

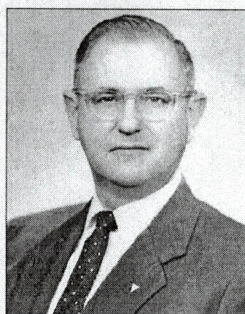
Up Front

Mr. Ambassador

**Jean-Pierre Venembre,
F6BGV (ex 7X0VP)**

Following Algeria's declaration of independence in 1962, I was among a few dozen French amateurs who remained in the country. I was just 19 years old when, on February 15, 1963, I called CQ and was answered by an amateur in Algeria who spoke with an American accent. He said his name was Bill, and he invited me to meet him the following Saturday at the American Embassy in the Colonne Voirol neighborhood of Algiers, where he said he worked.

I assumed that Bill was the embassy's resident radio operator. So, on that Saturday, I went to the American Embassy's main reception desk, and said I had an appointment with Bill. The receptionist smiled broadly and said Bill was expecting me, but as a security measure, I would need to follow two heavily armed Marines to his office.



US Ambassador
William J. Porter.

To a 19-year-old boy, this escort was most impressive. I was led upstairs to a huge set of padded double doors and, to my great surprise, was shown into the vast office of William J. Porter, the American Ambassador to Algeria.

"Hello Jean-Pierre. How are things with you today?" William Porter asked, quickly putting me at ease,

and we went on to have a long chat about Amateur Radio. He told me his home call sign was K1YPE, and he left me with the impression of being an extremely kind, down-to-earth man. It was a meeting I will never forget.

William Porter was later to head the US delegation that signed the peace agreements with North Vietnam in Paris in 1973. He passed away in 1988 at the age of 74. [Our thanks to Steve Wallis, F5VBB/G3YPK, for the translation from the original French.]



Jean-Pierre Venembre,
F6BGV, as 7X0VP in
Algeria in 1964.

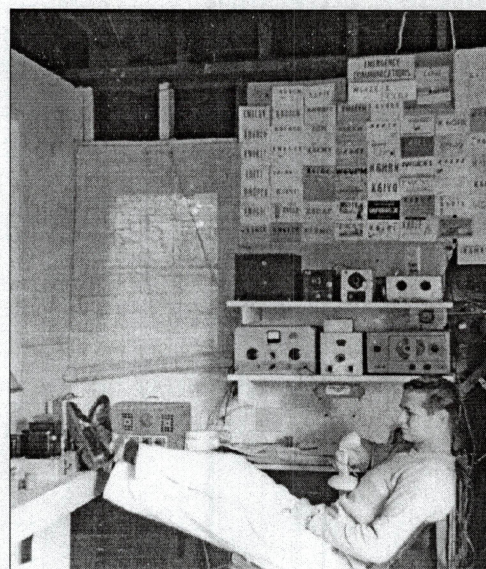
Visions of Young Amateurs in the Late '50s and Early '60s



Gary Tate was KN0BII back in 1960, when he was the proud owner of this Novice station. Today, he is K0GLT.



Andrew Freeman, W0AAA, is shown at his Novice station in 1962, when he was better known as WN0AAD. Recently, he called CQ and was answered by Hayden Bowers, K4TAG, whom he'd worked more than 56 years ago from this same station, when Hayden held the call sign WN4CXZ.



Bruce Lent, now K6HRU, strikes a casual pose at his station in 1957. The photo was taken by the late Larry Smith, WB6JIQ.