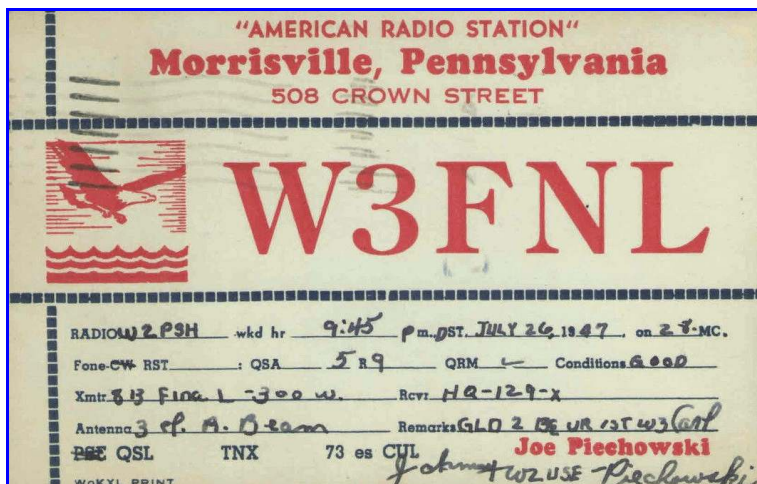


**Joseph T. Piechowski W3FNL** — \*1913-1987\* Of 508 Crown Street Morrisville, Pa - We first knew of Joe via The Tom Glover's Hamilton Scrapbook of Trenton New Jersey August of 2008 - Joe was blinded at age 6 and having attended special schools for the blind and worked in the rubber and metalworking industries, was quite mechanically adept.

He was selected by a project funded by the Veterans Administration in a reading aid for the blind, to design and test a reading aid. It had a stylus which contained a scanner consisting of a light source, a vibrating mirror and a photocell. The reading aid invention was only partially successful at best, so the conclusion was made that the technology was not mature enough to release. In fact it would remain until the desktop computer era for a successful machine that could recognize a wide variety of characters.

Joe was a licensed ham and offered his station for public service the art of phone patching in the and 40s. He had a local pal Joe Patrick of 34 Turpin Street Morrisville Pa.



The Piechowski story is interesting to the fact his home address 508 Crown Street Morrisville Pa today is a social help center.

I contacted the society of the blind in Morrisville and they couldn't help on anything about Mr. Piechowski. I emailed an agent Wortman in Morrisville but not a good address. This was to ascertain if anyone remembered Joe W3FNL

From Sid Dietz much earlier, June 2003; W2USE John Piechowski was Joe's

brother. John es Sid often would walk over the bridge to Morrisville and operate Joes station who was blind, operated 10 meters mostly with a 30 foot wooden tower and a home brew beam 3 ele - it had a manual rotating system with pipes and gears to a auto or truck steering wheel mounted on his radio room window sill. Armstrong style!

Joe was married to Mary and had a daughter. They met at the school for the blind.

When Joe was age 6 he came down with ear infections and his mother, had a young doctor come to the house from a health care agency to treat Joe's ear infections (Mastoid ear) but since he had the problem in both ears, the treatment back then perhaps in the 30s or such was to make an incision behind the ear and clean out the infection and drain, apparently this doctor or male nurse cleaned too deeply and damaged the optic nerves and caused the blindness that Joe suffered.

His sense of feeling and sense of touch became much more sensitive and he could examine brake shoes and brake drums that the company he worked for made. He did such a good job, they had him meet and help select other blind persons to do similar work! Joe was also a very good musician and he played the accordion and he and a group were hired to play music on Friday nights at various taverns etc.

Continued on page two.

## Speaks To Son In Germany Over Blind Amateur's Radio

Thanks to the efforts of a Morrisville radio "ham," Mrs. Ruth Bushey, 51, of Carlisle, Pa., yesterday held a 45-minute conversation with her soldier son stationed in Frankfurt, Germany.

It was the first time Mrs. Bushey had talked with her son, Lieutenant William Bushey, since he went overseas 27 months ago.

The intermediary in this long-distance reunion was Joseph Piechowski, 33, a blind radio amateur who lives at 508 Crown Street, Morrisville. Piechowski accidentally contacted Lieutenant Bushey over the Frankfurt Army radio station (D4ARN) on Christmas Eve. When he found out that Bushey's home was in Carlisle, he made arrangements for Mrs. Bushey to come to his home and talk with her son.

Yesterday she drove the 150 miles from Carlisle to Morrisville to talk to her son over the 10-meter radio telephone hook-up. She arrived at the Piechowski home at 7 a. m. but it wasn't until 9 a. m. that contact was made with the Signal Corps station in Germany.

She said afterwards that she was "terribly excited" over the experience and enjoyed "every minute of my reunion with Bill."

Before she left Morrisville, she received another surprise. Joseph Patrick, 32, of 34 Turpin Street, another "ham," had listened in on the conversation. He made a recording of it and rushed the recording to Morrisville to present it to Mrs. Bushey before she left for her home.

### Set Up Radio Reunion



Joseph Piechowski