



Commendation for Lou Malory

During my period as Director of Vocational and Career Education for the Fontana Unified School District in Fontana, California, Mr. Lou Malory initiated a Communications Technology course. Mr. Malory was a longtime teacher with the District and operated a ham radio station as a second serious activity.

The purpose of the program was to teach interested students the fundamentals of radio communications and the basics of ham radio techniques. This program would be a step toward more technical careers.

Mr. Malory built by hand the original cubicle stations for the students which they used instead of traditional desks. The first classes were held in temporary bungalows located at the far end of the Fontana High School campus.

Students learned radio theory and applicable math as required. They also learned the ham radio communications code. When ready, some took the radio operator test which would qualify them to operate a small radio station. In fact, we did look at a small nearby radio station but the funds were not available.

Mr. Malory applied for and received for his class a ham radio license WB6HJJ. in order to incorporate this activity into the class curriculum. During one lunch period, several students at the controls of the station, by great coincidence, made contact with the King of a Middle East country who was, himself, an amateur ham radio station operator. They exchanged pleasantries, and weather information. The King identified himself and wished the students good luck. The local press picked up the story.

In order to further enhance learning opportunities for his students, Mr. Malory installed several solar panels on the roof of the building to produce energy to operate some of the equipment in the classroom. The experiment was a success.

Several of Mr. Malory's students enrolled in advanced technology majors when they graduated from Fontana High School.

The Communication Technology course started by Mr. Malory was a first in the in the State of California at the high school level. When he retired in 1982 his program was soon discontinued for lack of a qualified instructor.

Mr. Malory should be commended for his unique contribution in the field of Vocational and Career education for high school students by introducing them to Communications Technology, a program which he pioneered.

Submitted by Philip A. Rue, former Director of Vocational and Career Education, June 28, 2006