



OSCILLATOR

DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO CLUB

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

Editor: Ludwell Sibley

Vol. 3 No. 8, September 1995

THE MONTHLY PREZ

Mike Koste

We had the pleasure of meeting Bob Connison from Doylestown and Kurt Magni of Fort Washington at our August meeting. Since then, we've added Robert Messerschmidt from Glen Gardner, NJ, to the DVHRC membership. Welcome one and all!

Attendance was rather light last month, due in part to summer vacations, but I'm sure that, as summer winds down, more and more of you will be showing your faces - and your latest vintage-radio finds - every second Tuesday of the month. I'd like to thank Lewis Newhard for sitting-in as auctioneer in Pete Grave's absence.

I'll be taking my summer sojourn the second week of September and, on returning from the Ford Museum auction in early October, I'll be out of town on business, so won't be around for the next two meetings. However, I will leave you in the capable hands of Veep Bill Overbeck. Back in August, it was our hope to at least lay the groundwork for our Fall Swapmeet. Without some of the club's major players in attendance we didn't get much farther than deciding to move the day of our events from Sunday to Saturday. I urge you to attend the DVHRC meeting in Souderton on September 12, get involved, express your opinion and help exceed the success of our Fall '95 show.

In addition, we are actively seeking volunteers for entertainment programs for future meetings. Do you have a particular skill in repair or restoration; an interesting historical piece; a film, video or slide show; or an excess of knowledge in a certain aspect of radio collecting? We're asking for only a 15-minute presentation. Please bring them to Bill's attention so we can schedule your talk or demonstration in coming months. Remember: This is *your* club. Its future success depends on what you want to do with it.

Incidentally, Overbeck has been unanimously nominated to act as a clearing-house for information, transportation of goods, passenger and lodge sharing for out-of-town antique-radio events. If you're planning on attending one and have room for "one more" (passenger or old radio), contact Bill to network with others you may be able to help out or vice versa.

PS: If you're in the Motor City for the Ford auction, don't leave town without a visit to Lafayette Coney Island. What they do to an ordinary hot dog is not to be believed, and you can't get a genuine loose-meat hamburger like theirs anywhere else on the planet.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, Sept. 12 and Oct. 10, 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, (908) 782-4894.

New: a fax machine on this same number.

DVHRC: THE NEXT GENERATION

Mike Koste

This just in, and possibly a historic first for this organization . . . Mr. & Mrs. Bob Kushnerick of Gilbertsville, PA announce the arrival of a 7-pound, 14-ounce Little Nipper. Steven Kushnerick first squelched on Wednesday, Aug. 23. At last report, mother and baby are home, happy and healthy, while Bob's been dashing around infant-proofing his radio room. According to the proud papa, "Moving the shelves closer to the ceiling isn't the problem, but moving the consoles out of harm's way is a real bitch." Congratulations to the Kushnericks from all of us in the club!

ON THE HORIZON

Sept. 6-9	AWA Conference, Rochester (see the August <i>Old Timer's Bulletin</i> for full details)
Sept. 16	Yankee Steam-Up, East Greenwich, RI (see below)
Sept. 22-23	Liquidation auction, Bridgeton, NJ (see below)
Oct. 1	Finkel auction, Kulpsville (see below); Pack Rats "Hamarama," Bucks County Drive-In, Rte. 611, Warrington
Oct. 7	NJARC meet, Hightstown
Oct. 7-8	Ford Museum auction, Dearborn MI (preview, Oct. 6).
Oct. 21	HARPS "Old Time Radio & Phono Show, Highland Falls, NY (see below)
Oct. 29	Penn Wireless Assn. "Tradefest," Bucks County Community College, Newtown
Nov. 12	DVHRC Fall Swapmeet (tentative date)

YANKEE STEAM-UP, SEPT. 16

The New England Wireless & Steam Museum puts on a regular series of "Yankee Tune-Ups" and "Yankee Steam-Ups." The latest, on Saturday the 16th, is steam-oriented: it will offer a manifold with live steam to run 30 or more engines at a time, with licensed boilers and engineers. Working engines on display will be both models and full-size (e. g. Corliss), with some internal-combustion types too. Admission is \$5 (no charge to exhibitors). Site is at Frenchtown and Tillinghast Roads in East Greenwich, RI, as reached from Exit 8 of I-95; phone for details is 401-884-1710.

This museum is, of course, the one that includes the Massie Wireless Co. station PJ from Point Judith, RI - recreated in the original 1907-vintage operating building - and displays a fine array of Marconi and other historic wireless/radio gear. It is also the publisher of the pivotal history Wireless Communication in the United States.

BRIDGETON RADIO-TV SHOP AUCTION, SEPT. 22-23

There will be an auction on Friday the 22nd, and Saturday the 23rd if needed, of an old-time radio-TV repair shop (inspection: Thursday, 3-6 PM and Friday 8-10 AM). Sale site is 90 Cohansey St., Bridgeton, NJ, "45 min. from Philadelphia." Classic Liquidation & Auction Service of Belle Plaine, NJ (609-861-1111) is the party in charge. Terms are c-a-s-h. The owner apparently packratted parts, tubes, military radios, and sets for 60+ years before his death. The stock of new tubes is said to include 10,000 pieces. There's the usual test equipment, some advertising material, and a number of repaired and unrepaired radios. A partial catalog has been prepared, amounting to 14 pages. Of these, two pages are mainly classic lab-grade testgear from the '40s-'60s: Hewlett-Packard, Measurements Corp., and General Radio. The rest is a stock of tubes: an awful lot of hopeless color-TV types, but numerous "radio" and "audio" types - like 12AX7s (41), 6L6GCs (37) and 6550s (25). For the Trans-Oceanic buff, there are no 1L6s, but nine 50A1s. In the realm of two-digit tubes, there's only one 01A, but 45s (6), 77s (142), etc. The list includes some magic-eye tubes: 6E5s (19) and 6U5s (11). "Seven-volt" loktals total 1384 pieces! There are some transmitting tubes too: 805s (12), 813s (25), 829Bs (91), 6146As (32), and so on. There is reportedly a good stock of phono needles. All in all, this sale seems to contain some Good Stuff.

FINKEL AUCTION, OCT. 1

DVHRC member and auctioneer Arnold Finkel will be selling a remarkable collection of 150 tube and 125 transistor radios on Sunday, Oct. 1 at the Holiday Inn in Kulpsville. Goods on sale are impossible to describe briefly, but include a wide variety of "hot" Emersons ("Patriot" to "Mae West"), numerous Catalin sets, a Pilot TV-37 3" TV set, and a wide selection of transistor sets; see the full-page ad in Sept. *Antique Radio Classified* for details. To get there: PA Turnpike to Northeast Extension (Rte. 9); exit from Extension at #31 (Lansdale); left from ramp, 300 feet to Holiday Inn. Terms: cash, Visa, MC; out-of-state checks if bank-guaranteed in advance. Details: (610) 395-0808.

HIGHTSTOWN MEET, OCT. 7

The New Jersey Antique Radio Club will hold its next event - an all-outdoors flea market - at Hightstown on Saturday, Oct. 7. The site is at Exit 8 of the NJ Turnpike, just off NJ Route 33. From the Turnpike, go east on Rte. 33 about 200 yards, past "Mom's Peppermill" restaurant; continue ¼ mile to the first jughandle, and come back west. At the first traffic light, bear right onto Monmouth St., then 300 yards to the "Hightstown Country Club" on the left. Rates: sellers, \$15 per table (\$3 discount to NJARC members); parking, \$2 per car. Food and beverages available. Contact for info and table reservations: Onalee Fisher, (908) 725-7476.

HUDSON VALLEY MEET, OCT. 21

The sixth annual "Old Time Radio & Phonograph Show" will be held Saturday, Oct. 21, 9 AM - 3 PM, at a new and larger all-indoors location: the Church of the Sacred Heart, Main St., Highland Falls, NY. It's within walking distance of the U. S. Military Academy and Hotel Thayer at West Point. Admission is \$2. The expected focus is radios & phonos, advertising, parts, manuals and books, 78s and cylinders, and related collectibles. Sponsor is the Hudson Valley Antique Radio & Phonograph Society. Contact for info is Gramm-O-Phone Antiques on 914-427-2602.

MEET REPORT - ARCI RADIOFEST

The Antique Radio Club of Illinois held its well established Radiofest at Elgin in August. The first two days had rain off-and-on, depressing the attendance to perhaps 70% of previous years' levels. Still, there was good material for sale: a Marconi wireless receiver, spark-vintage keys, a Federal 61, a De Forest D-10, and a Scott battery set. There appeared to be more novelty-set collectors this year, and fewer (but numerous) transistor radios. A British Mk I spark transmitter and matching receiver were in evidence. Scarce tubes being offered included W. E. 101F, 205D, and 300Bs, and a De Forest CF-185 (open) at a bargain price. Trading was reported to be brisk "the day before it opened" (shades of the old Rochester.) The equipment contest included a Sonatron amplifier with red, white, and blue tinted tubes. [Thanks to Jerry Vanicek and Bill Overbeck for reportage. Apparently three other DVHRCers besides Bill attended, driving 14 hours each way.]

RESTORATION TIP

PHILCO PUSHBUTTON AC SWITCHES

Alton A. DuBois, Jr.

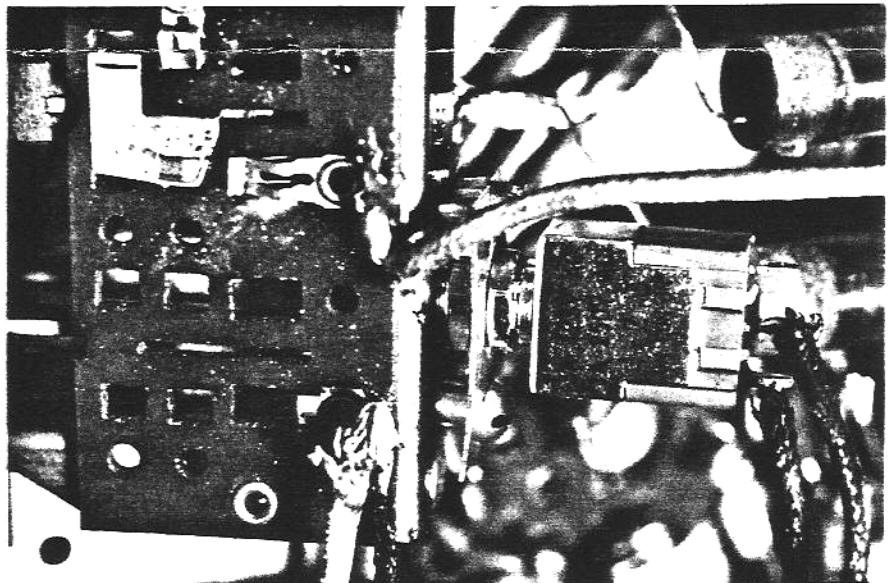
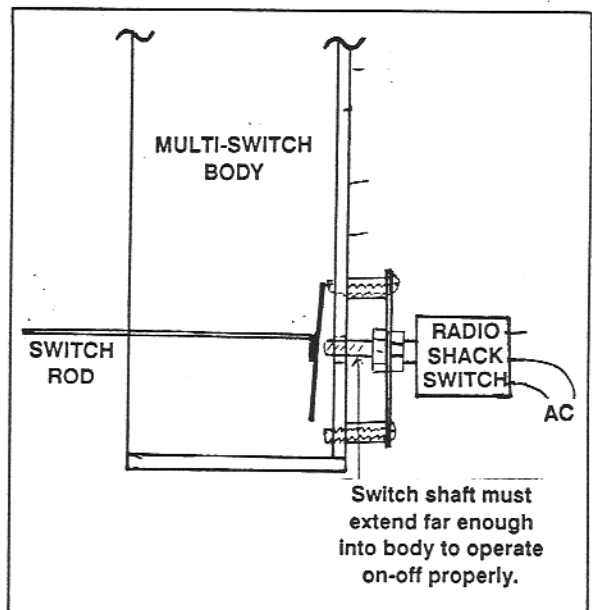
I have several Philco sets that have a row of pushbuttons, one of which is the on-off switch. My table model had a bad switch and someone had replaced the tone control with a control having an on-off switch. I decided to restore the original pushbutton switch by replacing the defective element.

Several hardware-store Leviton switches later, I decided to attack the problem differently. Since space was a little tight, I searched for a replacement that would fit, and came up with a Radio Shack unit that was small enough. Now, how to mount it? The rivets of the old switch were drilled out and screws long enough to hold a little bracket that had space for a double-nutted stem. I removed the plastic head from the new switch and, after several tries, made a small platform and threaded the rivet holes with a 3-48 thread with two precut brass standoff sleeves. The bolts hold the platform to the frame. I found that the bolts must not extend too far into the frame because of the push levers inside.

The biggest job is to remove the switch body from the set in order to adjust the height of the new switch and to thread the holes. Not easy to do when it's in the set! It's nothing really complicated - just a lot of leads to remove and put back.

The switch works very well now. I removed the tone-control switch and the controls operate as they did originally.

Right: the Philco switch body with the new AC switch bracketed on.



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.

WANTED: Desperately seeking a clean pressing of the Fats Waller 78-RPM record "Louisiana Farytale" on RCA Victor. Will pay a fair price or consider trade for 1920s vintage "race" or spoken-word records. Mike Koste, (215) 646-6488. (2-95)

FOR SALE: Triplett Model 4800 4-½ digit multimeter, \$100; RCA TV *Pict-O-Guide*, 1949, excellent condition. Don Rector, (215) 699-8050 after 7 PM. (9/10-95)

WANTED: Old, obsolete video equipment such as cameras, video recorders, and other television studio equipment, working or non-working. Particularly seeking Sanyo V-Cord video recorder and EIAJ ½" open-reel video recorders. Dave Sica, 1459 St. Georges Ave., Rahway, NJ, (908) 382-0618. (8/9-95)

FOR SALE: RCA WO-56A 7" scope with manual. All components are OK, except power transformer has a shorted turn and overheats after a few minutes. If you can get a transformer, it's a good scope. Make offer. Alton A. DuBois, Jr., 67 Peggy ann Rd., Queensbury, NY 12804, (518) 792-3130. (9/10-95)

WANTED: Transformers: Amertran 72CB, 151CB, 678; Ferranti AF3, AF5, AF5C, OPM5; Kenyon T215, K601; Stancor P4004; Thordarson 5822, 6793, 7431, 8334, T15R05, T90A04, T90S13, 22R14, 74A31, 75R50; Peerless G212Q, G252Q; Samson W, Y, Z; Silver-Marshall 230; UTC LS-19, LS-21, LS-35, LS-40, LS-65, LS-6L4, A-18, H-20, S-4, PA-422, R-5, R-8; Sansui H30-5; WE 233D. Tubes also needed: Radiotron 801; any VT-52. Thanks for helping. I have \$\$ or trades waiting. Larry Rubins, 2614 Old Stone Mill Dr., Cranbury, NJ 08512, (609) 426-9744 before 10 PM please. (8/9-95)

FOR SALE/TRADE: Metz 1211, \$65. Grundigs: 1088, \$125; 997, \$100, 3090, \$75; 1070, \$100; 2043W, \$100; 2035W/3D, \$100; 5060A, \$170; 2065, \$50. Emud T7, \$125. Nordmende Elektra 58, \$75. Blaupunkt Verona, \$50. Wega 809-1, \$20. English Pilot Jack, \$100. Nordmende Turandot, \$125. GE J62, \$35. RCA Stratoworld 3BX671, \$75. Fada, wood, '30s, \$30. Philco 54, \$75. Airline 1939 lowboy, \$60. RCA 56X3, \$50. RCA 95T5, \$50. Admiral, wood, battery, \$20. RCA 68R3, \$20. Garod 930 chassis, multiband, \$20. Hallicrafters SX-130, \$100. GE FB52, \$50. RCA 6RF9, \$25. Motorola 62T2, \$15. RCA RC1064, \$25. Philco 46-427, \$25. Philco 46-200, \$20. Philco 38-3, \$25. Majestic 7 Grigsby-Grunow chassis, \$20. Emerson bakelite, \$20. Firestone S7403-3, \$25. New "Empire of the Air," \$10. Gene Katz, KC6BLD, 212 Burnamwood, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08085, (609) 866-1189. (8/9-95)

SCATOLOGICAL SIGNALING?

NWRSAME technology uses Frequency Shift Keying (FSK) to transmit its code. According to NWS documentation, NWRSAME also uses its codes to send information indicating both the hazard message to be broadcast and the geographical region affected.

Radio World, July 12, 1995

WANTED: Help - I need a good-looking split-second robot dial face and shutters for Zenith 12S265. My black paint is peeling. Also looking for original-type grille cloth and wooden knobs for the same radio. Does anyone know what other models I could use a dial face from? Mark W. Hilliard, N3NBL, [new address] 921 Edward St., Allentown, PA 18103, [same phone] (610) 432-8089. (8/9-95)

SUMMER CLEARANCE: (Priced individually, or will swap entire group for an extra-nice high-style prewar wood or plastic table set): Golden Shield 90 Wave Band Transworld, six bands, 17 xtor, works great, \$35; RCA 54B3 miniature AM portable, red snakeskin plastic w/ chrome front and copper dial, as-found, displays well, \$35; Gray Spica ST600 xtor w/ leather case, as-found, \$35; turquoise Olympic 450, very cute, looks xtor but is a Japanese tube portable, small crack, as-found, \$30; Green leather Dumont 354 AM portable, works, strap missing, \$25; Sunmark SM-8AT, 8-xtor AM w/ auto-tuning, strap missing, works, VGC, \$25; Arvin 547 "leftie," black plastic, white knobs, as-found, \$25. Mike Koste, (215) 646-6488. (9-95)

WANTED: BC-312, BC-314, BC-342, or BC-344 receiver - junker with good case. Alan Klase, N3FRQ, 22 Cherryville-Stanton Rd., Flemington, NJ 08822, (908) 782-4829. (8/9-95)

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.

RCA GROUP WELCOMES MEMBERS

Alton A. DuBois, Jr.

Around 1981 an RCA Retirees Club was formed. Members from Long Island, Manhattan, Bronx, and Westchester joined up. Many in Cherry Hill had gotten their start in these areas and also joined. Others who had moved to Florida and other places are members. If there are any former RCA Service Company employees, be they techs or management, they should be aware that the Club is open to all, even those who started their careers at RCA but did not retire from the company.

The Club puts out a newsletter and welcomes comments and information on what people are doing now. If interested, the secretary is Frank Maul, 39-63 Bernice Rd., Seaford, NY 11783, or vice president John Eisele, 233 Columbus Pkwy., Mineola, NY 11501.

READER COMMENTS

Ross Smith of the Indiana Historical Radio Society, on reading the list of production figures for Signal Corps radio gear in the July *Oscillator*, was reminded that his employer, CTS Corporation, had turned out a couple of hundred thousand RM-29 remote-control sets during WW II. The RM-29 was an adapter, placed at a radio transmitter-receiver, which allowed an ordinary field telephone (EE-8) to remote-control the radio over a couple of miles of field wire. It worked with such famous radios as the SCR-178, -284, -608, -609, -610, and -628; hence the large production. The RM-29 was basically a steel-cased magneto (hand-cranked) telephone set with control features added, so it was appropriate for CTS to make them: the company had gotten its start much earlier, making magneto farm phones as Chicago Telephone Supply.

TENUOUS CONNECTIONS

Bob Thomas, W3QZO

A pioneer amateur who actually lived the times we savor passes his artifacts to a museum for preservation. A collector/historian informs us of a unique and somewhat mysterious artifact he has acquired from that earlier era. A messenger, fortunate to know both individuals and to be in the right place at the right time, notices the confluence of these two circumstances, forging one more "tenuous connection" in the ever-expanding web of antique radio.

The title of this piece does not refer to broken wires or cold solder joints. Rather, it is about events and people who came together in a singular example of the way in which the innumerable, seemingly haphazard branches of our hobby crisscross one another to create that complex lacework we fondly refer to as "Antique Radio Collecting."

The "tenuous connection" about to be described began in June, during a visit to Jack Williamson, W3GC. Jack, co-founder of Barker and Williamson, had recently moved to a retirement community, and had several items he wanted to donate to the Antique Wireless Association Museum in Rochester. I offered to spare him the trouble of packing the material by personally delivering it to the Museum when I go to Rochester in September to attend the AWA Annual Conference. Among the paper items Jack was donating to the AWA were several 1925 issues of a rare magazine called *Amateur Radio*. Naturally, since they would be in my possession for several months, I took the opportunity to read all the magazines, which were quite absorbing, and then set them aside in readiness for the trip north.

Amateur Radio began publication in January 1921 as *The Modulator*, with articles on contemporary technical developments and on current events amateur-radio community. At some fledgling ham publication called *Radio* ports on traffic handling and DX. The was supplemented by revenue from manufacturers of the day. One of the gan, who went on to found Hallicrafters. M. Glaser, 2BRB; Fred Parsons, 2ABM; lication was produced under the auspice-District, Inc., which represented techniclubs in the vicinity of New York City ivity sponsored by the Executive Council-Division Radio Show and Convention, in Manhattan. Jack Williamson recalls is one-half of a "tenuous connection."



and personalities of the Second District point the magazine absorbed another *Relays*, resulting in the addition of re-modest \$2.00 per year subscription cost numerous advertisements by leading Associate Editors was William J. Halli- Regular writers included the prolific E. and the Editor, Lloyd Jacquet. The pubes of the Executive Council, Second al and political interests of eleven radio and Northern New Jersey. Another actil was organization of the ARRL Hudson held annually at the Hotel Pennsylvania attending one of the Conventions. This

Now for the other half: The August DVHRC *Oscillator* presented "Collecting Radio Lapel Buttons," wherein Ludwell Sibley described the satisfaction derived from augmenting normal antique-radio interests with subsidiary items, such as lapel buttons that were distributed to publicize various activities in the Radio Days. One of the buttons illustrated in Lud's article was issued by - guess who? The Executive Council Convention, New York, 1921. Connection completed!

Another look at the above:

THE HUDSON DIVISION CONVENTION OF 1925

Bob Thomas, W3QZO

The March 1925 issue of *Amateur Radio* announced the 5th Annual Radio Show and Convention, to be held in New York City on March 2-7. The cover of that issue carried a heart-rending scene in which a lad wearing a peaked cap and knickers with a hole in one knee - obviously a young radio enthusiast - stands forlornly by the entrance to the Hotel Pennsylvania, observing a grand couple and a smartly-dressed little girl emerge from a big limousine and enter through a door attended by a uniformed doorman. A sign above the boy announces the radio show, with "Children under 16 not admitted unless accompanied by parent." Makes you want to cry!

An article the following month described the convention. What a grand affair it must have been! Exhibitors included RCA, which displayed a three-foot model of a UV-199 Radiotron; General Radio; Adams-Morgan, with broadcast sets; Dubilier; Pyrex; Cardwell; REL; Brightson Laboratories, with their "True Blue" tubes; and the U. S. Signal Corps, showing its new SCR-157 500-watt transmitter on 900-1600 meters. Other exhibitors were

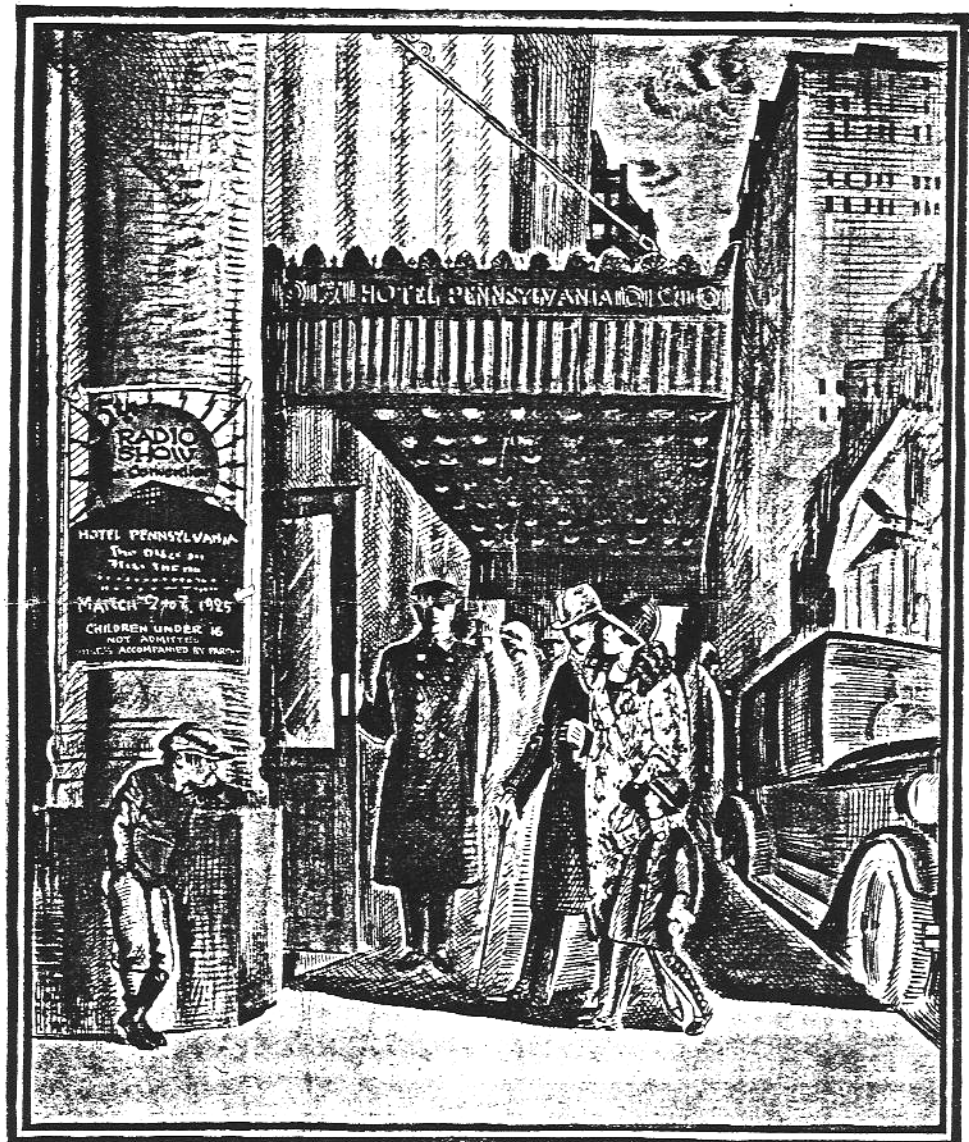
Howard B. Jones of connect-or fame, Amber Mfg. Co. with its "MarvODyne, featuring the Filameter," and Resas, showing the Tone-A-Dyne set ("heard 70 stations between 8 and 11 PM"). Local clubs went all-out with displays. The Bronx Radio Club had a diorama of the dirigible Shenandoah passing over a house with a fully detailed interior, including a ham shack with transmitter. The Long Island club displayed 2GL's transmitter. "A spark set whooped things up . . . [and you could] hear the rip and crash of 'Old Betsy'."

The banquet was like nothing you'll see today. No sweatshirts or jeans at this affair! This was a grand event and all the participants extracted the utmost pleasure from it by dressing accordingly. A photograph shows throngs of men, and some YLs, in attendance. Captain Droste, 2IN, was Toastmaster and ARRL founder Hiram Percy Maxim was principal speaker. Maxim asked all the hams who had communicated with England to stand, and so many rose, "It really [did] not seem possible that so many stations operated by amateurs could be so successful . . ." Those were the days!

Amateur Radio

MARCH, 1925

20 CENTS



THE CRISCO KID

Mike Koste

As Philco cathedrals go, the Model 84B is downright humble in style and performance compared to the mighty 70 and 90 models. The radio in question was unearthed at a Philadelphia antique shop about three years ago. Short of a remarkably bad re-varnishing, the cabinet was solid and it appeared to be complete electronically.

"Well, it lights up but it doesn't play . . . probably just needs a tube."

Having heard this countless times from experts in the antiques and collectibles field, I decided to play along.

"Actually, I was planning on stripping out the guts, wiring up a Walkman to the speaker and spray-painting it green to match the tile in my downstairs bathroom. I think it'd make a great conversation piece."

While the shopkeeper was rattling off some nonsense about replacing that hideous grille cloth with something in a tie-dyed motif, I was trying with all my might to keep from cracking a grin, knowing full well I had her over a barrel. To be honest, the asking price was more than fair, but having gained her confidence, I shamelessly asked, "Would you take twenty bucks?"

Tucking the sticky 84B under my arm and heading for the door, deep in the back of my mind I thought I heard the public-address announcer proclaim "Final score, Radio Collector 1, Shopkeeper Nothing!" (SFX: crowd cheers, fade to black, and the band played on.)

Like a kid with a new toy on the seat next to me, I actually began to look forward to stopping at every red light I could to allow extra time to admire my latest purchase. The longer it took to drive home made me realize more and more that the sub-par varnish job was going to be more of a challenge than I first thought. Once the '34 Philco hit the workbench, my suspicion suddenly turned fear. Not only had the cosmetic coat clogged the exterior, it was apparent that the maniac with the spray can hadn't bothered to remove the chassis to do so. There was tacky brown crud on the inside too. The celluloid dial indicator was coated, the tubes and tube shields showed signs of overspray and the knobs were literally cemented into place. (I had to wonder if this was the Almighty's punishment for my acting like such a rube in the antique shop.)

The chassis screws on the bottom of the set being the only part of the radio that wasn't clogged with resin, removing them posed no problem. Likewise, the tuning knob which could stay screwed to the shaft while removing the chassis. The stuck volume-control knob was the only thing keeping me from dismantling the radio to see what I really had. Fearing damage to the knob, chipping or prying at the setscrew hole was out of the question. A dab of paint-and-varnish remover might render the knob into a melted wad of whats-it, further complicating the clean-up. Reaching for the safest solvent I could think of, I gave the old girl a shot of WD-40, crossed my fingers and called it a night.

Imagine my surprise when I went down to the cellar Sunday morning. The WD had done its job, at least to the point where I was able to liberate the radio safely from the cabinet. Setting the chassis aside, I moistened a cotton ball with a bit of diluted industrial-strength degreaser to clean up the stray lubricant and residue. Not only did the cotton ball mop up the mess, it was apparently having some major effect on the amateur varnish application. More degreaser and a couple of cotton balls later, it was revealed the original finish underneath was totally intact. Totally amazed at my findings, I switched from cotton balls to a soft rag. The degreaser was working wonders! What I was removing wasn't varnish at all, but decades of caked-on cooking grease! I can only imagine that my 84B had spent several decades on the kitchen shelf of a low-ball beanery or lunchwagon, absorbing airborne particles of french fry and flounder fillet fuel. The entire process took little more than an hour to complete. When all was said and done, the cathedral was spotless . . . not a mark on it! Almost like an insect that got embedded in tree sap, buried, fossilized and now on display at the natural-history museum. A quick once-over with some Murphy's Oil Soap removed the haze from the wood and I set the cabinet aside to dry. (I later finished it off with a rubdown of lemon oil.)

Working slowly and carefully, I started on the chassis in a similar fashion. The degreaser was working wonders. Since the ingredients in the product dissolved the printing on the tubes I decided I'd be better off leaving the fragile dial alone. (I've heard of countless cases where even something as delicate as water has lifted the India-ink printing off those 1930s Philco dials.) Replacing the tubes, I stepped back to admire my work, wondering if, since the grease had preserved the cabinet so well, the same couldn't also be true of the electronics. The underside of the chassis had stayed remarkably clean and nothing looked scorched or otherwise out of the ordinary. What the heck, you only paid twenty bucks for the radio . . . why don't you give it a try? (Sure, I know better now and would never suggest anybody power up a radio in this fashion, but after all my luck and surprises, I was feeling reckless.)

Plug in, power on: lights, camera, but no action.

I waited a few moments, hoping that, once she warmed up, she'd respond. Nothing. Reality beginning to

rear its ugly head, I jiggled the volume knob. Aah! A little crackle from the speaker. A shot of WD-40. Then silence. Damn!

Turning the radio off in disgust, all I could do was sit there and stare at it, figuring I'd paid the price for being overconfident and overanxious. I pulled the plug and carried it upstairs, figuring it was still attractive enough to display even if it wouldn't play. Setting it on the shelf, my wife walked in and asked "Is it finished?" Stepping back from the bookcase to give her a better look, she instantly remarked at what a pretty radio it was. "Plug it in and let me hear it." Not wanting my lack of machismo and expertise show, I obliged. "Turn it a little bit to the right so I can see the dial light up."

Holding the radio from the bottom, I brought it into clearer view and instructed her to turn it on. Not only did the Philco light up, it was also playing! Trying not to look surprised, I suggested she try and tune it in better when I realized what I was doing. In my excitement and haste, I had never hooked up a wire to the antenna lead. Having tinkered with a number of later-model All American Fives with built-in loops, it'd totally slipped my mind that this little four-tube gem wouldn't work without an antenna. Apparently, while holding the radio up for my wife to get a better look, I had my thumb on the antenna lug on the back of the set. It was working like a champ. Viva Crisco!

Later that day, the love of my life again commented on what a nice piece we'd added to the collection and asked, "Was it hard to fix?" Glancing up at the Crisco Kid, I hesitated, flashed on the conversation with the seller the day before and replied, "The lady in the antique shop was right. Just needed a tube."

'PHONE THE POLICE—



- IF YOU SEE A CRIME COMMITTED
- IF SUSPICIOUS PERSONS LOITER ABOUT YOUR PREMISES
- IF DANGER THREATENS IN ANY WAY

TELEPHONE AND THE NEW
POLICE RADIO SYSTEM
WILL BRING YOU HELP IN A HURRY

HELP FIGHT CRIME
EDWARD P. MULROONEY POLICE COMMISSIONER 240 CENTRE STREET MANHATTAN

Old-time sales trick:

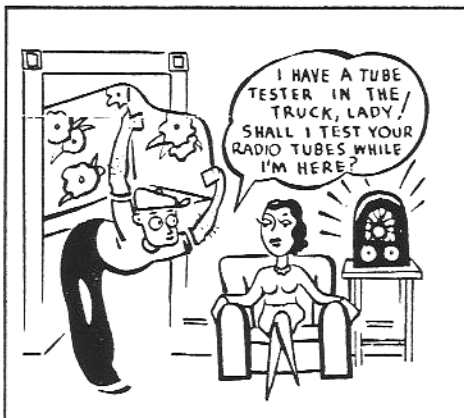
FURNITURE DELIVERYMAN SELLS TUBES

J. M. Cazessus

1233 Divisadero St., San Francisco, Calif.

RCA Radio Service News, July 1937

Being essentially a furniture store, our RCA Tube sales normally do not amount to much. However, we have devised a means of materially increasing our RCA Tube sales, and with profits derived through this means, materially reducing our delivery overhead. Our plan, a simple one, is adaptable to any business where RCA Tubes are sold.



Our delivery truck is equipped with a portable tube tester, along with a small supply of the more popular or common RCA Tubes. When delivering an item that the customer has previously purchased, for example, a chesterfield suite, we mention the fact that we happen to have the tube tester along, and ask the customer's permission to check the radio tubes. This permission is granted almost without exception. It is then an easy matter to sell replacements right there and then. Often in the better homes two or three sets are checked. Tubes not stocked aboard the truck are delivered immediately from the store.

It is therefore evident that the profits gained from these extra sales of RCA Tubes will materially decrease the cost of delivering our regular merchandise.