

The
Indiana
Historical
Radio Society

BULLETIN

Vol 34

October 2005

No 2 & 3



A Zenith Restoration Project - see page 4



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Responsibilities

Activities, Business,
Administration, & Publicity

Sites and Dates of Meets

Applications and Correspondence

Dues, Financial, and Address
Change. Please Notify

Immediately of Change of Address.

News Articles, Radio Ads, Photos
for Bulletin publication

Donations & Scrapbook Material

IHRS Museum Curator

Bulletin Deadlines: News, Articles & Radio Ads, 2/15, 5/15, 8/15, 11/15

IHRS Web site address: www.indianahistoricalradio.org

The INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY is a non-profit organization founded in 1971. Annual membership dues are \$15.00/year or 2 years/\$25.00, which includes the quarterly IHRS "BULLETIN." Radio-Ads are free to all members. Please include a S.A.S.E. when requesting information. Send applications for membership and renewals to Fred Prohl, our treasurer as noted above.

The Indiana Historical Radio Society 2006 Meet Schedule

Winter Meet

Hornet Park, Indianapolis – February 11, 2006

Spring Meet

Johanning Civic Center, Kokomo – May 5&6, 2006

Summer Meet

Ligonier Community Center, Ligonier – August 2006

Fall Meet

Riley Park, Greenfield – October 7, 2006

Regional Events of Interest to Members

Mid South Antique Radio Club For information contact George Freeman jgfree@verizon.net

Northland Antique Radio Club For NARC meet info contact: Jim Thompson, 612-822-4000 or Kip Wallace, 612-544-2547, KipWallace@dl-inc.com

Antique Radio Club of Illinois www.antique-radios.org Next meet - December 4, 2005, American Legion Hall, Carol Stream, Illinois

Michigan Antique Radio Club see www.michiganantiqueradio.org

Join the AWA-Antique Wireless Association

The original and largest historical radio group. The AWA publishes a quarterly Old Timer's Bulletin. Membership is \$20 per year. Write to: Antique Wireless Association, Inc. Box E, Breesport, NY 14816 www.antiquewireless.org

New Bulletin Cover Header

The new design for the IHRS Bulletin Cover is the artwork of member Bill Morris. Your comments and feedback are appreciated.



Dr. Clark's Big Zenith and How I Made It Pretty, Again

Bob Snively

Pictures on front and back cover!!

Fellow Indiana Historical Radio Society member Dr. Mike Clark and I have been buying and trading antique radios for some time now. Dr. Clark started several years before I became actively involved in the hobby, so he has helped me acquire some pieces that I may never have had the joy of owning. Dr. Clark has a really keen knowledge of the "sport" and has a very nice perspective on the preservation of this part of our cultural history. We struck upon a deal in late 2002 for me to repair and refinish the cabinet of one of his big Zenith consoles, the 15-U-271 model from 1938. The big set had fallen pray to the ravages of an unconditioned garage for a few years and was in need of a refinish.

When I first picked up the set at his place, I discovered that the chassis was in really nasty cosmetic condition but appeared to have been recapped fairly recently. This all caught me a bit by surprise, as I had only thought I would be doing cabinet restoration. I brought all the pieces back to my home and looked at it for a few days before deciding what to do with this project. Would I only restore the cabinet and return it with the nasty looking chassis inside? Would I restore everything, although we had only discussed the cabinet? Once I looked it over, I decided to see what type of work had been done to the chassis and if it would work.

I put the huge chassis on my workbench and brought up the voltage slowly to see how it would respond. Once I got up to about 80 volts, the set came to life and starting making some familiar sounds from its two speakers. Once full line voltage was achieved, the set was drawing about 1.5 amps which was exactly where it should be. This was a good sign. However, since the chassis had major corrosion around the perimeter of the bottom edge, and an overall dirty and corroded appearance, I set out to make it as beautiful as I know how, so it would compliment the cabinet, not detract from it.

The first order of business was to remove a "Twistlok" can capacitor and repair a hole that had been drastically torn out to accommodate the incorrect component. There was supposed to be a large "nut-mount" type there but it could not be installed until the repair was completed. This area is located in the front left portion of the chassis. I straightened out the torn metal and filed it down to clean metal around the hole.

A Zenith 15-U-271 Restoration (continued)

I then placed a piece of good old "duct tape" under the chassis to act as a form or dam, mixed up a batch of "JB Weld" and filled the hole. Once the material started to set, but before it was fully cured, I knocked it down with a file and finished sanding it once it became fully cured. I then used a "Vari-bit" to make the proper diameter hole as the original, and used a cut-off wheel in a Dremel to clean out and reproduce the slots on each side of the hole. This repair, once the chassis was painted, is undetectable when viewed from the topside. I even surprised myself on this repair!

As I stated, the chassis was going to have to be repainted if it were to look like it should reside in such a great cabinet. I cleaned the set up by first removing the IF cans and any component that would aid in the painting process. I went so far as to use "liquid mask" on all the bright rivet heads that held all the tube sockets in place and any other type fastening rivet so when the painting was finished, it wouldn't look like someone haphazardly painted it without regard to what it looked like when it was new. I painted the chassis using a copper "HAMMERTONE" spray paint in an aerosol can. Although it's not an exact match to Zenith's original color, it is very close and is the best I have found. Maybe someone out there has a better match, but in the last eight years of restoring sets, I haven't found one.

I reassembled the chassis and cleaned everything that went back on it. I searched for a long time until I came up with the correct appearing capacitor cans that had been discarded somewhere along this set's life. I even had to scavenge a few parts from my personal stock of Zenith parts to replace the eye-tube socket and related harness. Someone had broken open the side of the socket and installed a higher wattage 1 meg resistor on the outside of the socket instead of the painstakingly replacement of the factory location one. It's a real pain to do it, but I gave up one of my own to do it, and the results are very satisfying.

I also had to look a while for the proper ST type glass tubes that had been replaced with metal types and GT types. Once again, I found the proper ones in my personal stash. I even had to find a correct tube shield. For some reason, some of them are more copper toned than others. I was able to locate one that matched the rest of the ones in the set and now I quite frankly don't remember which one it was. They all look alike, now. Once all the chassis repairs were finished, I turned my attention toward the speakers. The large woofer was in need of repair.

Zenith 15-U-271 Restoration (continued)

I would have sent this out for a re-cone, but I didn't want a third party involved, especially with a rare component like this one.

The repair I made got rid of the rattle that was associated with the torn cone and is really undetectable unless you remove the speaker from the cabinet.

Once all this extensive restoration of the chassis was completed, I aligned the set to factory specs and installed a NIB 6U5 tuning eye tube. The set performs great on all bands and reminds me of an EH Scott set, as far as its awesome output.

One of the very unfortunate occurrences during this part of the project was my computer crashed, and along with it, my files of pictures I had taken along the way. Fortunately I had emailed them to Dr. Clark so he could keep abreast of the progress and he got to see first hand the detail that went into the set. Unfortunately, though, I have lost them forever and cannot share them.

Once all the chassis work was completed, I set my sights on the cabinet. I stripped what was remaining of the original finish in the summer of 2003. However, I didn't get started on the restoration of the cabinet until later in the year when I had finished the construction of a new paint room in my facility. I needed one so I could safely perform this type of refinishing during wet or cold weather. Here in Indiana, there is an abundance of inclement weather and I was tired of waiting for the proper weather to perform some of the tasks involved in achieving nice lacquer finishes. So I have built a very nice, professionally ventilated, paint room that allows me to strip finishes or spray on new finishes, regardless of what's going on outside. I am now in "restoration heaven"!

The console would be the first one to be done in this new environment. I did the necessary gluing and clamping of joints. The original veneer on the lower sides of the cabinet was so loose that I was able to completely remove it and then reattach it to the cabinet. I also had to address the common problem to these sets; cracked and split burl veneer flanking each side of the dial panel in the upper front. Although rather expensive, I was able to acquire some book-matched burl veneer so I was able to remove the damaged original and install new. This procedure was somewhat time-consuming but the results were well worth it. I finished up by the overall sanding of the cabinet, applying a slight amount of stain, and then lacquering the set until it "shined like a new dime".

Zenith 15-U-271 Restoration (continued)

Once enough lacquer had been applied, I let the cabinet sit for about a month so it could dry adequately. I then sanded the set with 600 grit, then 1200 grit, wet or dry sandpaper. I use WD-40 for a lubricant, as water would severely damage the veneer and this process would have to start all over again. I then polished the set with a "Fine Cut Cleaner" and followed it up with "Show Car Glaze". Both of these products are made by Meguire's for the automotive finish industry. I found it to be very suitable for my lacquer finishes. I guess the end result of using this method that I like is, the fact that the finish is really eye-catching and fresh but, it doesn't look like it was just sprayed on yesterday. It takes on an appearance of a fairly level surface with just the slightest amount of aging to it. I like to have a glossy finish, I just don't like it to be too glossy.

The large set then got reassembled using several of the original components as well as some new ones. I like to use new gum rubber chassis cushions and there are several suppliers of these today. I also had to locate new grille cloth as the original was torn and just too rotten to try to salvage. Radio Grille Cloth Headquarters has a very nice replacement pattern for this set and looks great once installed. It's not exact, but it's darn close. The finished radio looks very nice and sounds even better. I really like the original "flame mahogany" veneer used on the speaker grille panel.

This whole set really exudes the opulence only a few people could afford during the depression years of our great nation. I hope that my efforts in returning this example back to a state of appearance and function of that era will be appreciated in the years that follow. I am confident Dr. Clark will see to it that it will.

(15-U-271 restoration pictures are on page 28 of this Bulletin.)

Editors note: IHRS member Bob Snively is known for his skills in restoring radios. Visit his website at www.tubularradio.com

Send A Card!

Jim Fred, IHRS member for 34 years and a plank holder of the Society, will celebrate his 89th birthday on November 10. Jim's residence is at 6409 West 100 North, Delphi, IN 46923.

PS: It's ok to send a card even if you receive this Bulletin after the 10th!

IHRS Business Meeting Minutes – Elkhart, 08/20/05

Meeting brought to order by President Alex Whitaker at 1:00 PM.

Alex thanked Ty Gregory and Terry Garl for chairing the Elkhart meet again this year and Janet LaVelle for running the contest. (Your secretary did not record the contest results...he can't write that fast!) The IHRS has met at Elkhart since the early 1980s. Always a great meet at a great venue.

Ty Gregory and Terry Garl announced this is the last meet they would put on and thanked all for the support. It was proposed that the Elkhart meet be shifted to Ligonier next year.

Members were reminded that there would be an election of officers at the Greenfield meet on October 8th. Members were urged to consider running for a position.

Shirley Gross announced that a pair of safety glasses and a fold up chair were left behind at the Kokomo meet and she'd like to get them to the owners.

Fred Schultz gave a museum report. It's "doing great". About 20 people help out regularly at the Visitors Center. The Center has been paying all the bills for the facility. If we have the meet at Ligonier next year he'd have the museum open Friday night. The radio station has received the final 8 year license. The station gives tourist information 24 hours a day. There are 3 major highways close by with Hwy 5 going right through town. The station plays "oldies" during the day and Country Western during the evening. On weekends they broadcast in Spanish. Members were urged to pay their dues now.

The meeting was adjourned at approx. 1:30 by President Alex Whitaker.

Respectfully submitted: Herman Gross, Secretary

IHRS Business Meeting Minutes - Greenfield 10/08/05

Meeting brought to order by President Alex Whitaker at 12:00 PM.

Old Business: Elkhart meet might be moved to Ligonier in 2006. Alex to contact Fred Schultz to see about obtaining the Civic Center once a meet date has been set.

Members were again urged to pay their dues now so that the IHRS can remain solvent.

Treasurer Fred Prohl gave a detailed report of our financial position. Most meets have been costing more than we take in. There was much discussion about how much to charge for the Spring Meet catered meal. IHRS has subsidized the meal in the past which, if we get poor participation, costs the club dearly.

The issue of club insurance was discussed. The club was issued a new policy from a new carrier for \$141.00 / year for the same coverage as offered by the original carrier for \$493.00 / year. Insurance has been necessary for us to hold the meet at Elkhart and Kokomo.... and of course it's good sense to have it for all IHRS activities.

New Business: Alex announced the slate of officer candidates and called for nominations from the floor. There were none. The officers for 2006 are: President – Alex Whitaker, Vice President – Dr. Mike Clark, Treasurer – Herman Gross, Secretary – Michael Feldt, Editor – Fred Prohl, Historian – Dr. Ed Taylor and Museum Curator – Fred Schultz. The passing of Marcella Schultz and John Jones was announced in case some members were not aware. Several of the attendees had interesting anecdotes to tell about them. They were both very active in the IHRS and are sadly missed.

Contest Results:

1920's Radios: 1st place to Fred Prohl for his Montgomery Ward Tri-City.

1930's Radios: 1st place to Mike Feldt for his Philco 38-665B

2nd place to Tom Williams for his RCA Victor R5

Plans are to have an auction at the Spring Meet in Kokomo, May 2006, to auction the items from the estate of John Jones and also from Hal Hunt who is "retiring" from the business. All members are urged to enter some of their spare items also in order to make the auction a big and worth while event. Please start thinking about it now .

The dates for the next two meets are: Winter Meet, Beach Grove, February 11, 2006 and the Spring Meet, Kokomo, May 5 & 6, 2006. Alex thanked all who attended the business meeting and also Ramona and Glen Fitch for running this meet.

At 12:27 President Alex Whitaker called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was made by Shirley Gross and seconded by Dr. Ed Taylor.

Respectfully submitted: Herman Gross, Secretary

We Remember

Indiana Historical Radio Society member, Marcella Schultz, passed away May 26, 2005 from cancer. Marcella and her father, Fred Schultz, are the creators of the Indiana Historic Radio Museum in Ligonier, Indiana. Marcella was instrumental in the funding and maintenance of the museum, and more recently the grant writer for a community low power FM station. WNRL is licensed to the Indiana Historic Radio Museum. Members of vintage radio organizations as well as the Ligonier community will miss Marcella's active presence.

Wendall Hall, IHRS member since 1992, passed away on June 15th of this year. Wendall operated a radio service and installation business for 50 years. Wendall's home was Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Long time member and friend of the Indiana Historical Radio Society, John Jones, passed away on Sunday, June 19, 2005 after an extended illness. He was 88 years old. He was born Nov. 24, 1916, in Anderson, and lived in the Anderson area most of his life. He was the proprietor of Jones Hi-Fi Sound and Supply for 45 years. He served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II. Many radio collectors will remember John for showing his vintage films at radio meets.

Dear Indiana Historical Radio Society Members,

Thank you for the planter and Cross from the Radio Society. The Society was one of his (John Jones) great passions along with his collection. The family had an exhibit of some of the collection displayed at the funeral home.

Martha Jones and Family

Personal Portables

A Brief History of the Miniature Tube Portable Radio

by

Bill Morris

Promotional Photo of the RCA BP-10, ca. 1940

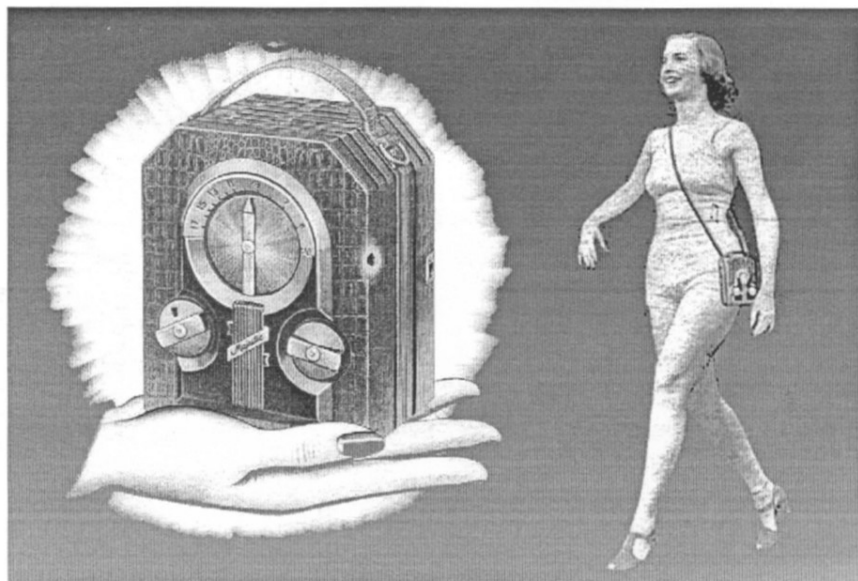


Since the first days of radio, engineers strived to create a truly portable radio—something that could be easily carried and played anytime, anywhere. During the 1920's, portables were built that performed well, but they were little more than table receivers housed in large, heavy suitcases. The tubes were notorious for high drain, so batteries needed to be fairly large. With a full complement of batteries, some portables weighed upwards to 30 pounds. More often than not, they also used clumsy external loop antennas.

Personal Portables continued

Because of these handicaps, portable radio sales did not fare well, and were dropped from many manufacturers' lines by 1930.

By the late 1930's, a few electrical improvements were made. In August 1938, Sylvania introduced a new line of 1.5-volt battery tubes. They consumed less current than earlier types, thus batteries could be made smaller and more compact. Cabinets, in turn, became smaller and total weight was slashed dramatically.



1939 Majestic 130

The smallest set that could be made with those standard sized parts arrived in mid-1939—the Majestic Model 130. It was a true superhet, and offered four-tube performance with only three octal tubes—the detector and output stages were combined in one tube, the 1D8. The speaker was an older-style magnetic type, using a thin rod attached to the speaker cone to resonate. Including batteries and built-in antenna, the set measured 3 5/8" deep, 5 1/2" wide, 6 3/4" high and weighed only four pounds.

For 1939 standards, the 130 reached the technological limit. To get a set any smaller, components would need reducing. By the end of the year, RCA started the shrinking race with the introduction of four new tubes:

the 1R5 converter, 1T4 1st IF, 1S5 2nd IF/detector and the 1S4 output. For more powerful output, the 3S4 was made available and it could be wired either for 1.5 or 3 volts. The tubes were dramatically smaller than their octal counterparts-- just over two inches high. Their envelopes, including the bases, were made completely of glass, and their current consumption was reduced to the point that all four could be run simultaneously on a standard D cell flashlight battery. Battery manufacturer Eveready developed a cigarette-pack-sized B battery, the 467 MiniMax, to complement the miniature tubes. Other radio parts suppliers followed with smaller tuning capacitors, IF coils and speakers.

Prewar Personal Sets



THE PERSONAL PORTABLE RADIO FOR
"America on the Go!"

Plays Anywhere! THE PERFECT RADIO COMPANION

Here it is . . . a SONORA "Scoop" . . . the new "CANDID" Portable with everything built-in, ready to play . . . that carries and looks like a camera! Has the built-in "Sonorascope" . . . no aerial or ground required. The 4-tube 1.4 Volt Superhet uses the amazing new miniature tubes. Includes Automatic Volume Control. Has special 4-inch P. M. Dynamic Speaker for wonderful reproduction. Also has headphone connection for privacy, hard-of-hearing, or for long-distance listening. Tuning is easy with the molded full-vision dial. Covers 535 to 1720 K.C. for all broadcast stations and some police calls. Amazingly economical: uses 3 ordinary flashlight cells for "A," and 1—45-volt portable "B." Batteries are popular types available at low cost anywhere. And there's never been a more beautiful radio. It's molded in sleek black lines of strong Durez. Size is only 8½" x 5" x 4½". Weighs only 4½ lbs., complete with batteries. You'll be proud to own the SONORA "CANDID" . . . the exclusive new Personal Portable Radio!

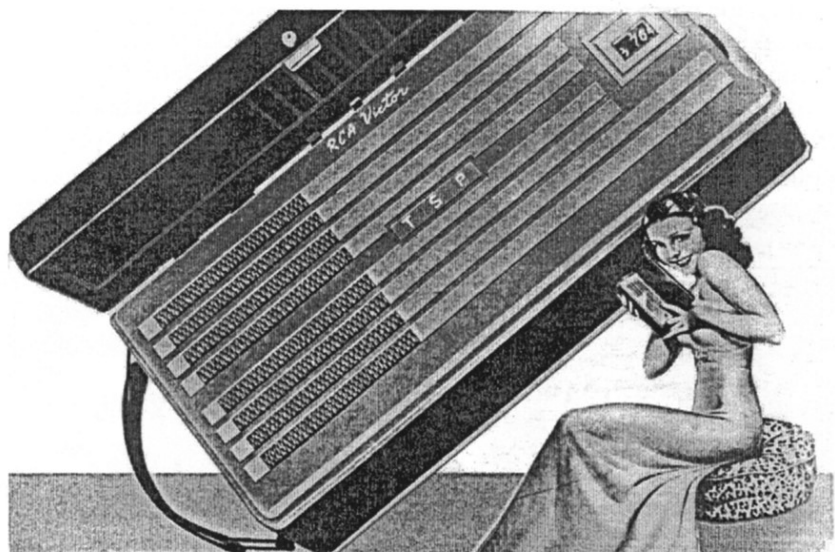
\$17.95
 List Price
 with Sonorascope

1940 Sonora Candid

In April 1940, the first personal portable appeared on the market. The Sonora Candid was a four-tube superhet made of Durez Bakelite, measured 8 ¼" high, 5" wide, 4 ¼" deep and weighed 4 ½" pounds. It was first to be called a "camera portable", because its size and styling

Personal Portables continued

were similar to the standard Brownie cameras of the day. It used three D cells for the filament supply, and used a large 738 45-volt battery.



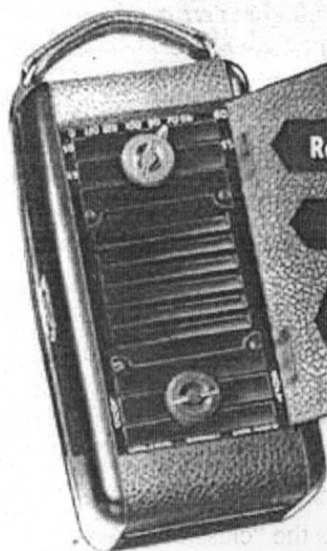
1940 RCA BP10 with Initials in Faceplate

Following Sonora was what can be described as the “classic” personal radio, and the most popular prewar model—the RCA BP10. It was slimmer than the Candid, about the size of a brick and was made of leatherette-covered metal. The cabinet was designed like a music box; to turn the set on, you lifted its black styrene plastic lid. Its loop antenna was housed inside the lid—a feature widely copied by other manufacturers.

A center rectangle in the chrome-plated faceplate allowed users to personalize their sets with their initials—an extra touch that dealers were happy to provide.

The set was the first to use the 467/D-cell battery combination. Later versions of the BP10 had a small automatic catch on the lid, allowing it to be raised either perpendicular to the chassis or completely away. Many BP10's were demonstrated at the 1939/40 New York World's Fair.

NEW Camera Type CARRYABOUT RADIO



Remarkable Tone

Powerful

Long
Battery Life

MODEL JB-410
in Deep Maroon

MODEL JB-410-B
in Two-tone Blue

PLAY IT... While You Walk!
While You Wait!
While You Drive!
While You Eat!



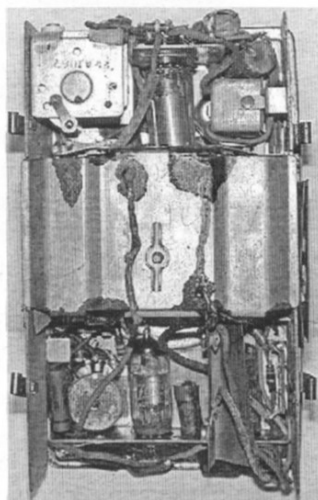
1941 GE JB-410 "Above and Below" Personal Set

Other major manufacturers offered personal sets of varying shapes and sizes. GE, Sparton, Admiral and Detrola used one style that I call the "above and below" model. The cabinets were vertically styled and were made of Tenite Celluloid. The front had a pop-open leatherette door/antenna assembly. The tuning control was mounted above the speaker grille, the volume was mounted below. The sets were either strictly battery or could be run on AC via a plug-in resistance cord. The set was hinged at the bottom, and was opened by a latch on the top, just below the carrying handle. They used 2 D cells and a 467 battery. Unfortunately, they all suffer from a major problem—warpage. The Tenite is soft and unstable. Many of them have shrunken cabinets, and as a result, the antenna door won't close properly. Also, as Tenite is a casein-based plastic, the cabinets give off a very unpleasant odor when they are opened.

Personal Portables continued



Various Prewar Personal Sets, L to R: Garod, Admiral, Crosley 54 Commuter, FADA, Motorola A1.



1941 Zenith 4K600 "Poketradio" and Chassis

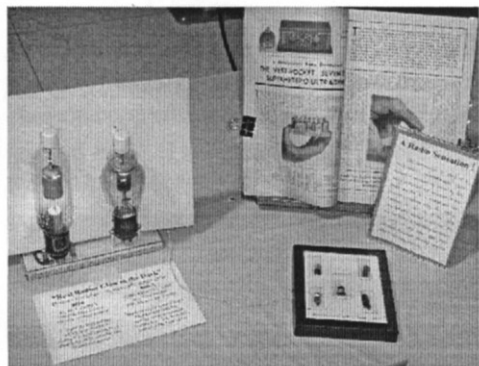
Perhaps one of the best prewar personal sets was the 1941 Zenith 4K600 "Poketradio." It's one of the most sensitive I've ever come across, and its

vernier dial makes it the easiest to tune. It's constructed along the same lines as the RCA, but it's stouter. Its lid/antenna assembly was Bakelite-sturdier than the BP10's styrene cover. Its chassis was unique in that it's built around the cabinet's interior. It reminds you of an Escher drawing; no up or down reference, two tubes on the left side, two on the opposite side.

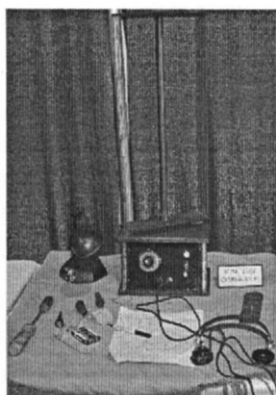
Radio production was halted with the start of WW2, and batteries became difficult to obtain, as materials were needed for military use.

To Be Continued.... in the next issue of the "Bulletin"

Spring Meet "Old Equipment Contest" Entries



Vintage Tube Display



Crystal Sets



Open category – Vintage Television

IHRS Contest Categories for 2006

Start preparation now for your contest entries during 2006.

Contest Categories for Winter Meet

Hornet Park, Indianapolis – February 11, 2006:

- 1 Radio Advertising
2. Diode/Germanium radios

Contest Categories for Spring Meet

Johanning Civic Center, Kokomo – May 5&6, 2006:

- 1 Open
2. Made in Indiana
- 3 Homebrew receiver or transmitter
4. 1920's Battery Radios (table or console)
- 5 Transistor radios
- 6 Crystal sets (pre 1930)
- 7 pre 1940 AC radios (table or console)

Contest Categories for Summer Meet

Ligonier Community Center, Ligonier – August 2006:

- 1 Portable tube radios
- 2 Cost me less than \$20.00

Contest Categories for Fall Meet

Riley Park, Greenfield – October 7, 2006:

- 1 My favorite radio
- 2 Commercial Amateur Radio Equipment

Tables will be available at each meet for Vintage Radio Displays.



“Old Equipment Contest” Entry – Spring Meet, 2005

IHRS OLD EQUIPMENT CONTEST

Each meeting of the IHRS provides an opportunity for members to showcase a radio or radio related items for others to appreciate and admire.

The categories (or classes) for the Old Equipment Contests range from the earliest wireless equipment, to more recent transistor radios. Contest possibilities include 1920's battery radio, 1930's table radio, My Favorite Radio, plastic cased radios, cathedral radios, radios of a specific manufacturer, home built radios, working radios, radio advertising, radio speakers, and a multitude of other categories. Contest categories are announced in the Bulletin or a special mailing well in advance of the meeting.

Traditionally there are two methods of determining contest winners.

Popular Vote. The Popular Vote method of selecting first and second place winners of an Old Equipment Contest gives all meeting attendees a chance to vote for their favorite radio. Appearance of the radio entry carries a lot of weight in the voting. Radios and displays that gleam from a quality restoration or are unique and eye catching appeal to the voter. Historical significance, and documentation do influence the popular vote as shown by previous contests winners where a Marconi Coheror replica, and operating Aeriolas won first place ribbons.

Criteria Judging. Criteria judging involves a team of judges awarding first and second place ribbons to contest entries based on four sets of judging guidelines. Each judge completes a ballot for each entry and submits the ballot for tally. (If a judge has an entry in the contest, the judge will not participate in the judging of the category in which he or she is entered.) The judge records on the ballot a 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 with 5 as the highest rating for each of the following four criteria:

1. Historical significance

- Contribution to the art
- Contribution to social history
- Possession by a "radio great"
- Special circumstances in contestants family history
- Does the entry contribute to the study of communication?
- Does the entry enhance the image of our Society and membership?

IHRS OLD EQUIPMENT CONTEST - continued

2. Uniqueness and rarity

- Few of a kind versus production run (uniqueness)
- Number surviving (rarity)
- Original use and value
- Does this entry amplify/illustrate elucidate a phase of radio not commonly known today?

3. Quality of restoration

- Cleaning: external, internal
- Craftsmanship of repair, mechanical/electrical
- Conformance to original design (factory models)
- Restoration and original construction (home-brews)
- Parts substitution or rebuilding
- Finish: cabinet, parts, wiring, insulation, connections
- Has the entrant done a craftsman-like job in preparing for the show?
- (Super finish does not earn extra points; no points are lost for the depravation of age alone.)

4. Supporting and illustrative documentation.

- Instruction books, service notes, production documents
- Construction date, plans for kits
- Original constructor's plans or sketches (for home-brews)
- Use of material found in publications of the time
- Has the entrant gone to the extra effort of collecting and displaying the documentation that enhances the entry?
- Does the illustrative material add significance to the entry?
- Would the supporting documentation be competitive by itself?

Traditionally the IHRS Spring Meeting Old Equipment Contest uses the Criteria Judging method. The winter, summer and fall meetings use the popular vote to determine the prize winners.

Plan now to enter the contest at one of our next meetings - better yet, plan to enter one of your "pride and joys" at each of the IHRS meets. The reward is showing off a piece of your collection and possibly a ribbon to add to your display.

Radio Station **W V O B**

Bob O'Friel

You may check through the various years of the listings in "White's Radio Log" and not find the above station, at least not under the names referred to in this article.

Recently, Indianapolis Radio Station WICR presented a special tribute to me for the 29 years I have had the privilege of serving as the continuing host, announcer and presenter of the program "Jazz Lives". Twenty nine years of continuing a program on the air may seem like a major accomplishment but that is not a statement of my overall time "On The Air".

Back in my teenage days, (14 -16) I used to follow the ads appearing in "Radio News" by the Mcgee Radio Company of Kansas City. They always had listings of a wide variety of Radio parts including a fascinating showing of loudspeakers at attractive pricing and I had found them to be a good source for bargains in good 12 and 15 inch units. One ad appeared that caught my attention. They displayed a 4 tube phonograph oscillator that mentioned it could be used to make radio phonographs out of all the radios in your house and hinted that that concept could be carried further. For only \$7.95, it had one 35Z5GT, two 35L6GTs and one 12SJ7 which enabled a microphone to be used with it utilizing a center tapped 3 megohm volume control to control the volume between the microphone and the phono input. I immediately ordered it and built a mixer unit to be used with it when it arrived. There were several other boys in the neighborhood who were also interested in radio who had taken the initial plunge by building crystal sets etc., and when the oscillator arrived they were all too anxious to put it through its paces. I placed a doublet antenna on top of my house and we proceeded to test it. I used an Electro Voice 911 microphone and made it quite clear that no profanity or improper language was to be used whenever we were in the broadcast mode. We found that the outdoor antenna added a fair amount of coverage. Since my home was in Belmont at the eastern edge of Dayton, it was decided to use the call "WVOB", the Voice of Belmont. I then changed the filament wiring to allow parallel hookup to the tubes and then replaced them with such items as 6V6's and 6SJ7's etc.. An external power supply was built to provide some 250 volts DC in lieu of the 110 volts originally supplied on the oscillator chassis.

WVOB (continued)

All these changes upped the coverage and we began playing good music and inviting the listeners to call our telephone number to request songs and dedicate them. Word circulated around the area especially when Ben, the local pharmacist at a nearby drug store found out about it. He began telling their customers about Belmont's new radio station and the activity began to pick up. On one of the programs, I mentioned that I was about to play a new record that I had just bought at "Bauer's Records and Appliance" store. On my next visit to "Bauer's", Mrs. Bauer asked if I knew anything about "the new station". When I asked her how she found out about it, a lady told her that she had heard about it on Bauer's radio program and came on over to buy a copy. When the owner expressed surprise, the lady went over to one of the radios on display, turned it on and tuned it to 1000 on the dial, and there we were. We kept to a straightforward approach allowing no improper language as our intention was to sound professional.

One of my friends who later became an engineer for IBM built a new transmitter using an 807 as the "final" complete with a 90 volt battery as the "C" cell to provide the bias.

We did not totally realize or check out what the transmitting range was and went on with the daily programming. At night, I was the ticket taker at the Belmont theatre and, one night when I was on duty, Don Hapner a friend of mine who was the chief engineer at one of the local radio stations came in to see a movie. He said, "Hey, we listened to your show today". I asked where he had heard it and he said "We picked it up at our transmitter site." It suddenly occurred to me that their transmitter was some 8 miles from my house and I was immediately concerned about the power/distance factor that was now evidently involved. That night, after work, I went home, disconnected all of the equipment and thus, "WVOB" was off the air permanently.

Don turned out to be a friend who saved me from getting in trouble. I must add that, at the time, 1000kc was clear of any local transmitter signal. Several years later WONE went on the air at 980 kc and we would have been in trouble had WVOB still been on the air.

I still have the transmitter on hand but will not use it to avoid the penalty of broadcasting in that manner but it was fun at the time. Right now it is a case of "I'll see you, wherever Radio Lives."

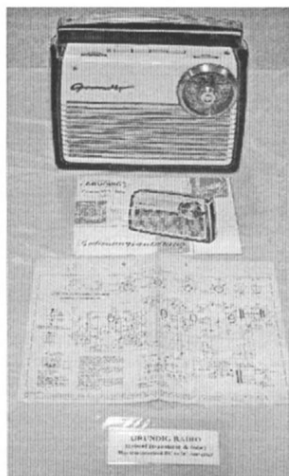
Bob O'Friel

Picture Gallery – Spring Meet, Kokomo

Ed Dupart and Michael Feldt



"Old Equipment Contest" setup in process

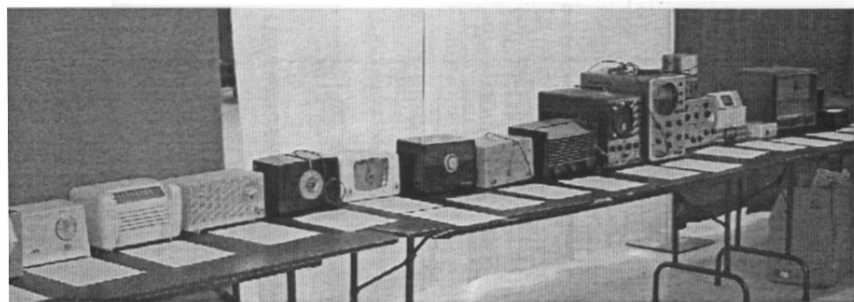


Picture Gallery – Spring Meet, Kokomo

Ed Dupart and Michael Feldt



"Swap N Sell" at the all indoor Kokomo Meet



The Silent Auction drew much attention.



Swap N Sell



Karl and Pete look content.

RADIOADS

These ads are free to IHRS members. Please limit them to 100 words. Unless we are advised otherwise, we will run ads for two issues. The exception would be where services, etc. are being listed. Please send your ads to the editor at the address shown on page 2. Please, type all ads before submitting them. If you cannot submit an electronic copy, I can scan in a typed copy.

For Sale: Acme Earphones, \$20.00; 1947 Admiral 7T10-C, Original \$35.00; 1932 Aetna, Walnut, \$65.00; 1932 American, Walnut, \$65.00; 1946 Arvin 544A, white, \$55.00; Home made Balanced Amp, \$115.00; 1950 Crosley 10-138, Maroon, \$100.00; 1934 Crosley 5M3, Walnut, \$110.00; Emerson 108 Brown Bakelite, \$245.00; 1946 Farnsworth, ET-064, \$75.00; 1948 Farnsworth GT-051, white, \$125.00; 1932 International Kadette, \$150.00; 1932 Majestic Walnut, \$65.00; 1927 Peerless Speaker, Mahogany, \$45.00; 1934 Philco model 60, Walnut, \$150.00; 1942 Philco 42-PT95, Walnut, \$50.00; 1930 Philco 20, Walnut, \$250.00; 1931 Philco 70, Mahogany, \$350.00; 1939 RCA 9TX31, Bakelite, \$65.00; 1946 Pilotuner, Walnut, (Doesn't work) \$25.00; 1924 RCA 103 tapestry speaker, Black, \$100.00; Sentinel 309-1, White, \$45.00; 1949 Zenith 7H920, \$45.00; 1950 Zenith G725, Brown, \$35.00. All are subject to prior sale. Most of the radios have been restored and play nicely. My list of radios change from time to time depending upon what I fix up and what I sell. If interested contact Bill Arnold 1 Cindy Kay Drive, Washington, Indiana 47501 or phone 812-254-1702. Also email: bbarnold@excite.com 10/05

For Sale: New & used tubes. Send a long SASE for list. Contact Ralph Keen, Jr. 1003 Sutton Rd. Greensboro, NC 27406-8812 Phone 336-674-7379 06/04

For Sale: Photocopies: Manuals for B&K E-200D Sig. Gen, Radiola III, IIIA, 17, 18, 25, 60, 100, 100A & 103 and other paper, some original. LSASE or email for list. Herman Gross, 1705 Gordon Drive, Kokomo, IN 46902 765-459-8308 Email: w9itt@sbcglobal.net 10/05

Wanted: R.F. choke, Zenith part 20-135, for Zenith chassis 1204, as shown in Rider 8—41. Richard Ender, 806 Lee St., Milan, MI 48160. (734) 439-2545 03/05

For Sale/Trade: See our new website for beautifully restored radios. Choose from deco tabletop models to gorgeous consoles. Always open to reasonable offers. Check us out at: www.tubularradio.com Actively collecting Zenith and other high-end 30's wooden sets. Bob Snively, Richmond, Indiana Phone; (765) 935-3746 E-mail; totallytubular@aol.com 10/05

RADIOADS (continued)

Wanted: Any information about Marconi No. 3574 receiver (made by "MWTC, Ltd. London") using carborundum, valve, and perikon detectors. Needed for restoration project. George B. Clemans, 851 West Wooster St., Bowling Green, OH 43402. (419) 352-7198, clemans@bgnet.bgsu.edu. 10/05

FOR SALE: Reproduction Philco cathedral cabinet parts and reproduction cabinets for model 20, 21,70, 90. Grandfather clock finials: Philco 570, GE H-91, Crosley 124. Philco Colonial Clock top trim and finials. Rider's Radio Index, 1 through 23 - \$20.00 ppd. Books, SASE for list. All plus shipping. Philco cabinets, front panels, see page 22 in Volume 29, #4 the Winter edition. Other parts, inquire. Call or e-mail for details. Note new phone # and address. Dick Oliver c/o Antique Radio Service, 1725 Juniper Place, #3 10, Goshen IN 46526. New phone # (574) 537-3747, e-mail dolivears@aol.com 10/05

Wanted: Speaker assembly for a Radiola 26. Also need three wrap around ST shape tube shields (3 piece form fitting shields with grounding straps) Fred Prohl, 812-988-1761, fprohl@att.net 10/05

For Sale: Philips Radio tube books. I am currently reducing my stocks of my book "Illustrated History of Philips Radio Valves to 1935" and am offering signed copies to fellow IHRS members for \$10 cash including air mail postage. Also available - Various American and British military tubes at \$5 each plus postage - JAN577W thyatron ? , 2K48 klystron, CV372, CV2868 thyatron, VU133 rectifier, CV73/11E1 pentode, CV415 small transmitting, CV398 trigatron, CV2902 gas diode, VU120 rectifier, SU2150 rectifier, VR118/KT2 tetrode, CV404 rectifier, CV354 low power triode, NGT2 argon relay, AWA (Australian) VT46/866A rectifier, Australian STC 3J160E small water cooled transmitting tube. I have about six of each tube available and most are new old stock. All 4 of the last listed tubes have stress cracks, no markings and are believed to be experimental. Photos are available and I welcome any enquiries.

Please reply to Fin Stewart, "Cockerdale", 380 Bulga Rd, Wingham, N.S.W. 2429, Australia.. email address - ferrowattc.m.380@bigpond.com 10/05

Wanted: Philco 71B Cathedral Radio, also looking for Philco 23EX radio-phonograph. Must have original magnetic pickup. Also seeking Philco Mandarin Red model 512 radio with 212/red speaker. Bob O'Friel, 7631 Cape Cod Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46250-1844. Tel #(317)849-4028 10/05

Interested in TV history? Want to see how it started? Try this Web site. You'll be amazed how far we've come. <http://pyanczer.home.mindspring.com/Tour> Note: all lower case except the upper case "T" in tour.

Pete Yanczer, 635 Bricken Place, Warson Woods, MO 63122-1613 10/05

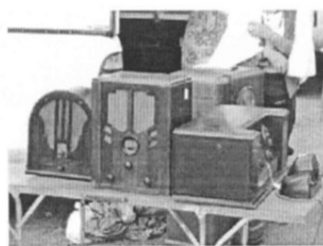
RADIOADS (continued)

FOR SALE: Federal Book: Limited supply again available. 64 page booklet describes Federal Tel. & Tel. Radio-from the beginning in 1921 to the end in 1929. Over 60 illustrations including pictures of early Federal RF and audio amplifiers as well as all early radios. Many federal parts are pictured and described. The article and speech by Dick Scramberger, the Federal expert, are included. All Federal models are listed with the year and month introduced, cost new, and description. The Federal Broadcast station, WGR first in Buffalo is included. There are two pages of references for more Federal information. This booklet contains more Federal information than exists in any other single spot. Good Quality printing. Please send \$7.95 (Including S&H) to Larry Babcock, 8095 Centre Lane, East Amherst, N.Y. 14051 03/05

For Sale: Indiana book: "From Crystal to Color, WFBM". This beautiful 190 page, hardcover book, published by Indianapolis station WFBM in 1964, tells the history of the station from 1924. First edition with dust jacket in excellent condition. \$18.00 Harry Blesy (630)789-1793 10/05

For Sale: Philco Bakelite Radios: Models B956, \$40.00; 46-250, \$40.00; 49-500, \$45.00; 49-905, 35.00; 51-930, \$45.00. Zenith Transoceanic Mod A-600 with spare tubes, \$150.00 Ray Andrejasich (317) 846-6977 03/05

Greenfield "Fall Foliage" pics – Michael Feldt



A Zenith 15-U-271 Restoration - Picture Page

see page 4 for the story

