

Tom Hedges W8BKE 1910-1964 of Cambridge, OH mid 1930's. Our Radio Boy W8BKE first licensed & new wife Ida, at 124 Mingo St, Circleville, Ohio early 1930s. Notice his home brew transmitting equipment.



Tom's first job as a gas station attendant according to the 1930 U.S. Census, in Circleville, OH (Round Town to us) Held calls, 8BKE -N8BKE MARS Issue, W2BKE - W3QQS – W3BKE.

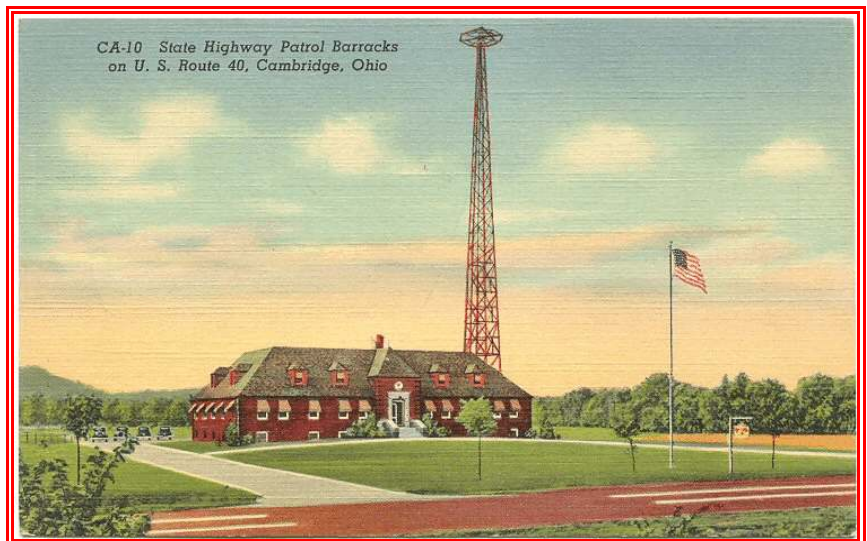
Thanks to our friend W8JYZ Bob Green and Stephen Miller, we have a record of Tom's first QSL.

Tom would later on in the 30's accept a position with the Ohio Highway Patrol.

Then be assigned into the technical field and transferred to the Cambridge HQ, newly built on National Highway US40 just west of Cambridge, Guernsey County Ohio.

It has been a great pleasure to find bits and pieces of Tom's interesting life. From Public Safety CW to VOA then Title Assistant Chief at Library of Congress, Division for the Blind. Finally to the F.C.C. Research branch.

I've interviewed folks that knew him such as Dick Burgess and Clancy Waller, mentioning Hedges' love for traffic handling. Tom's reprinted article in QST concerning "Passing 5WPM The Easy Way" found in December issue 1997. A one of a kind CW help to beginners learning code.



Letter exchanges with Tom's daughter in New Mexico and the fact Hedges second wife (Camille W2HFR) was also a ham and enjoyed CW most of her life. One of Tom's sons lives in the Columbus Ohio area. We featured a 1940 post card of the Cambridge Barracks on the National Highway, where Hedges was Chief Technican.

Tom expired, 1964 rests at Arlington National cemetery in Va. Served in the USNR RM1 - N.T.S knew Hedges well. He was Section Communications Manager 3rd district.