

The

FLASH!

The Newsletter of
The **Colorado Radio Collectors**
Antique Radio Club

Volume 32, Issue 6

Next meeting November 14th

Nov./Dec. 2021

Past **Flash** Articles Re-visited...

In this issue of the Flash, we present the 1st of three separate "sequels" to articles that appeared in past issues. The remaining two will be in future issues. *Editors.*

DeForest Colorado, Birthplace of the Electronic Age, or The forgotten home of a Two Million Dollar Fraud?

found in the personal effects of the late Wayne Gilbert, former CRC member
submitted by Steve Touzalin, CRC member

**Two previous articles on DeForest Colorado, written by former Flash editor
Rick Ammon, appeared in the 1991 (Vol. 2) Flash Issues 3 and 6. *Editors.***

As most of you already know, former CRC member Wayne Gilbert passed away in November of 2020. Wayne contributed several historical articles to The Flash. Wayne was also extremely intrigued with Dr. Lee DeForest's accomplishments and nationwide exploits.

*When I later met with Wayne's wife, Anita, I was presented with some of Wayne's personal effects which also included a red folder with type-written papers that Wayne had prepared neatly stacked inside. In honor of Wayne, some of these items are presented below. *Steve Touzalin.**

Although the community of DeForest, Colorado, no longer exists and is remembered only by a few, this community has been the site where fortunes changed hands, where shattered dreams became reality, and where it could be argued that the electronic age was born. It is these events, whether legitimate or fraudulent, that make DeForest, Colorado, more than a footnote in history.

DeForest, Colorado, began its life inauspiciously, as a small slice of unnamed high desert prairie, labeled by the original government survey as 'ungood land, suitable only for grazing a few cows or buffalo.' Thus it was created, and thus it remained until John Neal homesteaded the site in 1873. The 80-acre parcel was too small and too barren to provide for the needs of a growing family, but it did have one major asset. It lay astride the trail that linked Denver to Golden and the gold mines surrounding Central City and Idaho Springs. Furthermore, it was located at just the right distance from both Denver and Golden to make it a logical rest stop for those traveling the trail.

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Newsletter for The **Colorado Radio Collectors** club, founded in the Fall of 1988.

"Dedicated to the preservation and education of wireless, antique radio, television and associated equipment."

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

CRC MEMBERSHIP: Current annual dues are \$20 and membership in the CRC runs from July to June. New memberships will be prorated to the following June. Members are entitled to attend meetings, participate in our Fall show and our Fall auction, and receive our newsletter, **The Flash!**. Submit dues payable to: **Merril Campbell - 4723 Woodbury Dr. - Colorado Springs, CO 80915**

UPCOMING EVENTS: **CRC Meeting - November 14th at 1PM, at the Miller Library in Castle Rock (a map is on page 10).**

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to all,

Well, our club made it through a very challenging year and lately the CRC has actually resumed our normal meeting schedule. This years highlight was the August auction - it was a great success with many CRC members volunteering. The roles are too numerous to mention however none more important than Rich Kuberski securing our venue once again at Tectonic Management Group Inc.

We will complete 2021 with a special celebration at our November meeting. We'll meet at the Castle Rock Library where the club will provide a Pizza / soft drink lunch. In addition we are planning to have a mini auction as we have several radios that need new homes. As always there will be the active raffle table and show and tell.

Now, as we look forward to our 2022 schedule of events I'm sure there will be challenges however nothing like what we have experienced over the last 18 months. We look forward to seeing you there and as always stay safe and enjoy the colorful Colorado fall.

Mike Cook

continued from page 1

The Neal family were hospitable people, and soon the site became known as a place where you could get a good home-cooked meal while your horse rested in the pasture near the spring. At first only miners and prospectors stopped at the site on their way to the gold fields of Central City and Gregory Gulch, carrying their dreams in their heads and their tools in their packs. Many of these prospectors would remember the site and stop again as they headed back toward Denver and the homes they had left, with different dreams and much lighter packs.

As time passed, Denver grew into a commercial center and Golden became the territorial capital. Stages and wagons replaced the miners and prospectors on the trail. All the while, the site's reputation for providing hospitality and good pasture ensured that it would remain the place for drivers to stop for a change of teams and a quick meal on their way either up or down the trail. True, there was something about the site that never attracted many outsiders to stay, and it never grew into a community. It was as though the site, like the surrounding prairie, knew to patiently await the proper time to bloom.

Old habits are hard to break, and in 1892, when the railroads replaced the freight wagons, the site became the logical place for a railroad siding. No longer did wagon drivers pause their teams here to be refreshed from the rigors of the trail, now the only travelers who stopped were the local farmers and their families. As the site waited, dormant, it seemed to have little chance of surviving as a community. Small and unassuming, it still didn't even have a proper name.

However, while the site was forced to wait for its transformation, the outside world wasn't. The twentieth century was rapidly bringing changes in the way Americans lived and thought, but for Coloradans these rapid changes also brought a time of contradictions and frustration. Coloradans became cosmopolitan enough to debate the merits of digging a canal to link the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, even while they still had to watch as the few automobiles in the area struggled over the muddy roads that crossed the state. Eastern newspapers carried stories of "aero-planes" and gliders flying over Europe, while Coloradans struggled to build a railroad through mountains that reached higher than these flying machines could soar. This feeling of grappling to catch up with the quickly changing world created a feeling of anxiety in many Coloradans. The rich resorted to building mansions and taking trips to Europe, while the poorer looked for ways to become rich.

Just as gold and silver had originally brought people to Colorado, now many hoped gold and silver could finance the changes that would bring Coloradans into the new century. Most quickly realized that although prospecting and mining could make a few people wealthy, it was speculation that could provide riches for everyone who had invested even the smallest amount in the venture. Even the densest person could see that 'today's simple hole in the ground could be tomorrow's gold mine,' and anyone lucky enough to have invested in that hole would be rich.

It was into this fantasy world of eager speculators that Dr. Lee DeForest and his gang of promoters came, hoping to take Colorado by storm. They arrived in Colorado in 1904 like a modern day version of Butch Cassidy's 'Hole in the Wall Gang,' intending in the best Cassidy tradition to leave the state with their bags packed with Colorado gold and the posse following in a distant cloud of dust.

Soon DeForest and his business partner, Abraham White, promoted an article in the Denver Post, telling of contracts being sought for the installation of a new wireless station by the American DeForest Wireless Telegraphy Company and, with that the site that was to be DeForest, Colorado, stirred, preparing to take its place in history.

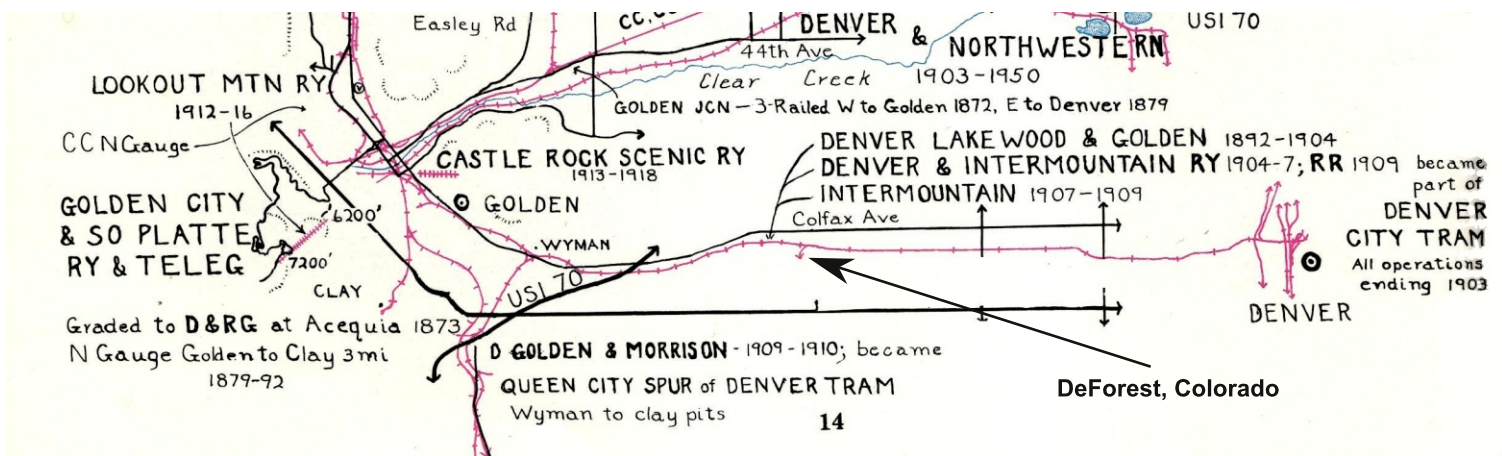
By March of 1905, the DeForest organization had rented office space in downtown Denver and within a month, Denver's Rocky Mountain News and Boulder's Daily Camera were reporting that Boulder's news stories were being transmitted from Boulder to Denver via DeForest's wireless telegraph system. Abraham White had done his promotional

work well, and Colorado speculators eagerly lined up to buy stock in this new technology.

As the summer of 1905 rolled on, Colorado investors' money rolled in. Wireless telegraphy stations were installed in Colorado Springs, Ft. Collins and Cheyenne. There was even a proposed link with Kansas City via a station in Salina, Kansas. By fall it's estimated that Colorado speculators had purchased more than one million dollars in DeForest's wireless telegraphy stock. This was good news to the promoters, although they must have known that the new system still wasn't working as a practical replacement for wire telegraphy.

Soon a few doubters were beginning to emerge to question the motives of the DeForest organization as well as the capabilities of the DeForest equipment. As a result of these growing concerns, in October 1905, the Denver Post printed an article asking if the American DeForest Wireless Telegraphy's system was a fake. The DeForest dream was in trouble, and DeForest and White looked for ways to keep the dream alive and the stock sales up.

At last, the time was right for that isolated railway site six miles west of Denver to bloom. In early 1906 it was chosen for the location of the American DeForest Wireless Telegraphy Company's newest and largest station. This new station would be the largest station of its type in the world and would be equipped with the latest DeForest equipment. The equipment was said to be so powerful that the noise generated when the transmitter's key closed could be heard by anyone standing within a hundred yards. This made the site's isolated location very desirable to the DeForest organization. A faithful staff of DeForest employees was recruited to travel the commuter railroad daily from Denver to operate this new station. Soon the train conductor was calling the stop "DeForest Station," and at last the site had a proper name. The new station's 160-foot antenna drew spectators and speculators to view the new installation, and soon the DeForest siding again became a center of activity, midway between Denver and Golden. It seemed to matter little that messages transmitted from the site were mostly demonstrations, only intended to persuade the visitors to buy more stock in DeForest's company. What did matter was that the site's time had come, and although its life wouldn't last long, the lessons learned here about wireless technology would secure DeForest, Colorado, a place in both Colorado and world history.



But even with the additional stock sales created by the exciting new DeForest station, the American DeForest Wireless Telegraph Company remained in serious financial trouble and by the end of 1907 was declared bankrupt. Colorado speculators reportedly had bought more than \$2,000,000 worth of stock in DeForest's now defunct wireless telegraphy company during its approximate 2-4 years in business and were left with little more-than worthless stock certificates and a new community named DeForest, Colorado, to show for it.

The dream over, DeForest and his gang left town as they had originally planned, their bags packed with Colorado money, the posse nowhere to be seen, and with plans for new promotions in other states already underway.

Wireless telegraphy technology continued to improve and what was promised of it in 1905, 1906, and 1907 became a reality during the next ten years. In 1912 the Marconi company acquired the DeForest wireless telegraphy patents and interests, and by 1915 more than 700 land stations and 5,000 ships were equipped to receive and transmit messages via wireless telegraphy.

Although the wireless telegraphy station at DeForest, Colorado, was closed in 1907, and the site now mostly forgotten, Dr. Lee DeForest always claimed it was the knowledge he gained at DeForest Station that enabled him to develop the electronic inventions needed to turn the new upstart technology of electronics into one of the major innovations of the twentieth century--an age that brought radio, television, cellular phones and computers to the whole world.



A later issue of a genuine DeForest Radio Company stock certificate.

Today the community that was once the DeForest station has been scraped back to bare earth, to be replaced by a parking area for passengers using RTD's light rail system. Once again travelers will pause only briefly at the site of the old Nealy farm in hopes of getting a quick snack from a vendor before traveling to destinations in Denver or Golden. DeForest, Colorado, located just off of 13th and Quail Street is now only a small, mostly forgotten part of the Jefferson county community of Lakewood.

Sources:

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DeForest, Colorado today...

photos submitted by Larry Snyder



Current day Google Maps birds-eye view, at 1375 Quail St., where the DeForest 50 kw wireless station was in early 1906. Quail street is the North-South street at the right. The RTD light rail tracks cut diagonally through the lower right-hand corner. See the Flash V2-3 and V2-6 articles for more descriptions of this property.



Street view looking west from Quail St. toward the site on 9/3/21.

"The original wireless station at Denver was installed at the old, abandoned Grant Smelter, in order to erect the antenna on the 350-foot brick smokestack, said to be the tallest smokestack in the world. Early in 1907 (actually early 1906, see below, *Ed.*) another station, using a 50-kilowatt transmitter, was built six mile west of the center of Denver (See the map below, *Ed.*), at a siding on the Denver, Lakewood & Golden railroad, a small railway only fourteen miles long. The railway company named the siding De Forest, Colorado. There were no houses in the vicinity, except the buildings connected with the wireless station."

excerpt from the Flash Vol 2 issue 3, pg. 4.



Street view looking east from Quail St. away from the site on 9/3/21 The RTD light rail tracks are on the right.



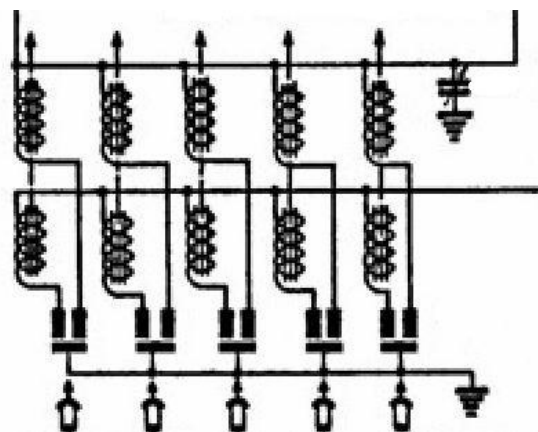
"How to repair a Zenith 5-S-320 Pushbutton Tuner" A video by CRC member Rich Kuberski

reviewed by Larry Snyder, CRC co-editor

In the September 12, 2021 CRC meeting Rich Kuberski discussed repairs he made to a Zenith 5-S-320 radio that included resoldering & rewiring the pushbutton tuner and oscillator coil. We take this opportunity to showcase his very informative video in the Flash! and we hope to present more of these in the future. Screenshots and a discussion of the video follow. Click on the link at the bottom of the next page to view the video.



The 5 pushbutton tuner can be seen below the dial



A schematic of the pushbuttons



The tuner removed from the radio

As explained in the video many problems were encountered.

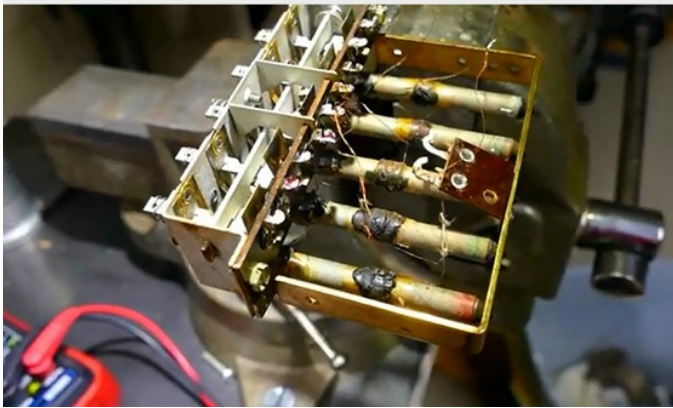
- The PB tuner had been taken apart & rewired incorrectly by a previous owner
- The extremely fine wires, a mixture of #30 wire (.010) & #34 wire (.0063) were difficult to see and handle. Some were broken off very close to where they exited the tuner coils.
- One wire had an exposed length that was only 1mm long making connecting the repair wire extremely difficult.

- Some cotton cloth-covered wires were soldered to the terminals, w/o removing the insulation, which resulted poor connections!



In the video Rich demonstrates good soldering practices, such as removing the enamel on varnished wires, the application of liquid soldering flux, tinning the wire, and the use of a solder wick to remove old unwanted solder before making a connection. This video showed me techniques that I did not know. There may be something of interest in it for everyone!

Using a solder wick, aka desoldering braid, to remove solder

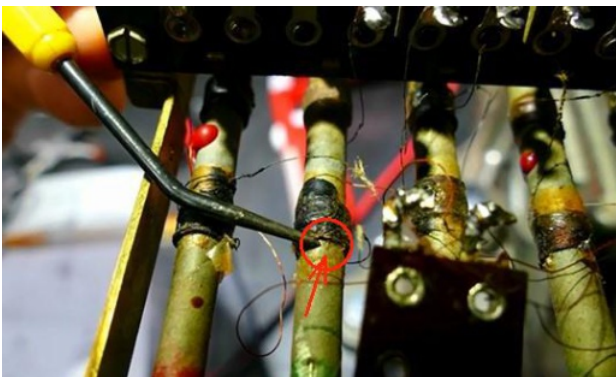


The tuner with broken wires, is being worked on while clamped in a vice



Examples of poor soldering - excessive flux, cold solder, and contaminated joints

The video shows in detail, how to solder lap joints, and how to form small wire coils to make connections that fit over very short stubs of wire.

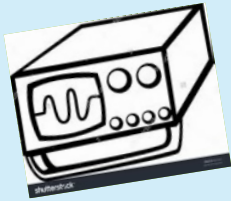


A short stub of wire that needed a connection is shown in the red circle above. A small coil was made on the end of the new wire to be attached. See the picture to the right ----->



The very small 3-turn coil for splicing onto the short stub of #30 wire (shown to the left) was wound using a resistor lead as a mandrel

Rich Kuberski's full video can be viewed by clicking on this link: <https://youtu.be/A2fsSBA4RvA>



Classified Ads



Ads are free for CRC members. To place an ad send your ad description along with personal contact information to Steve at stevetou@comcast.net or Larry at Lsnyder200@cs.com.

REPAIR SERVICE: Radio repairs for club members. Reasonable rates. Good references.
Call David Boyle 303-681-3258

FOR SALE:

Starting to gradually sell off restored radios from my extensive collection to club members and friends. Prices are very reasonable and will gladly negotiate. Range from the early 1920's to mid 1950's. Mostly wood radios from the 1930's...my favorite styles!

David Boyle
Castle Rock Area
email: djboylesr@msn.com

FOR SALE:

Tube Radios - Tombstone, Cathedral and Novelty Transistor Radios.
I have collected radios of all types for 35 plus years and now it is time to let them go to new home/s. I have over 250 tube type and over 5,000 transistor (both novelty and shirt pocket type)
Please call 303-2381384

radios4us@aol.com

Thank You,
Ron Smith

FOR SALE:

1. Radiola V (GE AR1300 & AR1400 on a wood base and wood top) Excellent working condition with tubes. Asking \$250.00.
2. Radiola AR1300 crystal detector. Good condition with replacement crystal detector. Asking \$50.00.
3. "Radiola, The Golden Age of RCA" book by Eric Wenaas, like new. good dust

covers. Asking \$25.00.

4. "Wide World" brand, unknown manufacturer 5-Tube, 3-dial TRF receiver, restored, playing. Good condition. Asking \$50.00.

5. AES power supply kit with A, B and C outputs for battery-operated tube radios. New, unassembled. Asking \$35.00.

6. Miscellaneous spark-era wireless age parts, induction coils, tuning coils, high voltage spark capacitors , etc. Make offer.

7. Several antique telephones and 3-WWII & cold-war military field telephones, etc.

Make offer.

Don Wick
719-488-9469
dowick@comcast.net

WANTED:

Interested in a used, Variac/dim bulb unit: working or needs minor work (w/gauges).

Rob Beyer 719-229-6247
robmooda@gmail.com



Quickie Q-Tips

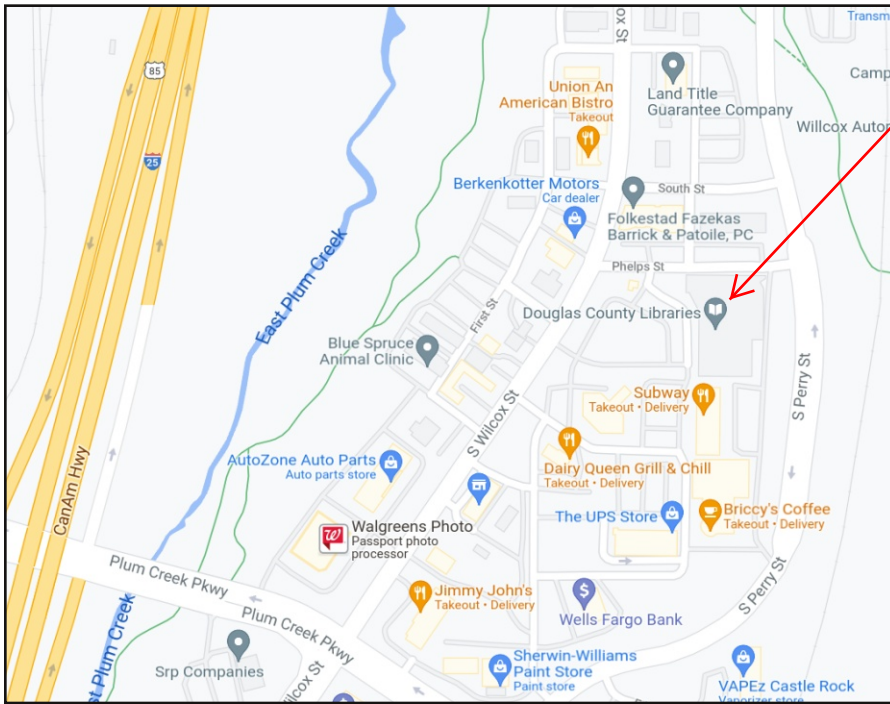
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SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES & AND ADVERTISEMENTS

Classified Ads 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, OpenOffice, RTF, or as plain text**, to Steve Touzalin by email at: stevetou@comcast.net or Larry Snyder at Lsnyder200@cs.com or by postal mail to 417 So. Queen Circle, Lakewood CO 80226. Formatting isn't necessary as it won't transfer into our software, 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.

CRC Meeting November 14th at 1:00 PM



Directions to Miller Library in Castle Rock:

From I-25: Take the Plum Creek Parkway, exit #181. Turn East onto Plum Creek Parkway. Turn Left (North) onto S. Wilcox Street and continue north 2-tenths of a mile. The Philip S. Miller Library is on the east side of the street at 100 S. Wilcox St. The building is towards the back of the parking lot, past the Dairy Queen .



**Colorado Radio Collectors
Antique Radio Club**

1st Class Mail

