

'Doc' Cook

W3VHP

is our
HAM-OF-THE-MONTH



Photo and text by
Charles A. Bliley, K3NAU

"QRZ. This is W3 VERY HIGH POWER, W3VHP, in Erie, Pennsylvania." Sound familiar? Well, this is just what you may hear almost any afternoon on twenty or eighty meters--the two bands that our Ham-of-the-Month, 'Doc' Cook, W3VHP, most often frequents.

As in so many cases, Doc got interested in amateur radio through a friend, who in this case was the late Wendell King, W3AU. Wendell took Doc to the code and theory classes being held by Jimmy Waldermarsen before WWII at the Bliley Electric Company during the noon hour. Doc used a paper tape code practice machine in his office any time he could squeeze it in. That even attracted the attention of some of his patients and Doc got Frank Ames, W3WBM, hooked in amateur radio in this way.

Amateur equipment would always be destined to be a part of Doc's office equipment. Even recently it still aroused the curiosity of some of his patients, pleasing those who were already hams and intriguing those who were not. I guess he was always a sort of pace setter. Today we have piped-in music; but Doc has always had his own kind of music--at least to his ears.

After forty-nine years as a specialist in making dentures, Doc still sets a fast pace. In semi-retirement, at the age of 75, he is taking on no new patients, but still seeing many of his old ones. Doc now shares his office with a new dentist, Dr. McCoy. Planning to put his name back in the yellow pages after Dr. McCoy opens his own office, Doc says, "at my age, if I left my name out of the yellow pages, people would just assume I died and I would never see them again!"

Doc is not only dedicated to his patients, but also to many others. In addition to his many years of operating a ham station, he has been active on such nets as The Handicappers, The Eyebank, The Marine Corps Service Net, and others. He has handled hundreds of phone patches.

Continued on page 5

Continued from Page 4

HAM-OF-THE-MONTH (continued)

Having been the treasurer of the RAF in 1949, and president of the club in 1950, Doc is familiar to many of the members. Many have been not only his good friend, but also patients over the years. Some time in the late fifties Doc also served on the Board of Directors.

I suppose Doc is known to many as the Quad King of Erie. He tried to keep up a quad for many years, with disaster striking all too often. Today he has a TA-33 beam which is a bit more rugged, and allows him to sleep better at night. In keeping with his call-sign phonetics, Very High Power, Doc pushes his NC-200 transceiver into a Henry 2-K linear amplifier to maintain that really big signal you always hear from him.

If you hear him on, give him a call and say hello. Or stop by and offer your congratulations on being selected as our Ham-of-the-Month.
