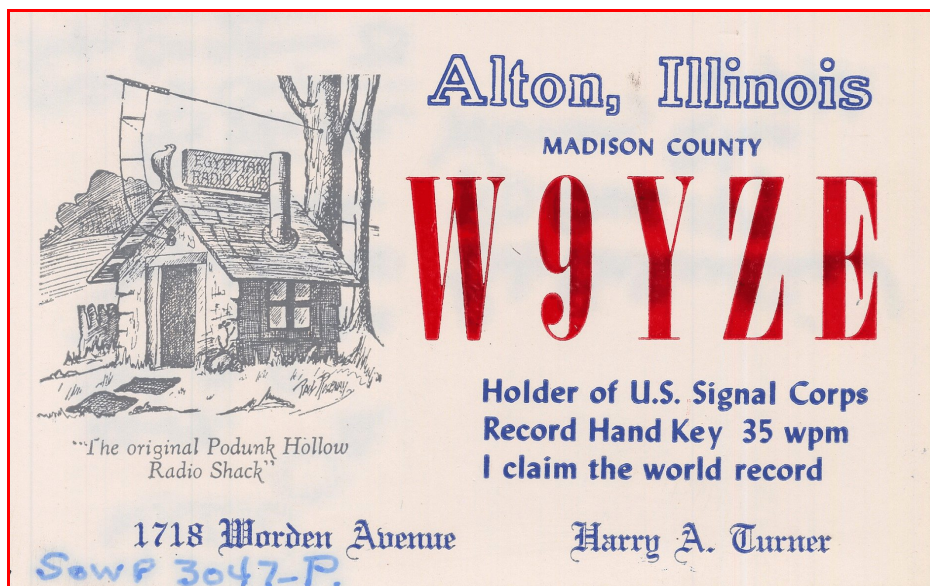


Harry A. Turner **W9YZE** *1906–1994* The original “Podunk Hollow Radio Shack” I met Harry on the fraternal nets and the “Society of Wireless Pioneers” - Harry was approachable on the air and a friend. A fellow collector and historian. A good operator and cw pal.

Meet Harry “The Champion” - He went to work on the railroad himself at the age of 14, working extra relief telegrapher, up and down the line until 1934, then resigning. In 1936 our subject joined the U.S. Navy and was discharged in 1940. The following year he joined the army and saw service as a M/Sergeant with his radio section in the Pacific war zone, including Guadalcanal, the Solomon Islands and the Philippines.

Mr. Turner was a modest man, I didn't realize we had a VIP in our midst until we had the pleasure to exchange QSL cards in 1982.

Harry held the Morse code speed record at 35 WPM set with a hand telegraph key on November 9, 1942, while stationed the U.S. Army Signal Corps, for which he was listed in the Guinness Book of Records beginning in 1981;



There was a special ARRL Bulletin when Harry expired;

Harry A. Turner, W9YZE, expired December 21, 1994, in Alton, Illinois. He was 88 years old.

While in the service in 1942, OM Turner was clocked at 35 WPM using a hand telegraph key, said William J. Garrett, KB8NTE, of the Morse Telegraph

Club, a record still standing and recorded in the current Guinness Book of Records.

According to a 73 Magazine article in 1976, Turner in 1964 applied to the Signal Corps for certification of his code speed record, which had been witnessed by General Ben Lear and received his official request from the Signal Corps.

With the then widespread use of electronic keyers and semi-automatic bugs for fast work has long destroyed the old competitive spirit in this field and it seems unlikely that there are any high speed hand key operators about nowadays who could attempt it. Harry would like someone to try but as he says, “they would have to have a lot of practice.”

Turner said he handled code under “business” conditions and learned to concentrate accordingly. Among Turner's survivors are his wife, Edith. Check the fine tribute www.telegraph-office.com

The bands are very quiet now, RIP OM Harry. W8SU 2007