

The C. R. C.




Official Journal Published For Colorado Radio Collectors
Dedicated to the Preservation and Documentation of Wireless, Radio, TV, and Associated Equipment

COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE

Nicola Tesla A Forgotten Local Pioneer?

By Vicki Ehrlich
(Assistant to Editor)

wenty-eight year-old Nicola Tesla arrived in New York from Yugoslavia in 1884 with just four cents in his pocket. With him came revolutionary plans for alternating current which would make it possible to send electricity cross-country.

At the time of Tesla's arrival Thomas Edison had established a direct current system. This system could transport electricity only short distances, requiring powerhouses every mile or so. Naturally, being ahead of Tesla with an idea for transporting electricity, Edison didn't want his powerhouses replaced. This was the greatest obstacle Tesla had to overcome.

Tesla's ideas eventually revolutionized electrical transportation, winning the "War of the Currents". At the 1893 Chicago World's Fair Tesla's technology was showcased and used to harness the energy of Niagara Falls for transmission to Buffalo, New York,

twenty-five miles away. He was awarded 111 patents, including those for all phases of the generation and distribution of alternating current and the foundation for radio broadcast propagation.

Tesla eventually moved to Colorado Springs, south of Denver, working to transmit power from the mountain tops, leading to important developments in broadcasting. It had been his hope to find a way to transmit electrical energy through the air and do away with wires, but this dream was never realized.

For all his creativity and vision Tesla was a poor businessman and did little to enrich himself from his inventions. When Tesla offered to give his patents to Edison, the offer was scorned. It was then that Tesla

(Continued on page 13)



Official Journal of the
**Colorado Radio
Collectors**

Founded October 1988

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

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and
ARTICLES

should be directed to:

C. R. C. Editor

1249 Solstice Lane
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DEADLINE NOTES

It's the intention of this Editor to broadcast our journal bi-monthly just prior to the CRC meetings. Articles about and pictures of your treasures are welcomed as Want/4-Sale ads, any letters or comments about our great hobby. 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...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 !!

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

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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, Denver. Swap meet is at 3:00 in the bank parking lot.. Bring For Sale/Trade stuff!!

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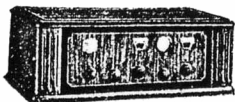
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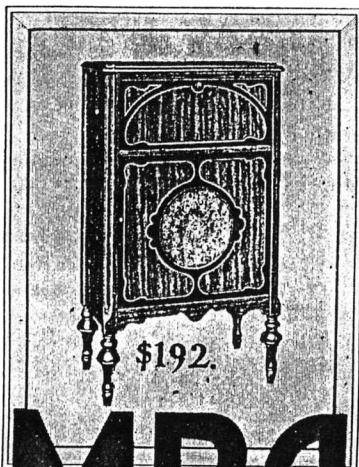


Model AC-9

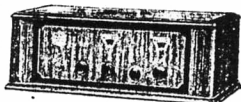
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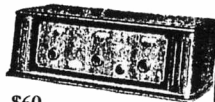
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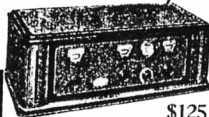


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S. S. *Titantic* Disaster

By Rick Ammon

From accounts in the 1912 book, *Story of the Wreck of the Titanic*, it's apparent the luxury liner broke in half just as it disappeared under the North Atlantic, taking sixteen hundred and thirty five lives. Obviously, the lack of adequate life-saving equipment on the "non-sinkable" ship, on its maiden voyage, lead to the massive loss of life on April 15, 1912. But inadequate communications with other ships in the immediate area (one believed only five miles away) was also a major contributing factor. An investigation, started within two weeks after the incident, concluded new wireless legislation was immediately necessary.

The testimony given before that Senate Investigating Committee showed serious mistakes made by the wireless service. Harold S. Bride, relief operator on the *Titanic*, said "...when Chief Operator Phillips sent out the call for help, the first answer came from the *Frankfurt*...The operator on the *Frankfurt* apparently considered the call trivial, for half an hour after receiving the imperative appeal, he called the *Titanic* to inquire specifically just what was wrong. Mr. Phillips said he was a fool...and told him to keep out, but did not tell him the *Titanic* was sinking. No effort was made to re-establish communications with the *Frankfurt*, although Phillips felt certain the vessel was much nearer than the *Carpathia*, with which communications had been established."

Guglielmo Marconi, who was called to the witness stand as an expert, criticized the operator on the *Frankfurt* for neglecting to act immediately after he received the first call for help. "It was the duty of the wireless operator", he told the committee, "to tell his Captain of the distress signal so the ship might have rushed to the rescue (of the *Titanic*)."

It was noted in the book that "...both Bride and Thomas Cottam, wireless operator on the *Carpathia*, were mere boys, neither being over twenty-three years old". The report continued, "Neither had any telegraphic experience previous to taking up wireless telegraphy and both, while on the stand, told tales of long hours at low wages and days and nights spent without sleep." Cottam was grilled by Committee Chairman Smith as to his inexperience and mental condition during the disaster. It was established that Cottam had not slept more than eight or ten hours between Sunday night, when the *Titanic* first called for help, and Thursday night, when the *Carpathia* docked in New York City with the survivors. A similar story was told by young David Sarnoff, who spent as many hours in the wireless room at Wannamakers department store, relaying communications and the reports of those who survived.

The committee found inadvertently that Operator Bride was lax in his duty when he was seen "...sitting, the (wireless) telephone apparatus strapped to his ears, adjusting his accounts, while the steamship *Californian*, seeking to warn the *Titanic* that icebergs were invading the lanes of ocean travel, called incessantly. Bride said he heard the call, but did not answer because he was 'busy'." It was a half hour later that the *Californian*, trying to get the attention of the (ship) *Baltic*, finally reached the attention of the *Titanic*, warning of three massive icebergs. While testifying, he made no permanent record of the iceberg warnings, Bride insisted he gave a memorandum of the warning to the *Titanic*'s officer-on-watch, but couldn't remember the name of that officer and stated he did not inform Captain Smith directly. Later testimony by Bride recanted this, quoting, "I gave the message to the captain personally".

In an effort to determine whether the signal "C. Q. D." might have been
(Continued on page 16)

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A Date with Radio

By Rick Ammon

MAY

- <2> Jack Benny made his first of many radio appearances in 1932
- <3> In 1922, only 80 radio stations were on the air in the U. S.
- <6> The dirigible "Hindenburg" exploded at Lakehurst, New Jersey in 1937 (Picture elsewhere)
- <7> News of Germany's unconditional surrender was *flushed* over the radio in 1945
- <11> "Meet the Press", a weekly interview of persons in the news, made it's debut on network in 1946 (The current version is the longest running program on television)
- <15> In 1926, KDKA broadcast a conversation with a girl flagpole sitter atop a hotel in downtown Pittsburgh
- <19> "Martha", the first opera broadcast in its entirety, was heard from Denver on this date in 1921
- <20> On this day in 1940, the F.C.C. gave the "go ahead" to FM broadcasting
- <23> The first debate on the merits of Daylight Savings Time was broadcast in 1922
- <26> On this date in 1946, a major network broadcast a program called "Operation Crossroads" to explain the story and meaning of the atomic bomb
- <29> Live coverage of the Indianapolis 500-mile race was first heard in 1924

JUNE

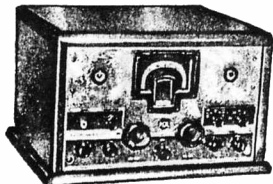
- <1> On this day in 1925, radio stations in Chicago and Los Angeles announced they would broadcast all home baseball games through the season
- <5> In 1944, a giant soap company spent nearly \$22 million for radio time and talent
- <6> News of the Allied invasion of Europe was *flushed* world-wide on this day in 1944
- <7> A Laconia, New Hampshire radio station in 1943 took its microphone into a robin's nest for a peek-by-peek description of a hatching
- <12> "Lapel mikes" were introduced on this date in 1936 at the Democratic National Convention
- <15> In 1938 a Denver station began a program called "Nature Sketches" from the Rocky Mountain National Park
- <16> Musical jingles and announcements with sound effects were introduced to radio in 1932
- <19> Polywinkle, a talking cockatoo, made a guest appearance on a children's radio show in 1923
- <20> Panic was averted and many lives saved in Grand Junction in 1943, when radio broadcast rescue procedures during a three-and-a-half hour bombardment of the city caused when railroad cars of ammunition exploded
- <21> This writer did "Play-By-Play" of a CIRCUS in Laramie, Wyoming in 1969
(Continued on page 18)

Next Issue's Features

David Sarnoff Reflects on 1912
Hendrie & Bolthoff Manufacturing
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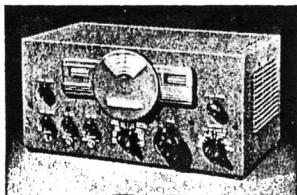
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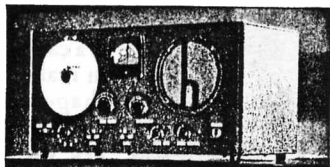
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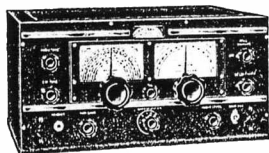


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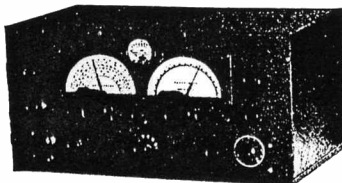
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OUR CIRCUIT COLLECTORS

Introducing....

Jim Berg of Washington

Although he has recently moved out of Denver, Jim admits, when it comes to old radios, he doesn't know a "good one" from a "bad one". Considering he recently moved over fifteen hundred vacuum tubes, almost

one hundred fifty radio sets, and thirty-four consoles, we'd say he's obviously right! *(Jim's consoles seen here were at his "Open House" last year. Jim told us he had a Zenith radio with a CAT! Editor)*

Jim has always enjoyed tinkering with electricity and sometime in 1968 he was given his first couple radios. The guy who owned them said, "If you're interested in them, take 'em home... for FREE!" Jim's first radio was an RCA model 143, in good condition, and was also a freebie! Mainly he collects those sets in the 1920 through 1940 era with a few after '40, some bakelites and Trans-Oceanics. Of those items in his collection his favorites are an RCA portable AR-812 Superhet from 1924, an RCA R-7 Tombstone from 1931, and a Madison Moore Superhet built around 1926. *(Page fifteen for more on these - Editor)*

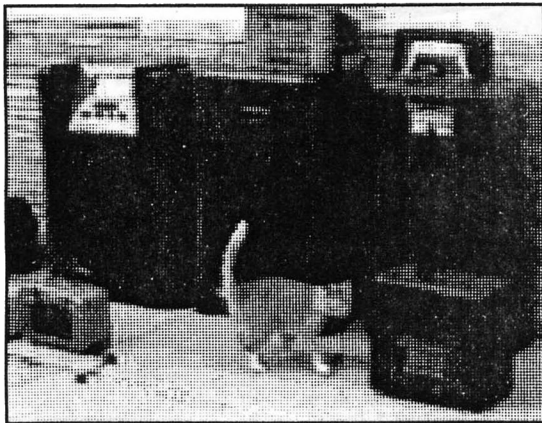
We were privileged since Jim gave us a little bit of the history behind another of his favorite radios. "My 1929 Columbia Radio-Phonograph was purchased in Denver from another collector. Although combination sets usually are not very neat, this one is. It has twelve tubes, three chassis, a 15 inch speaker, and the phono is gold plated. This set probably didn't sell that well

because the original price was \$900!"

Jim does major electrical restoration but says he's not good at wood work. If a cabinet is in really bad shape, he'll pass it up. He enjoys repairing radios so they work

and will do electrical repair for trade or money. Jim has also moved a huge set of Riders, RCA Red Books, and service references for Majestic, Zenith, and Atwater Kent. He's able to look up schematics for most popular old radios and is ready to restore them.

His "museum" is usually open to visitors any time, but should call before they drop by when in Washington state. We miss Jim as he was a very active member, having held the office of Treasurer since our club was formed. We wish him a bunch of luck in finding breadboards and catalins at local flea markets since no one there has ever seen an old radio collector....



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ALL OF THESE RADIO PARTS

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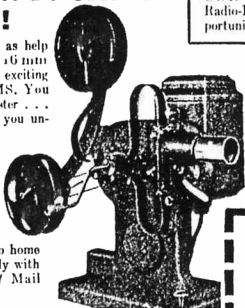


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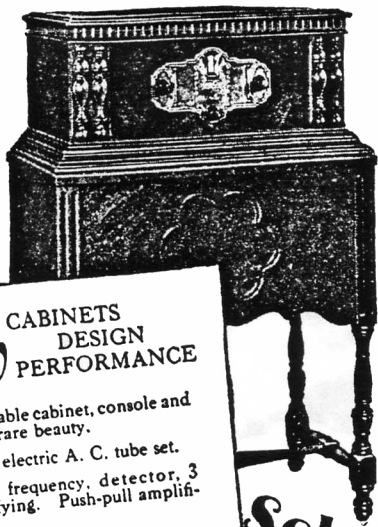
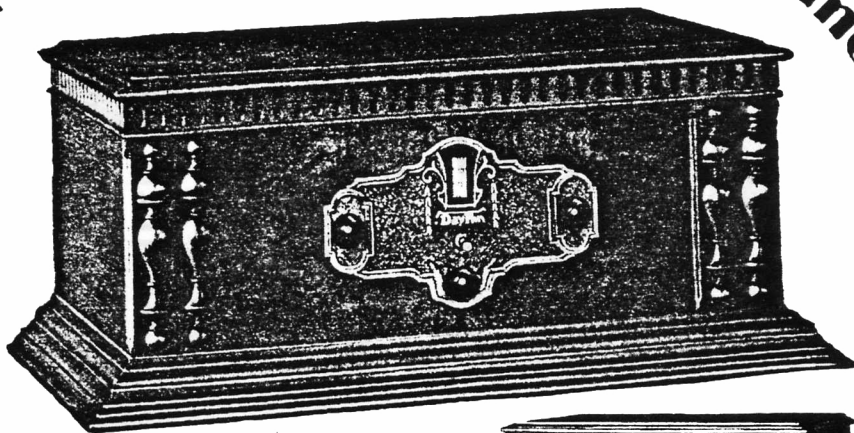
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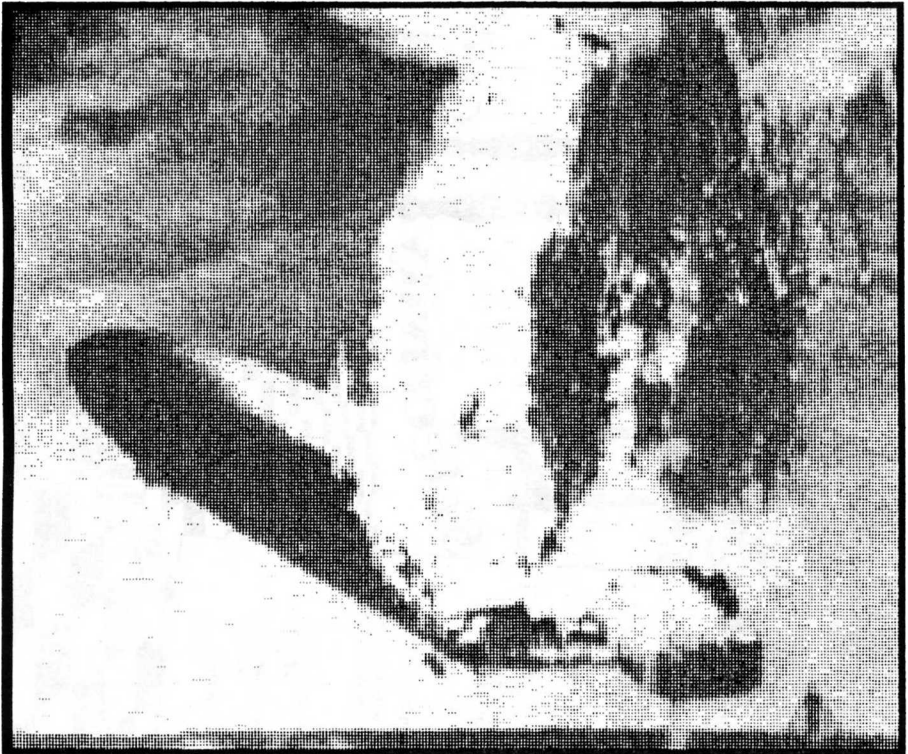
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▲ Circa 1919



"Ohh! Ohhh, the humanity....The loss of humanity!"

The 1937 Hindenburg disaster was the first such incident to be broadcast in a "Play-By-Play" fashion. Announcer Herb Morrison and his engineer from WLS - Chicago were on special assignment at Lakehurst, New Jersey that May 6th, when, while providing their listeners a rather mundane narrative of the arrival of the Nazi dirigible, a still-unexplained explosion ripped apart the hugh "LZ-129". Only thirty-five lost their lives out of the ninety-five paasengers and crew. But political repercussions brought the United States extremely close to an early war with Hitler's Germany. Another significant event of that day was the broadcasting and the recording (in it's entirety) of this historical disaster. In that transcription, Morrison openly wept on-air at the thought of the "loss of all that humanity!"

Nicola Tesla

(Continued from front page)

sold them to George Westinghouse.

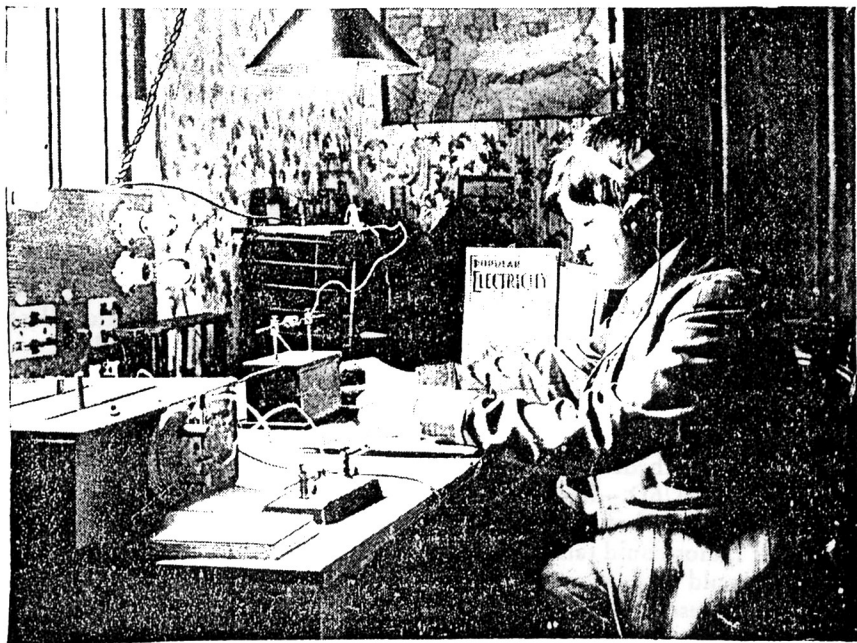
There are no power companies named after Tesla today and no grant-giving foundations to perpetuate his legacy. Indeed, very little is left to show his contributions as a laboratory fire in 1895 destroyed much of his equipment.

Today John Wagner claims the Smithsonian Institute is making an effort to black out the memory of the great pioneer in electricity. "Honest history is being traded for money!" said Wagner, a 63-year-old school teacher, who's determined to keep Tesla's memory alive. For three years Wagner has been pressuring the Smithsonian to accept an \$1,800 bust of Tesla for display in the National Museum of American History and to develop a Tesla exhibit. The purchase of the statue is being underwritten by

a rock band named "Tesla !

Bernard S. Finn, curator of the National Museum of American History's Division of Electricity and Modern Physics has given partial concession and is tentatively planning an exhibit on Tesla for 1993. It will mark the centennial of the World's Fair lit with his technology. Smithsonian officials admit money to pay for exhibits can be a problem, but say lack of artifacts is the main reason Tesla has not been featured prominently in exhibits. Finn said, "We're not putting in Marconi or Edison because somebody is telling us to do so. That simply is not the case."

Nicola Tesla made vast contributions to the advancement of electricity and in so doing made important discoveries in the field of radio. Perhaps Tesla is not deliberately being forgotten, but, because he left so little behind, it is possible he's not easily remembered!



"A Young American at the Wireless Key"

Popular Electricity ♦ 1909

RADIOS TALK

By Riggs Smith

1934 A very good year for radios. The United States was pulling out of the "Great Depression". Franklin Roosevelt had been elected president two years earlier and was being credited with getting the United States back on its feet. The radio industry was flourishing and "a radio in every home" was becoming a reality.

AC radios and "superhets" were the talk of the times. Cathedral radios, popular during the depression, were giving way to "tombstone" radios. Consoles were moving away from the long legged "high boys" to the shorter legged "low boys", and even some floor length models. "RadioBars", which combined a floor model radio and a liquor bar into the same cabinet, had been introduced just a year earlier and were becoming popular. Philco was the sales leader in the industry accounting for three-fourths of the U. S. sales.

In 1934, competition was keen. Philco continued to modify cathedrals with the 84B and 89B. Zenith brought out a twenty-five tube giant - the "Stratosphere". RCA was introducing radio/phonograph combinations. Scott gave us the "Allwave 15". Crosley had their "fivers" and Atwater Kent introduced a beautiful 944 cathedral. Emerson came up with a U6D,---has anyone ever seen one or heard of one????

What if radios could talk? What memories would they share with us? What would these radios, "born" in 1934, tell us about the events of that year? What songs did they "sing"? What sports events did they broadcast? What headline news did they announce? If they could talk, we

we in 1992 might get a better idea of just how old that 1934 radio really is.

Franklin Roosevelt was president. Do you know who the vice-president was? Roosevelt ordered a cancellation of all mail contracts because of wide spread corruption. Farmers in the midwest were facing the most serious droughts in history. Hitler became supreme ruler of Germany with the death of Von Hindenberg.

Crime did not pay in 1934!! The escapades of Bonnie and Clyde came and an end as lawmen killed them on a dirt road in northern Louisiana. John Dillinger, the nation's "Public Enemy #1", was shot and killed by J. Edgar Hoover's "G Men". "Baby Face" Nelson and "Pretty Boy" Floyd were gunned down. Alcatraz became a federal prison.

The F. C. C. (Federal Communication Commission) was established in that year to regulate broadcast services and The Mutual Broadcasting System became the third American broadcast chain.

On the entertainment front, animator Walt Disney gave the nation a new character---Donald Duck. The comic strips Li'l Abner and Flash Gordon were new, and popular.

Best songs of 1934 played and sung by radios, were "*Anything Goes*", "*Cocktails For Two*", "*I Get A Kick Out Of You*", and "*Deep Purple*".

From Hollywood, the year's favorite movies were "*The Bowery*", "*The Thin Man*", "*It Happened One Night*", and "*Berkeley Square*".

Top Books were "*The Native Return*" by Adamic, "*The Darling Man On The Flying Trapeze*" by Saroyan and "*Tender is the night*" by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

(Continued on page 17)

★ Most Interesting Finds ★

From Jim Berg

The Wedding Gift

I purchased a 1924 RCA AR-812 Superhet at a yard sale for just \$ 5.00 when I was in California in 1970. While talking about looking for old radios with an elderly lady at a yard sale, she suggested I come back the next day as she had to dig one out of the attic. The next day she had the superhet sitting out on an old chair and another guy was looking at it with real intent to buy it. He wanted it really badly, but the lady said she'd promised to me and could not accept his offer of \$ 30.00 for it. As I was leaving with it, she told me she'd gotten the radio as a *wedding gift*.

The Free-Bee

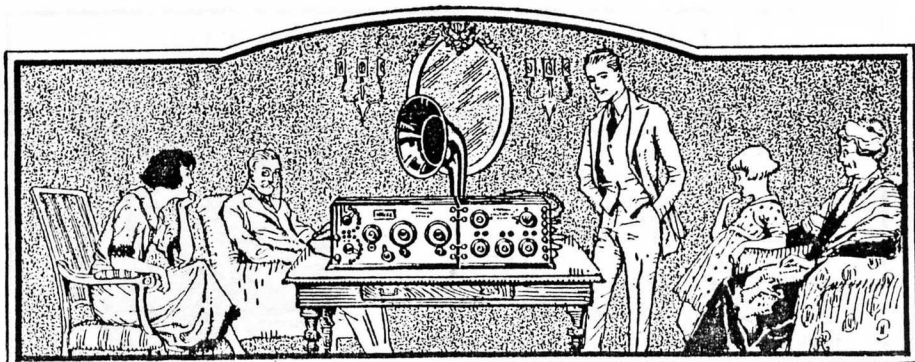
Years ago I located a radio repair store run by an old man in Mendocino, California. When I went to this shop, I found it filled with old radios! There were early battery sets, cathedrals, tubes, and, well, you name it! After getting the Grand Tour, I asked him if any sets were for sale. He told me "No", but, to him, I seemed very interested in old radios and I could *have* the RCA R-7 next to where we were standing! I still have it...

The Steal

I went to an antique store on South Broadway in Denver a couple of years ago and asked if they had old battery sets. Th3e guy who was there said he did have one at home and that he was unable to get it to work. He expalined it was in really great condition, but it didn't have any brand name on it. I was still interested so he said he'd bring the set from home for me to see.

When the radio was finally in front of me, I inspected it in about two seconds flat and said I'd take it! I thought if I took too much time to inspect it, the guy might change his mind and not sell it to me! That NEVER happens does it??!!

I got the set home and found a brand name on its superhet coils ... "Madison Moore - Denver, Colorado". The Madison was one of the finest battery radios of the 1925 - 1927 era and this was a great specimen in pristine condition. With that radio I won a first-place ribbon at the 1990 CRC Annual Show and Swap Meet and I paid only fifty dollars for it!



S. S. *Titanic*....

(Continued from page 4)

misunderstood by passing ships, Senator Smith called upon Marconi to take the stand again. "The 'C.Q.' is an international signal which meant that all stations should cease sending except the one using the call. The 'D.' was added to indicate danger. The call, however, has now (April 22, 1912 - Editor) been superseded by the universal call 'S.O.S.', Marconi told the committee.

Senator Smith then resumed the direct examination of Operator Bride, who reaffirmed the *Frankfurt* was the ship nearest the *Titanic*, explaining Chief Operator Phillips told him that. "By the strength of the (wireless) signal", responded Bride, adding the *Carpathia* answered shortly thereafter. His continuing testimony included the following account:

"...I was asleep and was not awakened by the impact. When the engines stopped, Mr. Phillips called me and I put on the (wireless) telephone apparatus while he went out to see what was the trouble. A little later he came back....and said things looked 'queer'...I supposed he meant that everything was not as it should be.

"When I heard confusion on deck, I went out to investigate, and when I returned, I found Mr. Phillips sending out a 'C.Q.D.' call giving our position. We raised the *Frankfurt* first, and then the *Carpathia* and the *Baltic*. As I have said, we did not try for the *Frankfurt* for any length of time, but concen-

trated our messages on the *Carpathia*, which had answered it was rushing to our aid. The captain came into the wireless cabin when the *Carpathia* advised us of its position and figured out the time when that vessel would arrive. Then, we began unofficially to keep in communications with the *Carpathia*.

"From time to time, either Mr. Phillips or I would go on deck to observe the situation. The last time I went I found passengers running around in confusion and there was almost a panic. They were seeking life belts. All of the large lifeboats were gone...

"I went back to the wireless cabin then. Mr. Phillips was striving to send out a final 'C.Q.D.' call. The power was so low we could not tell exactly whether it was being carried or not, for we were in a closed cabin and we could not hear the crackle of the wireless at the mast. Phillips kept sending, however, while I buckled on his life belt and put on my own."

The last distress call was transmitted at 12:27 am, April 15th. The ship and over sixteen hundred lives were gone two hours later. No rescue vessel would arrive for several more hours.

But what about David Sarnoff in New York City? Was Sarnoff, later CEO at RCA, ever in communications with Phillips or Bride on the sinking luxury liner? In our next issue, we'll present Sarnoff's wireless background, his own description of the *Titanic* disaster, and the role he really played.

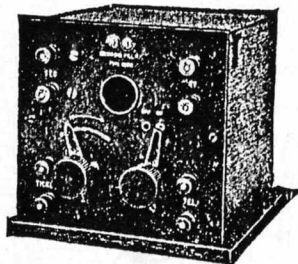
REAL RADIO APPARATUS

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The First Wireless School in America.
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Headquarters for Grebe Apparatus in
Philadelphia Territory.



RADIO TALK

(Cont. from page 14)

Musicals such as "The Great Waltz", and "Ziegfeld Follies" were introduced, and the best plays of the year were "Dodsworth" and "The Children's Hour".

Jack Benny was one of radio's best loved comedians.

In sports in 1934, radios broadcasted the U. S. yacht "Rainbow" winning America's Cup, beating the British challenger "Endeavor". Football fans listened as the New York Giants beat the Chicago Bears 30 to 13 for the National Football League Championship. Baseball fans listened to the "Gas House Gang" of the St. Louis Cardinals winning the World Series over the Detroit Tigers in seven games. The St. Louis team starred "Dizzy" Dean and "Pepper" Rogers. In the baseball All Star game of 1934,

history was made as Carl Hubbell of the New York Giants struck out five men in a row to help the National League win. Do you know who the five men were? Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Jimmy Fox, Al Simmons, and Joe Cronin. Wow!!!

Where were you in 1934? Where were your parents? What were they doing? What did they listen to on the radio? Were you alive - or were you the "twinkle" in some young man's eyes, or the prayers in some woman's heart?

If I'm not mistaken, our club President Dick Hagrman began his life in Nebraska in 1934.

I hope, as these radios of 1934 tell us some of the events of that year, it gives us a better understanding of just how old that radio really is. Isn't it great that we collectors make them "come alive" again!!!

1934—Yes, it was a very good year for radios.



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Wanted / 48 Sale

For Sale:

Ten tube **Sparton** console model 10-76 (1942) - \$ 65⁰⁰

Dan Busetti
P.O. Box 706
Bennett, CO 80102
(303) 644 • 4202

Wanted:

Dial cord for a **Kolster** 20 radio or please provide the name of a supplier.

Steve Touzalin
(303) 988 • 5394

Wanted:

Atwater Kent cathedrals....

Riggs Smith
7477 West Nicols Place
Littleton, CO 80123
(303) 973 • 8792

WANT ADS ARE FREE !!

Wanted:

Atwater Kent table, cathedral, and consoles in any condition. Also looking to purchase **Philco** cathedrals in any condition.

David Boyle
7169 West David Drive
Littleton, CO 80123
(303) 979 • 5403

Wanted:

Wood radios with chrome grilles. Also metal **Arvin** radios.

Jay Malkin
1250 Galapago #206
Denver, CO 80204
(303) 623 • 6451

Wanted:

Catalin radios....

Johnny Johnson
2201 Newton Street
Denver, CO 80201
(303) 445 • 3421

A Date With Radio

(Continued from page 6)

JUNE

< 22 > Boxing fans heard the Louis-Schemeling fight broadcast from New York's Yankee Stadium on this day in 1938

< 29 > The transistor was demonstrated in 1948 for use in place of conventional electron tubes. The tiny device made possible smaller portable radios and TVs, which have put sound and pictures in palms, pockets, and on handlebars

< 30 > The first round-the-world broadcast was heard on this date in 1930. Originating in Schenectady, New York, the program was relayed to Holland, Java, Australia, and back to New York in less than one second



Contributions Needed



Seeking articles and stories relating to radio, Tv, or associated equipment for use in our publication. Tips, suggestions, hints, and descriptions of restoration techniques solicited

Wanted / 4 Sale

Wanted:

Working or repairable chassis for a Jackson Bell model 60...

Nic Herivel
7943 South Jay Drive
Littleton, CO 80123
(303) 973 • 1795

WANT ADS ARE FREE !!

Wanted:

Philco model 20 or 20B cathedral.
RCA Radiola III or IIIA.

Pat Zapalac
11956 S. Vaughan Way #201
Aurora, CO 80014
(303) 750 • 0989



High Fashion Crepe Radio Table ♦ 1922

Wanted:

Early regenerative radios...any condition...

Ray Kushnir
2213 Alpine Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Wanted:

C. B. Kennedy type 521 amp, Grebe CR-3 and CR-5, Federal 110, and early vacuum tubes...

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

Wanted:

Colonial Globe, other novelties, and early transistors...

Ron Harmon
(303) 466 • 7188

Wanted:

1941 Stromberg - Carlson model 535

David Tripe
1673 Macon Street
Aurora, CO 80010
(303) 364 • 2812

Wanted:

Volume control potentiometer (2 meg pot with tap at 1 meg) for Philco model 38-116. Also, a "12K7" tube...

Jerry Tynan
1184 Rudi Lane
Golden, CO 80403
(303) 642 • 0553

Colorado Radio Collectors

1249 Solstice Lane
Fort Collins, CO 80525-1239

COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE !!

We hope you like our club and publication and will become a CRC member before our next issue

**MEETING
LOCATION**
SOUTHWEST BANK
BUILDING
Basement Community Room
1380 South Federal
Denver

See inside front cover for dates !!
Meeting at 1PM
Swap Meet at 3PM
(in the bank parking lot)