

The

C. R. C.



Official Journal Published For Colorado Radio Collectors

Dedicated to the Preservation and Documentation of Wireless, Radio, TV, and Associated Equipment

Volume 1

September - October 1990

Issue 1

Summer Picnic Smash

By

Bruce Young

The Colorado Radio Collectors Annual picnic was held Sunday, July 15th, once again at the beautiful Loretto Heights Park. I believe it was one of the best attended functions of the club to date.

Everyone brought a dish to share from chips to desserts. The grills were hot and cooking the usual hamburgers, hot dogs, and steaks (and a finger or two - *Editor*). The club supplied the cold pop and fire for the grills.

After all the tasty food and storytelling about the latest radio finds and the disastrous hail storm, the anticipated swap meet got underway where many treasures and junk changed hands. There was plenty of room for over-eaters and swap/for-sale displays (pictures on page three of this issue - *Editor*). Next year we'll plan some activities for the families.

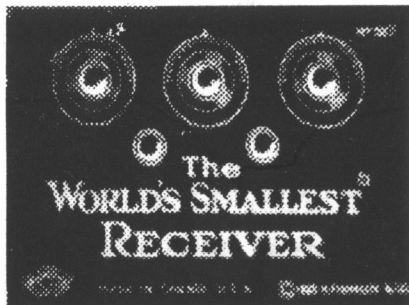
A special thanks for the help from Jim Berg for the grill and pop and Dick Hagrman for calling all the members and supplying a grill and chairs.

- Bruce -

First Issue of the CRC FLASH!

As they say in the biz, it's hot off the presses...er...ah...LaserPrinter. I'd like to take a little white-space to give you an idea of how this journal is put together and why we really need your help. Please spend some time reading the Editor's **Rip'n'Read** on page eight. Thanks.

Tremendous Find !! World's Tiniest Receiver !!



Only half again larger than the size of this picture, this box contains what is reputedly the smallest receiver in the world! It's dated 1925 and it's not a crystal set! Turn to page nine and see it for yourself!

Official journal of the
**Colorado Radio
Collectors**

Founded in the Fall of 1988
Dedicated to the Preservation and Documentation
of Wireless, Radio, Television, and Associated Equipment

**Dues Presentable
Upon Membership
Anniversary**

\$10⁰⁰ annually to:

Jim Berg

2648 W. Arkansas Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80219

(Please do NOT make checks to CRC)

WANT ADS
and
ARTICLES

should be directed to:

C. R. C. Editor

1249 Solstice Lane
Fort Collins, CO 80525

MEETING LOCATION

Unless otherwise noted in this journal, meetings are held on the second Sunday at 1:00 PM every other month beginning in January at the Jefferson County Public Library, 10200 West 20th Avenue. A swap meet is held at 3:00 in the parking lot. Bring lots of For Sale and Trade stuff !!

C. R. C. OFFICERS

President:

Bruce Young 458-7408 Denver

Vice President:

Dick Hagrman 794-6674 Denver

Treasurer / Secretary:

Jim Berg 937-1399 Denver

Journal Editor:

Rick Ammon 224-5446 Ft. Collins

DEADLINE NOTES

It's the intention of this Editor to broadcast our journal bi-monthly just prior to the CRC meetings. Articles about and especially pictures of your treasures are welcomed as are wants/4-sale ads or any letters and comments directed to our hobby. All pictures will be returned promptly if so requested.

The Editor will be happy to put together articles about your best finds, restoration and electrical repair techniques, or your recollections and stories about radio. Just provide a handful of information; you don't need to be a writer...get the information in !!

Our club can only succeed when we share our talents, our needs, and our adventures; you're being asked to contribute in whatever way you can, as soon as possible, please. Thank you !! - Editor -

Closing Dates: (Must be received)

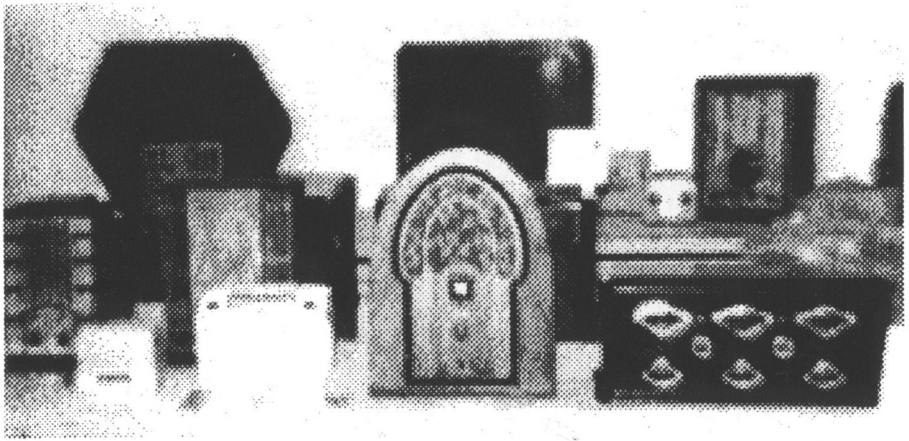
December 20 February 20 April 20
June 20 August 20 October 20

This publication was completed on a **Commodore Amiga 2000** home computer and printed on an **Apple Laserwriter II NT**. The Desk-Top-Publishing program used was **PageStream** by **Soft Logik** of St. Louis, MO.



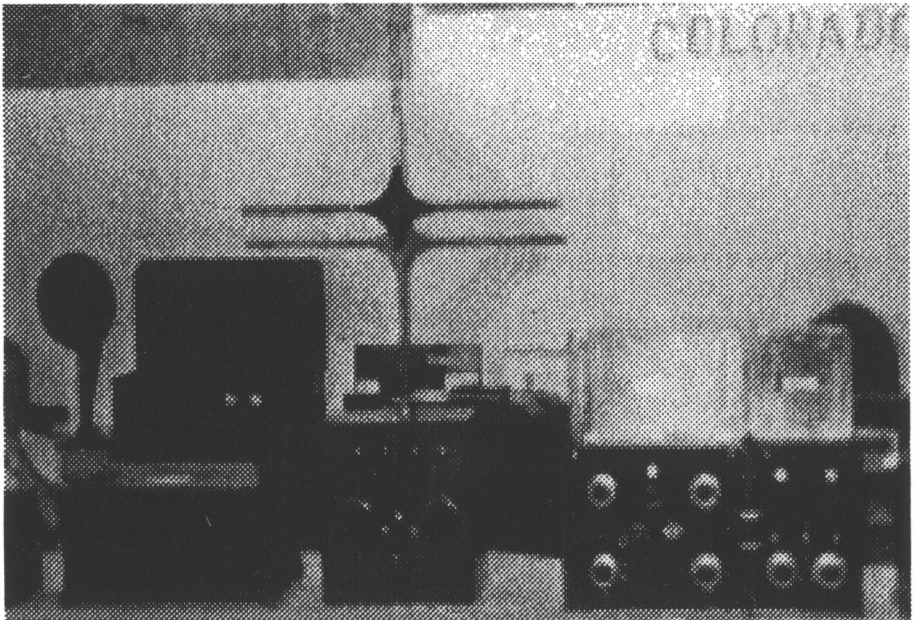
At the picnic...It appears the youngster (above) sitting on the sidewalk at the swap meet is getting an early start at radio collecting. Pix by Bruce Young.

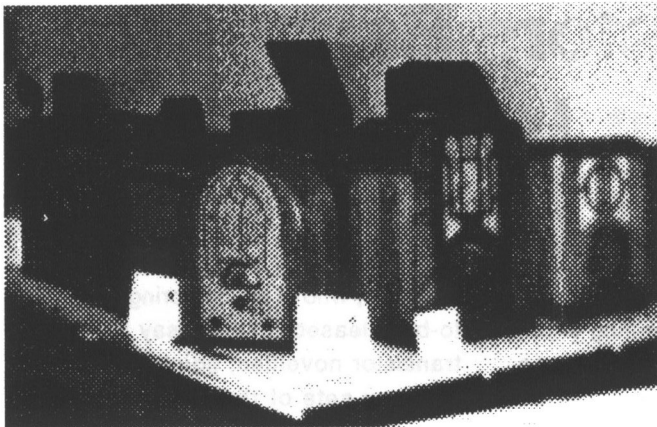




Colorado Radio Collector's Spring Show

A couple of months ago our club had a good turnout of members and equipment to show our hobby to antique buffs at the Western Livestock Exhibition Hall. Although we listed the winning equipment in the last newsletter, we thought it would be nice to mention the winning members, too. We congratulate all of you who showed equipment and know the displays will be bigger yet next year. Pictures by Jim Berg.





WINNERS OF THE VARIOUS C.R.C. SHOW CATEGORIES

Best of Show
Brian Dunlop
Scott Imperial

People's Choice
Johnny Johnson
Sparton 558 Blue Mirror

Best Restoration
Dave Boyle
Atwater Kent 447

Wireless
Doug Furney
DeForest RJ6 Tuner

Crystal Sets
Doug Furney
RadioLabs SkyLark

Batt. 1922 & Earlier
Leamon Brooks
Kennedy 220/525

Batt. 1923 & Later
Jim Berg
Madison Moore

AC Radios

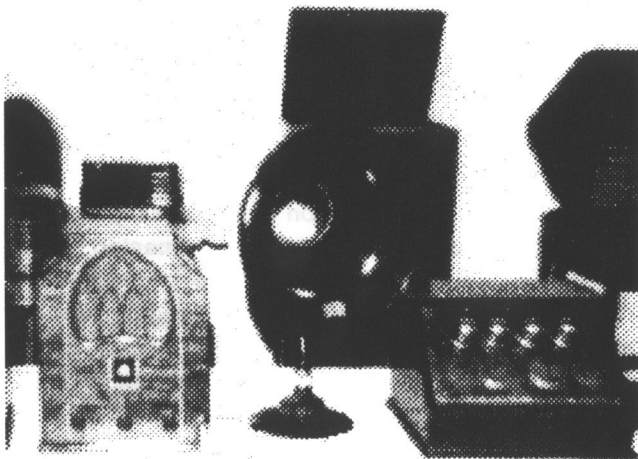
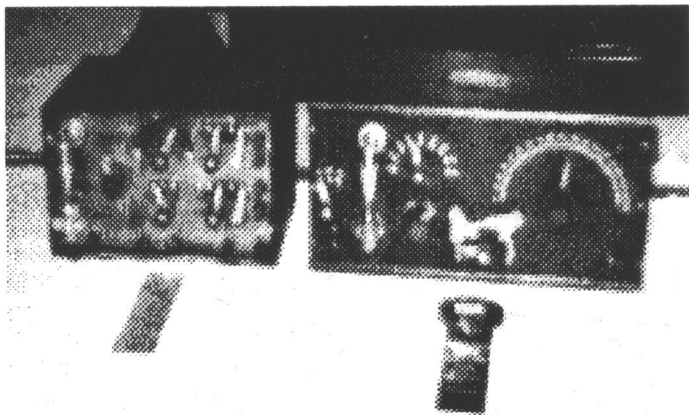
Ron Harmon
Philco Clock

AC Novelties

Ron Harmon
Pastime Baby Console

Transistor Novelties

Johnny Johnson
Rocket Steam Engine



Cathedral / Tombstone
Johnny Johnson
Jackson Bell 1931

Console
Brian Dunlop
Scott Imperial

AC Radios
Ron Harmon
Philco Clock

AC Novelties
Ron Harmon
Pastime Baby Console

AC Art Deco
Johnny Johnson
Sparton 558 Blue Mirror

Accessories
Rick Ammon
Herald Diamond Speaker

Transistors Becoming Proven Investments

by

Richard T. Ammon

"It's ended! It's really over!" declared Lee Bruton at the May meeting of the Colorado Radio Collectors. "Because of the integrated circuit, the era of the transistor radio is gone and they will become valuable!" stated the long-time collector from Longmont.

"Desireable transistor radios are already starting to bring unusual dollars", Bruton attested, sighting price escalation in the novelty category. He went on to say rising prices are due to some radios representing other areas of collectables such as a transistorized Coca Cola can radio or a Pepsi fountain dispenser from the late 50's. The added value comes from collectors in other fields paying higher dollars for advertising items rather than any interest in the radios themselves. However, Bruton assured the group those novelty radios easily recognizable by the masses will become more desireable because they evoke nostalgia.

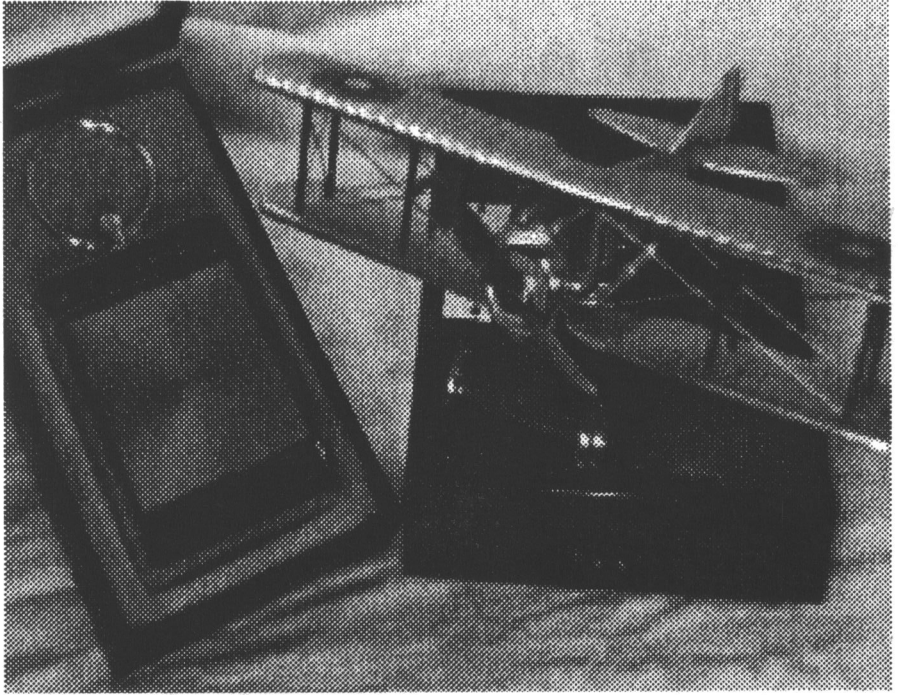
A display of nearly thirty-five transistorized radios were arranged as to novelty, early, and special interest sets. From a heavily detailed, brass locomotive with steam control handles being the tuning and volume knobs, to a peanut-shaped Jimmy Carter, or the Tony the Tiger radios, it's obviously fun collecting relatable radios.

Bruton, who is co-authoring a soon-to-be released photo-essay book on transistor novelties, pointed out that ordinary sets of the early and mid-fifties should become popular due to their size and period of electronic development. "The first transistorized radio appeared for the Christmas season of 1954", the enthusiast commented, while holding up a radio barely twice the size of a quarter (see the next page - *Editor*), "These sets are sleepers just as the catalins were when everyone was buying up all the 1920's battery sets fifteen years ago. Who would have believed then the value today of those colorful plastic sets or even the cathedrals?"

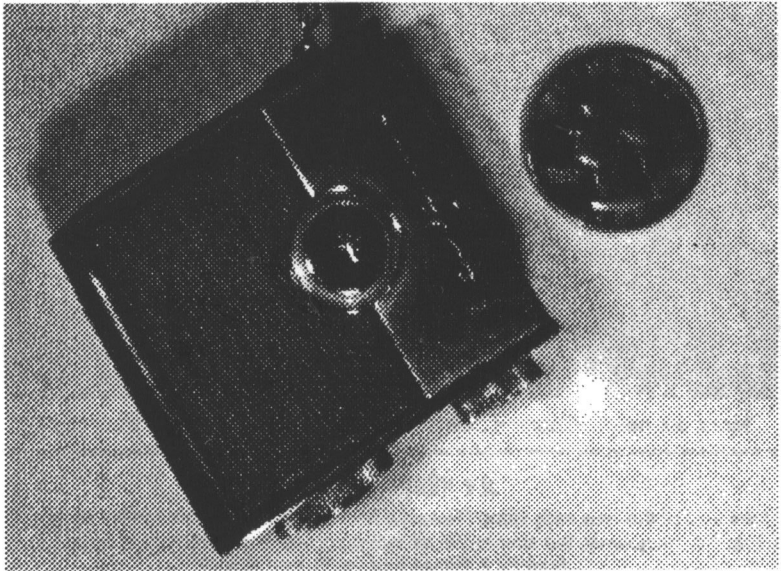
Throughout the forty minute show-and-tell, Bruton compared styles and types of sets, illustrating why the United States manufacturers' larger purse-sized radios lost out to the well-built, miniaturized palm-sized sets of the Japanese, and demonstrated the cheap construction of Korean and Taiwan imports.

When Bruton finished, many of the attending members commented how they now had a very different prospective about collecting transistor radios, acknowledging they may very well be the dark horse of our fascinating hobby.

- RTA -



Realtone transistorized Coronado "Jewel" (left) and the all-metal biplane with a 7 inch wingspan and plastic AM radio base. Both are early 1970s Japanese.



Shown actual size is the smallest 8-transistorized AM radio made (circa 1970). It's the Standard "Micronic Ruby".

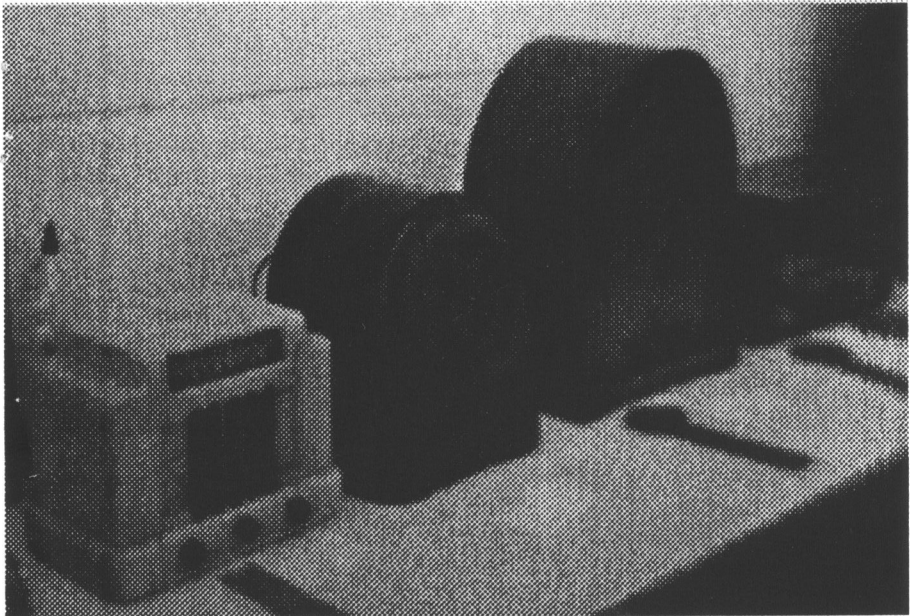
rip 'n' read

By the Editor

(Rip'n'Read...An old radio term for when an announcer rips the copy paper off the U. P. I. wire-service machine, runs into the studio, and reads it on the air without any preparation, leading to embarrassing mistakes.)

This Journal was completely produced with home-computer desktop publishing and printed, not on a usual press, rather on a laserprinter. The resolution of the laser (300 X 300 dots per inch) accounts for the "grainy" quality of the pictures. Higher quality could be achieved for about \$60 per issue in additional outside processing, which may not be worth it. Only your interests will determine that.

When I started in this fascinating hobby twenty-odd years ago, there wasn't much interest in cathedrals, catalins were just funny plastics, and transistor radios were common appliances. I subscribed to all the old radio newsletters, but about 8 years ago, I let them drop. Upon a revival recently, I resubscribed to some of them and was pleasantly surprised to see many different eras of radios covered in various writings. The rise of collecting all types of equipment broadens the definition of the hobby; bringing me to the reason for my rambling. Continued next page...



More winners! Catalins...Blue Mirrors...Cathedrals show their stuff !!

In the Media

At the end of the new rock-video "Release Me" by Wilson Phillips can be seen a nice Predicta TV. Incidentally, the successful all-female group are daughters of members of the Mamas & Papas and the Beach Boys !

In a Nick At Nite commercial you'll see a mirror-projection TV !

Another Predicta on a Discovery channel ad for a Smithsonian series coming in October !

Our next meeting:

Sunday September 9th 1:00 PM

Jefferson County Public Library 10200 West 20th Avenue

Rip'n'Read Continued from the previous page...

Preparing master pages for this journal was a fun project, but our first issue is pretty much Ammon-oriented. I can provide support with "fillers" of older radio stuff from my collection of junk. Yet the direction of the club is manifold and this publication must have your support to have that diversity. Your information and pictures (which will be returned promptly or send good photocopies) will give direction for the entire club. I'm asking for your help in any way you can. Suggestions and criticisms about this journal are well taken. I've received only a few of the "Meet the Collector" questionnaires passed out at the picnic, but it's a start. The journal needs whatever interests you as it will interest us....its readers.

The future of the C.R.C. is in doubt! This writer has been told on several occasions the disposition of the club is in question. This column is an open forum for your comments about our club's future. What do you have to say? We'll put it in our next issue's *Rip'n'Read*. - end -



Toi-tee by Tootsie!

Not a crystal set nor an early transistor radio. Yet, some would say it *is* the smallest receiver in the world! This novelty from 1925, with just two moving parts (the seat and lid), was found recently at a Denver flea market. It's an official Tootsie Toy shown actual size. Batteries and tee-pee not included!

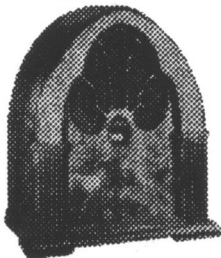
MEET THE COLLECTOR

Introducing.....

Rick Ammon of Fort Collins, CO
(in his own writ)

From the time I knew how to twist a dial, I loved radio. As a kid listening for hours to the ol' shows during their last haydays, being weaned on early TV, playing announcer in my garage using a broom-handle and tin-can for a mike, and putting together an "Air Champ" crystal set with my Dad when I was eight, guaranteed I was hooked. I went to college for psychology and wound up in Broadcasting for 21 years.

At age eleven I picked up a couple of working cathedral sets, a Philco Baby Grand (7-tube), an AK, and a bunch of tubes for four dollars at an auction. All are still in my collection. But it wasn't until I was really entrenched in the radio



1931 Philco
Baby Grand

business that the bug got me. I lived for two years at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, home of the Army Signal Corps, and maybe it was the fantastic wireless/military radio museum there that clinched the need to seriously

collect. By 1971 at one of my first radio jobs (KUAD - Windsor, CO), I bought six antique radios used as a display in the station's lobby!

From the beginning I made a vow to collect "anything radio" 1927 or earlier. Of course, I passed over the cathedral-shaped radios, others wrapped in gawdy blue mirrors, and the butter-scotch colored, plastic-like sets of the 30's and 40's. Those radios were a dime a dozen twenty years ago (ha!). However, my rewards in seeking only older radios and wireless equipment have been many; the lure is still evident.

Recently, through a Thrifty Nickel newspaper ad, I found in Greeley a World War I Army aircraft spark-gap transmitter and a bunch commercial wireless pieces. Some years ago I uncovered a nearly complete 1923 radio shop with the original price tags on loads of parts. Included were two DeForests which were never sold, rather used as display sets to entice sales. But we all have our stories, don't we? Ooohhh, those that got away!!

I just enjoy meeting others interested in collecting and I'd love to see what you've assembled during years of search. My accumulation is always being rearranged and expanded. Everyone is welcome to visit; by appointment please. - Rick -

Wants and 4Sales

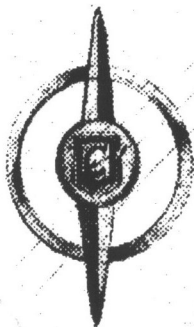
Wanted:

Madison Moore receiver circa 1926 "stolen" from an antique shop on Broadway for \$50! Will pay nice \$\$\$ (on terms) for the return to its rightful owner (**ME!**)... If you're the "Fast Freddy" of Denver, call...

Rick Ammon 224-5446
Fort Collins

Wanted:

Casting for **Crosley** radio in brass tone. See the illustration below...



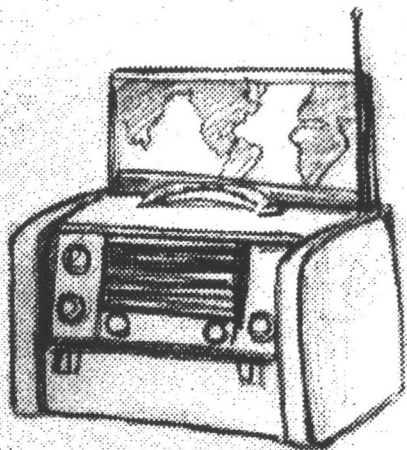
Casting number is 61-379-1. If you have one, contact...

Bill Ballas 399-0661
Denver

Wanted:

Transistor and AC **novelty sets**. Will trade if you can find me! Carolyn and I should be living in Denver this Winter.

Lee and Carolyn Bruton
P.O. Box 2540
Longmont, CO 80502



Wanted:

RCA Strato-World receiver shown above. It's a seven band AM with the model number 3BX671. **Bill Ballas** would like to know the condition and asking price of yours. Call him in Denver at 399-0661.

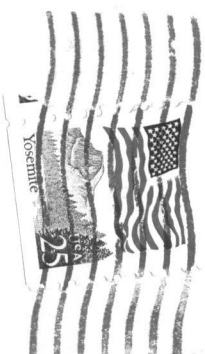
Wanted:

YOUR FREE AD !!

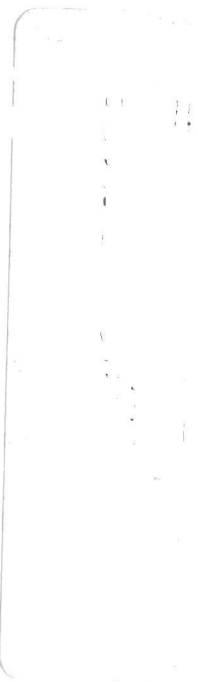
Let's fill this page and put in another one!! Send your Buy/Swap/4Sale info today to: **CRC Editor, 1249 Solstice Lane, Fort Collins, 80525**. See page two for Wants & 4Sales deadlines.

Colorado Radio Collectors

1249 Solstice Lane
Fort Collins, CO 80525



TO:



The month and year on your address label is your membership expiration date. Where appropriate please renew at the next meeting or see the inside front cover of this journal.