



photos and story by
Chas. Bliley, K3NAU

- Ham of the Month - W3KPE

Isabelle Bliley Kaiser

This month's Ham of the Month is more than a ham- she is also my mother. Believe me when she says W3 "Kitchen Police Everyday." I am afraid the domestic responsibilities of her life have been more important than anything else. After all, raising five kids and being chairman of the board of Bliley Electric Company is no small task. Never-the-less, she has managed to keep active enough to maintain her license.

Isabelle first got interested in a ham (and I don't mean a piece of meat on a bone) before she became interested in ham radio. It was a classic story of falling in love with her boss (W3GV, Dawson Bliley, one of the founders of the RAE) and running off to marital bliss in a world of ham radio. Whether or not it was all that great I don't know, as I was only a thought when Dad told Ma that they needed another radio operator for the war emergency radio service and that she had just volunteered!

So after many hours of trying, studying she took the test and was W3KPE from that day on. Never has her life been the same. With this ace in the hole, I found her more than eager for me to get started in amateur radio. When I went off to college I even talked her into getting a SSB Transceiver so we could save money on long distance calls from Ft. Wayne, Indiana, to Erie. We never did get around to discussing how many calls we could get for the four hundred dollars we invested in order to save money.

It was fun haming with Mom and it paid off when I was on isolated duty in the Caribbean with the Coast Guard. I used to talk to home at least several times a week throughout the year. Needless to say it was a great moral booster for me.

(continued on page 4)



With the advent of two meter FM into our lives and sporting a remote control for the rig in the kitchen, Ma is once again back in the swing of things and holds the dubious honor of being the first XYL in Erie on two meter FM. With the mobile in my car and the remote in the kitchen, there should never be a cold dinner for me as I return from Edinboro College. I will just call home and tell Ma to "hold the beans."

Thanks Ma, for sweating through that FCC Exam over twenty years ago. It has paid off many times over for both of us. And thanks for being a great mother.

Charles A. BLILEY K3NAU
