



4 3rd Week

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BOOK REVIEWS, CAMERA NEWS

HARRY A. TUMMONDS
W8BAH / N4KDL

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HAM ANTENNA

Pioneer's Call Letters Became a Trademark

By Harry A. Tummonds
(W8BAH)

In the May, 1917, issue of the ARRL magazine QST, which reported the closing of all amateur radio stations, I noted a reprint of the following letter written to the late



HARRY A. TUMMONDS

Hiram Percy Maxim by R. H. G. Mathews (9ZN):
"I have been appointed naval radio censor at Grand Haven and Benton Harbor. I hold rank of radio gunner in the reserve, and am leaving

tomorrow, together with 9ALM, 9OX, 9VY, 9GY, 9NN and more of our long-distance friends who are to serve as radio operators under me."

The call letters, 9ZN, are probably best known to those who took part in the early wireless days, before and after World War I. Previous to having in my possession the 1917 copy of QST, I had located Mathews' address and written to him, asking: "Did the early name of Zenith have a connection with your amateur radio call letters, 9ZN?"

Mathews replied: "The trademark and name Zenith actually did come from my amateur radio station 9ZN as it was first used. The word was

spelled ZN-ITH and applied to our first products, which were for amateur use, including the first CRL Paragon regenerative receiver. When the company grew up and went into broadcast receivers, the name was changed to Zenith.

"As you know I was a naval officer in World War I, after which came the Zenith activities. I left Zenith to become president of the American Radio Broadcasting Corporation, (no connection with the present ABC), and then headed up a sales engineering company in Chicago. Later, I was one of the partners in the Ford, Brown & Mathews Advertising Agency, which handled ac-

counts primarily in the radio field.

"I was called back to active navy duty a year before Pearl Harbor, and was recruiter for the state of Indiana, inspector of recruiting and induction for Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia. Later, I was ordered to the Pacific with duty at Sydney, Australia, Hollandia, New Guinea and was with the British Pacific Fleet when it was based at Manus in the Admiralty Islands.

"After the Navy, I tried hard to stay out of the radio business but was not successful. For awhile, I was back in the advertising business, then to Magnavox, then to Westinghouse, and am now director of

marketing for the Blonder-Tongue Laboratories, Inc., N. J."

'Recruited' Writer

Mathews was one of the first ARRL managers — now called directors — of the original ARRL Central Division, which included Ohio. In 1928, at the ARRL amateur radio convention at Columbus, O., he represented the United States Naval Communications Reserve, and W8BAH was among the many he signed up in the USNCR at that time. Mathews retired three years ago as a Commander, USNR.

Look through any copy of your old QST's and you will always find Matty's station, 9ZN, listed in the 'calls heard columns.'

Reading the Mail

A new amateur radio club paper is born, "The Q-Match,"