

Roy J. Purchase W8RP *1903-1987* Of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Roy joined the U.S. Army from Muskegon, served honorably and discharged June 29, 1919 - Roy would become a long time Ann Arbor businessman. Originally located on Main Street next to Quality Bakery in the 1930s. Moving several times and finally locating on Hoover next to the tracks since 1957.



The last of a dying breed - The Radio Parts Distributor! Purchase Radio of Ann Arbor, in the shadow of the "Big House" U of M Football stadium of the Maze and Blue!.

Little has changed since then, until 2007 that is! Dusty antique radios line a shelf near the tin ceiling, seven rows behind the register are filled top to bottom with worn shelves and drawers housing the tiniest of electronic components and amateur

radio magazines are available dating back to the late 1940s. After 77 years of selling ham radios and thousands upon thousands of radio parts, Ann Arbor's Purchase Radio will close in April of 2007.

Dan McCollough says he and his wife, Ola Purchase McCollough, (Roy's daughter) are ready to retire and move to Minnesota to be closer to their family. McCollough is not sure yet as to the disposition of all of the treasures and equipment however he is still negotiating the possible sale to a local buyer who may open a new storefront, but most parts will likely end up on the ever popular auction site Ebay! McCollough added, "There's not many stores like this in Michigan."



Long time employee John Ransom - who ran the sister store Purchase

Camera Shop for many years which closed in 1990 - said "There used to be several small, locally owned radio and electronic parts stores in Ann Arbor, but all have closed. Competition from Internet based businesses is especially stiff today."

Friends of your author WA8DZB Jim and Sharon occasionally would state "Roy Purchase" had a wonderful operation there in Ann Arbor and will ship via snail mail if necessary! Jim should know as he was an expert builder and designer. Gone but not forgotten, the local radio supply house and Roy J. Purchase W8RP, owner operator of a great business and a rarity in Americana. Partially scripted by radioreference.com and photos by Jim Rees. 2007 w8su