

Herbert S. Brier 1914-1977 W9EGQ - W9AD A wonderful teacher, writer and engineer. He authored various amateur and electronic columns in the 50's and beyond. Those of us who purchased, Popular Electronics, QST and CQ magazines knew Herb well and the little known fact about him was, being a paraplegic – Herb wrote from bedside in Gary, Indiana.



In the words of W9IXG (KN9RDN) Don Michalski, B.S. in Electrical Eng from Purdue, Assoc. Director of U of Wisc space astronomy Lab in Madison where he designed telescope and instruments since 1966; also works part time engineering electronics for NASA programs. “When I was getting started in ham radio in the 50's at Gary, Ind. I had the fortune to be a good friend of Herb Brier, W9EGQ. He became my mentor, an inspiration to me and hundreds of hams in northern Indiana. I will never forget him nor his contributions to Amateur Radio. I spent most of my time with him at his bedside. His door to the home was always open. Walk in anytime, he'd be up either working a CW net or (most likely the Indiana Phone Net on 3910) building something on a table straddling him, entertaining other hams. Or giving a code test to someone sitting at the end of the bed, or putting together the next article for a monthly magazine. Yes, he was an engineer - self made.

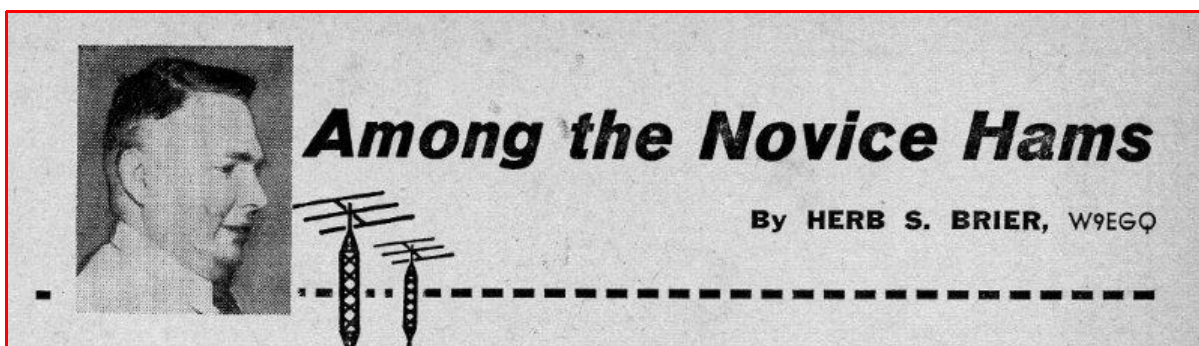
These issues didn't stop Brier from being an active ham and educator. When Herb would venture out to a meeting, he would be taken in an iron lung. You would think the President of the U.S. came to the meeting. He was the center of attention, rightfully so. Hams surrounded his iron lung and you were lucky to get close enough to get a glimpse of him.

Herb S. Brier Award

W9EGQ Continued

When W9EGQ made it out to a ham event, the whole community was buzzing because The Man was making a special trip in an ambulance. You were lucky to get close to his portable bed and say, HI! “ I still recall those days. It was no surprise that the A.R.R.L., has a yearly award dedicated to him.” Excerpted from Smoke Test 1999

Email from Don Michalski May 2005, I’ve never seen anyone like Herb. He was quite the man and inspiration to those who knew him. Even now, I think of him all the time. You are welcome to use my material for your article. Additional items, Herb received W9AD in 1975. Mother Mary L. Nelson Brier expired age 90, 5-14-79; Aug 70 Shortwave column, farewell from W9EGQ Herb’s last column



Obituaries
Herbert Brier

CHESTERTON—Services for Herbert F. Brier, 63, of 409 S. 14th St., who died Saturday at Porter Memorial Hospital, will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at St. Patrick's Catholic Church with the Rev. Lawrence Heeg officiating. Burial will be in Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery, Hobart. Friends may call at White Funeral Home until 9 p.m. today. Rosary will be recited at 7:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

An invalid since the age of seven, he was the author of numerous articles on radio electronics and was amateur radio editor of Popular Electronics Magazine for 17 years. He wrote a magazine column, tutored students and edited professional manuscripts. He maintained industrial electronics at local plants and operated the Gary war emergency radio station during World War II.

He was born Feb. 28, 1914 in LaMont, Ill., a son of Herbert and Mary (Nelson) Brier.

Surviving are his mother; a brother, Thomas of Columbia, Mo.; two sisters, Clair Brier and Mrs. Robert Paulson, both of Chesterton.