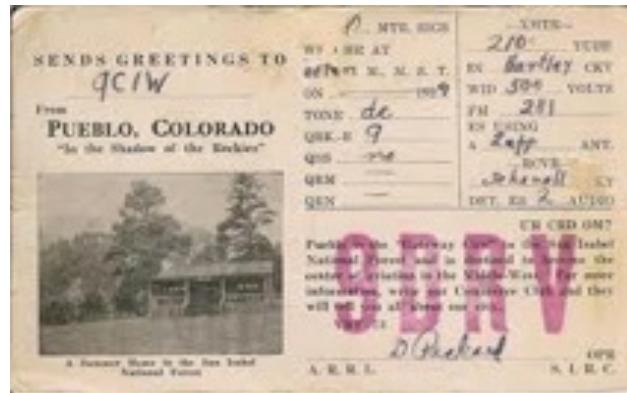


David Packard and Amateur Radio

"Back at Stanford, it was ham radio that helped set my future course. The university had an amateur radio station ..." David Packard, 9DRV, in his book *The HP Way*, cites his youthful education in amateur radio and the role of the club station at Stanford as essential influences on his career.

In a 1995 interview, Packard says, "before I left grade school I was able to operate a fairly sophisticated radio and I carried that amateur radio activity all through high school. Then of course it was very important later on." By the time he was in high school he was "a proficient radio operator," with the license 9DRV in 1928.



At Stanford, Packard spent time at the amateur radio club station and came to the attention of "a new young professor named Fred Terman." This led to an invitation to take, as an undergraduate, Terman's graduate course in radio engineering. "That was the beginning of a series of events that resulted in the establishment of the Hewlett-Packard Company."

When Packard graduated in 1934 in the Depression, he found work in the West was scarce and departed for an engineering job at General Electric in New York. His good friend William Hewlett also graduated at the same time, but could afford to continue his education at M.I.T. and then again at Stanford under Terman.

In 1937, Russell and Sigurd Varian, with Prof. William Hansen, invented the Klystron microwave tube at Stanford. The Sperry Gyroscope Company offered to fund further research in return for patent rights, and paid an additional \$1,000 for a patentable idea that Charles Litton had donated to Stanford. In 1938 Terman used that money to fund Packard's return to Stanford for an advanced degree, as a research associate with Varian and Litton. By then Hewlett had invented his audio oscillator, and in 1939, at Terman's urging, they founded their company.



Packard says, "... the most critical parts were my trip to Palo Alto and my involvement in ham radio. If it hadn't been for those two things, the Hewlett-Packard Company would never have come about."