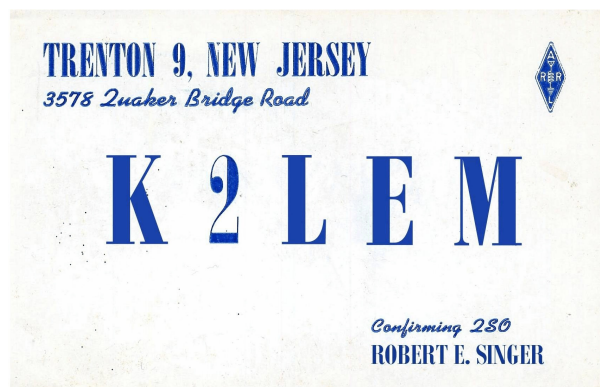


Robert Eugene Singer *1914-1984* **K2LEM** of Trenton NJ - Gene born in Clark Summit, PA and one of 8 kids. Our subject is one of the Forgotten Men of our generation. The USMM - How little we know of these gifted people. Gene as he was known by the family at times had a cigarette or drink in his hand, referred to as a hell raiser in his day. Loved having fun and having a good time. He had a joke on his lips to tell. Was an avid card player with his family all through the years.

My first recollection of Gene was as a young teen, he had a quality station. He was a great Morse operator and stood out because of his classy call and knack of phrasing with a fine fist for the code. Bob as he used over the air on the bands enjoyed being around people. His automatic keyer, an early Eldico model had a large red paddle that really marched along with the dots and dashes.

I was fortunate to have Mr. Singer's and others encouragement to continue on in the game and upgrade my license. Hams were just that way in those days. Further, Bob and his wife Virginia welcomed me into their home and we have many fond memories of those early days. The Singer's had two sons and a sweet daughter, Margie K2UTS. Margie was bright, entertaining and a good friend.



She had so many interests, I couldn't count them all. The thing that amazed me was their family love for nature, raising pets and had a great hobby of bee keeping! Yes, smoke those lil critters and calm em down. Those hives pay sweet dividends.

I learned a lot about life through Bob and many of his ham friends were mine over the years. Through Bob's generosity, would invite me out on many occasions and since I had no car, he was always willing to pick me up and allow me to tag along. Family trips out to visit friends on Long Island, to the shore and just plain eye ball

QSO's. It was a welcome escape from a sweltering second floor tenement building mid summer on busy Hamilton Avenue in Trenton.

Your author as a young teen in Trenton was in the middle of what I thought of a unsolvable situation at home. Bob said "The Coast Guard is a good place to start out." He knew what he was talking about because his son Bobby was on a Cutter out of Cape May called the Sassafras. It wasn't much longer and I was on my way to Cape May for a four year enlistment in the Coast Guard. I needed my parents consent tho which came easily. Recruit training took a lot out of a seaman and in that 12 weeks it had taken a toll on our 40 man company of regulars. Charlie 37, late summer of 1958, I remember it like yesterday. Many dropped out for one reason or another.

I can see Bob's furrowed brow because of his early USN duty & sailing Merchant Marine days to and from Arabia, South America - the sweltering heat etc. He advised it was so bad , he would never live without air conditioning again! Continued...

Our ships those days didn't have many of those creature comforts. He chatted about Manhattan's radio row frequently and what a great place it was picking up parts and military surplus. In later years I became a student of "Radio Row!" But this wasn't the whole story, Bob Eugene was a member of the "Forgotten Heroes" The U.S. Merchant Marine.

I am indebted to this man because of his guidance. Most of my equipment was war surplus, ear phones, the key, the supplies and receiver were the old school installed in B17s and B24 bombers. Purchased used from war surplus inventory. They were single band jobs, mine tuned from 3 to 6 MHZ., plus 6 to 9 MHZ. They were tricky to use and had very little filtering.

Gene as he was known by his family, Robert Gene started out with a four year hitch in the U.S. Navy circa 1930's. He was assigned on a four stacker destroyer the USS Gilmer out of NY radio call NERB. He saw service on the east coast, the Canal Zone and the west coast. During WW2 Bob entered the U.S. Merchant Marines, he attended the USMM Academy in New London and as near as we can tell his first duty assignment close to 1943 was the SS Hadnot radio call KOGP, the Hadnot was a tanker and something that was endangered by the German U-boats on the Atlantic.



Bob proudly wrote home in 1944 when he was chosen to be one of the officers assigned aboard the brand new SS Wahoo Swamp a T2 Tanker built in Mississippi. Can you believe, the Wahoo Swamp was renamed 2 times before she was stricken from the records. I am entertained by that name, which was chosen because of an Indian war with the Seminoles in 1836. Wahoo Swamp was one of 500 ships constructed to carry oil products circa WWII. Mr. Singers daughter remembers driving up to port in New Jersey with her mom and brothers to meet her dad who was out on the high seas Merchant Marine in the fuel tanker trade for Cities Service Corp.

HR Bill 23 has been laying around for a few years now, it details around 500 million for the survivors of "The Forgotten Hero's of WW2" I hope it passes soon. Bob isn't around to enjoy the fleeting bit of fame but I do think he would be very pleased. Lets fund the USMM the benefits they deserve. Margie, Bob's daughter recently received Mr. Singer's USMM impressive medals.



Bob was a good ambassador for ham radio, he helped many obtain their tickets and stations, he expired in 1984 of heart problems, thus the end of a fine patriot.

We miss that familiar call "K2LEM" on the 80 Meter band. He still has our utmost respect. With generous help of Margie E. Wenski, K2UTS – Bob Singers' daughter.

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