

Lewis J. (Lew) Papp *W3MAC* A blind operator in many circles known as a “White Stick Ham.” Lewis disappeared after the 50's but he left his mark! As near as can be determined in the 1930 US Census, Papp born 1907 Mt. Bethel, Penna. Parents Alex and Ledia, both from Hungary, our subject Lewis J age 23 a electrician at the cement plant and sister Irene age 17 a secretary.

Lewis would eventually earn his ham ticket and became W3MAC in Easton, Penna. We learned Lew was one of 8 amateurs who earned a Edison Citation Award performing communication duties during the Delaware River flood of 1955. Lew handled messages from his own home station in Easton until forced out by rising water having to abandon the home and escape over a steep wooded embankment in Easton.

Mr. Paul Galloway of Easton a survivor of the river flood of 1955 reminiscing said; “We had two hurricanes in one week, Connie and Diane.” That was the epitome of the flood. The 55 flood caused by Hurricanes Connie and Diane, were the largest on record with waters cresting at 43.7 feet on August 19 of that year. Diane was particularly devastating leading to hundreds of deaths up and down the East Coast.

Galloway was working at the Easton Milk Company located where Larry Holmes; restaurant is today, when the flood hit. Firefighters came and began to evacuate the building; they took Galloway’s foreman away in a boat and said they’d be back for him. When they didn’t return, he and another co-worker decided to swim for their life making it to Centre Square. “55 Galloway said, is something I will never forget!”

We don’t have a recent record of Lew Papp but his call was reissued and there is no other record other than his few days of recognition staying at his post until the very end. References cited were Rotarian Magazine of 1958 and GE Ham News dated 1956. Easton Patch dated August 2011 by Tom Coombe, which comments were edited. QSL via Bob Green’s W8JYZ extensive collection. A note about Lew’s sister Irene, she became Mrs. Hans Lindemann, had two daughters, Irene was active all her life in civic and community events. She had high sprits and a sense of humor. Irene expired at age 97 in Corning, NY., Jan 11th 2009.

