

# 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 3

March - April 1992

Issue 2

## NEW MEETING LOCATION

SOUTHWEST BANK BUILDING

Community Room

1380 South Federal Boulevard • Denver

Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> • Meeting at 1 PM • Swap Meet at 3 PM

## 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tragedy and Wireless History

by Rick Ammon

The muffled shudder just before midnight wasn't felt by those in their cabins or in the ballrooms topside, but, within three hours, the world's largest and "most unsinkable" ship was rushing thousands of feet down to the bottom of the iceberg-laden North Atlantic. With nearly sixteen hundred passengers lost that early morning of April 15, 1912 were also founded many chapters of wireless history and radio laws.

As the Titanic was sinking, its Marconi wireless apparatus (picture on page three) screamed out its "S.O.S." only to be ignored by a wireless operator aboard a ship only a few miles away. He had gone to bed minutes earlier. In 1912 no laws were in effect to assure a ship in distress would be heard. All would change

dramatically because of the Titanic, becoming only one of the many mileposts in the history of wireless. Legislation enacted internationally before the end of 1912 would lead, eventually, to the Federal Communication Commission and today's laws.

The following excerpts are from the 1912 book about the disaster, *Story of the Wreck of the Titanic*: "In the Senate Investigating Committee on April 22, Fourth Officer Boxall made a startling revelation in regard to a ship close at hand at the time of the wreck which ignored all the Titanic's (wireless and rocket) signals". Boxhall testified that, at Captain Smith's orders, he "...took word of the ship's (last) position to the wireless operators....41:40 north, 50.14 west...After that I was on the bridge most of the time, sending out distress signals, trying to attract the attention of the boats ahead. I sent up distress rockets until I left the ship, to try to attract attention of the ship directly ahead. I had seen the lights. It seemed to be meeting us, and not far away. It got close enough, it seemed to me, to read our electric Morse signals...'Come

(Continued on page three)

*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

**WANT ADS**  
and  
**ARTICLES**

should be directed to:

**C. R. C. Editor**

1249 Solstice Lane  
Fort Collins, CO 80525

**Dues Presentable  
Upon Membership  
Anniversary**

**\$10<sup>00</sup> Annually**

**Larry Weide**

5270 East Nassau Circle  
Englewood, Colorado 80110

(Please do NOT make checks to CRC)

**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 about our great hobby. Pictures will be returned promptly if so requested. All materials used are copyrighted (©) property of the Colorado Radio Collectors' club.

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 -

**MEETING LOCATION**

Unless otherwise noted in this journal, meetings are held at 1:00 PM on the second Sunday of every other month beginning in January at the SouthWest Bank Building - Community Room - 1380 South Federal Blvd. A swap meet is at 3:00 at a location to be announced. Bring lots of For Sale/Trade stuff !!

**C. R. C. OFFICERS**

**President:**

Dick Hagrman 794•6674 Denver

**Vice President:**

Riggs Smith 973•8792 Littleton

**Treasurer:**

Larry Weide 758•8382 Englewood

**Journal Editor / Secretary:**

Rick Ammon 224•5446 Ft. Collins

**Closing Dates:** (Received by, please:)

December 20 • February 20 • April 20

June 20 • August 20 • October 20

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(Anniversary - Cont. from cover)

at once - we are sinking'." Obviously, that ship did not respond. The *Carpathia*, *Olympic*, and *Baltic* were the ships to the rescue from many more miles away, taking much longer and attributing to the great loss of life.

In front of the Investigating Committee, "...discussing the strength of the wireless, *Carpathia's* Captain Rostron said the ship was only fifty-eight miles from the *Titanic* when the call for help came in. 'Our wireless operator was not on duty', said the captain, 'but as he was undressing, he had his apparatus to his ear. Ten minutes later he would have been in bed and we never have heard'.

Testimony about the *Carpathia's* role in the disaster centered on possible censorship (with-holding the names of victims) by its wireless operator and an unexplained wireless telegram received from the *Titanic* after it had gone down!

Specifically, Captain Rostron reacted to charges from Committee-man Smith that the *Carpathia* didn't answer President Taft's inquiry about

his military aid, Major Butt (a victim), by explaining that "absolutely no censorship was exercised and the wireless continued working all the way in (to New York), the Marconi operator being constantly at the key." Senator Smith sought to discover who had been "tampering with the wireless operators or had been responsible for the failure of the wireless to get the news to the shore earlier."

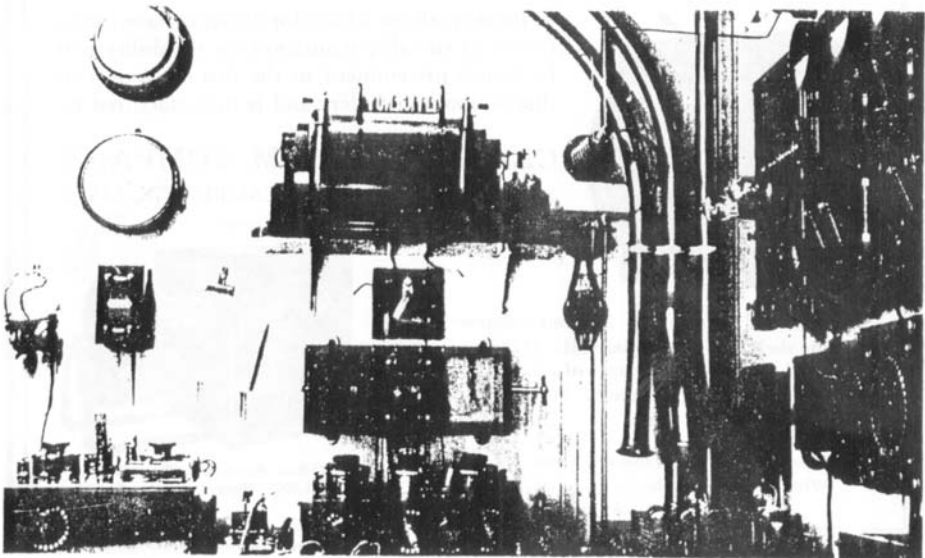
P.A.S. Franklin, a White Star Line business manager, was called as a witness and asked if he knew anything about a telegram received by a Congressman Hughes. The telegram read:

Titanic proceeding to Halifax.  
Passengers probably land on Wednesday.  
*All safe.* (Emphasis mine - Editor)

White Star Line

The irony? The telegram was dated April 15, 1912...hours **after** the massive ship sank! Franklin claimed no knowledge of it. Apparently, the mystery of why and by whom this telegram was sent was never solved.

(Continued on page 18)



This is the Wireless Room of the *Olympic*...the sister ship to the *Titanic*  
Notice the ten-inch Spark Coil, Multi-Tuner, Magnetic Detector, and Fleming Valve  
All equipment is from the British Marconi Company of 1912

*A New Radio Production*  
**TURNEY SPIDER-WEB INDUCTANCE**  
 EMBODIED IN A SMALL UNIT

Statement:

Reason

*The Turney Spider-Web Unit*

More Inductance { There is no magnetic leakage in coupling. The coils being flat, the entire magnetic area of the coil is available.

Less Distributed Capacity { The wire runs parallel for a greater distance and crosses itself less frequently than any coil known.

Lower High Frequency Resistance { There being no interior magnetic field or air core, high frequency resistance is reduced to a minimum.

Occupies Less Space { The coils are so thin that three of them occupy less than 1/4 inch.

THE WINDING  
 Note Angle at Crossing.  
 Formica Core.

This unit contains three Turney spider-web inductance coils. Two movable and one stationary. There are six binding posts permitting most any type of circuit to be used. The doors, as shown in cut, are capable of very fine adjustment and stay where they are placed. With two condensers, .0005 and .001 m.f., it will respond to wavelengths of 75 to 100 meters, and to give results such as you have not had before.

FORMICA INSULATION THROUGHOUT

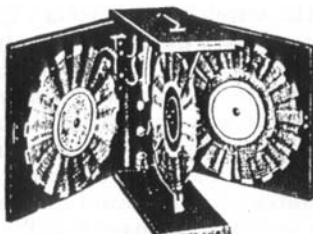


Illustration shows front of cabinet removed

Patent Pending  
 Dimensions, 4 1/2 x 5 x 1 1/4  
 PRICE, \$6.00

EUGENE T. TURNEY LABORATORIES  
 Holmes, New York

Further information on request

# APPARATUS WHICH EXCELS



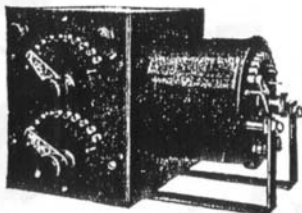
TYPE Z.R.V. Variometer has unit construction with bakelite shell and hard wood ball. Has low dielectric losses and a range of inductance of 1.25 mil henry maximum to .1 mil henry minimum. It is readily used on a table or mounted on panels.

Complete with 3-inch dial and knob.....\$6.50  
 Without dial or knob..... 5.75

in those qualities which for 13 years have maintained its enviable reputation for reliability will be found pre-eminent in the display rooms of discriminating dealers and is manufactured by

**CLAPP-EASTHAM COMPANY**  
 120 Main Street CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Catalog sent for 6c stamps.



Radion Receiving Transformer  
 200-3000 Meters. Price \$14.00

(Radio News • October 1920)

# ON THE AIR

## Dick Hagrman, C. R. C. President

Be sure to attend the March meeting as we will be finalizing our plans for the April Antique Radio Show and Swap Meet. New categories have been added and several other changes have been made which, we hope, will provide us with a bigger and better show.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE...

The meeting location has been changed to the SouthWest Bank Community Room. The bank is located at 1380 South Federal, between Louisiana and Florida on the east side of Federal. We believe this is a more central location and is being provided to the club at NO COST. Come and check this location out and, with the approval of the members, we'll make this our permanent meeting location. The bank has no objections to the club having a swap meet in their parking lot after our meeting. Enter the bank at the front entrance and take the stairs on your left down to the Community Room.

The club's Treasurer, Larry Weide, has asked me to announce that several members are behind in their dues. Should you have any questions as to when your dues are due, please ask Larry at the next meeting. We are taking several actions to prevent a

dues increase and we do need your help with this matter. Thanks. Do not find yourself in "Deep Due Dues"!

C.R.C. club members will have the opportunity to buy radio books at greatly reduced prices at the next meeting. An example is the book, *Evolution of the Radio*, which has a retail price of \$ 22.95. Your cost is only \$ 13.77 plus a small postage fee! About a dozen titles are currently available to the club. Get more details at this next meeting...bring your checkbook.

The following agenda items, and others, are scheduled for the March 8th meeting:

- Check out the new location
- Restoration presentation  
by Dave Boyle
- Discussion of the April Show
- A raffle
- Swap Meet after the meeting

Looking forward to seeing each of you at the meeting.

P.S. Be sure to wear your name tag. If you don't have one, see Rick Ammon as he has just finished name tags for the complete club roster (finally! - Editor) with significant others included...so bring your tags and your "others" to the meeting!

**Thanks, Contributors,  
For Your Support !!**

**Barney Wooters  
Dick Hagrman**



## MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

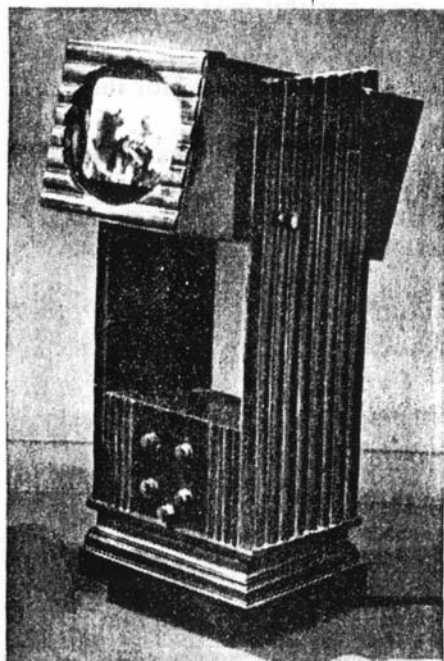


The month and year next to your address on the back cover is your membership expiration date. Where appropriate, please renew at this meeting or see the inside front cover of this journal.

# (More)<sup>2</sup> Pictorial Essay of Television



▲ Late '30s RCA TV receivers with mirrored projection set, right ▼



American Television Corporation's 1939 commercial television receiver

## Here is (more)<sup>2</sup> history of Television...

- 1900 France coins a new word... "Television"
- 1928 General Electric telecasts the first TV drama... *The Queens Messenger*... The "Soaps" begin!
- 1935 United States Patent Office declares Farnsworth, NOT RCA/Zworykin, inventor of electronic TV scanning
- 1939 RCA President Sarnoff at the World's Fair announces start of regular TV broadcasts

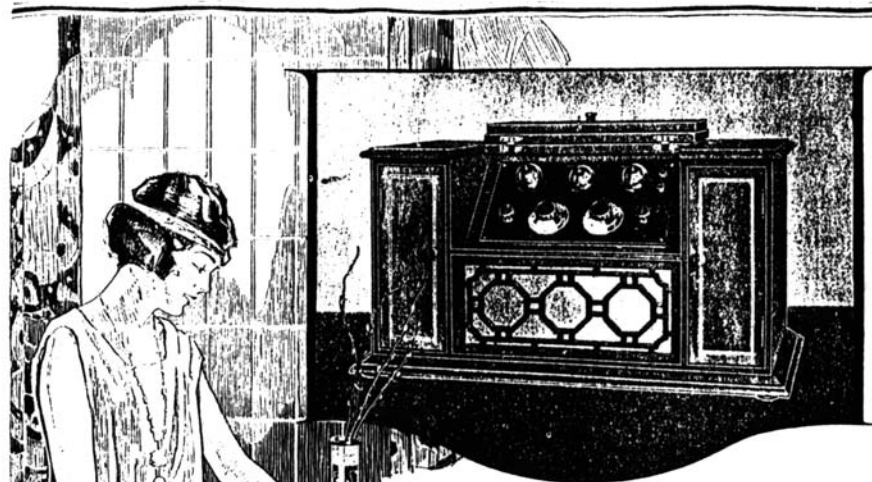
## Next Issue's Features

Nicola Tesla - A Forgotten Pioneer  
 Postcards and Sheet Music Collectables  
 Hendrie & Bolthoff Manufacturing  
 & Supply - Denver  
 Result of the CRC Annual Show



The first television commercial appeared on July 1, 1941. It cost \$9.





## STRIKING BEAUTY *in this new Kennedy Set*

THIS NEW ADDITION to the Kennedy line has a three-fold appeal for you. First, its artistic beauty—simple, refined lines. Second, the faithfulness and unusual tonal purity of its reproduction. Third, it is a self-contained unit, all batteries and loud speaker unit enclosed in the cabinet. Ample volume is assured for dancing or entertainment.

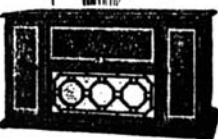
In this set extreme simplicity of operation has been obtained, at the same time retaining the selectivity of tuning and long distance reception that has distinguished all Kennedy receiving sets. Only two dials are used—one to bring in the desired station, the other to regulate volume. Truly a set of which the Kennedy laboratories can justly be proud.

*You can arrange with the nearest Kennedy dealer for a demonstration, or write us direct for descriptive literature.*

THE COLIN B. KENNEDY COMPANY  
SAINT LOUIS                      SAN FRANCISCO

# KENNEDY

The Royalty  of Radio



### THE KENNEDY MODEL X

This beautifully inlaid mahogany cabinet encloses a complete, self contained radio receiver (wave length range 150 to 600 meters) Two stages of audio amplification, built in loud speaker. Projection panel. Dials and metal trimmings gold plated. All dry batteries—three dry battery tubes—phones for weaker signals or individual reception—complete, \$205.00

All Kennedy radio receiving sets are  
reciprocity—Licensed under Arm-  
strong U. S. Patent No. 1,111,143.

# What do you know about...

Restoring a bad electrolytic condenser?

The history of the Grigsby-Grunow radio company?

Refinishing the base of a 1924 Atwater Kent 10C BreadBoard?

The short-comings of the first transistor radios?

Parts needed for a 1923 Crosley restoration project?

The excitement of finding a Catalin for \$25 in a local junk shop?

**I know nothing of these...But YOU do!**

# ABSOLUTE FRUSTRATION!!

**My frustration comes from a lack of participation by All members of this club to contribute to your newsletter!**

Out of nearly sixty CRC members, only eight (five were past and present club officers) in a year have provided this editor with newsletter materials. I have neither the resources nor the vast knowledge of radio histories and restoration techniques to continue the newsletter in its present form. **You**, the members of this club **DO** have the resources (in you heads).

As editor, I volunteered to provide this club with a bi-monthly publication. I will continue to do so, but the amount of information contained within these pages will have to be based on your contributions. Even "For Sale/Want" ads are FREE!! Please....

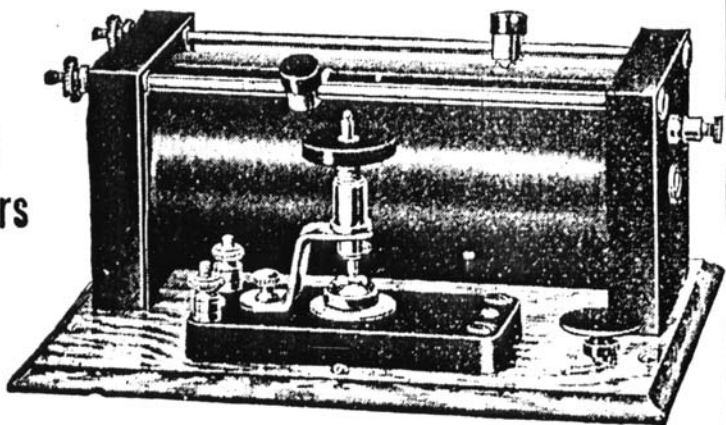
# Share !!



# Wireless Apparatus

## No. 2 RECEIVING SET

**\$8**  
Without  
Receivers



Double slide tuning coil—Wave length 100 to 300 meters—Latest type detector condenser—Mounted on mahogany base.



### Double Head Receivers

Style AM

200 Ohm	- - -	\$4.50
1000 Ohm	- - -	5.50
1500 Ohm	- - -	6.50
2000 Ohm	- - -	7.50
3000 Ohm	- - -	8.50

Postpaid

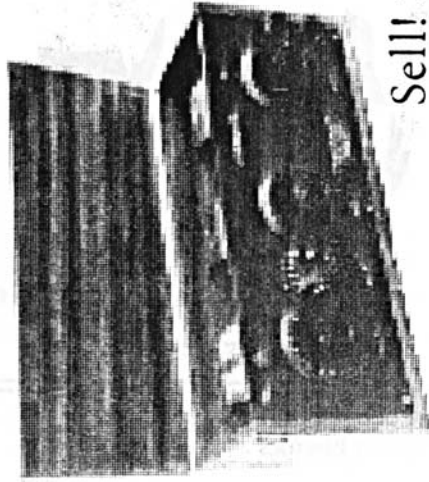
This apparatus is of the highest quality and is guaranteed by us to be perfect in every respect.

**Wm. J. Murdock & Co.**

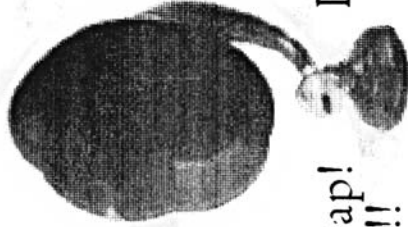
**50 Carter Street**

**CHELSEA, MASS.**

# ANTIQUUE RADIO SHOW and SWAP MEET



*4th Annual*

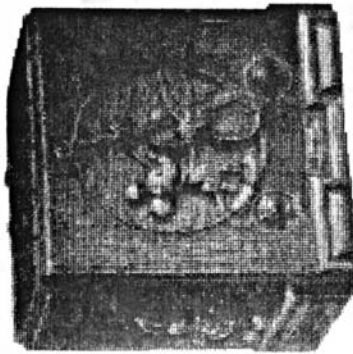


Sell! Swap!  
Trade!!

Vendors!  
Displays!  
Discussions!



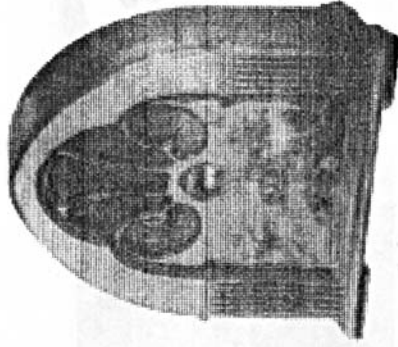
## Radio, TV, and Equipment Contests



Sponsored by the

# *Colorado Radio Collectors*

*April 11 & 12, 1992*



## **National Western Complex - Denver**

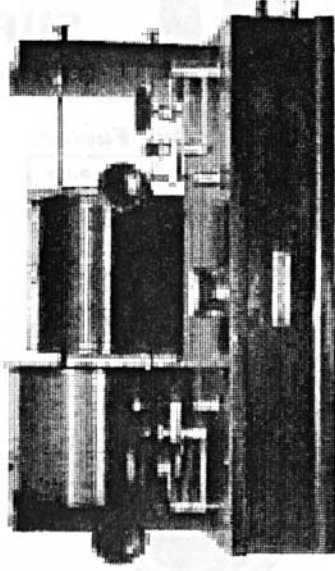
(One mile East of Interstate 25 on Interstate 70)

**Dick Hagrman**

C.R.C. President

Littleton, Colorado

**303 • 794 • 6674**



**ONLY**  
**\$ 99** for this **PACKARD**  
**SUPER 8—\$250 A. C.**  
**ELECTRIC RADIO SET !**

**Direct From Our Factory**

Today's greatest radio! A truly sensational offer! The Eight-tube PACKARD A. C. Electric Radio — a regular \$250 set — shipped to any home in the U. S. at direct from factory price of only \$99. And to prove our claims we will ship this set to your home on

**\$5000.00**  
**CASH BOND**  
**to Back Our**  
**GUARANTEE**



**The PACKARD Engineers**

have invented this most unusual, powerful SUPER-Eight Tube Radio. Astonishing volume and tone quality. Remarkable selectivity and long-distance reception. Leading radio engineers unanimously agree that there is no better radio made — regardless of price.

Let us prove this by shipping a set to your home on 30 days' trial. Examine the set from A to Z. Let the most exacting critics pass on its merits. And if, after the 30 day trial period, you are convinced that the Packard Eight-tube Electric is fully the equal of any console radio set selling up to \$250 — then, and only then, need you decide to keep it at our factory price of only \$99 — otherwise, return it.

This marvelous set combines every new scientific development in receiving sets — possessing beauty, refinement, durability. Gets everything on the air from coast to coast — from Mexico into Canada, loudly, clearly, and distinctly. Only one dial to tune in all stations.

**You Save the Jobbers', Dealers' and Salesmen's Profits**

The PACKARD Radio is shipped direct from our factory. All the in-between profits are deducted from the price of the set and instead of paying \$250 you pay only \$99. Quantity production, economy in selling, and only a small profit to the manufacturer makes this astounding offer possible.

**MAIL COUPON NOW FOR**

**30 days' free trial offer**

Don't miss this opportunity. Mail coupon at once for complete information about the PACKARD A. C. — 8 TUBE ELECTRIC RADIO and our liberal 30 days' free trial offer. No obligation on your part. Our \$5,000.00 cash bond backs up our guarantee.

**PACKARD RADIO CO.**

**2323 Milwaukee Ave. Dept. 320 Chicago, Ill.**



**WORLD'S GREATEST RADIO**  
**Genuine Walnut Console Cabinet**

Eight powerful A. C. tubes and one genuine full-wave rectifying tube — nine tubes in all. Superior quality throughout. Simple to operate. Connect the plug to electric socket and turn switch. Only one dial to tune. One hundred per cent electric. Hand-some walnut cabinet — two-tone genuine DUCO finish. Metal trimming finished in old gold. Marvelous built-in, powerful speaker. Size of cabinet: 54 inches high, 27 inches wide.

**Packard Radios are also**  
**made for BATTERY OPERATION**  
**PRICED AS LOW AS \$53**

**Packard Radio Company**  
**2323 Milwaukee Ave., Dept. 320, Chicago, Ill.**

I am interested in Packard Radios and your \$5,000.00 Bonded 30 days' free trial offer and guarantee. Send full details.

Name   
 Address   
 City  State

Please say you saw it in Radio News

Radio News • October 1928

# Some Thoughts About Working on Old Radios

By Barney Wooters

When servicing a radio on your bench, be sure to use a suitable isolation transformer so the YOU don't become part of an electrical circuit!

Be sure to keep all parts, knobs, and hardware in a single location. Styrofoam egg crates make good containers for this purpose.

If you have *lots* of parts off any given radio, use small slips of paper (Post-It Notes cut into strips - Ed.) to put with them, telling what they are by name ("dial light socket mounting screws") or where they come from ("screws off rear of tuning condenser").

Be careful about using masking tape to mark parts. If it's not removed soon, it can be a real pain to remove by using a knife and/or suitable solvent. Never use

tape on a finished wood surface!

Experiment carefully with the various kinds of cleaners (i.e., 409, Fantastick, and ammonia-based products) available today. They all do good work for clean-up, but some of these will soften and/or remove some kinds of paints and other finishes. I have learned some of these things

"the hard way". Always use these in a well-ventilated area. Never use gasoline -- there are better/safer solvents.

Proceed carefully in your work. Make your best efforts. Strive for originally. If you don't know, ask for help.

(NEVER consider cleaning Bakelite with any ammonia-based product! - Editor)



# BAKELITE NAMED FOR INVENTOR

by Rick Ammon

In old radio circles, the word "Bakelite" is bandied about with frequency, but the origin of the word may not be widely known.

Bakelite is a synthetic substance whose characteristics include an irrevocable hardening when cured (i.e. it cannot be softened again). It is nonflammable, odorless, and moisture resistance. By a more colorful name, this substance can also be called "cast phenolic thermosetting plastic".

It was named not for any physical qualities but for its Belgian born chemist, Leo Baekeland, who discovered it by accident in 1907. His General Bakelite company became the Bakelite Corporation, and the word "Bakelite" is now a registered trademark of Union Carbide.

# Andrea

"SHARP-FOCUS"

## TELEVISION

*Ready for Experimenters,  
Set Builders, Servicemen*

Frank A. D. Andrea, famous radio pioneer, now leads in television progress! You may be confident of success with the KT-E-5 kit. It is a product of the Andrea television development laboratories, whose equipment and personnel are among the finest in the world.—When assembled from the step-by-step instructions, your Andrea KT-E-5 will give you the same "Sharp-Focus" images that have amazed television engineers during New York demonstrations.—Be the first in your neighborhood to build an Andrea "Sharp-Focus" receiver.



**Complete to the Last Detail**

Manufactured by Andrea Radio Corp.

5" picture tube, 16 set tubes, 441 lines, 30 frames interlaced, 44-50 and 50-56 mc. tuning, chassis and base-plate holes stamped, R.F. unit assembled and wired, 6½" speaker, step-by-step instructions and wiring diagrams in 5 stages assure successful assembly. **KT-E-5 kit only, \$79.95, picture tube \$27.50, 16 set tubes \$27.50, Teleceptor antenna \$9.50.**

**Prompt Service on Mail Orders**

**HAYNES-GRIFFIN** Authorized Andrea Dealers  
373 Madison Ave., New York City



# Collector BBS Hangs It Up!

This long-delayed feature about a Computer Bulletin Board was too long in coming. As of the first of February the nation-wide "BBS" devoted to Radio/TV collectors was disconnected because "the computer was needed in other areas of interest" as reported by Lee and Reggi Alder, Sysops (SYSTEM OPERATORs) of the WildCat! BBS in California. For an annual subscription fee, one could exchange messages with other collectors covering all facets of our hobby and relay files via computers, modems and telephone lines. Those files contained For Sale/Wants listings from all over the country during the year of BBS's operation.

The advantage of this computer BBS was that a subscriber could "download" a file containing the latest, HOT! For Sale list of Catalins or Transistor Novelties weeks before the same list appeared in the Antique Radio Classified or other publications. Another advantage was the message base, allowing lengthy discussions of restoration techniques and technical chit-chat. The disadvantage was that one needed a computer and knowledge of telecommunications to use this high-tech medium. It's obviously the way of the future and we'll see more of them.

There's been talk of a major California radio club taking over the management of the Board with access granted to members of the club. Maybe all clubs will provide this service. There's also another BBS in New Jersey devoted to our hobby. This writer found a very limited message base and radio/TV files, but it didn't have any of the character of the late WildCat! BBS. - CRC Editor -

## ♣ Most Interesting Finds ♣

No rock left unturned! Isn't that the motto of all Radio/TV Collectors? In 1975, when I lived in Indiana, none were unturned. Even when the sign outside a plumbing shop read "Antiques", I couldn't resist! Antiques?? Plumbing?? I went inside and struck up a conversation with a sarcastic old lady amidst the piles of old plumbing fixtures and few pieces of chipped depression glass. After a bit of very uncomfortable chit-chat, I asked about old radios. Immediately, she told me, without explanation, to meet her later that day at a certain address in another town close by, stating, "It'll be worth your time!"

I kept the date with this strange woman who lead me into the rickety garage of an old turn-of-the-Century house. As she began to dig through numerous boxes piled high, she related this story. She and her husband were married in 1922. He was a plumber by trade and asked her to manage his shop when he was out on a call. After several weeks, she complained of boredom from just sitting there. He said he'd been thinking about the new fad of RADIO and wanted to stock radios and supplies along with the plumbing fixtures. With the increased traffic into the store, she wouldn't have time to be bored! The old lady chuckled at that, explaining he was right!

She continued to unpack gobs of old radio supplies in their original display boxes...DeForest, Crosley, AK! All with stringed price tags on each individual part. THE ORIGINAL PRICES, yet!! She brought out a DeForest 7A Reflex with its loop antenna and a Radio Craft one tube receiver. "These", she said, "were demonstration radios; never sold, which were set up in the plumbing store and played to entice customers to buy radio equipment". The old woman had a smile on her face as she told of the fun of selling radios when her husband was out of the shop in those years of 1922 and 1923.

Obviously, I bought everything for \$175 and could hardly fit all of it into my car! As I was picking up the last boxes, she added, "Sorry you weren't here a few weeks ago...you could have bought the car I had covered up in this garage for all these years...my late husband's 1927 Packard Touring car!" (True story!!)

- Rick Ammon -

TELEVISION

RADIO'S GREATEST MAGAZINE

RADIOVISI

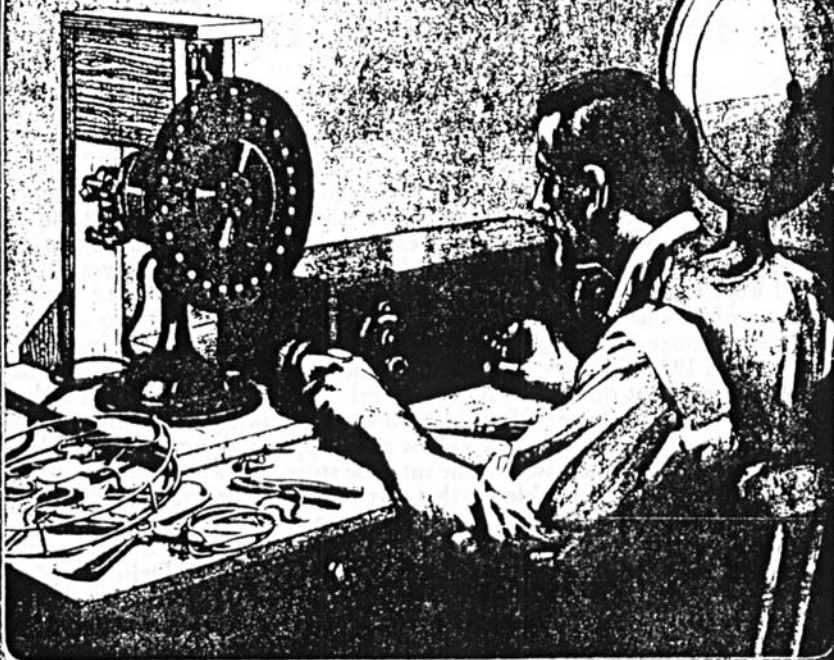
# RADIO NEWS

OCTOBER  
25 CENTS

OVER 200  
Illustrations

BROADCAST  
**WRNY**  
STATION

MAKING MUSIC WITH A  
TELEVISION RECEIVER  
SEE PAGE 314



TELEVISION  
TELEVISION  
TELEVISION  
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TELEVISION

RADIOVISI

# REPORTED AUCTION PRICES -- THE MYTH!

By Jim Clark

While attending a local antique radio swap meet recently I noticed one of the club members had out a nice Pepsi drink dispenser novelty transistor radio, complete with it's carrying strap. As the item was not marked I inquired as to the price of his offering -- he said \$300. He went on to tell me about how one of these rare beauties sold at an auction a couple of years ago for \$1300 and, thus, what bargain his set was! As proof he had a copy of Breed's novelty transistor radio book in which a \$1300 sale is reported -- referencing an article in the January 1989 issue of ARC. The seller was showing this reference to everyone that inquired about his Pepsi radio. Haven't we all seen other collectors and dealers referencing that famous \$1300 Pepsi radio sale?!

When that \$1300 sale was first reported in the January 1989 ARC, I was so shocked I immediately called the author to investigate. I suspected some unusual circumstances must have occurred that lead to this record sale. I was startled when the author revealed to me that in fact the Pepsi radio did NOT sell for \$1300 rather it sold for \$200-\$300!! The author went on to explain, the error in reporting the amount of the Pepsi novelty transistor radio sale involved some confusion that developed revolving around some absentee bidding on the item just previous to or immediately following the Pepsi radio. For whatever reason, a correction was never printed and the \$1300 Pepsi transistor radio sale myth has not only been allowed to grow, but prosper!

I also have noted many other errors in the reporting of auction sale prices for antique radios. I suspect often times a self-appointed person decides he/she will be of service to our hobby by recording each item and it's selling price at an

auction and then present this information for publication. However, this practice can lead to the reporting of many inaccuracies. How you say? What gets reported are the final prices that an item APPARENTLY sells for, EXCEPT some of these items can be no sales or buy-backs!! The casual person in the audience rarely would know this.

For example, it was reported a Stellar Mantle/Maris baseball radio sold at the RADIOFEST '91 auction for \$700. In this case it was bought back by the owner (perfectly allowable under the auction rules) and thus did not change hands. Is it accurate to report this as a sale? In another auction where it was permissible to bid on your own item, I recall where a Smokerette radio sold for about \$125 and yes it did change hands (I know as it was mine, and I did not buy it back or bid on it!). Later in the same sale I was surprised to see another Smokerette radio in similar condition bid to over \$300 -- only to be bought back by it's owner. I assume he has more than this in it and only kept on bidding on it to protect his investment.

The reporting of auction prices could be improved if the selling prices of the items sold, not including buy-backs and no sales, were supplied by the auctioneer or organization sponsoring the auction. So the next time you decide to act as a reporter at an auction, KNOW you are getting all the facts correct! To do anything less is to do our hobby a very great disservice!!

*(CRC member Jim Clark is a well-known collector, active in many clubs and radio collecting organizations. He pioneered the Michigan Antique Radio Club. Jim wrote the CRC and asked to have this information put into our newsletter. His very timely article is appreciated. - Editor)*

(Anniversary - Cont. from page 3)

"William (Guglielmo) Marconi, the wireless inventor, took the stand as soon as the hearing was resumed. He said he was the chairman of the British Marconi Company. Under instructions of the company, he explained, operators must take their orders from the captain of the ship on which they are employed."

When asked if the regulations prescribe whether one or two operators should be aboard the ocean vessels, Marconi testified. "Yes, on ships like the *Titanic* and *Olympic*, two are carried....The *Carpathia*, a smaller boat, carries one. The *Carpathia* wireless apparatus is short distance equipment. The maximum efficiency of the *Carpathia* wireless, I should say, was 200 miles. The wireless equipment on the *Titanic* was available 500 miles during the daytime and 1,000 miles at night." Marconi concluded the *Titanic* had the best, latest-improved wireless apparatus on her maiden voyage.

Senator Smith asked Marconi if amateur or rival concerns interfered with wireless communications of the *Carpathia*. "I am unable to say. Near

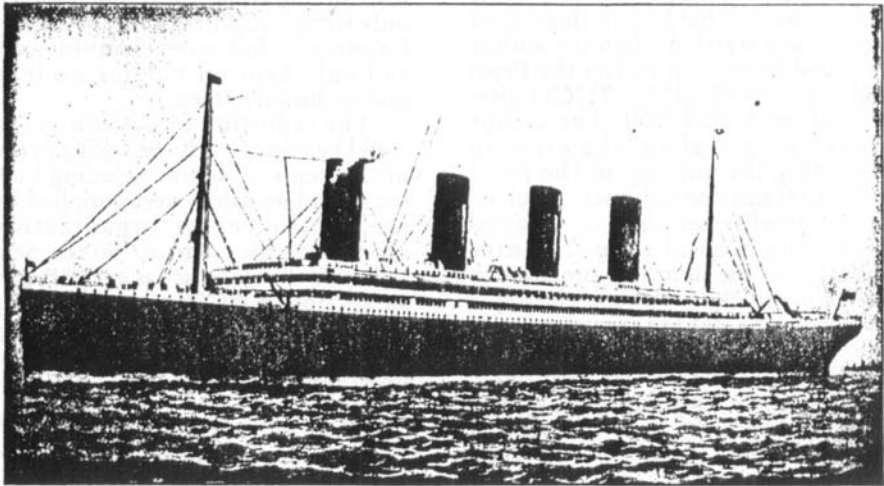
New York I have an impression there was some slight interference, but when the *Carpathia* was farther out in touch with New York ( and David Sarnoff at the Wanamaker Building - Editor) and Nova Scotia, there was practically no interference."

The Senator inquired if Marconi had heard the prior testimony of Captain Rostron as to the catching of the distress signals from the *Titanic* almost providentially (relating to divine providence). Marconi agreed it was absolutely providential (that the *Carpathia* wireless operator had, only by near chance, heard the distress calls).

When asked, "Ought it not to be incumbent upon ships to have an operator always at the key?", Marconi responded, "Yes, but the ship owners do not like to carry two operators when they can get along with one. The smaller boat owners do not like the expense of two operators."

**MORE CONTROVERSY**  
**IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:**

Blunders in the Wireless Messages  
Testimony from Operators  
Marconi Criticizes Operators  
Sarnoff's Role in Titanic Disaster



STEAMSHIP TITANIC

# Wanted / 48 Sale

## For Sale:

Crosley battery set, Triridyne Special with extra chassis/panel (most parts there) -- \$ 60<sup>00</sup>

Wards Airline multi-band AM, FM, SW - battery (D-size batts.) or A.C. adapter. Excellent Condition -- \$ 75<sup>00</sup>

**Barney Wooters**  
8303 East Mansfield Avenue  
Denver, CO 80237-1723  
(303) 770 • 5314

## Wanted:

Interior parts, transformers (good or open), buss-bar wiring for **Paragon DA** Amplifier. Plez help on this! Thanx!

**Rick Ammon**  
1249 Solstice Lane  
Fort Collins, CO 80525

## Wanted:

Emerson Model CH chassis, working or not. This is an AC/DC chassis used in several table models from mid to late '30s...

**Dick Hagrman**  
3429 West Berry Place  
Littleton, CO 80123  
(303) 794 • 6674

## Wanted:

Colin B. Kennedy type 521 Amplifier; Multi-band communications receivers by **National, Hammarlund, Collins, HalliCrafters**; Early vacuum tubes, good or not...

**Barney Wooters**  
8303 East Mansfield Ave.  
Denver, CO 80237-1723  
(303) 770 • 5314



Left is the wireless operator at his station on the *Baltic* in 1912. This ship rescued none of the passengers set adrift by the sinking of the *Titanic*, but aided in the life-saving communications.

**Colorado  
Radio  
Collectors**

1249 Solstice Lane  
Fort Collins, CO 80525-1239

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