

When the Naval Research Laboratory was established in 1923, the U.S. Navy simultaneously established the Radio Material School at the same location. Together these two Naval institutions were known as Bellevue, WashDC. Here the promising Navy Radiomen would receive their instructions in radio theory in the morning and spend the afternoon in the laboratory, assisting engineers with the building, testing and operating of new radio equipment.

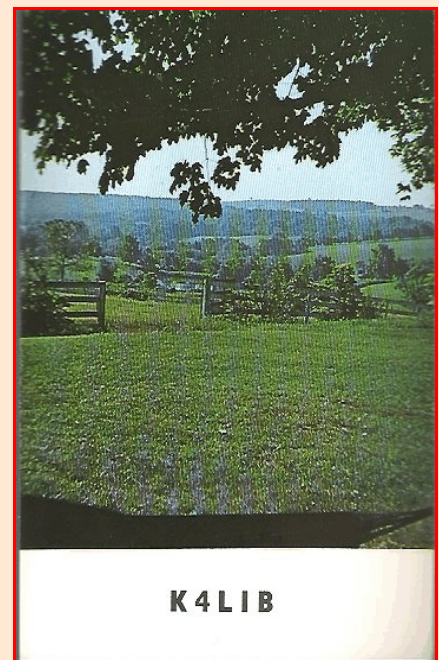
The Coast Guard was also entitled to a couple of slots in each class at Bellevue. For a young radioman to be selected to go to Bellevue was a sure sign he was an outstanding operator and in modern terms he had his career made. Here he would work with the engineers on the newest inventions for the Navy.

For one of the early classes the Coast Guard selected a young “White Hat” by the name of **Arthur Godfrey (K4LIB)** - many remember the “Old Red Head” as its candidate for Bellevue, Godfrey arrived a few days early and reported to the Commander of the Radio Material School.



Since classes would not start for a few days, the Commander suggested Arthur spend his time looking around and getting acquainted with the engineers. He suggested perhaps first making a visit to a small wooden building at the base of one of the 300 foot radio towers. At this “field house,” they were working on a new high powered short-wave transmitter and no doubt they would be willing to show him the set and tell him about its operation.

When Arthur arrived at the field house he was met by a man who was busy sweeping the floor. He had on an old cap and sweater and was smoking a corn cob pipe. In those days the lab had one janitor and his duties were confined to the main buildings, so engineers were expected to keep the field house swept up. When the man finished sweeping he greeted Arthur with “I guess they sent you out to see the new transmitter.” Arthur nodded in agreement.



The man then proceeded to describe the equipment as the newest master-oscillator power amplifier type design using screen grid tubes in the amplifier stages, and incidentally these tubes didn’t require neutralization like the triodes would.;

He also said the oscillator stage ran continuously and the amplifier stage was keyed to avoid “chirp” associated with keyed oscillators. He explained the frequency was maintained to very high accuracy by the use of the new quartz crystals, which were temperature controlled.

The antenna system, he explained, was a phased array suspended between the two towers. Continued on page two.

At the end of the hour, our tutor finished his description and Arthur went back to the Commander's Office. The Commander asked Arthur if they had shown him the new transmitter. Arthur replied; "Yes, I don't know what the heck I am doing here; I just had an hour technical description of the Navy's newest development by a janitor! Heck, he knows more about radio than I ever will!"

The Commander laughed and asked Arthur to describe the janitor to him. Arthur said "He was smoking a corn cob pipe, had on an old cap and a coat-type sweater and was sweeping the floor when I came in."

The commander said "Son, you have just had a lecture from the Navy's Chief Scientist, Dr. A. Hoyt Taylor, not the janitor." Pictured at the key Dr. Albert Hoyt Taylor at NRL radio position.



Note; Dr. Taylor (1879-1961) pioneered in the development of short wave radio communications and is credited with establishing the high standards with many early electronic contributions including radar, which made N.R.L. an outstanding research organization.

Dr. Taylor had many awards including IRE Medal of Honor. Earned his PHD in 1909. Served as head of many college physics labs and finally senior radio scientist at the Naval Lab until his retirement after WW2. He had rank and was a Naval officer in the Second World War.

(Godfrey became a silent key in 1983) From Story Scripted by Howard O. Lorenson W7BI - Be kind to everyone, you just never know who is using the broom. NGM/W3KY QSL via W8JYZ.

W8SU 2009

Ex-NGM Now W3KY

Radio W1RP
 Ur Sigs. Wkd hr at 7:40 P. M.
 July 17, 1929, E S T
 Aud R. 7 Tone AC Qrn No.
 Qrm Yes Qss No Qsss Yes
 Remarks Fix ry fer fbqso es y sp to W1RP OR Dr Card?
 Coast Guard Depot, Curtis Bay, Md. Arthur M. Godfrey 73's
 (Red) Opr.

TRANS: 7ka) MOPA Ckt
 150 Watt 1800 Vlt DC
 RCVR: Shield Grid Type
 1. Step RF
 DX Sum

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