

Re: Need Carl & Jerry assistance...

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- *From:* Don Lancaster <don@xxxxxxxxxx>
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Matt J. McCullar wrote:

I always enjoyed John T. Frye's writing, though I wasn't old enough to read it at the same time it was published. I'm in my late 30s and always look for his name in the table of contents of back issues of electronics magazines.

The only advice I can offer is to ask the editors of those old electronics magazines, people who actually corresponded with Frye. (You'd know which ones better than I would, Don.) I do recall asking someone at _Radio-Electronics_ or _Electronics Now_ about John T. Frye and I may still have his letter around here somewhere, just not handy at the moment. He didn't say much more than that Frye was a complete professional when it came to writing, and that he never missed deadlines.

The late Don Stoner sort of "resurrected" the Carl & Jerry stories about 10 or 15 years ago for a short-lived ham radio magazine. He essentially reprinted the stories except changed the characters to be their sons. (I think he did this so he could get away with using the same illustrations.) This magazine (the name of which escapes me) was published by the National Amateur Radio Association, which was based here in Arlington, Texas. I did some writing for this magazine but Don Stoner handled those stories and he lived out of state... I forget exactly where. I only talked to him once, on the phone. [I asked him if he had a copy of the internal schematic for the first OSCAR satellite and he said no, not offhand.]

Ah! Here we are... I've got an issue of _The Amateur Radio Communicator_ right here. This one was published in July/August 1993 and the characters have been named "Dan & Burke." Here's what Don Stoner wrote about this series: "Dan and Burke is based on a storyline created in 1954 by John Frye, W9EGV. The boys are the sons of John's original characters, Carl and Jerry. John Frye is no longer with us. But while he was alive, John was an avid Amateur Radio operator who wrote about young people -- for young people. It's doubtful that anyone could make John's stories more interesting or improve on his words. We'll settle for giving them a 1990s twist."

I don't have all of Frye's stories or articles, but perhaps we can infer a bit about the man himself from them. In particular I enjoyed his "technical

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fiction" stories (as I call them), in which he used a fictional setting and fictional characters to teach a genuine technical principle. It made things fun to learn. The Mad Scientists' Club by Bertrand Brinley is a perfect example of this. Art Margolis (any information on him?) also write tech/fic articles that were a joy to read.

Frye was a ham and sometimes his call sign appeared in his byline, and I remember once looking that up in an old Callbook. (I'm guessing that you've done the same thing to conclude that he lived in Indiana.)

Hope this helps you for a change, Don. Your books and articles have helped me immensely in my career. Thanks!!!

Matt J. McCullar, KJ5BA
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There was another series of columns in Radio and TV news called "Mac's Radio Service" that was more "grownup" and dealt with the more technical and economic issues of radio and tv servicing. Also by John.

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Many thanks,

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