

DIVISION ST.,

MANAHAWKIN

NEW JERSEY

AMATEUR

RADIO

STATION

N
R
I

W2FTT

R
C
A
I

RADIO W2BZR Ur A-3 Sigs Wkd DEC 31 1952 hr 124 P.M. F.S.T.

R 5 S 9 T QRM — QRN — XMTR MEISSNER-150-B
265W INPUT

RCVR SUPER-PRO

Earl C. Abbott

SURE ENJOYED QSO DOUG. 73^r Earl —



RADIOS

W 2 B Z R - Doug. Smith, Sr.
Chatham
n.j.

Box-273

Manahawkin N.J.

W 2 F T T

Confirming Q S O With W H E L O

At 3:20 PM. E S T Nov, 22 1937

Ur Sigs 569x

Band 7.1

ny. glad to have worked you.
Thx for taking msg.
Hpe to cu agn sn
Best 73² is luck Earl -

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Radio W H E L O

Earl Abbott, W2FTT

I never met Earl, but now feel I have known him all my life. And he has become an important part of my life since then.



Starting at the beginning, I got my ticket in 1956 while in high school. Guys like Earl helped me a lot, and I always appreciated that. Years later I began to collect ham radio history, which includes radios, magazines, accessories, documents, etc. A member of the club, I had purchased some old gear from some of the Old Barney club members, so they knew I was collecting.

Earls' wife Maria missed Mexico after he passed away and decided to sell the house. She called some of the OB members to help sell Earl's stuff so she could sell the home. There was so much there, nobody around Manahawkin wanted it. So eventually someone thought I might be interested and called me.

I went and looked and Toby Spratt negotiated the deal with Maria and I agreed to take everything, leaving no trash and to sweep clean the cellar. The next day I could not function - what had I done? I realized I bit off too much to chew. After a couple of days, I began to put together a plan.... I got some helpful advice from a few collector friends.

I ended up going there every Saturday (and a few Sundays too) from that June through the next February. I would load as much as my big van would carry, go home - take a few things out for myself, then go the a hamfest on Sunday and sell, then give away the rest of the load. I did this 3 weekends a month, the entire time. It was a lot of work. Everything got passed on, nothing was thrown away, and I'm sure Earl would be glad about that. I also found some nice things there for my collection which grew rapidly that year. Eventually everything was gone and the cellar was swept clean and Maria was happy.

The outcome was, I met Earl personally while going through his radio papers and by playing with his toys. I now treasure them as he once had. And some day another one will treasure them when I pass on.... (Hopefully a few years from now.)

And much of Earl rides with me in my mobile radio museum, going to hamfests, so everyone can see my old radio collection and see some of Earl's stuff. [I have his 1933 license, lamp, photo, chair, his "Radiotrician" Certificate from the radio school, and a few other things, mixed in with stuff from many ham shacks. So far I have had over 10,000 people go through my museum. It's been from south at Charlotte to north at Rochester and Boston - and many points in between.

Since all of this, I was asked by ARRL to write a monthly column on collecting old radios in QST. This month starts my fourth year writing the Old Radio column. Much of Earls magazines and books have helped me research information for my articles. He's kind of my silent partner.

So, thank you, friend for contacting me about Earl. I had a great time writing this email and reminiscing with you. – K2TQN