

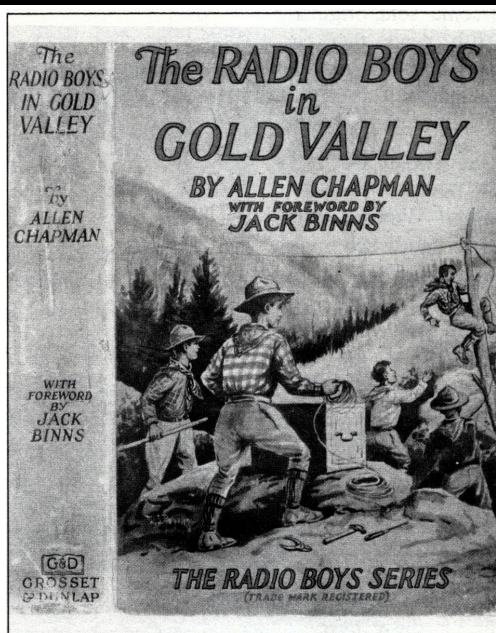
## The Radio Boys Classics

by Wayne Gilbert, CRC Member

Reprinted from the July/August 1997 FLASH

**"Gus gazed calmly at the five militant youths in front of him. Without undue egotism, he possessed an easy confidence, and he knew that, barring some bumps and scratches, that bunch would need assistance in hazing him."**

With those words, Gus and Bill, two of the most steadfast of the Radio Boys, prepare to take us on a new adventure. Many will remember the days when Gus and Bill and their colleagues guided us on our first journeys into the world of thrills and excitement, each time saving us (or others) from certain doom with their clever knowledge and use of radios. Ironically, their courageous words and actions which we remember so fondly may have been the product of a number of people's imagination, some whose names we never knew or have long forgotten.



The Radio Boys adventure books<sup>1</sup> are better described as an accumulation of books than as a series, in spite of what we all seem to remember. A quick check of the Worldcat<sup>2</sup> library system turns up at least 40 juvenile adventure books with Radio or Wireless in the title, written by as many as ten different authors. Since at least two of these authors' names are pseu-

donyms, it's anyone's guess how many people actually contributed to this effort. As hard it is for us, the avid admirers of manly talents of Gus and his chums, to believe and accept, even the sex of these authors is uncertain.

For example, one series sold as the "Radio Girls" series was supposedly authored by Margaret Penrose, which it turns out, was a pseudonym, and some of the real people who wrote under the Margaret Penrose name could easily have also written under the pseudonym Allen Chapman, the author of one of the "Radio Boys" adventure series.

While the titles of these classic adventure books all are similar enough to appear related (even though the names of the heroes change with the "authors"), it's the personalities of the heroes that provide us with a bridge from book to book. In each there is an adventure faced two or more radio "chums" who, in spite of the guile of the bad guys, never lost their nerve nor succumbed to dirty, underhanded tricks and always emerged triumphant.

The first of this accumulation of classic books seems to be The Boys of the Wireless, published in 1912, followed by

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## 2011 CRC Auction and Picnic

The 2011 CRC Auction/Picnic will be September 18th.

Same location as the past few years

The grounds of Tectonic Management Group in Wheat Ridge.

See pages 5 & 6 for additional information.

# COLORADO RADIO COLLECTORS ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

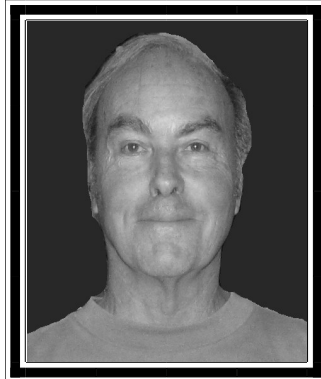
Founded October 1988  
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## Message from the President

### Presidents Message

Greetings fellow club members. It's auction and picnic time again.

Time to drag out those treasures and see what they are worth. Also, a great opportunity to get

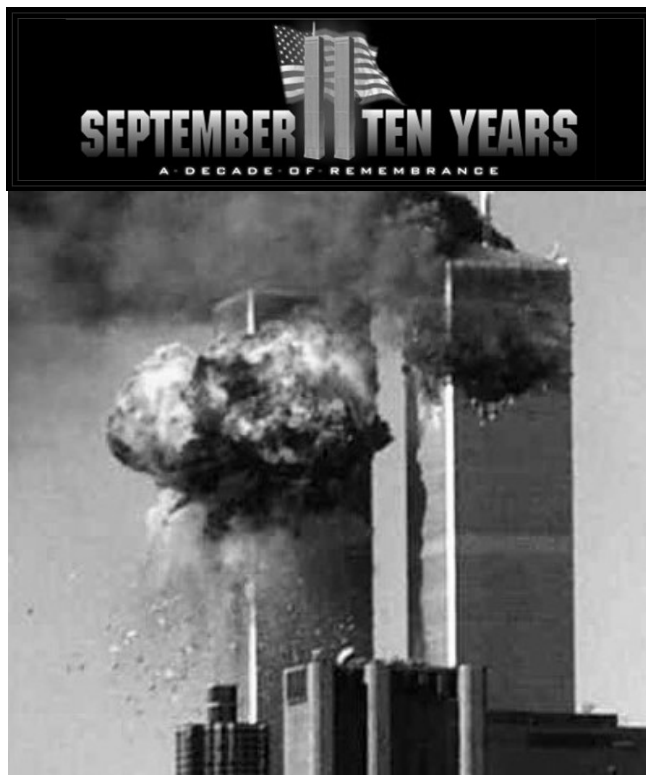


Tom

more STUFF. This should be interesting. The auction and picnic will be at the Tectonic Management Group grounds once again. Details at the next meeting and inside this issue. See you there.

Take a good look at this issue of *The Flash*. The lead article is a retread. We need fresh articles if this is to continue as the fine publication that it has become.

So, sharpen your pencil, turn on your computer, engage your brain and crank out an article or two for publication. You've seen what others have provided. It's not that hard, you can do it. Send your articles to Steve Touzalin, his email address is on this page.



## CRC CONTACTS

<b>President</b>	Tom Kelly (303)504-0550
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Marty Phillips</b> 719-495-4229
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<b>Webmaster</b>	Bill Grimm
<b>Website</b>	www.radioace.com

## Upcoming Events

9/11—CRC Meeting  
**9/18—CRC Auction**  
10/31—Halloween  
11//13—CRC Meeting

## Meeting Locations (Unless noted otherwise)

<b>Littleton</b>	<b>Castle Rock</b>
January	March
May	July
September	November

## CRC MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of every other month starting in January (except 3rd Sunday of May) at 1:00 pm. The meetings consist of business, "show & tell", raffles, auctions, swap meets, technical discussions and other subjects of interest

## CRC MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership in the CRC runs from July to June. Dues entitle members to attend meetings, "The Flash!" our newsletter, discount book prices, participation in our spring show and Fall auction. Current annual dues are \$12. New memberships will be prorated to the following June.

(Continued from page 1)

the Ocean Wireless Boys' series, published from 1914 through 1917, and The Young Wireless Operators beginning in 1920. By 1922, books about Radio Boys (and Girls) had emerged, with their adventures being published until 1931, when the last of these classic books were released. While the heroes of the Ocean Wireless Boys' books were restricted to adventures at sea, a review of the Radio Boys books show that these heroes had a wide variety of adventures and were amazingly widely traveled heroes, eventually having adventures "on the Mexican Border" and "in the Darkest Africa". Author Breckenridge even them, and us, on a search for "the Lost Atlantis" in one of the last books of the series, apparently having run out of real adventure sites for the heroes to visit.

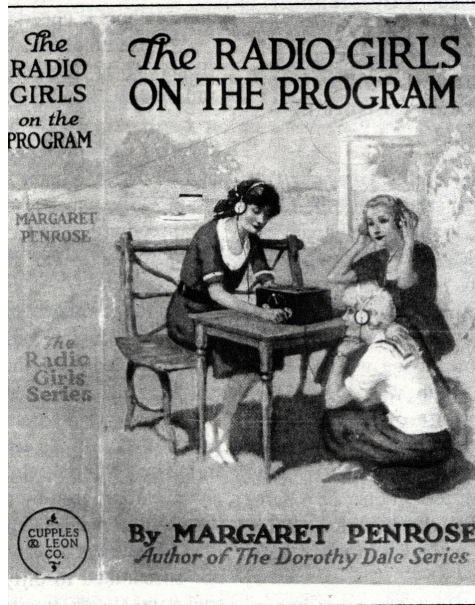
As the competition to write and sell these books increased and it became increasingly difficult to arrive at imaginary new adventures for the boys to experience, there seems to have developed some real life conflicts among the authors. Two of the books seemed to be so popular that both authors Duffield and Honeywell each independently claimed to have written them, and two books were written about the Radio Boys' exploits while on Secret Service duty, each by a different author.

The books also reflect the public's changing attitude toward wireless and then radio. The early books appealed to the public's fascination with the fact that, with enough ingeniousness and perseverance, messages could actually be plucked out of the air. Later, as radios became more commonplace, it was necessary for the authors to take the radio boys and the reader, into other more unfamiliar worlds where the use of radio was still unusual, or maybe even insignificant to the story. As a further indication of the changing public attitude, it should be noted that the last Worldcat Library entry for a book with both "Boys" and "Radio" in the title was published in 1960, and while there were boys' CB radio adventure books, there never seems to have been a series of Television Boys books published.

A review of some of the classic books reveals that 13 are known to be written by Allen Chapman, 10 by R. Breckenridge, 6 by Captain Wilbur Lawton, 5 by Lewis Theiss, 4 by Margaret Penrose, 2 by J.W. Duffield, 2 by Honeywell, and 2 jointly by S.F. Aaron and Wayne Whipple. Several other authors wrote only single books and/or articles and as mentioned

earlier, Alan Chapman and Margaret Penrose are known to be pseudonyms and others are suspected to be. It is also very likely that there are books in private collections which are not available to public library research and therefore unknown to this researcher.

The Chapman authored books number about 50, including several other popular boys series, and the Penrose authored books also number about 50 titles and include several other girls adventure series. Whipple authored more than 40 books, including the radio related titles, while the other authors produced few or no books other than their Radio Boys books.



In all, at least 40 books were published that are obvious classic wireless and radio boys and girls adventure stories, and many, many more books that had the same theme with a slightly more subtle title. Some of these books were obviously very poorly written attempts to capitalize on a then-popular theme, but others were simply attempts by professional writers to continue to write books that boys (and girls) wanted to read. Fortunately for us, these books also capture the ambiance of the era and some of them even accurately portray the then-current understanding of radio and wireless technology.

As corny and idealistic as the plot of these books sound today when authors portray their heroes as corruptible and their villains as sensitive and misunderstood, these books have withstood the test of time and been enjoyed by each succeeding generation of readers, and even today, when their style seems verbose and the conversation quaint, many readers still enjoy their

wholesome and uncomplicated plots as a change of pace.

Many of these books are extremely rare and, while some sold originally for as little as fifty cents, they currently sell for many times that amount when they can be found.

**"Some excitement we have had here," remarked Bob. "Wonder if we will ever have such strenuous times again."**

**"Sure," declared Joe promptly, and he was right, as we shall see in the next volume of this series, to be called . .**

With these final words of wisdom from our radio chums we once again look forward to the day that the Radio Boys return.

Note: Copies of dustcovers provided by: Simkin, Marsha & Jerry Maturan, New Jersey – Sunnybank Books Denver, Colorado – Wooters, Barney Denver, Colorado

<sup>1</sup> The books referred to in this article are the classic books of early wireless and radio era, not the post-classic juvenile adventure books of the late 1930s and later

<sup>2</sup> Worldcat is the file of cataloging records of more than 18,000 world libraries.

Sources:

**Adams, Mike.** "Will the Real Radio boys Please Stand Up" Antique Radio Classified September 1991:8+, December 1991:20+, June 1992: 17+, December 1992:24+.

**Bonner, Richard.** The Boy Inventor's Radio Telephone. Hurst & Company, 1915

**Chapman, Allen.** The Radio Boys Trail-ing a Voice. New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1922. p214.

**George, Robert.** "The Radio Girls: or, Tuning in on Adventure." Yellowback Library Oct. 1989: 18-19.

**Lesniak, James G. & Hal May, eds.** Contemporary Authors. Detroit: Book Tower

**Simkin, Marsha & Jerry.** Photocopy of dustcover of The Radio Boys in Gold Valley.

**Simkin, Marsha & Jerry.** Letters and documents in the possession of the author.

**Trudeau, George.** Letter to Internet news group, rec.antiques.radios+phono. 05 October 1996.

**Whipple, Wayne & S. F. Aaron.** Radio Boys Loyalty. Chicago: M.A. Donohue & Company, 1922. p16-17



# THE RADIO BOYS ON THE MEXICAN BORDER

BY GERALD BRECKENRIDGE

## DIRECTIONS FOR INSTALLING AN AMATEUR RADIO RECEIVING TELEPHONE

*These instructions are copied from the front pages the above titled book.*

In order that the boy interested in radio telephony may construct his own receiving set, the Author herein will describe the construction of a small, cheap set which almost any lad handy at mechanics can build. Such a set should be sufficiently powerful to permit of successfully picking up the concerts and other programme entertainments being broadcast frequently by stations throughout the country.

Two drawings are given herewith which will enable boys to visualize the appearance of the set, and will be of aid in following instructions.

Referring to Figure 1 let us examine first the construction of the receiving inductance marked L. The latter is shown in detail in Figure 2, and consists of a heavy piece of card-board. The back of an ordinary writing pad will do.

First, draw the circle out with a compass to the diameter shown and then divide off the outside into an unequal number of divisions as shown. Draw a light pencil line through each of these marks to the centre of the circle. Now with your scissors cut out the disc, after which you cut the slots as shown.

The slots should be about one-quarter of an inch in width and of the depth shown in the drawing. Two such discs should be made and, when all cut out, should be given

several coats of shellac to add stiffness and to improve the insulating qualities.

Now at your hardware dealer's buy one-quarter pound of No. 24 double, cotton-covered wire and pro-



ceed to wind the coils in the manner shown. Keep the windings even and avoid all joints throughout the length of winding.

When you have finished, mount the coils as shown in the drawing. Make sure that the windings on both coils run in the same direction. If you fail to do this, the set will not work.

For the detector, it is better to purchase a good make of galena detector at any radio supply store. If you are handy with tools, however, you can buy the galena and make your own detector. It will work with

more or less satisfaction.

Your next need will be the condenser. The condenser consists of a series of aluminum plates, some of which are movable and the rest stationary.

Buy a small variable condenser. Its function is to tune the secondary circuit, which is accomplished simply by turning the knob. Such a condenser could not be made without the use of a good set of tools, and the author strongly advises it be bought instead of made at home in order to avoid trouble. The aluminum plates are spaced very closely and great care should be taken to avoid bending them, as they must not touch each other.

The aerial for this set should be about 60 to 100 feet in length and as high and clear of surrounding objects as possible. A simple porcelain cleat at either end, as shown in the drawing, will serve to insulate it sufficiently.

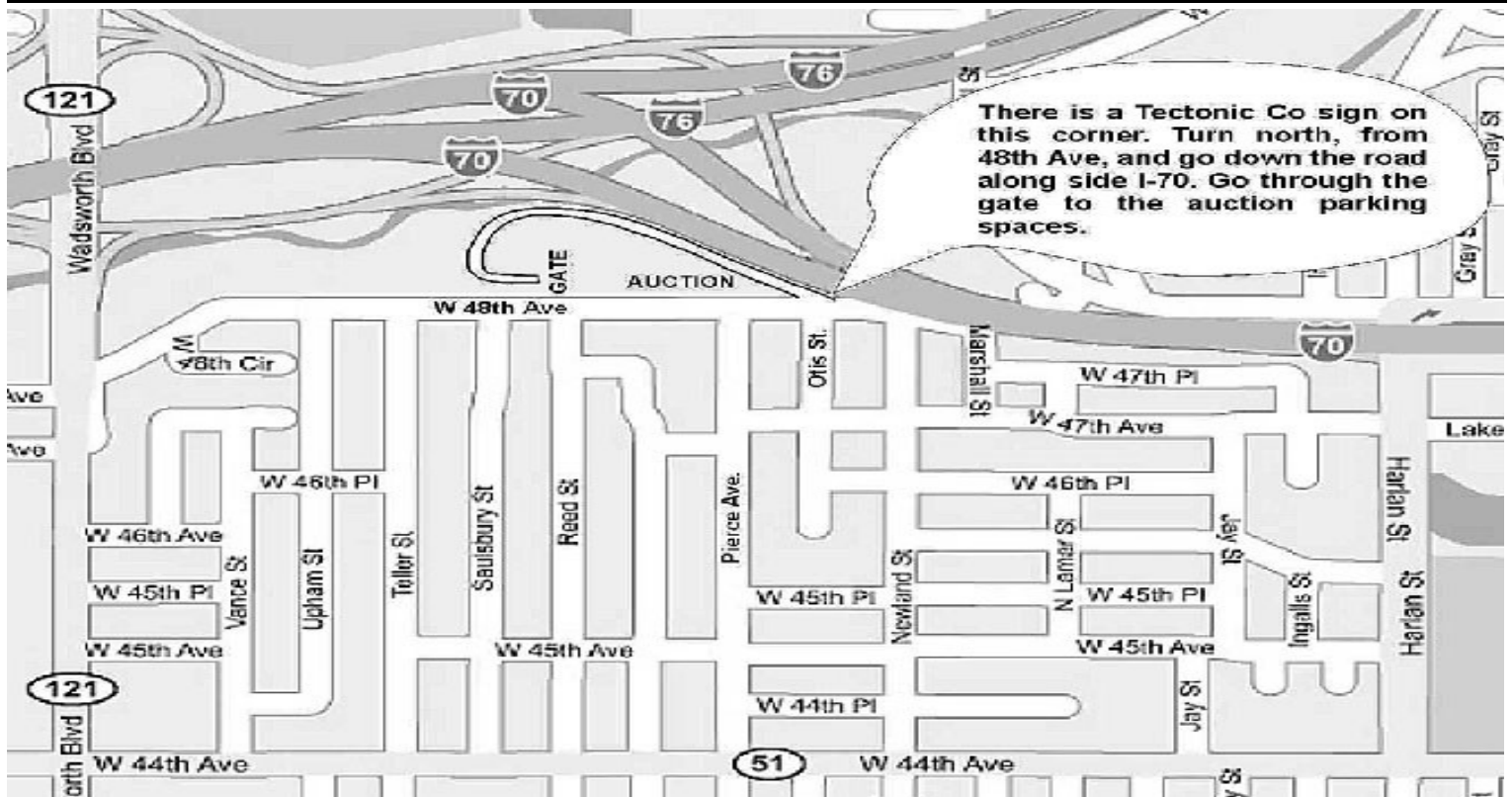
Your ground connection can be made best by wiring to the cold water pipe, although wiring to a steam or gas pipe will do almost as well.

You are now prepared to mount the various instruments in their proper locations. For your table instruments, get a good pine board about seven-eighths of an inch thick. Buy four binding posts and use one for the aerial wire, one for the ground wire, and two for the phones or head set.

To operate the set, first bring the hinged coil of wire close up to the

*(Continued on page 7)*

# THE CRC 2011 ANNUAL AUCTION



Once again, through the efforts of club member Rich Kuberski, we are privileged to hold our annual action in a park-like setting. In addition, we will also be continuing our tradition of combining the auction with a pot luck barbecue.

That is, the club will provide the burgers, hot dogs, condiments, chips and soft drinks while the members bring side dishes to share with all.

So plan on not only on being part of the auction, by both buying and selling radio treasures, but also by bringing your family where they can enjoy the picnic and the surrounding park facilities.

## WHAT:

An auction of radios, television, documentation, parts, test equipment and associated items. The public is encouraged to participate in *both* buying and selling.

## WHEN:

**Sunday, September 18th at 1:00pm**

Seller's Registration 10:00a - 12:45p

Buyer's Registration 10:00a until end

Viewing As items are delivered

**Auction Starts at 1:00p SHARP**

**Barbecue Lunch Served 10:30a-11:30a**

**Bring a side dish to share with everyone;**

*Slaw, Potato Salad, Fruit Salad, Desserts,*

*Chips, Beans, Your favorite recipe, etc.*

## WHERE:

**Tectonic Management Group Inc.**

**Office grounds and picnic facilities (see map.)**

## AUCTION RULES

There is no cost to register as a buyer or seller.

There is a seller's commission that will be equal to \$1 or 10% (which ever is greater) of the "hammer" price on each lot sold to any buyer - including the sellers who may elect to "buy back" their lots.

Sellers may optionally, **at registration time only**, set a secret minimum bid (reserve) on any lot.

No commission will be incurred on any lot that is not sold.

All seller commissions will be deducted from and before the payment to the seller, and these commissions will become the property of the Colorado Radio Collector's treasury.

Buyers can not take possession of any lot(s) until the total cost for all purchases are paid. Collection of buyers fees will commence at the conclusion of the sale of the last lot entered into the auction. A buyer's receipt is required for pickup of purchased lots from the lot/item display area.

Buyer fees will be collected before sellers are paid. Identification may be requested from those paying for their purchases by personal check.

\* Sellers will be paid only by C.R.C. check and may, for a \$1.00 surcharge, elect to be paid by mail.

\* This auction is limited to radio and electronics related items as described above. The CRC reserves the right to reject items deemed inappropriate.

\* Any item registered for sale by auction may not be sold outside of the auctioneer's control, and can not be removed from the sale once the auction commences.

# SELLERS

Be Prepared for the 2011 CRC Auction

***Fill out this form and bring it along when you register!!!***

	<u>Brand</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Reserve</u>
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				

## 2011 CRC Show Video

Don't miss out, copies of the video of the CRC Show are still available.

See interviews with each of the major award winners

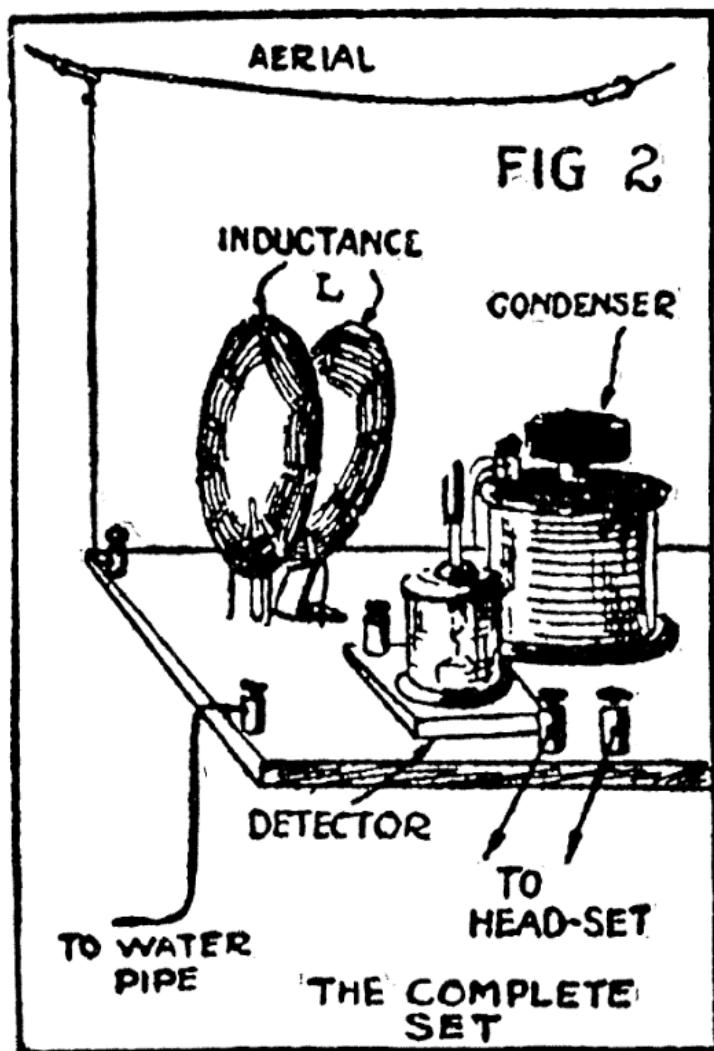
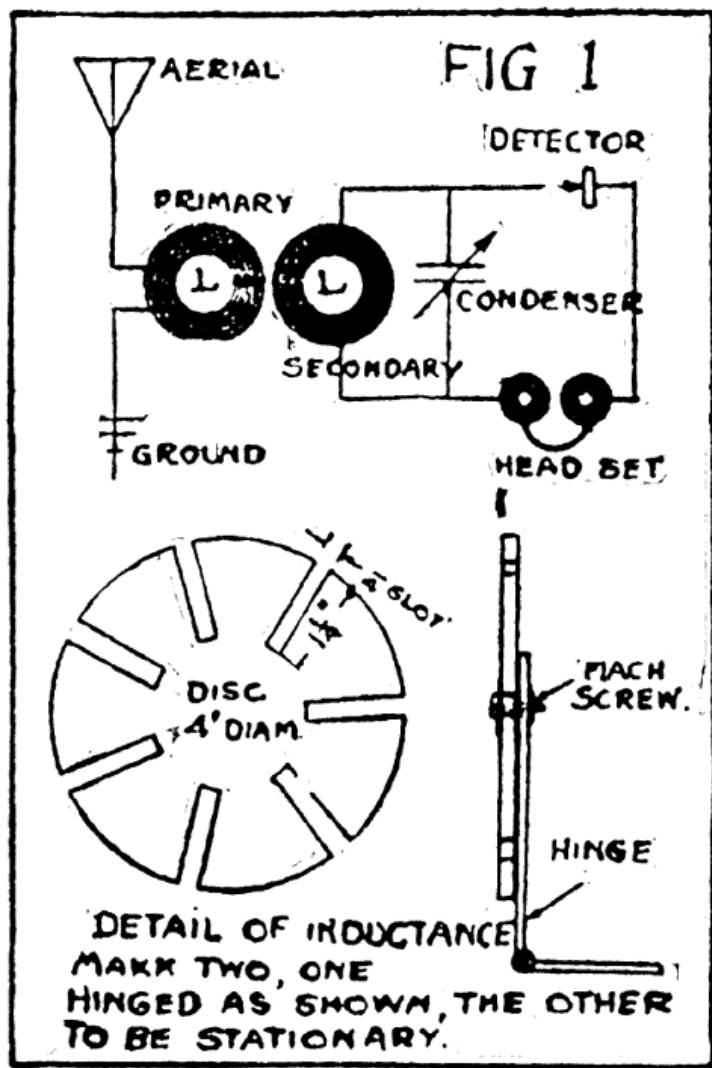
Every entry is featured in this video.

Mailed to you for \$7.00 (\$5.00 at next meeting)- Send a check payable to:

**Larry Weide**

**5270 Nassau Circle East**

**Englewood, Co. 80113**



(Continued from page 4)

fixed coil and adjust the detector until you can hear in your receivers the loudest click caused by the turning on and off of the key to a nearby electric light. If no light is available, a buzzer and dry battery should be used. When the detector is properly adjusted you will be able to hear the buzz quite distinctly in the head phones if the buzzer is not too far away.

The actual adjustment of the detector is rather a delicate job, and once it is in the proper position it is a good plan to avoid jarring it, as it is liable to get out of adjustment very easily.

Once the sensitive spot on your detector is found, slowly turn the knob

on your condenser and at some spot on it you should be able to pick up signals of some sort, either of radio-phone or spark. If the set does not work, then go over all your wiring and be sure that the windings of the two coils are both running the same way.

The above set will work well for short distances, say up to twelve or fifteen miles. Beyond that, however, it will not receive music unless you have unusual facilities for putting up an aerial to a considerable height and well clear of surrounding objects.

Such a set should be constructed at a minimum of cost and may later, after you have become familiar with the operation of radio appliances, easily be converted into a set of

much greater range by the use of a vacuum tube as detector and may even, by slight changes, be given the much desired regenerative effects.

Other Books by Author

*"The Radio Boys on Secret Service Duty"* *"The Radio Boys with the Revenue Guards"* *"The Radio Boys' Search for the Inca's Treasure,"* *"The Radio Boys Rescue the Lost Alaska Expedition."*

**A.L. BURT COMPANY**

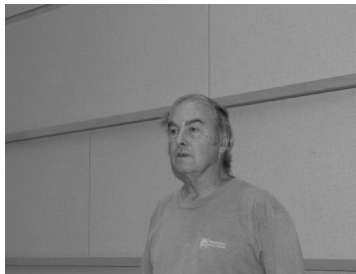
**Publishers New York**

**1922**

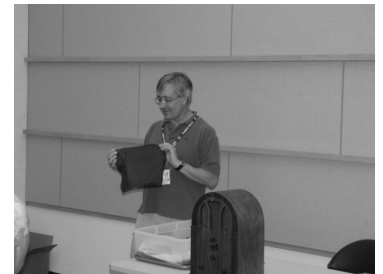
## Photos from March 13th Meeting at the Philip Miller Library in Castle Rock



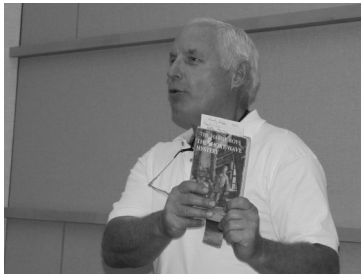
Larry talks about the CRC Show DVD  
Don't forget to get your copy.



Tom gives information about the upcoming  
Picnic and Auction



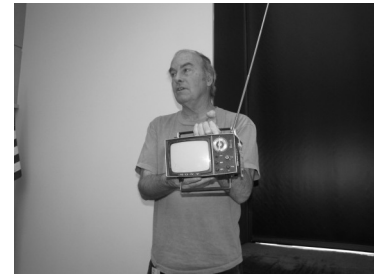
Mark Kuligowski gives tips on grill cloth  
repair techniques



Dave Boyle gives information on heat  
shrink products



Neil Gallensky chairs seminar on transistor  
radios



Tom Kelly shows off his 1963 Sony T.V.



Larry Weide shares stories about  
Transistor Radios



Bill Harris shares stories about  
Transistor Radios



Kevin Hodge shows off his Radio



Bart Whitehouse discusses his National  
Panasonic



Tom Pouliot tells about his  
Federal Telegraph RC-123



Show & Tell



Good attendance this month.



Robert Baumann's display of transistor  
radios for sale



David Solliday shows off his fine radio





# ***The Open Trunk***

Member submitted advertisements



**WANTED:** Buy/Sell/Trade: "Heavy Metal" communications gear, telegraph related items, vintage calculators & micro-phones.

**Robert Baumann, 303-988-2089**  
**HQ180A@aol.com. (07/09)**

## **REPAIR SERVICE:**

Radio repairs for club members. Reasonable rates. Good references.

**Call David Boyle**  
**303-681-3258 11/09**

## **For Sale: by Dave Boyle**

All of the following older but "classic" radio and TV repair instruments have been expertly refurbished, repaired, and calibrated as appropriate.

All Instruments come with test leads, as required and most have manuals. Prices might be negotiable.

- 1) Heathkit TV Alignment Generator; IG-52. \$65.00
- 2) Heathkit's best "Laboratory" Signal Generator, IG-42 ( I use one myself ). \$105.00
- 3) Heathkit Capacitor Tester, C-3. Also checks leakage, power factor, and resistance. \$65.00
- 4) Heathkit Tube Tester, IT-21. Tests older types too! \$50.00
- 5) Eico Model 324 Signal Generator. \$60.00
- 6) Precision Apparatus Company ( PACO ) Model E-400 Sweep Signal Generator. \$55.00
- 7) Eico Model 425: 5" oscilloscope. Two to choose from, both rebuilt, one with new CRT. Perfect for old radio and audio repair work. \$45 and \$65 respectively. With manual.

**Call**  
**David Boyle, 303-681-3258 5/11**

**FOR SALE:** Tube tester, Hickok model 533A w/supplements for European types Electrical condition - very good, the unit is fully functional

Cosmetic condition - fair, some of the fabric covering is torn

I'll deliver the unit to Castle Rock.

**Price is \$125. Pete Rawson**  
**719-687-7144 5/10**

**FREE - Heathkit GR 295 21" color TV** with manual. Worked last time I fired it up.

Mark, 303 278 3908,  
[mmckeown@tde.com](mailto:mmckeown@tde.com)

## **Actual Sample of Logo on Shirt**



**FOR SALE:** 120 volt power supply with variac. Includes volt meter, amp meter and integral fuse to protect the connected load and a isolation transformer.

Give me a call and I will bring it to the next club meeting.

**Price is \$75. Rich Kuberski**  
**303-422-9510 05/11**

## **Custom Embroidered CRC LOGO on Shirts and Hats**



Only \$5.00 + Tax Embroidery Charge per Garment

- Choose the LOGO size - up to 3" high
- Choose the colors - up to four
- Include your name under the LOGO - \$1 option
- Provide your own garment, OR choose from a wide selection in a catalog. Quality golf shirts from \$8.00. Garments shipped to seamstress add shipping cost. Garments can be picked up at a warehouse near Stapleton. See catalog at; [www.imprintswholesale.com](http://www.imprintswholesale.com)

For orders and further info contact the seamstress directly

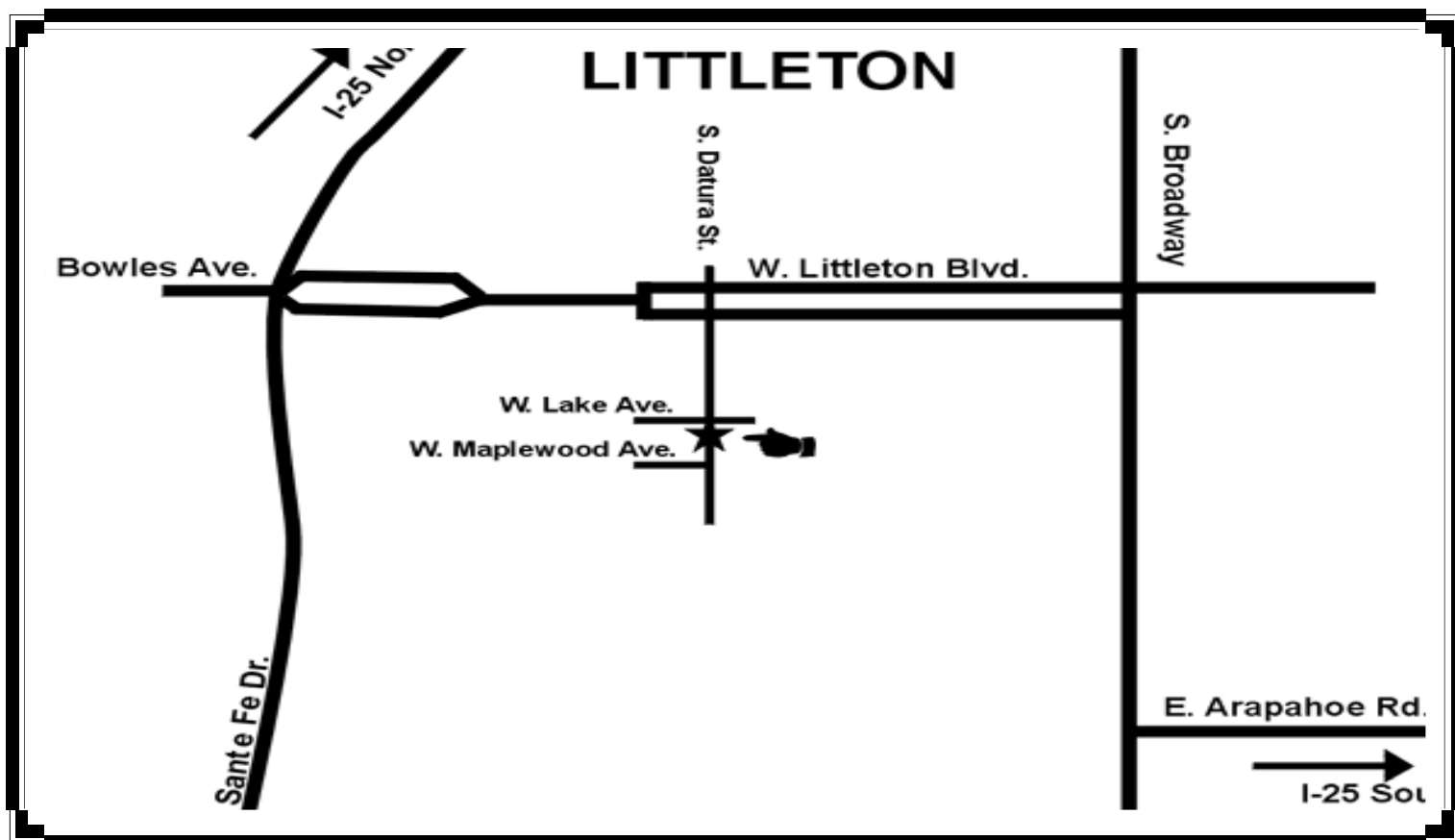
**Judy Houser**  
**(303) 771-3577**  
**Highlands Ranch, Colorado**

## **SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES AND ADVERTISEMENTS**

Classified Ads for The Open Trunk and articles of any radio/electronic or historical related subject to be published in the Flash are encouraged and welcomed. The article(s) should be submitted in Microsoft Word, RTF, or as text cut/paste into your email to Steve Touzalin, either by email at [stevetou@comcast.net](mailto:stevetou@comcast.net) , or by postal mail to 417 So. Queen Circle, Lakewood CO 80226 .

Formatting isn't necessary, but if you do, set the font to Times New Roman, size 10, left justified. If you have graphics (.jpg files) to be inserted, please name them and be specific about how you would like them placed. We will do our best based on space limitations.

The September 11th, 1:00 pm meeting will be at the Bemis Library in Littleton



Colorado Radio Collectors  
Antique Radio Club  
417 S. Queen Cir.  
Lakewood CO 80226

FIRST CLASS MAIL