



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 2

### January - February 1991

Issue 1

### C.R.C. Must Look For New Meeting Location !!

*Details on page 9...rip'n'read*

### Theremin Demonstration Makes Beautiful Music !!



CRC members were given a very rare treat during the last meeting of 1990. Brian Dunlop recently acquired a limited production 1928 Theremin. Named after the Russian inventor, it's a multi-oscillator audio generator controlled by the body capacitance of your hands placed close to the two antennae. RCA built this great-granddaddy of the Casio and Yamaha in-home electronic keyboards.

## How Old Is That Radio Anyway?

By Riggs Smith, CRC VP

Most radio books that collectors use as references give good ideas as to how to determine the year a particular receiver was manufactured. If the brand name, manufacturer, and/or model number are known, most of the following books will give pictures, manufacturer, date of manufacture, and, in many cases, the value of the radio when the particular book was printed.

- *Radio Collectors' Guide* by McMahon
- *Guide To Old Radios* by Johnson
- *Radio Collectors' Directory* by Grinde and Fathauer
- *A Flick Of The Switch* by McMahon
- *Vintage Radio* by McMahon

There are numerous other methods that help date a radio when the collector has insufficient data to look it up in a book . . . or when we don't have the books. Cabinet styles, control functions and features, tubes used, patent numbers, serial numbers . . . all can be used as clues to date old radios. Armed with just a couple of resources and charts, a fairly accurate, educated guess can be made.

*Continued on page 6*

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**

\$10<sup>00</sup> annually to:

**Bruce Young**

4030 Quitman Street  
Denver, Colorado 80212

(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:**

Dick Hagrman 794-6674 Denver

**Vice President:**

Riggs Smith 973-8792 Littleton

**Treasurer:**

Bruce Young 458-7408 Denver

**Journal Editor / Secretary:**

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.

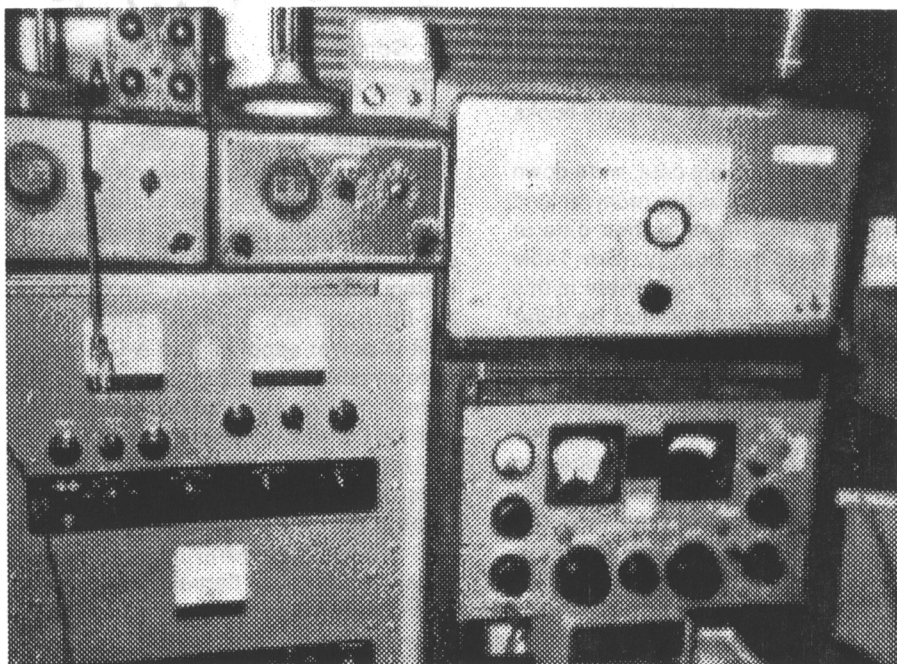
The Editor will be happy to put together articles about your best finds, restoration and electrical repair techniques, or your recollections and stories about radio. Just provide a handful of information; you don't need to be a writer...get the information in !!

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 -

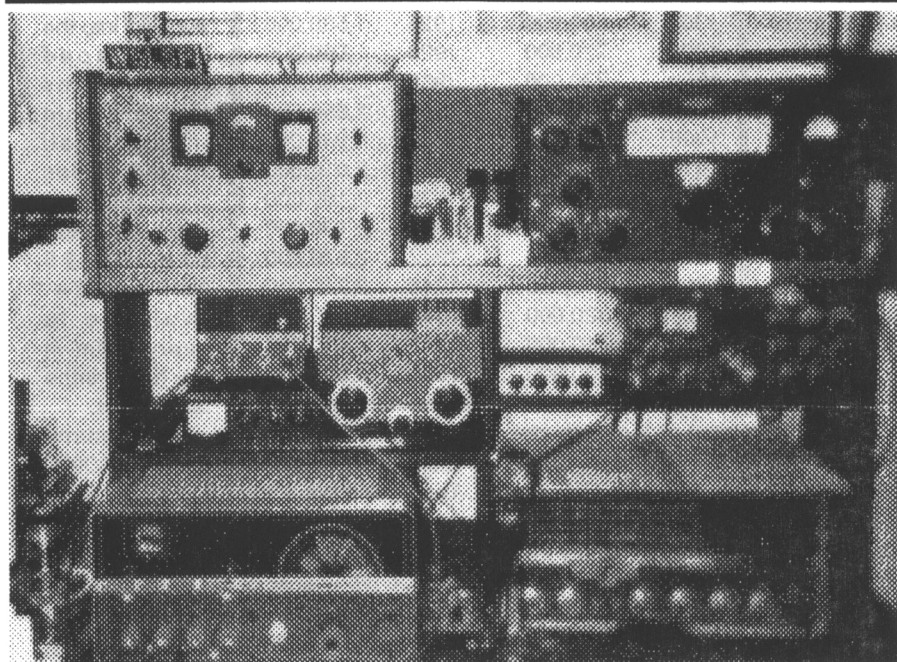
**Closing Dates:** (Must be received)

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 DeskTop-Publishing program used was PageStream by Soft Logik of St. Louis, MO.



**In Touch with the World....**Just some of the collection amassed by Colorado Radio Collectors member, Arthur Robertson of Morrison



## HOW OLD IS THAT RADIO ANYWAY?

(Continued from the front page)

I use a three-step approach:

1. If I have the brand name and model number, I look it up in the books mentioned.

2. Without sufficient data, write down the tube numbers in the receiver and compare these tubes to their date of introduction to the industry. (See Table 2 and Figure 1 found elsewhere in this newsletter.) A radio cannot be older than the years its tubes were first introduced. Most manufacturers put the newest tubes possible in their receivers each year. As tubes were improved and developed, they began to appear in receivers almost immediately, certainly within a year or two of their development. Example: 26s and 27s were developed around 1927 so a receiver using these tubes would not have been manufactured prior to 1926 or 1927.

3. Good clues are the patent numbers "since the item must have been made later than the latest patent shown". (See Age Dating By Patent Number)

Cabinet styles also allow us to make a rough guess. (See Figure 2)

I usually keep a copy of these charts with me at all times. Most of us have experienced the sellers who believe their radios to be much older than they really are. These charts help clarify the issue. (I've seen unrealistic prices on 1914 [sic] Crosleys due to misunderstood patent labels inside the lids. *Editor*)

# AGE GUIDE

Contributed by Riggs Smith

There are useful clues to the age of early-time sets. Early wireless equipment looks like experimental scientific equipment. Radios of the early and mid-1920's were battery sets with many knobs and dials. Early A-C sets built in the mid-1920's were simply battery sets with power supplies replacing the batteries. True AC sets, with built-in power supplies and A-C tubes were introduced in 1927.

Console models became popular in the late 1920's when radio became part of the home scene. Well-constructed consoles were the showpieces of the home in the 1930's and 1940's. Smaller A-C cabinet "cathedral" radios (also known as "midget" or "depression models

became widely used in the early 1930's as bad times made money scarce. These evolved into the box-shaped table radios that are sold today. Small AC-DC radios with plastic cabinets made the \$9.95 "cheapie" available to every room in the home in the late 1930's.

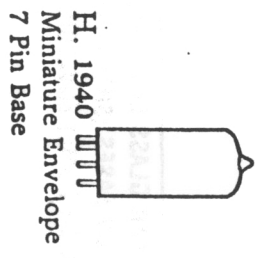
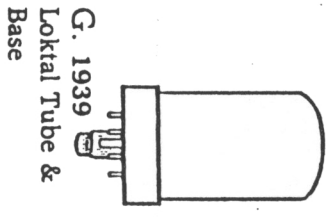
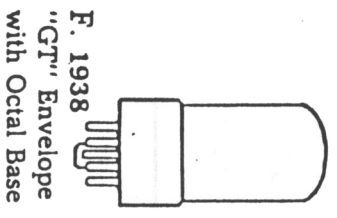
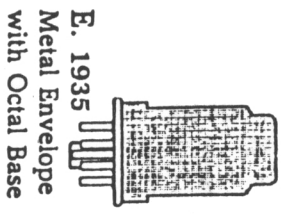
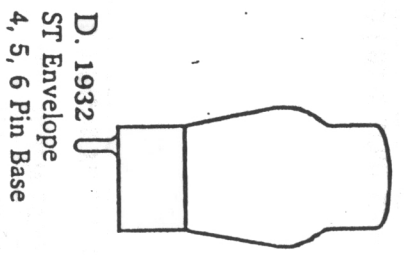
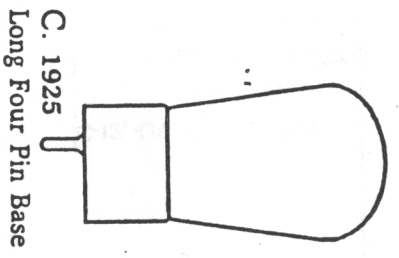
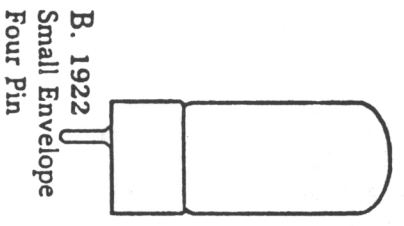
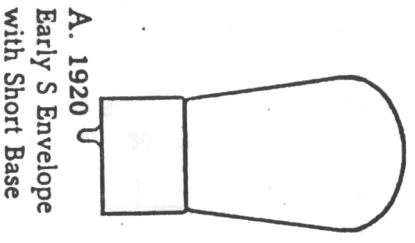
Patent numbers appear on many radios built up through the mid-1930's. They are a good clue to age, since the item must have been made later than the latest patent shown.

Tube types give another rough guide to age. Four-prong tubes, most often

*Continued on page 9*

## Age Dating By Patent Number

Year	Patent #	Year	Patent #
1900	660,000	1926	1,580,000
1902	720,000	1928	1,660,000
1904	770,000	1930	1,760,000
1906	830,000	1932	1,850,000
1908	890,000	1934	1,940,000
1910	950,000	1936	2,010,000
1912	1,020,000	1938	2,100,000
1914	1,080,000	1940	2,180,000
1916	1,150,000	1942	2,270,000
1918	1,240,000	1944	2,340,000
1920	1,320,000	1946	2,390,000
1922	1,410,000	1948	2,430,000
1924	1,500,000	1950	2,500,000



**Figure 1: Vacuum Tube Configuration**

(Not to Scale)

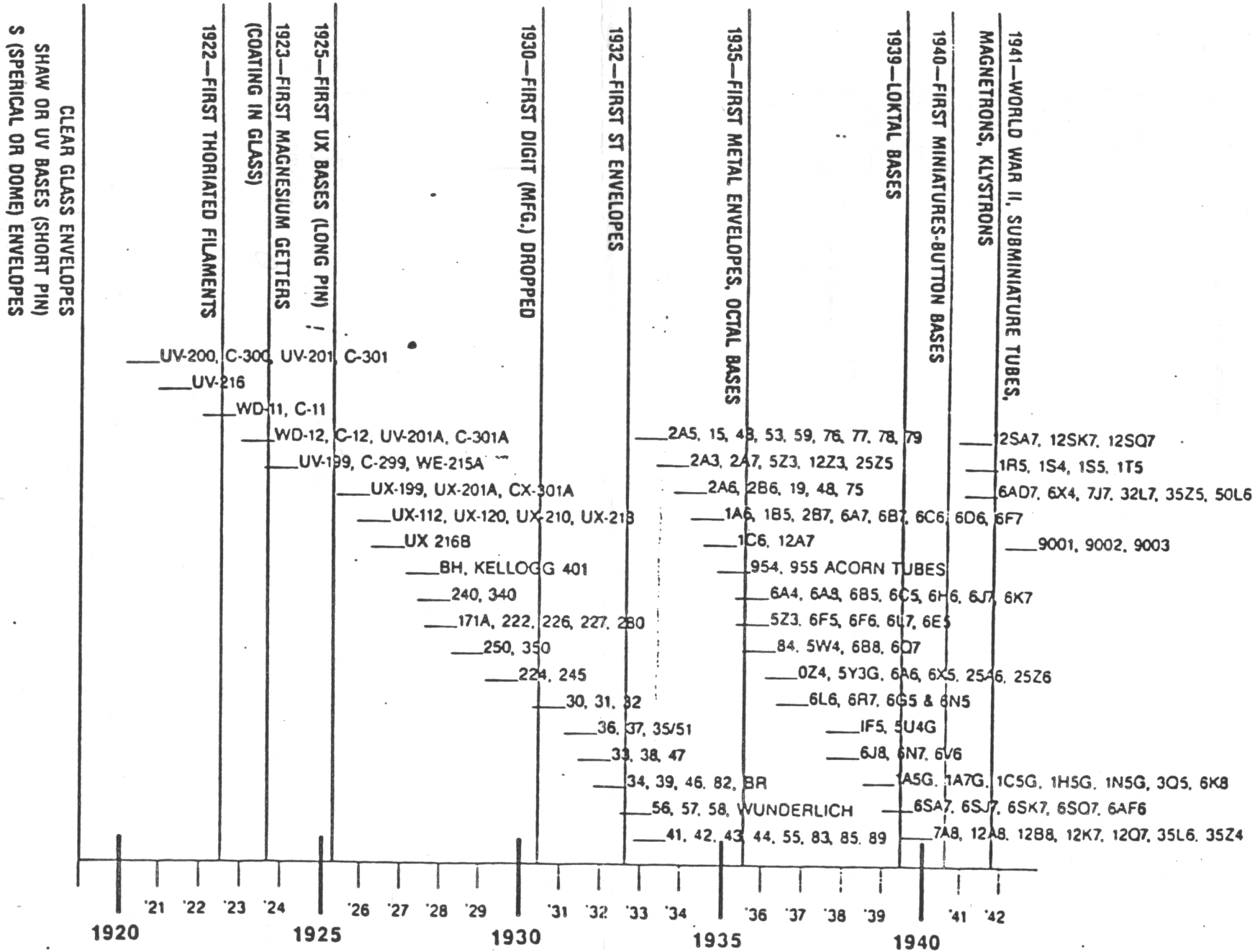


Table 2: Vacuum Tube Development, 1921 - 1941

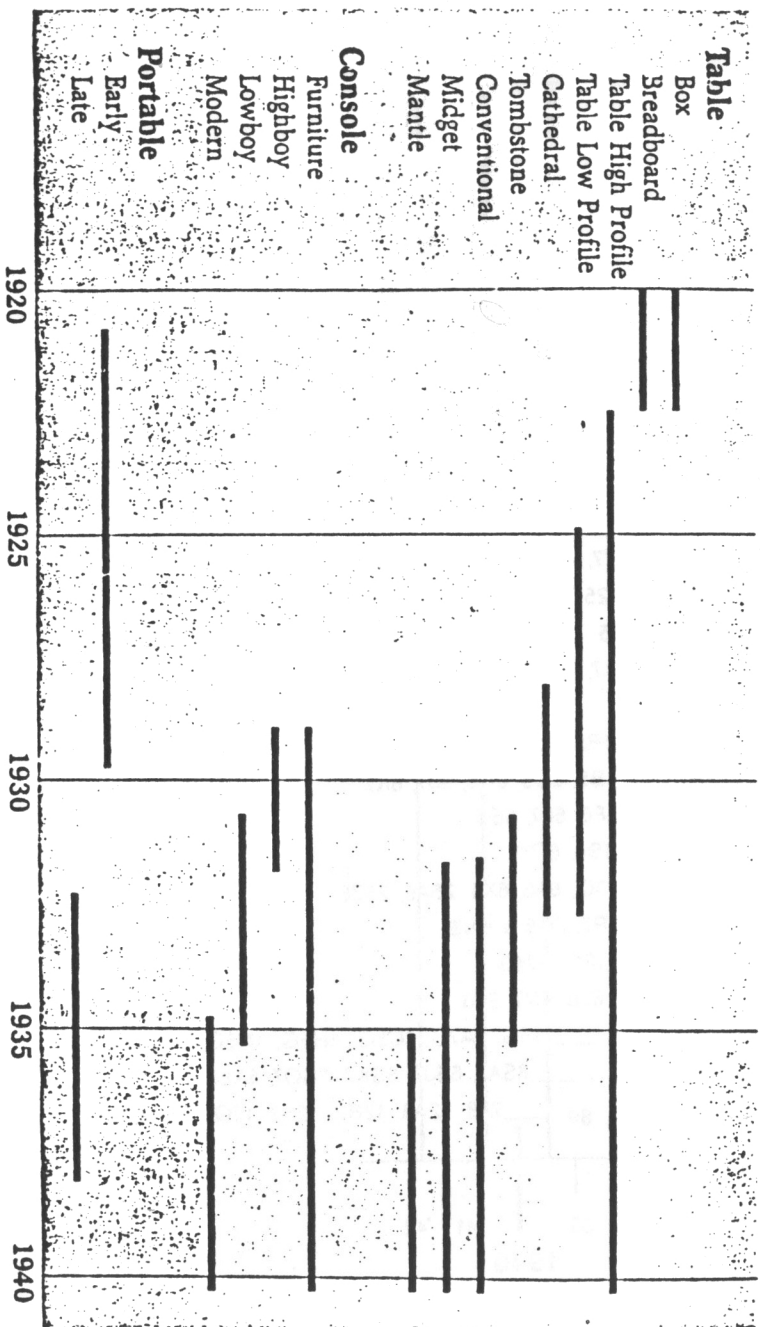


Figure 2: Cabinet Styles 1921-1941

Our next meeting:

**Sunday September 13th 1:00 PM**

Jefferson County Public Library 10200 West 20th Avenue

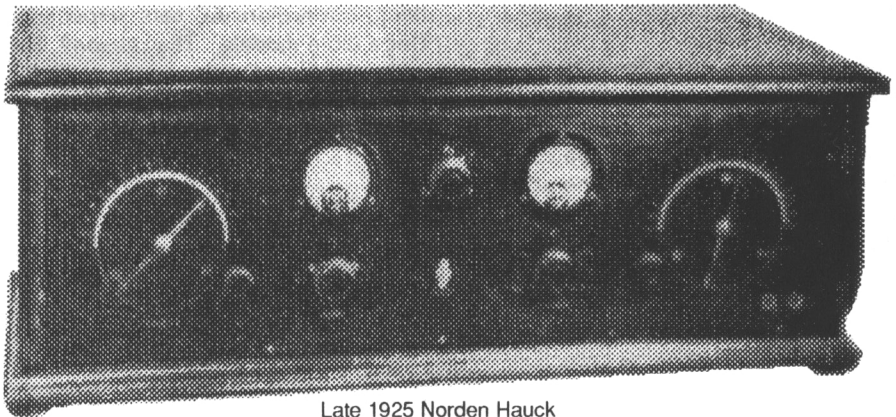
## rip 'n' read

By the Editor

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

**The big news this month** is that we might have to quickly find another location for our meetings!! CRC President Dick Hagrman called this writer only a couple of weeks ago explaining that some concerned citizen went to the directors of the Jefferson County Library complaining of the selling of equipment in the parking lot. Apparently, this is not allowed on the library grounds.

**We have several options**, including holding the meetings at the library and then moving to a neutral location to have our swap meets. Or we can find another place for both, like individual homes as was done with the prior Colorado radio club. It's obvious your input is needed and your turnout at this first meeting of 1991 is important.



Late 1925 Norden Hauck  
Super Navy 10 Tube Receiver

### **Age Guide** (Continued from page 4)

-OOA, -OIA, WD-1 1 and -99 were used in the 1920's. Early A-C sets from 1927 to 1929 used four and five prong A-C tubes like the 26, 27 and 71A. The 24A tube, with its grid cap connection on top, hit in 1928 and was widely used well into the 1930's. Six and seven prong tubes were introduced in many sets in 1932. Octal tubes with plastic-keyed bases hit in 1935. Many of these

tubes were made of metal rather than glass. Octal tubes with metal bases were introduced in WWII. Miniature glass tubes were used in compact and portable sets starting in 1941, and were used in many sets after 1945.

One word of caution: Model numbers don't usually follow in time sequence. It's dangerous to assume that a radio is older because it has a lower model number.



# MEET THE COLLECTOR

## Introducing.....

**Richard Knaack** of Morrison, CO

Although collecting for only a year, Richard has eight radios and one TV. His interest in the sets from the 40's, 50's and 60's keep him looking. Starting with the discovery of a Zenith TransOceanic at a flea market, which he bought because he says, "Brought back memories," lead his pursuit for primarily Zenith equipment.

"I appreciate its' unique features for its' era" is how Richard describes his favorite, the afore-mentioned TransOceanic. And as for the Philco Predicta Series televisions...he adds, "There was nothing like it's unique (weird) nature before or since!"

Richard tells us he does not do any major restorations, yet we believe it would be a treat to see his collection.

## Introducing.....

**Neil E. Gallensky** of Westmister, CO

His Father found a rare glass-enclosed battery set at the house of a friend around 1980 and that was just the beginning (as the saying goes). That first one has grown into a collection of nearly 75 sets now and a number of old telephones which Neil will gladly show by appointment. (Call him at 466-0976...*Editor*)

Since old enough to reach up and turn that radio dial, Neil has "been" fascinated by electronics/radio....(and) radios bridged my interests in electronics and antiques." Letting him explain how he started collecting, "While I was in college, a neighbor sold me a Philco 610. I began to pay more attention to old radios at shows and flea markets, and soon I was hooked."

Neil says he has a little bit of everything, but prefers AC sets, especially Deco table models. The reason? He adds, "Deco table sets...unique cabinet styling was futuristic and radio designs often took on the appearance of 'pieces of art' "

As far as major restoration is concerned, Neil says "nothing extensive...I'd like to learn more." As a footnote, we know he is single and is an Amateur with the call: WA7VHT.

Oh, the telephones? Neil is a career Electrical Engineer with AT&T Bell Laboratories and that's the reason for the interest in the "wired receivers"

## RECENT NEW CRC MEMBERS

John Dean	Arvada, CO
Nic Herivel	Littleton, CO
Bill Ballas	Denver, CO
Mike Kaplan	Denver, CO
John Lyle	Topeka, KS

# Wants and 48 Sales

## *Wanted:*

Dial escutcheon for model 70  
**Philco** cathedral and  
wooden knobs for  
**Zenith** chairside  
model 9S244....  
similar to other  
**Zenith** wooden  
knobs.



**Riggs Smith** 973-8792  
Littleton, CO

## *Wanted:*

Any technical or historical  
information concerning the  
**Sherman** Radio Corporation model  
TRF-6RC (**Clearfield**) radio. Knobs  
for **Philco** 16B tombstone and for  
**Philco** 96 console. Escutcheon for  
**Philco** 50 cathedral. **Mitchell**  
rocket-shaped table lamp radio.

**Neil Gallensky** 466-0976  
Westminster, CO

## ON THE AIR

From The C.R.C. President

If you missed our September meeting, you missed an excellent presentation by Riggs Smith on restoring verses keeping the original finish on a radio cabinet. Riggs shared some of his insights about how to get an old weather-beaten radio to look new again. One very important question raised was whether a radio needs total restoration or would just reviving the original finish improve it. Secondly, is it worth repairing it at all? Riggs suggested first to clean and polish the cabinet to see if the original finish will come back, commenting that you might be surprised by the results! Besides, you can always totally refinish the cabinet later. I believe Riggs is a real pro when it comes to refinishing wood and looking at his results proves it. Should you have any problems with woodwork, I'm sure he would be glad to help. Thanks, Riggs, for a most professional presentation!

Now on to the November meeting. We tried to call all members. But if we missed you somehow, I'm sorry! However, the turnout was fantastic! We held elections of club officers. There was little competition for each office, so, luckily, we didn't have to hear any of the often-heard campaign promises or the usual mud-slinging on the road to elected office. Dick Hagrman is our new President with Riggs Smith V. P. and I'm now the Treasurer. Rick Ammon once again is the Newsletter Editor and will also take on the responsibilities of Secretary.

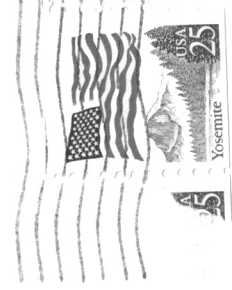
I would like to say "Thanks!" to all of you for the help and support given me over the past year and a half as President. I hope the interest and growth continues. Not everyone is looking for the same radios and equipment; therefore, we can work as a team in preserving the history, collecting, and stimulating interest in the Golden Voice of the old radios. I would like to ask if anyone is interested in putting together a display of "The History of Radio" that would be put on display around town. If you would like to support this activity, please, let's get together.

**Thanks to all !!!!!** - Bruce -

**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.