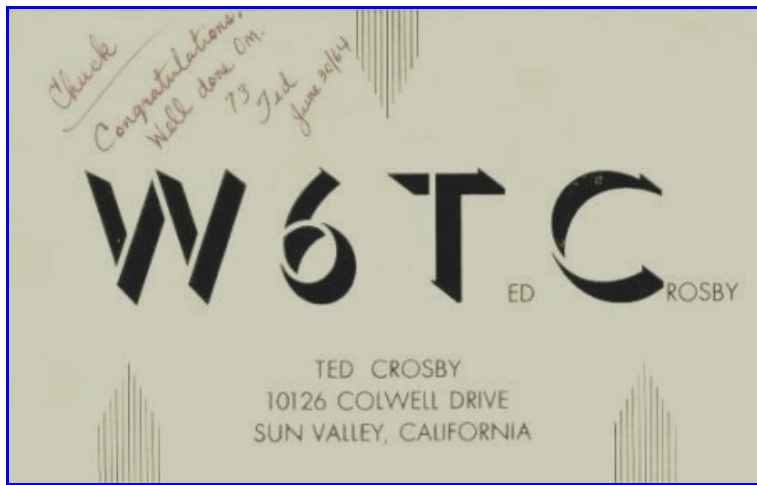


When I got my start in Ham Radio mid 50s - it was a great time to be involved for many reasons. First the bands were hot, the Sunspot peak was almost there before us, exciting DX-peditions such as Navassa and Clipperton, then the really far out stuff that Gus was affording to the faithful. There was the new Novice program that got one into the field with minimal expense CW and theory.



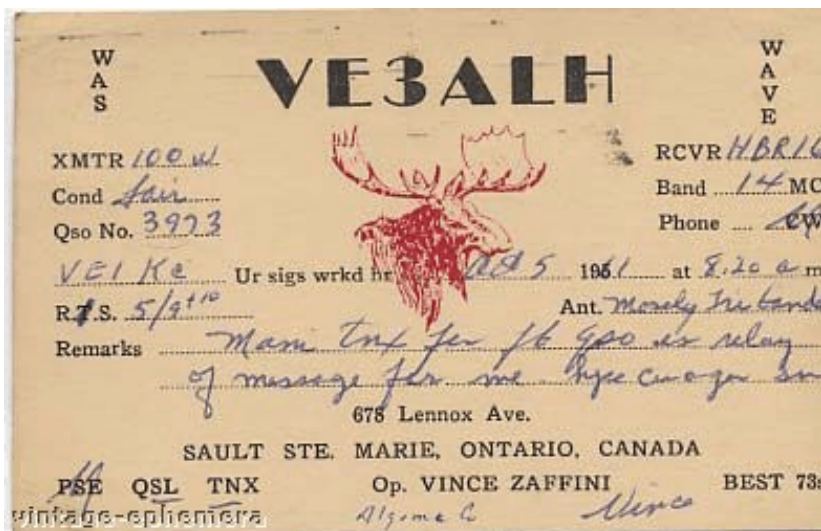
One of the items that was instilled in my mind was the fact, many were into homebrew and making their own transmitters and fewer were constructing receivers. I thought, wow a receiver project has to be a great sense of accomplishment.

In the day, Ted Crosby W6TC was earning a substantial name for himself with the HBR receiver! A nifty dual conversion receiver construction project covering 80 thru 10 meters.

QST had many pages devoted to Ted Crosby's multi-tube receiver over time and its evolution. The Journal featured the front page on the fine building project QST Cover June 1961.

I am very desirous to learn what I can about Ted's life, but precious little has been found. We know he was a Television engineer for ABC-TV in Los Angeles. He enjoyed communications receiver design and known as "Cros" by those that knew him well. He was a chain smoker and the endless hours spent in research and design of the HBR series was unbelievable. Ted not only was a engineer and designer but he loved to place those splendid HBR dual conversion projects on the air for rag chewing and working DX. He simply loved both fields, operating and engineering.

Ted had a good sense of humor, "A stamped envelope will bring further details, but please fellows, not for free, as much as I might wish it were otherwise, I am a Crosby in name only!" Ted's creation was everywhere, Vince Zaffini of The Soo Ontario built one! Check the QSL card.



Stations all over North America and Europe were building and represented by Ted's creation.

I fast forward in time to the 80s through my Coast Guard and Public Service days, I became acquainted with Garrett K8RBX who was a West Farmington Ohio ham. In doing some antenna work for Garrett, there it was in his detached garage, a Ted Crosby HBR-16 complete with the British Edystone dial and all of the band coils! Continued on page two.

The chassis on Garrett's HBR-16 was ajar from the Bud cabinet and full of Mud Daubers! The wasps had found a great home! Wasp castles all over the place, nasty. It was going to take a good amount of elbow grease to clean that one up!.

As far as personal information on Percy Ted Crosby, in 1957 Ted stated he had been in wireless and the technical field for 45 years. That makes his entry around 1912. That's a real wireless pioneer! There was a rumor Ted expired in 1971, I checked QST Journal Silent Keys and could not find any entry prior to and including up to January 1972, there were simply no notes on his passing.

I had neglected to obtain Ted's actual name, **Percy T. Crosby \*1898-1970\* W6TC - 5TA**. The doors were opened. Ted had beginnings in Oklahoma and was licensed in 1923 as 5TA in Oklahoma City and had one submission to the QST Journal titled "Making the Filament behave." He was age 25 at the time of submission and we are still looking in the files.



Ted said, "Over the years it seems there has developed a rather deep-seated conviction that the average ham is completely incapable of constructing and aligning a receiver even remotely comparable to the best of the commercially built units. I, too, had gradually become accustomed to accepting this unmitigated myth as a fact." Then came his real understatement, "I managed to accumulate some slight knowledge and understanding of the inner workings of a good receiver."

Not so slight! Ted was a marvel and more than that he enjoyed teaching the things he had learned about receiver design and was a mentor to many.

In recent years the boys have had a resurgence on the HBR thanks to K5BCQ et al and they have a fine Internet page on the subject. Full of data, specs and pictures.

Thanks Ted, we've not forgotten you OM! The little old HBR-16 we have was cleaned up and resurrected in Northeast Ohio.

The sounds that come from it are truly Ted's creation, long live the little HBR! W6TC QSL from Mr. Dilks K2TQN collection.

W8SU 2009

