

Broughton Memorial a Reality

Despite his advanced years, the death of Henry Primm Broughton, K2AE, on May 26th of this year [1959] came as a distinct shock to the amateur fraternity, and to those who knew him well, his passing brought not only profound sadness but a feeling akin to disbelief. For Henry Broughton was a remarkable man — so remarkable, in fact, that with the passage of years the man himself achieved a state of agelessness, and the long, full life which he so thoroughly lived and enjoyed appeared destined to go on indefinitely.

Known throughout the world as the "Dean of Amateur Radio," Henry was one of the last of radio's early pioneers. One of his greatest contributions to the art was made in 1893 when he and the noted scientist, Nikola Tesla, gave the first public demonstration of wireless in St. Louis. Though not the first to hold an amateur license in this country, he was among the hobby's early devotees and during recent years had the distinction (together with his son, William G. Broughton, W2IR) of being part of the only father-son team to hold membership in the Old Old Timers Club. At the time of his death, he was believed to be the oldest active radio amateur in the world.

Whatever he was to the amateur fraternity at large, Henry was something even more special to SARA. Though some of our younger or newer members may have known him only as a name, others, longer associated with the club, remember vividly the spry, white-haired man whose only outright concession to age was a hearing aid. Ninety-three years old at the time of his death, he regularly attended meetings up to the age of about eighty-eight. He held one of the only two honorary life memberships which the club has ever granted.

SARA was privileged during his lifetime to number Henry as one of its own, and now, through the gracious cooperation of Bill Broughton, is equally privileged to announce the establishment of a Henry Broughton Memorial which will perpetuate his name through the years to come. The Memorial will consist of two parts: an invested fund, the interest from which will be used in such way as the directors of the Association deem most fitting (probably in the form of a periodic award for achievement or for outstanding contributions to amateur radio), and a Broughton Memorial Station, K2AE, to be used on such occasions as field day.

The Broughton Memorial, we are happy to say, is already a reality. A number of contributions have been made to the fund, and additional gifts, in any amount, will be welcomed from SARA members or other sources (remittances, until further notice, should be made payable either to *William G. Broughton*, 1048 Parkwood Boulevard, Schenectady, or to the *Schenectady Amateur Radio Association*, care of Edwin F. Spieth, Treasurer, 2208 Plum Street, Schenectady). Henry's call, K2AE, has already been transferred to SARA under the trusteeship of former President Samuel E. Johnson, Jr., and will be used during our 1960 field day operations. Our old friend is gone from our midst, but SARA is determined that he will never be forgotten.