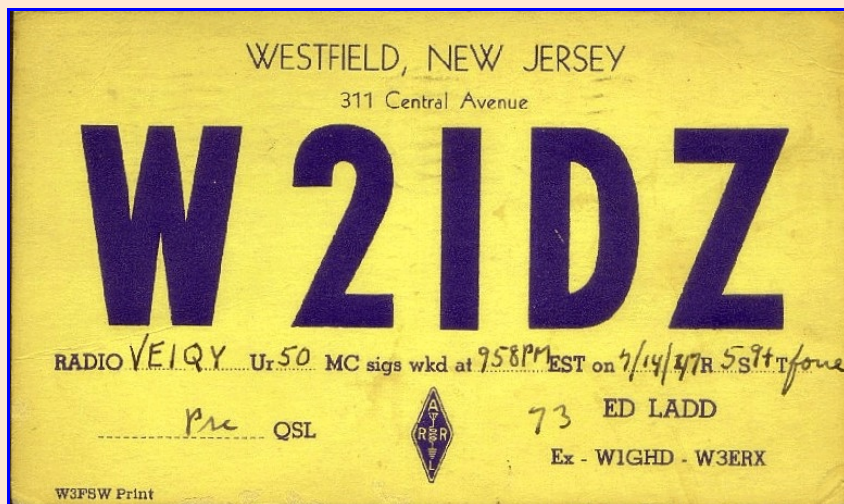


Francis Ed Ladd W2IDZ - W3ERX - W1GHD *1914-1994* Ed was a household word in the VHF and 6 Meter DX community since the old 5 Meters days. Ed's creation Whippy Labs quality VHF gear and his engineering was top shelf. I've read where Ed was called "A true pioneer in every sense of the word." Then "Folks like Ed Ladd and Ed Clegg were an inspiration to a lot of young hams back in the 50s and 1960s. Ladd held every VHF award imaginable."

In Ed's own words in a partial letter that was received a few days after his death and dated a couple of weeks earlier...."I was first licensed in 1933 as W1GHD and operated 160 thru 5 Meters."



Those days 5 Meters (56 to 60 MHz) was really UHF and was considered to be good for local contacts only. The only sporadic E contact I made (Ed continued) on 5 meters was with W9BDL on 4th of July 1941. I am sure more was workable but like almost everyone else I did not expect any sky-wave signals on 5 Meters and never had much of an antenna. When allocation changed from 5 meters to 6 meters I put up a

4 element horizontally polarized antenna and worked a considerable amount of sporadic E DX during the summer of 1946 and thereafter. On 9th of October 1946 I worked quite a few stations via meteor scatter from the ionization caused by the tail of the comet Giacobini Zinner.

On the 3rd of October 1947 at 1521 GMT I heard W1AW announcing F2 skip on 50MHz. On 1st November and 2 November 1947 I worked several W6 W7 and VE7 stations (16 in all). There was a little F2 DX in 1948 but it seemed insignificant as compared to getting across the Atlantic for the first time in 1947. The next F2 DX of any great amount was in 1957 and 1958 followed by the last two Sunspot peaks. Ladd had DXCC and 111 confirmed on 50 MHz.



Ed said; "I designed a band switched W2IDZ Converter that covered from 21 to 148 MHz. I wrote this up and it was published in April QST 1951. A lot of these were built and it became almost the standard 6 Meter converter used by the 6 Meter leaders of that time period." About 1960 "Lil-Lulu" (pictured) was born as a club

project for the Morris Radio Club, I designed a compact low powered 6 Meter transmitter. It was complete construction data and hundreds of these were built, said Ladd. Our commercial version was produced and I used identical circuitry but it also included a supply for both 110VAC and 12VDC operation. Comments by WA6ITF construction via uksmg.org/content/W2IDZ - The Ed Ladd QSL is via Bob Green www.oldqslcards.com