

John Scott Trotter W6BVX *1908-1975* – With the unusual and valued Bob Green Internet site, you get historic facts of the hobby. Recently Bob produced a letter of authorization by the then FCC with major changes in USA operating calls. It was a new era and we had talent and notoriety in our amateur radio ranks. Here was a very popular arranger and bandleader of the day who would be involved in the call letter change over & recognized by his recordings and radio shows.



Trotter during his hey-day was an easy-going mountain of a man. John weighed in at 12 pounds when he was born in Charlotte, NC, the year 1908.

As an adult he weighed nearly 300 pounds. His career began at the

University of North Carolina in 1925 when he became pianist and arranger for a band led by Hal Kemp who was starting out himself in show business.

Trotter's fame came later on when Bing Crosby came calling. He was offered a job to join as Crosby's orchestra leader, Trotter accepted and took over for Jimmy Dorsey on 8 July 1937. Soon Trotter was arranging and conducting for Crosby's Decca recordings as well. Their first Decca session was the up tempo "It's the Natural Thing to Do" recorded in 1937.

C. Carroll chief writer on the Kraft show, recalled Trotter's massive volume and appetite: "Trotter a monolith of a man, stood astride pop and classical music, a colossus and occasionally flew from Hollywood to New Orleans for the weekend for his gourmet tastes with a decent plate of Oysters Rockefeller. (Read our tribute to W5RU proprietor of the famous Antoine's of New Orleans)

Trotter arranged and conducted Bing Crosby for 17 years, during that time several members of his orchestra went on to greater fame, Jerry Colonna, Spike Jones to name a few. John's career moved to TV from 1954 until 1960 arranging and conducting for "The George Gobel Show" who can forget Lonesome George? Pretty perkie Peggy King etc.

John Trotter remained friends with Bing Crosby and often visited the Crosby mansion in San Francisco. Pictured, W6BVX, Ethel Merman and Bing Crosby. Partially scripted community.mccke.edu

