



RADIO LOG

JUNE, 1979

Vol. 2

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

Log 2



Leamon Brooks and his Colorado built receivers;
Boulder In-Line 8-Tube Superhet, A & M 9-Tube
Superhet, and Reyn-Rad Xtal.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 17311 Denver, CO 80217

JUNE, 1979

Next Meeting...

The next meeting of the RMAWA will be held Friday, June 15, 1979 at 7:30 P.M. at the Southwest State Bank, 1380 S. Federal Blvd., Denver, Colorado.

The topic will be a variety of restoration tips presented by Ray Windrix. Ray will demonstrate the pot metal tip appearing elsewhere in this newsletter, and also tips furnished by Richard Ray on cleaning polishing bakelite panels and the mounting of 30 tube bases.

Last Meeting...

Eight club members brought about 90 - 100 different items for the club contest. The results should have appeared in this newsletter, but were unavailable for printing. They will be published next issue. The items on display were beautiful, and those who did not see them missed a real treat.

Future Meetings...

The July and August meetings have been suspended due to vacations, gas problems, and general lack of interest during summer months. The September meeting will be presented by Mr. Emil Berndt. He will discuss his radio experiences over the years.

The October meeting will be Victoreen night by Ray Windrix. He will play an interview with Mr. Victoreen and also display some Victoreen equipment.

New Member...

James Goodyear
2707 East Serendipity Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80917
596-2956

Address Change...

C4C Don Kessler
P.O.Box 3412 USAFA
Colorado Springs, CO 80840

RADIOLA 17/18 - A DIFFERENCE ?

by Doug Furney

The RCA Radiola 17 is a 6 tube tuned radio frequency (TRF) receiver utilizing RCA Radiotron types UX226, UY227, UX171A and the Radiotron full wave rectifier UX280 in the socket power unit (SPU). The use of Radiotrons using raw alternating current for filament supply and the UX280 of the S.P.U. in a plate and grid supply unit makes the Radiola 17 a complete socket power receiver.

The Radiola 17, a T.R.F. receiver, has its first R.F. circuit not tuned in any way. The volume control regulates the R.F. input and grid bias voltage of this stage. A three gang tuning condenser is employed to tune the next two R.F. stages and the detector circuit. The signal from the detector is amplified by two audio stages to provide ample volume without distortion in loudspeaker reproduction.

The foregoing description of the Radiola 17 was an excerpt from an RCA service manual. It also exactly describes the Radiola 18. Both sets employ an S.P.U. and six tube receiver with a RF, TRF, TRF, DET, A.A. circuit arrangement.

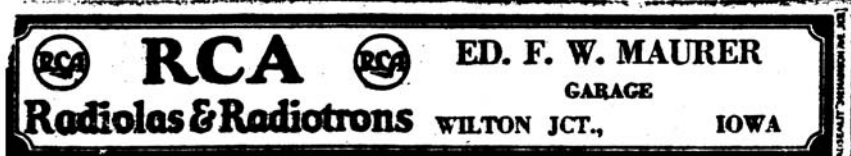
The cabinets for both sets are identical, measuring 27 1/2 X 8 3/4 X 7 1/2. The only external difference is the shape of the panel escutcheon plates. The cabinets of my sets are made by Prescott and Son, Inc. of Keeseville, N.Y. and Jamestown Mantel Co. of Jamestown, N.Y. The same names are common on other Radiola models.

Are these two receivers the same? No. These common, rugged (except for the canopy), lack-luster Radiolas are not identical. The 17 was the first true A.C. set sold by RCA. Its RF stages used grid resistors to prevent oscillation. The 18 used neutrodyne TRF stages for stability and increased sensitivity. The 17 used an audio output transformer, the 18 an output capacitor on its SPU.

The SPU of the Radiolas employed two different methods of producing the proper plate and grid voltages. The 17 used the shunt divider resistor method to develop the proper B and C voltages. Three potentiometers were provided for suppression of A.C. hum from the filaments of the tubes. The Radiola 18 used series dropping resistors to develop the proper plate and grid voltages. Three fixed center tapped resistors were used for the suppression of A.C. hum.

The reason for the differences in these Radiolas was one of economics. The Radiola 18 came after the 17 with the same appearance, size, and performance at a reduced selling price - a trend which we should recognize today.

These sets were the finish of the home battery sets. Perhaps a reason for their being ignored by some radio collectors.



WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO MARGO LANE?

by Ray Windrix

Mention Margo Lane to most old time radio fans and the ladies which come to mind would probably be Agnes Moorehead, who began the role and Grace Matthews, who concluded the role. These women are Margo Lane to most of us, but there were others who played the role for brief periods of time, one being Laura Mae Carpenter-Christenson.

Does the name ring a bell? Well maybe not, but as far as I can determine, she did play Margo Lane for a few months -perhaps three or four- in 1945, followed by the team of Brett Morrison and Lesley Woods... Ms. Woods then was replaced by Grace Matthews.

I recently had the pleasure of talking with Ms. Carpenter. Sad to say, she had trouble with her memory regarding her broadcasting career and events surrounding the Shadow program, however, I was able to learn a little about Laura's background.

Born in Minneapolis, she attended a small college in Nashville, later transferring to the University of Minnesota. There she majored in speech, which included theater and drama.

On board a ship to England with a group of her college-mates she met by chance, John Greenstreet, son of Sidney Greenstreet, the actor. By the time the boat had docked, she had wrangled an introduction to the father and even an invitation to dinner.

Following college, Laura began her radio career locally in Minnesota. She learned to handle the usual chores such as making announcements of all sorts, commercial reading, playing records, etc. Her memory is sketchy regarding the Shadow, but she recalls having auditioned with over 40 other ladies for the part. She was teamed with Steve Courtleigh who played Lemont Cranston during the brief run. Laura recalls meeting Orson Wells, which she considered an honor, but never really knew him.

She also worked on various other shows including Radio Readers Digest, and describes one amusing incident which happened during that show. While on the air with the studio audience present, she attempted to read a commercial, but without glasses, couldn't read the sign at some distance. Attempting to ad lib through it, she began to describe how she washed and washed her hands with Noxema... the audience began to titter and giggle as the sponsor was actually Ivory Soap!

Following her radio career, she returned to Minnesota where she opened a successful modeling agency and was much in demand, as she organized and put on many style shows for prominent clothing stores.

In 1951, Laura married an orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Christensen. They settled in Colorado Springs, where she still resides. They have two daughters.

She saved very little memorabilia from her radio days, although she mentioned she had a few disks from the Readers Digest program, but they had been broken.

Margo Lane con't...

I told her about our old time radio hobby and she was amazed that so much material is available. She hadn't been aware of the radio drama we have today, so I mentioned the CBS Mystery Theater and the Sears program.

I plan on visiting Laura from time to time and if her memory improves I hope to learn more of her days spent as Margo Lane on the Shadow.

SLAGLE

Radio Company

530 Masterson Ave.

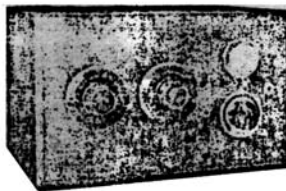
Fort Wayne, Ind.

PRICE LIST

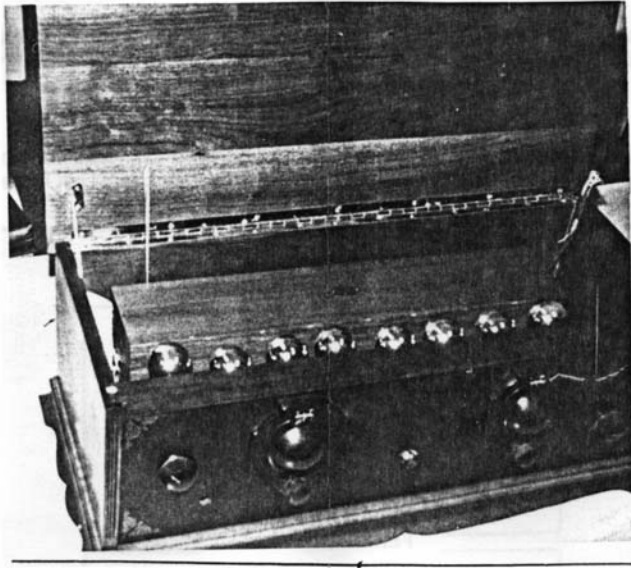
FEBRUARY, 1924

TO PROMISE A ONE DAY
SERVICE IS ONE THING—
TO LIVE UP TO THAT
PROMISE MEANS EXTRA
HOURS, EXTRA WORK,
EXTRA EXPENSE

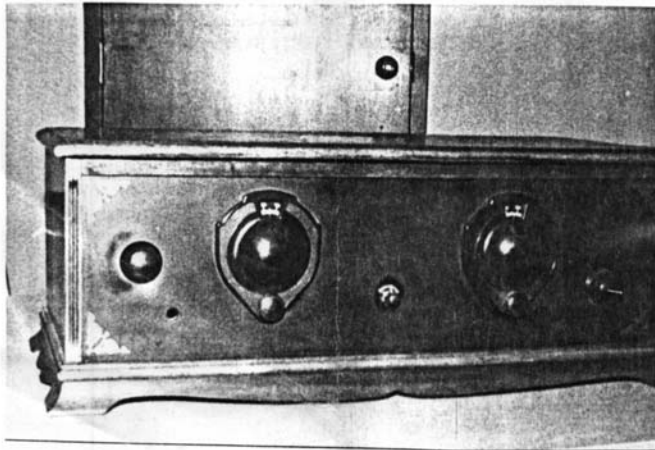
BUT THE COMMENTS OF
OUR CUSTOMERS HAVE
SHOWN US THAT IT'S
WORTH ALL THE EFFORTS
THAT WE MAKE

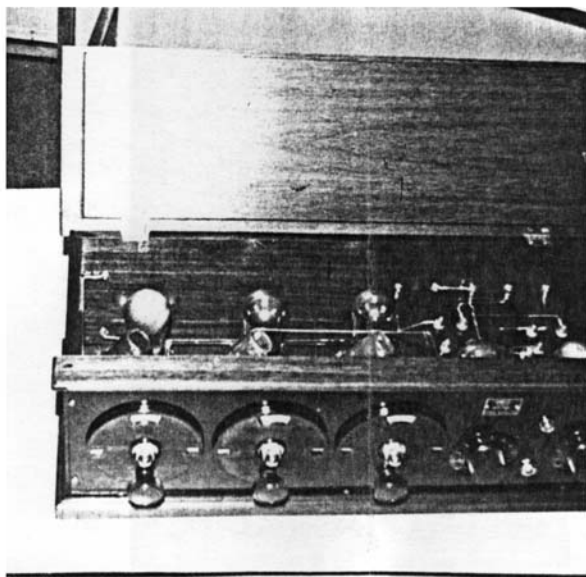


One Day
Service

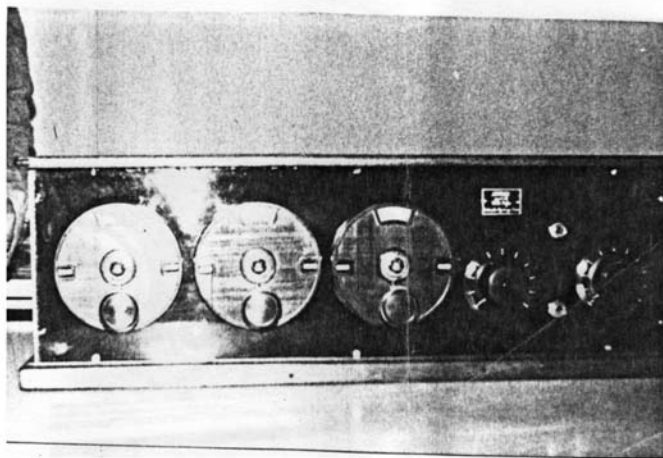


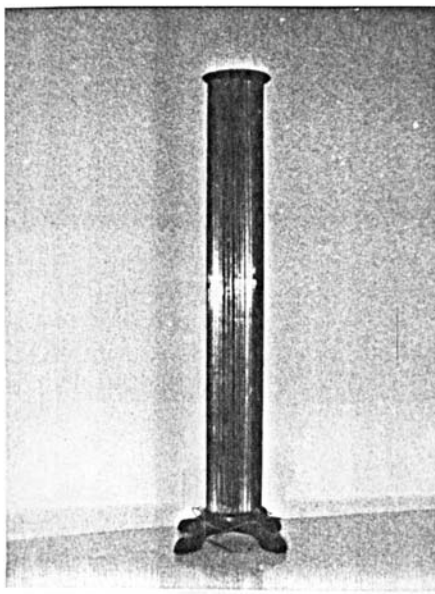
Boulder In-Line 8-Tube Superhet Mfg. In Boulder





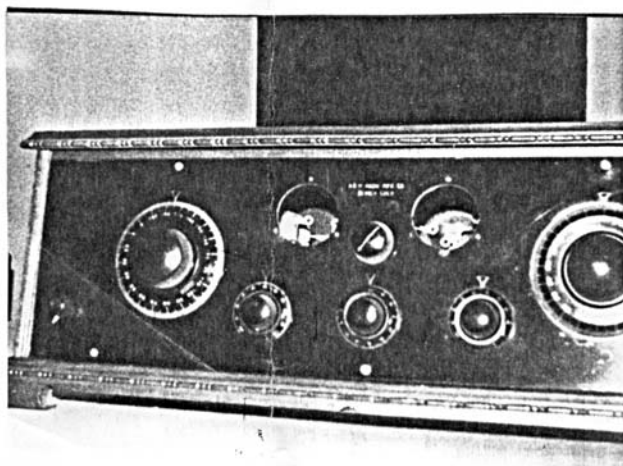
Amplex III 5-Tube TRF Mfg. In Colorado Springs





Simpson Aerial Mfg. In Denver

A & M 9-Tube Superhet Mfg. In Denver



RESTORATION TIP!

by Ray Windrix

Here's a tip that will help solve some of the "Pot Metal Blues." As we all know, pot metal can drive one crazy. It crumbles if you look at it, yet when you want to break it, I have literally pounded and drilled on it without success.

There is a product on the market called E-POX-E Ribbon made by Duro. It is used for all types of repair jobs such as leaks in boats, plumbing, fill holes in car bodies, gas can leaks, etc.

E-POX-E is a ribbon which is $\frac{1}{2}$ blue and $\frac{1}{2}$ yellow. Tear off a piece, knead it until it turns a uniform green, then it is ready for use. It can be molded like putty but hardens like steel. It sets in 2 hours, but allow 12 hours for complete curing.

I had very good results repairing an AK Model H horn driver that was literally in pieces. Another job that I was pleased with was on a metal box 1928 type Fada AC set. The tuning condensers were all on a rod that turned by friction; that is, as you turn the tuning knob, a wheel turns against another metal wheel which turns the rod with the condensers. The pot metal post which the tuning knob was fixed to had broken. I was able to mold the post back together with good results. The post has to take a certain amount of pressure, so the repair had to be strong.

E-POX-E can be filed, sanded or drilled. It dries green but can be painted. I painted my repairs a color matching the grayish pot metal, using paints made for model plastic airplanes, cars, etc. Practor paint in the 1/3 ounce bottles, specifically. I mixed aircraft gray and chrome silver to get a matching shade.

E-POX-E won't answer all your needs, but thankfully, will solve some. It can be found in various stores such as regular hardware, chain discount department stores and even in Safeway grocery stores.

For Sale...

Club patches - at meetings for \$3.25 or by mail (add 15¢) from Ray Windrix, 915 Potter Place, Colorado Springs, CO 80909.



RADIO STATION WBZ

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AND MFG. COMPANY
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.



Accept our thanks for your communication concerning your reception of signals from W B Z

Your comments from time to time, and also your suggestions for the improvement of our service will always be appreciated.

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Radio Station W B Z
Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Co.



MEET THE COLLECTOR

by Ray Windrix

One of the best things about our hobby has to be the nice people one meets. This can be either locally or around the country.

Such a person is Floyd Poland of Rio, West Virginia. Floyd informs me that he began collecting radios about 15 years ago. He never really intended to collect them, but it all began when Floyd picked up an old set for his grandchildren. The idea was to show them the type of radio he listened to when he was younger... Sound Familiar?

Floyd doesn't beat the bushes for sets like most of us, but is content to find them as they come. Two of his favorite sets include a nice Victoreen Super-Het battery set, which he often plays and a four tube Federal model 59. This set was made in 1923 and has about 12 knobs on the panel. It can be seen on page 86 of Vintage Radio.

Floyd is 68 years old and has been married 45 years. He runs his own welding shop. Being very musical, Floyd plays lead "fiddle" in a four piece country band. He sent me a cassette and its the real authentic stuff. They have that old rural country sound that I remembered from years ago. He has some banjos, guitars and mandolins as well.

Floyd discovered the fact that others collected old radios through the articles of James Fred in Elementry Electronics magazine.

O U R S T A F F

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EDITORS: Bob and Margie Slagle

R.M.A.W.A. is a non-profit organization with the intent of preserving early radio.

Radio Log will be printed quarterly and distributed at no charge to members of the club.

Box 204
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First Class