

**Elmo R. Laucks - W8III \*1917-1984\*** Of Route II Sault Michigan - I didn't have the pleasure to meet Elmo but had heard others chatting about this talented guy who was with the FAA at the Sault



when I was stationed there with the Guard in the 60's. – He had a remote metal building on Rural Route II, on a plateau overlooking the St. Mary's River Upper peninsula. He had antennas including HF wires and a short tower. Harvey Ball W8FYX would have known Elmo better than anyone else.

In a visit to the Sault during one of our Wickman reunions I took a ride southeast towards the river and saw Elmo's old metal building that I recall hearing CW and QRN from while

driving around the area many years prior while there serving Coast Guard radio. – On the reunion visit, Elmo had disappeared in the 90's and someone else had purchased the land and building and made a nice looking homestead out of the place. Lots of flowers and the place was really cleaned up.

July 9<sup>th</sup> 2007 we made a Sault trip and I was able to check the library resources. There was very little about Elmo – He was retired from the FAA in 1980 after long service, resided in the Sault with his wife Bernice. His obit was not found, apparently moved away and expired elsewhere. There was no death record at the courthouse. Still evidence of Got Elmo? Sure is, about the city of one observes it. There is a Little League complex on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue off of Meridian – one of the fields for 14 year olds and under division, is dedicated and cared for in the name of Elmo Laucks. "Laucks Field."



Our inquiries to folks who may have known Elmo are practically nil. I've checked with search engines and

found something on Mamma, there is The Elmo Laucks Award, has to do with local Soo High Sports. I sent email to Jo Ann Collins Principals secretary at Sault Area H.S. Mr. Laucks was a dedicated Sault High Baseball coach who was involved in and interested in many student activities. Criteria for the award include; Improvement in either academic, athletic or service; Good sportsmanship; courtesy in dealings with others; cheerful service to school and community; promotion of goodwill especially between school and community; high academic standing; selection is made by the faculty honors committee. According to the 1980 City directory Elmo & Bernice reside 1311 Kimball 632-9353 - he is a retired FAA electronics technician. I love that name Elmo.