

## **Tribute to Mr. J.B. Stroud**

I would like to pay a tribute to Mr. J.B. Stroud

In the 1950's he was a merchant and ran a clothing store and I worked next door in my dad's hardware store and was the town's paper boy, carrying the N&O for 8 years. During this period, Mr. Stroud gave me a 1934 Atwater Kent, Model 337, radio from his attic. I think I was about 13 or 14 years old, at the time. I guess this radio was considered to be "old" when he "retired it" to his attic. I held on to this radio ...and it went with me everywhere I moved for the next 50 years....now by that time that was an old radio! Unfortunately, it finally "bit the dust" around 2012....

In 2013, I began collecting antique radios from the 1920's, 1930's, and 1940's, and began searching for this nostalgic memento from my childhood, until I finally found the same 1934 Atwater Kent Model, 337 radio shown below, which had been restored.... Today, I frequently listen to this radio in my office, as it brings back fond memories of growing up in Faison...

The important thing to me about this story and this gift from Mr. Stroud was that Mr. Stroud and this radio had a positive influence on my life and set me on a path of interest in short wave radio communications, amateur "ham" radio, and later with a career, as an electrical engineer. I guess you could say that it helped me to become the person that I am today.

It all began with Mr. Stroud and many other folks like him from "The Faison, N.C. Area..."

The broader message from this story is that there are many positive influencing experiences that a young person can get growing up in a small town, like Faison, that is not possible in a larger city.



**Atwater Kent, Model 337 Radio from 1934**