

This month's cover

Every Sunday since about 2001 I have sent a Sunday email letter to a group of friends. My topics have been a great variety and showing my age, perhaps I repeated myself now and then. I will share a combination of a couple of letters with you.

The summer of 1953 I signed a contract to teach a fifth grade in North Bend at the Hillcrest Elementary School. The second year a sixth grade teacher, Ernie Ellis, was hired so now Hillcrest had two male teachers. Ernie lived just two blocks from me, so we shared the three-mile commute to school. Ernie was a ham radio operator, W7WTS; naturally, we discussed ham radio when commuting and when visiting in our homes. Nate Olson, KØOS, radio DJ lived next door to Ernie so I was in a "ham radio environment." Eventually Ernie got me a code oscillator and started me working on my CW. The Novice exam required being able to copy five words per minute. Also, there was a license manual with pages of rules and electronic information that I had to learn. That spring we wrote for my exam – Ernie and Nate administered the CW and written tests. Continued on [Page 8](#)...

Cover photo captions:

(Right) This was just a simple station. A receiver I bought from W7HHQ is on the right side and the "home brew" transmitter is on the left and Steve on my lap. I built the desk. My antenna was something like 120 feet long with coaxial cable feeding it in the middle.

(Top Left) Confirmation of my first contact.

(Bottom Left) As was the custom, I had QSL cards printed. I exchanged QSL cards with most every contact. I had to verify our contact.