



-DEDICATION-

**Walt (Junior) Colpus *1890-1939* W8BRS - Co-founder
Chair Warmers'**

He Helped Others

Tribute is due the memory of a man who died here Tuesday. WALTER COLPUS struggled with his own bodily affliction for twenty years but he found time to form the Chair Warmers Club and to give some measure of joy and communication to others throughout the Nation and in several other countries where fate also had let fall a heavy hand.

The Chair Warmers Club was largely made up of short wave operators who were confined to room or bed. COLPUS achieved a national reputation as an authority on amateur radio development. His "fist" was as well known over the short waves as those of major radio stations. The club for crippled operators was his idea. It filled one desire on the part of many who were denied other pleasures. From his little room in Pontiac grew an organization which had a national standing. COLPUS was an important inspiration and a help in the small magazine issued to keep the Chair Warmers acquainted with each other and with new radio developments.

As a member of the American Radio Relay League, COLPUS was proud to be in a position to serve his Government. He boasted of the fact that no messages heard by his colleagues were ever made public. "They are Americans," said he, "and stand ready to serve their Nation in the only way possible." But COLPUS is gone. Station W8BRS will be sending no more messages. The closing salutation "vy 73, om, cuagn" has been sent. But in many a city and land and in many a wheel chair and bed is a man or woman who will not forget his name or number. He did what he could to bring them cheer. He made his own path and that of others similarly afflicted as bright as lay within his power. Physical illness does not mean useless idleness. COLPUS proved that.

Walt was of a large family of 11 siblings in Pontiac, Michigan. A brother Eric who influenced our subject into radio was a co-holder of station license W8BRS and suffered from arthritis. Eric (1906-1928) It is a rare treat to write about someone such as the Colpus Brothers and to meet their survivors and learn about those gifted lives. I hope we have a good understanding what CWC was all about! W8SU 2009