

# The Other Fellow's Station -- W3GV

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F. Dawson Bliley, W3GV, has made his mark in amateur radio twice over. One of the outstanding 2-meter experimenters, and co-holder with W0WGZ of the 2-meter DX record for home stations, he is also president of Bliley Electric Company, manufacturers of quartz crystals and associated equipment, one of the first crystal companies in the field. Dawson received his first amateur radio license, 8AGR, in 1919, going on the air with a spark coil, then a ½ kw spark transmitter.

In 1921 he purchased an Audiotron tube and World War I surplus 50 watter, and opened up on 200 meters. In 1923 with an experimental license, 8XC. he cooperated with the Naval Research Lab, NKF, and W1XAM, to explore the high frequencies to help analyze the propagation properties at various times of the day up to frequencies of 30 mc. This was before the amateur frequencies were laid out in "bands." In 1925 Dawson attempted transcontinental contact with Frank Jones, W6AJF, on 56 mc. but without success. (W6AJF used probably the first parabolic type antenna systems on the amateur bands on this test). In 1926 he became 8GU, the call held until 1936. When western Pennsylvania was shifted into the third call area, W3GV was assigned. In 1930 Dawson started making crystals as a part of the hobby which quickly grew into a business. During World War II, he was radio aide to the Erie City and County Defense Council and established almost 20 active stations throughout Erie County. In 1939, having an opportunity to pick a location for a home, property was purchased on the most desirable high spot in the vicinity of Erie for very high frequency communication. That is now the present location of W3GV. From this spot it is a clear unobstructed jump to the horizon on Lake Erie, approximately 25 miles, in the two directions in which most DX contacts are made, west and northeast.



The station is on the top floor of his home and the roof is so designed that a small part is flat to make it safe to work on. The supporting metal pole of the beam antenna over the roof extends down through the roof to the side of the operating table. The beam is a horizontally polarized affair consisting of three sections stacked one-half wave-1 length apart. Each section consists of four elements, .2 wavelengths apart. A gain of approximately 15' db is achieved. 52-ohm coaxial cable is used throughout the feeder systems. The receiver is an RME I52A converter fed into a Hallicrafters SX43 receiver. The transmitter is a Bliley CCO-2A into an 829B with 350 watts power in the final of a pair of HFCS4 tubes. Phone and i.c.w. only.



Two-meter stations in the Great Lakes area are fairly well scattered geographically and W3GV is able to work between 100 and 150 miles most any evening, in any weather, with 150 to 250 miles being the distances on the occasional better nights. Of course, this year there were several long distance openings when the distance was extended to between 250 to over 600 miles to the west. As he puts it, all DX stations in this part of the country are using horizontal polarization. "Work on 2 seems just like 200 meter spark days all over again."

Not included in the picture and on the opposite side of the radio room is another operating table which is used for low-frequency transmission on 40 and 80 meters. This consists of a NC-2-40 receiver and a Bliley Vari-X oscillator and composite transmitter. The frequency most used is 7299 kc.

Always looking for new horizons in the ultra-high frequencies to conquer W3GV with other stations in the Lake Erie area are now planning to go on 450 mc with superheterodynes, crystal-controlled transmitters, and high-gain horizontal beams from the start. Other hobbies are motion picture photography and sound recordings. The XYL also has an operator's and station license to help the OM. They have four children,

three boys and one girl.

[For More information about F. Dawson Bliley, please visit Chuck Bliley's Website](#)