

When GIANTS first walked the bands

The Early Days of Multi-Multi

Hamvention® Contest Forum 2008

Presented by

Doug Zwiebel, KR2Q

The background of the slide features several sets of concentric circles in a lighter blue shade, resembling ripples in water. These circles are positioned in the lower half of the slide, with one set on the left, one in the center, and one on the right.

Presentation Scope

- Multi-Op, Multi-transmitter category
- USA only (48 contiguous states)
- CQWW contests
- Usually just the “top ten”
- Just “the early days” (through 1986)

I'm not sure if I was SOA or multi-op, but these guys helped

- K1AR
- K1DG
- K1LWI
- K1OTA
- W1UU
- N2AA
- K2UFT
- KU2M
- NT2X
- W3BP
- K3EST
- K3LR
- N3RS
- K3WW
- K3ZO
- W3ZZ
- N4AF
- K4BAI
- K4GKD
- WA4PXP
- W5OV
- N5KO
- K5TR
- N6AA
- W6OAT
- K6SSS
- N6TR
- KL7RA
- WA7LT
- W7WA
- PVRC
web site

The K1VR

aka “the excuse”

It was really hard to compile all this stuff. Copies were of poor quality, my eye sight is getting worse, I am very tired after work, and my typing is so-so.

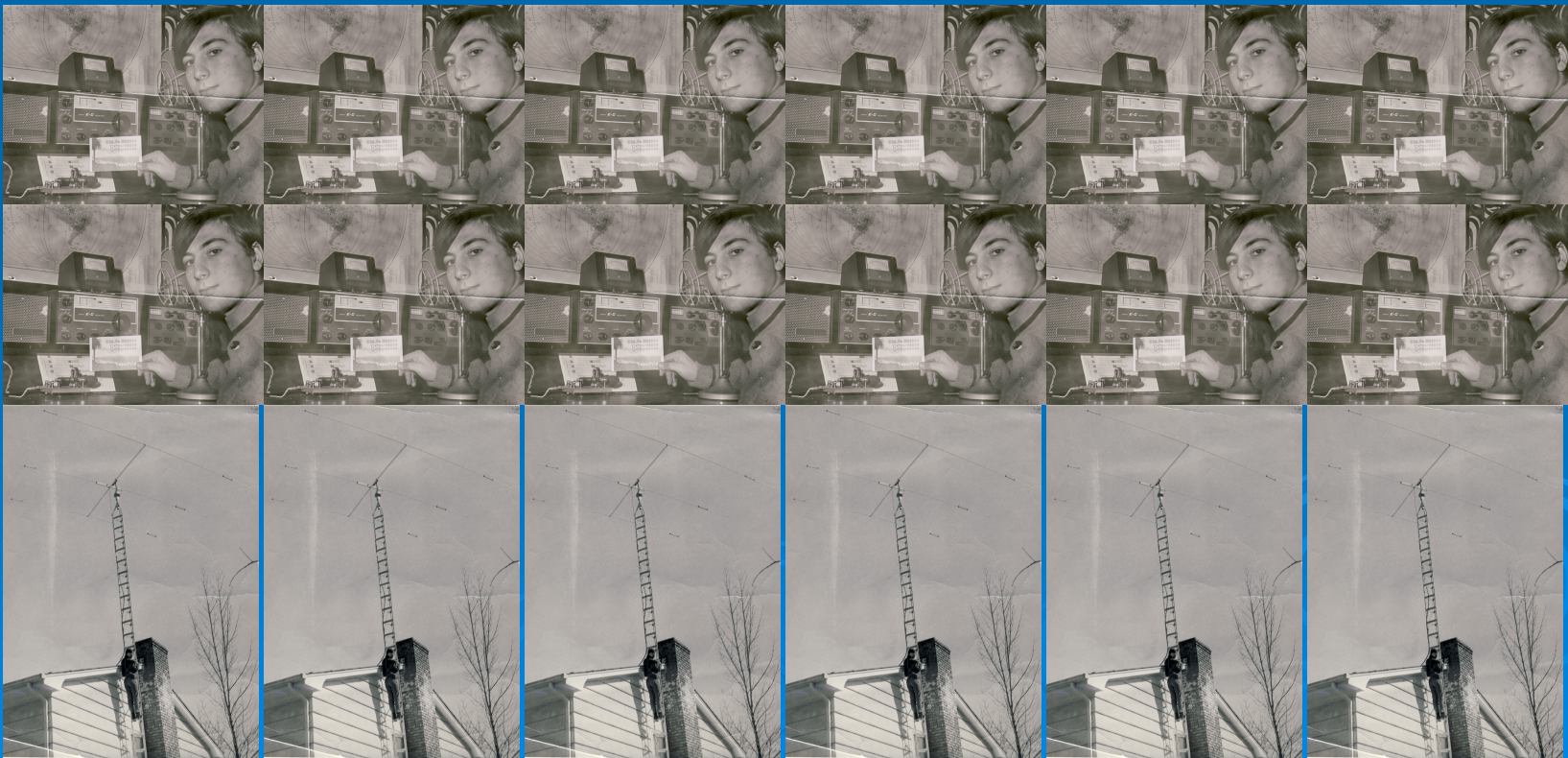
Therefore, I acknowledge that there are probably errors and omissions contained in this presentation.

Just what is Multi-Multi?

- Most of us operate alone at our home station. Typically, we have one rig and one tower (if we're lucky). That is Single-Op.



Multi-Multi is lots of operators, in one shack, using lots of rigs and lots of towers with lots of multiple antennas, all at the same time.







First – the stats



QUIZ 1:

The CQ WW began in 1948.

When was M/M a formally sanctioned category of entry?

- a) From the start**
- b) From 1950 to 1954**
- c) From 1955 to 1959**
- d) From 1960 to 1964**
- e) From 1965 to 1969**

and 125 W became 150 W.

From 1955 to 1973, Frank worked to bring the CQ WW up to its' present level. The 1959 rules indicated a change in the country multiplier list. As always the DXCC list was used and but now the WAE country list was added. This year also saw the temporary elimination of the novice category. This category was initiated in 1955 at first to give new hams a chance to compete among themselves but it was now realized that novice power limitation and frequency privileges were very different all over the world. There was no way to make the category a fair one. In an effort to encourage beginners, W1WY again listed novices in the 1972 and 1973 issues. Then no more. The rules of 1959 saw the multi operator category divided into two categories. Due mainly to K2GL's station and his enthusiasm there was now a multi-single and a multi-multi category

The CQWW Handbook © Robert Cox

1959 !!

1958 Pre-Multi/Multi

MULTI-OPERATOR

All Band

TOP TEN

K2GL — 2,009,280

W6YMD—1,376,725	UB5KBB— 675,840
DJ3JZ—1,003,101	CX3BH— 668,964
W3AOH— 946,854	UB5KAB— 542,828
OH1AA— 816,794	K6EVR— 501,767
W3WV—474,048	

expect from a group of operators with 4 or 5 complete transmitters and separate antennae at their disposal.

K2GL had as many as four transmitters going at the same time and with the score on each band equal to the leading single band stations, it's small wonder that they broke the 2 million mark. "Is it true, Buzz, next year you are installing an electronic computer to keep score?" That means that the Hazard Reeves, K2GL Trophy goes to ——— K2GL. I guess This year the West Coast giant W6YMD also broke the million mark as did the gang at DJ3JZ.

It has been suggested that we re-classify the multi-operator Section. Perhaps divide it into two divisions, single transmitter and multi trans.

Quiz 2:
From 1959 to 1986 which
call area never won a
CQWW M/M?

Choices:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8

The background of the slide features several faint, concentric circles in a lighter shade of blue, resembling ripples in water, located primarily in the lower right and bottom center areas.

During the first 28 years of
CQWW multi-multi


The **FIRST (1)** call area *never*
won a CQWW M/M

Quiz 3:
Who won the first CQWW
Multi-multi?

W8NGO
1959 phone winner

The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the bottom right corner, there are several sets of concentric circles, resembling ripples in water, rendered in a lighter blue shade. These circles are of varying sizes and are positioned in the lower right quadrant of the slide.

**From 1959 - 1986
there were over 400 M/M
entries from over 180
different USA stations
representing well over 1000
individual operator efforts**

The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the bottom right corner, there are several faint, concentric circles that resemble ripples in water, creating a decorative effect.

Quiz 4:

**In the first 28 years, how many
different stations have won
CQWW m/m?
(over 180 entered)**

A total of NINE (9)

Six (6) on CW

Seven (7) on Phone

Winners by Year and Mode

CW											Call	SSB														
86	85	84	83	82	80	79	78	66	65	64	K2GL/N2AA	60	61	63	64	66	67	69	78	79	80	82	83	84	85	
		75	74	73	72	68	67	63	62	61	W3MSK/W3AU	62	65	68	70											
									81	77	W2PV	73	74	75	77	81										
								71	70	69	W4BVV															
									60	59	W3AOH															
										76	W3WJD	72														
											W7RM	71	76													
											W8NGO	59														
											N5AU	86														

Red squares = won both modes that year

CW entries

Phone entries

[illegible]

...the setting



DOW-KEY DKC-TRP COAXIAL ELECTRONIC TR SWITCH



WITH
**Built-in
Power
Supply**

Designed to operate in 1.8 to 30 mc. range. NO EXTERNAL D. C. POWER NEEDED! Just plug into any regular 120 v. A. C. outlet. About 15 watts power required.

FEATURES INCLUDE: Rated maximum legal amateur power. Low VSWR. Cast aluminum construction makes DKC-TRP TVI proof. Switch allows break-in operation with single antenna system. Type N connectors available at slight additional cost.

**FACTORY
WARRANTY!**

**DKC-TRP
... Each**

\$27.75

See your Electronic Dealer.

DOW-KEY CO. INC.

THIEF RIVER FALLS, MINNESOTA

1959

**WOULD YOU PAY \$59.95
for a CUBICAL QUAD with**

- 10-15-20 Meter Bands
- Aluminum alloy end-center spiders webbed for strength.
- Aluminum boom with hardwood insert, for strength.
- Reflector coils—no tuning required.
- Bamboo spreaders.
- Calcutta bamboo at extra cost.
- High gain and high F/B ratio.
- **HIGH AREA FACTOR.**
- Capacity—a full KW.
- Low wind resistance—Light weight.
- Single feed line if desired.
- Very low SWR.

Free brochure upon request.

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Globe Spire

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- ★ Commercial Grade Construction.
- ★ Streamlined in appearance.
- ★ E-Z "Instant" Installation.
- ★ Extra large, 19½" base width.

AND LOW COST . . .

32' Concrete Mount Model

32 ft. spire with anchor base
as shown: \$75.00

\$5.00 Down

\$49⁹⁵
Amateur
Net

For Complete Information, Write To

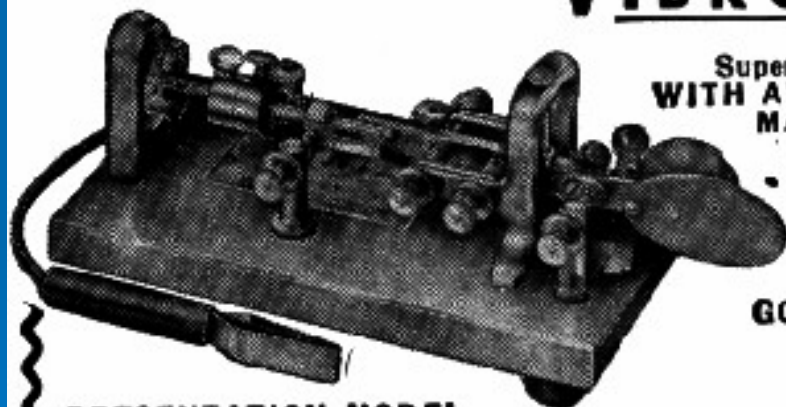
**WORLD RADIO
LABORATORIES**

3415 W. Broadway • PHONE 32 8-1851
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"The World's Largest Distributor of Amateur Radio Equipment"

1959

'AMAZING NEW VIBROPLEX



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**WITH ADJUSTABLE
MAIN SPRING
AND OTHER
GREAT
FEATURES**

**24-K
GOLD-PLATED
BASE TOP**

PRESENTATION MODEL

\$29.95

Vibroplex presents the first really speed control key. An adjustable main spring permits operator to send slower or faster as desired. No more muddy signals . . . no sacrifice of signal quality. Suits any hand or any style of sending. Free of arm tension. Sends easily as pressing a button. Praised by operators and beginners alike. Try this new Vibroplex key! You'll be delighted. Other new popular Vibroplex keys from \$15.95 up. At your dealer or
THE VIBROPLEX CO., INC. 833 Broadway, N. Y. 3, N. Y.

So what does it take?



1959

Headphones!

This is the ONLY photo I have from the W3AOH station, a player in M/M starting in the 1959 cw weekend.

"Only 26 more minutes to go". K3DKD, one of the operators at W3AOH.

© CQ Magazine

Requirements:

- Great QTH
- Mono-banders

W6RW 1962



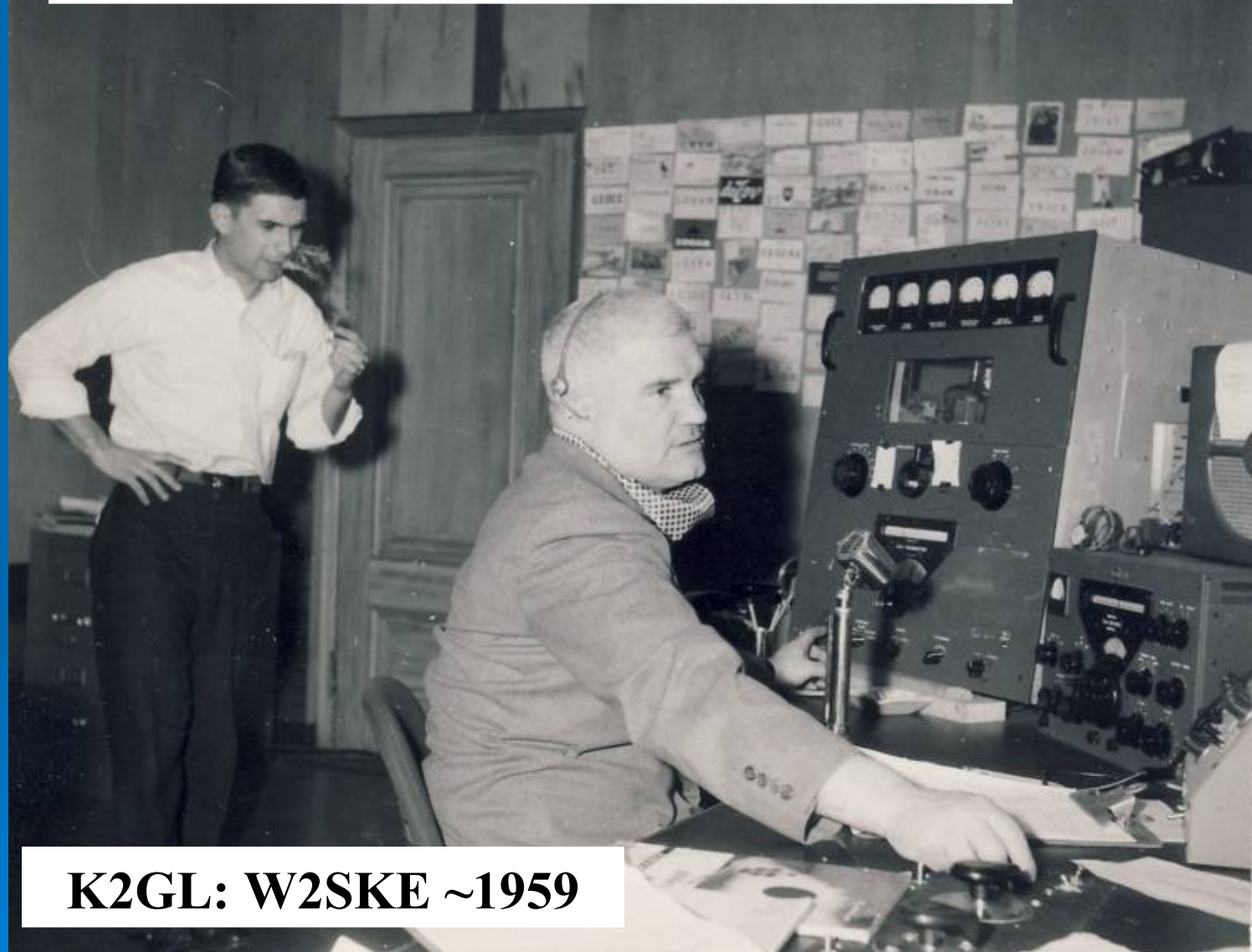
W6RW 1961



Required: Dedicated, great Ops (the crew).

K6ERT, W6BXL, K6PJY, W6RW, W6JZH

Required: Controls within easy reach



K2GL: W2SKE ~1959

Then: Separate RX and TX = zero-beating!

A neat layout with plenty of desk top room

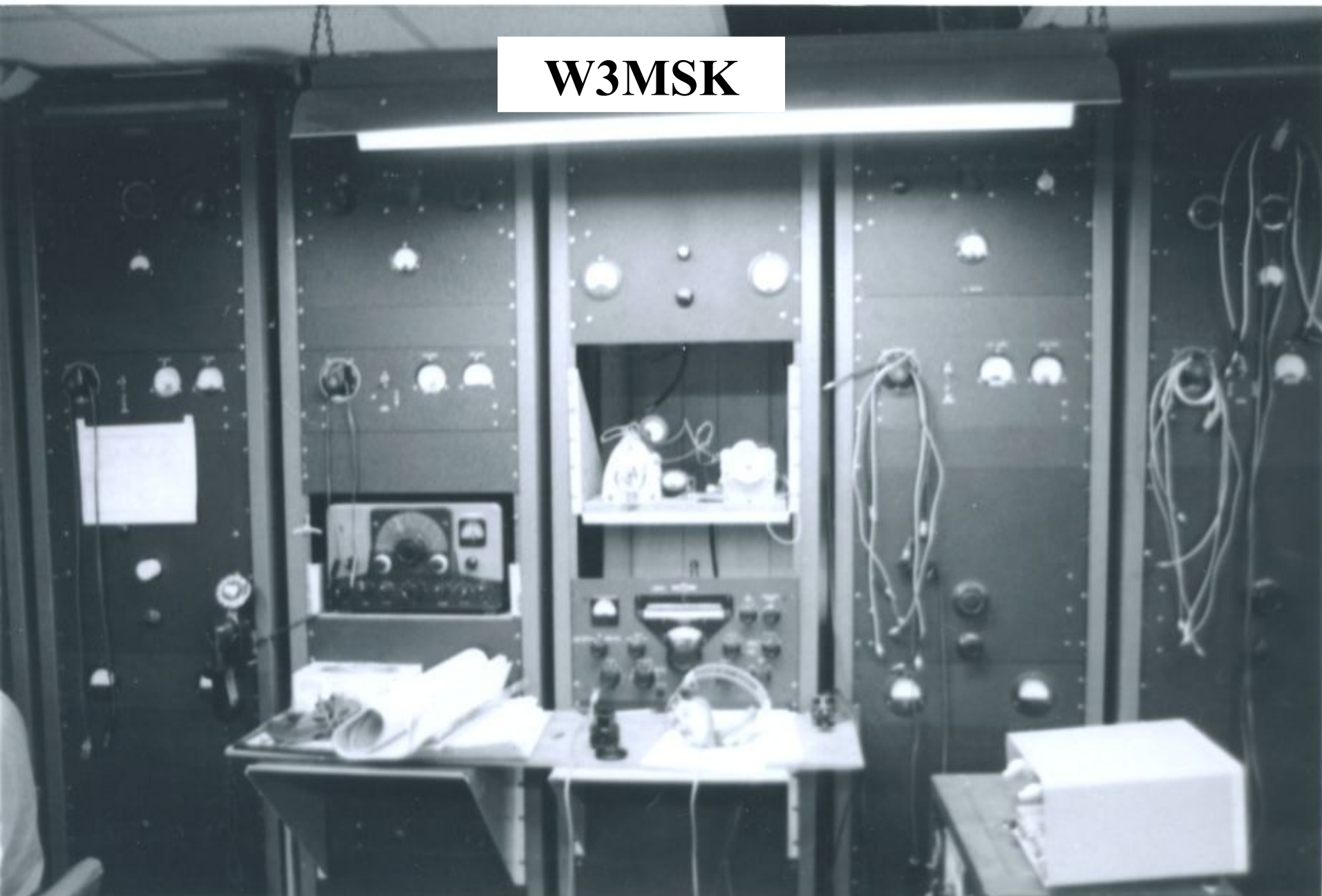


W3MSK circa 1960's

Required: Amplifiers, often home-brew, at least one per band.



W3MSK



Logging requires getting the time right!

**The NEW
TYMETER®**
"Time at a Glance"

#100-24H $\frac{1}{4}$
\$15

Walnut or ebony plastic case. H4", W7 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", D4". 3 lbs. 110V 60 cy. A.C. Guaranteed 1 year.

**24
HOUR
CLOCK**



At Your Dealer, or WRITE TO

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PENNWOOD NUMECHRON CO.
7249 FRANKSTOWN AVE., PITTSBURGH 8, PA.

Ad from 1967

W3MSK: Op is K3EST 1969 CQWW CW



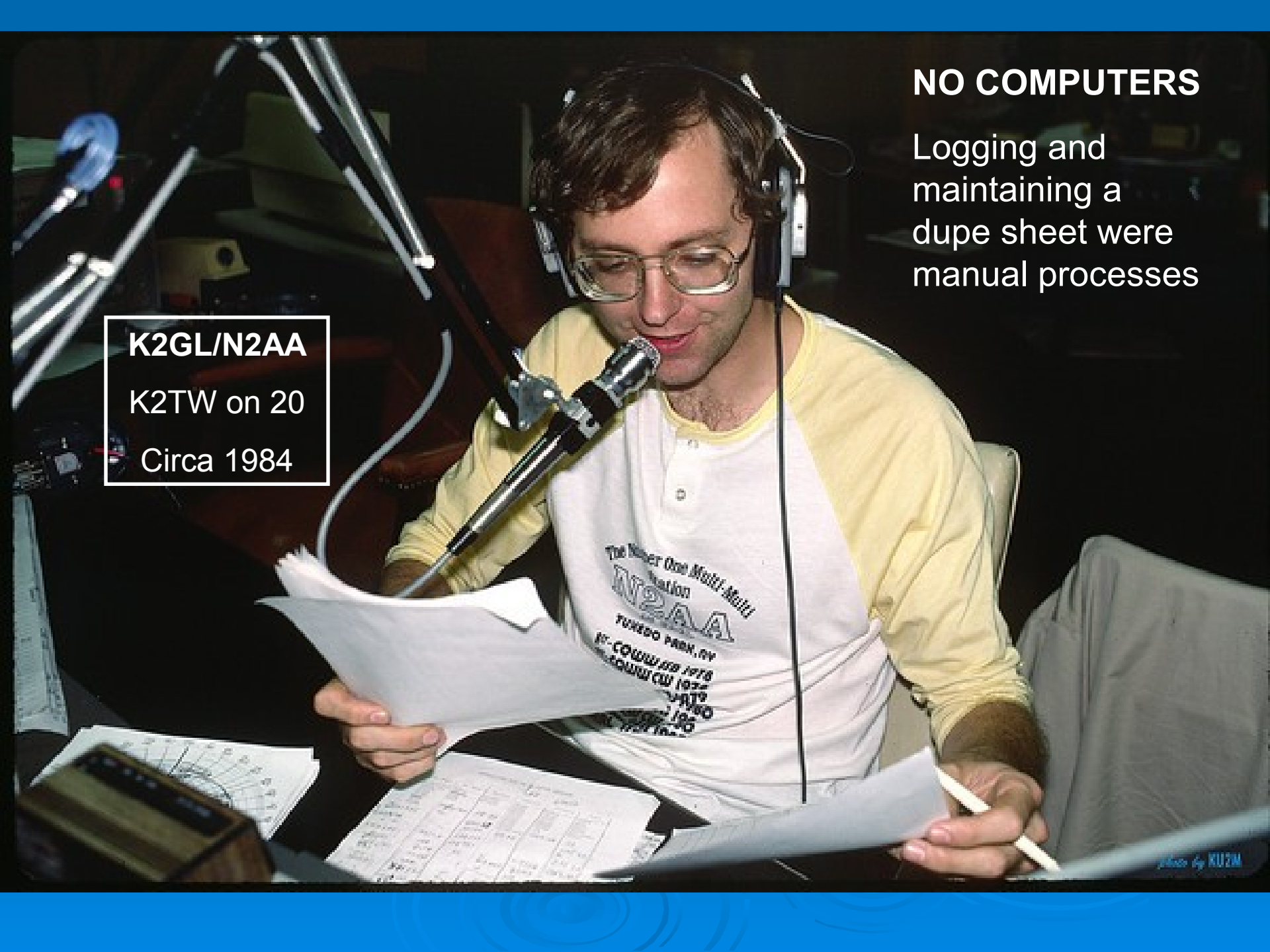
NO COMPUTERS

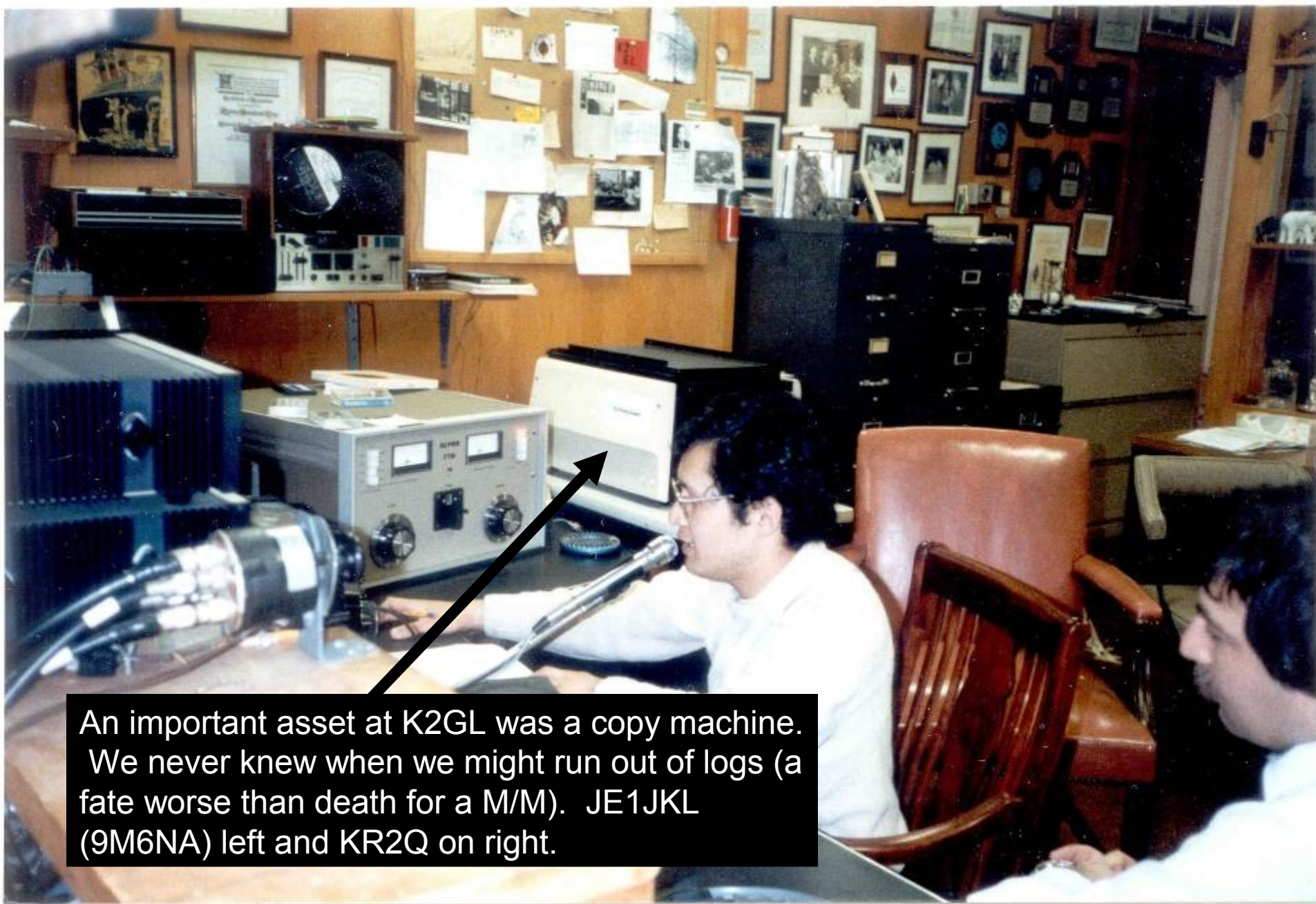
Logging and
maintaining a
dupe sheet were
manual processes

K2GL/N2AA

K2TW on 20

Circa 1984





An important asset at K2GL was a copy machine. We never knew when we might run out of logs (a fate worse than death for a M/M). JE1JKL (9M6NA) left and KR2Q on right.



World Wide DX Contest

Last Full Weekend of October (Phone) & November (CW)



Page 10 of

Pages

Call Sign

K2CQ



Phone



CW

Log for

21

MC Band

(use separate log for each band)

DATE GMT	TIME GMT	STATION	SERIAL NUMBER		INDICATE MULTIPLIERS ONLY		QSO POINTS
			SENT	RECEIVED	ZONE	COUNTRY	
	21 51	JA9MAQ	5904	5925			
	53	JA1YAC		5925			
	53	JH1 YCT		5925			
	57	JA3KOM		5925			
	55	JA2XPU		5925			
	55	JA9DA		5925			
	56	JA10GW		5925			
	57	JA1F0G		5925			
	58	JA9 MWV		5925			
	58	JA1Y CQ		5925			
	59	JA32LX		5925			
	22 01	JA1XXY		5925			
	02	JA7SAZ		5925			
	03	JA8M20		5925			
	04	JA102R		5925			
	05	JH1PXH		5925			
	06	JH1PM P		5925			
	07	JA2HAR		5925			
	09	JA7KGR		5925			
	10	JA1BAX		5925			
	11	JH1BFF		5925			
	13	JH1SYK		5925			
	16	JA8GYA		5925			
	18	JH1M0J		5925			
	19	JA8MVG		5925			
	21	JA4JRO		5925			
	22	JA85L		5925			
	27	JR1UI0		5925			
	28	JA4LXY		5925			
	30	JA7YRL		5925			
	33	JA1AAG		5925			
	36	JA21WA		5925			
	38	JA31G		5925			
	40	KH8AZA		5931			
	43	JA3YCH		5925			
	44	JA8KSA		5925			
	45	JA7LER		5925			
	46	JA3FYW		5925			

CQ Form 1056B, eff. Aug., 1969

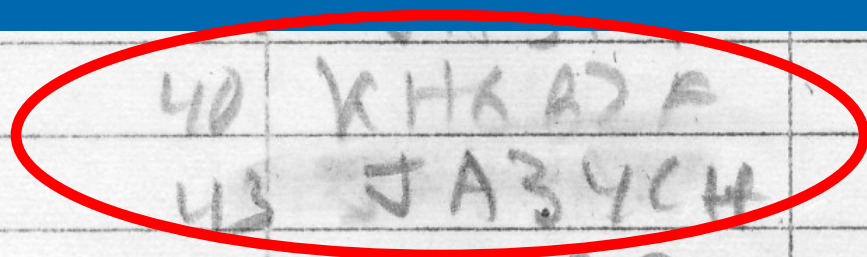
CQWW paper log form

It was use this, or make your own!

Later, the form changed to fit 80 Qs per page (this is 40)

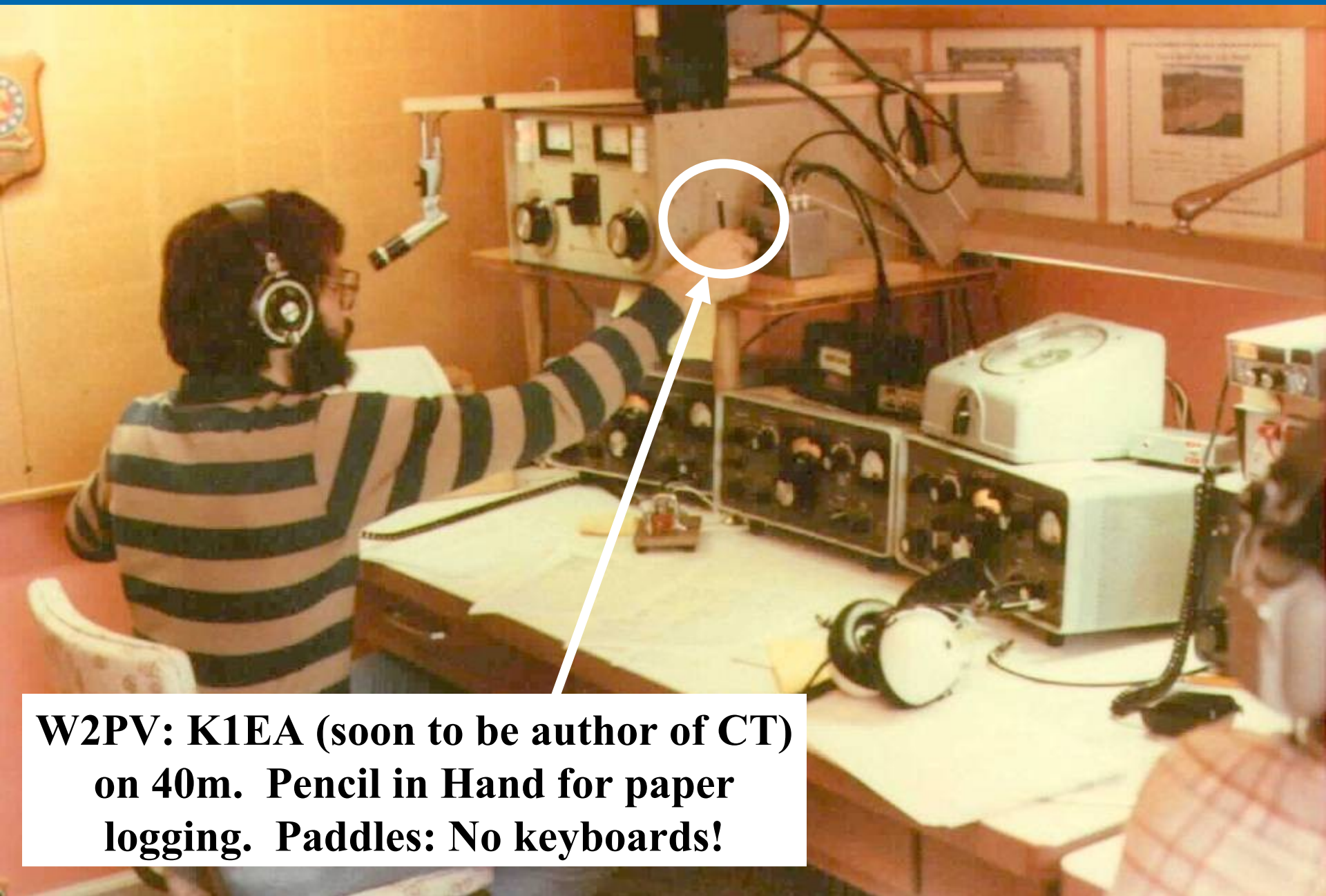
Writing all this stuff took lots of time!

Correcting a call was dangerous: it wasted time and you could mess up another call (KH6BZF is now partially erased) and the RATE died. Handwriting counted too; this is not a good example.

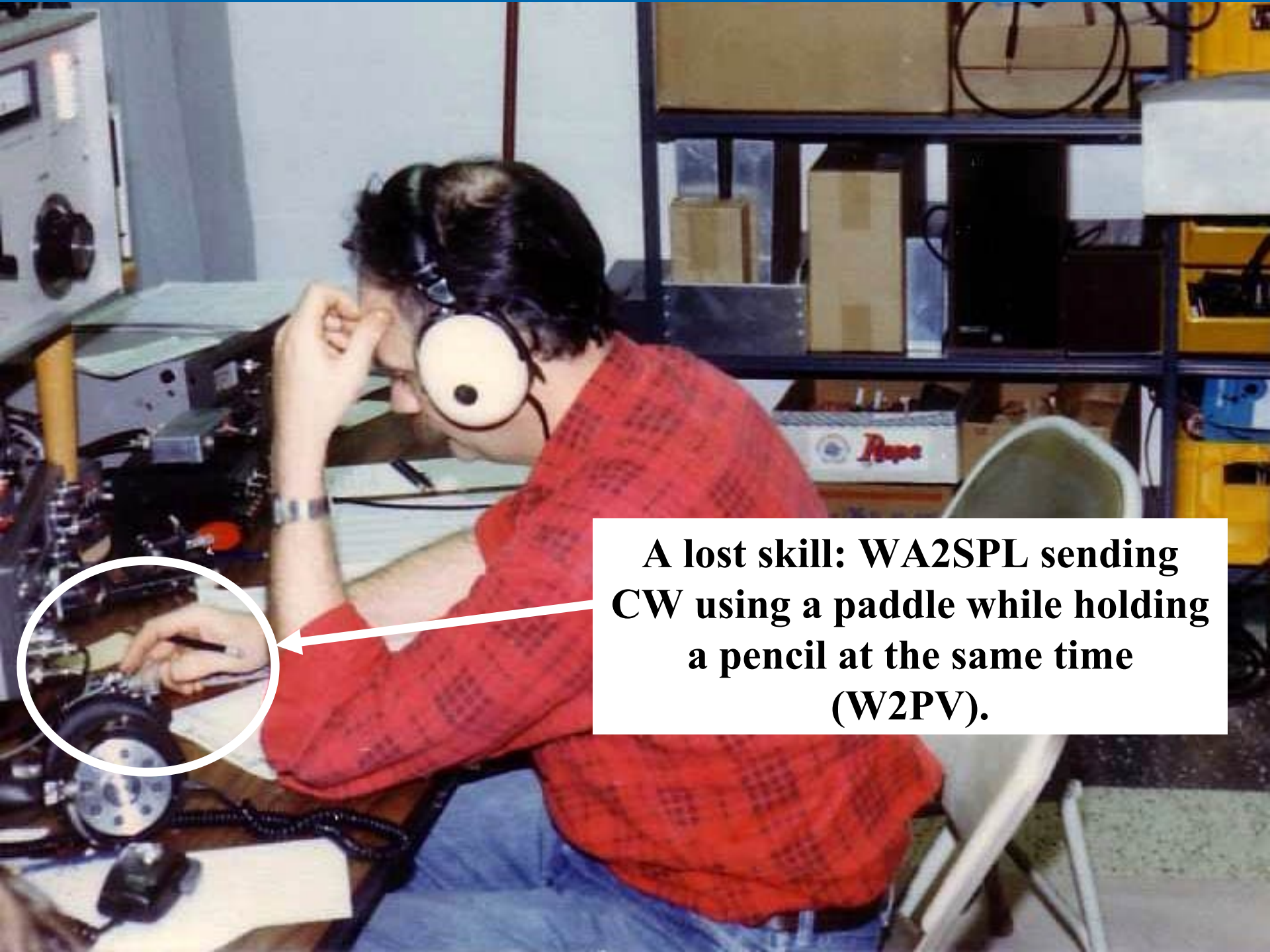


40 KH6BZF
43 JA3YCH
44 JA8KSF
45 JA7LEP
46 CH3FYW

5731
5925
8525
8325
1125



**W2PV: K1EA (soon to be author of CT)
on 40m. Pencil in Hand for paper
logging. Paddles: No keyboards!**



A lost skill: WA2SPL sending CW using a paddle while holding a pencil at the same time (W2PV).



N5AU:

The Great Leap Forward

**Using a Mechanical
Pencil!**

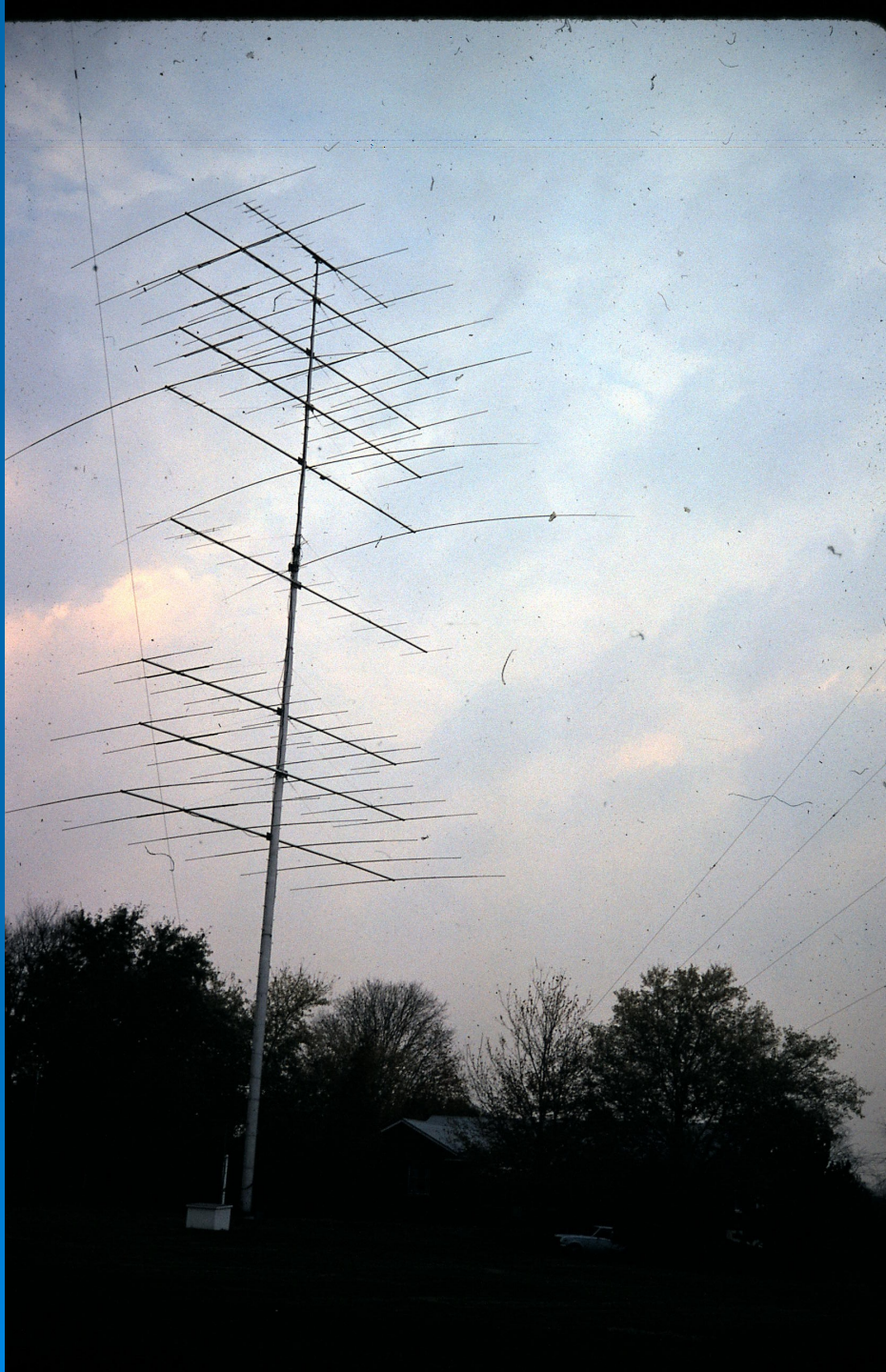
**And eventually
Transceivers were the
norm**



**The BEST equipment and LOTS of
it (two stations per band). K2GL**



**BIG towers
are good
W3MSK**



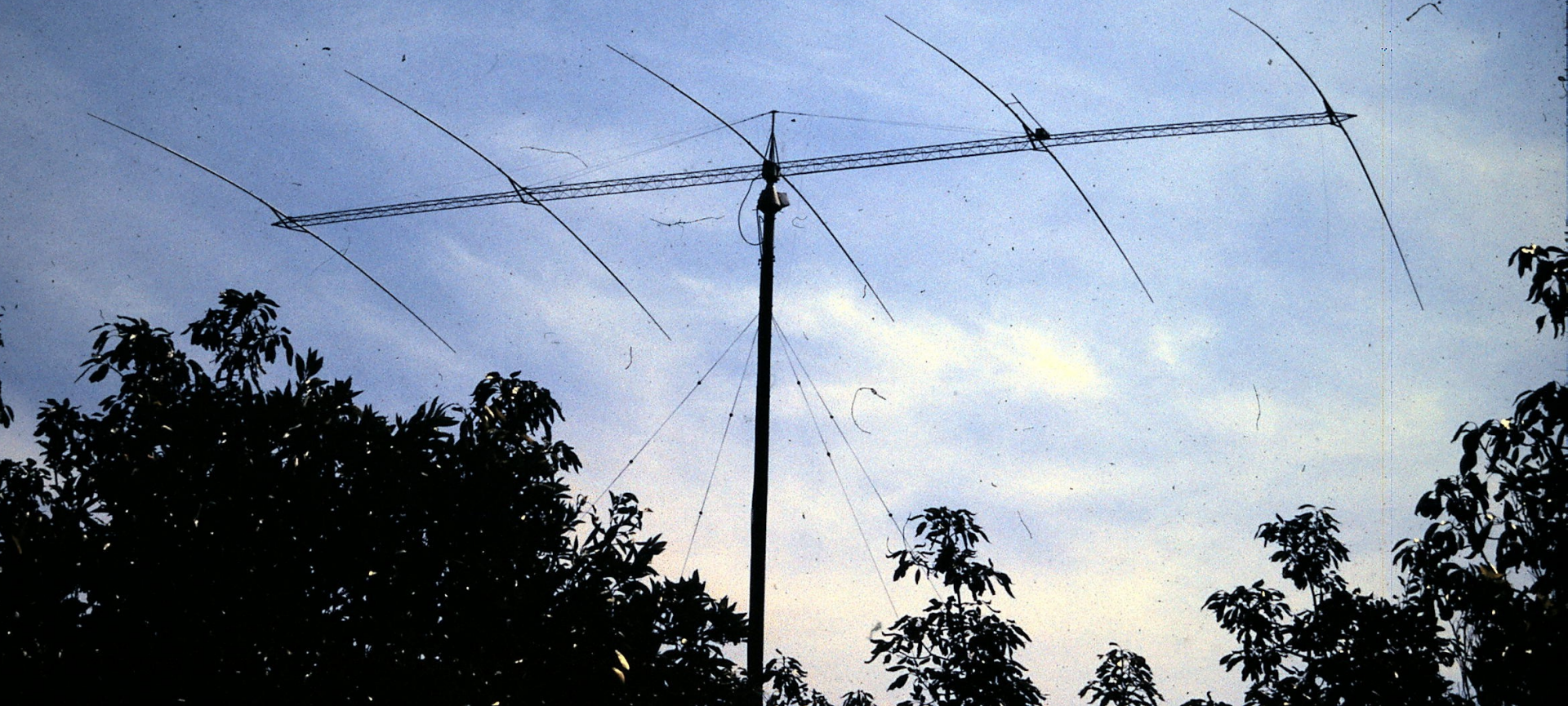
**Lots of BIG
antennas**

W2PV Big Bertha

**With World
Class Rotors
Base of Big
Bertha @ K2GL**



**A 5 element full sized 40m yagi helps
W6VSS**





**3 over 3 on 40m on a 160' of Rohn 80 isn't bad
(K2GL – looking down from the “big” tower)**

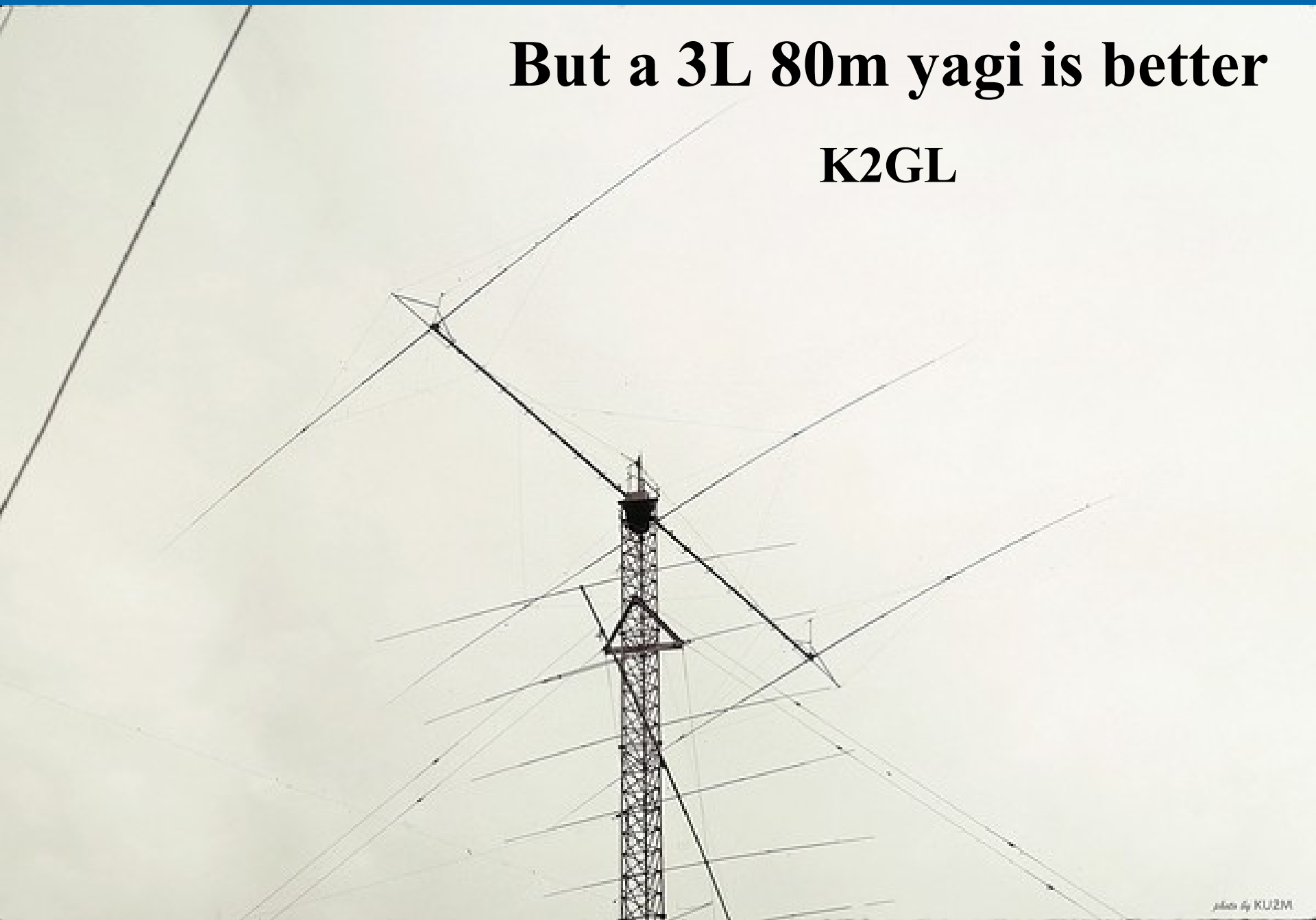


A rotating 2 L wire beam is real nice

W7RM

But a 3L 80m yagi is better

K2GL



A man wearing a red beanie and a plaid jacket is working on a large metal structure. He is holding a cigarette and appears to be adjusting or securing a component. The structure features a large, rusty, circular rotator. The background is a clear blue sky.

**Which also needs a
big rotator: K2GL**



**NO FEAR! 200' up
and 40mph winds.
K2NG rides the 80
at K2GL**

Photo by KU2M

The mast is to the left, out of the frame of the picture!



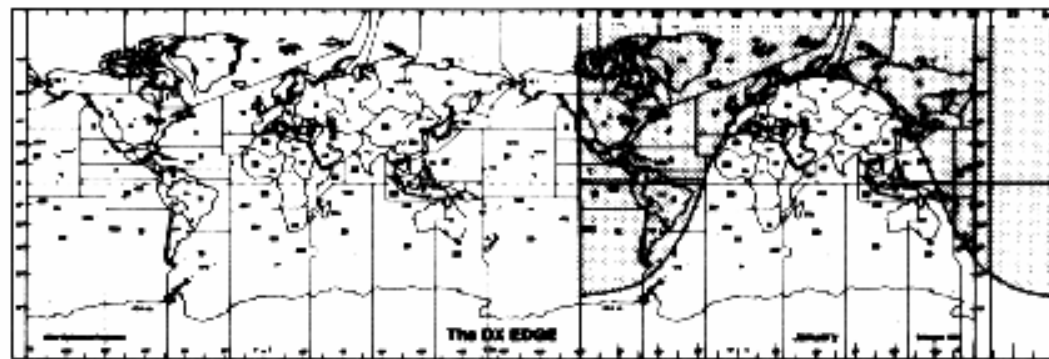
Most of all, HAVE FUN!

N5AU: K5ZD having a good time!

Tools for the serious contester

**Dxers
Contesters
5 Band Dxers**

get ... The DX EDGE



The DX EDGE is an operating aid you will use every day. It is a slide rule type device that gives you instant visual answers to many operating problems.

- **Accurate sunrise and sunset times**, and areas of daylight and darkness.
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- **When to look for that DXpedition** on 40, 80 and 160 meters.

• Good for any QTH in the world. • No calculations to make. • Never outdated. • Durable plastic.

• Map has all zones and selected prefixes. • Map case size 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". • 12 slides, 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " each.

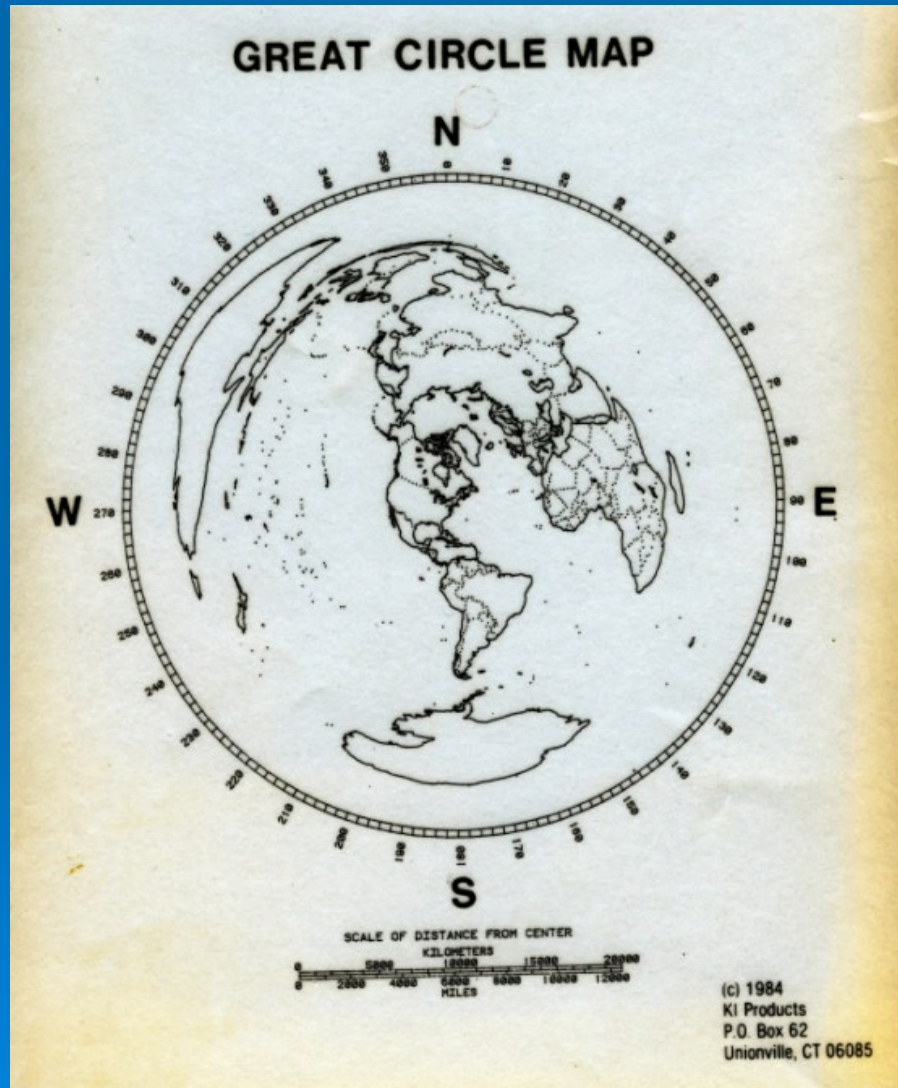
Introductory price: \$14.95 ppd. in U.S., Canada, Mexico. N.Y. residents add tax. Other countries add \$2.00 surface or \$4.00 air mail. Please make check or m.o. payable to **The DX EDGE** and mail to:

The DX EDGE, P.O. Box 834, Madison Square Stn., New York, N.Y. 10159

An information flyer is available free of charge.

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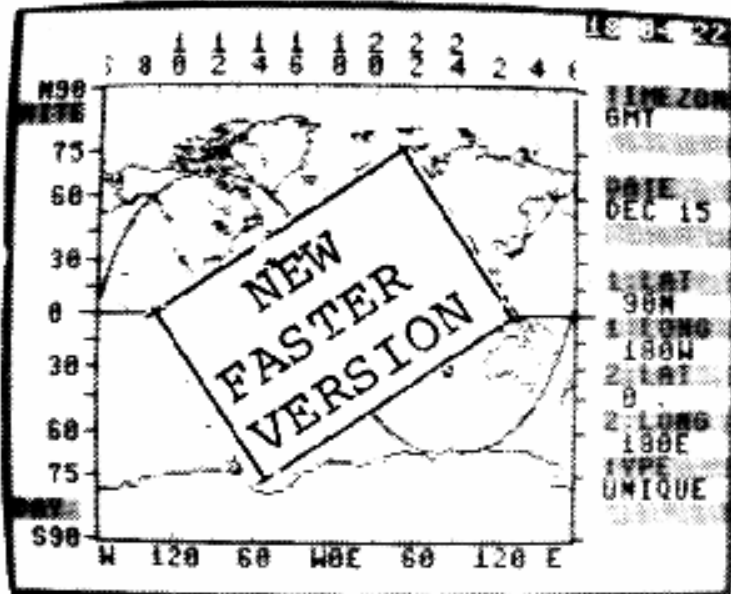
Tools for the serious contester



(c) 1984
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Tools for the serious contester

The DX EDGE®: Now for your COMMODORE 64™



- Fabulous graphics for the great DX aid
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- Keyed to DXCC list and 40 Zones

It's fantastic! Daylight and darkness paths in real time on your computer. As simple as can be.

Price: \$34.95, on a disk, ppd. in U.S. and Canada. Add \$2.45 tax in N.Y.S. Add \$4.00 elsewhere, air mail. U.S. funds only. **The original plastic DX EDGE, in large slide rule format, is still only \$16.95** (plus \$4.00 outside U.S. and Canada). Great Circle Slides are \$3.00 with DX EDGE, \$5.00 without. Specify your Latitude.

Please make check or M.O. payable to the DX EDGE and mail to:
The DX EDGE, P.O. Box 834, Madison Square Stn., New York, N.Y. 10159

An information flyer is available free of charge.

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And now...the PICTURES

In no particular order

A photograph of the Hollywood sign on a hill. The sign is white with black outlines and is set against a backdrop of a hillside with sparse vegetation. In the background, a tall radio tower with many antennas is visible against a clear blue sky. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

HOLLYWOOD

ARRL

FOC

PVRC

W3AU

Ed Bissell

W3MSK

before 1970

ALSO W3MSK (used before 1970)
 CONFIRMING OUR QSO WITH:

TIME(gmt)	STATION	BAND	REPORT	MODE
		1.8 3.5 7.0		2X CW
		14 21 28		SSB

OPERATORS:

N4RV N3IO
 K3EST WA3AMH
 N4IN K3RV
 CXIEK WA3UTA
 KIAR WA3TAI
 K3TW WAIFEO
 W3AZD DK5AD

**STATION: SEPARATE OPR. POSITION ON
 EACH BAND SSB & CW**

RX: COLLINS 75A3, 75S3, 51J4, KWM-2

TX: 1 KW AMPLIFIERS PER BAND

ANT: ROTARY BEAMS; 7.0-3el.

**14, 21, 28-7el. ALL ON SEPARATE TOWERS
 3.5 DIPOLES**

**OP. & OWNER
 ED BISSELL, JR.
 RT. 1, BOX 700
 ACCOKEEK, MD.
 PRINCE GEORGES
 COUNTY**

TKS QSL

We are looking forward to future QSOs during ARRL & CQ DX contests

W3MSK DURING THE 1969 CQWW CW



WA3IAQ and WA3GUI operating



W3IN working 160

W3MSK DURING 1969 CW CQWW



W3AZD on 15 meters

W3MSK DURING 1969 CW CQWW



10 Meter operating position

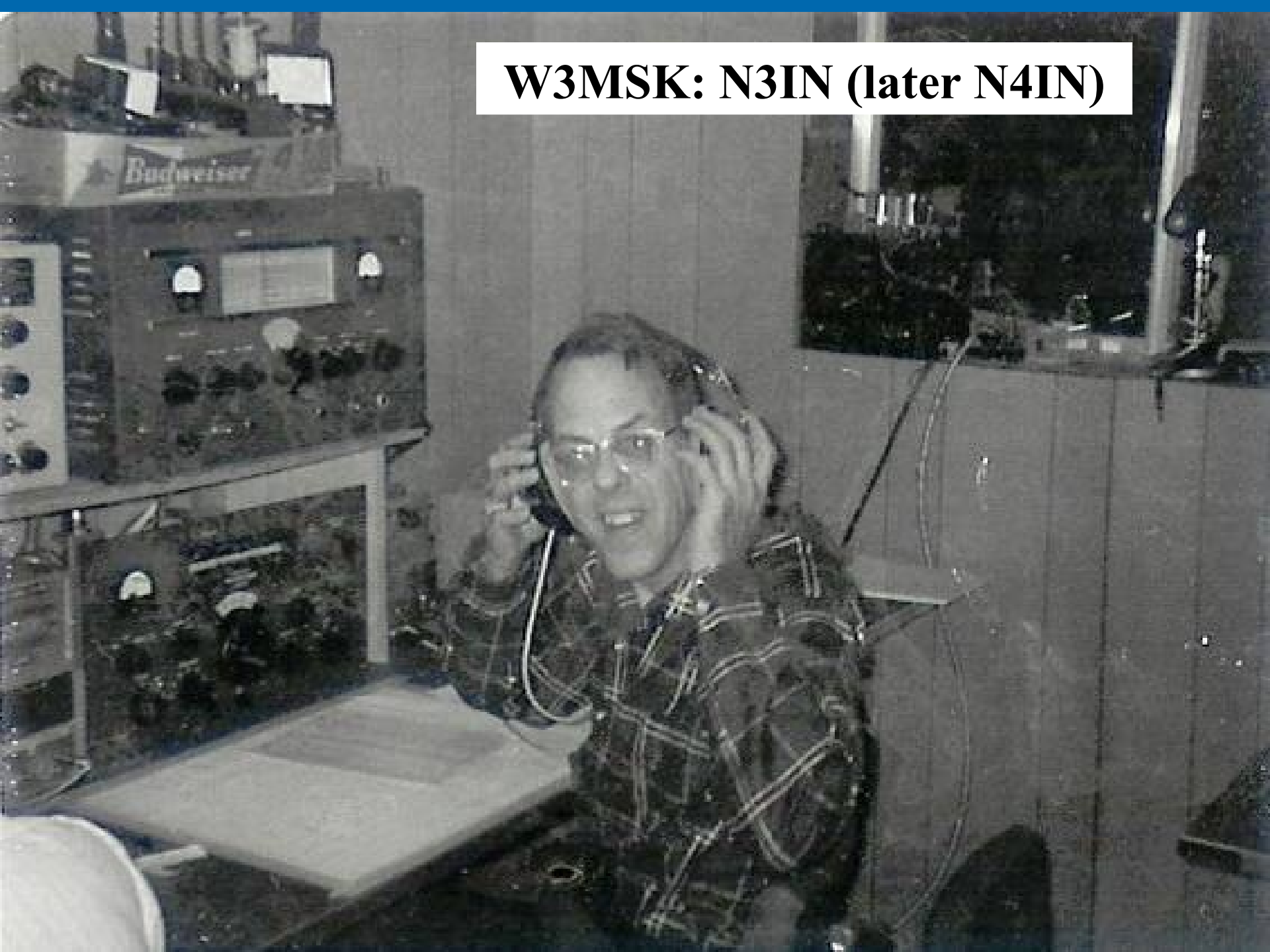


K3EST working 20 meter CW

W3MSK 1969

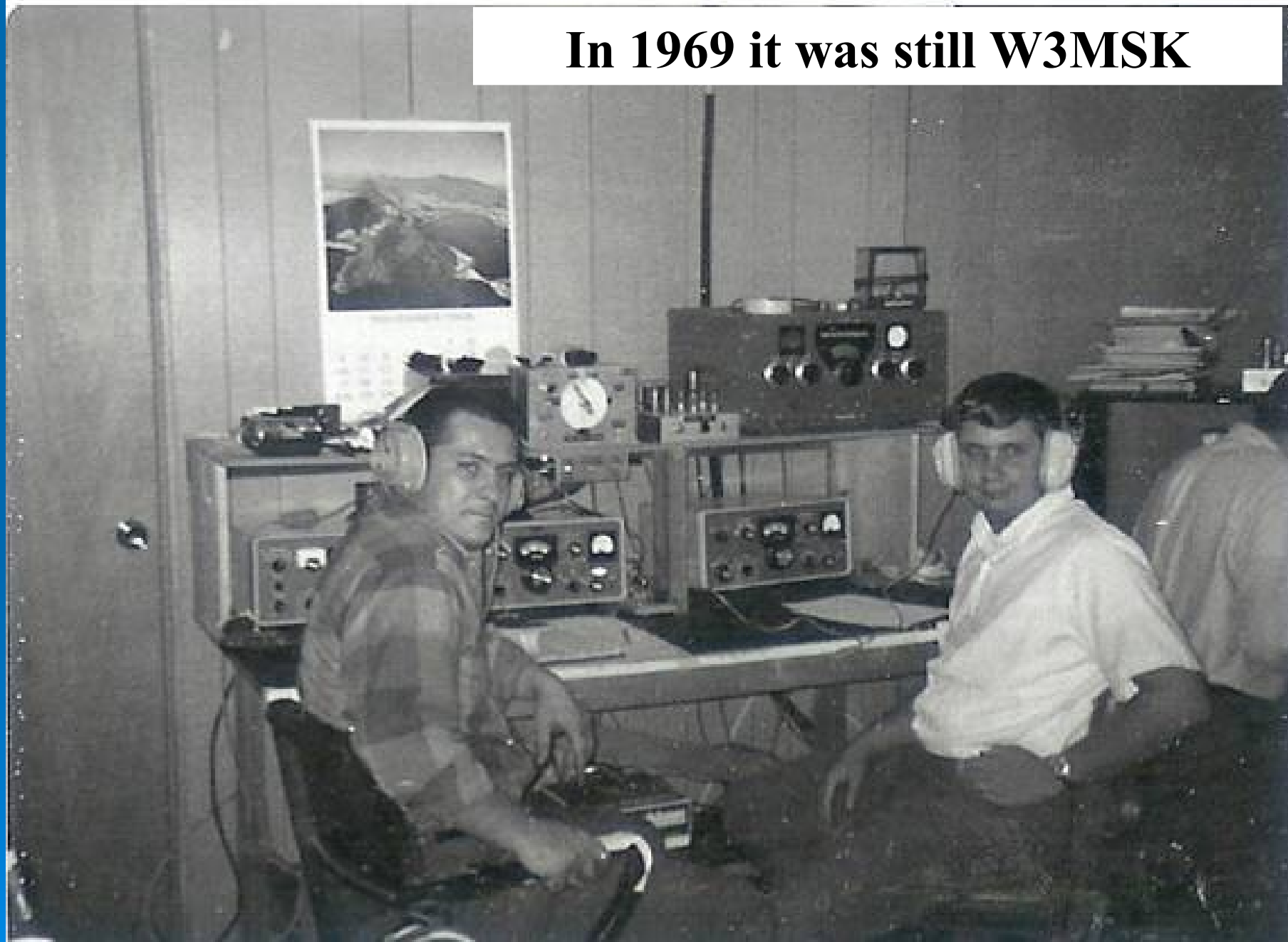


W3MSK: N3IN (later N4IN)



W4CRW & K7SV @ W3AU CQWWCW 1969 - 10M

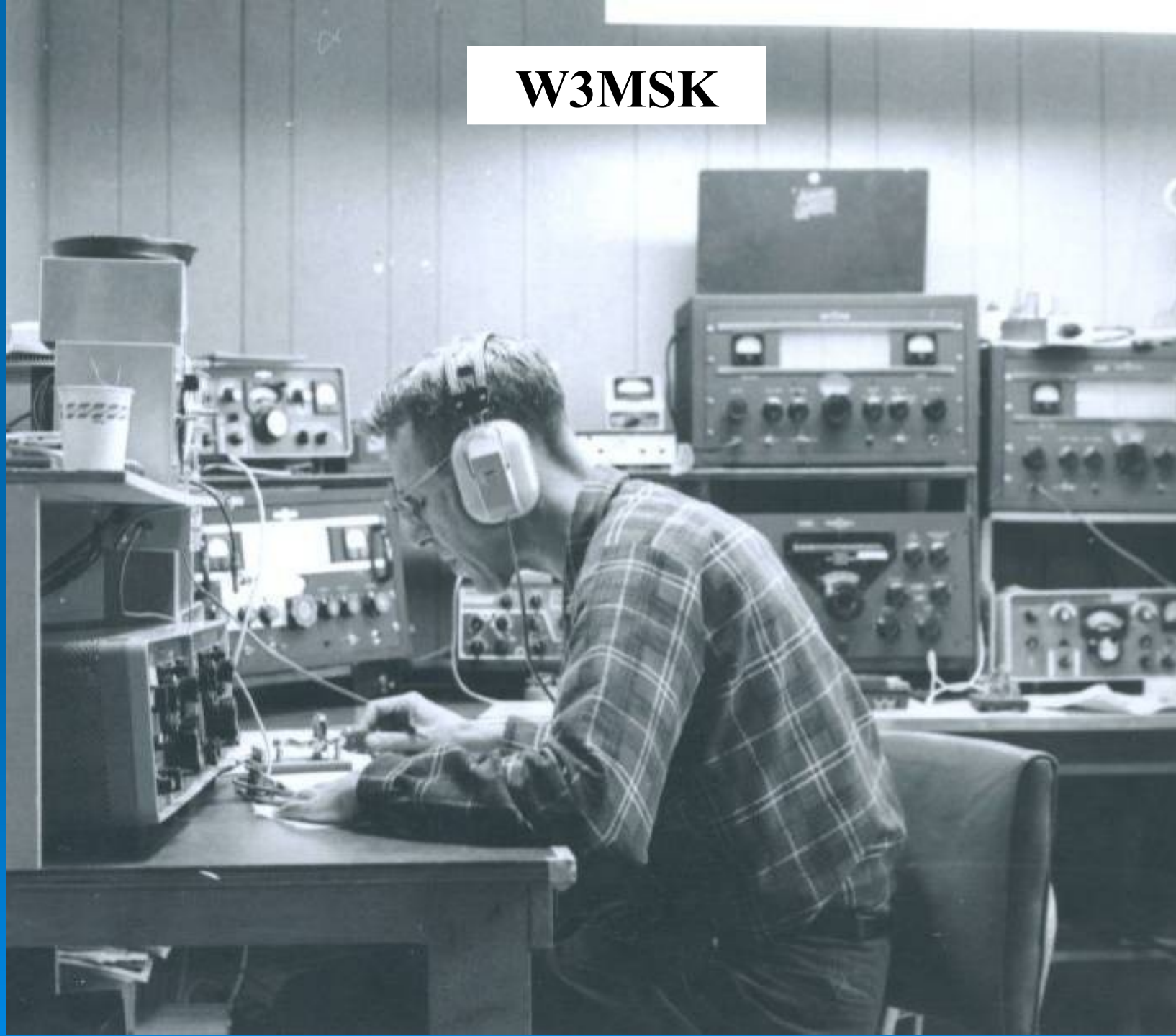
In 1969 it was still W3MSK

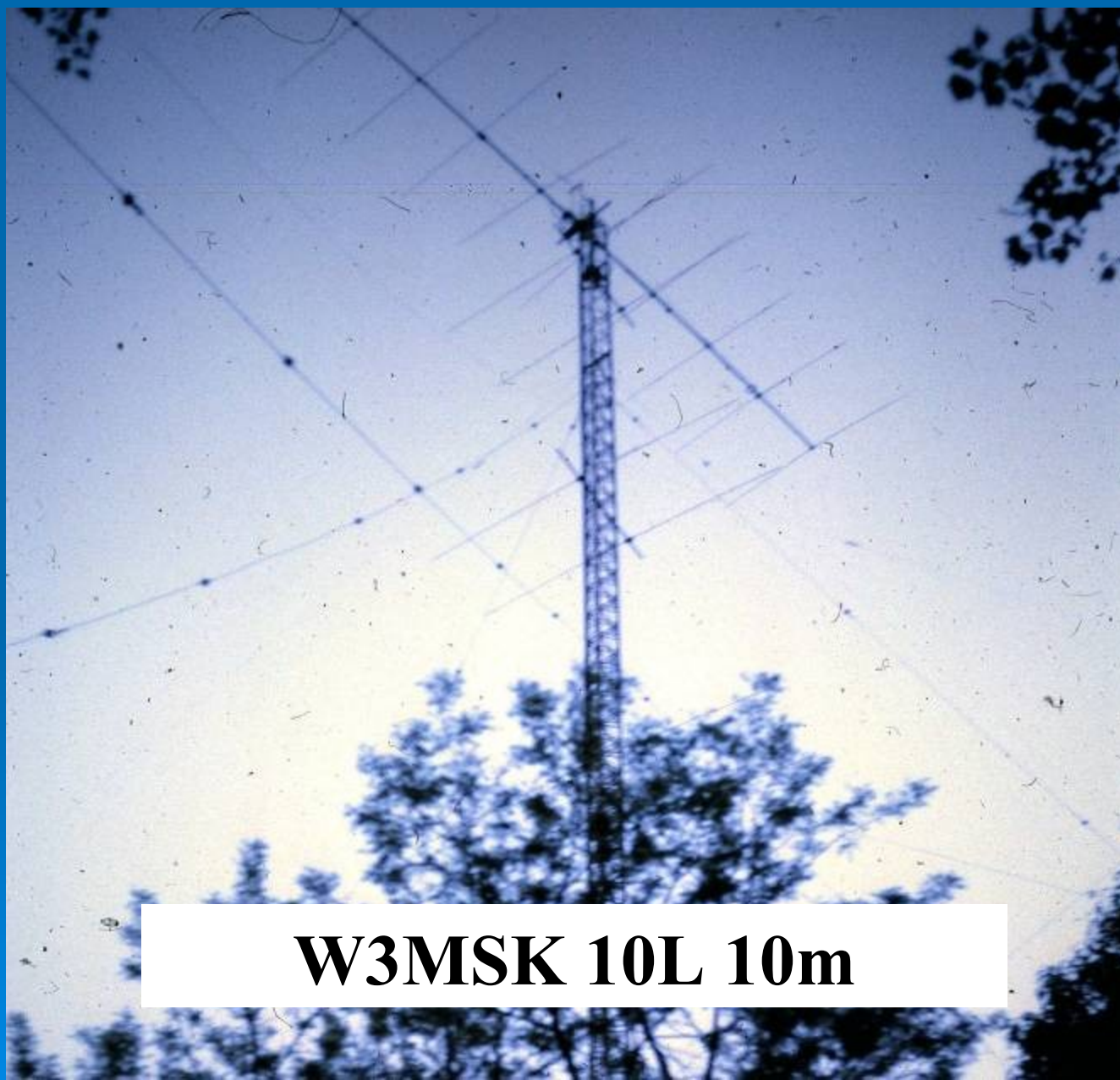


W3MSK: N4KG, W3MSK (W3AU) W8CQN



W3MSK

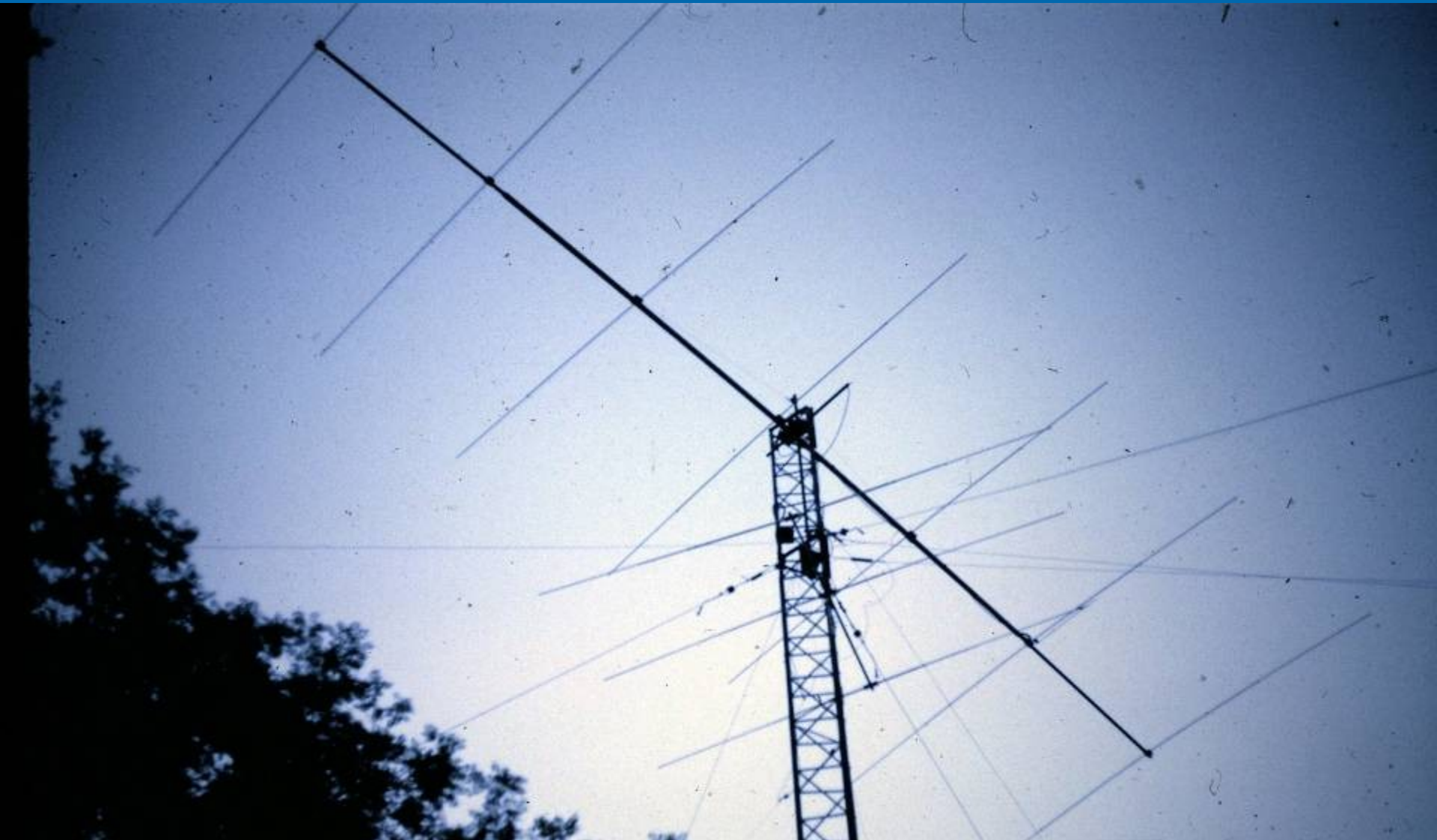




W3MSK 10L 10m

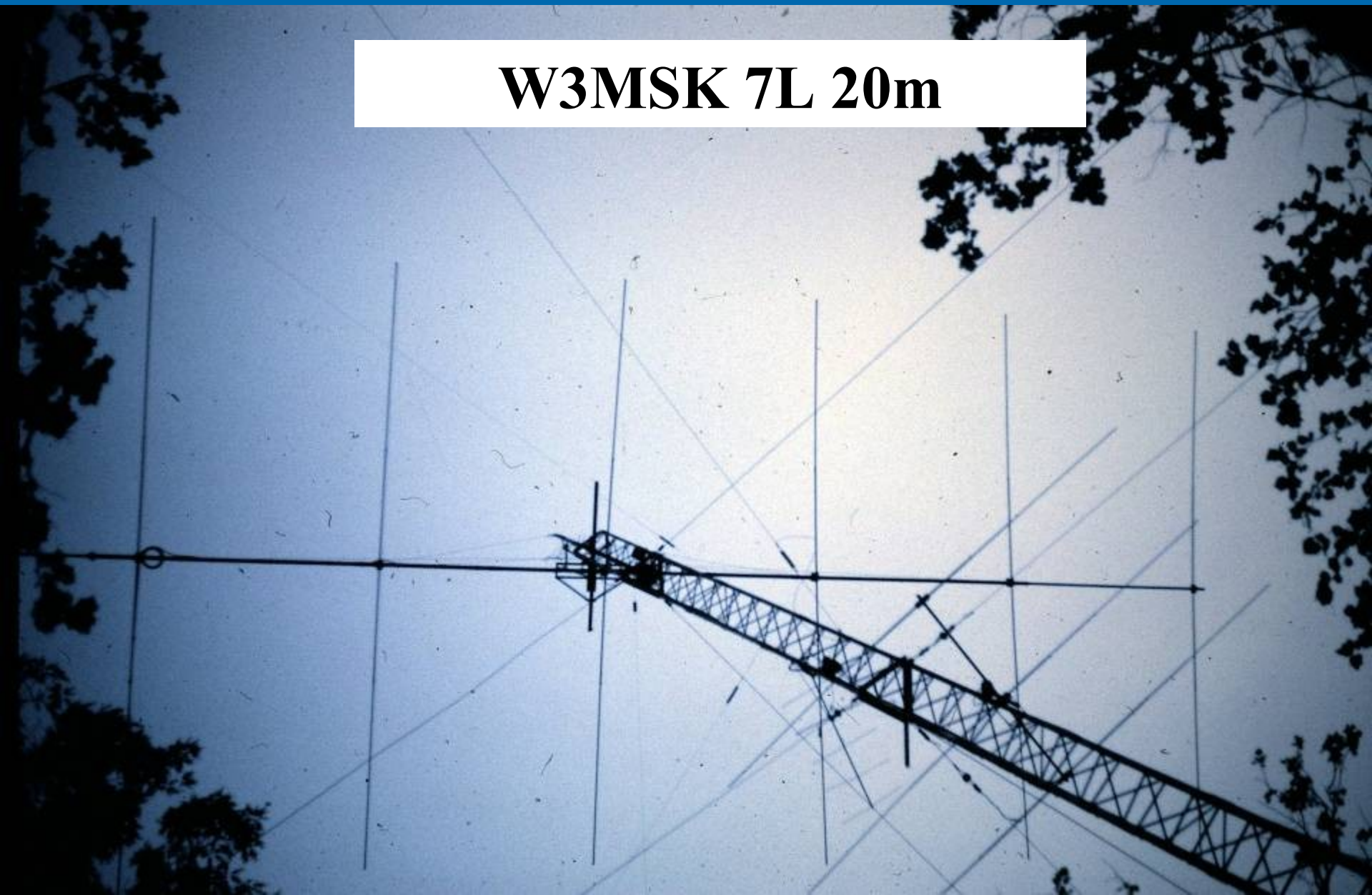


W3MSK 5L 40m



W3MSK 7L 15m

W3MSK 7L 20m



W3MSK - W3AU from across the Potomac River



HERNDON, VIRGINIA USA

FAIRFAX COUNTY

W4BVV

STATION K9OPF

TIME 0047 GMT

DATE JAN 28 196 7

TNX QSL



SIG REPT 579

BAND 1.8 MC

MODE CW

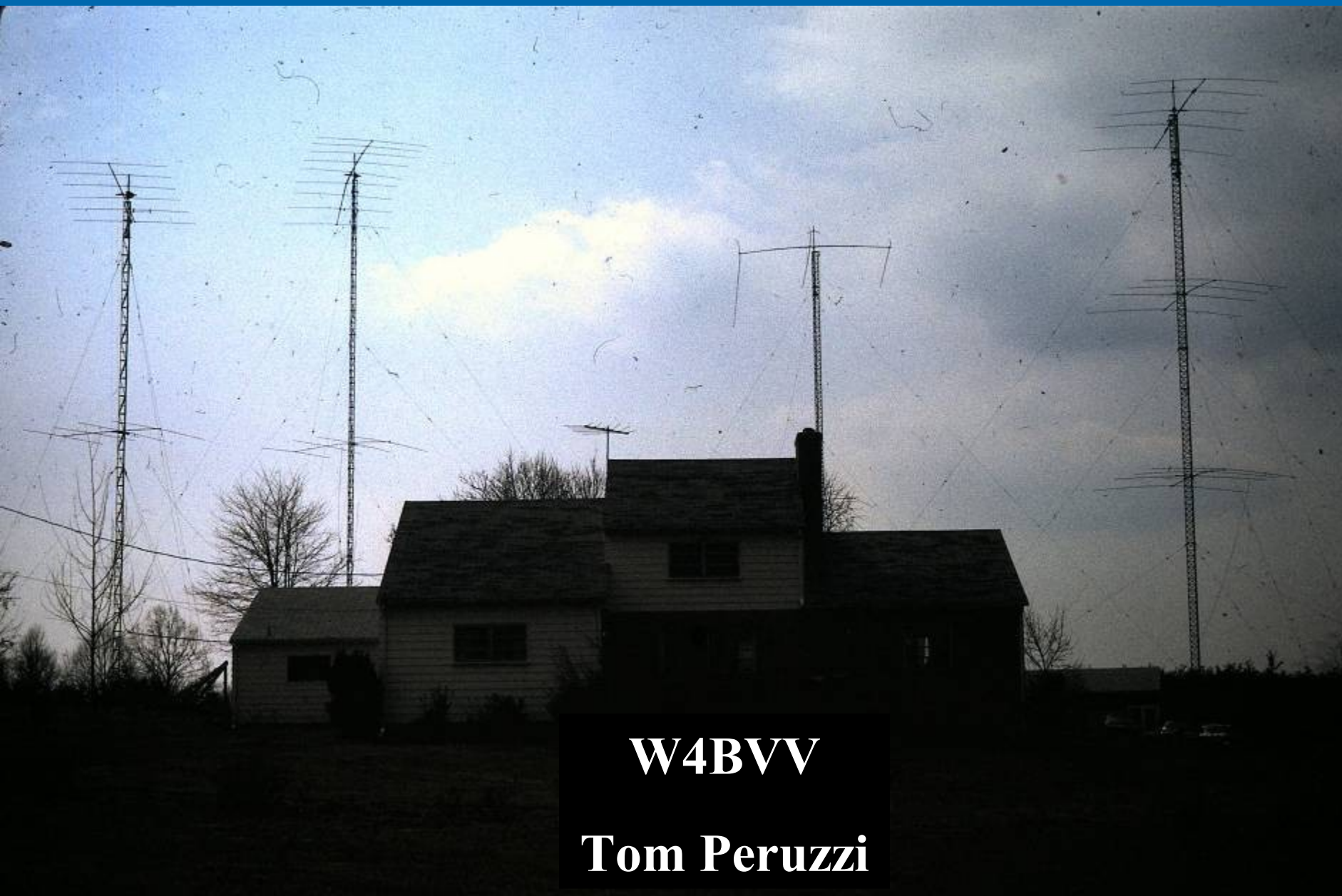
73 THOMAS PERUZZI

Tom

RT. 2 BOX 117

W3CSX





W4BVV

Tom Peruzzi



W4BVV

W1BGD

**K3OAE
(K3KU)**

**K3NPV
(K4YF)**

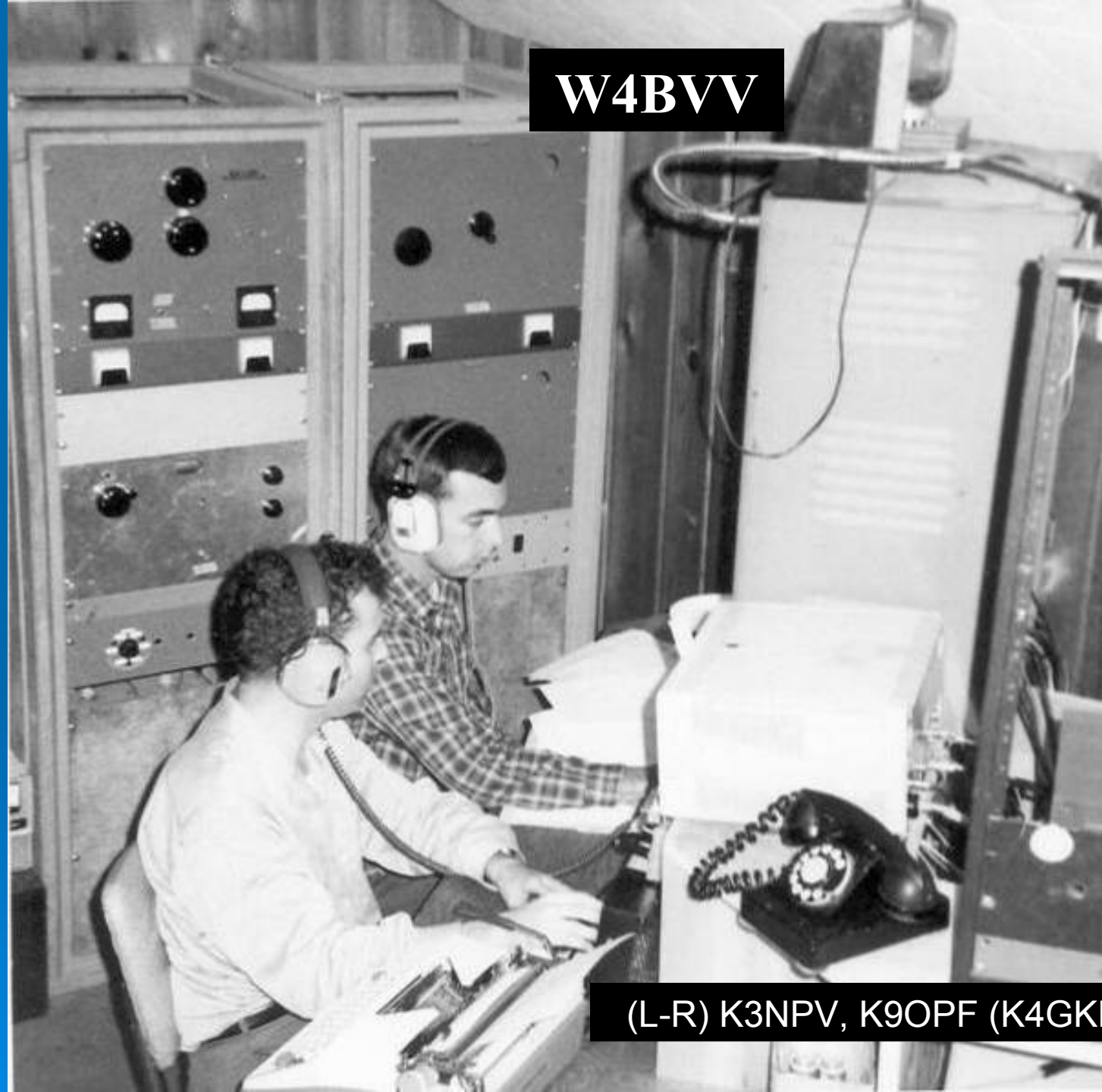


W4BVV

**K2PHF
(N6AA)**

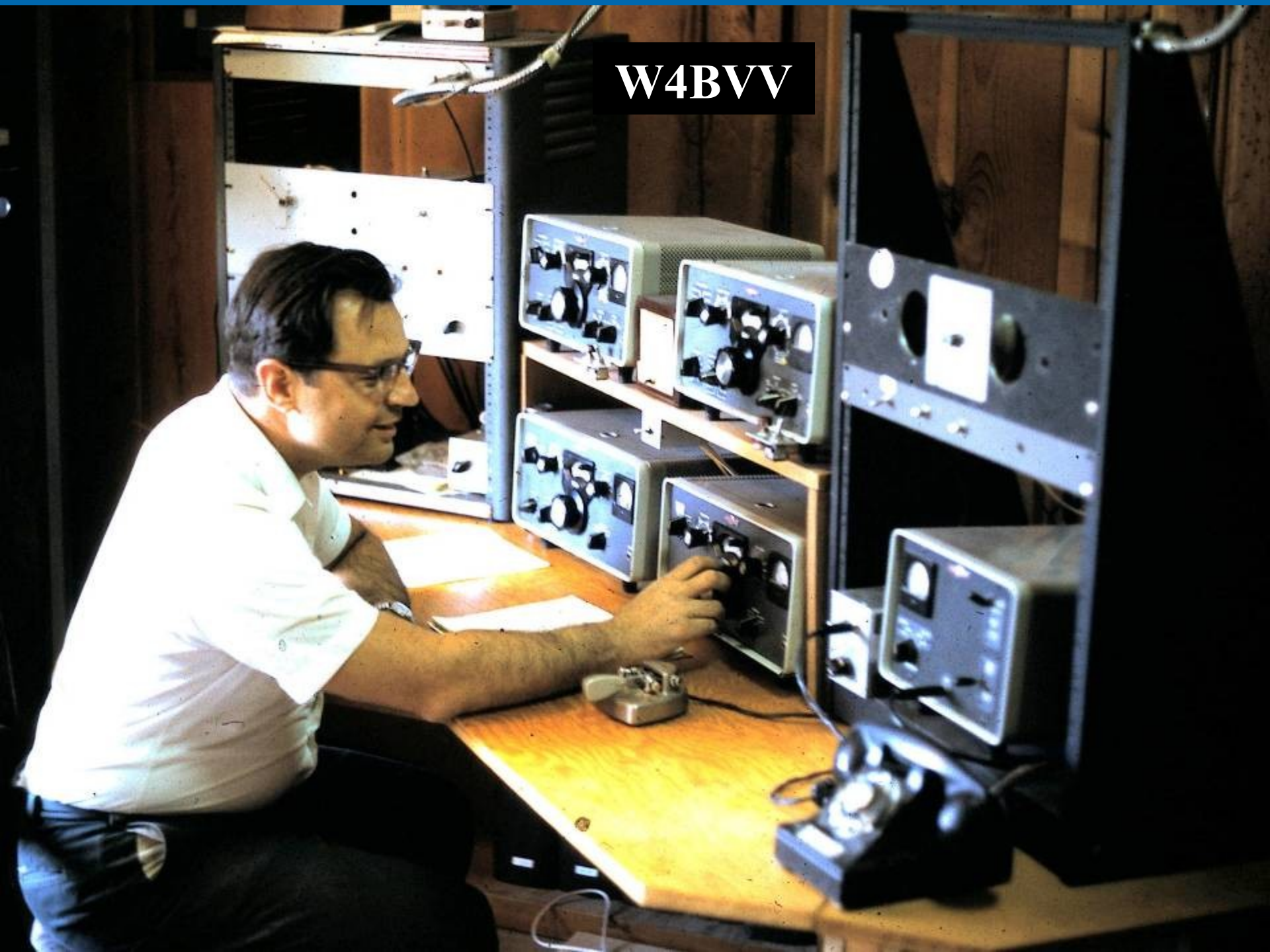
**K1ANV
(W3ZZ)**

W4BVV



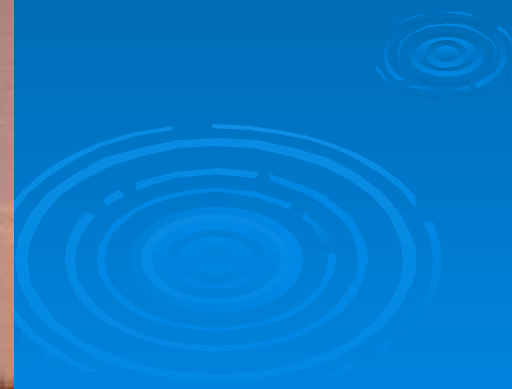
(L-R) K3NPV, K9OPF (K4GKD)

W4BVV



W4BVV

Twin 200'



W4BVV



W4BVV





K1JGD Bob Blake

Actual call K1OTA

W4KXV
Dick Phelps
Multi-Multi

W4KXV - Vienna, VA





W4KXV
Multi-Multi

**K4BVD, now
W6OAT**

**K4PQL, now
N4AF**

Interestingly enough, if this IS that 1967 contest, it is my FIRST ever at a multi-multi. John, K4BAI had visited the W4KXV station a year earlier, and when he could not return in 1967, he suggested to Dick, W4KXV that perhaps I could sit in. Dick was kind enough to extend an invitation, I drove to Virginia from Boston, got totally hooked on contesting, and have been doing it ever since! Rusty, W6OAT

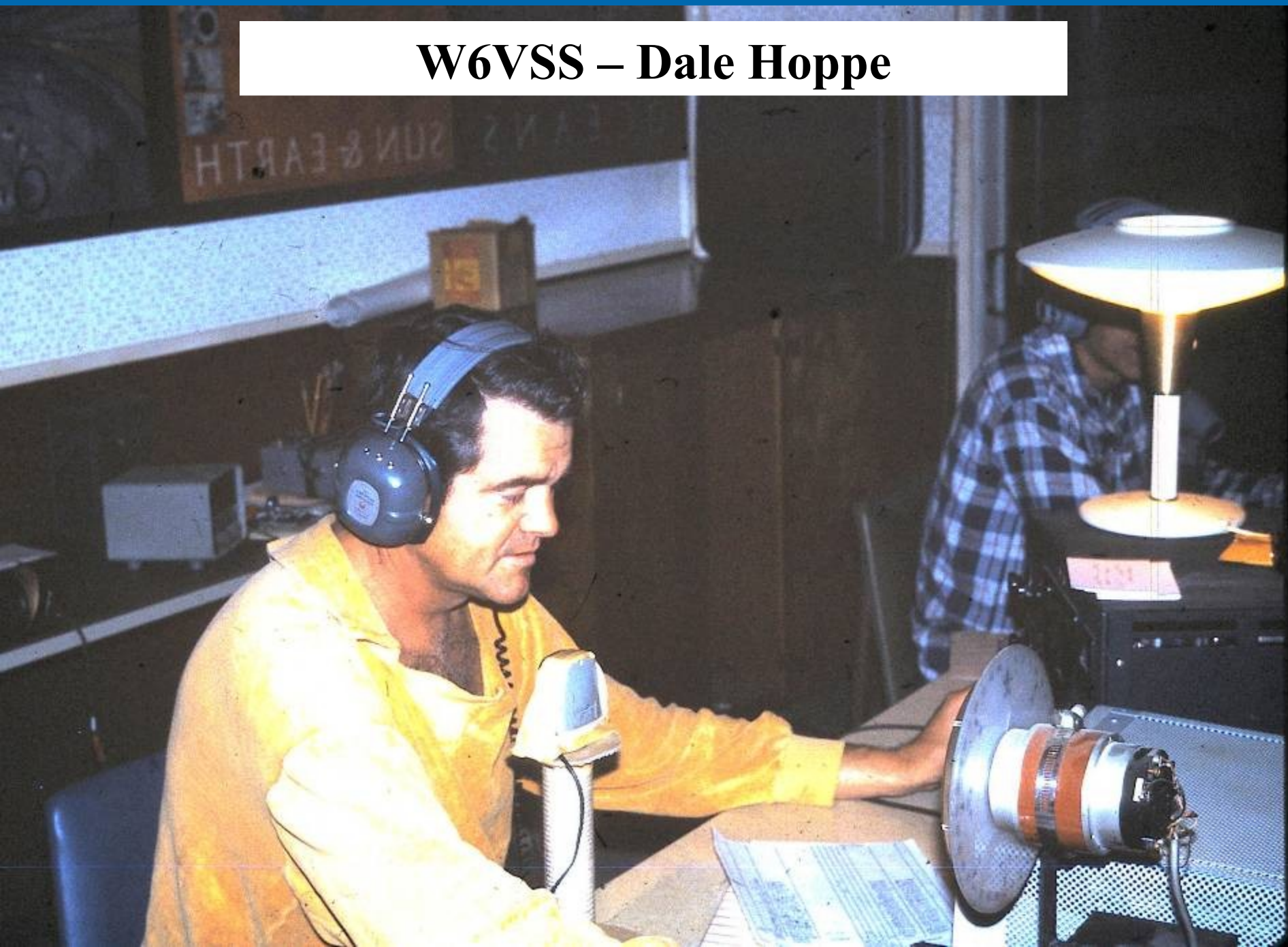
W4KXV
Multi-Multi



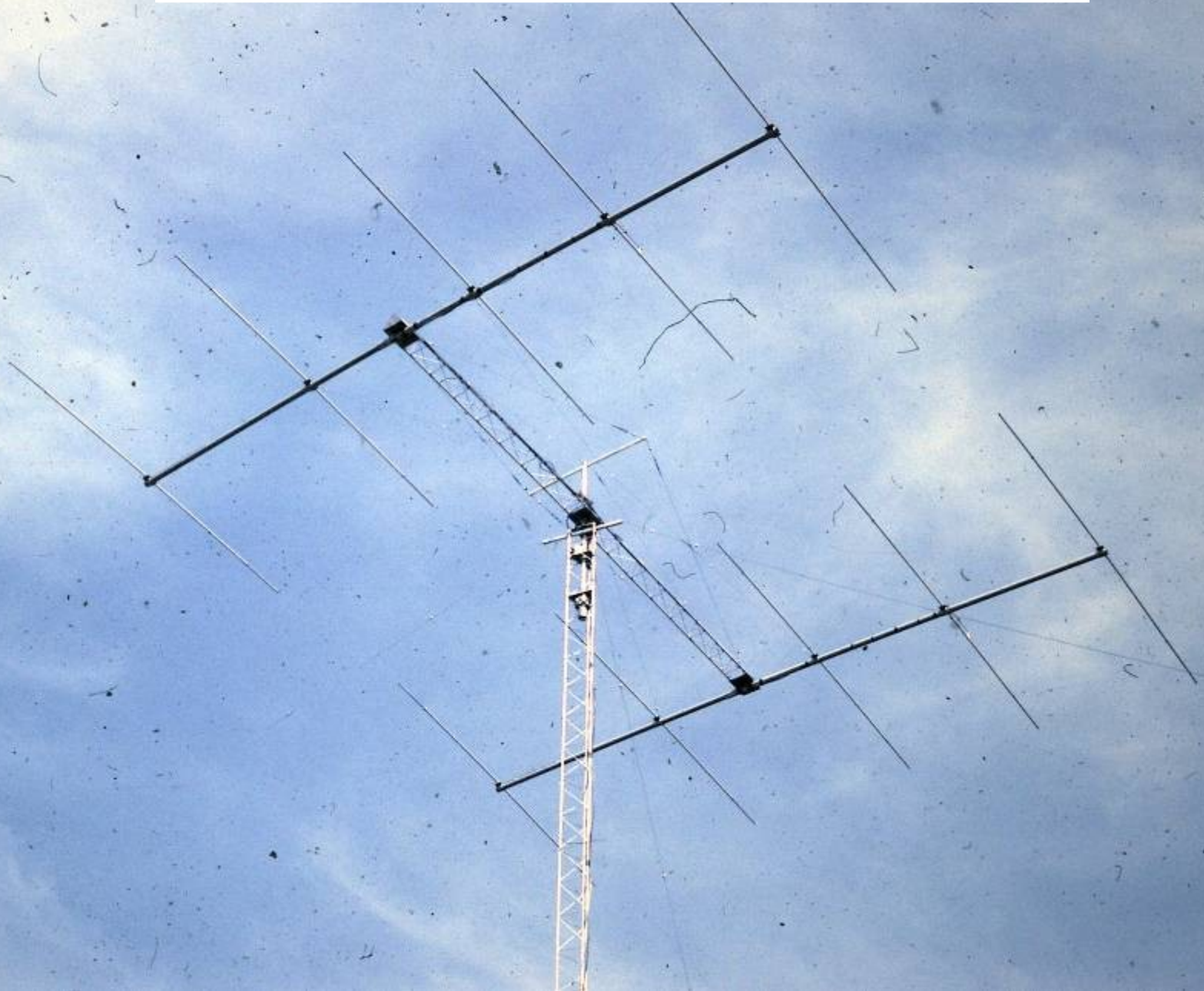


W4KXV
Multi-Multi

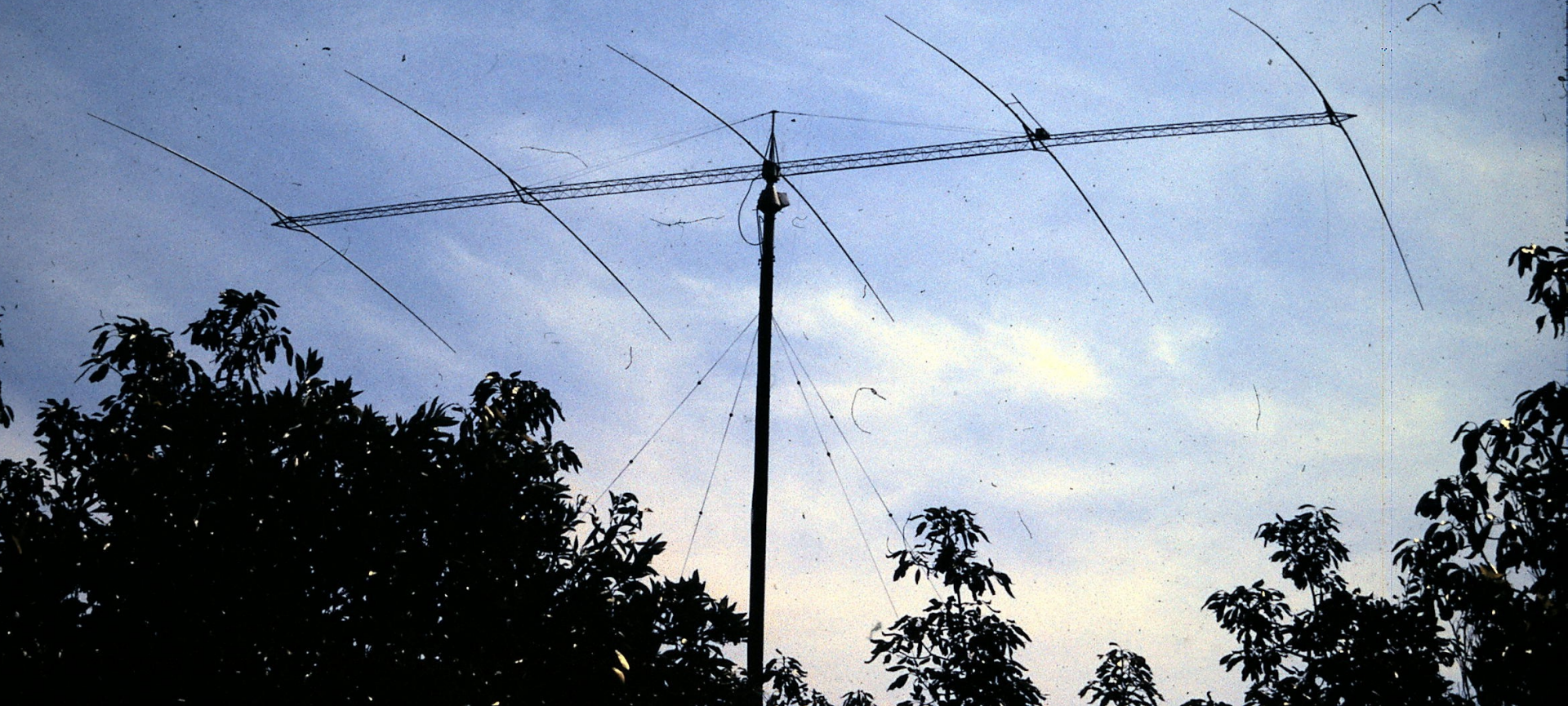
W6VSS – Dale Hoppe

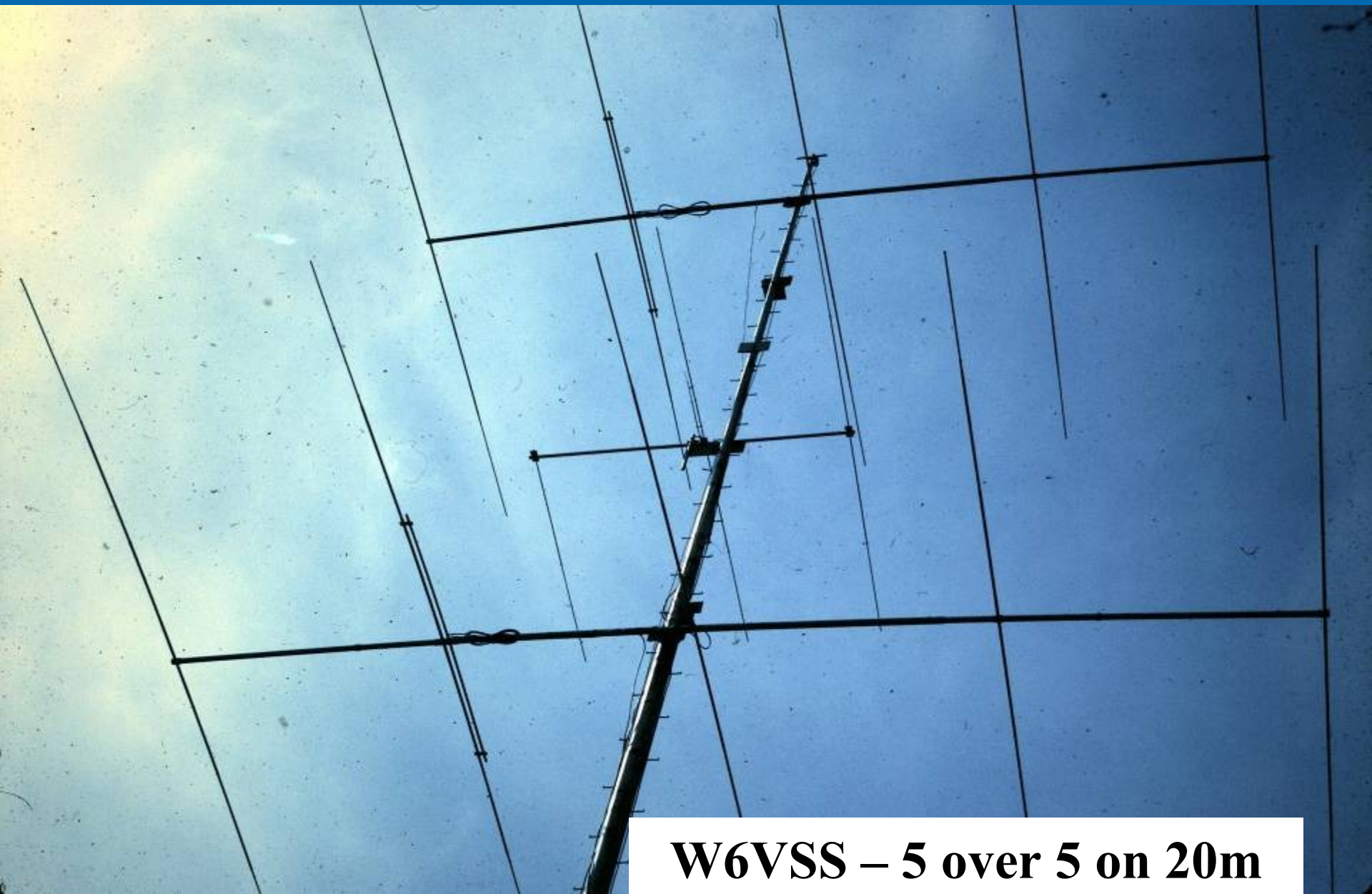


W6VSS – 5 by 5 on 10m (?)



W6VSS – 5 L 40m



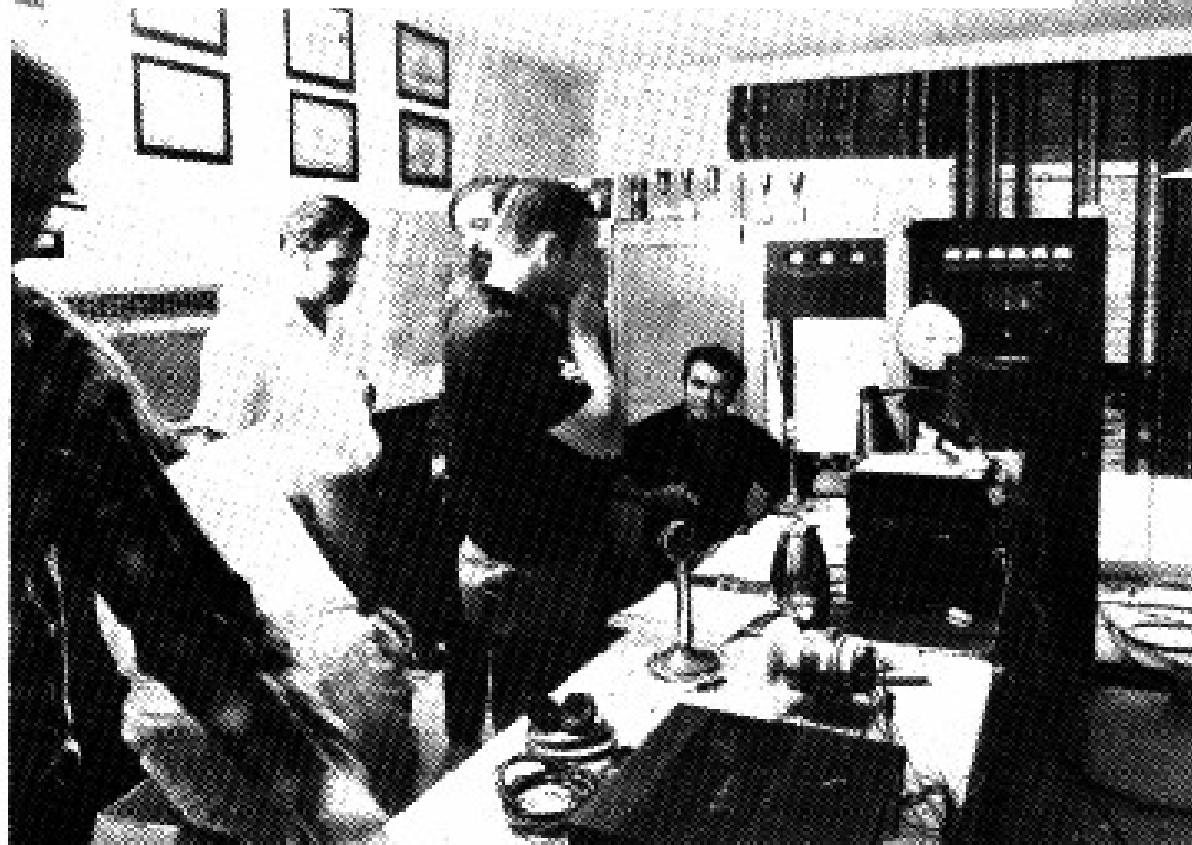


W6VSS – 5 over 5 on 20m



The 10 meter position of the West Coast Multi-Multi "Big Gun" W6VSS. That's Cam, W6QY and Dick, W6ICJ doing their share in putting Dale Hoppee's station at the top of the list in zone 3.

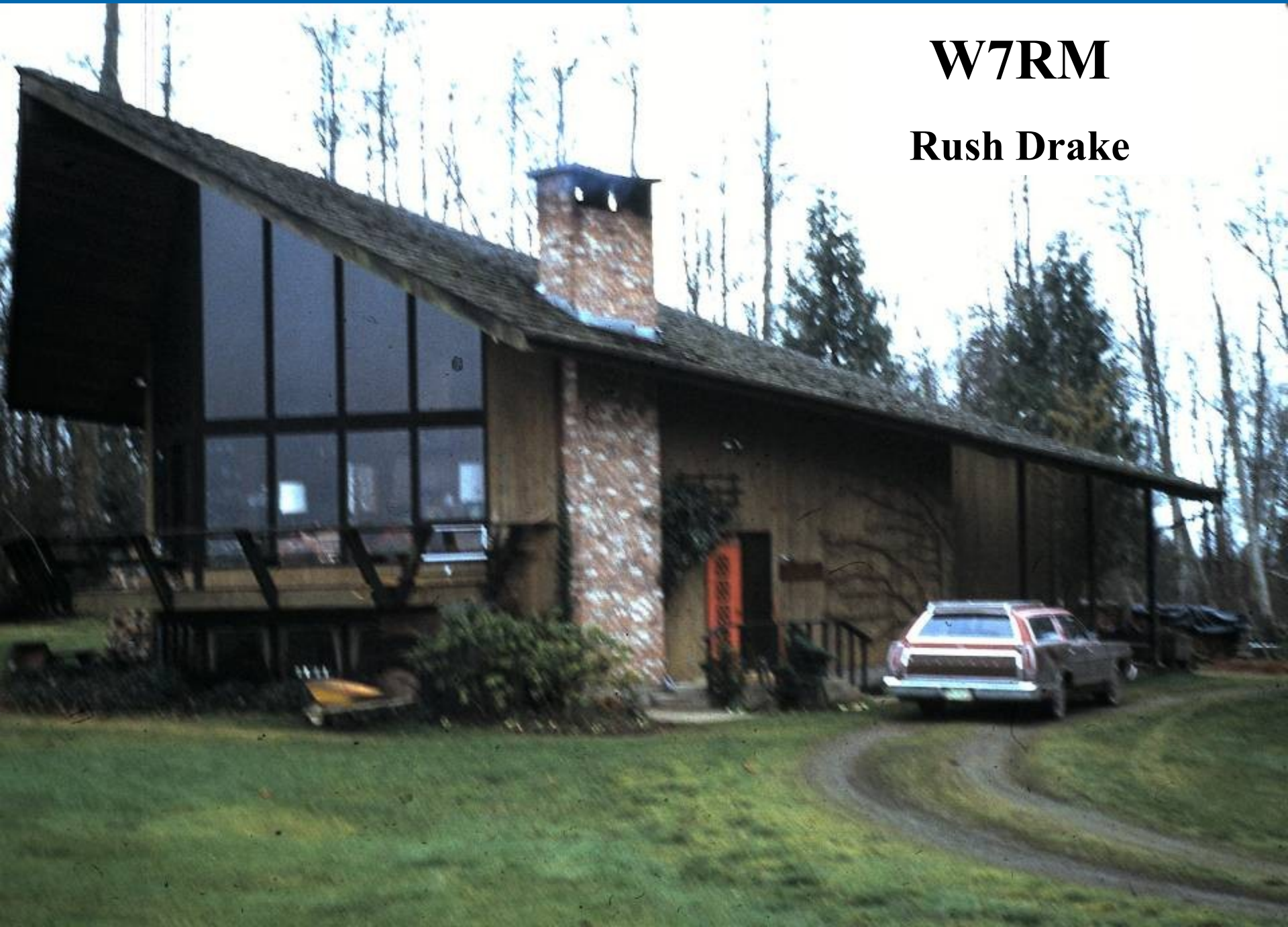
W6VSS 1970 CQWW SSB



Only 15 mins. after the Contest was over, the gang at W6VSS got the bad news that Rush Drake and his crew at W7RM claimed a higher score. Well, there's always next year Dale, its back to the drawing board. Part of the dejected crew. L. to R.—WB6VFJ, W6UED, K6QPH, K6-SEN, K2RBT and the boss man himself, W6VSS.

W7RM

Rush Drake

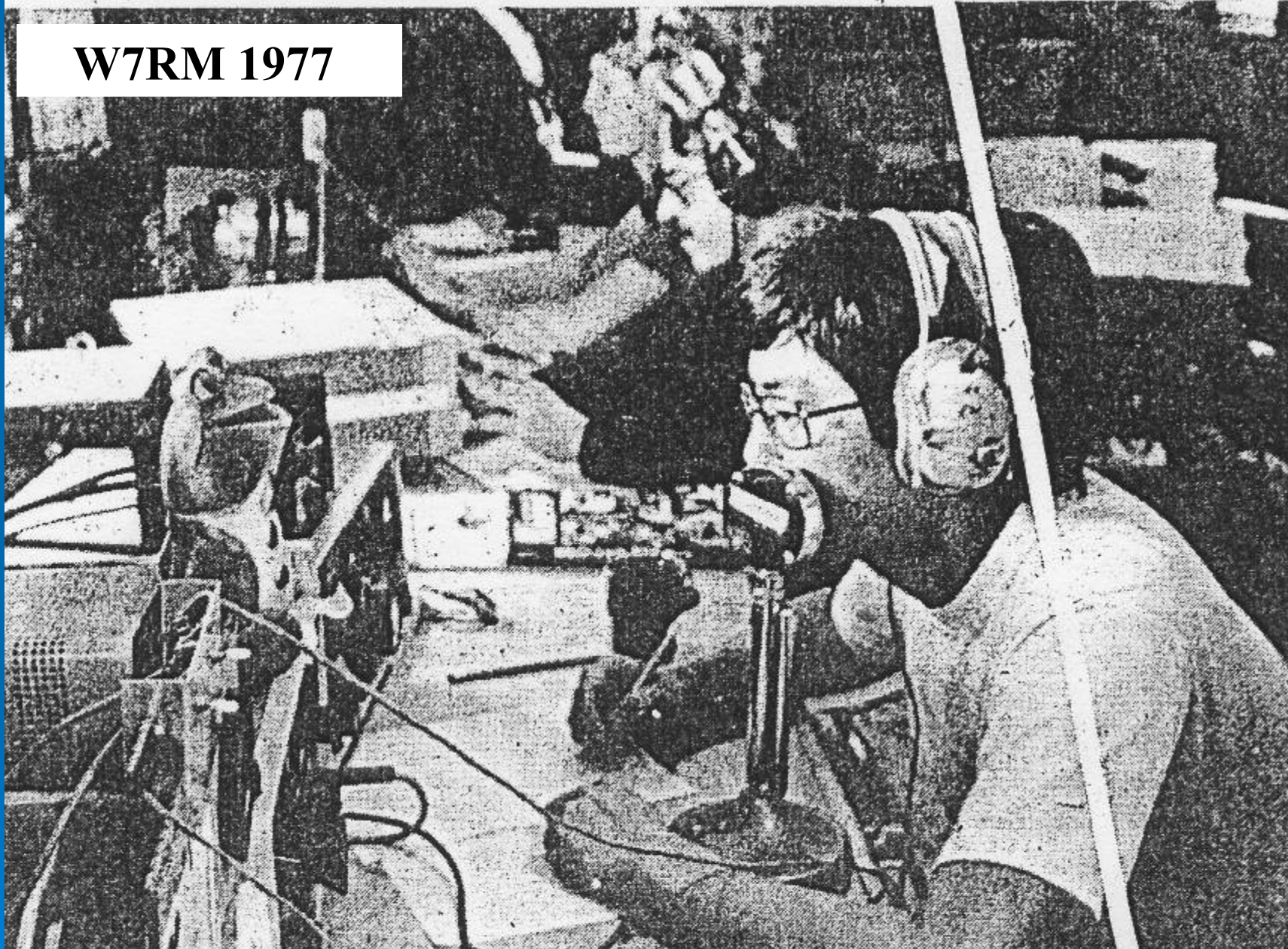




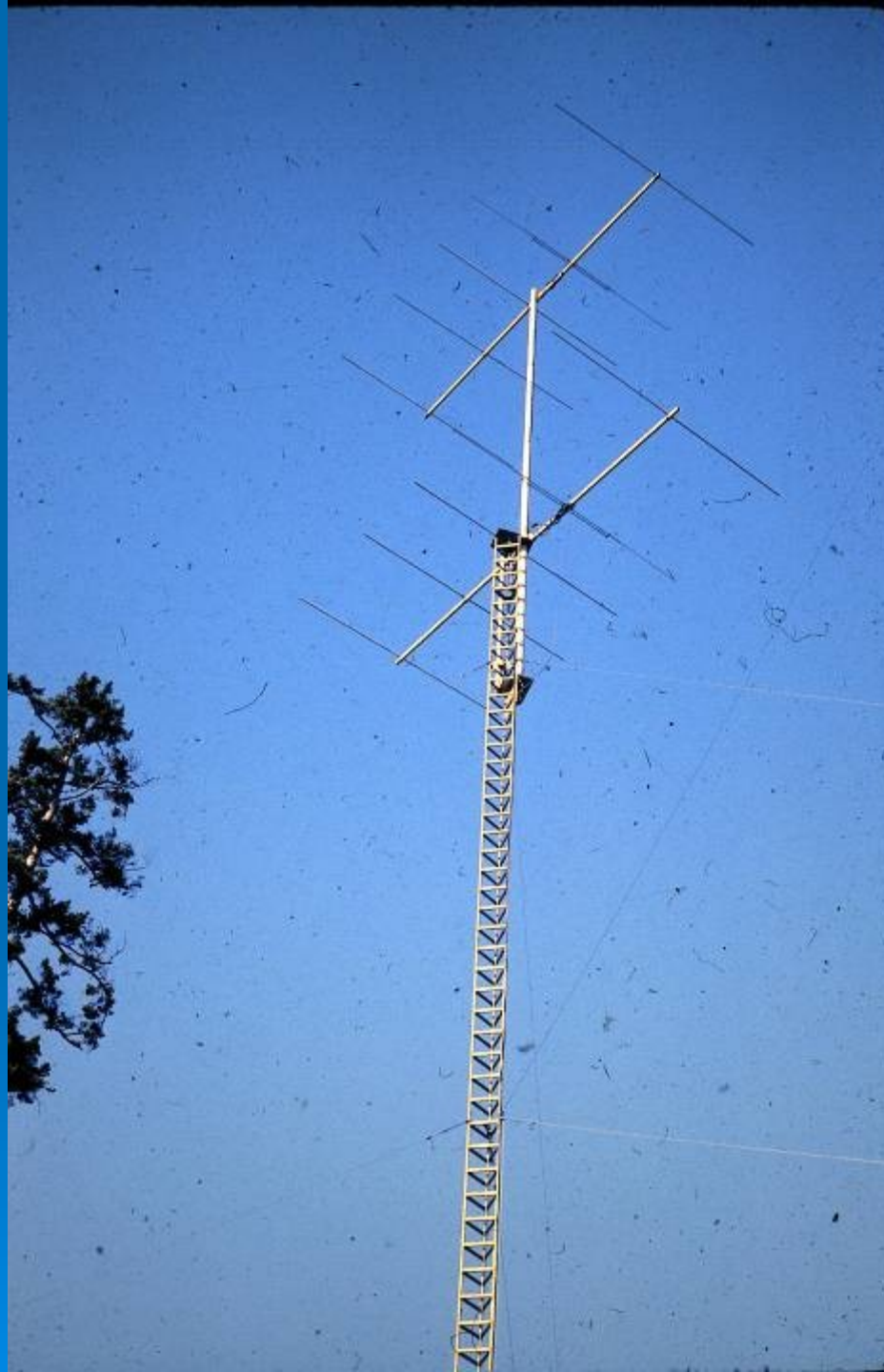
W7RM

**K7SS + K7JCA
(W7RM)**

W7RM 1977

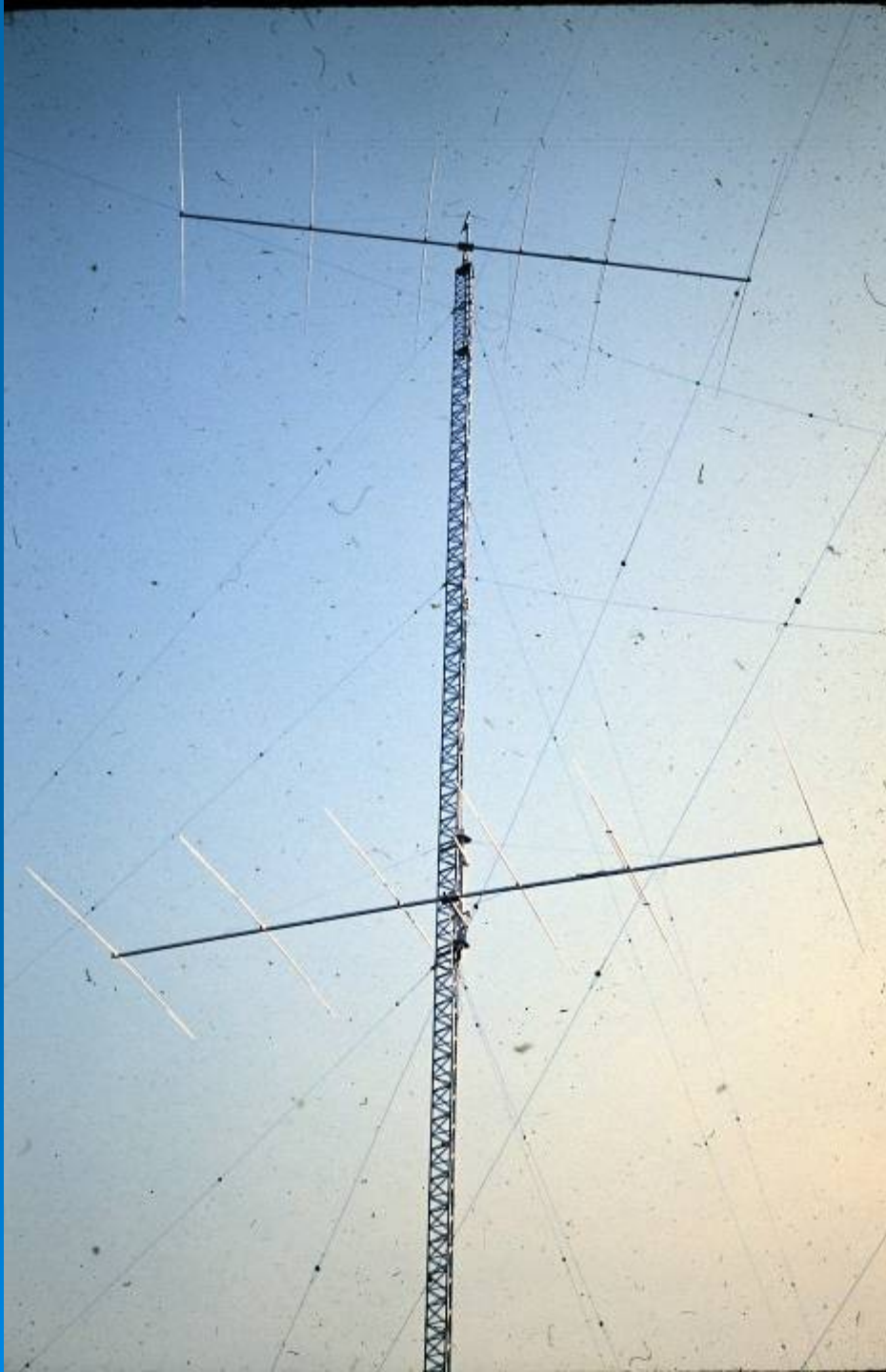


W7WA (22 years old) 15m run, W7EXM (K7RA) and VE7BD on 10m



W7RM 5 over 5

10 meters



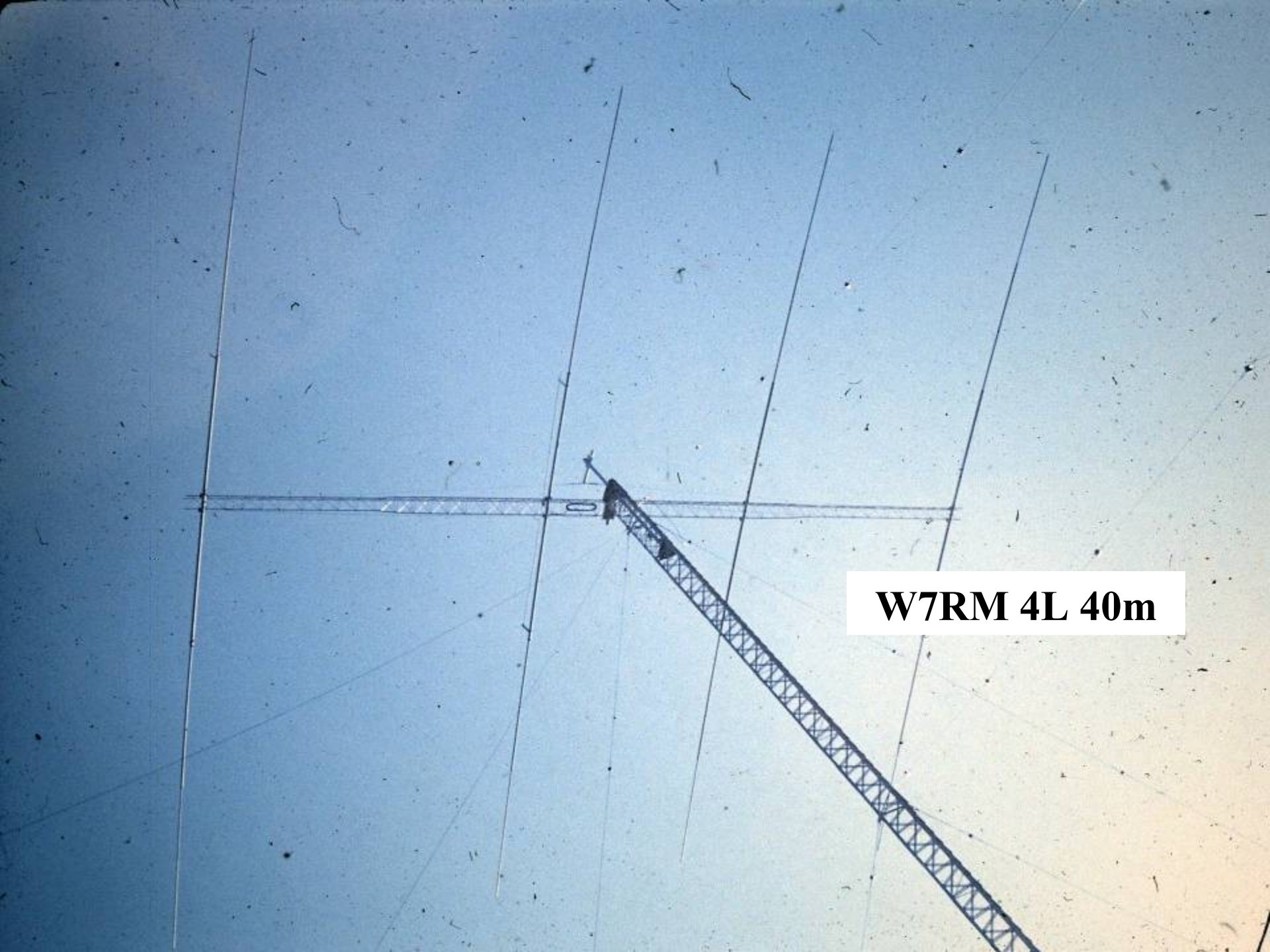
W7RM 6 over 6

20 meters



W7RM 6 over 6

15 meters



W7RM 4L 40m

W7RM shot to EUR

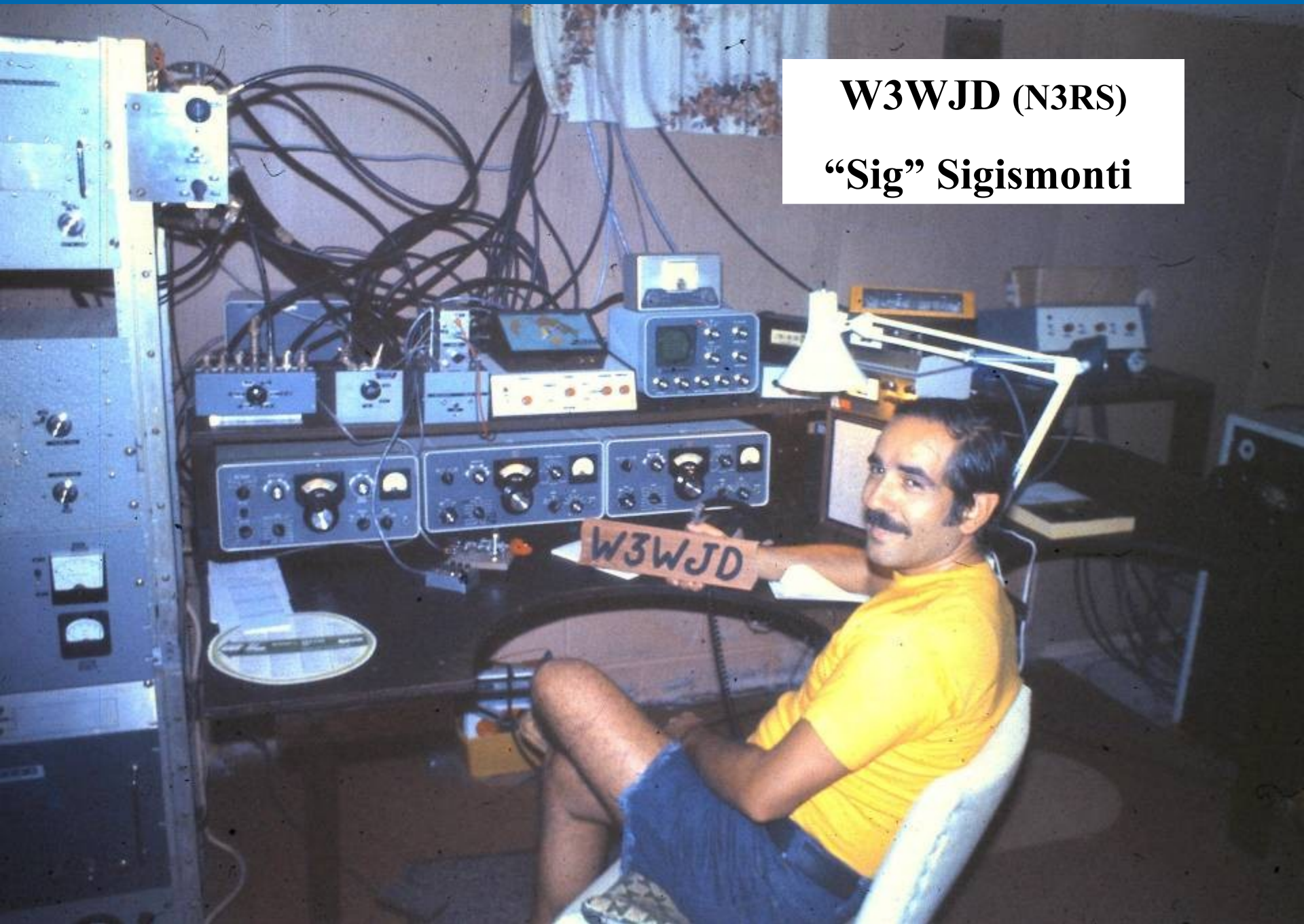


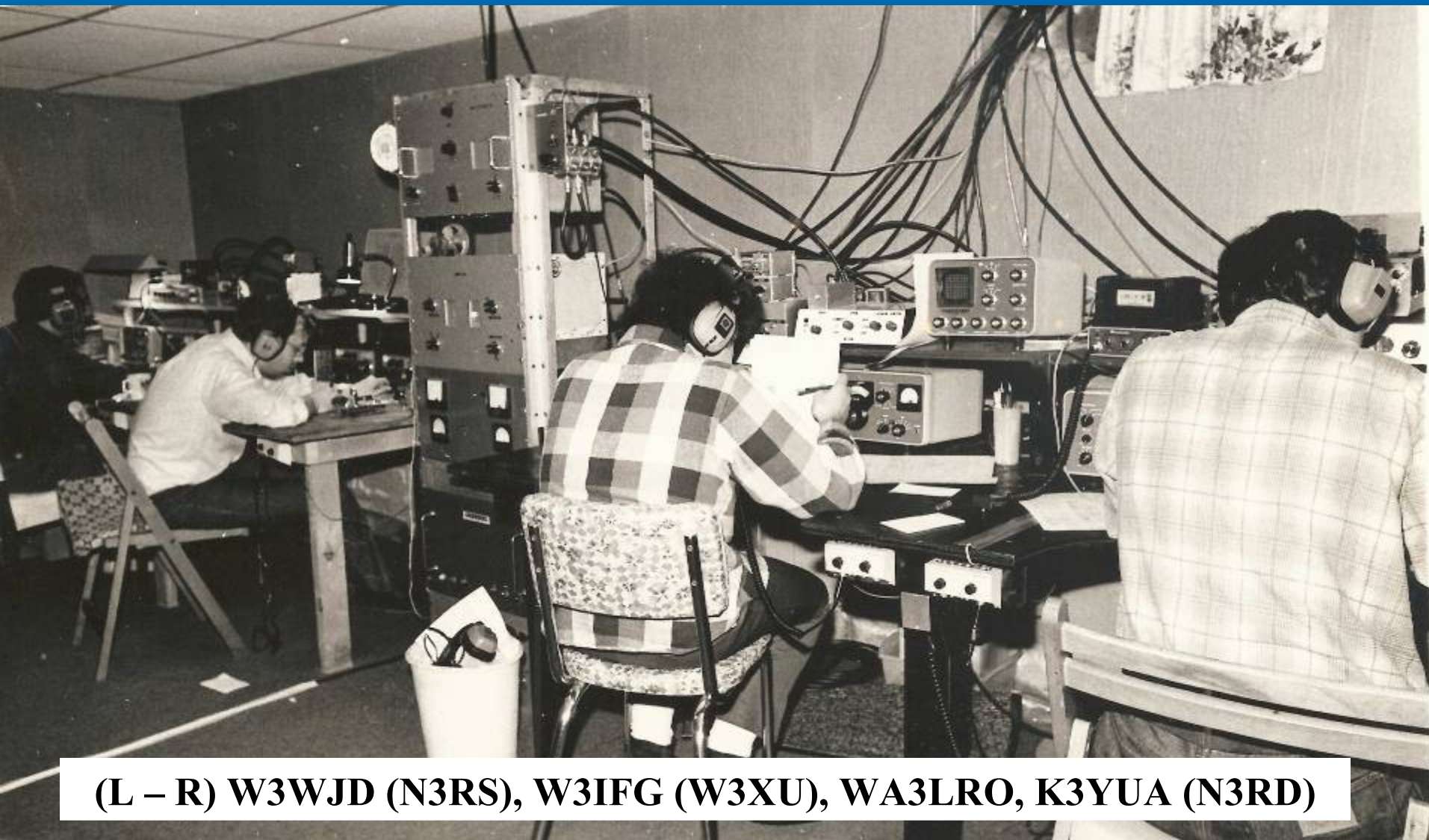
W7RM shot to JA



W3WJD (N3RS)

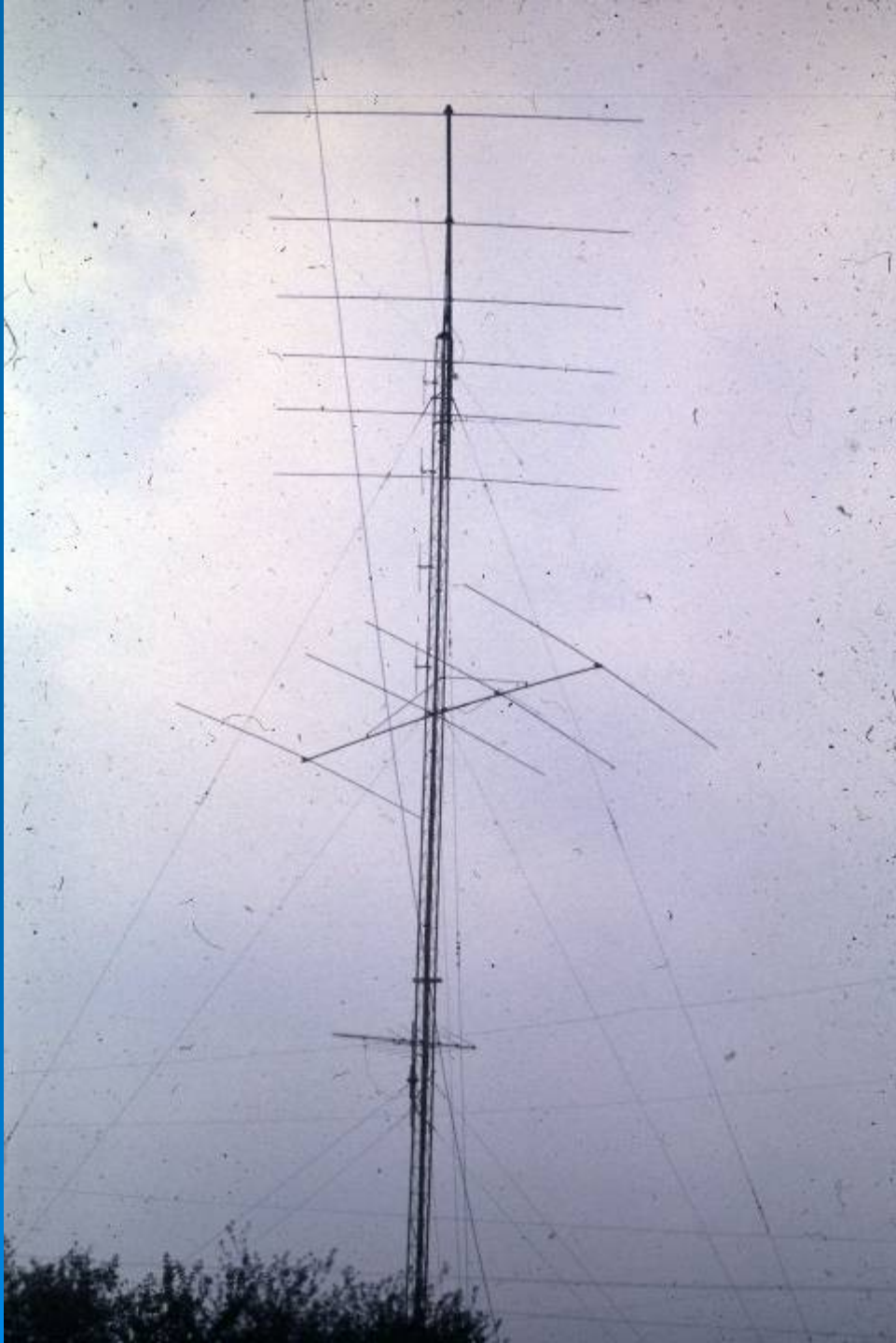
“Sig” Sigismonti

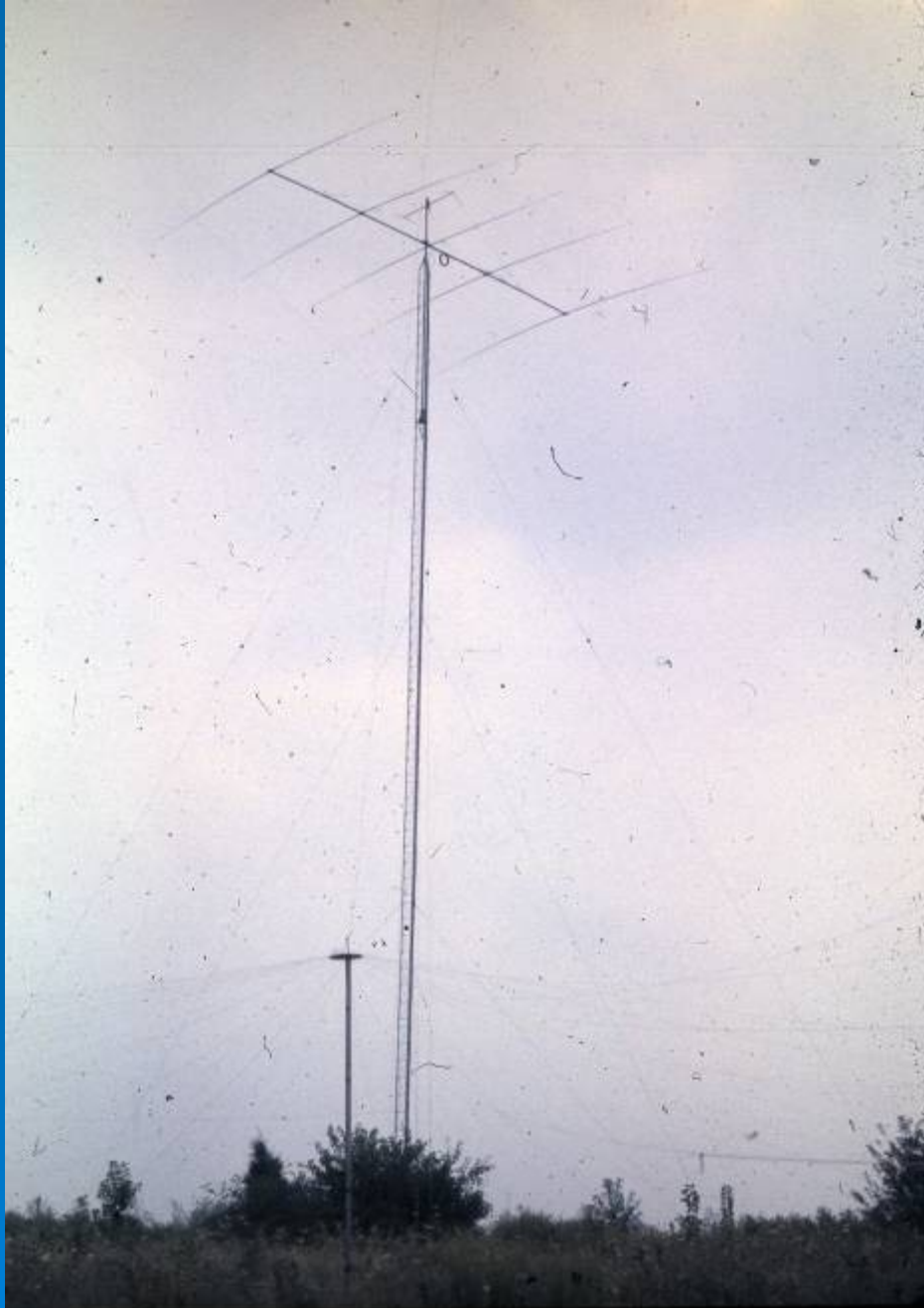




(L – R) W3WJD (N3RS), W3IFG (W3XU), WA3LRO, K3YUA (N3RD)

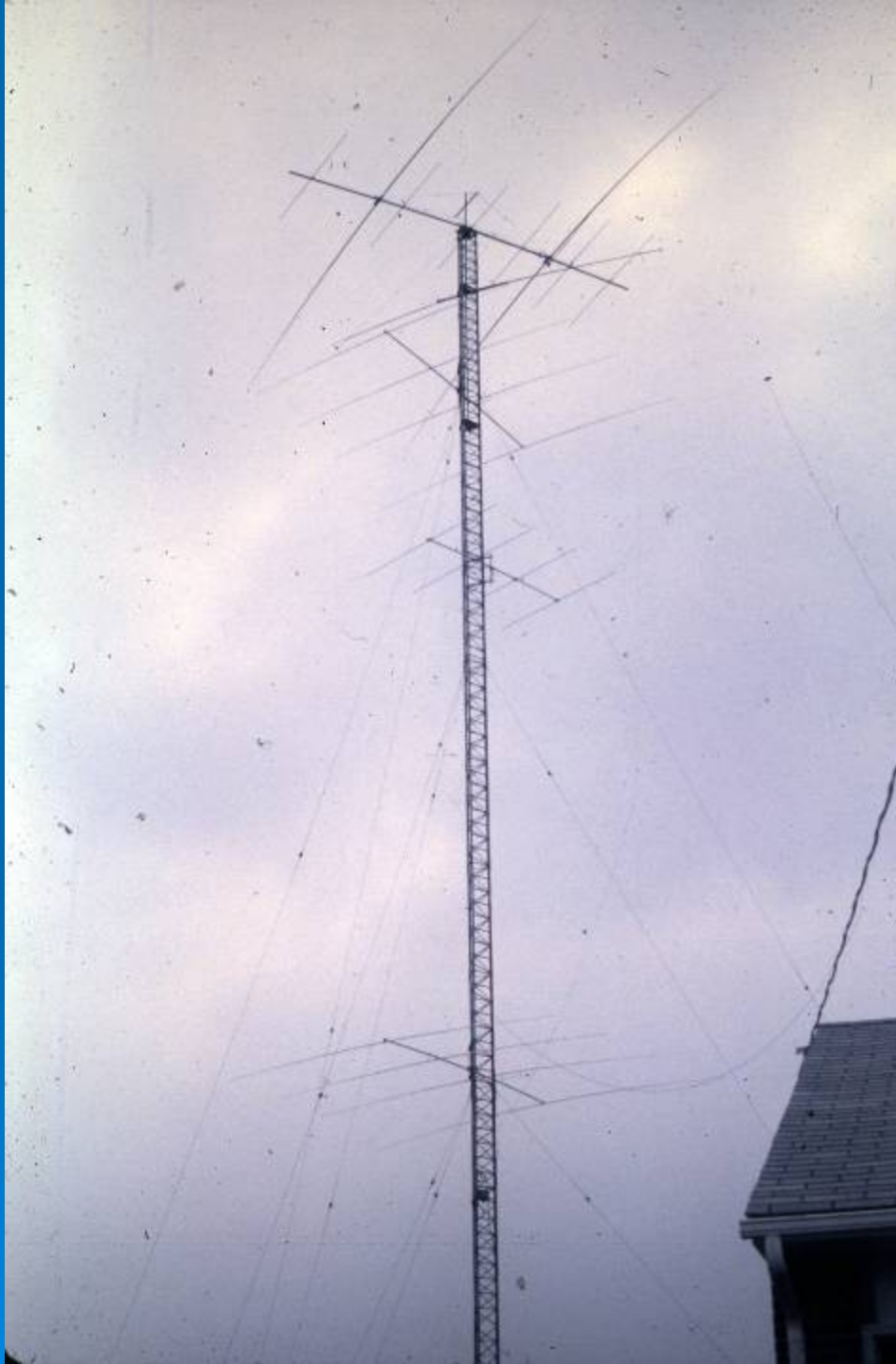
W3WJD





W3WJD

5L 20m



W3WJD

2L 40 and 6L 10

JIM LAWSON

2532 TROY ROAD, SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK 12309 U.S.A.



W 2 P V



(Schenectady County)

A
MEMBER
OF

Murphy's Marauders

A Club of Contest and DX-Minded Amateurs in the Northeastern USA

QSO With	Date	GMT	MHz	RST	MODE
					CW
					SSB

Pse

QSL

Tnx

73

W2PV w/K1AR reaching

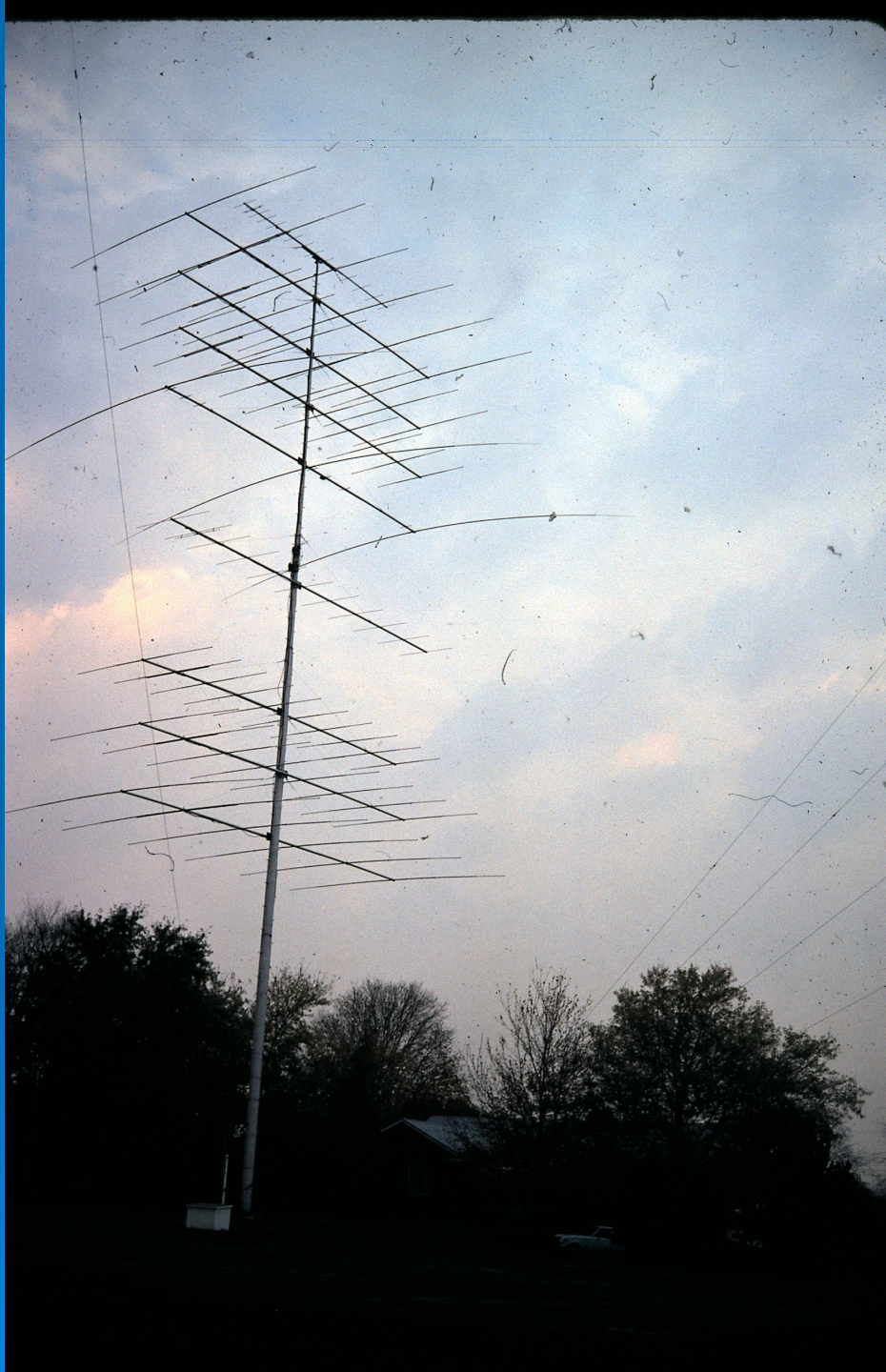


W2PV: K1DG and XA on 15



Wonder what this is for?

W2PV Big Bertha

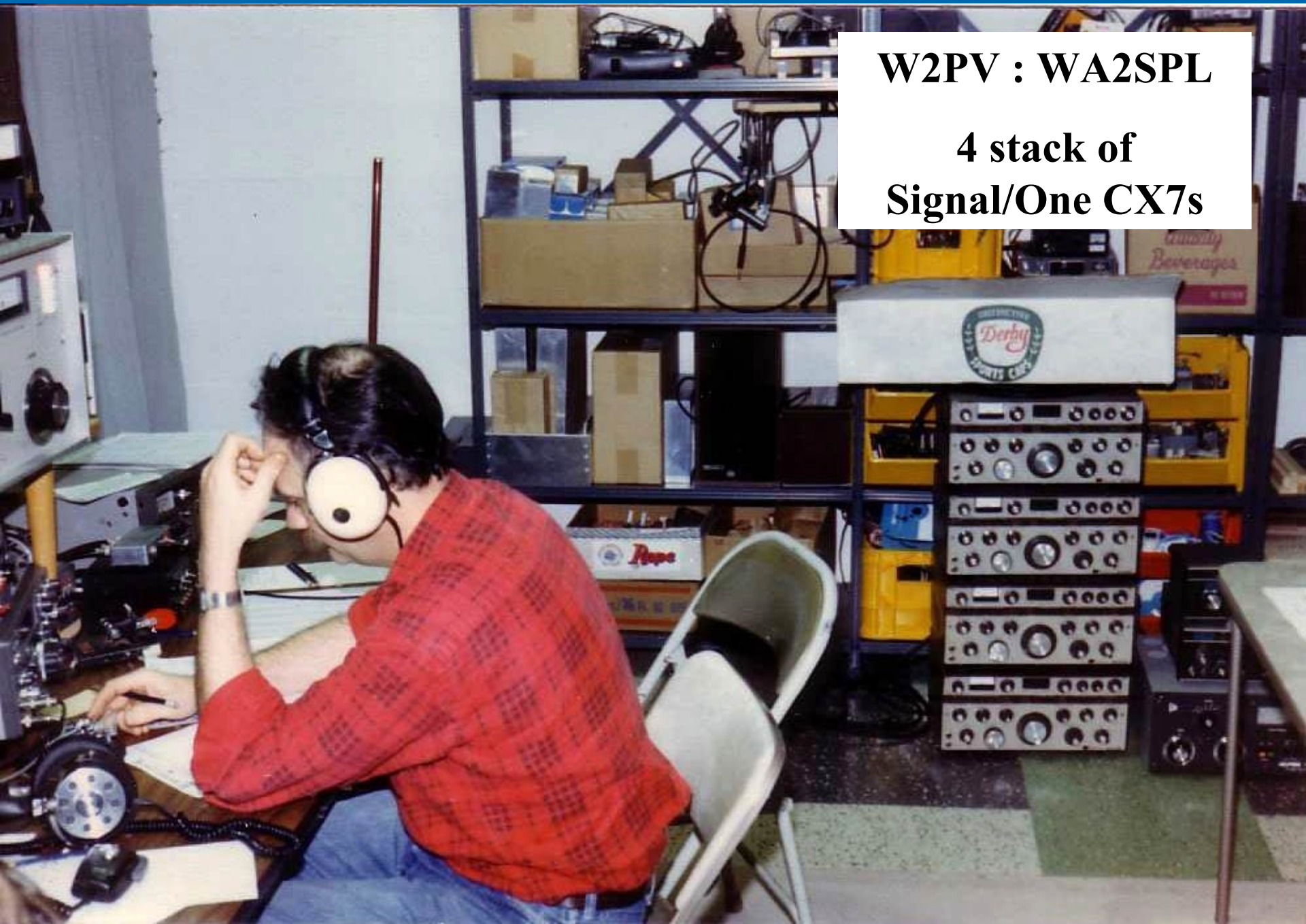


W2PV 3L 40 stack



W2PV : WA2SPL

**4 stack of
Signal/One CX7s**



N5AU

Gordon Fogg





N5AU: WN4KKN (N5KO), K5ZD, W5FO



N5AU: K5ZD having a good time!



N5AU: (L – R) 40, 15, 10



N5AU: it says CALL CQ



N5AU: N5RZ, KN6M, KM5X, N5CR



N5AU: WOW!

NEW YORK

K2G L



Hazard "Buz" Reeves

H. E. Reeves

Tuxedo, N. Y.



**K2GL – Tuxedo Park, NY
aka “the HILL”**

K2GL 1965, Buz



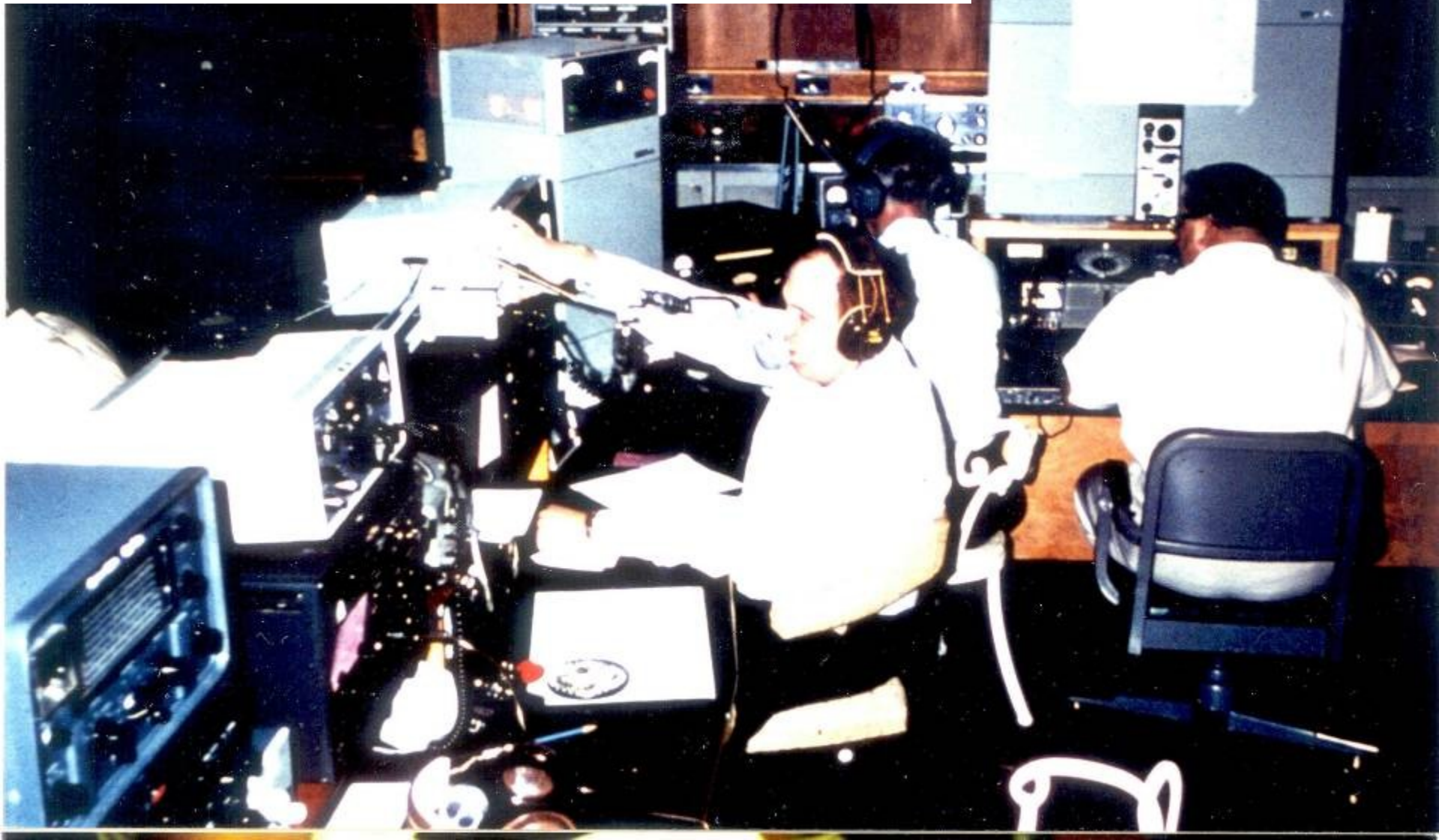
**K2GL 1966
W2IWC+xyl,
K1ZVU, K2UYG**





K2GL: WB2MFX (W9LT, WA7LT) tuning around

K2GL: K2UYG (K2TT – left), unknown op, W2VCZ (on right). Note the HX50 (lower left) used on 160m with 50 watts (really).



Remember this tower for later!



K2GL: K6SSS (L) 1965 & the “small” 40m yagi that fell

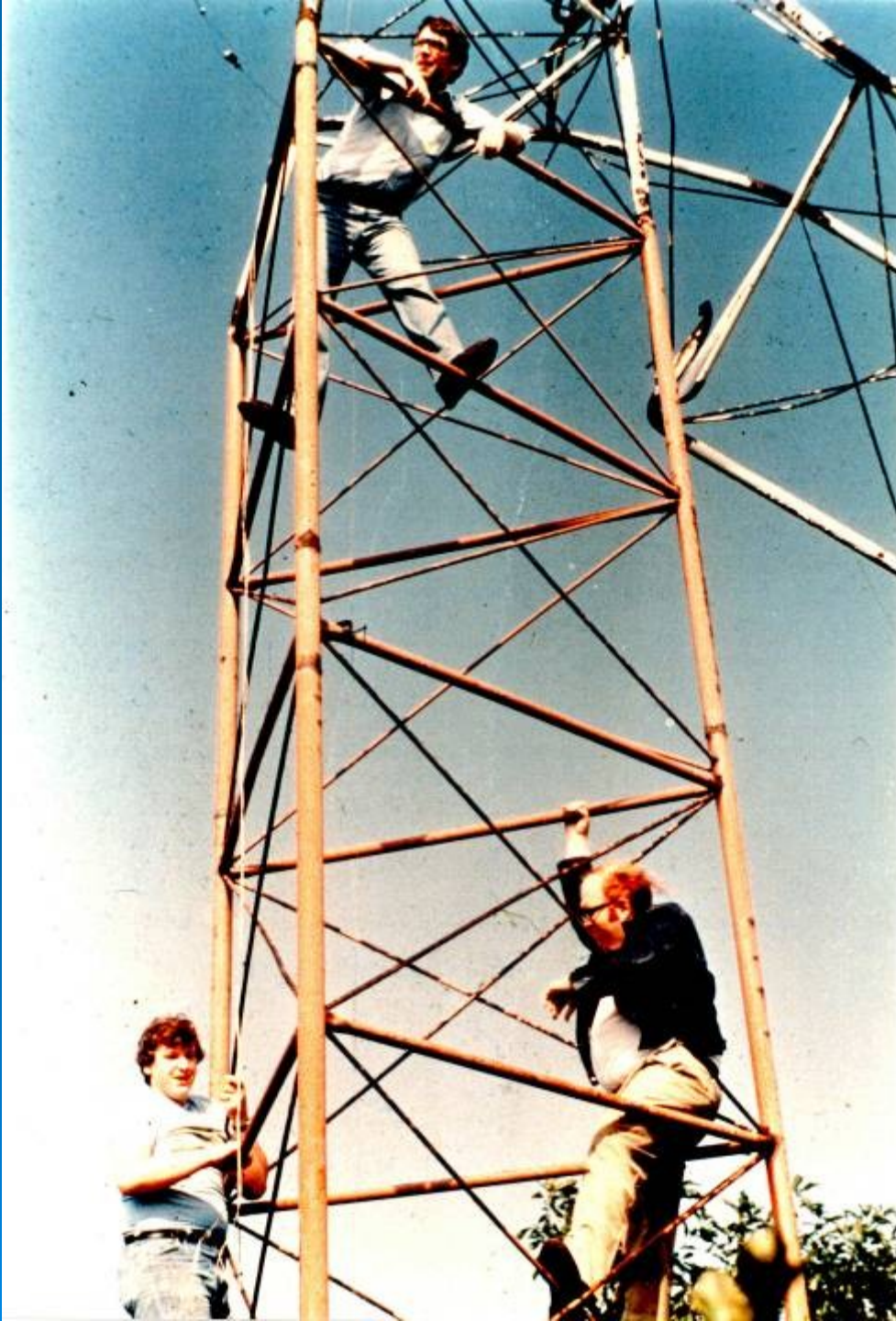
**K2GL late 1960's: 15m
W2DNG (W2HH), W2GLM
(K2GM), and K2KUR (N2AA)**



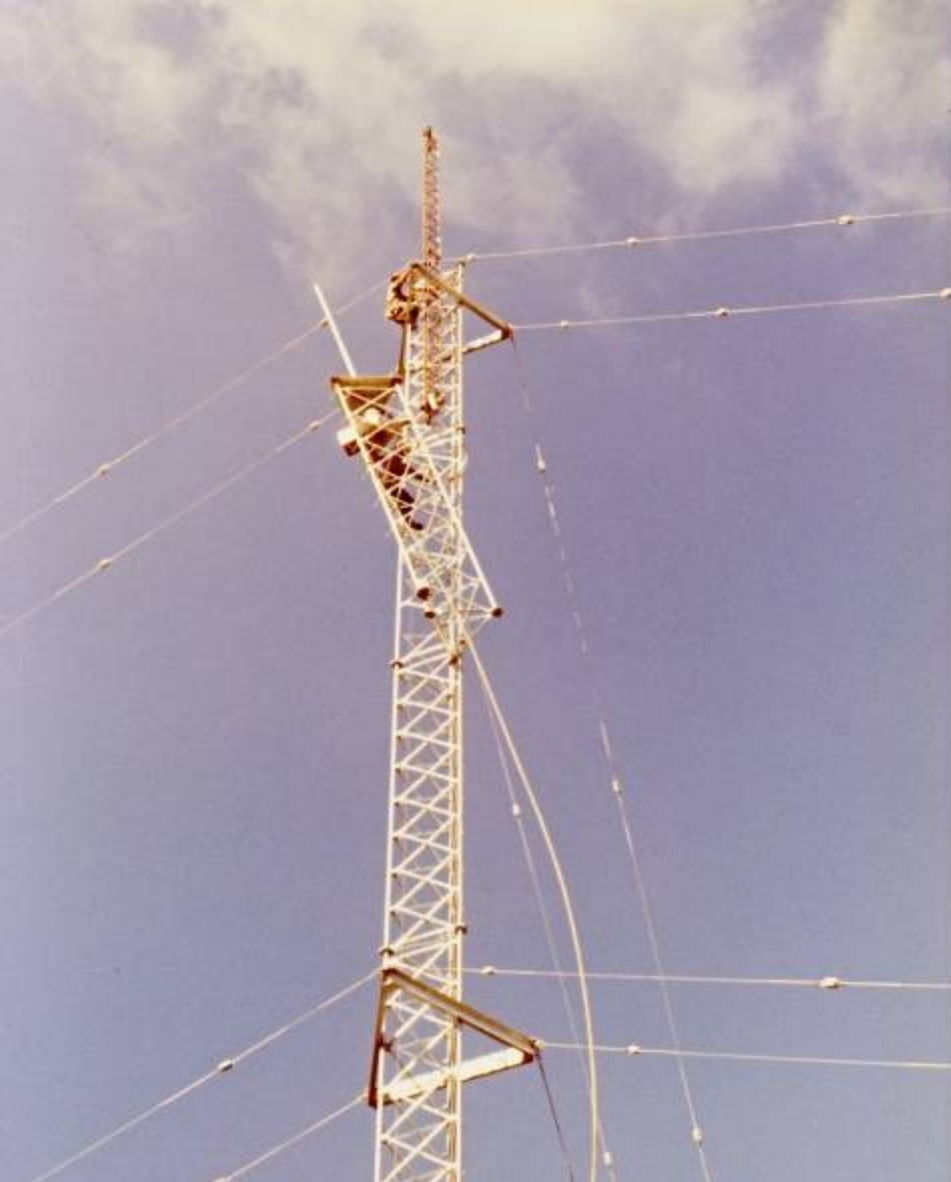
**After the 1969 CQWW season,
a storm came through and
destroyed the K2GL station.
K2GL was QRT until 1975.**

But then the silence ended.



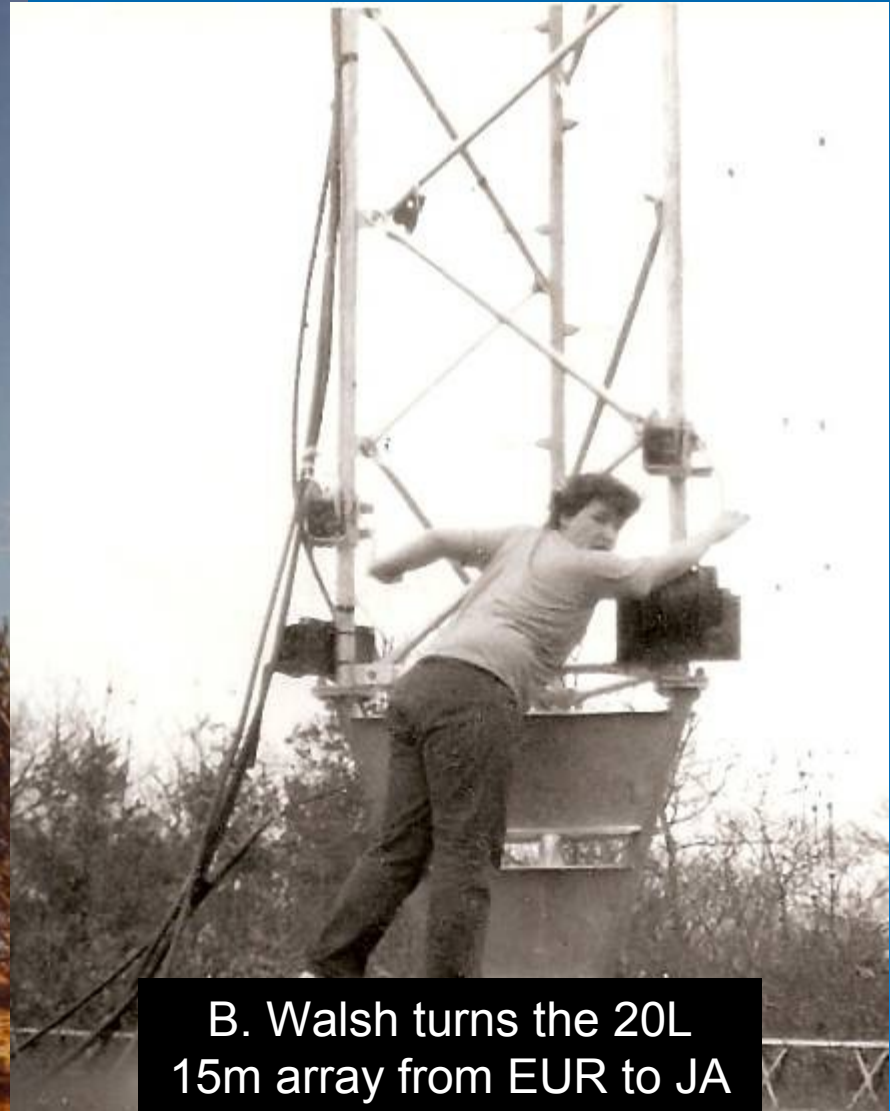


K2GL Here's the tower that I said to remember. It broke. W2GLM (K2GM) on top, K2UYG (K2TT) below with Bobbie Walsh (N2AA's 13 year old kid) hanging on



K2GL 200' Rohn 80 goes up. The gin pole is Rohn 55G

K2GL Loaded Rohn 80

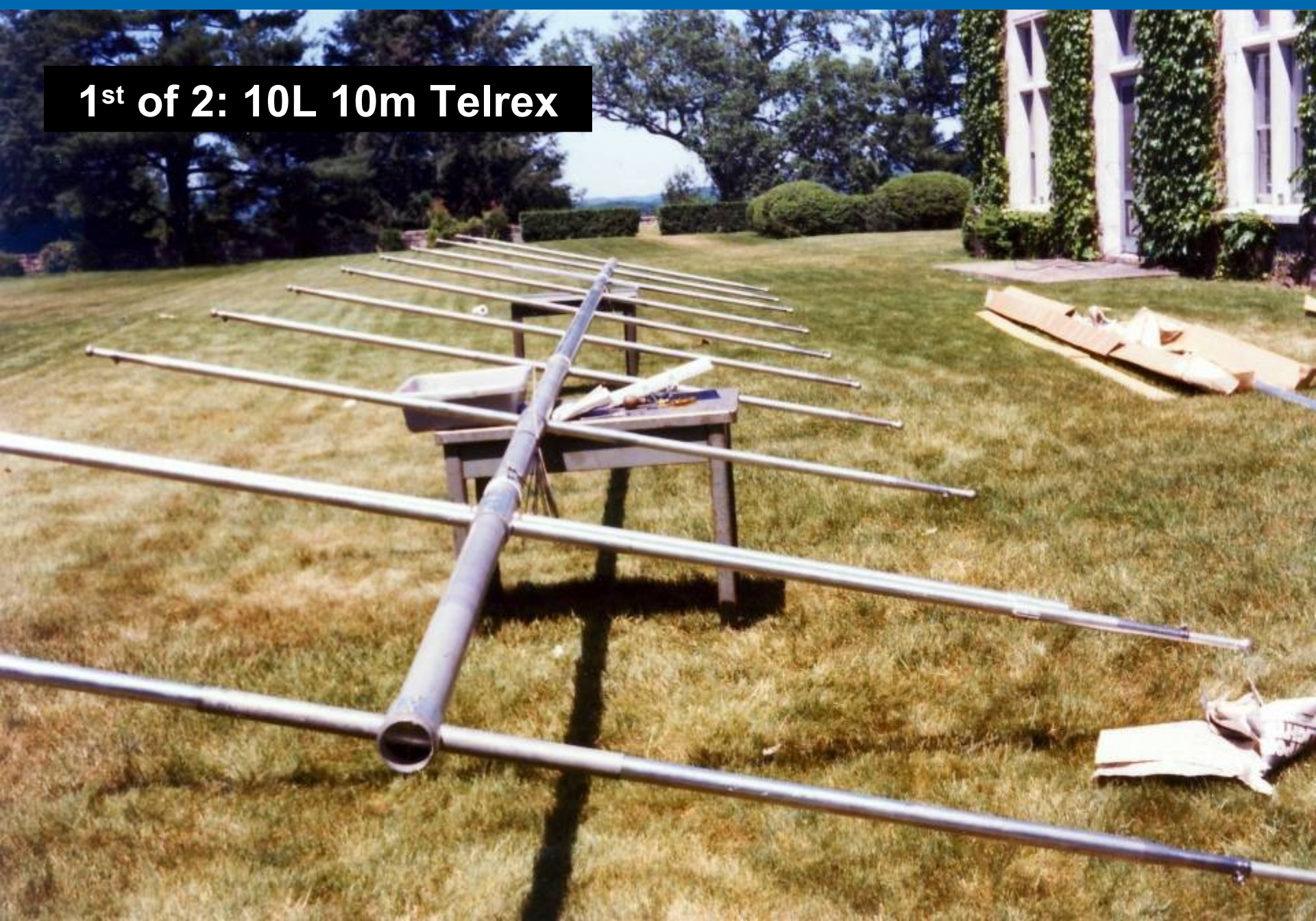


B. Walsh turns the 20L
15m array from EUR to JA

**Putting up the 1st
rotating tower in the
USA – 4 way guying**



1st of 2: 10L 10m Telrex





**K2GL: 10 over
10 on 10m**

Summer of 1977

**AKA “Doug’s
Folly”**

K2GL

**4 stack of 5L on 15
fixed on Africa**





K2GL

**6 over 6 on 20m
Bertha**



K2GL

**Rohn 80 final
configuration:**

3L 80m @ 200'

**4 stack of 6L
Telrex 20's below**

**It made the Bertha
feel like a dipole**

**On the right is
another Rohn 80
with 3 over 3 on 40**



K2GL ~1977: 10m

[L] WB2VYA (KR2Q), K2XR [R]





K2GL 20m

[L-R] N2AA, WB6KIL (K1KI)



K2GL 20m

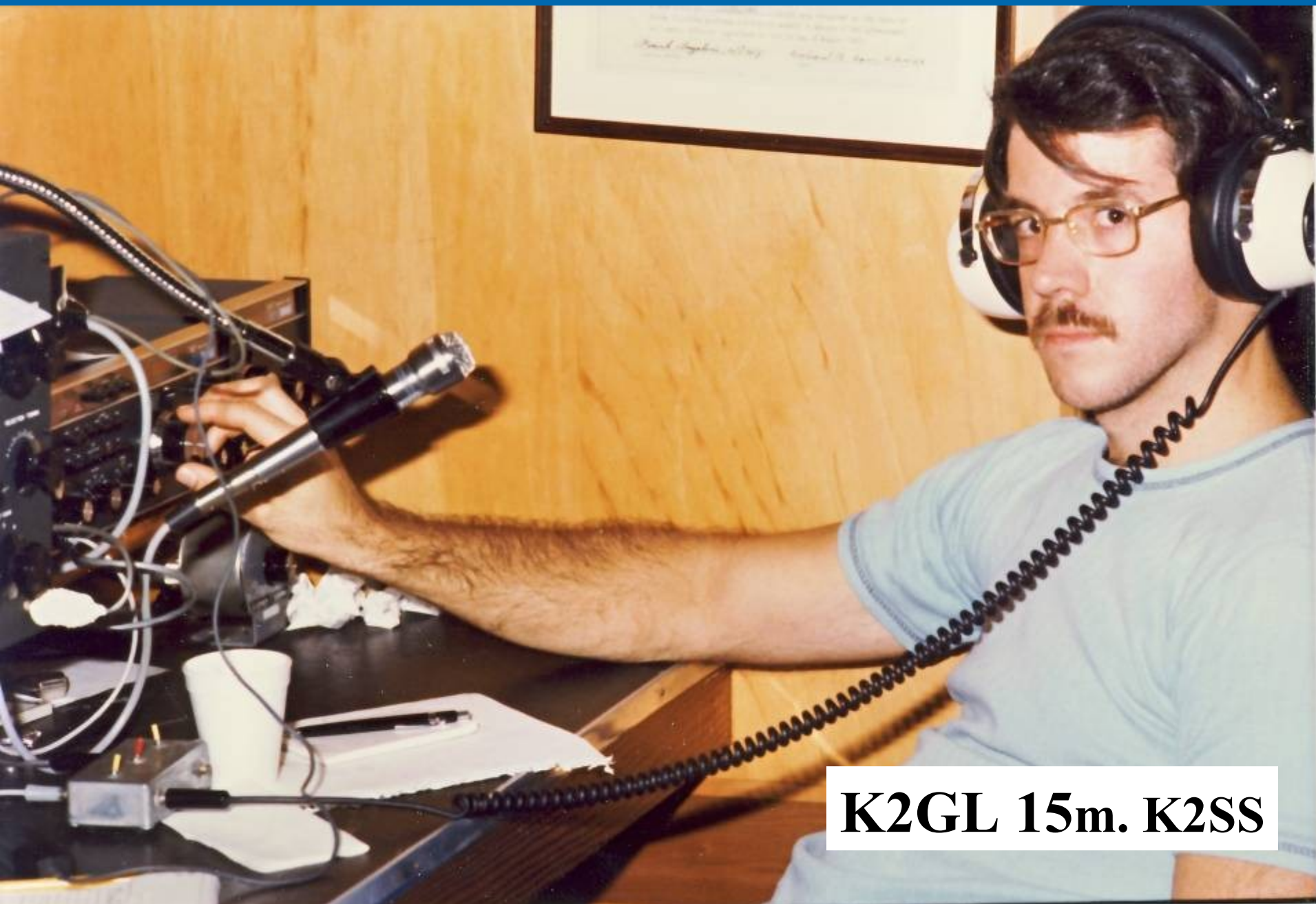
**[L] N2AA, K2TW [R],
K5NA in background**

**K2GL [L-R] KR2Q 40m,
K2NG + K2UR 75m**





**K2GL 40m K2UYG (K2TT). Rigs through the ages:
KWM2, 75A4, HA1 TO Keyer, Curtis memory keyer, Drake R4B,
TR7, Racal RX, Alpha 76PA, 77D, Henry 2K**



K2GL 15m. K2SS



**K2GL WA2OVE (KR2J,
N5NJ, W5OV) using a TS830
+ K2SS (on right) on 15m**



**K2GL: (L-R) K2GM on 40, K3EST
chatting, K2TW on 20, N2AA chatting back**



K2GL Pileup: K2TT, ? , K5NA

The end of an era. K2GL SK 1987

Suppose you could experience the DX Contester's dream. What would it be? Possibly you would like to win the contest from some far-off place, or perhaps field the ultimate super-station in the USA, one where you could work everything on the first call. Many have had one of these dreams. Buzz Reeves, K2GL, not only had the second dream, but he lived it. Buzz put together a super-station whose N2AA operating team utilized it to the fullest in becoming the perennial Multi-Multi winner for the USA. A look at this year's results is a case in point—67 countries on 160; 95 on 80; well over 100 on 40, 20, and 15; and almost 50 on a quiet 10 meters. Not bad for one weekend. Close to 6 band DXCC in 2 days!

But it's the experience on the air with N2AA that convinces one of the real mysticism of K2GL's station. For example, as you tune across the band you're likely to hear a zone 23 station give N2AA an answer to a QRZ, helpless to get in on a piece of that action yourself. Or, how about the long string of answers they would get on a dead or dying band? Then there's the stuff you can't even hear that they

are working. In the end we all shake our heads in amazement at the final score as well.

There's a video tape that tells the story of K2GL's station. It's a real eye-opener, too. An arsenal of big antenna arrays are being built and erected right before your eyes, not to mention the battery of gear and the intensity of the operation that follows. Of course, the commitment it takes to field such a station is incredible—the work, the pain, the time, the space, the expense of it all. Not many could afford to do it, but Buzz could and did. Yet if money were the answer, that would be one thing. But money is not the answer. There's something intangible in what it takes to put a super-station together and keep it together for any length of time. Those who have tried it know what we mean. Just think about the problems in keeping your own station in top condition—the wind, rain, snow, cold, heat, normal wear and tear, the unexpected. Just one rotor can be an incredible thing to keep running, with some subtle problem areas to solve. Multiply your maintenance by 10 or more, and it's clear what kind of a challenge it is to keep a super-station running. Not to mention the challenge of keeping a top-notch operating team motivated year after year.

It is with regret that we report that K2GL died this year, and his super-station passes on along with him. For most of us K2GL served as an example of how some things could be done.

It was actually possible to put that kind of a super-station together; the band was really open at that time; all that DX really was available. In recent years several super-stations have met the same fate—K2GL, W2PV, and W6AM to mention a few. We might all do well to reflect on what those guys really meant to us as DX contesters. "Nothing," you might say. Well, "nothing" is not an honest answer. If you were active at all in the past 10 years, you know that even if you never met any of those three guys, they affected you. And not just the "Yeah, I remember all the times I had to wait for those bruisers in the pile-up" type of effect either. Those super-stations and the operators who manned them provided us all with some real inspiration and drive. They gave us some good, old-fashioned determination, a goal to strive for; they built confidence that it could be done because someone else had done it. To many their example also provided training for all of us in technique. Lastly, their big signals were like magnets that attracted DX, DX that we would otherwise not have worked because they wouldn't even have known the band was open. Yes, Buzz Reeves, K2GL, will be missed.

The All Band Results

Despite generally poor conditions and low sunspots, the 1986 CW Contest produced some truly amazing scores around the world.

* 12041 Walker Pond Rd., Winter Garden, FL 32787

** 3039 Campbell Place, Davis, CA 95616