

Milton F. (Doug) DeMaw - W1FB - W1CER - W8HHS *1926-1997* Doug, one of the widely published technical writers in Amateur Radio. The son of a farmer in Michigan, he spoke of his early days with a great fondness. The family grew their vegetables and frequently hunted their own meat. He began his working life as an engineer at the Univ of Michigan, then working with and aeronautical research company in San Diego, also radio and TV engineering in the Cadillac Michigan region. In 1960 Doug founded Avtronics in traverse City, a company manufacturing low



frequency radio beacons for civilian airports. He sold Avtronics in 1963 and began Comaire Electronics manufacturing VHF and UHF amateur radio equipment.

During his time he established VHF'er magazine., taken over by K7AAD when Doug joined the ARRL staff in 1965. In 1968 Doug

was promoted to Handbook Editor and Laboratory Supvr and in 1970 he succeeded the late George Grammar W1DF as Senior technical Editor and technical Department Manager. During this time DeMaw produced and wrote several books for the ARRL. Some say they were the best ever written on the technical side of amateur radio.

Mr. DeMaw earned several patents for his research work and practically invented the concept of QRP construction. He had a great love for low power HF band amateur radio and his many articles were largely responsible for popularizing QRP radio with home made equipment. Jean W1CKK, Doug's wife also worked on the staff of ARRL and their son David is licensed N8HLE.

Retiring early in 1983 Doug, on the death of his father returned to live at the family farm in Michigan. It was there his friend G3RJV George Dobbs said "I believe Doug did some of his best writing there on the farm." The small series of what he called his "farm books" are outstanding.

Doug's "Oak Hill farms" they say was a visit to a deity! He tried his hand in the ham radio business as proprietor of Oak Hills research. The farmhouse lies just outside the tiny village of Luther among the Lakes and forests of Michigan. The house is beautifully restored and much of the surrounding land has been left to return to the wild. Here Doug followed his other great loves, black powder shooting, hunting and cooking with natural ingredients.

Mr. QRP expired in 1997 at age 71 and had been in failing health. Survivors include wife Jean and son, David N8HLE a technical writer who lives in Connecticut. He is truly missed by those who knew him and those who read his exciting construction articles. Partially scripted arrl.org & zerobeat dot net g3yee – QSL via friend www.w8jyz.com W8SU 2007