



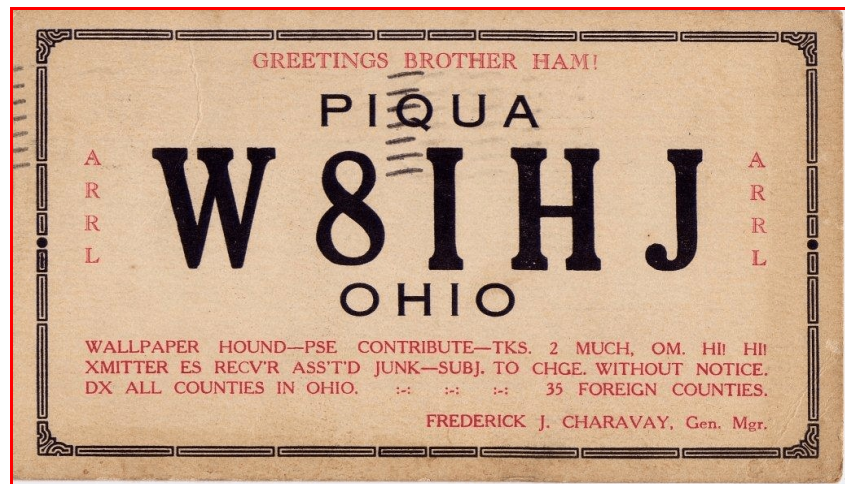
**Frederick J. Charavay \*1886-1961\* W8IHJ** - Manager, inventor, chief engineer and designer. To Marius and Chienast Charavay, Phillipsburgh, New Jersey. Parents of French and Swiss descent respectively. Working in NY-NJ and schooled at Pratt Institute (College of Art and Design) making his way into WW1 and defense work with Liberty aircraft engines in final testing.

Fred found his way to Piqua Ohio in 1917 and made his entrance into the design industry of Hartzell Fan and Propeller. Hartzell had the material and equipment but needed designers. It was a match that lasted. Fred's QSL card caught our eye on Ebay and the term "General manager"

intrigued us enough to check out his interesting life.

The Piqua Amateur Radio Club in the early years had a Club House out on Hwy 66 at the Water Works, north of town and near the old Srepcu Electronics Parts House. It stood in the upper parking area and could fit approx. 20 persons, if they chairs were available!

I recall one snug Christmas program at the club house in the 60s. The meeting house is gone now. Gifts were exchanged and one lucky person got a toilet seat as a gag gift. Your author had about 30 lb of pre cut teflon insulated and tinned wire of all sizes including coax from the old Dare Plant in Troy, I packaged up about 20 lb of it and the fellow who got my Christmas exchange gift just rolled his eyes in disgust. I'm thinking still, in 2012 the gent was no electronic type, don't get no respect even in ham radio. Could it be he wanted the toilet seat? Hi Hi - I can still hear W8BZX Darrel Fogt's hearing aid squealing thru the whole program. Oyi!



In 1923 Fred got his due acclaim with Hartzell Co., they produced a new biplane with a Curtiss engine, Fred got the engineering credit. Plus national headlines.

Fred Charavay Sr expired in Piqua, 8 Feb 1961 at age 74 and was widowed. I wonder if Piqua amateurs are aware of such interesting VIP's on their soil in the past? Frank had a son Jean who was issued his fathers old station call, who followed in his footsteps. W8SU 2012