



Major General Loren G. Windom W8GZ 1905-1988 of Reynoldsburg, Ohio a suburb of Columbus. Windom's article on the wire antenna has served two generations and more since his article in QST Sept. 1929. He had wonderful success on 40 Meters at that time with very low power and had the throngs wondering how he was accomplishing the feat!



As a pre-war guardsman Windom then serving 1940-45 commander of the 145th Infantry. Later on the 37th Adjutant General of Ohio in 1959, appointed by Governor.

The Windom antenna (off center fed) has never lost any favor and more recently some German designs have augmented the wire once more in the lime

light. My first inkling of the antenna was as a boy starting out in Trenton NJ (W2RIE) our group used the Windom with success.



The General enjoyed the Ohio Section traffic nets & Dxing. He could be found frequently passing messages *(QTC).

Jim W8GRI sent along the station photo of the General taken in 1957.

W8GRI said, "I got my ticket in 1947, Loren was my neighbor and helped me get started."

Mid Middleton W8UA and W7ZC wrote; Franklin Avenue in Columbus lies in the southeastern part of Columbus Ohio, in 1925 it was a pleasant street of two-story homes and many trees. Walking along the

street and approaching number 1375, any observant person would have had his attention drawn to the slim and towering masts that reared up on the narrow city lot. A path lead around the Windom home and to the building at he rear of the city lot, a two car garage.

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There was an inviting door on the west section. A single-wire antenna feeder dropped down from a flat-top antenna to a glass wall panel, thence into the shack.

Loren G. Windom, owner and operator of 8ZG/8GZ was usually to be found in his ham station, unless he was attending law classes at Ohio State University.

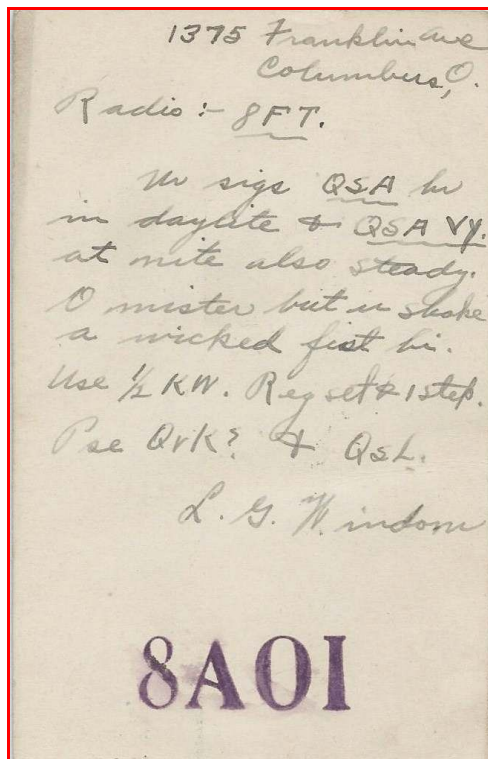
A knock on the door or a whistled CQ would bring a hearty "Come in" to visitors. Sometimes it took a couple of knocks if there were sounds of ham business from inside the shack, as there usually were.

The 1925 shack of Windy's (like so many others) had an atmosphere that was sheer magic; to be there was both exciting and challenging. To those of us who did not have these deluxe facilities, and thus had a much lower order of ham performance, 8GZ represented the ultimate.

There was no doubt about it, the Windom shack was simple, but this simplicity it displayed an air of power and efficiency which made the station outstanding in the world. Middelton said "I first met Windom in 1924 when we both attended the National Guard Encampment at Camp Knox KY. We were noncoms; Windom with the Headquarters Company 37th Division Ohio and I with the 38th Division Signal Company from Indianapolis."

In 1926 it was my privilege to visit 8GZ and when, in 1927, my residence was Columbus, many delightfully exciting hours were spent in the Windom home shack. Another of the memorable aspects of visiting Windy was the welcome received in the shack and in the Windom home. Loren's parents, Forrest and Bertha Windom, were not only hospitable but they were encouraging to Loren

and to any visitor who was a ham. The Windom's always provided appropriate snacks or beverages, regardless of the season, and meals were served to suit the operators. Such genuine hospitality made 8GZ a pleasant place to visit. The aroma of Mrs. Windom's cooking often drew us away from the key and headphones into the kitchen.



As evidence of the reception given to ham radio by the Windom's, I recall one day when Windy was grinding quartz crystals, right on the kitchen table. That's about as tolerant as attitude as you can find! I would like to offer a long delayed tribute to Mr and Mrs Windom, who played such an important part in our early lives and our great hobby and to all the long suffering parents of hams.

Thanks to www.w8jyz.com for the W8GZ Windom card.

Thanks to A. David Middleton W7ZC scripted most of the data from memory. 8AOI Windom card postmarked 1921.