

## **Guide to the Walter T. Silver Radio Logbooks, 1935-1939, 1953-1979**

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

Walter T. Silver Radio Logbooks, 1935-1939, 1953-1979

**Repository:**

New Hampshire Historical Society  
30 Park Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-228-6688  
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

**Collection Number:**

2000.097

**Author of Finding Aid:**

Mylynda Gill; updated by Korrena Cowing

**Creator:**

Silver, Walter Theo, 1906-1995

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English.

**Extent:**

1 box ; 0.33 linear feet

**Abstract:**

The Walter T. Silver Radio Logbooks consist of eleven radio logbooks kept by Walter Theo Silver (1906-1995) of Boscawen, NH. He operated under W1IOC out of Boscawen and for the year 1955, operated under BC130 when mobile and P49 when in Boscawen. The first two books are for the years 1935 to 1939, and the rest of the collection spans the years 1953 to 1979.

## Access and Use

### **Acquisition Information and Provenance:**

The Walter T. Silver Radio Logbooks were a gift of Wayne Glidden on December 11, 2000.

### **Processing Information:**

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date and finalized by Mylynda Gill in March 2023. The finding aid was written by Mylynda Gill in March 2023 and updated by Korrena Cowing in July 2023. This finding aid follows the standards set-forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

### **Access Restrictions:**

Available for research.

### **Location:**

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

### **Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:**

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

### **Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:**

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Item title, Walter T. Silver Radio Logbooks, 2000.097. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Biographical Information:**

Walter Theo Silver was born on August 22, 1906 in Boscawen, NH, to Fred E. (1871-1945) and Alice Belle (Stone) Silver (1880-1965). His parents divorced on December 23, 1913 and his mother remarried on April 29, 1915 to Miles Standish Roby (1867-1949). Records indicate Walter grew up with his mother and his stepfather, graduating from Concord High School before attending college in Massachusetts to study electronics.

Beginning in 1922, Walter became a Ham radio operator, using the call letters W1IOC. He worked for 15 years as an electrical engineer for Westinghouse, Inc. and for 25 years as a biologist for the New Hampshire State Fish and Game Department. During World War II he was a civil engineer for the U.S. Army Signal Corps, installing radar along the east coast.

Walter Silver married his first wife Helenette Sargent (1903-1992) on July 24, 1930 in Epsom, NH. It is not clear when they divorced, but they are listed as married and living together in the

1950 census. On October 9, 1971, he married his second wife, Linnea Staples Stadig (1913-2000), in Dover, NH. He had one son, Nathan L. Silver (born 1955), and three step-sons, John A., Rolf R., and Calvin L. Staples. Together, Walter and Linnea wrote a history of Boscawen and Webster titled, *From the King's Plantation to Home Town Heritage: Boscawen and Webster, New Hampshire*.

A descendant of Chief Passaconaway, Walter was a member of the New Hampshire Intertribal Native American Council. He also held memberships with the Contoocook Lodge #26 Odd Fellows of Penacook, the New Hampshire Archaeological Society, the New Hampshire Historical Society, and the Boscawen Historical Society.

Walter T. Silver died on December, 16, 1995 at Concord Hospital.

### **Collection Scope and Content Note:**

The Walter T. Silver Radio Logbooks consist of eleven radio logbooks kept by Walter Theo Silver of Boscawen, NH. He operated under W11OC out of Boscawen and for the year 1955, operated under BC130 when mobile and P49 when in Boscawen (folder 4). The first two books are for the years 1935 to 1939, and the rest of the collection spans the years 1953 to 1979.

These logbooks, from the American Radio Relay League of West Hartford, CT, were kept in accordance with the Federal Communications Commission, which required every amateur station owner to keep an accurate log of every transmission. Instruction pages in the front detail the types of information that are required to be kept and what different codes mean in relation to R-S-T reporting (Readability, Signal Strength, and Tone). Such information includes date, time, station called, their R-S-T, time ending, and notes on any data, messages, remarks, etc. Other information noted includes watts input power, frequency, type of emission, and location. Silver also provided some notes throughout on his set up, on experimenting with equipment, and drawings.

Though the majority of entries are brief and may only consist of a name or location, if any remarks are noted at all, some messages are recorded. These include information on the flood of March 19, 1936, when it was reported that all roads north were gone and that Webster lost six bridges. Two pages are dedicated to the Navy Day Message of October 27, 1938 out of Catonsville, MD. On August 31, 1954, a brief note states they are on standby for the incoming hurricane. And a message on May 6, 1973 requests portables for three lost kids ages 2, 3, and 4 years old in Mason; a later message states the children were found three miles from where they were lost.

Some other entries include a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp transmission on June 25, 1937 and a Naval Air Base transmission on January 13, 1954.

While there are a number of local transmissions, Silver received transmissions from many states in the country. These include from Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New

Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

He also received international transmissions from Bermuda, the British West Indies, Canada, England, Guatemala, Holland, and Mexico. The transmissions from Canada include the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan. These lists are not exhaustive.

Date ranges on the folders reflect the dates within the logbooks, not what is recorded on the covers. Many of the books include intermittent dates towards the end or on the back of the log pages, which extend further than the dates identified on the cover.

**Arrangement:**

The materials in this collection are arranged in chronological order based on the first date in the books.

**Contents List**

**Box 1**

Folder 1	Radio logbook, 1935 September 25-1936 November 20
Folder 2	Radio logbook, 1936 November 30-1939 March 12
Folder 3	Radio logbook, 1953 April 4-1962 February 8
Folder 4	Radio logbook, 1955 February 15-1962 February 3
Folder 5	Radio logbook, 1962 January 29-1970 January 18
Folder 6	Radio logbook, 1970 January 19-1971 May 2
Folder 7	Radio logbook, 1971 November 14-1973 April 2
Folder 8	Radio logbook, 1973 April 2-1973 September 4
Folder 9	Radio logbook, 1973 September 6-1974 February 25
Folder 10	Radio logbook, 1974 March 2-1975 January 15
Folder 11	Radio logbook, 1975 January 17-1979 October 9

**Subject Terms**

**People:**

Silver, Walter Theo, 1906-1995

**Organizations:**

American Radio Relay League

**Subjects:**

Amateur radio stations  
Floods  
Radio

**Places:**

Boscawen, NH  
Canada  
New Hampshire  
United States

**Occupations:**

Radio operators

**Related Materials**

Archives

Copy and restoration of the vault town of Boscawen, N.H., 912.778b B748bds

Library

Silver, Walter T. and Linnea S. Silver. *Miscellaneous articles and correspondence on Boscawen history*. 1983-1989. Call number: 977.8b B741s

Silver, Walter Theo and Linnea Stadig Silver. *From the King's Plantation to Home Town Heritage: Boscawen and Webster, New Hampshire*. Portsmouth, N.H.: Peter E. Randall, 1997. Call number: 977.8b B741si