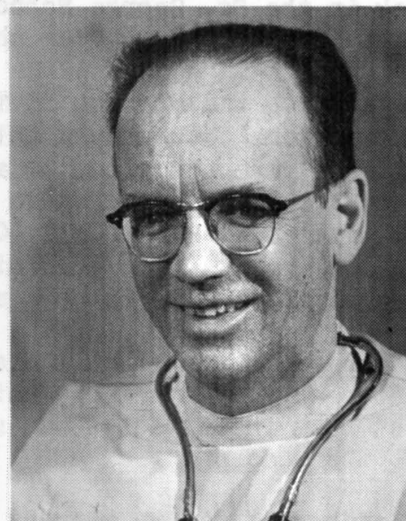


R A E H A M - O F - T H E - M O N T H

APRIL 1972

K3AXS

Richard 'Doc' Stancliff



Photos and story by
Charles A. Bliley

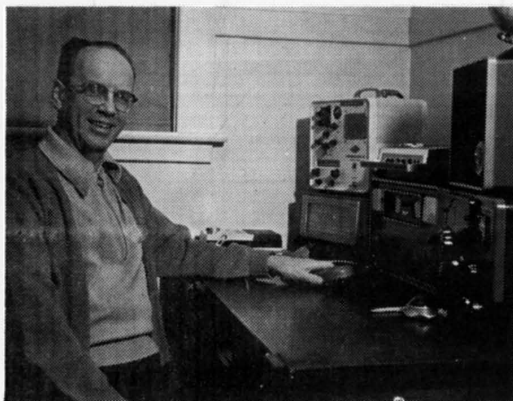
Most Hams would say that obtaining an Amateur Radio license was probably one of the more difficult things they have done in their life. I would be the first to admit that being blind certainly wouldn't make the task any easier. This month we are pleased to salute a man who overcame this hurdle of blindness not only in Amateur Radio but also in medicine. He is Doctor Richard Stancliff, K3AXS, Doctor of Osteopathy and a native Erieite.

He suffered from a hereditary disease in childhood that cruelly cost him his sight. Setting his goals high, he attended Grove City College for undergraduate work in medicine before venturing on and graduating from Philadelphia College of Osteopathy and surgery in 1942. "My practice is backaches, and I truly enjoy my work."

It was the late John Szumigala, W3FVH, who visited Doc and interested him in Amateur Radio. John directed him to the annual RAE code and theory class with Bart Geer at the helm. When "the day" came, Doc packed up his typewriter and went to Buffalo to take the test. He was determined not to take the exam for the conditional by mail because of the possible insinuations of fraud so often attached to holders of conditional licenses.

Doc first started working DX on ten meter am with his Johnson Ranger and HQ110 combination. He even had a few CW contacts occasionally. He was a frequent check in on the six and ten meter nets until he was forced to take down his low band antenna.

With his new two meter FM rig in a rented car, he and his wife, Betty Jane spent over a week this March in Florida enjoying a well deserved vacation visiting friends and relatives and "soaking up the rays." You couldn't ask for a better mobile setup with the wife at the wheel and you free to ham away as you travel down the highways and byways.



It seems as though people with handicaps such as blindness either sit back and do nothing, figuring the hurdles in life are sufficient enough without trying something like Amateur Radio; or they learn to overcome the hurdles and enjoy living in a world of challenges. Doc is

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certainly the latter.

When things seem to be going along just a little bit roughly, and the obstacle seems to be nearly impossible, think of some of the courage and fortitude embodied in the person of Doctor Richard Stancliff, K3AXS, and you will not only be comforted, but you will also understand why RAE chose to salute him as our Ham of the Month.

—Chuck Bliley, K3NAU
