

Jack S. Kilby W9GTY *1923-2005* Jack raised in a Victorian House with his sister Jane on Washington Street, Great Bend, Kansas. Kilby a soft spoken engineer was awarded the Nobel Prize - For Physics in 2000 for the invention of the first monolithic integrated circuit. The King of Sweden presented Mr. Kilby with his prize.

A native of Great Bend, Kansas - Kilby has been credited with making the Information Age possible. His interest in ham radio was recounted in a Web site dedicated to his achievements; As a boy, Kilby used to travel the western half of the state with his father (power official) in the summers, checking on various power plants in the family's 1935 Buick. When a severe ice storm crippled Western Kansas in 1937, Jack and his Dad borrowed a neighbor's ham radio to communicate with the various power plants around the state. Jack became interested in ham radio and obtained his license from the FCC and issued his call letters (W9GTY) Our posted QSL was issued to the earlier holder of W9GTY in 1931. At the moment it is the closest thing we can come up with for a QSL card.

City St. Louis State Mo. Date June 17 1931
 Radio W9XAM Uf RAC Sigs W Hr At 8:00 A.M. Cen. S.T.
 Aud. R. 7 QSA 5 Qrm small Qrn none
 RECEIVER TRANSMITTER
 Type A.C. - 224 Detector Ckt _____
 A.F. 1-2-3-7 Tubes _____
 R.F. none Volts _____
 DX _____ Watts _____
 Ant. _____
 Remarks: Your time signals a great help in setting
new watches. Your signals received every
day.
 OPERATOR John ADDRESS _____
 SEND QSL RECEIVED 439 MAFFITT AVE 73
 Ward Leonard Vitrohm Products Are Used In This Station

ARRL staff member Chuck Skolaut said "Jack was my hometown's claim to a famous person. He was sometimes known as Mr. IC." I remember the first time I heard about the big blizzard and how his father communicated with other people in the area with help from his ham friends. That got Jack interested in ham radio. Kilby's classmates described him as quiet, scholarly and humble. Most remembered for his towering 6 foot 6 inch frame - In his senior year at Great

Bend, he served as President of the Camera Club, active on the yearbook staff, Student Council & National Honor Society.

After a serving in WW2, U.S. Army - Jack received a degree in Electrical Engineering. Kilby then had a position with Centralab in Milwaukee. In 1958 he moved to Dallas to work for Texas Instruments, where he came upon the idea of creating the integrated circuit. By 1960 the first chips were made available to industry and the age of microelectronics was upon us.

Jack Kilby expired in June of 2005 at age 81 - Fund raising has begun so that a large bronze monument to honor Kilby, located at the county courthouse square that already bares his name in Great Bend. Sculptor, monument committee and architects are in the planning stage and are seeking contributions to this worth while project. Partially scripted www.jackkilby.org Arrlorg. News stories. QSL via W8JYZ.

The vanity call sign W9GTY is today held by J.S.Kilby Digital Millenium, based at the US Naval postgraduate School, Monterey, California.