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145.170/R Troy's FULL SERVICE Repeaters 444.225/R



The Art of Soldering - continued by Alan Winstanley

Anti-static protection: If you're interested in soldering a lot of static-sensitive parts (e.g. CMOS chips or MOSFET transistors), more advanced and expensive soldering iron stations use static- dissipative materials in their construction to ensure that static "ESD safe" (electrostatic discharge proof). The cheapest irons won't necessarily be ESD-safe but never the less will still probably perform perfectly well in most hobby or educational applications, if you take the usual anti-static precautions when handling the components. The tip would need to be well earthed [grounded] in these circumstances.

Bits: it's useful to have a small selection of manufacturer's bits (soldering iron tips) available with different diameters or shapes, which can be changed depending on the type of work in hand. You'll probably find that you become accustomed to, and work best with, a particular shape of tip. Often, tips are iron-coated to preserve their life, or they may be bright-plated instead. Copper tips are seldom seen these days.

Spare parts: it's nice to know that spare parts may be available, so if the element blows, you don't need to replace the entire iron. This is especially so with expensive irons. Check through some of the larger mail-order catalogues.

You will occasionally see gas-powered soldering irons which use butane rather than the mains to operate. They have a catalytic element which, once warmed up, continues to glow hot when gas passes over them. Service engineers use them for working on repairs where there may be no power available, or where a joint is tricky to reach with a normal iron, so they are really for occasional "on the spot" use for quick repairs, rather than for mainstream construction or assembly work. A solder gun is a pistol-shaped iron, typically running at 100W or more, and is completely unsuitable for soldering modern electronic components: they're too hot, heavy and unwieldy for micro-electronics use. Plumbing, maybe..!

Soldering irons are best used along with a heat-resistant bench-type holder, such as the new all-plastic ST6 stand produced by Antex, so that the hot iron can be safely parked in between use. Soldering stations already have this feature, otherwise a separate soldering iron stand is essential, preferably one with a holder for tip-cleaning sponges. Now let's look at how to use soldering irons properly, and how to put things right when a joint goes wrong.

How to solder

Turning to the actual techniques of soldering, firstly it's best to secure the work somehow so that it doesn't move during soldering and affect your accuracy. In the case of a printed circuit board, various holding frames are fairly popular especially with densely populated boards: the idea is to insert all the parts on one side ("stuffing the board"), hold them in place with a special foam pad to prevent them falling out, turn the board over and then snip off the wires with cutters before making the joints. The frame saves an awful lot of turning the board over and over, especially with large boards. Other parts could be held firm in a modeller's small vice, for example.

Solder joints may need to possess some degree of mechanical strength in some cases, especially with wires soldered to, say, potentiometer or switch tags, and this means that the wire should be looped through the tag and secured before solder is applied. The down side is that it is more difficult to de-solder the joint (see later) and remove the wire afterwards, if required. Otherwise, in the case of an ordinary circuit board, components' wires are bent to fit through the board, inserted flush against the board's surface, splayed outwards a little so that the part grips the board, and then soldered.

In my view - opinions vary - it's generally better to snip the surplus wires leads off first, to make the joint more accessible and avoid applying a mechanical shock to the p.c.b. joint. However, in the case of semiconductors, I often tend to leave the snipping until after the joint has been made, since the excess wire will help to sink away some of the heat from the semiconductor junction. Integrated circuits can either be soldered directly into place if you are confident enough, or better, use a dual-in-line socket to prevent heat damage. The chip can then be swapped out if needed. Parts which become hot in operation (e.g. some resistors), are raised above the board slightly to allow air to circulate. Some components, especially large electrolytic capacitors, may require a mounting clip to be screwed down to the board first, otherwise the part may eventually break off due to vibration.

The perfectly soldered joint will be nice and shiny looking, and will prove reliable in service. I would say that cleanliness, temperature, time and adequate solder coverage are the key factors affecting the quality of the joint. A little effort spent now in soldering the perfect joint may save you - or somebody else - a considerable amount of time in troubleshooting a defective joint in the future.

The Basic Principles - to be continued in the February 2002 Tara News

Don't Forget to Tune into the T.A.R.A T.N.T. Trader Net Thursday evenings at 9:00 p.m.on 145.170 Mhz (R)

EVERYDAY PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS' -BASIC SOLDERING GUIDE by Alan Winstanley

* What sort of Iron? *

The Art of Soldering

* How to De-solder *

We hope this guide will help beginners and novices to obtain effective results when soldering electronic components. If you have little or no experience of using a soldering iron, then EPE recommends that you practice your soldering technique on some fresh surplus components and clean stripboard (protoboard), before experimenting with a proper constructional project. This will help you to avoid the risk of disappointment when you start to assemble your first prototypes.

This Basic Soldering Guide is condensed from our fully-illustrated series 'Build Your Own Projects', written by Alan Winstanley and published in Everyday Practical Electronics magazine, from November 1996 to March 1997. (c) Wimborne Publishing Ltd. 1997

The latest text-only version can be obtained by anonymous FTP from <u>ftp://ftp.epemag.wimborne.co.uk/pub/docs/solder.txt</u> A web version is available on <u>http://www.epemag.wimborne.co.uk/solderfaq.htm</u>

Please refer to the Copyright Notice appearing at the end of the text. My special thanks to Alan for his permission to reproduce these articles - Ken KB2KFV

Soldering irons

The first and most important aspect of assembling any electronic project is that of soldering. It takes some practice to make the perfect joint, but, like riding a bicycle, once learned is never forgotten! The idea is simple: to join electrical parts together to form an electrical connection, using a molten mixture of lead and tin (solder). A large range of soldering irons is available. Which one is suitable for you depends on your budget and how serious your interest in electronics is.

Electronics catalogues often include a selection of well-known brands of soldering iron. Excellent British-made ones include the universally popular Antex, Adcola and Litesold makes. Other popular brands include those made by Weller and Ungar. A very basic mains electric soldering iron can cost from under GBP5 [US\$ 8], but expect a reasonable model to be approximately GBP10-12 [US\$ 16 - 20] - though it's possible to spend into three figures on a soldering iron "station" if you're really serious! Check some suppliers'catalogues for some typical types. Certain factors you need to bear in mind include:-

Voltage: most irons run from the mains at 240V (120v- US). However, low voltage types (e.g. 12V or 24V) generally form part of a "soldering station" and are designed to be used with a special controller made by the same manufacturer.

Wattage: Typically, they may have a power rating of between 15-25 watts or so, which is fine for most work. A higher wattage does not mean that the iron runs hotter - it simply means that there is more power in reserve for coping with larger joints. This also depends partly on the design of the "bit" (the tip of the iron). Consider a higher wattage iron simply as being more "unstoppable" when it comes to heavier-duty work, because it won't cool down so quickly.

Temperature Control - the simplest and cheapest types don't have any form of temperature regulation. Simply plug them in and switch them on! Thermal regulation is "designed in" (by physics, not electronics!): they may be described as "thermally balanced" so that they have some degree of temperature "matching" but their output will otherwise not be controlled. Unregulated irons form an ideal general purpose iron for most users, and they generally cope well with printed circuit board soldering and general interwiring. Most of these "miniature" types of iron will be of little use when attempting to solder large joints (e.g. very large terminals or very thick wires) because the component being soldered will "sink" heat away from the tip of the iron, cooling it down too much. (This is where a higher wattage comes in useful.)

A proper temperature-controlled iron will be quite a lot more expensive - retailing at say GBP40 [US\$ 60] or more - and will have some form of built-in thermostatic control, to ensure that the temperature of the bit (the tip of the iron) is maintained at a fixed level (within limits). This is desirable especially during more frequent use, since it helps to ensure that the temperature does not "overshoot" in between times, and also guarantees that the output will be relatively stable. Some irons have a bimetallic strip thermostat built into the handle which gives an audible "click" in use: other types use all-electronic controllers, and some (e.g. the Antex TCS) may be adjustable using a screwdriver.

Yet more expensive still, soldering stations cost from GBP70 [US\$ 115] upwards (the iron may be sold separately, so you can pick the type you prefer), and consist of a complete bench-top control unit into which a special low-voltage soldering iron is plugged. Some versions might have a built-in digital temperature readout, and will have a control knob to enable you to vary the setting. The temperature could be boosted for soldering larger joints, for example, or for using higher melting-point solders (e.g. silver solder). These are designed for the most discerning users, or for continuous production line/ professional use. The best stations have irons which are well balanced, with comfort-grip handles which remain cool all day. A thermocouple will be built into the tip or shaft, which monitors temperature.





















Skip and I had a lot of laughs and good times together. He touched my heart in a special way. I loved him like a brother and I will miss him, but I will never forget him.

Ken Davis- KB2KFV

W1AW 2002 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time/ Mode/ Days:

1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CW-slow Wed, Fri 1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CW-fast Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - 10 AM to 12 PM EST 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - 1 PM to 3:45 PM EST (Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST)

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

| 2100 UTC (4 PM EST) CW-fast | Mon, Wed, Fri |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 2100 " " CW-slow | Tue, Thu |
| 2200 " (5 PM EST) CW-b | Daily |
| 2300 " (6 PM EST) RTTY | Daily |
| 0000 " (7 PM EST) CW-slow | Mon, Wed, Fri |
| 0000 " " CW-fast | Tue, Thu |
| 0100 " (8 PM EST) CW-b | Daily |
| 0200 " (9 PM EST) RTTY | Daily |
| 0245 " (9:45 PM EST) VOICE | Daily |
| 0300 " (10 PM EST) CW-fast | Mon, Wed, Fri |
| 0300 " " CW-slow | Tue, Thu |
| 0400 " (11 PM EST) CW-b | Daily |
| | |

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.818 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 147.555 RTTY: - 3.625 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555 VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555

Notes:

CW-s = Code practice (slow) = 5 - 7.5 - 10 - 13 - 15 WPM CW-f = Code practice (fast) = 35 - 30 - 25 - 20 - 15 - 13 - 10 WPM CW-b = Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 104 in the January 2002 issue of QST or on the web at <u>http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html</u>

Proud Grandparents

Dave and Carol Edwards,W2GBO & WB2EBX were happy to announce that their daughter got her Christmas present right on time! She was due December 21. I guess the folks at "The Baby Factory" have the calculations for delivery date figured out real good! Dave said.

We welcome her little girl, Madison Marion Rifenberick who arrived around 10 PM Friday evening at Bellevue Hospital in Niskayuna. 8 pounds, 50z; 19-1/2 In.

New 6 Meter Group

There is a new 6 Meter group which began on November 25, 2001. It's name is the 6 Meter Sked DX Group/Mailing List. The main objective of the group is to help facilitate contacts, list equipment to buy, sell or trade. Provide a forum to ask questions about 6 meter equipment and operations and promote good will among 6 Meter operators, worldwide.

The Group can be found at

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/6meter/ or if you wish to join the mailing list you can send a blank e mail to 6 metersubscribe@yahoogroups.com. 73 and Good DXing

DIGITAL NEWS

PODXS DPX The NEW Digital Prefix Award from Ernie Mills, WM2U Sponsored by the Penn-Ohio DX Society (PODXS), this program offers an award to the Amateur

Radio *Digital* operator, and complements the CQ WPX perfectly. This *forward thinking* award has many of the familiar rules but offers many, many more Basic Certificates and Endorsements. In fact if you feel that your digital efforts qualify for a non-listed digital mode, please request that we review your information. We also allow eQSL's as a valid form of QSO confirmation.

For complete information on these awards take a look at *http://www.qsl.net/wm2u/podxs_dpx.html* or *http://hometown.aol.com/n3dqu/podxs_dpx.htm*

We are listed in the *K1BV Awards Directory*. see *http://www.dxawards.com/book.html* Come and see us eh! de Ernie WM2U, PODXS DPX Award Manager.

"HOLLINGSWORTH ERA" OF AMATEUR ENFORCEMENT ENTERS FOURTH YEAR

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, this week praised the overall level of Amateur Radio compliance with FCC rules as "outstanding." His assessment came as the current era of Amateur Radio enforcement under his guidance and direction enters its fourth year.

"The vast majority of operators are proud of the service and want to contribute to it and want to pass on the great legacy that it has become," Hollingsworth said in a statement marking the occasion. "May it last a thousand years!"

An amateur for 41 years, Hollingsworth also declared his pride in the Amateur Service. "I saw the energy and compassion and excellent operating of amateurs at the Pentagon and World Trade Center after September 11," he said. "I've seen and heard it at the National Hurricane Center in Miami--home of W4EHW--and in countless meetings with individual amateurs and at amateur events all over the United States."

Hollingsworth said US hams "have a lot to be proud of," and he urged them to "participate in Amateur Radio with enthusiasm, celebrate it, enjoy it and share it, because you have made it an incredible national resource and the only truly fail-safe communication service on the planet Earth."

Hollingsworth again reminded amateurs to be acutely aware of the image they present to anyone who might be listening. "I hear far too many operators who don't realize what a bad reflection they are on American amateur operators," he said.

Now nationally recognized and respected within the amateur community, Hollingsworth was relatively unknown outside the FCC bureaucracy when he volunteered to take on the challenge of amateur enforcement in 1998. For several years prior, the FCC had all but abandoned amateur enforcement. Hollingsworth noted that it was not until another plea went out from the ARRL to the FCC in the summer of 1998 that the FCC responded. The agency transferred Amateur Service enforcement from the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau to what was then called the Compliance and Information Bureau. The FCC subsequently created the Enforcement Bureau to handle agency-wide enforcement activities.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, lauded Hollingsworth as "a great gift" to the amateur community and expressed appreciation on behalf of the League for what he's been able to accomplish during his tenure. "Over the past three years, Mr. Hollingsworth has breathed new validity and vitality into the enforcement of Amateur Radio," Haynie said. "His strong support for the amateur community as a whole and the ARRL's initiatives, has been unwavering."

Haynie said that Hollingsworth--guided by his passions for Amateur Radio and for the law--"has given hams across the nation reason to pause, think, promote and yes, even laugh about ourselves."

Hollingsworth's statement is available on the ARRL Web site <u>http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2001/12/12/1/</u>

Thank You Mr. FCC for NOTHING

FCC Denial Leaves League Eyeing Congressional Action on CC&Rs

The FCC has affirmed a November 2000 staff-level decision that declined to include privately imposed deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs--under the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1. That policy requires municipalities to "reasonably accommodate" amateur communication in antenna-related zoning and regulation. The ARRL last year appealed to have the full FCC review the earlier denial. The Commission turned down the League's Application for Review December 18 in a Memorandum Opinion and Order released December 26.

"There has not been a sufficient showing that CC&Rs prevent Amateur Radio operators from pursuing the basis and purpose of the Amateur Service," the FCC said. The Commission said hams still can get on the air without installing residential antenna systems by operating away from home, while mobile or at club stations.

The FCC said it recognizes the importance of preserving the integrity of contractual relations that CC&Rs represent. But it asserted that the ARRL had "submitted no specific evidence that would persuade us to abandon our long-standing policy of excluding CC&Rs in private covenants from our ruling in PRB-1."

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, expressed disappointment in the Commission's ruling. "The biggest problem Amateur Radio operators face today is being able to put up an antenna," Haynie said. "Our only approach now is to get a bill into Congress." The FCC itself even hinted that Congressional action ought to be a next logical step. "However, should Congress see fit to enact a statutory directive mandating the expansion of our reasonable accommodation policy," the FCC declared in its MO&O, "the Commission would expeditiously act to fulfill its obligation thereunder."

In its Application for Review last year, the ARRL maintained that the FCC should have the same interest in the effective performance of an Amateur Radio station and in the promotion of amateur communications regardless of whether the licensee's property is publicly regulated or privately governed by homeowners' associations and their architectural control committees.

A copy of the FCC's Memorandum Opinion and Order in RM-8763 is available on the FCC Web site, <u>http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-01-372A1.doc</u>

NEW YORK HAM WINS ANTENNA LAWSUIT

In one of the most favorable PRB-1 court rulings in years, a New York amateur has won a three-year battle to erect a tower on his property. The US District Court for the Northern District of New York has ordered the Saratoga Springs Planning Board to grant Randall J. Palmer, N2NVH, a special use permit for a 44-foot antenna support structure. PRB-1 is the limited federal pre-emption that requires localities to reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio communication.

In a 20-page decision issued December 3, US District Judge Norman A. Mordue found that "the planning board did not attempt to negotiate a satisfactory compromise" with Palmer. As a result, Mordue, said, the town failed to reasonably accommodate Palmer's amateur communication needs pursuant to PRB-1. The judge found that "the planning board engaged Palmer in a strictly one-sided negotiation consisting of inflexible demands and the construction of hoop after hoop for Palmer to jump through."

Mordue found that the record "clearly proves" the planning board made no attempt to negotiate a satisfactory compromise. On the other hand, the judge asserted, Palmer complied with many of the planning board's numerous requests and even made concessions on his own initiative. Mordue said that since the town already understood its obligations under PRB-1, he was directing the planning board to immediately grant Palmer's application. It's not known if the town will appeal.

ARRL Volunteer Counsel Albert J. Millus, WB2EQR, represented Palmer through much of the battle. "I'm a ham radio operator myself, and these are important cases for hams," Millus told the Associated Press December 4.

Saratoga Springs limits all antennas to 20 feet in height and allows exceptions only upon issuance of a special use permit. Palmer applied for one in 1999 to erect a modest antenna system of less than 50 feet in height, but the town continued to deny his permit application.

After the last rejection earlier this year, Palmer went forward with his lawsuit, filed after the town's initial denial of his application. A bench trial was held October 30. Mordue's decision relied on an analysis of prior antenna cases, including the landmark Pentel v. Mendota Heights case--issued by the Eighth Circuit in 1994.

ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, continues to spearhead a legislative effort to codify PRB-1 into New York state law. Fallon said he hoped the decision in the Palmer case--coupled with the goodwill generated by amateur response to the September 11 World Trade Center attacks--would prompt the New York Assembly to act favorably on the PRB-1 bill when the legislature goes back into session December 17.

ARRL Study Panel Recommends Eliminating Novice Bands

The ARRL Novice Spectrum Study Committee has recommended that the ARRL petition the FCC to eliminate the CW novice subbands and allow Novice and Technician with element 1 credit licensees to operate CW on the general 80, 40, 15 and 10 meter cw allocations at up to 200 W output. The panel suggested recognizing portions of those bands for "slow CW operation" to aid new CW operators in enhancing their skills. The committee recommended refarming the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands in part to allow expansion of the phone allocations on80, 40 and 15 meters.

The committee's complete report will be presented to the ARRL Board of Directors for consideration during its annual meeting in January. The committee's determinations were based on opinions expressed by 4744 respondents to an ARRL Novice Spectrum Study survey launched in June. Those expressing their opinions included ARRL members and nonmembers. Nearly 61% of those responding were Extra class licensees.

The committee, chaired by ARRL International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, has been studying the status and usage of the Novice/Technician Plus HF bands with an eye toward determining appropriate changes in usage of that spectrum now that the FCC no longer issues new Novice licenses. A guiding principle was that no class of licensees would lose any privileges as a result of refarming. The committee recommended expanding the phone bands in accordance with the most popular of the survey choices offered-three for 80, 40 and 15 meters and two for 10 meters. Here's a summary:

On 80 meters, nearly 40% of those responding opted for a plan that would extend the US phone allocation to 3700 kHz, with Extras permitted on the entire subband, and with Advanced and General class subbands starting at 3725 and 3800 kHz respectively.

On 40 meters, nearly half of the respondents picked the plan to extend the primary US phone allocation to 7125 kHz, with Extra and Advanced licensees allowed on the entire segment and Generals from 7175 kHz and up. (The committee's report suggested no changes to the special allocations for amateurs on certain Pacific or Caribbean Islands and in Alaska.)

On 15 meters, nearly half of those responding wanted the US phone allocation extended to 21175 kHz, with Extras permitted on the entire allocation, and Advanced and General subbands beginning at 21200 and 21250 kHz respectively.

On 10 meters--where Novice and Tech Plus licensees already may operate CW, RTTY and data from 28100 to 28300 kHz nearly 55% of the respondents favored a plan to retain the US phone allocation from 28300 to 29700 kHz and to extend CW access to Novice/Tech-Plus operators to 28000 kHz--an additional 100 kHz. The current Tech Plus 28300 to 28500 kHz phone segment would be retained.



SPARK ARISS QSO MARK'S MARCONI TRANSATLANTIC CENTENNIAL

The sound of a spark transmitter was heard once again on an amateur band to mark the centennial of Guglielmo Marconi's first trans-atlantic radio success. It was 100 years ago, on December 12, 1901, that Marconi--at his receiving station in Newfoundland copied the three dits of the Morse letter "S" transmitted from 2000 miles away in Cornwall, England. An Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact with students in Newfoundland also was successfully completed.

David Wilson, VE3BBN, near Niagara Falls, Ontario, built a low-power rotary spark transmitter and had permission from Industry Canada to use it on December 12 from 9 to 10 PM Eastern Time (0200-0300 December 13 UTC). The operating frequency was approximately 3550 kHz. Wilson says the transmitter has a bandwidth of 20 kHz, and AM mode reception with a wide IF bandwidth works best. He transmitted "MARCONI S" every minute during the one-hour period. "This is a very low-powered transmitter with 10 W spread over 20 kHz (3-dB points) and having very broad skirts," he said. He said the spark signal is highly unlikely to interfere with normal amateur operations, but a test signal was copied at distances of at least 250 km (approximately 155 miles). Wilson used an 80-meter Windom antenna. VE3BBN invites signal reports via e-mail, David Wilson, VE3BBN, david@computan.on.ca

An Amateur Radio on the International Space Station contact December 12 between Frank Culbertson, KD5OPQ-operating NA1SS on the ISS--and students at the Marconi site in Newfoundland also marked the Marconi transatlantic centennial. During the contact between NA1SS and Marconi Radio Project special event station VO1S, 10 students got to quiz Culbertson about life in space. Culbertson is completing his tour of duty aboard the ISS this week. The ninth-grade students were winners of a crystal-set building competition associated with thecentennial observance. The contact was arranged with the assistance of Memorial University of Newfoundland, The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs.

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In Memory of Paul W. "Skip" Wilson 1939 - 2001



The Family of Paul W. Wilson, SR. (Skip Ke2xf) Wishes to express deep appreciation and sincere thanks for your kind Expression of Sympathy. June M. Wilson (Ka2vek)

A Special Tribute To a Friend that Touched Vs All - Page 5