

Otto J. W. Eppers *W8EA Pre-war & W2EA* 1893-1955* - Born in Brooklyn, NYC. - Lived in NYC as a boy with his mother and sister. Widely known commercial artist. A prolific radio cartoonist - ties with ARRL in the 1923 era, staff artist - His old curmudgeon characters were enjoyed by the faithful. Many of the Manhattan's Radio Row stores had Otto for their sales cartoon advertisements. I believe Uncle Dave, Fort Orange Radio used Otto frequently. The amateurs loved Otto's QSL hand designed cards! To this day, I add! When Otto was a teen he had a run in with the NYC Police Department. It didn't spoil his chance for military service.

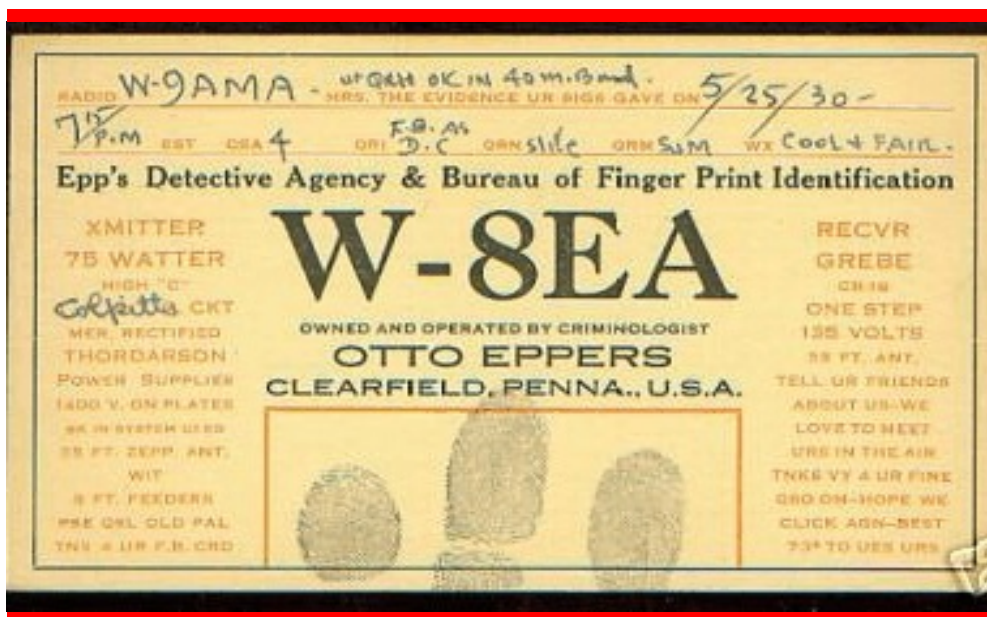
He continued his vocation as commercial artist and photographer in NYC moving there Pre war and art work for Chesler Publications, I.W. & Marvel Comics. a lot of his work appeared in the personal QSL card business. Eppers enlisted in the U.S. Army Signal Corps serving until 1918 as an operator.



Not much more about Epp is known at present, he was a Charter member of the QCWA (12) Otto engineered the QCWA Logo making some modifications and added sparks to develop the unforgettable logo. Our subject's death was noted, 1955 in the Q.C.W.A. Journal.

I first knew about Otto reviewing old issues of QST and a personal friend

W8CMS of Newton Falls Ohio, Claire Sutton knew Otto and appeared in a group photo taken at Otto's studio near Erie Penna during one of the yearly hamfests in that region in the period of the early 1930's. Eppers was a Veteran in the U.S. Army Signal Corps., discharged in 1918.



As you can see, Om Otto had a good sense of humor and an interesting style of advertising his talents as a writer and artist.

Otto held W8DIK in Honor of Hugh Hossler of Chardon, Ohio

Continued W8EA/W2EA



One of Otto's last creations in the mid 50s' while on staff at Harrison Radio in NYC Radio Row. www.w8jyz.com



Otto's own card from Clearfield PA in 1927

The 1927 Clearfield Pa City Directory states Frances Smith Eppers and Otto Eppers reside at 212 South 4th Street, his occupation is listed as a watchman. They were married in 1922. Later Epp is listed in the "Who's Who" American Comic Books - Bio section, creative period circa 1945 with pen and ink artistry. He had some interesting titles "Inspector Fumble" - IMA Slooth - Scottie etc. Note - The Dimeling Hotel in Clearfield Pa has an interesting past and is on the National register. Otto loved the folks in the Chair Warmer's Club and helped with art work and material for their publication that came out monthly. There is a good story about Epp enlisting Party Boss Al Smith, to validate a youthful prank that ended up in a NYC court room.

Epp had a stroke and expired in the NYC Knickerbocker Hospital 22 December 1955. He was survived by his widow the former Franie Smith of Curwensville Pa and daughter Wilma by a previous marriage and 5 grandchildren, all of Long Island survive. Epp was cremated and entered eternity. He left behind his art work which many cherish to this day. We have a good idea what he looked like because of his characters he drew. Obit data from Thomas Clark writer. QSL's W8JYZ