

The first high power phone station was build by 8BHM (1924) who used four (4) Telefunken tubes in parallel as self-excited oscillator. Modulation was accomplished by placing a telephone microphone, connected to a 2-wire loop, in the RF circuit!

While all this was going on, Seiler had graduated to a vacuum tube transmitter using a single UV-202 tube. Since there was no electricity in East Bloomfield until 1924, power had to be obtained from a 6-volt car storage battery. A Ford spark coil provided the plate supply to the transmitter which resulted in a peculiar modulated tone. A dynamotor was later used to give a pure DC tone.

Everything changed in 1925. Operation was now on 40 and 80 meters with the more daring trying to find the 20-meter band. One of the first in the country (not county) to experiment on 5 meters (not 6-meters) was Seiler. By 1930, he and others at the WHAM station site were having reliable contacts with one another. Their pioneering is recorded in several early QST articles.

Seiler also pioneered in single-sideband having built the first in the county and one of the first in the state. His present call is W2EB.

The 1930's was the great building era with everyone building transmitters and at first receivers. However, by 1935 most amateurs were purchasing manufactured sets such as National, Hammarlund and Hallicrafters.

A notable event in Ontario County was when WHAM increased its power from 5,000 to 50,000 watts in 1932-33. All operating personnel at the Victor station were licensed radio amateurs with John Long as Chief Engineer. John met an untimely death when the car he was riding in struck the railroad underpass abutment in Pittsford (1939).

The history of amateur radio in the Geneva area can best be told by Cliff Daykin, W2AFE.

73, Bruce Kelley, W2ICE with information
from E. O. Seiler, W2EB.