



HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

VALLEY OF THE GIANTS



R. STANLEY COPP

R. Stanley Copp was born in Dayton on May 14th, 1899. As a young boy, he enjoyed playing checkers remotely, by wireless, with his friends, Carl Linweiler,

Walter Rembold and Frank Caswel. These 4 youths then formed the Gem City Radio Association, with Stanley as its president. This group's membership requirements included owning a wireless unit, the ability to send and receive 8 words or more per minute, and the ability to receive the high-powered Arlington, Virginia radio station. Dayton's most powerful radio station at the time was the one owned and operated by Earl Rybolt, who was secretary to John H. Patterson, President of National Cash Register.

Stan (as he was always called) built his own radio station in 1912. His work with a radio association for young boys attracted the attention of Charles F. Kettering, who told the press "From the Amateur standpoint, the wireless offers something so intensely interesting as to make a boy become a student; otherwise, he would waste his time running around on the streets!"

The government was in strict control of all wireless stations, and, as a licensed operator, Stan became an essential part of the WWI military preparedness program. What would be more natural, than for Stan to join the Navy before reaching the recognized enlistment age, in order to best serve his country in the Radio and Submarine Detection Division, during WWI?

Following the end of WWI, Stan became an instructor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Later, he returned to Dayton to accept a position at McCook Field in its' Experimental Laboratory, where he worked on early US Air Force communication equipment. In 1921, he was employed by the Rike-Kumler Company to design and build Dayton's first radio station, WFO,

(stands for "Wireless From Ohio"). The station occupied space in the department store's building, and the tower was erected on its' roof.

In 1929, Stan founded Copp Radio laboratories, which was located, until 1967 on the north side of W. Monument Avenue, just east of current I-75. Copp moved to 123 S. Keowee St., when I-75 construction began. Stan joined the Engineers Club, in 1925. Much of his free time was spent with his wife in a houseboat on the Ohio River, and in traveling on freighters to South America, etc. He was very active in both IEEE and Amateur Radio circles.

Stan was a long-time (59 years) member of the Engineers Club, and served actively on a number of Committees. He was the Club's President, 1959-60, and his mild and pleasant attitude to members, as well as staff, made him a continued source of assistance and advice, until, in August of 1983, he failed to show up at a special dinner, and was found unconscious in his car, in which he had started to the Club, then suffered a stroke. After a year of inactivity, he passed away at age of 85, on August 4, 1984.

Stanley Copp was truly an active and dedicated technical individual, who has done much to make his beloved Dayton area what it is today - The Valley of the Giants!

Our apology, once again, to Harold W. Campbell, for the error in his name in our apology on page 3 of our January issue.
