

Indiana Historical Radio Society  
BULLETIN

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NUMBER 4



*Greetings for a  
HAPPY NEW YEAR*



Preservation For Posterity  
 245 N. Oakland Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46201

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### **Donations, Scrapbook Material**

### **EDITOR**

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### **News, Articles, RADIOADS**

IHRS is a NON-PROFIT organization which was founded in 1971. Annual membership dues are \$8.00 which includes first class quarterly IHRS Bulletin. RADIOADS are free to all members.

•• PLEASE ••

Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope  
 when requesting information.

# FALL MEET 1990

The IHRS held it's Fall Meet on October 6, 1990 in Terre Haute, IN. A very tasty Carry In noon lunch was enjoyed by all.

New club officers were selected as follows:  
Glenn Fitch, President  
Charles Saxton, Vice President  
Paul Gregg, Secretary  
Mrs Walter (Glenna) Sanders, Treasurer  
Dr. E. E. Taylor, Historian  
Eric Sanders, Editor

As was previously announced the display cases in storage in Terre Haute will be sold to IHRS members. The price was to be \$20.00 per case with a limit of two per member. These were the display cases used in our museum at the Auburn-Cord-Dusenber Museum.

The joint IHRS/AWA Spring Meet will be held on May 3 and 4, 1991 at the Ramada Inn, U. S. 31 and Lincoln Road, Kokomo, IN. Registration information should be available in the next issue of the BULLETIN.

## EDITOR RETIRES

As this is my last Bulletin I would like to thank the members for all the Get Well cards and your expressions of sympathy I received.

I am feeling much better now and hope to see you all at future meetings.

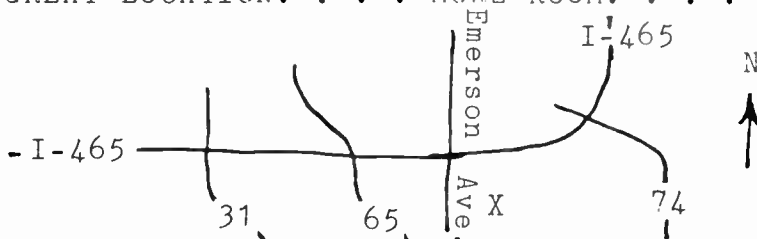
I also want to thank all of you that contributed material and RADIOADS to be published in the BULLETIN. Rember this is your publication and please cooperate with your new Editor. Thank You, Jim Fred.

# ANNOUNCEMENT!

ANNUAL INDIANAPOLIS MID-WINTER SWAP MEET  
AND FLEA MARKET OF OLD RADIOS & ARTIFACTS

*Buy - Sell - Trade - Swap - Admin - Drool*

Saturday, February 23, 1991 (8:30AM to 3PM)  
MARK YOUR 1991 CALENDER NOW located at the  
Holiday Inn Southeast, 5120 Victory Lane,  
I-465 Exit 52 and Emerson Avenue.  
GREAT LOCATION. . . . MORE ROOM. . . . .



Indianapolis is on Eastern Standard Time

8:30 AM     \$2.00 registration includes  
              set-up tables.  
              Free coffee & donuts for  
              early arrivals.

Bring your FAVORITE RADIO  
for the contest with judging  
by popular vote.

12:00 Noon Luncheon will be served for  
           \$6.50 including tip & tax.

1:00 PM     Short business meeting.

We have arranged special IHRS overnight  
rates at the Holiday Inn (317/783-7751).  
Mention your IHRS membership when you  
register for the room.

# Antique radio collectors examine crystals, coils and tubes

By **JANINE TUTTLE**  
*P-N People Editor*

When the old Abrasive Works building, formerly at Pennsylvania and Liberty streets in Plymouth, was purchased and renovated by John Meck in 1939, a completely new world came alive inside.

Around the clock workers busily turned out some of the best crystals, radios, and later, television sets, ever produced in the United States.

Many of these are still in working condition today and are highly-prized items for collectors. The Indiana Historical Radio Society (IHRS) will help celebrate the work of Meck and many other Indiana-based companies with their Spring Meet at the Plymouth Holiday Inn May 4 and 5.

IHRS was formed in 1971, growing from 13 members to a group that includes national and international members. They are dedicated to "preserving for posterity" all types of memorabilia of the radio industry.

Members collect antique vintage and classic receivers and equipment such as horns, speakers and headphones. Some are interested in radio advertising and old radio shows available on new recordings.

The group holds four meetings a year and presents guest speakers along with equipment swap meets, contests, museum projects and helping collectors locate needed or wanted items.

The Spring Meet at Plymouth will be a combined convention with the Antique Wireless Association of America (AWAA). It is speculated to be one of the biggest and best collections of equipment and will draw enthusiasts from across the U.S. as well as England, France, Canada and Puerto Rico. This also marks the first time Plymouth has hosted an IHRS meeting.

Featured at the convention will be displays of members' radio collections, equipment and a contest for best equipment in many different areas.

But one of the most exciting parts of the Plymouth convention is that there will be a "Guest Hour," where non-members of the IHRS and AWAA are invited to view the exhibits. The general public is not usually allowed to the club meetings. Interested persons can even vote for their favorite radios. Door prizes will be awarded and guests will be admitted without admission charges.

A special feature at the convention will be products of John Meck Industries and Meck-Scott Radio Labs of Plymouth. John Meck started his company in 1939 with 12 employees. Within a few years, over 600 employees were working day and night.

According to Don Myers, Plymouth, a supervisor in the electronics division, and Harry Girten, also of Plymouth, who was a line supervisor, Meck Industries started as a crystal grinding and polishing

manufacturer. It was World War II, when large government contracts were awarded, that spurred the company on to later become one of the most renowned custom radio makers.

Large quantities of quartz from Brazil were imported to begin the crystal-making process. The quartz was immersed in oil and light would be shown on it to find the cutting angle. Because quartz is a hard material, diamond saws were needed to cut it. Oil was kept running over the blade and quartz at all times to protect it. An exact angle was needed to insure it would oscillate. Oscillation determines the frequency of the crystal.

Acid would then be used to make the quartz pieces approximate frequencies. Mechanical and hand grinding departments carefully ground the quartz into desired frequencies.

Rows of workers, usually women, would test and polish the crystals. A lot of them became sick from the carbon tetrachloride used in cleaning the crystals to protect them from dirt and moisture.

Many of these crystals were used during WWII. Military personnel would have a set of crystals with the same frequencies. With a matching crystal, secret messages could be sent and heard. These crystals are used in radios to pick up broadcasted stations, too.

By the end of the war, Meck Industry was building radios. Finished radios were sold to Sears, Mintz and other retail stores. At one time, production exceeded 1,000 units per day. Among the types produced were the Trail Blazer table radio and the Meck Pacemaker, the first production model radio available to G.I.'s returning from the war.

In the early 1950s, Meck became involved with the new entertainment craze — television. A seven inch set was produced that was used mainly in metropolitan areas, according to John Kellar, where stations were located. The sets worked well on certain nights, with good atmospheric conditions and a good antennae, which was hard to find then.

Later, 12-, 19- and 20-inch sets were produced at a rate of 600 units per day. It was about this time when John Meck purchased E.H. Scott Radio Labs of Chicago, a company noted for its progress in radio.

In 1954, Meck sold his company, now with a radio division and a TV division, to a company in California. Within two years, the company closed.

As for John Meck, the man who brought affordable entertainment and information to the homes of many, he was last working as a consulting engineer for AMPEX Corporation, a division of Bing Crosby Enterprises, located on the west coast.

Editors Note: The above story appeared in the Plymouth, IN daily newspaper before the IHRS spring meet.



"I think I've danced on your feet long enough. Shall we sit down and listen to the wireless?"

# *I.H.R.S. Fall Meet*





# A Punch Board Radio

Do you remember getting an advertisement in the mail like the one shown below? This would have been around 1960. This was a variation on the Punch Board where the big prize was a table model radio.

The Mirror-tone radio shown had 4 tubes, a hank of wire for an antenna, and worked well on local stations. It was made by John Meck Industries, Plymouth, IN. They built thousands of this model.

**LUCKY NAME UNDER SEAL RECEIVES THIS**

**Mirror-tone**  
**RADIO**



*A Brilliant New Model*

Unmatched for reception, quality and beauty ... this smartly designed radio in soft ivory with complimentary gold dial is the perfect set to fit into every home and office. An amazing radio that gives you exquisiteness in tone, brilliance in performance and ease in selecting your favorite station.

Nos. 9 and 19 each receive a beautiful pen (NEW BALL POINT TYPE)

No. 1 pays 1c  
No. 9 pays 9c  
No. 19 pays 19c  
No. 23 pays 23c  
All Others Pay 29c  
**NONE HIGHER**



**PUSH OUT WITH PENCIL**

**WRITE YOUR NAME ON REVERSE SIDE OPPOSITE NAME YOU SELECT**

# RADIOADS

WANTED: speakers for Scott Philharmonic, AK 559 (10"-part #36500) and Grunow Tele-dial (1264-1 speaker). Also want Centralab control shafts AK-7 & AK-11 in quantity. Need Philco 40-41 dial bezel as used on many sets (plastic) I recone electrodynamic speakers \$4/inch diameter, \$25.00 minimum (ship carefully as is). SASE for info on reconing or volume controls for sale. Mark Oppat, 167 Caster, Plymouth, Mi 48170.

WANTED: Adler Royal, Doolittle, Pennsylvania Wireless radios and/or speakers, Ak breadboards. George A. Freeman, 102 E. Main St., Madison, IN 47250. Ph. 812-265-6878.

WANTED: for a Philco console-dial glass (2 bands) & escutcheon for the 6 pushbuttons, 3 Inch dial glass & pointer for AK 545, 16mm motion picture films, lamps, and photocells for projectors, mint condition 10" 78 RPM records. FOR SALE: Blue Mirror Sparton radio, Triplett 3433 tube tester (will trade), new Clarostat potentiometers (over 100 types). Maury Zivitz, 8074 Claridge Road, Indianapolis, IN or phone: 317-255-7478.

FOR SALE: WD-11/864 plug-in replacement tubes for Radiola III, IIIA, Grand, Senior etc. \$15.00 each or 2 for \$27,50 plus \$2.50 shpg., Simpson and Heathkit AC VTVM \$25.00 each ppd., Heathkit VTVM \$25.00 ppd., all in stock Loctal tubes \$2.00 each plus \$1.50 shpg. for 1 tube or \$3.00 for 2 or more. James Fred, R 1, Box 41, Cutler, IN 46920.

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PLEASE PAY 1991 DUES

Please send your dues (\$8.00) for 1991 to our new Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Sanders, 15 Todd Place, Terre Haute, IN 47803.

# RADIOADS

WANTED: 2 Bee hive type standoff insulators, approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hi with a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  dia. base, Crosley Interstage Audio as used in 50 series receivers, restorable AK50 receiver, open windings OK, 2 Weco 205D vacuum tubes, 1920-30 "B" battery eliminators. For Sale or Trade: L & N Millivolt potentiometer model 7651 and 8657C with manuals. I am not a dealer. Tad Drogoski, 507 Coal Valley Rd., Jefferson Boro, PA 15025. PH 412-466-5950.

FOR SALE or TRADE: 1938 RME model 69 Communications receiver (F of the S, p 247) with matching speaker, looks and works great; Hallicrafters S-40A, needs filters; SX-140 monitor, works; 1926 Ambotone cone reproducer, good coil and cord. George B. Clemans, 851 W. Wooster St., Bowling Green, OH 43402. Ph. 419-357-7198.

WANTED: owners name and address of a five tube "KISMET" radio seen at the IHRS meet, Terre Haute, IN on OCTOBER 6, 90.C. E. Strand, 203 So. Buckeye, Fairmount, IN 46928.

NEEDED: shortwave plug-in coils for Silver-Cockaday model S-C receiver and two tuning condensers for same with good pot metal frames. Also info on this radio. George B. Clemans, 851 W. Wooster St., Bowling Green, OH 43402. Ph. 419-352-7198.

WANTED: Hallicrafters 12" PM speaker in chrome trimmed cabinet ( $15\frac{1}{2}$ " wide, 13" high,  $9\frac{1}{4}$ " deep with letter "H" centered on front of cabinet. Jim Clark, 1292 Starboard, Okemos, MI 48864. Ph. 517-349-2249.

# NAA Sparke Wheel

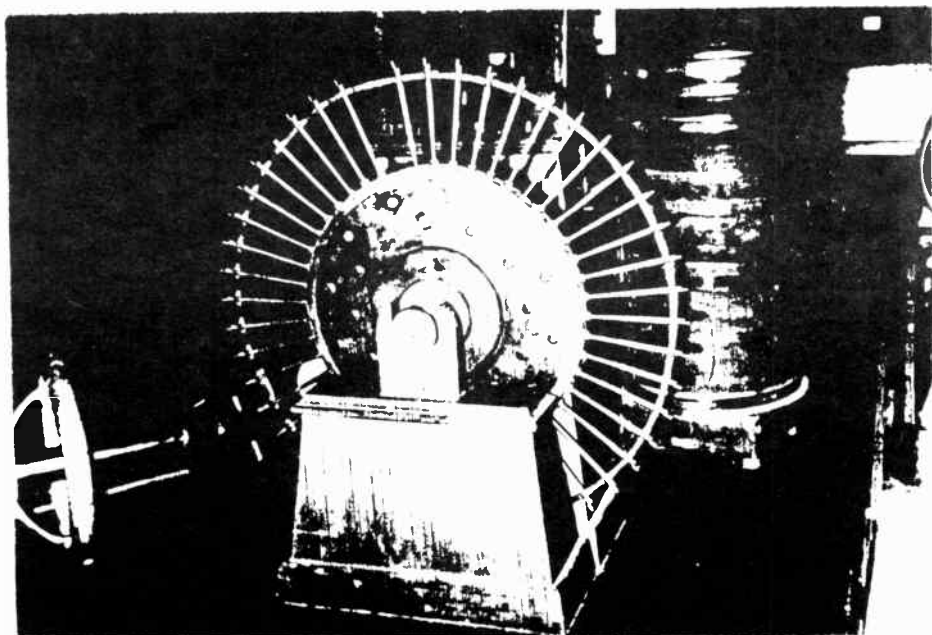
In the May 1989 issue of "The Old Timers Bulletin" there appeared a picture of Bruce Kelley with the spark wheel from NAA the Arlington Station in 1912. The station broadcast on a power of 50 KW.

Beginning at five minutes before 10 o'clock (11 o'clock eastern time) time signals were broadcast- one short dash for each second and at the hour there was a short pause followed by a long dash on the hour. This was followed by the weather report in code at a speed of ten words a minute. Baseball scores were then broadcast.

As a grade school youngster I remember hearing NAA and trying to copy code.

This picture of the spark wheel was taken in color by me at the Ford Museum some years ago while attending a radio meet in Dearborn, Michigan.

Contributed by Marshall Howenstein



# Radioville, Indiana

Every time I've driven up to the Valpariso, IN IHRS meet from Carmel, I've always taken old State Hi-way 421. Of all the communities I pass through one always catches my eye, Radioville. It lies on the north western corner of Pulaski county where the landscape consists of sandy soil, prairie grass and Oak trees. The village ground was once part of a large tract of land originally owned by Irene Otto and was known as the Anthany Ranch. Radioville was laid out in 1933 by Margaret and Pearl Lauglin of Illinois who secured possession of some of the Otto holdings. The secured property bordered the west side of 421 and extended east 3/4 of a mile with the Monon railroad cutting through. The land between the hi-way and the Monon tracks were to be divided into 82 lots. Beyond the tracks the land was to be divided into 272 lots. The community never fully materilized and today consists of a dozen or so houses strung along the hi-way, most of which are cheaply constructed. So where did the name Radioville come from? I've gone to the Pulaski County Court House, the Winamac and Francesville libraries , but no information could be found. I've even stopped and asked a few Radioville residents but no one seemed to know. Possibly it was the Lauglins that gave it this name as a trendy name of the times. Sort of like calling a new community of today, Computerville.

Contributed by Mike Feldt

## REMOVING MOLD AND MILDEW

### FROM WOOD CABINETS

by ROSS SMITH

You found a "musty smelling" radio in a damp basement? DON'T THROW IT AWAY! With time and patience it can be deodorized. Suggested steps for the process are as follows:

1. Remove chassis, speaker and loop antenna from the cabinet. Philco loops of heavy copper wire attached to the cabinet may be disconnected and left in the cabinet.
2. Give the inside wood a good bath using full strength Top Job Detergent. Scrub stains with a brush, rinse in hot water and wipe dry as soon as possible.
3. Clean the outside wood, vinyl or canvas covering with one part Top Job and two parts water by volume. (Concentrated detergent may act as a stripper and damage the finish or remove labels). Rinse, wipe dry and expose the cabinet to direct sunlight for several days. For a rainy day, use a sun lamp (not a heat lamp). I use an ultra-violet lamp that emits "cold light" from a neon type tube.
4. When dry from the cleaning, spray the wood surfaces with Lysol Disinfectant. Spray twice a day and continue the sun treatment for as many days as necessary. It usually takes seven to ten days for difficult cases.

## Removing Mold continued

5. When the "musty smell" subsides, apply Mineral Spirits oil base paint thinner with a brush to all wood surfaces twice a day and continue exposure to the sun. Two days of this step is usually enough.

6. When the musty odor is gone, seal inside wood surfaces with a heavy varnish, such as Marine Spar Varnish, and finish the outside as required.\* For vinyl or canvas covered cabinets on portables, spray the outside with one or two coats of clear acrylic enamel.

The key to a successful clean-up is exposure to the sun or ultra-violet rays for a long period of time. Sealing the wood afterwards should prevent the odor from returning. I have had good luck in cleaning up both console and table model wood cabinets with this procedure. In extreme cases, the chassis will also need to be cleaned and exposed to the sun for at least two days, using the Lysol spray on top and bottom sides and on cotton covered wiring.

\* For finishing suggestions, refer to IHRS Bulletin Volume 18 Number 1, March 1989, entitled "DARK BROWN STAIN".

# TRANSISTOR RADIO RESTORATION TIPS

BY  
Terry Garl

Edited by  
Ross Smith

## BIGGEST BUY OF '58!

FAMOUS  
*Regency*  
ALL-TRANSISTOR



### Vest-Pocket RADIO

READY TO PLAY! **\$14<sup>95</sup>**  
Including 1000-hour **ONLY** **14** **POST PAID**  
batteries and phone!

Lektron scoops the field with the "hottest" pocket transistor radio since the advent of the transistor! Designed and built by Regency, one of America's great names in radio. Uses an exclusive circuit with RF, DET and AMP stages. **SMALLER THAN A PACK OF CIGARETTES!**—only 3 x 2 x 1". **NO EXTERNAL ANTENNA OR GROUND**—no hanging wires! Amazing sensitivity, volume and selectivity. Attractively designed two-tone styrene case. Variable tuning covers 540 to 1500 kcs. **READY TO PLAY** when you receive it! 1000-hour batteries and ultra-sensitive phone included in this fabulously low price! Gift packed. Wt. 1 oz.

1. Check for corrosion in the battery holder and on the printed wiring board due to battery leakage. Remove corrosion with a soft wire brush or tooth brush and solvent such as Freon TE. Also check for broken battery clip leads.
2. Be sure of the correct battery voltage and polarity prior to applying power to the receiver. The use of external batteries or a power supply during servicing may be desired,
3. Make a continuity check on the off/on switch, speaker and if supplied, the ear-phone jack. (earphone jack spring contacts sometimes lose tension with age, which shuts off the speaker). With a continuity check the speaker should "CLICK".



4. Clean the volume control and open air type variable capacitor bearing surfaces and grounding springs with contact cleaner or TV tuner cleaner.
5. Remove the printed circuit board from the cabinet and inspect wiring tracks and connections with a magnifying glass. Many transistor radios can be repaired by soldering broken traces or connections caused by dropping or rough use. Open cracks in conductors can be repaired by soldering a jumper wire across the crack.
6. Locate a schematic if possible. The age of the set may be approximated by the date code on the volume control, speaker or variable capacitor. If you can find a Sams Photofact, look at the bottom of page one for the date. The Photofacts were issued 9 to 18 months after introduction of the set. Date codes follow a three digit manufacturers number, all in one continuous number. As an example, the number 2205625 or 220625 would be "JENSEN" (code 220) and the 25th week of 1956,
7. Replace or at least check all electrolytic capacitors with a capacitor checker. This is most important if the set is over 20 years old.
8. The possibility of a defective transistor or diode cannot be overlooked. Use junction voltage measurements and/or a low amplitude "AM" noise generator, such as the Radio Shack Micronta hand held signal injector powered by penlight batteries, to locate defective stages. Base to Emitter DD bias voltages measuring 300 millivolts or less indicate a Germanium device. Bias voltages measuring 400 millivolts or more indicate a Silicon device.

9. Resistor measurements across Transistor junctions in circuit can be misleading and are best performed with the transistors removed.

10. Replacements for defective transistors or diodes can be purchased from Phillips, ECG, GE, RCA or NTE. Most electronic supply houses carry one of these manufacturers types. In addition, the Phillips ECG master replacement guide outlines the procedure for selecting replacements for unlisted types.

11. Use a low wattage soldering iron (40 watt) for transistor radio servicing. In addition, a Variac for adjusting line voltage to the minimum amount required for good soldering will prevent component damage and separation of wiring tracks from the circuit board. Use of a solder bulb or solder wick for component removal is recommended.

73

**THE NEW**

**Regency**

**VB-1**

**Voltage Booster\***



Get peak performance from your TV set or any electrical device drawing 350 watts or less. This manually operated autoformer maintains full 117 volt power supply. Insures full size TV picture when low line voltage shrinks picture size.

**THE VB-1, \$19.95 LIST**

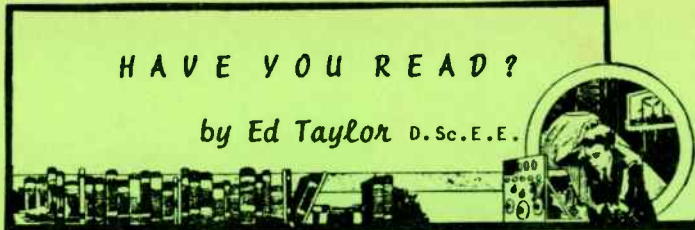
\*by the makers of the Regency VHF TV booster and UHF TV converter

Ask any radio parts jobber for further information or write:

**I.D.E.A., INC., REGENCY DIVISION**  
7900 Pendleton Pike, Indianapolis 26  
Cherry 2466

HAVE YOU READ?

by Ed Taylor D.Sc.E.E.



## NORMAN CORWIN AND RADIO: THE GOLDEN YEARS

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by R. LeRoy Bannerman

The fabulous Golden Age of Radio - the period between the mid-1930s and the late 1940s - possessed a sense of excitement, purpose, and unpredictability that made it a memorable era. It offered not only immediacy and exceptional entertainment, but the essence of art as well.

This volume is more than a biography; it is also social history, the story of a time when radio was the centerpiece of family life. It is an intimate look at broadcasting during the 1940s when influences of crisis and exceptional creativity shaped its character and its conviction. It is the story of network radio, its highlight and ultimate decline. But it is mostly the story of a man, the person who brought to radio what may be perceived to be "a spirit of intelligence, integrity, and experimentation." With unique originality, Norman Corwin conceived high moments for the medium and was applauded by leading literary figures, including, Carl Sandburg, Stephen Vincent Benét, Maxwell Anderson, and others. He was the first writer admitted to Radio Hall of Fame.

The life of this remarkable man, who led an influential fight for the art and integrity of broadcasting, makes quite a story. And at last, it has been told here in authentic, exciting detail.

The author is Professor Emeritus, Indiana University. Available from the University of Alabama Press, Box 2877 / University, AL 35486-2877. \$28.50 + post.



NEWS RELEASE

Antique Electronic Supply, formerly located at 688 W. First St., announces the relocation to a new and expanded facility at 6221 S. Maple Ave., Tempe, AZ 85283. The new facility provides 9,600 sq. ft. of office and warehouse space for the continuously expanding stock of tubes, parts, books and supplies for collectors and restorers of tube type electronic equipment.

Antique Electronic Supply specializes in shipping everything needed to repair or restore antique radios and tube electronics of all kinds. Mail order shipments are made to all 50 states plus Canada and foreign countries. Over 3000 types of tubes plus 1500 different items of parts, books and supplies are stocked in depth. In addition to the comprehensive catalog listing, many special items are available along with technical assistance in all areas of tube electronics.

The new 1991 catalog is coming off the presses in September and is being mailed to the existing 15,000 mail order customers. Copies are available to collectors and users of tube equipment upon request.

For further information contact George A. Fathauer or other staff members.

Antique Electronic Supply  
6221 S. Maple Ave.  
Tempe, AZ 85283

Phone 602-820-5411  
Fax 602-820-4643

