

The

FLASH!!

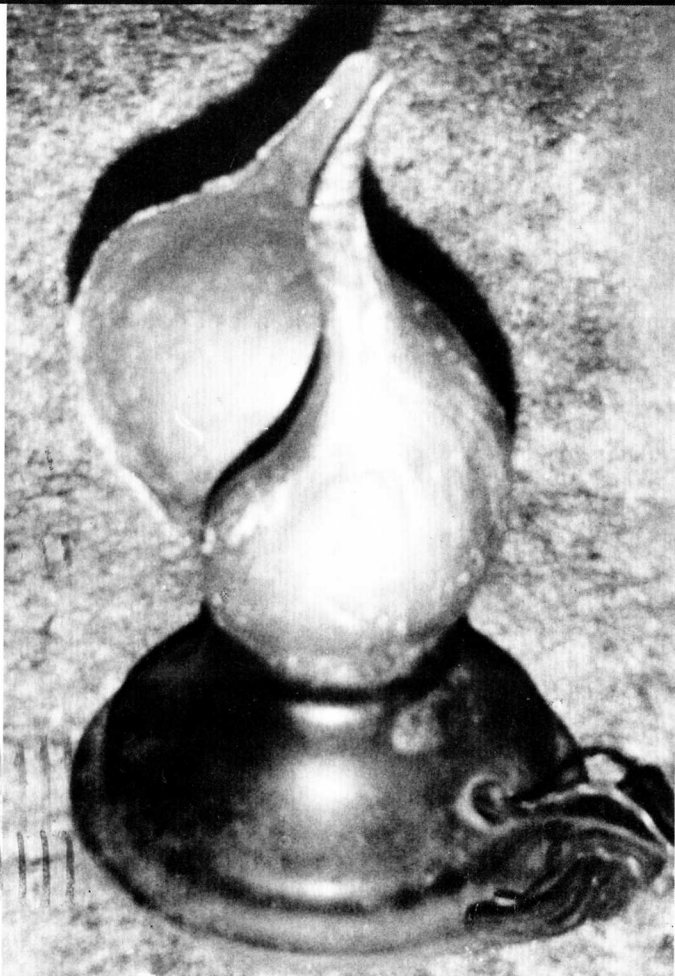
An Official Journal Published For Radio/TV Collectors

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

Volume 6

MAY ☺ JUNE 1995

Issue 3



IN THIS ISSUE...

Dyes Vs. Pigments • Bring'em Up Alive • The List O' Lists
Shipping Huge Cabinets • Stamp Collecting • Repair Cones

DYES VS. PIGMENTS

David Gonshor, C.R.C. Member

We're always on the subject of refinishing radio and phonograph cabinets, so I want to share some information I uncovered recently.

Ever wonder why you can't match the original stain on old radio cabinets? Someone recently stated that pigmented lacquers were used.

My experience is that this is sometimes true, but only for the cheaper radios. Stain lacquer hides the grain and tends to make the wood appear dark. The better radios, for the most part, seemed to use clear lacquer over quality stained wood/veneers. When I say clear lacquer, I mean one without stain added to it. Lacquer itself is not clear, due, I believe, to the resins in it.

Stains which are readily available today are pigments, which lie on top of the wood. According to an excellent article written by Bob Flexner in the *American Woodworker* in 1988, ANILINE DYE stains, rather than pigment stains, were used to color wood years ago. Aniline dye stains had a major advantage in that they penetrated the wood to give it color, so you could stain hardwood without obscuring the grain (whereas pigments lay on the surface something like a thin coat of paint). Ever notice how many radios were stained very dark, but you could still see the grain? Aniline dyes are the answer!

I have tried aniline dyes and the results were exceptional in terms of getting that dark mahogany effect easily. I did use a water-based dye, which meant I had to do some prep work to the surface to mitigate the grain raising effect. The stain was deep and even without a lot of

effort to make it so.

Aniline dyes come in a powder form to be mixed with water, alcohol or hydrocarbon solvents. Dyes do not settle out in the solvent, whereas pigment stains will. The article written by Mr. Flexner says a water mix is best overall, but one must use a special procedure to deal with the grain raising that water causes. This is to wet the wood (not soak, just wet it). Let it dry overnight, then sand with a 320 grit silicon carbide paper to remove the fuzziness. Then apply the dye. It won't raise the grain as easily.

It would be good to use for radio or phonograph cabinets where a partial veneer replacement has been done and the original staining technique must be replicated to result in a uniform looking piece.

If you must refinish a radio NEVER, NEVER, NEVER use a water-wash paint/varnish remover. These remove everything, including the original stains which cannot be replicated easily. They also raise the grain of the wood. Instead, use a mineral-spirits wash type of varnish remover, which is usually marketed as a fine antique stripper. These remove only the old varnish, not the stain. They leave much more of the original patina of the wood. There are some remarkably beautiful woods and stains hiding under old radio varnish. Enjoy them, don't wash them out or hide them. If you have used a water-wash stripper before, you are in for an exciting experience the next time you strip a radio and use the proper stripper.

Consult your local woodworker's store to see if they carry aniline dyes. *

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Official Journal of the
**Colorado Radio
Collectors**

Founded October 1988

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

MEETING LOCATION

Unless otherwise noted in this Journal, beginning in January, meetings are held on the second Sunday of every other month (exception: third Sunday in May) at 1:00 PM at the *Wazee Electric* building, Community Room, 2020 West Barberry place, Denver (see map elsewhere). A swap meet follows the meeting in the parking area.

C. R. C. OFFICERS

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Golden (303) 642 • 0553

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Larry Weide
Englewood (303) 758 • 8382

Treasurer:

Bob Cofer
Denver (303) 360 • 8503

Journal Editor / Secretary:

Rick Ammon
Ft. Collins (303) 224 • 5446

ALL DUES

\$12⁰⁰

ANNUALLY

(Joining dues prorated to June 1st)

Bob Cofer

P.O. Box 200632

Denver, CO 80220-0632

Please do NOT make checks to CRC,
rather to "Bob Cofer, CRC Treasurer"

WANT ADS

AND

ARTICLES

Should be directed to the

C.R.C. Editor

1249 Solstice Lane

Fort Collins, CO 80525-1239

DEADLINE NOTES

It's the intention of this Editor to broadcast our journal bi-monthly just prior to the C.R.C. meetings. Articles about, and pictures of your treasures, are welcomed as are **Want/4-Sale** ads and any letters or comments about our hobby. All materials used are the copyrighted © property of the **Colorado Radio Collectors**.

Your Editor will 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 in any form.....and we'll put it together!

Our club can only succeed when we share our experiences, talents, needs, and adventures; you're being asked to contribute in whatever way you can. **SHARE** with us today!! Thank you!

◆ **DEADLINES** ◆

February 1 • April 1 • June 1
August 1 • October 1 • December 1

March Minutes

Via Vicki's Encrypted Notes

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bob Cofer indicated \$1,348.61 is presently in the account.

THE MEETING

Forty eight attended in our new meeting location with new member Dubin Sydel from Ft. Collins and visitors Mr. Pervis, Mr. Betts, and Mr. Jones.

Belmar Project

Rick Crandle of KEZW radio station is seeking sponsorships of \$500 and has only one. KEZW will provide remote broadcasts for on-site events and Elizabeth Nosik, the event coordinator, is looking for ideas on children's programming. Suggestions for kids events and any others are welcome. Documentation, registration, and item arrival must be done two weeks before the show's opening. Loan forms are available. Remember, all items, unless specifically designated, are protected while on display during the 6 months. A committee will choose from the loaned items what best will cover the timeframe of 1920 through 1950.

Books For Sale

Vicki and Rick Ammon announced available books including Machine Age to Jet Age (good for 20's to 50's info, although perhaps not a good price guide), Trans-Oceanic, and Behind the Front Panel. (See "Collector' Books" on page VIII for the *Trans-Oceanic* volume. Editor)

The Upcoming Show - April 29 & 30

Matt Lutkus can be contacted about table sharing. The display will be in the same place (the southwest corner) of the Stock Show building, Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 10-3. Set up will be Friday 2-6 pm or carry in during the show and tear down on Sunday from 3-8. Judging will be Saturday morning. Wear your name tag! Bring lots of radios! AK's are the specialty choice, but anything is desired. SHARE restorations, old sets,

anything. Members are all invited to attend the Saturday dinner after the show.

Raffle

RMS volt meter, "Radio America '78 Handbook", tubes, reel to reel Silvertone, 1928 "Radio News", and more. The raffle was very successful financially. Everyone is encouraged to bring raffle items each meeting.

Notice

The bookstore at 65th and Wadsworth will be moving to Broomfield. This is the source for cheap radio information and, sometimes, radios.

Show and Tell

Ray Windrix showed a Tom Thumb camera/radio, miniature house-shaped radio, Crosley "Duet", transistor sparkplug, novelty doll transistor (*How do you tune that? Editor*) and an unknown set...possibly 1933 Belmont.

Neil Gallensky brought a Zenith 3R from 1923 which he'd found in Denver.

Barney Wooters provided a '23 ERLA Super Reflex, a "Wedgewood" (Denver made) with permeability tuning, a '22 Aeriola SR, and a '24 Radiola SR.

Bill Hinkley displayed a Philco 70.

Charles Brett showed a 1927 Jewel tube tester.

Lee Bruton brought a 1925 Spenser pocket radio, a unique early 1910 (?) decoherer, and a Radiola AC amp.

Also shown was a Philco transistor and a Howe Crystal Set.

Other Information

Tom Pouliott volunteered for photography and Geoffrey Campbell for articles for the **FLASH**. Dick Hagrman has lists of radio test equipment, supplies, and books for sale.

New Meeting Location

We have a new home for meetings. The club voted to move to 2020 W. Barbary Place, WAZEE ELECTRIC. *

LATE BREAKING

TWO FM STATIONS, SAME MARKET, SAME DAY, SAME CALL LETTERS!!

While channel surfing during a trip to Cheyenne last April 27, Vicki and I found TWO radio stations promoting the SAME call letters KIMN! The one station in Fort Collins waited to pick up the FM call sign after the original, long-time Denver AM "Rocker" dropped them 5 or 6 years ago, even through the F.C.C. allows the same call on the AM and FM sides. But, in this case, we also heard the old "Magic FM" in Denver using the KIMN call within three minutes of Fort Collins! Two FM stations in the same radio market, using the same call, the same day, at the same time! We felt like we found hen's teeth! Been given a Zenith Stratosphere! Or over-heard O.J. confess!

The reason for the duplication? Ratings! "Magic FM" apparently bought the KIMN call letters from the Fort Collins' station and, with the Arbitron "sweeps", started using them that Thursday (the 27th), the first day of ratings. They wanted to make sure there was a ratings impact, even with possible confusion in the market place. Every ARB diary filled out for the Fort Collins' station will count toward the NEW KIMN in Denver, anyway! A bonus for breaking the law!

And the F.C.C.? What's a fine of \$5,000 a day for 4 or 5 day's violation? To the NEW KIMN, with a chance of better ratings using a "famous, old" call sign now back in Denver and there-upon making hundreds of thousands of dollars more profit, it's a spat in the bucket....a mere slap on the wrist! Your Editor *

ANNOUNCEMENT

The annual listing of all members combined
from the Colorado and Nebraska clubs
will be included in the next issue
of the *FLASH!*

If you do **NOT** want
your name and address listed,
contact this editor IMMEDIATELY!

NEW DEADLINE DATES

February 1 • April 1 • June 1
August 1 • October 1 • December 1

ON THE AIR

Jerry Tynan, C.R.C. President

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The meeting location has been changed to WAZEE ELECTRIC at 2020 West Barberrry Place, being provided at no cost to the club. At our last meeting I took a show of hands and almost all members preferred the Wazee location opposed to the bank.

The club meeting for May will be held on the **THIRD SUNDAY** (May 21st), because the second Sunday in May is Mother's Day.

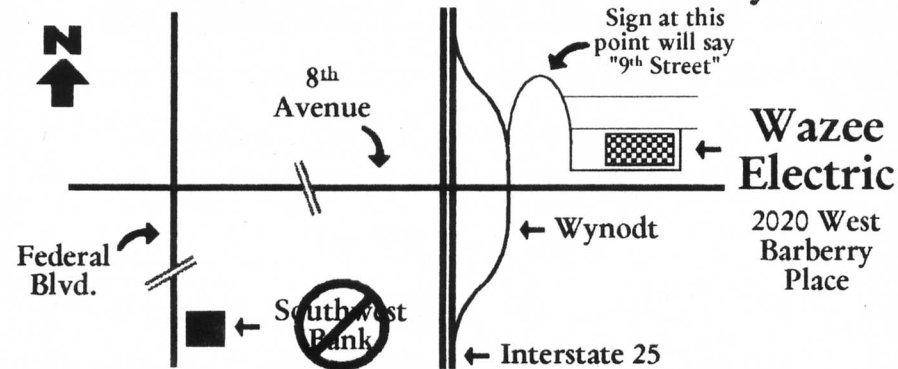
Be sure to attend this May meeting as we will be electing new officers (as per our by-laws). Anyone who would like to be nominated for an officer position, let me know A.S.A.P.. There will be a last call for nominations prior to voting.

The agenda is found elsewhere. Remember to bring items for the raffle!

NEW MEETING LOCATION

May 21ST

Wazee Electric • 2020 West Barberrry Place



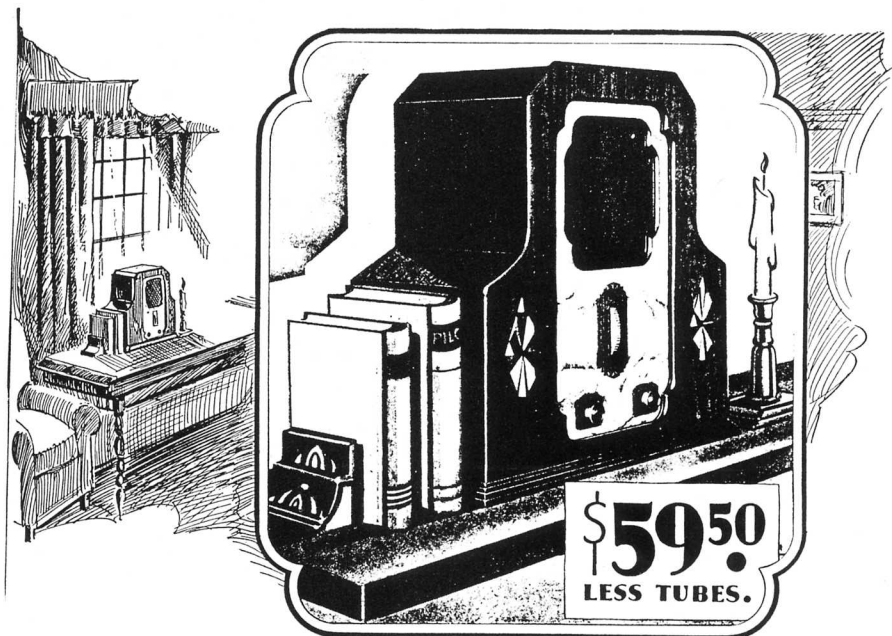
We sincerely thank C.R.C. member *Lonnie Smith* and his Denver company

PRESSWORKS

for providing us with a professionally printed newsletter, the **FLASH!!**

Thanks, Contributors!

Henry van Cleef Bill Harris Peter Fraser
Rich Smith Jim Clark Mark Kinsler
Roy Morgan Bob Zinck Bob Jensen
Steve Morton Bill Hinkley Tom Kelley
Geoffrey Campbell Wayne Gilbert
David Gonshor Vicki & Rick Ammon
Jerry Tynan Barney Wooters Bob Cofer
Charles Brett Ray Windrix Vern killion
Robert Baumann Doug McDowell
Dave Tripe Johnny Johnson Larry Weide



*Your Pilot Retailer
Is Part of Pilot's Plant*

He is no mere middleman dealing through other middlemen. He is a representative of the factory chosen for his ability to cooperate with Pilot's laboratory engineers in seeing that you enjoy all the abundant satisfaction built into every Pilot product whether it be kit, set, tube, or accessory.

This compact A. C. Midget Receiver in its beautiful two-tone walnut cabinet gives radio performance of console quality. Its modest price is only possible because every part, including tubes, was designed by the same engineers, and made by the same skilled workers—all under one roof—that of the Pilot Radio Plant, the largest factory owned and operated by a radio manufacturer. It is the outstanding miniature receiver in selectivity and sensitivity because of two screen grid stages; in undistorted tone, because of Screen Grid Power Detection; in volume and depth of tone, because of 1-227 audio stage and 1-245 power audio stage. Full Shielding. Its special electro dynamic speaker of Pilot design, is the last touch necessary for complete superiority. Pilotron Tubes are furnished with every Pilot Midget because Pilot retailers know none are more reliable, and that unreliable tubes cause 80 per cent of their service troubles.

PILOT RADIO & TUBE CORP.

Chicago Office:
234 S. Wells Street

LAWRENCE, MASS.

San Francisco Office:
1978 Mission Street

PILOT

MIDGET

L I C E N S E D U N D E R R C A P A T E N T S

Bring'em Up Alive

Hank van Cleef, Guest Author

I just brought up a Hallicrafters S-36A and it came up playing. Two things I don't have are an isolation transformer and a variable voltage autotransformer. So this set got its (brand new 3-wire) power cord shoved into an outlet and it's first taste of AC out of the wall in 40 years "cold turkey."

There are some checks I run on a set before bringing it up. One is to check the isolation between the windings of all the magnetic components and ground. The 3-wire power cord means the chassis isn't isolated...it's connected to the same ground that my test equipment is connected to. The set originally had a fuse installed and the 3-wire cord is connected so the fuse is in the "hot" side...a blown fuse means everything else is either connected to neutral or to ground.

Ohmmeter checks assured the radio would probably come up OK without smoking. While the Rider documents I have for the set have a resistance chart, I found reference to the circuit itself was required. One circuit shown by Rider is not installed in this set. This ohmmeter "walk through," while it involves several hours of work on a 15-tube set, allows one to find where all the components are in the various circuits, inspect for dubious solder joints (none found, this time).

And when your probes are connected across a resistor marked brown-red-brown and the ohmmeter says 300 ohms, you know exactly where to use the hot soldering iron...after doing a close visual inspection to see if something might have overheated that resistor. I also check circuits where I am replacing resistors with the resistor removed. That 33K screen resistor read 70K, so it got replaced, but while it was out, checking the bypass cap that went with it. With the resistor out of the circuit, the cap thought it was a 100K resistor, so out it came, to get a "real"

capacitor back in action.

Shorted B+? If the set has a 30K voltage divider bleeder on B+ and you can see capacitors charging up and settling out at 30K with your ohmmeter, there aren't any shorts.

When I bring a set up, I hang voltmeters on B+ following the filter and on the screen bus. Turned on, if the dial lights light up and both B+ lines come up near the peak value of the power transformer plate windings, that's a good sign. On a set with a VR tube, a purple glow is confirmation things are OK thus far. When the cathode tubes heat up, B+ should go down and the screens should go way down (150 volts, in this set, but more usually, 100 volts). Ears open...listening for sizzles, snaps, crackles, and pops. I shut power off after about 30 seconds, disconnect the set and do a sniff test for any signs of smoke.

On the second powerup, I check for functionality. If the set will tune in a station and the audio is not distorted, you are probably in business. However, the first hour or so after powerup is a critical period. Continuing to monitor B+ at two different points in the distribution chain will give early warning if something is going sour.

The power transformer, chokes, and filter caps should all stay cool. I check for presence of voltage on anything before I touch it and use one hand...the other in air...so I can't get across B+. Electrically "hot" and thermally "hot" can happen anywhere and generally I will only put my hand *near* something to see if there is heat coming from it, with the set powered up.

Would an autotransformer ("Variac" which is a brand name or similar) buy me anything. I feel very mixed about this, particularly when dealing with equipment that has voltage regulators. The Tek scopes from the fifties all had time delay relays and neon "catchers"

to prevent application of voltages before the tubes had warmed up. There were plenty of strange voltages and currents that could run around during warmup and during operation with serious under-voltages. I spend time with an ohmmeter to assure there aren't any dead shorts. These checks often disclose faults that can be fixed before attempting to power the set up. Any electrolytics needing reforming get reformed on their maximum working voltage, applied through a current-limiting resistor, before trying to use them in an operating set. And I always install a fuse if the set did not have one originally. They are cheap insurance against fire-hazard faults that continue to protect the set after I am through working on it.

The S-36A has been playing merrily away as I have written this and it's time to pull out the scope and voltmeter and start the second set of checks...voltages and waveforms everywhere. After that, out comes the signal generator for alignment.

Separating B+ from the radio and running the rectifier and filters alone with a suitable load resistor is a way to work on the supply itself. "A power supply" is included in the radio under test, which can be used for this purpose. Just disconnect the B+ line from the last filter cap, put a series resistor in the rectifier output (typically taken from a filament pin of an 80 or a filament center tap), and light things up with a voltmeter across the caps. Indeed, I was doing this when I diagnosed a bad transformer in a RME-45. With all the tubes, except the 80 out of the set, the transformer got hot enough to smell after about 45 minutes. A quick scope check showed the plate voltage on one plate 50 volts below the other.

Transistor stuff, particularly modern transistor stuff, is a completely different kettle of fish. Transistors will blow within microseconds. With old tube radios, you have plenty of time before even a dead short that doesn't reflect enough load to blow a fuse causes any real damage.

One common failure mode in old radio components is stuff that fails

under the stress of operating voltage, but appears fine under low-voltage tests. Wax paper condensers are notorious for this. It's one reason for checking screen voltages and resistance-coupled amplifier grid voltages with the set operating. A 6V6 with its grid pulled up 15 or 20 volts is drawing around 100 milliamps in most circuits, unless the cathode resistor has failed upward. I've seen them fail down. That overload won't be obvious monitoring input current, and the tube plate with this current is only thinking about glowing red. What the user notices is distortion, unless something like a speaker field smokes first. Indeed, as I write this, the S-36A is showing signs of an intermittent short in a coupling cap in the 6V6 circuit. I'll have to do some creative probing here. This radio has a 5U4, which will never notice another 60 or 70 extra milliamps of current draw.

One of the issues in design around filament rectifiers was the period after turn-on when the rectifier was supplying current but the tubes weren't drawing any. That's why I monitor B+ voltages carefully when powering up. If the set has a bleeder resistance of some sort, it should hold down the maximum. Handling this surge should be built into the radio design. I spend a little time with Ohm's law figuring out what I should see on powerup.

You want bias first, then plate, then screen. Usually, separate power supplies and faults involving loss of one voltage are consider "transmitter" issues. But loss of bias in a large audio amplifier output circuit can cause lots of problems. Generally, in radio receivers, cathode bias resistors and screen series feed resistors fail high, which poses no hazard to anything, but will kill gain pretty effectively.

I'm still looking for an S-meter and an RF-gain control pot for this monster, my S-36A. It's running with no meter and tape on the leads, and with the RF-gain bus directly grounded (max gain on the pot) for test. I've verified the pot I need was also used on S-20R and S-40, so anyone who's got a junker has the part I need. ✱

THE SCROUNGE BOX

By Larry Weide, C.R.C. Vice President

Hi... all you CRCers! Well, maybe it's laziness, maybe it's timely, I don't know, you decide. In any case, this month I'd like to publish another "list of lists" of suppliers of radio and radio associated parts and kits.

Back in the Nov./Dec. '93 issue of the *FLASH!*, I published a list of suppliers of parts and various other supplies and services, focusing on Denver resources. This month I like to publish a list that comes from many different sources, including information I've collected from various Internet articles.

Be aware, I really can't vouch for the accuracy of information or the integrity of many of these companies. With the exception of the popular ones we all know, like Antique Electronic Supply, Old Time Restorations, etc, I haven't ordered from any of the others.

Also, my personal lists contain a LOT more suppliers than appear here. They specifically cater to ham radio enthusiasts, so I didn't include them. If your interested in a list of these folks or a copy of the '93 article mentioned above, send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope (S.A.S.E.)

Radio Parts:

Antique Audio

5555 N. Lamar, BLDG H-105
Austin, Texas 78751
(512) 467-0304

Antique Electronic Supply

6221 S. Maple Avenue
Tempe, AZ 85283
(602) 820-5411
(602) 820-4643 Fax

Antique Radio Restorations

635 S. Lincoln Ave
O'Fallon, IL 62269
Appear to have repro Philco items

Don Diers

4276 North 50th Street #MC5
Milwaukee, WI 53216-1313
Mostly old radio tubes, used or NOS. Some available only in small quantities. Also sells miscellaneous parts. \$2.00 for catalog.

EF Electronics

Box 326
Aurora, IL 60506
Catalog on request

You might also subscribe to:

Electric Radio

PO Box 57
Hesperus, Colorado
\$28/yr 2nd class, \$39/yr 1st class.
They have all sorts of ads for boatanchors (*military/ham equipment collectors - Ed.*) and can provide a list of parts radios.

Fair Radio Sales

PO Box 1105
1016 East Eureka Street
Lima, OH 45802
(419) 227-6573 or (419) 223-2196
(419) 227-1313 24-HOUR FAX
Lots of military surplus. Rare tubes can be found here. Also a source for transformers, etc.

FALA Electronics

PO Box 1376-2
Milwaukee, WI 53201
Send SASE for a list.

Frontier Electronics

(701) 378-2341
Capacitors

Tanner Electronics

1301 West Beltline Rd. Ste 105
Carrollton, TX 75006
(214) 242-8702
Good source of homebrew parts/few kits. Surplus parts, Amidon cores, IC's, scads of different transistors (including 2N3055).

Great Northern

Minneapolis MN

(612) 727-2489

Lots of stuff for collectors of Zenith radios, parts, literature, etc.

Old Time Restorations

5744 Tobias Ave.

Van Nuys CA, 91411

(818) 786-2500

Reproduction knobs, escutcheons, handles, etc.

Old Tyme Radio Company

2445 Lyttonsville Rd.

Silver Spring MD 20910

Play Things of Past

Cleveland OH

(216) 582-3094

Plenty of hard-to-find parts for the earliest sets, including rare tubes.

Puett Electronics

Dallas TX

(214) 321-0927

Incredible supply of literature on antique radio, also some parts.

RCA Parts Source (?)

Try calling RCA at (800) 336-1900

Salt Lake Instrument Service

129 West 17th South

Salt Lake City, Utah 84115

Owner: William H. Davis

(801) 487-2541

Surplus Sales of Nebraska

1502 Jones Street

Omaha, Nebraska 68102-3112

(402) 346-4750

Vintage TV and Radio Supply

Cleveland, OH

(216) 671-6712

Nice selection of books, tubes, knobs, components, refinishing supplies. Better knob selection than AES.

Wade's World of Knobs

(Wade and Joe-Ann Terrell)

7109 E. Arbor Ave.

Mesa, AZ 85208

(602) 830-7849

Reproduction plastic knobs and dial lenses, etc.

Tubes:

ARS Electronics

PO Box 7327 7110 De Celis Place

Van Nuys, CA 91409

(818) 997-6279

Offers matched multiples and SQ selected tubes for many popular audio types.

DNF

6690 - 7 Mile Rd.

South Lyon, MI 48178

Over 1000 tube types. Send SASE for list.

Electron Tube Enterprises

Box 8311

Essex, VT 05451

(802) 879-0611

(802) 879-7764 (FAX)

Very good prices

Kirby Tubes

298 W. Carmel Drive

Carmel, IN 46032

Send large SASE for list

Mike Forman

1472 MacArthur Blvd.,

Oakland, CA 94602

(510) 530-8840

A "well-known" West Coast tube dealer.

New Sensor Corporation

245 East 63rd Street Suite 526

New York, NY 10021

They have had many Eastern tubes.

PEM Tubes

7392 French Rd.

Sacramento, CA 95828

(916) 383-9107

Knobs:

Larry Bordonaro

Old Time Replications

5744 Tobias Ave.

Sherman Oaks CA 91411

(818) 786-2500

(818) 909-0241 FAX

L.W. Terrell
Wades World Of Knobs
7109 E. Arbor Ave.
Mesa, AZ 85208
Phone (602) 830-7849

Hammarlund knobs and other parts:

Robert Fowle
Amateur Radio Surplus, Inc.
Jackson, Michigan
(5170) 789-6721

Crystal Set Parts:

Midco
PO Box 2288
Hollywood, FL 33022
(305) 925-3670

The XTAL Set Society
P.O. Box 3026
St. Louis, MO 63130
(314) 725-1172
Kits

Kits, Kits, and more Kits!:

C & S Sales Inc
1245 Rosewood ave
Deerfield Il 60015
(800) 292-7711
Test gear, kits, \$35 rcvr for
2m/6m etc.

Circuit Specialists Inc.
Box 3047 Scottsdale, AZ 85271
(800) 528-1417
Electronic components including
RF parts

Cy-ance Kit
14786 Slate Gap Road
West Fork, AR 72774
(501) 839-8293
80 different kits

Dan's Small Parts and Kits
1935 S. 3rd W. #1
Missoula MT 59801
(406) 543-2872
(801) 563-5173 (Danny Stevig)
SASE for a current list of parts.

Electronic Goldmine
P.O. Box 5408
Scottsdale, AZ 85261
(602) 451-7454
Kits, all kinds parts, etc.

Electronic Rainbow
6254 LaPas Trail
Indianapolis, IN 46268
(317) 291-7262 / 291-7269 (FAX)
Various electronics kits

Oatley Electronics
5 Landsdowne Parade
Oatley, Sydney,
New South Wales 2223 Australia

Pan-Com International
Box 130
Paradise, CA 95967
Send \$1 for catalog of 350 kits etc.


R.J. Portugal
52 Susan Lane
North Haven, CT 06473
Programmable AF/RF Sinewave
gen kit 0-10 MHz \$65

Radiokit
P.O. Box 973
169 Jeremy Hill Road
Pelham, NH 03076
(603) 635-2235
(603) 635-2943 FAX
RF components, variable caps,
coils. \$1 catalog

Ramsey Electronics
793 Canning Parkway
Victor, NY 14564
(716) 924-4560
(716) 924-4555 FAX
RCVR & QRP transmitter, keyer
kits etc.

Ten-Tec
1185 Dolly Parton Parkway
Sevierville TN 37862
(800) 833-7373 (615) 428-4483 FAX
Great kits, accessories ,etc \$15 min

Xandi Electronics
P.O. Box 25647
Tempe, AZ 85285
(800) 336-7389
Kits, parts, etc.

Continued on page 19 

Try Stamp Collecting!

Bill Harris, Guest Author

There have been several messages posted on the InterNET lately about tuning up early TRF sets and being surprised at how well they pull in distant stations. The following is taken from an article in Radio News for November, 1925. Hope you find it interesting.

"In 1925 listening to radio was considered more of a hobby than an everyday affair. Owners of broadcast receivers spent many hours carefully listening to the air waves trying to see how many distant stations they could receive.

"Many stations offered Radio Stamps as a conformation of receiving their broadcast. The stamp had the call letters of the station and could be obtained by writing the station and giving proof of receiving a broadcast, including such information as: type of receiver used (crystal, tube), type of circuit (regen, TRF), which broadcast was received and time of reception.

"The Experimenter Publishing Co. of New York City offered a Stamp Album which a radio fan could keep their Radio Stamp collection. With the album is furnished a comprehensive radio map of the United States and Canada and a supply of 'Proof of Reception Cards'. The album contains a list of broadcast stations of the United States and Canada with wave-lengths and columns for recording dial setting, a table of stations arranged according to wave-length and a section for log records. The proof of reception cards have fields to fill in the necessary information to confirm the reception and a hole at the top of the card to hold

a dime for the cost of the stamp and mailing. The album is 96 pages size 9 x 12 and bound in heavy stiff cover. On each page is the name of a state or province with spaces marked with the call letters of the stations in that state or province in which to place the proper stamp."

The following was not included in the article, but was told to me by a friend who remembers those days. This is how certain folks would increase their number of conformations and increase their bragging rights.



"Early Radio fans would spend many hours tuning the wave-lengths, logging as many stations as could be heard so they could boast about the number and most distant (DX) stations they could tune in. This would be proof their receiver was "the best". The most optimum time to hear DX stations was at night or in the early morning hours when the propagation was much better.

"If one did not have the time or needed to get one's 'beauty sleep', one could hire a 'professional listener' who, for a modest fee, would operate your receiver into the night to tune and log as many stations as could be heard until the stations signed off the air. You could then display your log and radio stamps to your fellow experts and boast about all the stations 'you' received on your superior receiver."

*(Another facet of collecting in the radio field would be the stamps issued in the mid-twenties by hundreds of stations promoting stampbooks and listenership. Try a stamp collector first, obviously -- Editor) **

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Don't miss a single issue of the *FLASH!*

Official Journal For The
Nebraska Radio Collectors
RESONATOR

Founded 1990

Dedicated To The History Of Radio

MEETING LOCATION

The first meeting for 1995 will be held on Sunday, April 23 at the studios of radio station KRVN, Lexington, Nebraska. A one o'clock swap meet precedes the meeting. The agenda includes election of officers and discussion of upcoming activities for the new year. For more information, see page II. Take some equipment for the Show 'N' Tell and to sell at the swap meet.

N. R. C. OFFICERS

President:

Bob Jensen (308) 762 • 7391
420 Grand Avenue Alliance

Vice President:

Vern Killion (308) 324 • 2502
205 Apache Drive Lexington

Treasurer/ Secretary:

Stephen Morton (308) 534 • 4778
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WANT ADS

AND

ARTICLES

Should be directed to the

N.R.C. Editor

905 West First

North Platte, NE 69101

CONTRIBUTIONS

It's the intention of your editors to broadcast this journal just prior to the N.R.C. meetings. Articles about, and pictures of your treasures, are welcomed as are *Want/4-Sale* ads and any letters or comments about our hobby or this newsletter. All materials used are the copyrighted © property of the **Nebraska Radio Club** and the **Mountains 'N' Plains Radio Collectors Association**.

The editors will 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 in any form.....and we'll put it together!

Our club can only succeed when we share our experiences, talents, needs, and adventures; you're being asked to contribute in whatever way you can. **SHARE** with us today!

◆ **DEADLINES** ◆

February 1 • April 1 • June 1
August 1 • October 1 • December 1

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WANTED!!

NEBRASKA RADIO INFORMATION

Story content in the form of statistics, loosely gathered facts, complete articles...anything...any length...related to Nebraska radio, radio stations, or manufacturers needed.

Articles are planned for the upcoming issues...

Kearney: Miniature Radio Builder Midway/Pakette

Hastings: 1924 "Mid-Continent Repeater" KFKX

We need your help in making these stories complete and in depth. If you can provide any information in any form, please send it to your editor as soon as possible. We'll write from your notes. Credit always given for your efforts. Thank you! -Editors -

LATE BREAKING

TWO FM STATIONS, SAME MARKET, SAME DAY, SAME CALL LETTERS!!

While channel surfing during a trip to Cheyenne last April 27, Vicki and I found TWO radio stations promoting the SAME call letters KIMN! The one station in Fort Collins waited to pick up the FM call sign after the original, long-time Denver AM "Rocker" dropped them 5 or 6 years ago, even through the F.C.C. allows the same call on the AM and FM sides. But, in this case, we also heard the old "Magic FM" in Denver using the KIMN call within three minutes of Fort Collins! Two FM stations in the same radio market, using the same call, the same day, at the same time! We felt like we found hen's teeth! Been given a Zenith Stratosphere! Or over-heard O.J. confess!

The reason for the duplication? Ratings! "Magic FM" apparently bought the KIMN call letters from the Fort Collins' station and, with the Arbitron "sweeps", started using them that Thursday (the 27th), the first day of ratings. They wanted to make sure there was a ratings impact, even with possible confusion in the market place. Every ARB diary filled out for the Fort Collins' station will count toward the NEW KIMN in Denver, anyway! A bonus for breaking the law!

And the F.C.C.? What's a fine of \$5,000 a day for 4 or 5 day's violation? To the NEW KIMN, with a chance of better ratings using a "famous, old" call sign now back in Denver and there-upon making hundreds of thousands of dollars more profit, it's a spat in the bucket....a mere slap on the wrist! Your Editor *

ANNOUNCEMENT

The annual listing of all members combined
from the Colorado and Nebraska clubs
will be included in the next issue
of the *FLASH!*

If you do **NOT** want
your name and address listed,
contact this editor IMMEDIATELY!

NEW DEADLINE DATES

February 1 • April 1 • June 1
August 1 • October 1 • December 1

ON THE AIR

Bob Jensen, N.R.C. President

Summer is just around the corner and the warm weather will bring out radio collectors from their winter hibernation. Vacations will be spent searching through obscure antique shops, flea markets and garage sales, looking for that lucky acquisition.

The official NARCC season has arrived and the time to schedule the events and meetings is here. With the format of the Mountains and Plains newsletter we need to schedule two months in advance to get activities printed in the Resonator. If you have any ideas for new activities, bring them up for discussion at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be at the KRVN studios in Lexington NE, June 4th. A swap meet will begin at 1:00pm with the meeting starting at 2:00pm. Bring along something from your collection to share with the rest of us.

SEE YA THERE! BOB

MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY Steve Morton

The blizzard of March 26-27 was the reason we do not have meetings in the March. The weekend of 25-26 looked like a good time to have one, but look what happened! So our meeting was scheduled for April 23 at the KRVN studios in Lexington. A silent auction was held and everyone had a great time.

May is all booked up with Mother's Day, Memorial Day and Graduations. Then next meeting will be June 4th at the KRVN studios in Lexington, NE. A swap meet at 1:00 and a meeting to follow. See you all there.

We sincerely thank C.R.C. member *Lonnie Smith* and his Denver company

PRESSWORKS

for providing us with a professionally printed newsletter, the **FLASH!!**

Thanks, Contributors!

Henry van Cleef Bill Harris Peter Fraser
Rich Smith Jim Clark Mark Kinsler
Roy Morgan Bob Zinck Bob Jensen
Steve Morton Bill Hinkley Tom Kelley
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See September issue for interesting announcement of other Eisemann Radio Equipment

BOOK REVIEWS

The Trans-Oceanic... The Royalty of Radio

Rich Smith, K7YHA, Guest Author

At the eighth Annual Shortwave Listener Winterfest, I received a book about the history of the Zenith Trans-Oceanic. Here are some comments regarding *The Trans-Oceanic...the Royalty of Radio* by Dr. Cones and Professor Bryant.

The book is done on high quality paper stock and is very well laid out, featuring many color and black & white pictures of various Zenith T-O models and companion receivers plus advertisements for the T-O receivers. Having complete access to Zenith's corporate records along with Commander McDonald's personal files, Cones and Bryant present the reader with a highly accurate account the early radio industry in the US and an unparalleled look at the genius behind Zenith Radio Corporation..

Commander Eugene McDonald, Jr. is the man behind Zenith and the man behind the Trans-Oceanic. A noted Artic explorer, sailor, inventor, master salesman, and adventurer, "The Commander" wanted a radio receiver that would fit into his lifestyle. Toward the late 1930s, McDonald charged his engineers with the task of designing and producing a portable shortwave receiver that would allow him to keep abreast of the changing political situation in Europe, prior to WWII.

The Zenith engineers added shortwave-tuned circuitry to various models of AM Broadcast receivers and finally hit upon the desired combination of features the Commander wanted. It was ready for production just prior to the Christmas season in 1942. Limited numbers (about 30,000) of these Trans-Oceanic "Clippers" were produced prior to Zenith altering their production

facilities to support the war effort.

Many T-Os went to war with service men on both fronts. Letters from GIs to the Zenith factory stating the ruggedness of the T-O became common place during WWII and later Korea. These letters formed the basis of a mystical love affair with, what many considered, an indestructible radio. Never one to miss an opportunity to promote the Zenith product line, The Commander used them in advertising copy during and after both wars.

While the history of Zenith and Commander McDonald makes for fascinating reading, the real meat of the book is the mass of highly detailed information provided on each and every model of T-O produced from 1942 until the last transistor model rolled off the Taiwan assembly lines in 1981. Cones and Bryant really did their research, providing the collector and restorer with an absolutely indispensable volume on the history of tube and transistor model T-Os and their companion receivers. Each receiver is featured with a complete rundown on production dates, number produced, changes in styling and electrical characteristics, band-coverage, and pricing.

Toward the back of the book, there is a chapter on how to restore a T-O, listing many of the secrets of the trade. Virtually anyone with average motor skills and some electronics knowledge can successfully restore one of these Royal Radios.

So what's the rarest T-O? Actually it is a militarized version of the 600 series, made in 1956. Only 2973 were produced and the official military designation was: R-520A/URR. This is the SECOND military version, the first one being the R-520/URR, a militarized H-500 circa 1953/54.

About the only thing I disliked about this book was the type size. Most of us who remember the tube T-Os

BOOK REVIEWS

now need bi or trifocals and the small print used by the publisher can make for tiresome reading.

I spotted only one glaring error to do with companion receivers. On page sixty-seven and sixty-eight, the book details a set of companion receivers, the Universal (6G001Y) and the Global (6G004Y) which were produced for the 1946 product line in conjunction with the 8G005Y. Page sixty-seven shows a photo of the Universal (an AM Broadcast only receiver). There is no picture of the Global (AM Broadcast plus 9.5 to 12.1 MHz shortwave). The description of the Global on page sixty-eight lists it as an exceedingly rare companion receiver that, according to Zenith records, was offered only in 1946. No production numbers were available. I called Dr. Cones and told him if he needed a photo of a Global, I would provide one for his second printing. I am restoring Zenith Global (6G004Y) S/N B-19026!

Bottom line: I LIKE THIS BOOK! It is moderately expensive (\$25.95) and is available from The Radio Professors, P.O. Box 592, Stillwater, OK 74076. It is not only a factual account of the Zenith Trans-Oceanic product line from start to finish, but it is an extremely interesting read. If you like nostalgia, are a radio collector/restorer, or just like a glimpse of a bygone era, get this book.

(This book is now one of the discounted offerings from L & W Book Sales. See "Collector Books" on next page. - Ed.)

E.H.Scott Identification Book

Jim Clark, Book's Author

Having trouble identifying those E.H. Scott radios you have now or those you bump into from time to time? Well my new book entitled *JIM CLARK'S E.H. SCOTT RADIO*

COLLECTORS GUIDE (1925-1946) is now available. It sells for \$29.95 plus \$1.25 handling.

The book has over 90 pages and includes over 190 photos of their radios, cabinets, and accessories. Also included are the original prices these things sold for...very interesting! Contact me if you are interested...write: JCE, PO Box 585, Okemos, MI 48864.

Communications Receivers 1932-1981

Raymond S. Moore, Author.

(Submitted by C. R. (Bob) Zinck)

Communications Receivers - The Vacuum Tube Era 1932-1981 - Third Edition. Published by RSM Communications by author Raymond S. Moore.

It tells the story of American "comms receivers" satisfying the following criteria (apparently not always rigorously adhered to): superhets only; made in USA; offered for sale to amateurs, the public, or through surplus channels; must have a BFO; continuous tuning; must cover all or part of the HF bands; advertised or promoted for communications use.

Naturally, Aussie receivers such as the venerable AR-7 and AR-8 aren't mentioned, and neither are the British Eddystones; it features Collins, Hallicrafters, Hammarlund etc.; and oddly enough some JA-made Lafayettes.

New Philco Book

C. R. (Bob) Zinck

Just received today from Antique Electronic Supply, a book titled "The Radio Collectors Guide To Philco Bakelite Block Condensers"

Contains 100 illustrations and 343 Block diagrams of those mysterious little black puppies. Antique Electronic Supply, part # is B-678, price is \$ 9.95. *

COLLECTOR BOOKS

Lucky us! Members get specially reduced prices from **L & W Books** of Indiana, most up to 40% off the suggested retail plus \$1.00@ for shipping. The club also is asking for \$1.00 per book to add to the treasury. Contact your rep for information.

There are other categories of books available which might interest you and/or your significant other. The listing will be available at meetings and books from this page and other categories may be ordered.

Descriptions are taken from the catalogue. The first price is the suggested retail. All have paperback covers unless otherwise noted.

NEW!! NEW!! NEW!! NEW!! NEW!! NEW!!

ZENITH TRANS-OCEANIC, ROYALTY OF RADIOS Bryant,
1995 Price Guide, 160 pages, History/Restoration, 100 Photos.... \$ 24.95 \$ 14.97

ANTIQUE RADIOS, COLLECTOR'S GUIDE - 3rd EDITION
Bunis, '94-95 values, revised & updated, new photos, 278 pgs ... \$ 18.95 \$ 11.37

ANTIQUE RADIOS RESTORATION GUIDE - 2nd EDITION
Johnson, 144 pages, No prices, Repairing and Refinishing \$ 14.95 \$ 8.97

CLASSIC TV'S, TELEVISIONS PRE-WAR THRU 1950's
1992 values, 86 pages, color \$ 16.95 \$ 10.17

NOVELTY RADIOS, COLLECTOR'S GUIDE Bunis & Breed, 1995
values, 224 pages, 100s of Radios in Full Color Photos..... \$ 48.95 \$ 11.37

PHILCO RADIOS, 1928 - 1942
Ramirez, Rarity Scale, 185 pages, All Color, No pricing \$ 29.95 \$ 17.97

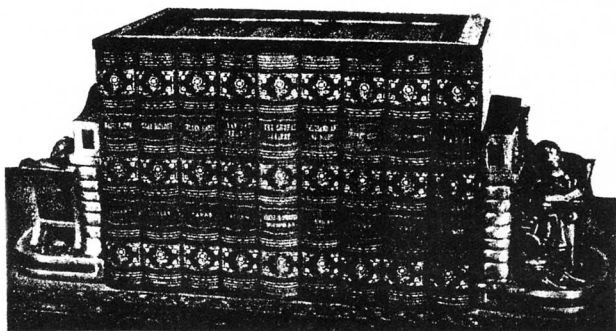
RADIO & TELEVISION PRICE GUIDE - 2nd EDITION
Harry Poster, 1994 values, 195 pages, Years 1920 - 1990 \$ 17.95 \$ 10.77

RADIO, EVOLUTION OF THE - VOLUME ONE
227 pages, 118 in color, More than 800 radios pictured and priced for 1992,
pictures from the collections of CRC members **Jim Berg and Warren & Johnny Johnson** \$ 22.95 \$ 13.77

RADIO, EVOLUTION OF THE - VOLUME TWO
All different from Volume One, 226 pages, Color, Radios of the 1920s - 1960s,
With 93-94 values, pix from collection of member **Jim Berg**... \$ 24.95 \$ 14.97

TRANSISTOR RADIOS, COLLECTOR'S GUIDE
Bunis, 256 pages, 1994 prices, Full Color \$ 15.95 \$ 9.57

TRANSISTOR RADIOS, COLLECTOR'S ENCYCLOPEDIA
Lane & Lane, 1994-95 prices, 168 pages, Photos, 2200 listings .. \$ 19.95 \$ 11.97



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The Aladdin Radio Lamp may be used to read by at all times during reception, the light being perfectly independent. The Choral Cabinet may be used to stand your own books between the bronzes and speaker, thus combining a beautiful table ornament with usefulness. The Floral Vase, The Enchanted Cup and the Magic Picture complete the Porter line for 1928.

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*Solid Walnut Cornet
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The Collectors

From the Pen of CRCer Geoffrey Campbell

Meet Rick and Vicki Ammon...

For some of the members Rick and Vicki need no introduction. For the rest of the newcomers, myself included, it is another segment of our curiosity to expand our knowledge of each other and form the opportunities for further discussion and sharing of experiences.

Hearing "You are tuned to WBZ in Boston!" is among the favorite memories of Rick Ammon, our CRC Secretary and The *FLASH!* Editor. This was one experience from 1972 that insured his dedication to the sport of collecting radios. That radio voice was heard from a headset across the room. It jumped out as the radio was brought to life after a week's worth of troubleshooting and frustration. Can you imagine the thrill of hearing a station older than the radio, received in Indiana from Boston, on a Saturday afternoon, just as the original owner might have heard it?! New solder on the binocular coils did the trick! This

nostalgic set was a Grimes Inverse Duplex Reflex Model D. A lift-top, drop-front table model with a massive cabinet, which made it heavy. Maybe it was real wood instead of pine-veneer?

Rick's "hunter-gatherer" habit favored radio sets many years ago in childhood. He remembers the years of transition from radio to television and visiting neighbors to see his favorite programs. His family was one of the last on the block to get a TV. The broadcast day then was typically 10 AM to 10 PM. His first radio was a FADA console given up by an aunt. Successful purchase of three radios and a "shoebox full of tubes" at an auction soon after was another significant early experience. Those three radios remained dormant, untouched at home in Cheyenne, while Rick was distracted by school life, the Army, and his "road show" as a radio announcer. The thoughts of collecting were only somewhat diminished as he spent his after-hours time in the Army to learn more about electronics and what magic the radio operated by. Thoughts of those radios, the FADA, two Philcos, including a "70", and an Atwater

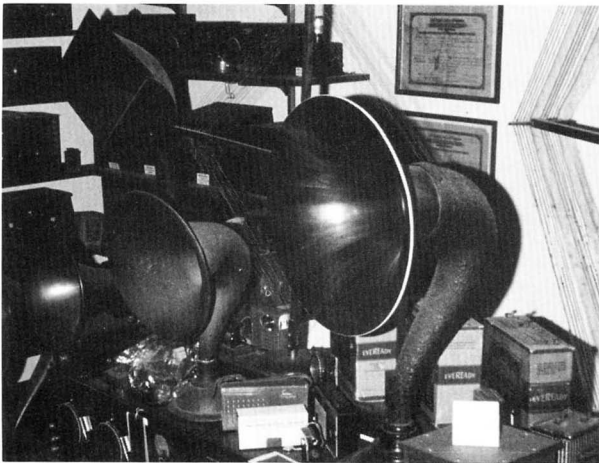


Kent 944 sitting at home kept the desire alive, too. Here turned to his serious collecting habit in 1968 after being discharged from the Army.

As a "traveling" DJ, Rick (aka Dr. Johnny Fever) had to limit the size of his trappings to fit a nomadic lifestyle. Accordingly, he has focused his collecting on the earlier, smaller battery sets and any wireless equipment he could turn up. Another advantage, he says, is that generally the battery sets are simple (no AC problems), comparatively easy to restore, and usually the original finishes are hardy enough to be simply cleaned and then maintained.

Characteristically, we collectors find it difficult to pick a favorite and most desired piece; every radio found carries a unique story. When asked to talk about a favorite radio Rick responded, "That's easy, ALL OF THEM!"

Rick has a 1924 Leutz Model C7 Superhet purchased from an antique dealer in Kersey (a town east



of Greeley) in the summer of '70. This three foot long box with meters and dials all over the front panel intrigued Rick. Besides there were two sets of Brightson tubes, a rare Franklin manufactured into an AK20C cabinet, and a bunch of other radio stuff...all for \$35! Comparatively, another favorite of favorites is an Apex Microdyne seven tube superhet. It, too, was a kit introduced in November of 1924 and is built onto a panel less than 20 inches long, not three feet like the Leutz! Same circuit, same number of tubes, both a kit, and one nearly half the size of the other. 🙌

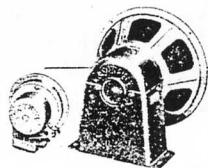
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Unmatched Selectivity, variable and eliminating interference to an extent heretofore unequalled.

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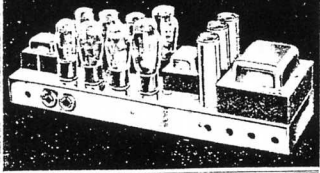
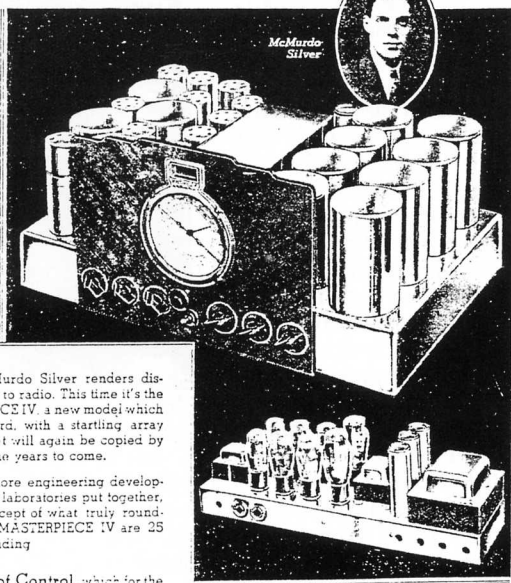
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Address
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Radio News ♦ August 1935

the Leutz! Same circuit, same number of tubes, both a kit, and one nearly half the size of the other. Real miniaturization in the 1920s! Another, said to be rare, is a Vibroplex telegraph key from 1907, hand-assembled by its creator just four years after the first one. Among his many, many favorites is a circa 1910 homebuilt wireless transmitter with plateglass and brass condenser, motorized rotary sparkgap, and three foot tall Tesla coil. (Far from) lastly, is a commercial speaker built from a seashell.

Rick enjoys researching his wireless pieces and numerous text resources he's acquired. An early 1980s collecting slump was overcome by the intrigue of brightly colored Catalins and the desire to find more radio "stuff".


When quizzed about spending money on new finds, Rick said "I paid too much for all of them!" but has no regrets about parting with the hard earned cash. There was a time when that was mighty difficult indeed! When he was presented with the opportunity to "pay a lot" for a Federal 110 in good shape, the \$90 asked was finally handed over after much anguished debate! The investment should be recovered eight or tenfold.

Rick's technical library is short on engineering and service works, but long on the trade magazines and books of early radio years. A single purchase of a pallet (!) of radio magazines cost almost as much to ship

as the cost of the magazines. Although he regrets selling some of the late '30s and '40s issues, others kept date to 1920 and are the source of ads reproduced in *The FLASH!*. Rick also uses them to learn about radio product history and identification. He also has numerous catalogues and books on wireless dated soon after the turn of the Century, including a 1903 volume written by Marconi.

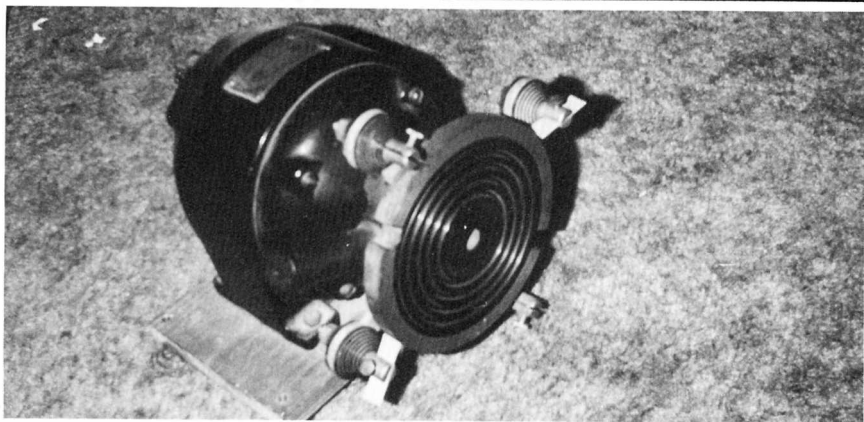
Rick was one of the early members of Rocky Mountain Wireless Association founded in the early '70s, which lasted until about 1987 when the club attendance dwindled to less than 10 members. Even though during the '70s he lived in Indiana, he kept in touch with members, specifically Lee and Carolyn Bruton. Lee expressed interest in continuing the club in a new effort and new name. Rick volunteered to be an important part of the present Colorado Radio Collectors organization as editor of the newsletter.

Rick's has amassed quite a collection including some 100 plus radios, as many transistors, 25 crystal sets, and about 30 speaker horns.

His major project today involves finding those few small parts for eight or ten radios needed for final restoration. He recently got a tuning dial for a Federal 57 and brass AK tube socket shells for a breadboard built 



Do You Recognize This Radio Item?



What is this item? What was it used for? When was it used?

ANSWER: After WWII but before wide-spread use of tubes, *Advanced Electric* sold this "chopper" used to rectify A.C. into a usable high voltage.

in the early 1920s using AK parts.

Vicki, who's expecting a "Pup" in October (Rick hopes it's "Scott"), enjoys going to the meetings, taking the minutes, and helping put the **FLASH!** together. She doesn't exactly collect radios, but has a few favorites she likes to call her own. They are the Standard Micro Ruby series of tiny transistors (especially one Standard Micro Model SR-H436). She likes the idea

of a radio being so small and its design. Vicki also appreciates the new Victor phonograph/Radiola 20 Credenza and the 1938 Zenith shutter-dial deco chairside that fill their meager-sized living room.

Vicki and Rick enjoy scrounging anywhere to find anything of interest. But she says her hobby of collecting tiny porcelain horses takes up *considerably* less space than does a radio collection! *

Shipping Huge Radio Cabinets

Peter Fraser, Guest InterNET Author

- > There are two of us on the InterNET who have parts to put together a
- > monster radio, the RCA Radiola 32, but we are 2500+ miles apart. What do
- > we do? Shipping the cabinet would probably exceed the value of the radio
- > and chassis with the heavy AC power supply would not be much better.

If it helps any, I've had one really good experience with reasonably priced shipping of big items...via air...believe it or not!

I shipped a big Orthophonic Victrola halfway across the country, in a huge, heavy plywood crate I built for it for only \$150. The formula they use is based upon the dimensions of the package and if the resulting number is greater than the weight, you pay a price based on that number. You ship it on a space-available basis for the cheapest rate. Call the freight department at United Airlines or some other big airline with estimated weights and package dimensions. See what they can do for you. You may be pleasantly surprised.

I had tried all the surface freight options and air was much quicker and far cheaper. Probably easier on the package, too. Peter of Lawrence Berkeley *

Where to Find Radios

By David Gonshor, CRC Member

At a recent club meeting, a fellow collector publicly announced how lucky I must be to find some of my acquisitions. I don't feel lucky. Especially when I first started collecting, I felt I would never be able to find quality radios.

This prompted me to catalog where I have obtained my treasures, both to dispel the myth about my luck and to help new collectors find radios to build their collections. Following is a list of sources I have used to build my collection and their percentages:

Antique stores	28%
Fellow collectors	24%
Mail order	19%
Radio fests	9%
Newspaper ads	8%
Trades	6%
Antique shows	3%
Auctions	2%
Found in neighbors trash while jogging	1%
Estate sales	0%

As one can see from this list, there is a wide variety of sources I have used to find radios. Three sources, antique shops, fellow collectors, and mail

order, account for the vast majority of my collection (about 75%). The remaining sources account for the other 25%. The bottom line is that there is a large amount of hard work searching for and finding radios, and some luck in finding quality acquisitions.

A word about prices. I have paid on the average 65% of "book" value for the radios in my collection. This is particularly significant, since the most common source I have used is antique stores, which are not known for bargain prices. True, some of these radios were fixer-uppers. But many required little or no restoration. I contrast this to the claim made by some that "book" value for certain radios is too low.

My data indicates book value for radios is on the average too high! I admit I have paid "book" or even a little more for a small number of radios, usually in the heat of passion, and usually with regret. The moral of the story? If someone tells you a radio is worth more than "book", better make sure your wallet is securely tucked away in your pocket.

Good luck collecting! *

Repairing Cone Speakers

Mark Kinsler, Guest Author

I have had good luck with cone repairs using plastic-based speaker cement, the stuff General Cement used to sell. I think it's the same as Duco. I was sort of desperately looking around the shop for something to glue onto the cone to repair it and came upon a paper grocery sack. Pieces of grocery sack worked great, though they looked pretty strange. The paper is just about the right consistency and thickness.

One repair I've never had a lot of luck with is a bad voice coil lead. They usually break right at the eyelet on the cone. I used to run into this a lot on miniature speakers. Usually I'll resolder the lead onto the eyelet and reinforce the whole thing with the aforementioned GC speaker cement, but the mortality rate is high. About the time I got out of the repair business, I was having some luck replacing the whole voice coil lead with the extremely flexible pink wire that Philmore put on their crystal earphone. Looked hideous, but it seemed to last.

Actually, speakers were what kept my low-budget stereo repair shop going whilst I was in graduate school. By 1988 or so, you couldn't make a nickel fixing anything else. But by then all the fancy speakers with foam cone suspensions were starting to rot and with those one could make a living. *

Ye Ol' Bits & Pieces

Spurious Oscillations From the InterNET, Various Guest Authors

To the question, what is "catalin", here's my guess. The "cat" is for "catalyst", a chemical used to enable or accelerate the desired reaction. The "lin" comes from the word "formalin", the common word, formerly a trademark, for 37 percent aqueous solution of formaldehyde with some alcohol.

Catalin was mixed in big tubs and then poured into lead molds. It cured for many hours in high heat. The lead molds were then stripped off, leaving the cast cabinet. The lead molds were made by dipping a steel form into molten lead repeatedly until the desired thickness built up. The steel form was then hit with a hammer to jar loose the lead mold. So, making these radio cabinets involved:

- formaldehyde, now known to cause cancer in humans
- vats full of molten lead, known to be hazardous to humans
- big, hot ovens for baking the cabinets in.

Catalin is used today almost exclusively for bowling balls and pool ball.

Roy Morgan

++++++

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I never did figure out what in hell you were supposed to do about those electrostatic speakers on German radios when they arced over internally.

Mark Kinsler

++++++

As many similarly-aged young men do, I had a dislike for keeping my room clean. Once the electronic components get about four inches deep, you can't see the dust anyway and, of course, I knew where EVERYTHING was as long as nothing got moved!

My mother was talking to the TV repairman, who explained the only safe way to dispose of a CRT (cathode ray tube) was to bury it and drive a stake through it. This raised sufficiently strong vampire dread in my mother that I was able to keep her out of my room by posting the CRT from an old TV just inside my door!

Martin Ackroyd *

Cat Whiskers

An Editorial By A. Tickler

The recent C.R.C. Show & Sale was a successful flop! Radios sales were brisk, but the Show was a dismal failure. The most visible part of our hobby is *not* visible.

Over the past three years the number of radios and equipment shown has dropped dramatically to the point of near embarrassment. The participation is left to a "core" of the membership that is seemingly always working at club activities. The results reflect a problem with the system, causing the lack of desire of individuals to "show up" and display their treasures. Sharing feelings on the subject is hard when vanity is considered.

As the quantity of sets have decreased, the quality of those displayed has improved...take serious pride in the quality.

However, how can new members, collecting for only a couple of years, compete with such rare and pristine radios adorned with ribbons? How can the average member with little restoration expertise win top ribbons each year with different radios appearing to have just been manufactured? Availability of these magnificent radios is generally limited to the money available to spend on the hobby. No way most can spend the money it takes to buy into a Blue Ribbon. Those rare, unique, or antique radios seem to always be awarded these ribbons. Even the categories don't appear to support "common, everyday" radios from the late 40s or 50s that are most prevalent today. For most there's little hope of winning the "Blues"! Forget the haste to show them! Fun is gone.

Most "contest shows" put on by other clubs where I've attended prove the All Mighty Dollar controls who wins the awards. This club is no different! It's time to take a serious look at why our Show has lost participation and not call it "sour grapes"!

Can the CRC take up the challenge to be different and revamp the Show? *

MAY 21st MEETING AGENDA

CRC President Tynan provided this agenda for the next meeting

- ⊗ Discussion and critique of the April Show
- ⊗ Belmar Village Report
- ⊗ Voting for new officers
- ⊗ Start planning for the September Auction/meeting.
(An Event Coordinator is needed for this activity)
- ⊗ Treasure's Report
- ⊗ Show & Tell
- ⊗ Swap meet after business meeting
- ⊗ Planning the July picnic
- ⊗ Raffle
- ⊗ Editor/Secretary Report
- ⊗ Open discussion

NEW MEMBERS

Jack & Vickie Mattox

Alliance, NE

Steve Betz

Aurora, CO

George Kaczowka

Boylston, MA

Walter Purvis

Aurora, CO

Robert Stitcher

Aurora, CO

BOOK REVIEWS

The Trans-Oceanic... The Royalty of Radio

Rich Smith, K7YHA, Guest Author

At the eighth Annual Shortwave Listener Winterfest, I received a book about the history of the Zenith Trans-Oceanic. Here are some comments regarding *The Trans-Oceanic...the Royalty of Radio* by Dr. Cones and Professor Bryant.

The book is done on high quality paper stock and is very well laid out, featuring many color and black & white pictures of various Zenith T-O models and companion receivers plus advertisements for the T-O receivers. Having complete access to Zenith's corporate records along with Commander McDonald's personal files, Cones and Bryant present the reader with a highly accurate account the early radio industry in the US and an unparalleled look at the genius behind Zenith Radio Corporation..

Commander Eugene McDonald, Jr. is the man behind Zenith and the man behind the Trans-Oceanic. A noted Artic explorer, sailor, inventor, master salesman, and adventurer, "The Commander" wanted a radio receiver that would fit into his lifestyle. Toward the late 1930s, McDonald charged his engineers with the task of designing and producing a portable shortwave receiver that would allow him to keep abreast of the changing political situation in Europe, prior to WWII.

The Zenith engineers added shortwave-tuned circuitry to various models of AM Broadcast receivers and finally hit upon the desired combination of features the Commander wanted. It was ready for production just prior to the Christmas season in 1942. Limited numbers (about 30,000) of these Trans-Oceanic "Clippers" were produced prior to Zenith altering their production

facilities to support the war effort.

Many T-Os went to war with service men on both fronts. Letters from GIs to the Zenith factory stating the ruggedness of the T-O became common place during WWII and later Korea. These letters formed the basis of a mystical love affair with, what many considered, an indestructible radio. Never one to miss an opportunity to promote the Zenith product line, The Commander used them in advertising copy during and after both wars.

While the history of Zenith and Commander McDonald makes for fascinating reading, the real meat of the book is the mass of highly detailed information provided on each and every model of T-O produced from 1942 until the last transistor model rolled off the Taiwan assembly lines in 1981. Cones and Bryant really did their research, providing the collector and restorer with an absolutely indispensable volume on the history of tube and transistor model T-Os and their companion receivers. Each receiver is featured with a complete rundown on production dates, number produced, changes in styling and electrical characteristics, band-coverage, and pricing.

Toward the back of the book, there is a chapter on how to restore a T-O, listing many of the secrets of the trade. Virtually anyone with average motor skills and some electronics knowledge can successfully restore one of these Royal Radios.

So what's the rarest T-O? Actually it is a militarized version of the 600 series, made in 1956. Only 2973 were produced and the official military designation was: R-520A/URR. This is the SECOND military version, the first one being the R-520/URR, a militarized H-500 circa 1953/54.

About the only thing I disliked about this book was the type size. Most of us who remember the tube T-Os

BOOK REVIEWS

now need bi or trifocals and the small print used by the publisher can make for tiresome reading.

I spotted only one glaring error to do with companion receivers. On page sixty-seven and sixty-eight, the book details a set of companion receivers, the Universal (6G001Y) and the Global (6G004Y) which were produced for the 1946 product line in conjunction with the 8G005Y. Page sixty-seven shows a photo of the Universal (an AM Broadcast only receiver). There is no picture of the Global (AM Broadcast plus 9.5 to 12.1 MHz shortwave). The description of the Global on page sixty-eight lists it as an exceedingly rare companion receiver that, according to Zenith records, was offered only in 1946. No production numbers were available. I called Dr. Cones and told him if he needed a photo of a Global, I would provide one for his second printing. I am restoring Zenith Global (6G004Y) S/N B-19026!

Bottom line: I LIKE THIS BOOK! It is moderately expensive (\$25.95) and is available from The Radio Professors, P.O. Box 592, Stillwater, OK 74076. It is not only a factual account of the Zenith Trans-Oceanic product line from start to finish, but it is an extremely interesting read. If you like nostalgia, are a radio collector/restorer, or just like a glimpse of a bygone era, get this book.

(This book is now one of the discounted offerings from L & W Book Sales. See "Collector Books" on next page. - Ed.)

E.H.Scott Identification Book

Jim Clark, Book's Author

Having trouble identifying those E.H. Scott radios you have now or those you bump into from time to time? Well my new book entitled *JIM CLARK'S E.H. SCOTT RADIO*

COLLECTORS GUIDE (1925-1946) is now available. It sells for \$29.95 plus \$1.25 handling.

The book has over 90 pages and includes over 190 photos of their radios, cabinets, and accessories. Also included are the original prices these things sold for...very interesting! Contact me if you are interested...write: JCE, PO Box 585, Okemos, MI 48864.

Communications Receivers 1932-1981

Raymond S. Moore, Author.

(Submitted by C. R. (Bob) Zinck)

Communications Receivers - The Vacuum Tube Era 1932-1981 - Third Edition. Published by RSM Communications by author Raymond S. Moore.

It tells the story of American "comms receivers" satisfying the following criteria (apparently not always rigorously adhered to): superhets only; made in USA; offered for sale to amateurs, the public, or through surplus channels; must have a BFO; continuous tuning; must cover all or part of the HF bands; advertised or promoted for communications use.

Naturally, Aussie receivers such as the venerable AR-7 and AR-8 aren't mentioned, and neither are the British Eddystones; it features Collins, Hallicrafters, Hammarlund etc.; and oddly enough some JA-made Lafayettes.

New Philco Book

C. R. (Bob) Zinck

Just received today from Antique Electronic Supply, a book titled "The Radio Collectors Guide To Philco Bakelite Block Condensers"

Contains 100 illustrations and 343 Block diagrams of those mysterious little black puppies. Antique Electronic Supply, part # is B-678, price is \$ 9.95. *

COLLECTOR BOOKS

Lucky us! Members get specially reduced prices from **L & W Books** of Indiana, most up to 40% off the suggested retail plus \$1.00@ for shipping. The club also is asking for \$1.00 per book to add to the treasury. Contact your rep for information.

There are other categories of books available which might interest you and/or your significant other. The listing will be available at meetings and books from this page and other categories may be ordered.

Descriptions are taken from the catalogue. The first price is the suggested retail. All have paperback covers unless otherwise noted.

NEW!! NEW!! NEW!! NEW!! NEW!! NEW!!

ZENITH TRANS-OCEANIC, ROYALTY OF RADIOS Bryant,
1995 Price Guide, 160 pages, History/Restoration, 100 Photos.... \$ 24.95 \$ 14.97

ANTIQUE RADIOS, COLLECTOR'S GUIDE - 3rd EDITION
Bunis, '94-95 values, revised & updated, new photos, 278 pgs ... \$ 18.95 \$ 11.37

ANTIQUE RADIOS RESTORATION GUIDE - 2nd EDITION
Johnson, 144 pages, No prices, Repairing and Refinishing \$ 14.95 \$ 8.97

CLASSIC TV'S, TELEVISIONS PRE-WAR THRU 1950's
1992 values, 86 pages, color \$ 16.95 \$ 10.17

NOVELTY RADIOS, COLLECTOR'S GUIDE Bunis & Breed, 1995
values, 224 pages, 100s of Radios in Full Color Photos..... \$ 48.95 \$ 11.37

PHILCO RADIOS, 1928 - 1942
Ramirez, Rarity Scale, 185 pages, All Color, No pricing \$ 29.95 \$ 17.97

RADIO & TELEVISION PRICE GUIDE - 2nd EDITION
Harry Poster, 1994 values, 195 pages, Years 1920 - 1990 \$ 17.95 \$ 10.77

RADIO, EVOLUTION OF THE - VOLUME ONE
227 pages, 118 in color, More than 800 radios pictured and priced for 1992,
pictures from the collections of CRC members **Jim Berg and Warren & Johnny Johnson** \$ 22.95 \$ 13.77

RADIO, EVOLUTION OF THE - VOLUME TWO
All different from Volume One, 226 pages, Color, Radios of the 1920s - 1960s,
With 93-94 values, pix from collection of member **Jim Berg**... \$ 24.95 \$ 14.97

TRANSISTOR RADIOS, COLLECTOR'S GUIDE
Bunis, 256 pages, 1994 prices, Full Color \$ 15.95 \$ 9.57

TRANSISTOR RADIOS, COLLECTOR'S ENCYCLOPEDIA
Lane & Lane, 1994-95 prices, 168 pages, Photos, 2200 listings .. \$ 19.95 \$ 11.97

The Open Trunk

Wanted:

- ◆ Cabinet for Airline 62-274

Wayne Gilbert
785 South Flamingo
Denver, CO 80222
☎ 303/ 321 • 6705

Wanted:

- ◆ Tom Thumb Bicycle Radio

Ray Windrix
617 North Murray
Colo. Springs, CO 80915
☎ 719/ 597 • 5098

Wanted:

- ◆ Catalins
- ◆ Zenith consoles

Johnny Johnson
7075 West 32nd Avenue
Wheatridge, CO 80033
☎ 303/ 274 • 5474

Wanted:

- ◆ Cabinet for a Midwest Model 18-38

Bill Hinkley
9668F West Chatfield Ave.
Littleton, CO 80123
☎ 303/ 933 • 8820

Wanted:

- ◆ Good 16NP4 picture tube

Bob Cofer
☎ 303/ 863 • 9029

Wanted:

- ◆ Old test equipment and manuals
- ◆ Old radio magazines (Radio News, Radio Craft, Electronics, Popular Radio, etc)

Charles Brett
5980 old Ranch Road
Colo. Springs, CO 80908
☎ 719/ 495 • 8660

4 Sale:

- ◆ Galena catwhisker detector cartridges 3/8" diameter X 1". From the 1940[']s. Part of the Western Manufacturing (pockette) crystal set, \$ 3 each or five for \$10 plus postage.

Vern Killion
205 Apache
Lexington, NE 68850
☎ 308/ 324 • 2502

Scrounge Box (Continued)

Phonograph Parts:

Yesterday, Once Again

PO Box 6773
Huntington Beach, CA 92515
(714) 963-2474

A source for old Phonos. A font of information.

Dwayne Wyatt

Wyatt's Musical Americana
Clear Lake, CA
(707) 279-2824
(Monday thru Thursday).

ON THE COVER

This Sea Shell speaker, circa 1922, stands about nine inches high. It displays part of a decal, indicating it is of commercial origin; not a home-brew. Sadly, the label is bearly legible and no company name can be discerned.

It's from the collection of Vicki and Rick Ammon highlighted elsewhere in this issue. *

Wanted:

- ◆ 45 RPM phonograph made for use in a car.

Dave Tripe

☎ 303/ 364 • 2812

Wanted:

- ◆ Radiola III-A: cabinet & hardware
- ◆ Any cabinet for Scott All-Wave 23

Barney Wooters

☎ 303/ 770 • 5314

Wanted:

- ◆ "Heavy Metal Radios!" I am interested in your unwanted Communications equipment and vintage test equipment from manufacturers such as Halli-crafters, Hammarlund, National, Heath, etc. Check your basement and garage for receivers, transmitters, accessories, and other "boat-anchors".

Robert Baumann

1985 South Cape Way
Lakewood, CO 80227

☎ 303/ 988 • 2089

Evenings/ weekends

Wanted:

- ◆ General Electric radio module 905 (plastic and metal)

Tom Kelley

971½ Pleasant Street
Boulder, CO 80302

☎ 303/ 444 • 1837

**WANT ADS ARE FREE
TO ALL CURRENT MEMBERS**

Wanted:

- ◆ Looking for product manufacturing contracts by electronics engineers.

Geoffrey Campbell

3711 Yates Street
Denver, CO 80212

☎ 303/ 458 • 3848

Wanted:

- ◆ Wavemagnet for 1957 Zenith Trans-Oceanic model A600. Approximately 2 5/8" wide and 11" long.

Doug McDowell

6552 South Steele Street
Littleton, CO 80101

☎ 303/ 795 • 8768

CRC SHOW & SALE SUCCESS!

Another Great Show! Details Next Issue!

*Mt. 'N' Plains Radio
Collector's Association*

NARCA / CRC

5270 East Nassau Circle
Englewood, CO 80110

FIRST CLASS



80601