



Vol. 3 No. 2, March 1995

Editor: Ludwell Sibley

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EverReady® Brand E717 by Kellin Clark

Don't forget the first-ever
DVHRC MEMBERSHIP NIGHT!!!

North Penn Amusements
117 Main St. (Rt 113)
Souderton, PA

- * COMPLIMENTARY ROAST BEEF BUFFET
- * MEET NEW MEMBERS AND VISIT WITH OLD FRIENDS.
- * PAY YOUR CLUB DUES
- * TECH TALK
- * MEMBER'S EQUIPMENT AUCTION

* BRING:

- A) Something for Show & Tell
- B) Items for Auction
- C) Library and Tube Donations
- D) Good Cheer

DINNER AND MEETING 7:30

Tuesday, March 14

073

292

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 14 and April 11, 7:30 PM,
at North Penn Amusements, 113 Main St.
(PA Rte. 113), Souderton.

JOINING THE CLUB

Just send \$10 to DVHRC, Box 41031,
Philadelphia, PA 19127-0031.

ADS & SUCH

Please send ads, articles, etc., to Ludwell
Sibley, 44 E. Main St., Flemington, NJ
08822-1224, (908) 782-4894.

PROGRAM FOR MARCH

Featured presenter this month will be Paul Bohlander, W3VVS, of Glenside. His slide-talk on antique radio receivers will include early loose-coupler tuners dating from 1914, crystal sets, and battery-powered receivers of the '20s. There will be coverage of AC-operated sets of the '30s and table-model radios from the '40s. Paul gave an earlier version of this show at the Tranquility meet a couple of years ago, with pleasing results!

THE PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

Mike Koste

No doubt, there're a few of you who have lost interest in the organization due, in part, to seemingly endless business meetings. I urge you to give us a second look and renew your membership at the first-ever DVHRC Membership Night next Tuesday.

One of the major goals the new Board of Directors set for the club in '95 was to streamline the business portion of our meetings to devote more time and energy to our passion for vintage radios. Hereafter, with the exception of occasional reports from special committees, the majority of club business issues will be reported and addressed in the *Oscillator*.

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we'll follow the following agenda:

7:30-7:45	Business meeting
7:45-8:00	Auction prep, membership, book and tube sales
8:00-8:15	Show-and-tell
8:15-8:45	Tech talk
9:00-	Auction

Among the Board's other goals for the year:

THE TUBE PROGRAM. Similar to those run by other radio clubs - both a member service and a proven fundraiser - the DVHRC program now offers clean, checked and boxed tubes at considerable savings. Tubes will be for sale at all meetings and swapmeets with proceeds to the DVHRC. As for supplying this program: surely there are members with caches of tubes they've never gotten around to organizing. Donate them to the club and our resident *tubemeister*, Charlie Class, will do the rest. (To arrange for pick-up, call Charlie at 215-699-7149.) Note: We just got a handful of loctals added to club stock.

MEMBERSHIP. As of this writing, we maintain a mailing list of well over 100 names. Regrettably, there's a handful of members we'll probably never see or hear from again. Sure, \$10 isn't that much, but when less than 50% of our members are in good standing, those who haven't paid their share become a financial burden on the rest of us. Our deadline for past dues is Membership Night, March 14th.

On a more positive note, we welcome our newest members:

Charles Azar, New Hope, PA	John Leck, Levittown, PA
Betty Badger, Kulpsville, PA	Ed Lyon, Meyersville, MD
Gregory Badger, Collegeville, PA	John Packard, Levittown, PA
Paul Burrough, Feasterville, PA	Rod Rolad, Drexel Hill, PA
Ron Frisbie, Akron, PA	John Schmid, Line Lexington, PA
Kenneth Gorman, Warminster, PA	Frank Strzempek, Churchville, PA
Frank Hagenbuch, Williamsport, PA	Bob Thomas, W3QZO, Philadelphia, PA
John Kelly, N3GVF, Ashton, MD	Elliot Tropianski, Yonkers, NY
Frank Krider, North Wales, PA	

After the new arrivals, it's only fair that we acknowledge a departure. Dennis Shimoazono, JH1TNS, member since November '93, has returned with his wife and family to their native Japan. (If you ever felt that Souderton was too far away to attend meetings every month, Dennis showed up regularly all the way from Edison, New Jersey!) He will be missed.

So, there you have it. Much has been accomplished in the past month, but there's still plenty to do. (1995 Swapmeets, anyone?) Rest assured you've got an enthusiastic bunch at the head table that spend a lot of their spare time working for the good of the club between meetings.

Can we count on you to help us forge ahead?

LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

Ludwell Sibley presented a slide show, with accompanying handout, on collecting and restoring military radios of WW II vintage. He illustrated some classic sets and covered their history-in-action. The audience saw operation of the famous "Gibson Girl" hand-cranked transmitter sending a distress message across the room (in strict accordance with FCC Rules, Part 15, of course!).

ON THE HORIZON

- March 16-18** Winter SWL Festival, Holiday Inn, Summeytown Pike, Kulpsville, PA (see below).
- March 25** PARS Spring Fever meet, Washington, PA. Contact: Bonnie Novak, (412) 481-1563; see ad, Feb. A. R. C., p. 26.
- April 2** HAMCOMP '95 flea market, Delaware Valley Radio Association Student Recreation Center, Trenton State College, Rte. 31, Ewing Twp., NJ, 7:30 AM
Contact: DVRA Hotline, (609) 882-2240
- April 29** PARS swapmeet. Contact: Bonnie Novak, (412) 481-1563.
- May 6** AWA Spring meet, Bloomfield, NY. Contact: Lauren Peckham, (607) 739-5443.
- May 12-13** IHRS Spring meet, Ramada Inn, Kokomo, IN. Programs and banquet on Friday; large auction Saturday. Contact: Herman Gross, 317-459-8308.
- May 13** AWA Schooley's Mountain, NJ meet. Contact: Lauren Peckham, (607) 739-5443.
- June 10-11** MAARC RADIOACTIVITY, Timonium MD. Contact: Ed Lyon, (301) 293-1773.
- July 7-9** MARC EXTRAVAGANZA '95, Lansing, MI. Contact: Jim Clark, 517-349-2249.
- July 15** NJARC meet, Hightstown. Contact: Ludwell Sibley, (908) 782-4894.
- August 12** NFWA Amherst Museum meet & estate auction, near Buffalo. Details in future issues.

BOOKS OFFERED THROUGH THE CLUB

Continuing the sale of collector books to DVHRC members at a discount, Bill Overbeck has gotten copies of two "hot" new ones, to be available at the March meeting. These are The Zenith Transoceanic - the Royalty of Radio and Machine Age to Jet Age - Radiomania's Guide to Table-Top Radios, 1933-1959. These are priced at a club discount rate of \$20 each.

MAARC'S EXHIBIT EXTENDED

Last month's *Oscillator* gave an eyewitness view of the mall exhibit now being presented by MAARC's Radio History Society in Silver Spring, MD. Good news: due to heavy "draw," the display is being extended a month, through the end of March. Located in the City Place Mall in Silver Spring, MD, the site is open weekday evenings from 7 PM to 9 PM, noon to 9 PM on Saturdays, and noon to 7 PM on Sundays. DVHRC members who are in the Washington area will find this a worthwhile site to visit - while it lasts. The US 29/Georgia Ave. exit from the I-495 Beltway gives convenient access. The mall is on Colesville Road, just east of Georgia Ave. (MD 97). It is also close to the Silver Spring Metro stop.

WINTER SWL FESTIVAL - MARCH 16-18

This event ("eighth annual") is being promoted by Gilfer Shortwave, well known distributor to the shortwave-listener community. It comprises forums on Friday morning and all day Saturday, a swapmeet Friday afternoon, a silent auction, and a banquet Saturday evening. SW receivers may be brought in for technical measurements. Forum topics include QSLing, scanning, "utility" stations, DX accessories, "pirate" broadcasts, and interpretation of receiver specs. Registration is \$35 for forums, hospitality room, lunch, and banquet; \$17 less meals, or \$19 for spouses with hospitality room and meals. Contact: Winter SWL Festival, PO Box 591, Colmar, PA 18915. (Thanks to Bob Thomas, W3QZO, for info.)

MEET REPORT - WILLIAMSPORT

This indoor event, a "first" for its area, took place on Feb. 25 as organized by the Central PA Radio Collectors. Twelve sales tables were active. Due to good publicity in the collector press, plus coverage in the local newspaper and on radio, the public traffic of about 100 people kept the hall (a church gymnasium) active until noon. The equipment display featured several unusual items, among them a CN-113A wireless set of WW I vintage, a Radiola RS, a Grebe CR-9, a De Forest Everyman crystal set, an unusual breadboard set, and detailed photos of the local AM station as of 1930. The church crew served hot dogs, etc. Forties music was available via a small AM transmitter for set demos and background music. Organizers Frank Hagenbuch and Mike Heffner did well with this start-up event. They are now planning a warm-season meet outdoors at the same site.

As an "adder" for the radio meet, the display of model and tinsplate trains at the Lycoming County museum next door is superb. It comprises the Shempp Collection of 300 (!) Ives, Lionel, American Flyer, and European trains, in all gauges. It is quite diverse, with such items as Lionel "OO" gauge sets and the rare AF chromed Standard Gauge passenger set. There are good-sized operable layouts in "O" and "HO" gauges. The collection is housed for easy viewing close-up in glass cabinets, and appears to be bigger and finer than the Toy Collectors Association display at Strasburg.

MEET REPORT - HIGHTSTOWN

Our Jersey cousins in NJARC held a "wow" indoor flea market on March 4 at Hightstown. With 51 indoor tables, the hall was sold out. Three hardy souls even set up outside. There were ample goodies - a couple of Tuska receivers, a Volksempfänger set, a W. E. 279A tube, a sea of transistor radios, etc. The place was at-capacity with buyers from 7:30 to 11:30 - Jim Fisher, NJARC's meet organizer, said that, on arriving at 6:45 to open up, he was greeted with a chorus of car doors slamming from the "early birds" who were already there. This was a basic radios-and-food event; the next Hightstown meet on July 15 is expected to be more general.

READER COMMENTS

Ross Smith, Indiana Historic Radio Club organizer

(On last month's "A Look Backward at Transistor Collecting" on the growth of articles on transistor radios): "Good article by Bill Overbeck. He mentions my article on the Regency TR-1 as a 'first' for the ARCA Fall 1985 issue. Actually, it was presented first at the AWA Candaigua Conference on October 1, 1983. The TR-1 story was covered, plus slides on popular US-made transistor radios. Donald Christiansen, editor of the *IEEE Spectrum*, was in the audience and asked me to expand the story to include Texas Instruments. We turned it over to Michael Wolff for the complete story." (The result was, of course, Wolff's famous *Spectrum* article of Dec. 1985.)

WANT ADS

Free exposure for your desired or unwanted stuff! Unless requested otherwise, we'll run each ad for two months, and will send ads to the *NJARC News* for double coverage.

FOR SALE: Magnavox wood console, AM-FM-phono, working, \$145; **WANTED:** SLT040 amplifier module or ECG1325; diagram for AK 37. Don Rector, (215) 699-8050 weekday eves. after 7 PM.

WANTED: Zenith and Emerson transistor radios, especially Zenith 500s and Emerson 888s. John Kern, 2320 Rosedale Rd., Quakertown, PA 18951, (215) 538-2128.

FOR SALE: AK-type tubes. Stan Siems, (515) 847-2013.

WANTED: Victor 7-3 owner to exchange information with such as: loudspeaker mounting, proper connectors for ground, antenna, etc. Aaron Hunter, 23 Lenape Trail, Southampton, NJ 08088, (609) 267-3065.

FOR SALE: Fender amplifier, Model 85, with reverb tank, 65 watts RMS, with orig. dust cover, 12" speaker, all orig, like new, \$200; Guild 484 "spice chest" radio, good cond., \$90; Minox spy camera with brown leather case, inst. book, Wetlar Model 3S, S/N 135-265, exc. cond., \$75; Sony ICR-3 AM transistor radio, uses two AA batts., in skin pack, never opened, \$12; Dana 5900 digital multimeter, 17" W x 14" D x 3-1/2" H, cosmetically exc., repairable, \$25; H-P 332A distortion analyzer, clean & working; meter sticks, \$75; H-P 1217B 5-mV dual-trace oscilloscope, clean & working, 17" W x 11-1/2" D x 5" H, \$50; Philips PM-3232 0-10 MHz dual-trace scope, missing handle, good wkg. cond., poor cosmetically, \$50; Universal Instrument Co. 501 tube tester, wood case, w/ complete instructions, \$15; Motorola 56X1 5-tube table radio, S/N 0032794, exc. cond., \$30; RCA 6BX6 radio, S/N U-119355, exc. cond., \$30. Prices firm & fair. Alvin Sydnor, 806 Meetinghouse Rd., Boothwyn, PA 19061, (610) 485-5916.

WANTED: Tubes, new-old-stock (NOS) or used-tested-good (UTG) - 80, NOS (must test strong); 83, NOS; 6BQ5/EL84, NOS; 6L6GC, NOS & UTG, by Amperex, GE, Philips, RCA, Sylvania; 6SJ7GT, NOS & UTG; 6V6GTA, NOS & UTG, by Amperex, GE, Mullard, RCA, Sylvania, Tung-Sol; 12AX7, NOS & UTG, by Amperex, Mullard, Philips, RCA, Sylvania, Telefunken, Tung-Sol; 12AY7, NOS & UTG; 20E27; 5693, NOS & UTG, "Special Red" by RCA; 6386, NOS; 6973; 7581A, NOS, by GE or RCA; EL37, NOS, by Mullard; KT66, NOS, by M-O Valve. Precision Electronics Model PE-15 hi-fi amp. and hi-fi amps by Schulmerich. Need transformers for guitar amp.: power (300-0-300 V, 5 V 2 or 3 A, 6 V 3 A) and output for 6V6s. Joe Rubbo, 127 S. Cedar Hollow Rd., Paoli, PA 19301, (610) 644-7359; tape (610) 644-2572.

FOR SALE: Farnsworth AC-71 console, RCA Victor 811K motor-tuned console, 1951 Zenith H7232 in VG cond., Philco 41-255 multiband table set. Taylor Blanchard, 48 Theresa St., Trenton, NJ 08618, (609) 882-2293, or taylor.b@genie.geis.com.

FOR SALE: Booklet of 64 pages describes Federal Tel. & Tel's radio operation from the beginning in 1921 to its demise in 1929. Over 60 illustrations, including pictures of early Federal RF and audio amplifiers, all early radios, and many Federal parts. The article and NFWA presentation by Dick Schamberger, Federal expert, are included. All Federal models are listed with the year and month introduced, price new, and brief description. Buffalo's first broadcast station, Federal's WGR, is described. There are two pages of references for more info. This is more about Federal than exists in any other spot! Good-quality printing. Send \$4.95 + 1.00 S & H to Larry Babcock, 8095 Centre Ln., East Amherst, NY 14051.

FOOD & DRINK: a good place to join fellow collectors for dinner before meetings is the Hillside Tavern, half a block uphill from the meeting site.

ZENITH TRANS-OCEANICS - SOME HOT SCOOP

Ludwell Sibley

"T-O's have two restoration problems. The first is the 50A1 ballast tube in the later (600-series) models. The advertised choices here are a new-old-stock tube at \$21 or an equivalent electronic regulator at \$10. Not so well known: you can send in a 1000-ohm 4-watt resistor and a 9-volt zener diode for maybe \$2 - and get better voltage regulation to boot.

The other hassle is the 1L6 converter tube. It's "unobtainable" at flea-market level, and costs \$10 as new-old-stock. Freshly discovered here in the, um, DVHRC Hall of Science: you can clip Pin 5 off a common 1R5 and substitute it! The 1L6 and 1R5 are different internally, but with Pin 5 amputated there is enough commonality to let the 1R5 work. I tried it in two sets - an H500 and a Y600 two sets - and got vigorous reception on all bands. The catch: dial calibration on the top SW bands was off. Your friendly editor can supply more info if desired.

A warning: the alignment procedure for the 600-series in Sams (Set 381, Folder 16) gives no warning that the oscillator is *below* the signal frequency on the four bandspread bands. This is a reversal of custom, and will give faulty alignment if not observed.

You saw it here first, in the crusading, butt-kickin' "Oscillator."

"WESTERN ELECTRIC": THE REST (?) OF THE STORY

Ludwell Sibley

Last month's *Oscillator* commented on the report in *Glass Audio* that AT&T is moving the old-time vacuum-tube production facility from its Kansas City works (back) to Allentown, there to reactivate production of the 300B audio triode. Well, no wonder that the public-relations person at Allentown denied all knowledge of the report: it's not an Allentown show at all.

DVHRC member Frank Hagenbuch sent in another article on this activity, from the Fall 1994 issue of *Sound Practices*. This time, the story rang relatively true and was amenable to follow-up. Checking with the contact listed in *Sound Practices*, here's the real story (so far).

First: yes, Virginia, there *is* a Westrex. AT&T has bought back the Westrex trademark from Litton Industries, which purchased the old Westrex division of Western Electric back in the '50s. The new Westrex is headquartered in Atlanta.

Second, the critical production machinery that was sold to Richardson Electronics has apparently been re-purchased, for installation at the Kansas City Works. This reinstates the manufacturing facility that was last used in 1988.

The schedule calls for 300Bs to be reintroduced in June, followed by the 274B rectifier and then the 350B audio beam tetrode. (Electrically, the 274B is like a slightly "tougher" 5U4GB; the 350B is like a 6L6GC.) Other types may be added later. Details of the distribution network are being negotiated.

The tubes will not be priced cheap; obviously, with genuine "Western Electric" tubes the buyer gets cachet, image, "*je ne sais quoi*," prestige, mystique, and other intangible benefits. Pricey or not, this may spell hard times for Svetlana, Sino, and Vaic as foreign purveyors of 300B-oids. We'll see.

NEW ON THE SHELVES: MACHINE AGE TO JET AGE

Radiomania's Guide to Tabletop Radios 1933-1959

by Mark V. Stein (Radiomania Books, 1994; available from DVHRC agent Bill Overbeck at meetings for \$20). Reviewed by **Mike Koste**.

As the popularity of antique-radio collecting grows, so does specialization. If restoring and displaying early battery receivers, furniture-type consoles, crystal sets, horn speakers, novelty radios or transistors is your particular poison, Machine Age to Jet Age is not for you.

However, should your taste lean toward radios with chrome trim, outrageous curves, exotic veneers, fancy lines, artistic sculpting and high style, Mark Stein's new book is a real eye-opener. Of course, with all the other radio collector's books available, MA to JA will surely be subject to endless comparisons.

Essentially a gallery of black and white photos, Stein's presentation more closely resembles a catalog than a textbook or price guide. (This is no surprise, since Mark's successful Radiomania mail-order business in Baltimore has been printing an illustrated "For Sale" list for quite some time.)

As advertised, of the 1400 sets pictured (most from the author's extensive personal collection), many are missing from the Collins and Bunis books. They clearly demonstrate Stein's personal taste in collectible radios.

Surely, color photography, more detailed descriptions (like tube complements, number of models produced, references to Sams and Riders, and the like) would be desirable. Nonetheless, considering that Mark did all the work on this edition on his own, it is a monumental achievement.

MR. GOODWRENCH TO THE RESCUE

Bob Thomas, W3QZO

I recently "inherited" a transmitter that looked as though it had been stored for 20 years in a leaky chicken coop. What interested me about this dinosaur were three 3" diameter "official looking" spoked tuning knobs that would look just right on the 500-watt AM transmitter I am planning.

Try as I might, the setscrews would not break loose without risk of splitting their slots open. Application of heat from a 200-watt soldering iron clamped to a screwdriver did not help, nor did penetrating oil, WD-40 and similar elixirs, even when allowed to soak-in for a week. Then I tried something that had been recommended for freeing "frozen" pistons in model-airplane engines. The product is obtainable for about \$7 in a 10-oz. spray can from the Service Department of a GM dealer as "Heat Valve Lubricant," Part No. 1052627.

The GM lubricant was sprayed into all the screw holes and allowed to do its stuff for a few hours. Bitter disappointment - they still would not budge. Apparently defeated, I set aside the whole piece of junk in anticipation of Trash Day. When that fateful day arrived I decided to give the screws one last try and, to my astonishment, they all backed out with no effort! Close examination of the extracted screws revealed that the lubricant had seeped along their entire 3/8" length, converting the formerly hard rust deposit to a gritty residue. Similar results have been obtained with removal of stubborn screws on other antique equipment.

But that's not all. Very often test equipment purchased at swap meets comes complete with ugly blotches where inventory labels have been torn off prior to decommissioning. Nothing seemed to dissolve these adhesive residues until I tried good old 1052627. When sprayed over the affected area and allowed to foam for a few minutes, the hard residue changes to a soft sticky substance that can be wiped off with a soft rag. Sometimes it takes three or more applications to completely eradicate the blemish, but eventually it will disappear, giving the panel or cabinet a like-new appearance. A word of caution is in order, however. Before using the lubricant for this purpose, assure yourself it will not damage the paint or lettering.

BROADCAST NOSTALGIA: THREE-LETTER CALLSIGNS

Mike Koste

There was a time in the Delaware Valley when enthusiasts of the new-fangled gizmo called "radio" would tickle their crystals or twist the knobs on their three-dialers to hear Gimbel Brothers' WIP, Strawbridge & Clothier's WFI, and John Wanamaker's WOO.

It was an era when KYW was a station in *Chicago*, when St. Louis listeners tuned-in KWK, WEW, and WIL. From New York City and suburban New Jersey came WGL, WHN, WJW, WNJ, and WOR. Even the small towns had them . . . like WRM and WZD from Urbana and Tuscola, Illinois.

Sadly, 75 years later there are only few of those heritage three-letter callsigns left on the air.

You can thank future president Herbert Hoover for realizing in the '20s that "radio" was growing so fast that the supply of three-letter combinations would run out in a matter of months, what with the need to assign calls to ships, point-to-point communication stations, and the like. This was only a minor problem compared to the larger obstacles the government faced in its attempt to put reins on this new medium.

Early broadcasting was experimental and therefore noncommercial. In 1919, broadcasters like the future KQV in Pittsburgh operated as "limited" commercial stations. In 1922, the wavelength of 360 meters (approximately 830 kHz) was assigned for the transmission of "important news items, entertainment, lectures, sermons, and similar matter." Recommendations of the First National Radio Conference of 1922 resulted in further regulations under the auspices of the Secretary of Commerce (Hoover). A new type of station came into being with power between 500 watts and 1000 watts. Two frequencies, 750 and 833 khz, were assigned for use. To suggest that this arrangement caused chaos on the air was a gross understatement.

So rapid was the development of radio that, under guidelines suggested at subsequent conferences in 1923 and 1924, the Department of Commerce allocated 550 to 1500 kHz for broadcasts with operating power not to exceed 5000 watts. The increase in the number of AM stations caused so much interference that a fourth National Radio Conference was called in 1925, asking for a limitation on broadcast time and power. Secretary Hoover was unable to deal with the situation because court decisions held that the Radio Act of 1912 that governed ship-to-shore transmission, the only law on the books at the time, did not give him that authority. As a result, many broadcasters "jumped" their frequencies and increased their power and operating hours at will, regardless of the effect on other stations. The end effect was total bedlam on the air.

In 1926, President Coolidge urged Congress to supply a remedy. the result was the Dill-White Radio Act of 1927. The government was now in legal control of the airwaves, with the authority to issue station licenses, allocate frequency bands to various services, and control power outputs. The new Federal Radio Commission delegated Secretary Hoover with the authority to inspect radio stations, examine and license radio operators,

and assign radio callsigns.

So what happened to those old three-letter callsigns?

Much of the early efforts of the FRC were devoted to straightening out the confused state of the radio dial. Stations on the air at the time amounted to 732, and the new government regulations caused about 150 of them to surrender their licenses. Some stations merged, as WFI and WLIT in Philadelphia did (resulting in WFIL), while others simply pulled the plug and went out of business.

A number of the heritage three-letter stations remained that way well into the '70s, only to give up the ghost due to an ownership change, frequency swap, or the desire to seem less "old-fashioned." Under present FCC regulations [Section 73.3550(f) to be precise], a combination of three letters is available only to commonly owned affiliates of an existing three-letter station, e. g., AM-FM-TV subsidiaries. Of the hundreds of possible variations, there're only 59 left on the AM band.

Since 1995 is the official 75th Anniversary of Radio [*the East Coast view; in San Jose, considering the Herold-SJN operation of 1909, it's the 86th anniversary - Ed.*], why not raise your mug and toast the survivors?

The Survivors. The list below gives today's three-letter broadcast callsigns, along with, in many cases, the station to which the call was assigned as of 1921 (mainly spark ship stations licensed to operate on 500, 667, and 1000 kHz). Note: when the government devised the "K" stations west of the Mississippi and "W" stations east, old-timers like KDKA in Pittsburgh and WFAA in Dallas were allowed to maintain their original calls.

KDB	1490	Santa Barbara, CA	1926	S. S. Caracas	WBB	1480	Memphis, TN	1964	S. S. Santa Cecilia
KEX	1190	Portland, OR	1926	S. S. Josiah Macy	WBT	1110	Charlotte, NC	1921	-
KFH	1330	Wichita, KS	1922	S. S. West Ashawa	WBX	1030	Boston, MA	1921	S. S. Santa Ana
KFI	640	Los Angeles, CA	1922	S. S. I. D. Fletcher	WDZ	1050	Decatur, IL	1921	-
KGA	1510	Spokane, WA	1926	S. S. Coamo	WEW	770	St. Louis, MO	1921	-
KGB-FM	101.5	San Diego, CA*	1959	-	WGH	1310	Newport News, VA	1928	-
KGO	810	San Francisco, CA	1924	-	WGL	1250	Ft. Wayne, IN	1924	S. S. Ventura
KGU	760	Honolulu, HI	1922	-	WGN	720	Chicago, IL	1922	S. S. Carl D. Bradley
KGY	1240	Olympia, WA	1922	-	WGR	550	Buffalo, NY	1922	-
KID	590	Idaho Falls, ID	1928	S. S. Matincock	WGY	810	Schenectady, NY	1922	-
KIT	1280	Yakima, WA	1929	S. S. Tiger	WHB	710	Kansas City, KS	1922	New York City@
KJR	950	Seattle, WA	1923	-	WHK	1420	Cleveland, OH	1922	-
KLO	1430	Ogden, UT	1924	S. S. Santa Rosalia	WHO	1040	Des Moines, IA	1924	-
KLZ	560	Denver, CO	1922	-	WHP	580	Harrisburg, PA	1924	S. S. Point Arena
KMA	960	Shenandoah, IA	1925	S. S. Alianca	WIP	610	Philadelphia, PA	1922	-
KMJ	580	Fresno, CA	1922	-	WJR	760	Detroit, MI	1922	S. S. W. M. Tupper
KNR	600	Redding, CA	1936	-	WKY	930	Oklahoma City, OK	1920	-
KNX	1070	Los Angeles, CA	1920	S. S. Susana	WLS	890	Chicago, IL	1924	s. s. Princess Matoika
KOA	850	Denver, CO	1924	-	WLW	700	Cincinnati, OH	1922	-
KOY	550	Phoenix, AZ	1922	S. S. Herbert L. Pratt	WMC	790	Memphis, TN	1923	-
KPQ	560	Wenatchee, WA	1929	S. S. Sunlite	WMT	600	Cedar Rapids, IA	1920	S. S. Point Bonita
KQV	1410	Pittsburgh, PA	1919	-	WOC	1420	Davenport, IA	1922	-
KRX	1050	Lawton, OK	1956	-	WOL	1450	Washington, DC	1924	S. S. Los Angeles
KSD	580	St. Louis, MO	1927	-	WOR	710	New York, NY	1922	-
KSL	1160	Salt Lake City, UT	1922	-	WOW	590	Omaha, NE	1923	S. S. Henry J. Biddle
KUJ	1420	Walla Walla, WA	1922	S. S. Mundale	WRR-FM	101.1	Dallas, TX	1948	-
KVI	570	Seattle, WA	1929	Unga Island, AK@	WSB	750	Atlanta, GA	1922	-
KWG	1230	Stockton, CA	1927	-	WSM	650	Nashville, TN	1925	S. S. Fair Oaks
KXL	750	Portland, OR	1926	S. S. City of Taunton	WWJ	950	Detroit, MI	1920	-
KXO	1230	El Centro, CA	1927	S. S. City of Brockton	WWL	870	New Orleans, LA	1922	S. S. San Jose
KYW	1060	Philadelphia, PA	1921	-					

* Sister station of KPOP (1360), which changed from KGB in 1985 after 60 years.

@ Land station.

Sources:

SRDS Radio Advertising Source, Vol. 76 No. 11, Nov. 1994.

North American Radio-TV Station Guide, 7th Ed., 1971.

A Pictorial History of Radio, 1967, pp. 34-43.

FCC Information Bulletin 2-B, July 1961.

Commercial and Government Radio Stations of the United States, 1921

OLDIE PROGRAMMING LIVES

Bob Thomas, W3QZO

Owners of antique radios and enthusiasts of vintage programming may want to try listening to Cincinnati station WSAI on 1530 kHz. This station broadcasts recordings of old shows and radio trivia every night from 11 PM to midnight on "When Radio Was." WSAI has been putting a strong, interference-free signal into Philadelphia at night, albeit with occasional selective fading, but that only adds to the flavor of the experience.

Those fortunate enough to be able to receive WSAI will be treated to recordings that faithfully reproduce "real" sound effects, live orchestras playing theme and bridge music, and talented actors in convincing performances. On a recent night the program consisted of a re-broadcast of an episode from Nyla Mack's venerable "Let's Pretend," Part One of a five-part "Johnny Dollar" series, and a question to the listeners about Mr. Peavy of "the Great Gildersleeve." The program is also loaded with modern commercials - all the better to keep it on the air!

You know, Bob's comment about selective fading raises a point. Old-time programming, as heard by millions of listeners at the time, isn't complete without AM "propagation effects": the oddly shimmering 10-kHz tone in the background that comes from the stations just above and just below the one you're listening to, the audio level bobbing gently up and down, bits of interference fading in and out, the odd "zooming" effect of fades on the audio, the occasional "wipeout" as the carrier disappears momentarily, and monkey-chatter now and then from sidebands of the adjacent stations. That's how, say, "The Shadow" sounded late at night in, say, a '38 Packard on U. S. 30 west of Omaha! - Ed.

Oscillator Science Fiction Dept.

RE THE NEW 1610-1700 kHz BROADCAST CHANNELS

Mike Koste's story on the new AM frequencies in the December issue brings to mind the wide use of this spectrum space for "police alarm" stations in the '30s. The June 1936 issue of *Short Wave Craft* lists the following stations in the Northeast:

1612	WPFA	Newton, MA	1666	WPEW	Northampton, MA
1630	KEY	Boston	1674	WPSP	Harrisburg
1658	WPGC	S. Schenectady, NY	1712	WPDU	Pittsburgh
1666	WMP	Framingham, MA	1712	WPEH	Somerville, MA
1666	WPEL	W. Bridgewater, MA	1712	WPGF	Providence, RI

There weren't many police stations in Pennsylvania in this frequency area because, in accordance with a regional frequency plan, most were on higher channels, like WPFE in Reading on 2442, WPFQ in Swarthmore on 2474, or WPSJ on 2470 in New Castle. Still, every call ever sent on any of these stations is still radiating outward from the Earth at the speed of light. In principle, you can still hear them: put your vintage Atwater Kent in a space cruiser, travel at warp speed to about 60 light-years out, put up a very good antenna, and tune in those "police calls."



The above picture provides some idea of the thrilling situations frequently covered in short-wave police calls on the 120 and 180 meter bands.

Note the kidnapping of the baby: when this drawing appeared in *Short Wave Craft* in 1935, the Lindbergh kidnapping trial was front-page news.