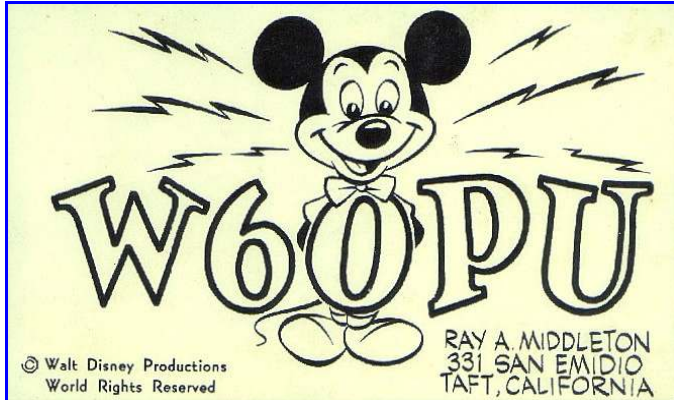


Ray A. Middleton W6OPU *1903-1993* From Ray's daughter LaNeil being so proud of her dad and his accomplishments in life, born in North Dakota, self taught and joined the U.S. Marines in 1923 or 24 being a member of the China Marines until about 1927. Along the way Ray found his life partner Erma and they started their family.



Dad retired from the State of California, State Division of Highways, July of 1969. He took up photography for many years and was not one to sit and be idle.

LaNeil said, "Dad always had a hobby and we enjoyed family fishing trips." Boats, ham radio, Hi-Fi - Stereos and then cameras. There are a lot of other items but I won't go there now.

Mr. Middleton received a letter from a ham friend in New York state in 1953 explaining that a Disney cartoon (Mickey Mouse series) was using Ray's ham radio call sign. Affixed was the material Ray needed to file a complaint with Disney.

Ray got a reply from Disney responding to his complaint. Disney apologized and rendered a professional artists drawing of a QSL design using their approved Mickey Mouse logo, suggesting he take the drawing to a printer and have a plate made so he could have an ample stock of QSL cards. Ray had the cards printed and his daughter had the print plate for a keep sake.

His daughter advised Ray lost interest in ham radio and turned to other hobbies.

Ray expired in California the year of 1993. Material scripted from Ray's grand-daughter Kathy and his daughter LaNeil. Pictured is Ray's granddaughter Kathy on his knee.



Material and QSL card from the W8JYZ collection. MF/w6opu Middleton

W8SU 2014

