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# Editor's Comments

**Leo Meyerson, WØGFQ, SK**

It's with great sadness that I have to report Leo's passing, suddenly the evening of April 13, 2011, at the Eisenhower Hospital in Rancho Mirage, California. This was only 17 days after his 100th birthday party at the QCWA meeting on February 24th, 2011, which Bob Heil writes about in this issue.

With Leo's passing, we especially cherish the WRL logo and memories of the equipment that he produced over the years, and I value every telephone conversation that I had with him. While he was living, the Globe era didn't really seem to be all that long ago. Now, it's passed into the same memory that carries names such as Collins, Hammarlund, Drake, Halligan, Millen, Scott, Meissner, Williamson, and so many other great American radio manufacturers, an era that's now essentially over. By restoring and using all of this equipment, we can keep those memories alive and ready for a new generation to discover and appreciate.

73, Keep Those Filaments Lit! NØDMS



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## LEO's 100!

By Bob Heil, K9EID  
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Leo Meyerson, the man that defined the present day of marketing amateur radio products, and who founded World Radio Labs in Council Bluffs, Iowa, has just celebrated his 100th birthday. Many of today's hams made their first contact on a Globe Scout Hi-Bander or the Globe King 400 – each a product of WRL and Leo Meyerson. It was a given that if you were active in the '50s and '60s you had a picture of Leo in the corner of that famous WRL map that I am sure you, as I, had pinned on your wall. And it was used to mark each of the 48, 49 or 50 states, depending on which year and which map you had on your wall.

The Leo Meyerson chapter of the QCWA in Palm Springs has celebrated each of Leo's birthdays for many years with Leo being the featured entertainment at each of those celebrations. You see, at the age of 15 Leo became an accomplished theatre organist accompanying silent

movies in a Council Bluffs theatre, so it was only natural for him to play the organ for his own birthday celebrations. Leo has always had one request at each of his birthday celebrations. He wanted a naked girl to jump out of his birthday cake. The chapter planners have always "come close" to Leo's request by pulling a Barbie doll out of his birthday cake as he approached number 100.

But this year is special. Leo is 100, so Gene Pentecost and the many organizers in the Leo Meyerson QCWA chapter thought it only appropriate to honor the years of Leo's request. You guessed it—well, close. The young girl had on a teal bikini – after all it was an elderly mixed crowd and everyone certainly enjoyed seeing the biggest smile that has ever been on Leo Meyerson's face.

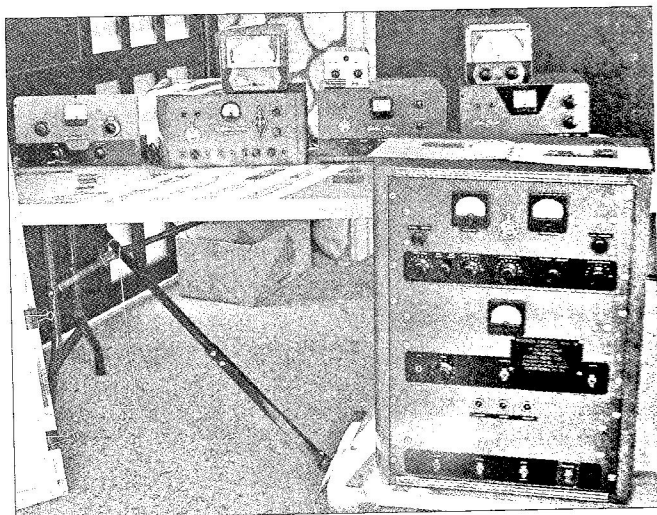


**Leo Meyerson, WØGFQ**

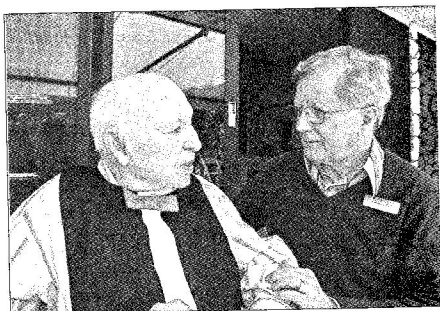
Electric Radio #264



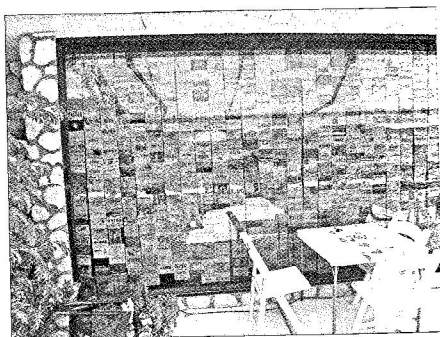
I was very honored to be invited by the chapter to be a small part in this wonderful celebration. Leo and I had never met but have corresponded by written letter. (I am not certain if Leo owns a computer!) I too started my career at the age of 15, playing the Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ at the Fox theatre in St. Louis. We both



**Jim Henderson (K6JAD) of Riverside, CA, provided a display of WRL equipment from his collection. According to Leo, it is the most complete WRL collection any he knows of.**



**Leo with Bob Heil (K9EID)**



**A portion of the 1130 QSL cards Leo received for his birthday were displayed.**

went on to be fascinated by the amateur radio hobby and produce equipment that has made significant changes to the sound and enjoyment of ham radio.

Gene's invitation for Sarah and me to be a part of the celebration was very special. Gene made it even more special. He brought in a keyboard organ so I could have all of Leo's friends accompany a "sing-a-long" Happy Birthday just as the

special lady jumped out of the 4-foot-high birthday cake. It truly was a spectacular sight to see the expression and huge smile on Leo's face.

Many awards were given to Leo at the party and a wonderful lunch was served by the QCWA wives and members. Leo received over 1130 QSL cards wishing him a great 100. Gene thanked all of those that helped plan the party, the Special Event Station, the building and "implementing" of the special birthday cake with the closing remarks of "Leo is worth it."

Leo started it all by building crystals for radio sets used in World War II.

Amateur Radio would not be the same as we know it without the vision of a young Leo Meyerson. We all owe a great deal of gratitude to WØGFQ on his 100th birthday.

Happy 100th Birthday, Leo !

**ER**