

**Myron H Premus - W2OY - 8AHQ - 8MU - W8MLR - W2PQI - W2PWK \*1903-1967\*** You may have heard it said, this man was a real pioneer in ham radio and every word said about him was true. Essentially Mike is Western NY Ham folklore. He was a mentor, a radio pioneer, he did like kids, the kids in Lancaster called him Gramps. However you had to operate amateur radio in Mike's realm or face the rejection if you wanted to talk to him on the air. That's what caused the difficulty. Come to think of it that's exactly the way life is. Here is Mike Premus W2OY remembered.

The mere fact Mike knew how to radiate a big signal caused some of his personal operating habits and radio philosophy to be heard with ease all over the region. Yes, he could use his ham radio to troll and had his shtick on the air. Many of us do.

When on the air Mike was a 3810 kc fixture. You sometimes found carriers

and verbal abuse from those that opposed him. Yet, Mike had a great signal and QTH, the carriers were of no consequence. In mulling those times over in my mind, I think the real problem other than ego was "Phonetics" - Mike hated phonetics with a passion. You could hear it in his scowl "No phoney phonetics, A1 Ops only!" If you used them in a QSO with him, it would bring out the old curmudgeon hair standing on end. Yes, it was reported he had his dealings with the FCC because of his verbal reprimands, issued to his fellow hams.

Mike wound up with his legendary on the air routine and W2OY folklore commenced in the 50s and 60s. The new generation was here, being corrected over the air was not going to fly. Thus the "No Lids, no phoney phonetics, A1 Operators only!" The Space Cadet routine was thrown in there too! It was all sadly hilarious.

There was only one lane open for a person to follow if he/she didn't agree with Mike, leave him alone. That is the path I took. This is ham radio and it will always be as such, every walk of life is represented, every type of personality, it welcomes all. (To a point)

Our subjects ham radio activities spanned 48 years. Mike started in the hobby as 8AHQ in 1919 and later 8MU, etc. in 1947 he applied for W2OY when NY became the second district post war. Mike was a natural in business and owned an appliance retail center in the Buffalo area. His knowhow and good service caused a good local business relationship that would last. Mike was the complete amateur and did his own antenna work and in 1967 had a fatal heart attack while working on his utility pole that supported the east end of his antenna. Some material was deleted from W8WEM Charlie's recall and professional business data from material by Herb K2VH. W2OY is still a topic across the bands. Verbal snippets and comments exist. QSL via W8JYZ files. W8SU 2010