

HI Mike,

I knew your Om Bill from the early eighties. A lot of the Oldtimers in India like vu2hi and vu2pkk still recall the big signal from the Saddlebrook. We used to have a daily sked every winter for the past four years. I along with vu2dk used to talk to him everyday, he was just like a family member.

It was a sort of competition between me and vu2dk ZAL who also has a big set-up - Bill found it really exciting to compare both our signals (<http://www.w2onv.wz5q.net> soundbite 9). He used to patiently tape and play back the conversation, which we really enjoyed.

I remember the days when I used to rush home to have the sked. Traffic Jams are very common in Hyderabad with a population of over 5 million. I used to curse my Self when I got stuck in Jam and could not make it for the SKED. The tapes in his archives will just tell you about of the hundreds of enjoyable QSO's we had.

He also sounded in good health - he spoke about so many topics - never spoke about his ill health - a well read man - gentleman to the core. Ham radio is losing so many old timers - He was a stalwart. He was willing to share his experiences with fellow hams- always willing to help new comers. I have seen many hams recall his generosity. He strode the ham bands like a colossus. They were guys who used squat on his favorite frequency 14.178 - he never got perturbed and had no ill will on them.

I used to always tell him that he defied all laws of propagation - He was a beacon - he used to heard for hours together when his fellow hams were hardly heard. He had just a big signal - he just would put all the big stations to shame.

What was the mystery about the big signal? I know it is not just brute power. Bill knew the secret - The better the quality of the signal the further it will take you, it is just not the quantity of power. I did learn a lot from Bill. The tapes will tell the story of how my signal improved from just being heard to having a FM style QSO on 14.178. He had thousands of fans all over the world.

I used to get SWL reports from the thousands who used to closely monitor our daily QSO's. I was planning to visit my sister who lives in NJ a few years back; I did have on the agenda to pay a visit to Studio B. That never materialized.

Just like Studio B going silent - 14.178 Mhz is also silent. When I see the display on my radio going over the 14.178 mhz mark, it reminds me of Big Bill. A gentleman who taught us the hobby is not just about radios. RIP in Big Bill I should thank you on the beautiful site you have put up this wonderful gentleman.

73's
Paddy
Vu2pep