

W3LOS LEO WEINER

HAM OF THE MONTH
February 1972

Every once in a while, you come across a near professional in the amateur ranks—one who excells at some aspect of amateur radio. So it is with this month's "Ham of the Month" Leo Weiner, W3LOS.

Leo was first licensed on December 16, 1930. As W8BSE he sported a 30 watt single tube oscillator on CW. Why only on CW? "It was during the depression, and hard enough to get the 30 watt oscillator on the air, much less have money for modulating equipment!"

So out of necessity Leo was on CW, but learned to love it. It was an age of the first diode and triode tubes, and he even remembers "when the first screen grid tube was announced." In these early years Leo's operating was more or less typical, with a lot of rag chewing; but he found he was enjoying traffic handling more and spent most of his time doing so until World War II started, and all amateur radio activities ceased

During World War II, Leo, along with a number of other Erie area amateur radio operators participated in the war emergency radio service which provided a civilian defense type of communications service for the community.

After a bit of inactivity following WW II Leo updated his equipment with a Heathkit AT-1 (35 Watt transmitter) and soon found himself building a 150-watt amplifier to aid him in chasing some of that elusive DX on twenty meters. When he got his DXCC (125 countries worked) the challenge was gone.

Ever since then Leo has been mostly handling traffic and enjoys using his homebrew electronic telekeyer. I tried the keyer, and if I wasn't such a dyed-in-the-wool phone operator, my next project would be just such a set. It is beautiful CW with a typewriter style control and no tricky adjustments or fatigue.



Leo works the Western Pennsylvania CW net almost every night and acts as manager for it. The WPA net is but one part of the national system of networks for message handling which prides itself in handling a great deal of traffic. Leo says some of the most embarrassing, but most pleasing, messages of all is the annual Valentines delivered to numerous girls from their beaus.

Even though Leo spends many hours a day at the rig, he never-the-less takes good care of himself. By walking to and from work each and every day, hiking and birdwatching, Leo manages to keep in very good shape and good health. Additionally, he enjoys stamp collecting and piano playing on the grand piano which occupies a prominent spot in the living room.

For a fellow who learned code by himself just to understand those strange signals at the top of his broadcast receiver in 1927, Leo Weiner has come a long way. He can be proud of his past as well as the present, and stands today as one of the few truly proficient and professional type radio amateurs who are an asset to amateur radio, and to his community which he serves so well.

Charles Bliley, K3NAU

