

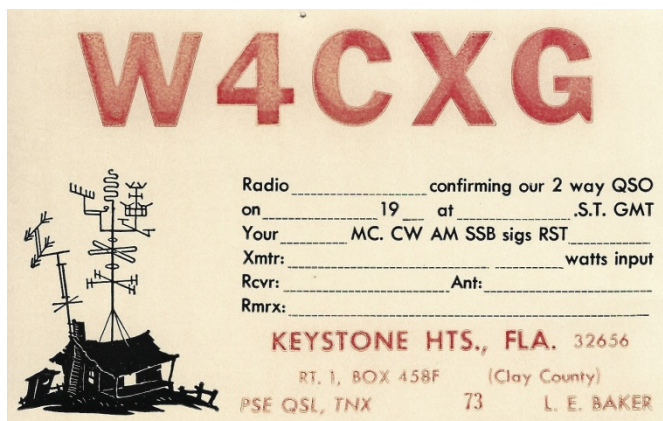
**W4CXG, Lemuel Eugene Baker (1917-1998)** was called Gene as a youngster, then Lem, and most of his adult years he was known as Baker (even his wife, Anna, called him Baker). Baker was born loving radio. When he was very young living in Concord, NC, he built his own transmitter. When the students left school to go home for lunch, Baker told them to tune their radios to a certain frequency. He then had his Dad play the harmonica and transmitted the music to the neighborhood.



Baker earned his ham license when he was 14 years old. I'm not sure if that was his Extra Class License or if that came later, but he held the Extra as long as I can remember. As a young man just out of high school, he "ran away" to be the "radio man" on a merchant marine ship heading to Europe. He had never operated the on-ship radio so he spent his first night on board reading the manual, then sent the ship's transmission

the next morning. Next he worked as the "radio man" for the North Carolina Highway Patrol. Most of his working life was involved with long-range radar for Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA) and later the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Baker always had a radio station in his home, car, and motor home. He never met a stranger and introduced many folks to ham radio. He loved participating in field days and helping others to communicate with friends and family via phone patch.

As Baker's daughter, I grew up with the sounds of ham radio in the house. Knowing that I was going to North Wales for graduate school, it seemed the perfect time to get a license. As a novice (WN6DDB) living in California and with Dad in Florida, we kept a regular CW schedule. He was so good with Morse Code that he never wrote anything down, he just leaned back and listened. Dad built most of my novice station giving each unit a model number, my initials plus a number. I passed my Advanced Class License (WA6DDB) and Dad awarded me with a Collins station just like his own. In 1971, I took off for Wales where I operated as GW5AXH. As the only YL in GW5 land, Dad and I had a lot of company during our weekly schedule. My parents and I were thrilled to be able to communicate so frequently.



Baker is a Silent Key now, but his influence and love of ham radio lives on through many of us who knew him.

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Submitted by Dr. Carol A. Baker, WA6DDB (GW5AXH)