Ed G. Raser. After 50 years transpire, the lingering thoughts of the 1958 Old Timers Night are still there.



The sights and sounds that April weekend could compare or rival to the early "Dayton Ham-Vention experience." Displays and banners of electronic equipment new and old, raffle of new ham radio equipment including the popular **hallicrafters** SX-101 - A spectacular band opening on 6 Meters and the excitement of hearing low power coast to coast AM transmissions. Then the banquet, meal, speaker/awards ceremony and the fellowship of close friends. Two ham friends were kind enough to invite this young soul out that night in 1958, they were Benny K2CDH and Jack K2KEW, two peas in a pod, close friends and ham brothers.

Hotel Stacy-Trent was where the 1958 event was held, West State and Willow, a 4 star operation in downtown Trenton, NJ. Stacy-Trent was called in 1932 "Trenton's New Million Dollar Hotel. Since the 40s the hotel was home to DVRA "Old Timers Night." The building is gone from the scene now.



The event, an unforgettable experience and little did I know of the previous years, the same routine had occurred to the enjoyment of all. For instance the third annual Old-timers Night, held in March 1947 included the dinner, speaker and display of the W2ZI Historic wireless collection. The speaker that night was Electrical Engineer from the RCA Institute NYC Mr. Eugene Keizer.

We got off the elevator and into the "Chamber of Commerce Room." The magic began. I could hear the Din of the pileups on the 6 Meter a.m. equipment on display (Those wonderful small Whippany Labs Lil Lulu sets) the west coast was rolling in and the 7 land stations were bucking them - Low power DX on SIX was a common place when the Sun spots cooperated each decade. 1958 just happened to be one of them. There was another good selling VHF set called the "Black Widow" Now, who can forget the name of a set such as that! Gonset Company had a lot of competition!

My friends Ed W2ZI, Ben K2CDH have passed on but Jack K2KEW is in Five land and lives with his family in Beloxi MS. Myself, I've got the memories of a life time and still marvel! w8su 2008