

Wireless Pioneers, Now Silent.

July 8, 2005.

I was saddened to read in May, 2004, that Byron Goodman, W1DX, had died at age 93. "By" was a wonderfully interesting fellow who contributed greatly to amateur radio. His ARRL obit is at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/05/13/2/> My connections to By were significant, going back to my high school years. If you study the QSL cards on the wall of my shack of that era shown in an earlier photo, you will see By's card. He was my first Connecticut contact in 1956 on the 40M CW band. I later worked him in 1988 on 10M CW, a favorite band of his that he pioneered.

I first met By in person during a business trip to the east coast in 1972. I had attended the IEEE International Electron Devices Meeting in Washington, DC, and then flew up to Newington to visit with Doug DeMaw for a few days. I got to meet many of the folks at ARRL in that visit, plus a few that had, by then, retired from the League. This included By who came over to Doug's house for a memorable evening of discussions about receivers, CW, SSB, QRP, and a number of other related amateur radio things. The photo below shows the three of us. Jean DeMaw (W1CKK) took the shot.



Left to right we have Doug DeMaw (W1FB), myself, and Byron Goodman (W1DX) in a 1972 Photo.

I had first encountered Doug through correspondence about direct conversion receivers. Doug had edited a November 1968 paper that I had written with W7WKR on the subject, and ended up building some designs of his own using different product detectors. Doug stayed with us here in Oregon when he was out this way on a League business trip, allowing a first "eyeball" meeting. He had a clear and significant impact on my life.

We eventually ended up writing a book (SSD) together, as well as one QST article, along with informal chats too numerous to summarize concerning all of amateur radio. These chats occurred mainly during the early to mid 1970s when we exchanged tape recordings. We also had quite a few QSOs on the air, mostly on CW. That was always difficult, for there were many folks all too anxious to break in so they could work Doug.

Doug died of leukemia in September of 1997 at age 71.

Byron's influence on me is not as obvious. Like many, I read some of his early QST articles about SSB. I was a high school student at the time and didn't understand all that I read. Still, it was intriguing. I still regret not

having built a SSB station at that time, just to experience the excitement of the pioneering atmosphere that went with it. By's articles were also a good introduction to some basic modulation ideas, and to the concept that a signal could be viewed in either the time or frequency domains. My copy of the 1954 ARRL compendium "Single Sideband for the Radio Amateur" still sits on my book shelf. However, it was some of Byron's receiver work that I found most exciting. One of his QST papers from the mid 1950s era was titled "What's Wrong with Our Present Receivers?" (QST, p11, January, 1957.) The paper suggested obtaining selectivity as early (with regard to gain) as possible in a receiver. I recall that this paper created quite a stir in our local radio club and formed the basis for at least one homebrew receiver, this by an old friend, Bill Dozer, W7WJR, now SK. Byron used some of this thinking to guide some later receivers that he built and described in QST. This Goodman paper had a significant impact on my own receiver work in following years.

Although both of these fellows are missed, we continue to celebrate their contributions.