

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 September ☺ October 1995 Issue 5



**IN THIS ISSUE...**

**AUCTIONS! AUCTIONS! AUCTIONS!**

# On The InterNET

## QUESTION ON THE NET:

I've got a dial cord that needs to be replaced. I've never done this chore before and it doesn't really look too tough...and that's what worries me. It does matter to me how the job looks as well as it should work without slipping.

So does anyone have any tips (or warnings) about replacing dial cords? Is dial cord a fairly specific product or can a number of things be used for it? Your suggestions are very welcome...

From: Paul Veltman:  
<veltman@netcom.com>

Dial cord material is a specific item. It used to be very common at your favorite radio parts house. I guess you can use any fairly strong, flexible cordage of the proper size. The key is the springs on the end of the cordage. You need to thread the dial cord and then pull up the slack on the tension spring so that it keeps the dial cord tight. You can then half-hitch the cord around the spring end. When that is done, then remove the spring with a probe and tie a permanent knot. Then slip the spring back over the end of the dial drum, or whatever it's supposed to be tied to. Not a difficult job, once you've done it about 40 gazillion times. If you have a BA with no dial cord and the springs are missing, you need to find some small springs. A good, local hardware should have them. Have fun :-)

Paul WA6OKQ

From jlockwd@ix.netcom.com

Believe it or not gals and guys, Radio Shack lists a small dial cord kit in their catalog. I've seen it in several stores, so

it isn't too hard to get.

The kit includes a length of cord.... maybe a meter or so, and a few springs of different tensions.

I used some of this to restring my GSB-100. I found the cord to be usable, but somewhat on the thin side. In a pinch, I'd use it again.

73, Jim - km6nk

From Johnson\_Dan@aac.com

"Radio dial cord replacement kit", Radio Shack P/N 274-435, \$0.99. Six feet of cord and three assorted tension springs. I haven't yet needed to use mine so can't vouch for it.

73 de KC4EWT (VA)

From dlkerl@cmack.b11.ingr.com

Antique Electronics Supply has spools of dial cord in three different diameters. (sorry, I don't have the catalog in front of me) It's worked well for me.

Dan Kerl

From Dave Sharp%Legal@Corp=Hou

I always used 80-130 lb fishing line (woven kind) and rubbed a candle on it to get the friction up.

Just make sure you make yourself a good diagram of the old dial cord before/as you take it off. Maybe also make a top view too.

Dave

From jeffrey@math.hawaii.edu

I might get shot for admitting this, but I've used waxed dental floss for dial cord. Don't misconstrue the above - the floss was new, not used! - 'I used new...' not 'I used used...'

Oh, never mind!

73 from Hawaii, Jeff NH6N \*

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# Chart of Radio Symbols

	AERIAL			PUSH-PULL AUDIO TRANSFORMER			SINGLE CIRCUIT JACK		DOUBLE CIRCUIT JACK
	LOOP ANTENNA			FIXED RESISTOR			FILAMENT CONTROL JACK		HEAD PHONES
	GROUND			VARIABLE RESISTOR			VOLTAGE REGULATOR TUBE		BINDING POST
	COUNTER-POISE (CP)			VOLTAGE DIVIDER (POTENTIOMETER)			TIP JACK		LAMP SOCKET PLUG
	FIXED CONDENSERS			WIRES NOT CONNECTED			PIEZO-ELECTRIC CRYSTAL		METER (MAY BE VOLT METER, AMMETER, OHMMETER, MILLIAMMETER, ETC.)
	VARIABLE CONDENSER			CRYSTAL DETECTOR PIEZO-ELECTRIC CRYSTAL			SWITCH (POWER OR FILAMENT SINGLE POLE, SINGLE-THROW SW)		THREE ELEMENT TUBE ("TRIODE")
	CONDENSERS OPERATED ON ONE SHAFT "GANDED"			SINGLE-POLE MULTI-THROW SWITCH			FULL-WAVE RECTIFIER TUBE		THREE ELEMENT TUBE A.C. HEATED CATHODE TYPE ("TRIODE")
	CONDENSER BLOCK			DOUBLE-POLE DOUBLE-THROW SWITCH			THREE ELEMENT TUBE A.C. HEATED CATHODE TYPE ("TRIODE")		SCREEN GRID TUBE ("TETRODE")
	R.F. COIL (MAY BE R.F. CHOKE)			BATTERIES			MAGNETIC SPEAKER		DYNAMIC SPEAKER
	R.F. COILS COUPLED (R.F. TRANSFORMER)			MICROPHONE (TRANSMITTER)			POWER PENTODE TUBE		POWER PENTODE TUBE
	VARIOMETER (CONTINUOUSLY VARIABLE R.F. COIL)			AUDIO FREQUENCY COIL (MAY BE A.F. CHOKE)			TRANSFORMER (MAY BE A.F. TRANSFORMER, P.W.R. TRANS. OR FILAMENT TRANS.)		TRANSFORMER (MAY BE A.F. TRANSFORMER, P.W.R. TRANS. OR FILAMENT TRANS.)
	TAPPED R.F. COIL			MAGNETIC SPEAKER			DYNAMIC SPEAKER		DYNAMIC SPEAKER
	AUDIO FREQUENCY COIL (MAY BE A.F. CHOKE)			TRANSFORMER (MAY BE A.F. TRANSFORMER, P.W.R. TRANS. OR FILAMENT TRANS.)			TRANSFORMER (MAY BE A.F. TRANSFORMER, P.W.R. TRANS. OR FILAMENT TRANS.)		TRANSFORMER (MAY BE A.F. TRANSFORMER, P.W.R. TRANS. OR FILAMENT TRANS.)
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# Alignment Revisited

Hank van Cleef, Guest Author

Let's use a Silvertone Model 5581 so we've got a "ferinstance" radio, complete with manufacturer's alignment procedure.

It's got a couple of "features" not previously discussed. I'll follow through the procedure, commenting about "general procedures."

The 'tweeks' in this radio are all capacitors. The two IF cans are variable caps, one for each L/C parallel network. There are no tuning 'slugs' nor other coils. In other words, there are four variable caps in two IF cans.

This is normal. The first IF is resistance-coupled to the second, so there is no tuned circuit between them to tweak up. This will be a capacitor between the plate of the first IF and the grid of the second, probably one of the famous wax paper condensers. Check the grid of the second IF to be sure it isn't being pulled high by leakage through this capacitor.

This set also has a capacitor going to ground not related to a front-end tuning circuit. It's a wave trap which is something we haven't discussed before.

It's purpose is to prevent strong low-end AM stations from "walking" through the converter (a 6K8 type tube) into the IF. It essentially serves as a low impedance path for 455 KC. signals in the antenna circuit, attenuating anything that shows up at this frequency.

The manual that comes with the radio gives the following information (shown in italics) for aligning the radio.

*"Preliminary:*

*Output meter connection across loudspeaker voice coil.*

*Output meter reading to indicate 50 milliwatts...0.35 volts."*

This is how most procedures read. I have a preference for using the detector DC level. However, that's a judgement call. Go ahead and follow the published procedure. If you find it difficult to find the peaks, you can

always move to the detector.

We haven't discussed in any detail connecting the generator to the circuits. I'm not sure where manufacturers got some of their resulting values in their manuals, because what's appropriate depends a lot on the generator you are using.

A 50 or 100 picofarad disk ceramic is pretty good coupling which keeps DC from circulating between the generator and the radio.

Also, you want to remember a signal generator is a radio transmitter. If you connect it to the antenna terminal with a long antenna wire attached, and live in an apartment, all your neighbors are going to know you're tuning up your radio. While a signal generator is of low power, it can create RFI (radio frequency interference) for short distances.

*Connection of the generator ground lead...External ground.*

One point here. Make sure the ground terminals on the generator and the radio are not connected to one side of the AC line. Check that there are "plenty of ohms" between the chassis and the prongs of the power cord on an AC-powered radio.

Many of these sets had wax paper condensers hooked to ground from each side of the AC cord coming into the set. They can develop leakage and form a low impedance path to ground that will give you a nasty buzz and smoke your ground strap. They are relatively low capacitive impedance to 50-60 cycles, so you'll have a definite voltage level on the set.

*Set the generator modulation to 30% at 400 cycle.*

Here's a point not covered before. Don't overmodulate the signal. It's purpose is to create a fixed-level audio tone so that you can hear your generator, and have an audio signal for

metering if you are using the audio output. If you overmodulate, your generator will put out all sorts of frequencies, which makes it hard to find the RF signal you're trying to align to.

There isn't any hard-and-fast criteria for using 400 cycles, other than it is an easy-to-hear frequency that's high enough to pass through any set, but low enough that it will go through a narrow crystal filter. Four hundred cycles is the frequency used to measure inductance and impedance of audio chokes and transformers.

*Position of Volume control...Fully clockwise (will drive you out of the room). Position of Tone control...HI. Position of Dial Pointer with variable fully closed...on mark to left of 550 KC calibration mark.*

As we've discussed, inject the signal working from the last transformer back to the first. Feed the signal to the grid of the last IF, tuning its output transformer, then working back grid-by-grid.

Most of the time, just shoving a signal in the front and tuning all the transformers works fine. If you have trouble, tune it a stage at a time, but keep the generator set to the same frequency, so they are all tuned together.

AM 600 KC 455 KC .00005 mfd.  
Ant. Clip C6\* Wave trap

As mentioned, this is tuned for a minimum on 455 to prevent signals from walking in through the antenna circuit and swamping the 6K8. I generally set the oscillator padder first (600KC adjustment), then the trimmer. The two adjustments interact and you'll have to go back and forth.

On "rocking the tuning capacitor," I always tune the radio to the generator after I have set the tweaks. You can set tweaks to maximum, then find the tuning in normal operation doesn't tune to the frequency very well.

Repeat alignment procedure stage by stage, in the original order for greatest accuracy. Always keep the output from the test oscillator at its lowest possible value to make AVC action of the receiver ineffective.

Yes, if you have to change any adjustments very much, go back through the whole procedure. Once the IF's are lined up, you don't have to walk through them again after lining up the oscillator/RF circuits.

I hope this hasn't caused more confusion. Just take it slow and easy, and you'll get a good alignment. \*



Nebraska collectors know how to use a summer afternoon at Victoria Springs!

# An Apology & A Thank You!

With sorrow, I must, with this issue, resign as your editor of the NRC/CRC **FLASH!!** I'm sorry I can't continue. Over the past five plus years, I've enjoyed working with all of you and I do appreciate your extra efforts to supply me with stories, clippings, articles, and pictures. If the newsletter has been a good representation of our hobby, I have you all to sincerely thank!

Rick Ammon

# SEPTEMBER AUCTIONS

!! **WARNING !!**

**IS YOUR EQUIPMENT READY??**

## Colorado Radio Collectors

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>  
South West Bank Building  
1380 South Federal ♦ Denver  
(Old CRC Meeting Location)

Registration 11:00AM - Auction 1:00PM

←————→

## Nebraska Antique Radio Collector's Club

Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>  
Harmon Park ♦ Kearney, Nebraska  
Registration 11:00AM - Auction 1:00PM



**WE'VE BEEN IN BUSINESS  
SINCE PEOPLE WERE SAYING,  
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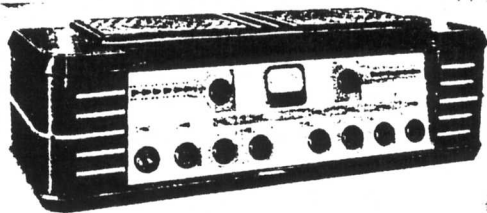
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December, 1945

111

# FROM THE **DESK** OF THE **NARCC SECRETARY**

The meet on July 30 at Victoria Springs was very well attended and the Ham Radio people really seemed to enjoy the old stuff.

September 16th, Saturday, is the date for our 5th annual auction. It will be held at the activities building in Harmon Park in Kearney Nebraska. The building is on the east edge of Harmon Park about 5th Street and 29th Avenue. Set-up at 11:00am. This is the major fund raising event for our club.

Steve

## **ON THE AIR**

### **Bob Jensen, NARCC President**

The meet and show at Victoria Springs was a great success with the great turn out of members. There was a nice group of radios displayed as well as the items available for sale. This is the second year that we have had the NARCC meeting held in conjunction with the Central Nebraska Amateur Club gathering.

Ham swap meets have always been notorious for having parts for antique radios and this year was no different. One member of the NARCC located a WD-11 tube, still new in the box along with some other early tubes. Last years display by NARCC sent some of the HAMS home to look through their collections of tubes to bring to the swap meet this year. Who know what will show up next year? The interest in the display was greater this year than last.

The NARCC would like to thank the Amateur club for their hospitality and for inviting us to their great steak dinner.

A big thanks goes out to all of the members that packed up their treasures and brought them for the display.

The next meeting will be held in Kearney Nebraska at Harmon Park, final plans will be made for the upcoming auction.

Bob



# NARCC 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AUCTION

**September 16<sup>th</sup>, Saturday**  
**Harmon Park - Kearney**

Activities Building  
5th Street and 29th Avenue

**Set-Up at 11:00a.m.**

A Fund Raising Event For Our Club

## AUCTION RULES

1. Everyone is welcome but non-members must pay a \$5.00 entry fee
2. Sellers may set a minimum selling price. Five percent of the selling price will be with-held for the club
4. Sellers numbers will be their club membership number
5. Please mark items as, "Working", "Not Working", "Untested"
6. No guarantee is made by the club expressed or implied as to the condition of items sold. The secretary will, however, be willing to listen if you wish to sing the blues.
7. All agreements are strictly between buyer and seller.

Many choice radios went begging last year for want of a bid and the prices were very good. This is a chance to turn radios into gold and gold into radios!!!

# 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 club representative to order.

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

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

**ANTIQUÉ 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 \$ 11.37

**NOVELTY RADIOS, COLLECTOR'S GUIDE** Bunis & B...  
 values, 224 pages, 100s of Radios in Full Color Photos... \$ 18.95 \$ 11.37

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

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

**RADIO, EVOLUTION OF THE - VOLUME ONE**  
 227 pages, 8 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

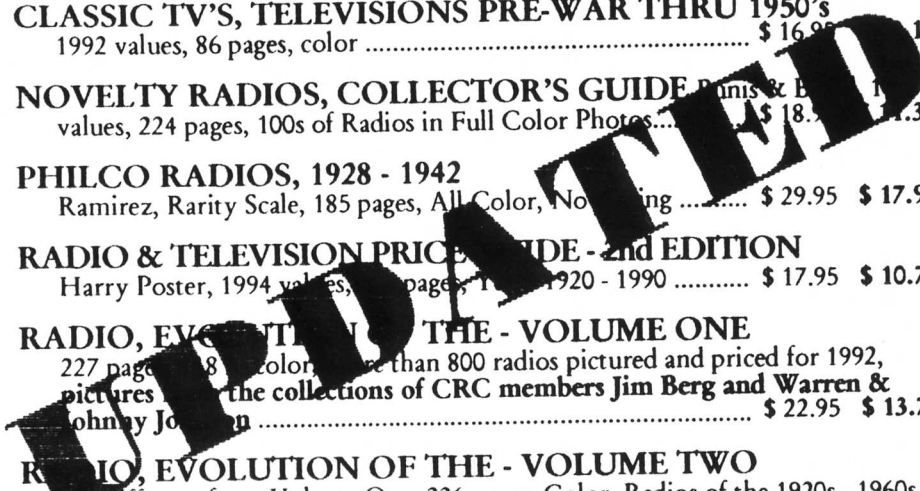
**RADIO, EVOLUTION OF THE - VOLUME TWO**  
 All different from Volume One, 226 pages, Color, Radios of the 1920s - 1960s,  
 With 93-94 values, pix from collection of member **Jim Berg**... \$ 24.95 \$ 14.97

**RADIOMANIA'S GUIDE TO TABLETOP RADIOS.....NEW!**  
 NEW! Stein, "Machine Age To Jet Age - 1933-1959", 100s of photos, 255 pages,  
 94-95 values, major manufact., resources, plastics & wooden..... \$ 24.95 \$ 17.47

**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

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



Watch these three score!



**Portable That's "Going Places"**—Model R-1409—three-way portable, AC-DC and battery. Smart alligator-grain fabric with plastic front. 550-1700 kc. Self-contained charger increases battery life. Real beauty, exceptional performance.



**Winning "Combination"**—Model R-1242—combination radio and record player; 110-volt, AC-DC. Sleek, modern design in rolled-top walnut cabinet. Eye-catching grille panel. Built-in loop antenna. Single record player accommodates 10" or 12" records. Four tubes plus rectifier tube. 550-1700 kc. Compact, dependable.



**Tops on Any Table**—Model R-1238—table model; 110-volt, AC-DC. Handsomely designed in walnut veneer and silver-gray plastic. Striking lucite and chrome carrying handle, convenient and durable. Four tubes plus rectifier tube. 550-1700 kc. Built-in loop antenna. A real value.

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You can count on Delco Radio for "the best of all that's new in radio"—and that goes for the complete line of table models, consoles and combinations. Like the original-equipment auto radios built by Delco Radio for America's leading cars, Delco home radios are a great General Motors value.

# AUCTION RULES FOR THE C.R.C.

The Colorado Radio Collectors will be holding their annual antique radio auction on September 10th. So, all of you CRC folks, dig through your garage, attic, basement, etc. and pull those radios and associated items which could go to auction. Remember these three old sayings from an old radio collector:

1. If you have owned it for over three years and haven't started its restoration yet, the odds are you will not start.
2. One man's "stuff" is another man's treasure.
3. There comes a time when a collection needs to be thinned out to provide room for new things.

The auction will start at 1:00 pm on at the Southwest Bank building, 1380 S. Federal Ave., Denver, in the rear parking lot.

Sellers registration starts at 11:30 am.

Buyers registration starts at 11:30 am.

Viewing of items starts right after items are registered.

Briefly the auction rules are as follows:

- ◆ Only items of old radios, TVs, parts, documentation, test equipment, and other radio related items will be registered for auction.
- ◆ There is no buyer or seller registration fee for CRC members. Non-members will be charged a \$2.00 buyer's fee if they wish to bid on items, but there is no fee to sellers.
- ◆ There is no minimum bid.
- ◆ The CRC assumes no responsibility for the condition of any items offered in this auction.
- ◆ Sellers may buy-back any item with one, and only, overbid. The seller will be charged a four percent fee for a buy-back. (Minimum \$1.00)
- ◆ The sellers fee will be ten percent of the "hammer" price. (Minimum \$1.00)

*HELP WANTED!* Members are needed to help with the auction. If you would like to assist in this worthwhile event, please call Dick Hagrman at 303/ 794-6674.

Hope to see all of you Sunday. Bring stuff for sale and your checkbook!

# ON THE AIR

## Jerry Tynan, C.R.C. President

Thanks to all of you who attended the annual picnic/pot luck. The attendance was less than in past years but the attendees had a great time. The number of items that were raffled was quite large, given the number of attendees.

Those of you who missed the event missed out on some unusual items that were for sale during the swap meet. Two very rare radios changed owners at the meet were an Atwater Kent Model 10 breadboard with horn and an Atwater kent crystal breadboard set. I also saw some consoles and tombstone find new homes.

Just a reminder to all of you...dig out all of the radio stuff you no longer have a use for or will never get around to doing anything with and bring it to the auction.

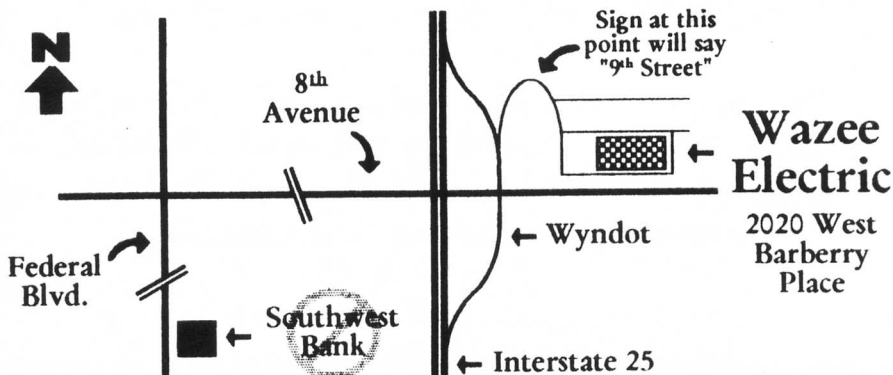
Remember, it's our duty to help keep radio collecting alive and healthy. This can be done if new people are introduced to our great hobby.

See you at the auction.

Jerry

# NEW C.R.C. MEETING LOCATION NOVEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>

Wazee Electric • 2020 West Barberry Place



# "Return With Us Now..."

**A Live Radio Drama for the  
September 19<sup>th</sup> Opening Night activities  
at Belmar Historical Village**

- 4:00-6:00 Reception in the museum display building (the "Barn")
- 5:30 Ribbon cutting and opening by the Mayor of Lakewood
- 6:30-7:00 Live broadcasting of a radio drama

## **The CRC Display at the "Barn"!**

**This event is free, but since seating is limited there is a requirement for reservations on a first come, first served basis.**

**Call 303/ 987-7850 for reservations.**

**This broadcast will emanate from the school house. It is produced by the Radio Historical Association of Colorado, who will be bringing in original radio professionals.**

**For more info, contact Larry Weide**

# Why Some Radio Manufactures Employ Odd-Value Resistors?



**Because of Color Code Identification Difficulties!**

From *Radio Troubleshooters Handbook* by Alfred Ghirardi (Third Revision)

As researched by Jerry Tynan, CRC President

Some of the larger radio manufacturers, for example, Philco, employ mercury-vapor lamp lighting in their assembly plants. Certain colors are difficult to distinguish under the bluish-green light of these lamps.

To overcome this difficulty, in such cases, these manufacturers employ odd-values of resistors. For example, the black in the green-black-orange color coding of a 50,000 ohm resistor is not clearly distinguishable under this light. So 51,000 ohm units are used instead, since each of the code colors (green-brown-orange) for this value of resistance shows up sufficiently well. Likewise, 99,000 ohm resistors are used instead of 100,000 ohm units, etc.

In practically all cases where such odd-value resistors are found in a receiver chassis, the next higher "even" value of resistor may be used satisfactorily for replacement purposes if it is more convenient to do so on any service job. \*

## On The Cover

I'd like to think of our cover page missy as...

**"MS. FLASH!!"**

Taken from a small filler picture in an early '20s *Radio News* magazine, she typifies everyman's image of what a radio signal MUST look like passing through the ether! Your Editor :-)



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# NEW NEBRASKA MEMBER

## Bob Taylor ♣ Grand Island

# The Open Trunk

## Wanted:

- ◆ Manual or any information for a "Flame Bucket and Header Pressure Assembly" made by the **Martin Company**, Denver Division, Denver, Colorado. This is part number 327-3641000-19, serial number 0011, cont. number AF 04-645-56. Let me know your price. Copies okay. Thank you!

**Earl C. Friedman**

27 NE 5th Avenue  
Hialeah, FL 33010-5014

☎ 305/ 884 • 2175

## Wanted:

- ◆ 1920s radio literature of any kind!

**Rick & Vicki Ammon**

1249 Solstice Lane  
Fort Collins, CO 80525-1239

☎ 970/ 221 • 4001

## Wanted:

- ◆ One or two old radio consoles. I'm not a collector...Willing to pay from \$20 to \$75.
- ◆ I could also use an **Atwater Kent** speaker. Thanks

**Charley Kowalis**

☎ 303/ 451 • 1284

**GET YOUR ADS  
IN EARLY!**

## 4 Sale:

- ◆ Reproduction lid tags with warranty card for the **Crosley** 51, 51P, 51D, and 51SD...\$4.00 each. When requesting one, please send the serial number of the set.

**Bob Jensen**

420 Grand Avenue  
Alliance, NE 69301

☎ 308/ 762 • 5674

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

NARCA / CRC

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