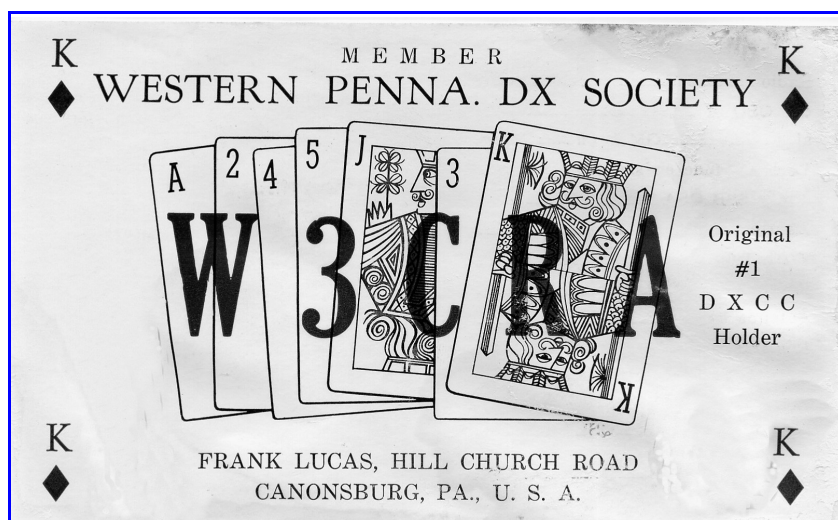


**F**rank Lucas -  
W3CRA- W8CRA  
- \*1909-1982\*

Born 25 June 1909 to  
John and Eva Hutchison  
Lucas at Canonsburg, Pa.  
Frank, who originally  
was W8CRA at  
Canonsburg, Pa., due to  
western Pa. prewar,  
those days was part of the  
8<sup>th</sup> District. Eventually  
western Pa would be in

the third district. - Frank married Agnes E. Wischmann in 1938 and had a son Dennis Lucas, Frank on the marriage application was age 28 and an electrician. Frank would be Service Manager for Imperatore Ford Agency 601 West Pike St. Canonsburg. Imperatore Ford was very helpful and courteous to us on our visit.



Pat and I along with W8MTC from Newton Falls, one fall day (Oct 9 - 1991) would take a trip to Canonsburg in a attempt to find Frank's old QTH. I wondered too if we would find the ghost of Perry Como. After working at the courthouse we still did not have a clear lead where Frank lived so we located and visited Imperatore Ford on West Pike and were given very helpful information. They still remembered Frank and told how a great guy he was and a pleasure to work with. Instructions were, go 4 lights on Pike, make right into Central Av (SR519) cross bridge and RR tracks get to hill area where starts to climb you will see a lane almost at the top of the hill turn left and you will see Frank's home and garage. Sure enough, we could view the tower and monobander long before we arrived at the intersection. In the earlier years there was never a definitive call book address location given. Frank wanted it that way.

\*DX luminary the venerable Gus Browning W4BPD mentioned the following on an Aldabra expedition, about our great ham and unusual Western Pennsylvania amateur station. After staying up for the long path opening to the U.S. which was 0400 local time. I intended sleeping on a small bunk at the rear of the boat. After lying down for a while and wondering about the 5 nine plus 20 db signal that signs W3CRA when all the others on the bands are S7, I came to the conclusion that Frank must have the world's best QTH. When the band is dead he's always S7 and when the W-boys are S7 Frank is always over S9. It just isn't once in a while, it's an every day occurrence.

\*Dave K4JRB; Some stations can be big guns without having at least 5 towers. I recall W3CRA was reported so loud in Tibet that he was 2 S units higher than any other USA 20M station. This site once housed a commercial SW BC station. He used a 3 ele 20M home brew Yagi. Pick the location first then spend the money.