

The

FLASH!

An Official Journal Published For Radio/TV Collectors

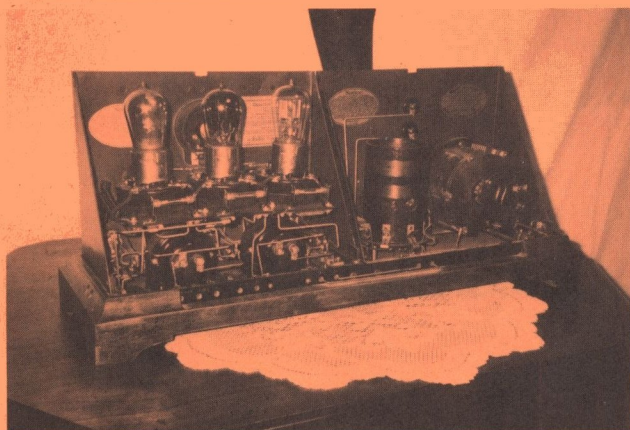
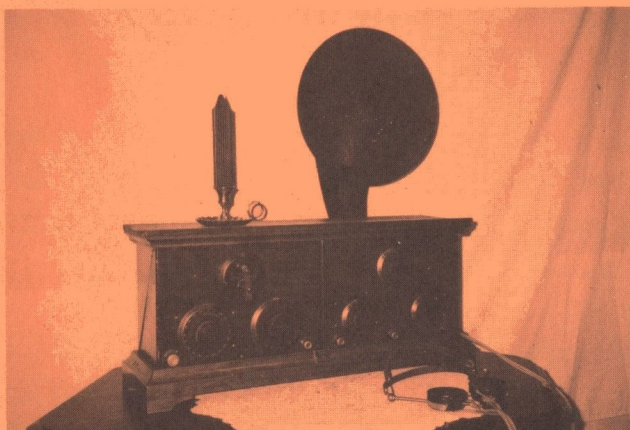
Dedicated to the Preservation and Documentation of Wireless, Radio, Television and Associated Equipment

← *Volume 7*

January



February 1996 Issue 1 →



In This Issue...

MAKE DIAL COVERS • BROADCAST HISTORY • COLLECTOR BOOKS

*To the members of the Mountain N' Plains Radio
Collector's Association,*

*One of the greatest honors I've ever received was
presented to me at the last CRC meeting! I certainly
would never have expected the radio-clock presentation.
It's a classy trophy.*

*Vicki and I would like to give the warmest of THANK
YOUs to all of you, the members of the CRC and
NARCC, for the support and encouragement while we
edited the FLASH!! It was appreciated.*

Rick and Vicki Ammon

Official Journal of the
*Mountians N' Plains Radio
Collector's Association*

Dedicated to the preservation and understanding of wireless,
through the united efforts of organizations throughout the Rocky
Mountain region and the Great Plains.

Volume 7, Issue 1

January/February 1996

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ABOUT THE COVER

This is a RCA Radiola V, built by GE and offered for sale in January of 1923. This set is unique in that it can be operated as a simple crystal set or as a regenerative detector with audio amplification. Also, the cabinet is made of solid brass with wood graining to dress it up.

This is a good performing, high quality radio. It's neat to move the phone plug from the crystal detector to the regenerative detector and experience the "miracle" of regeneration. Each additional audio stage also makes a definite improvement.

--- Courtesy of Tom Pouliot, member CRC

FLASH!! PUBLISHING DEADLINE NOTES

It's the intention of this Editor to mail our journal bi-monthly just prior to the 2nd Sunday of the issue month. Articles about, and pictures of your treasures, are welcomed as are **Want/4-Sale** ads and any letters or comments about our hobby. All material used are the copyrighted (C) property of the **Colorado Radio Collectors**.

The article submission deadline dates are set to allow timely mailing in the following month. These dates are the 1st of Feb., Apr., Aug., Oct. and Dec.

**** ADS ARE FREE TO CRC & NARCC MEMBERS ****

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Thanks to the *Press Works* for printing the **FLASH!!**
(303) 428-8600

Kudos to this month's Flash contributors!
Dave Gonshor, Bob Jensen, Steve Morton,
Tom Pouliot, George Gonzales, Larry Weide

Colorado Radio Collectors Antique Radio Club

Founded October 1988

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

MEETING LOCATION

Unless otherwise noted in this Journal, meetings are held on the second Sunday of every other month starting in January (except: 3rd Sunday in May) at 1:00PM at the **South West Bank Building**, Community Room, 1380 South Federal Ave.. A swapmeet follows the meeting in the parking area.

C.R.C. OFFICERS

President:

Larry Weide
Englewood (303) 758-8382

Vice President:

Dave Boyle
Littleton (303) 979-5403

Treasurer:

Bob Cofer
Denver (303) 861-8454

**ALL DUES
\$12.00
ANNUALLY**

(Joining dues prorated to June 1)

**Bob Cofer
P.O.Box 200632
Denver, CO 80220-0632**

**WANT ADS
and
ARTICLES**

Should be directed to;

**Larry Weide
5270 E. Nassau Cir.
Englewood, CO 80110**

ON THE AIR

This Bird's Gonna Fly!

Larry Weide, C.R.C. President

First of all, I hope 'yall had a great holiday season, with stockings stuffed with more radios than coal.

I want to thank the folks whose names appear in the contributor's box on page 2. These are the guys who are making this journal possible. I think we all agree that the Flash has been a valuable and important part of our club - thanks largely to the efforts of Rick Ammon. The Flash will remain a success only so long as we continue with excellent contributions such as we've had in the last two issues. Remember, if you have interesting historical and/or technical information to share but you feel that, for *any* reason, you wouldn't be able to get it into publishable form, don't sweat it, just bring it in. We NEED these articles and would be more than happy to help you arrange it for print.

Don't forget to take notice of our new (old) meeting location. We are now back at the South West Bank building on Federal Ave. Of course the meeting dates and time remain the same.

Larry

NEBRASKA ANTIQUE RADIO COLLECTORS CLUB

N.A.R.C.C. OFFICERS

President:

Bob Jensen
Alliance (308) 762-7391

Vice-President:

Vern Killion
Lexington (308) 324-2502

Secretary/Treasurer:

Steve Morton
North Platte (308) 534-4778

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**Mail to:
Steve Morton
905 West First
North Platte NE 69101**

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and
ARTICLES**

Should be directed to;

**Steve Morton
905 West First
North Platte NE 69101**

Nebraska Antique Radio Collectors Club

President's Column

by Bob Jensen

I hope that the holiday season has provided everyone all of the radio treasures on their wish lists, and all of the enjoyment the season can bring. The mild winter that we have seen so far should have everyone still out searching the corners of the antique shops and flea markets etc. looking for more radios. With this in mind it is time to start thinking of the upcoming year and of the activities and meeting schedules. We need to start planning the annual club auction and other events that make up the NARCC. The club needs to create the meeting schedule early in the year to provide time to get the notification printed in the newsletter. This upcoming year looks to be a good one.

The Ford Museum auction results that were recently printed in the Antique Radio Classified show me that radio collecting is becoming as big and popular as other forms of collecting. The question remains whether the prices of the wireless pieces was high due to the rarity of the items, or for the historical documentation that was available on the items that were sold. Some of the radios and equipment came from collections of individuals who had helped develop them. I hope that this auction doesn't start an upward trend in antique radio prices, this could be disastrous to radio collectors in the coming years.

A thanks goes out to KRVN for hosting the last meeting and to Vern Killion for the hospitality and refreshments after the meeting. The first meeting for 1996 is scheduled for March 24th at KRVN studios in Lexington Nebraska.

Bob

From the Desk of the Secretary

by Steve Morton, NARCC Secretary-Treasurer

Winter is with us and the Nebraska Radio Club is in hibernation. We will emerge again with our first meet March 24, Sunday at the KRVN studios in Lexington, NE at 1:00. Hopefully everyone will bring some "neat stuff" for the open trunk swapmeet.

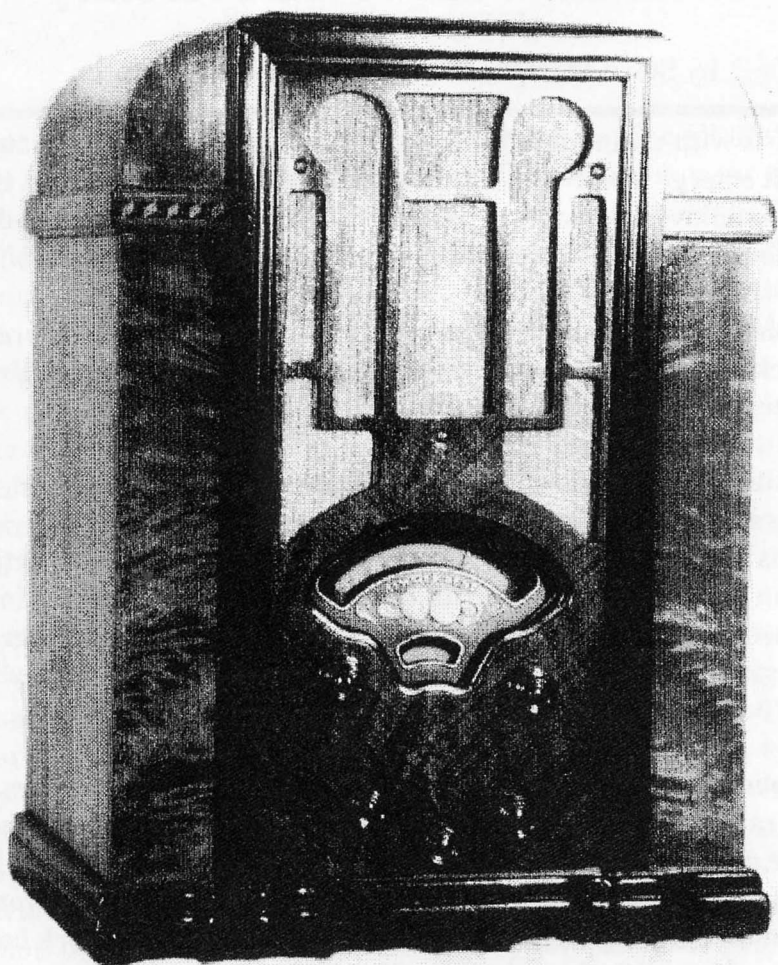
This winter provides an opportunity to repair and do the research on the background of the choice sets and equipment you bought this summer.

At our last meet Howard and Joanne Lahman brought another battery set and speaker they bought at a farm auction. Farm auctions are a particularly good source for choice radios. Sometimes they can be had very cheap, with the only downside being the time required. It could take all day to bid on a choice radio only to be out bid by some dealer. Still, this is a very good source and the sale bills should be checked out carefully. Don't miss this opportunity.

Farm auctions, club meets and radio friends are the best sources for choice radios. Unfortunately sometimes you have to deal with the antique dealers. I find these people odious to work with and the best I can ever do is dicker down 10 to 15% of listed price. Has anyone else had this problem? Do you have any techniques that work better when working with these dealers. If so let me know.

Sincerely,

Steve Morton



Atwater Kent 447 - 1934
Restored and Owned by
Dave Boyle, CRC Member

Pioneer Broadcast Stations in Colorado and Nebraska

by Dave Gonshor, CRC Member

Did you ever wonder what stations pioneered broadcasting in Colorado and Nebraska, and when they started? I recently came across some extensive research conducted by Thomas H. White. His research primarily used the Radio Service Bulletin, issued by the Bureau of Navigation, as the source for determining the oldest broadcasting stations in the United States.

It wasn't until 1927 that radio regulation was transferred to the Federal Radio Commission. Initially, the Bureau of Navigation assigned only two wavelengths for broadcasting on 1 December, 1921. The first was 360 meters for "broadcasting news, concerts and such matter". The second was 485 meters for "broadcasting crop reports and weather forecasts". The very first station to broadcast commercially, KDKA of Pittsburgh, used 330 meters, as this was prior to the standard assigned wavelength of 360 meters.

KDKA's license was issued on 27 October, 1920. Other claimants for the title of the first broadcast station either didn't provide broadcasts as their primary function (but rather did spark or

CW transmitting), or were not the first to use the assigned wavelength of 360 meters (such as WBZ of Boston).

The first station to be licensed to broadcast in Colorado was KLZ-560 Kc on 10 March, 1922, to the Reynolds Radio Company [See their ad in the 11/95 Flash - Ed.]. Please note that frequencies refer to current assignments. KLZ was the 67th station to be licensed in the United States.

The first *surviving* station to be licensed in Nebraska was KCRO-660 Kc in Omaha, to the Omaha Grain Exchange (KCRO's call letters were initially WAAW).

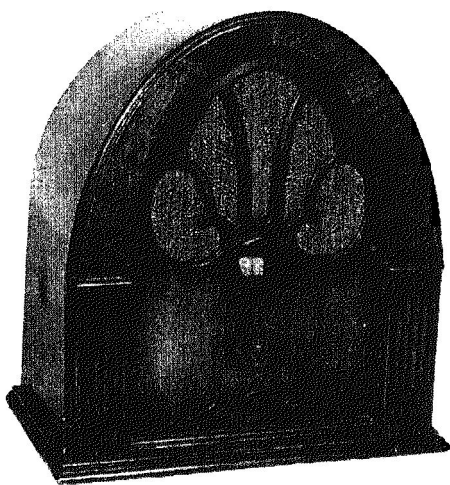
KCRO was the 194th station to be licensed, and received the license on 19 April, 1922. Nebraska actually had a radio station licensed earlier than KLZ. It was WOU of Omaha, licensed on 29 December, 1921 to R. B. Howell. WOU's license was deleted on 23 June, 1923.

The second *surviving* Colorado station was KHOW-630 Kc on 31 May, 1922 to the Motor Generator Company (their initial call letters were KDZQ). KHOW was the 317th station to be licensed. Note

the rapid pace of station licensing between March and May 1922!

My guess for the first Colorado station was the "Blowtorch of the Rockies", KOA. However, the present KOA station was not licensed until 23 December, 1924. According to my 1925 radio log book, KOA initially broadcasted on a frequency of 930 Kc. KOA was actually first licensed on 20 March, 1922, to the Young Mens Christian Association, but that license was deleted on 23 June, 1923.

Of the first 389 stations licensed to broadcast, 100 are still broadcasting as of 1 January, 1994. Many early stations in Colorado and Nebraska did not survive. These included stations in Colorado Springs, Boulder, Denver, Rushville and Lincoln.



Making your own replacement dial covers

with permission by George Gonzalez, Guest Author

grg@boombox.micro.umn.edu

A common problem with old radios is where the dial "glass" is broken, cracked, yellowed, or just plain missing. Here's some replacement procedures that have worked for me:

First, check with the usual sources. Antique Radio Supply has several sizes of replacement dial covers. Your local watch repair shop may have a source of circular glass replacement dial covers for clocks. Try these first unless you like to experiment. If that fails, we'll try making one.

First, we need a mold shape. If you have the original cover, even badly cracked, it can be used as a mold. Patch a cracked cover on the outside with plastic tape. If its warped or has lost its convexity, find a heavy object that you can tape or glue to the bottom to restore its shape. You may have to build a support to hold the edges up and flat with the weight hanging down. One solution is to cut out the bottom of a cardboard box to the right shape to support the edges of the dial.

If you don't have the original, you need to find something similar. For example, for one old

Fairbanks-Morse console, I needed a 5.5" circular convex dial cover. The bottom of a candy dish turned out to be within 1/8" of the correct size and shape, so I used it as a mold. Whenever you go to Estate sales or Antique shops, keep an eye out for glass ashtrays and candy dishes that may make good molds. My lovely wife found a 50 cent ashtray that is just the right size for a Trans-Oceanic dial cover.

Now, go shopping for supplies. Go to the hardware store. Get a good sized bag of plaster of paris. Get some thick cloth gloves. Get a can of Silicone spray. A few kitchen tongs are handy also.

Find a local plastic supply place ("Cadillac" is a common one in the USA) [In Denver, try "Regal" - Ed.]. In their scrap bin they'll probably have some sheets of 0.050" Lexan at almost no cost. Here I get a 2x2 foot sheet for \$1. There are many kinds of plastics-Lexan (polycarbonate) and Plexiglas (acrylic) seem to be the easiest to work with.

The thinner plastics are easier to work with. A 0.050" thickness of Lexan is a good choice. It can be easily molded, and

its very strong once it has been molded into a convex shape. Some older radios, like Zeniths, used much thicker material. I've had success with up to 1/8 inch thick plastic.

While you are at the plastic supply place, see if they have "Novus" #1 and #2 plastic polishes. You may want them to finish polishing your dial. These polishes are also excellent on other plastic parts.

If you don't have a plastic supply place nearby, many picture framing or sign making shops have similar plastic for slightly higher prices. The plastic supply places have better variety of thicknesses and prices, plus you can be sure of the kind of plastic you are getting. You'll also want to stop at the local junk shop and find an electric skillet, one with a good, calibrated temperature control. You DONT want to use your good household one. The skillet must have a close fitting top.

Now, to work:

First, we need to prepare the mold shape. Your old dial glass or candy dish needs to be built up a bit to form a strong plaster mold. With masking tape, build up a half-inch lip around the edges of your mold shape.

This will allow you to pour in an extra half inch of plaster of paris. Without this extra material, the mold can be too fragile and the edges may flake off.

Make up a batch of plaster of paris. Spray the inside of your mold with silicone spray. Pour the plaster of paris into the mold, up to the very top of the mold. Tap the mold several times to break loose any air bubbles.

Wait for the plaster to harden, several hours is best. Remove the mold from the form. If the top is bowed around the edges due to surface tension, grind it flat by rubbing it on some flat concrete surface. If the original cover had cracks, you'll have to take some sandpaper to the mold and erase the crack lines. The mold must end up perfectly smooth, with no bumps, bubbles, cracks, or dirt specks. Any flaws in the mold will likely be transferred to the final product. You'll also want to sand the edges so the mold is globally-convex, i.e. it won't trap anything molded around it.

Find a place outside to work at where you can plug in the skillet. Turn on the skillet to 250 degrees F. Bake the plaster mold for 2 hours. This drives off the excess moisture which would otherwise condense under the plastic. Don't try to smooth out the rough plaster

surface with any kind of sealer. The sealer will likely stick to the plastic sheet and ruin the sheet and the mold.

Then turn the skillet up to 350 degrees F. This seems to be the best temperature for molding Lexan. If you got the plastic at a frame shop, or another place where you can't be sure of its exact composition, you should experiment to find the best temperature. Put a small strip of the plastic in the skillet and keep raising the temperature 25 degrees F at a time, until you find a temperature where the plastic will sag slowly when you lift up one corner. If it sticks, melts, or forms small bubbles in the plastic, the temperature is quite a bit too high. A very slow sag is optimum.

When you've found a "good" temperature, spray the plaster mold with more silicone. Cut Lexan plastic with sharp scissors to the approximate shape, leaving about 1/2 inch around the edges. If the cut edges form zillions of tiny cracks, you have a piece of styrene, which is quite troublesome to mold. Plexiglas can be cut with scissors, or scored with a sharp knife and snapped apart, like glass.

Now place the plaster mold in the skillet. Put the cover on and let it warm up for at least a half hour.

Periodically lift the lid to let out any moisture.

After 1/2 hour, spray the mold one last time with silicone. Place the plastic sheet on top of the mold. Put the cover back on and wait.

Every 10 minutes, take off the lid and inspect what's happening. If you are lucky, the sheet will be sagging around the mold. It may take quite a while for this to complete.

Some possible problems

- The edges sag, but not completely touching the mold:

This often happens if the plastic sheet is a bit too large. The parts touching the base of the skillet are supporting the weight of the upper parts and preventing it from sagging. With tongs, remove the plastic piece. Let it cool a bit, then trim any excess plastic around the edges. Try it again. In severe cases you may have to help it sag into place. With tools or gloved fingers, push down the plastic around the edges. Don't push on any visible part of the plastic, as your tongs or gloves will leave marks on the plastic. Pushing down around the flat

edges of the mold is the best strategy.

- Small bubbles form in the plastic:

The skillet is at too high a temperature, try again with another piece of plastic and 25 degrees F lower temperature.

- Wrinkles form at the corners (on dials with squarish corners):

A small diagonal cut along the edge of the plastic may help this problem.

If you are lucky, after 45 minutes to an hour you'll find that the plastic has sagged into place, or close enough. If you think its ready, turn off the skillet, uncover it and let it cool off with the plastic in place. Don't try spraying water on the plastic or mold. The sudden temperature change may warp the plastic, and the water will make the plaster mold very brittle.

When cool, you should be able to separate the mold and plastic. With a soft cloth, wipe off any white plaster residue. If it looks okay, try it for fit. You'll probably have to trim the edges a bit for best fit and appearance. Some plastics will get brittle after all this heating, so trim it with

care. A light polishing with "Novus" plastic polish will remove most scratches.

If it didn't work perfectly the first time, try it again, at a higher or lower temperature, perhaps with more or less help from the tongs, scissors, or fingers. At 20 cents per piece, you can afford to experiment a bit.

Good luck, and don't burn your fingers! - George

[Notes from the editor - I asked George about creating a dial cover in a concave or negative mold. In this way you would be creating a copy of the cover from the front surface rather than the back as in the technique just described. He said that, although he has not tried this type of mold, it should be possible. However, his experience tells him that it might be difficult to get the plastic to "snuggle" into corners of a concave mold without causing marks or scratches on the new cover.]

Collector Books for Sale

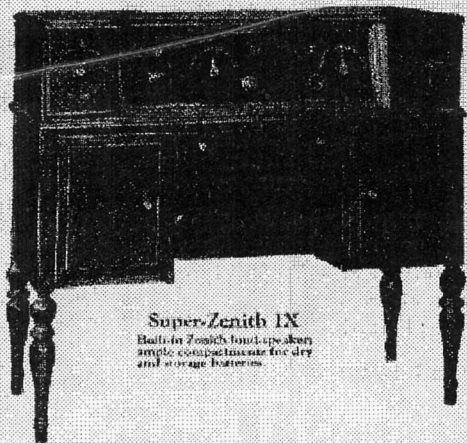
CRC and NARCC Members get specially reduced prices from L&W Books of Indiana, up to %40 off the suggested retail. Add \$1.00 for shipping and \$1.00 for the CRC per each book purchase. Contact your rep for information.

Other categories of books are available. The complete listing and ordering will be available at meetings (NARCC/remotes by mail). 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, COLLECTOR'S GUIDE - 2rd EDITION**
 Johnson, 144 pages, No prices, Repairing and refinishing \$14.95 \$ 8.97
- CLASSIC TV'S, TELEVISIONS PRE-WAR THRU 1950's**
 Bunis, '94-95 values, revised & updated, new photos, 278 pgs \$16.95 \$10.17
- NOVELTY RADIOS, COLLECTOR'S GUIDE - Bunis& Breed, 1995**
 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 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,
 picture 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 CRC member Jim Berg \$24.95 \$14.97
- RADIOMANIA'S GUIDE TO TABLETOP RADIOS**
 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

For some—a “radio”

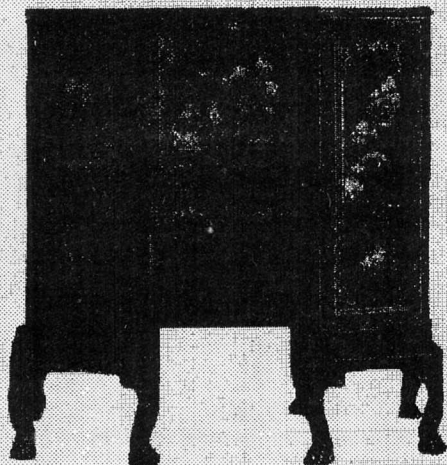
For others—Zenith!



Super-Zenith IX

Built in Zenith built-up design
ample compartments for dry
and storage batteries.

Super-Zeniths priced from \$240 to \$355.
DeLuxe Art Model Cabinets from \$500 to \$2,000
Other Zenith Sets \$100 and \$175



New Zenith De Luxe Chinese Model

Equipped with two built-in loudspeakers, Battery
Compartment, Illuminated Dial, simple control
specially constructed Zenith Radio Circuit.

Some prefer the blare of a circus band
—or the friendly jangle of a hurdy-
gurdy. To them it is the only music.

Those who delight in blare and jangle
do not need a Zenith—but they
will find that even such music rings
truer to their ears brought in by
Zenith radio.

Others go breathless at the golden
notes of a lyric soprano—or the raptur-
ous harmonies of a great symphony.

Such people—born with a love for
music—should never content them-
selves with any radio instrument less
fine than Zenith.

Zenith's appeal to the eye is instant
—and enduring. Its clear, sweet tone
is a revelation.

To see and hear one of the new Super-
Zeniths for the first time is a memor-
able experience. Yet that experience
is yours for the asking—In your own
home if you so desire.

Simply telephone your nearest Zenith
dealer.

Again Commander Donald B. MacMillan
chose Zenith for his Arctic Expedition.
When human lives may depend upon the
reliability of radio performance, only one
reason can explain his choice. Zenith has
proved to be the best obtainable at any price.

ZENITH RADIO CORPORATION
Straus Building, Chicago

ZENITH
—LONG DISTANCE—
RADIO

It Costs More

But It Does More!

\$125⁰⁰

Complete with all
Accessories
10% Additional Wast
of Recogist.



Unlike Some Music
OZARKA SERVICE

Satisfies Every Owner—

*it takes you less
than one second*



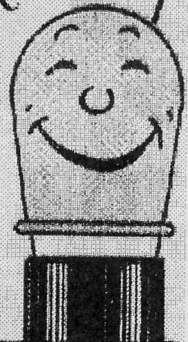
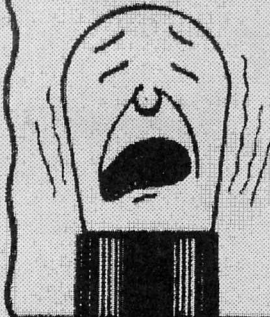
to end microphonic howling for
once and all! That's when you slip
one of these live rubber "howl ab-
sorbers" over the offending tube.

**Mc DONALD
HOWL
ARRESTER**

remember this name! You
can get it for every size tube.
Just ask your dealer, or write

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SPARTAN ELECTRIC CORP.
350 West 34th Street, New York City
Manufactured in the U. S. A. by
Scientific Products Canada, Ltd.

Price 75 cents each
"It Stops that howl!"



The Open Trunk

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.

Wanted: Binding post nuts and tube socket shells for Magavox AC2 or AC3 audio amp, Also photos and any info would be appreciated

Bob Jensen

420 Grand Avenue
Alliance, NE 69301
308/ 762-7391

Wanted:

Old open style audio transformer - any make.

Steve Morton

905 West 1st street
North Platte NE 69101
308/ 534-4778

4 Sale or Trade:

◆	RCA Radiola 17	\$50	Zenith 5-S-151	\$75
	Admiral 4220xd5	\$5	Zenith 5-s-250	\$50
	Air King 252	\$10	RCA 1-Ra-60	\$10
	Philco 89-1	\$70	RCA Radiola 48	\$200
	Philco 90 (console)	\$50		

Wanted: Crosley 10-138, 11-123 Fada 845, Gilbert 69-70 (1931/32 Cath), Philco 52-548

Need: Information/Xerox copies of A.C. Gilbert breadboard radio kit, dated about 1922

Wayne Gilbert

10751 Routt St.
Broomfield CO 80021
303/ 465-0883

Wanted:

- ◆ Speakers for: Zenith 7S260 or 7S261, AK 480

Jack Mattox

1443 Platte
Alliance NE 69301
308/ 762-8831

*Mrs. W Plains Radio
Collector's Association
CRC/NARCA
5270 E. Nassau Clr.
Englewood CO 80110*



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