OSCILLATOR

DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO CLUB

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC **Vol. 4 No. 9, September 1996**

"Bring us your tired, your poor, your unfinished projects . . . "

IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER DVHRC

TAILGATE AUCTION

Tuesday, Sept. 10, 6:45 PM - Until . .
(Preceding our regular monthly meeting)

North Penn Amusements Parking Lot
117 Main St. (Rte. 113), Souderton, PA

Clean out your shop, attic, and/or garage and rid your life of excess dead-or-alives, surplus parts, chasses, cabinets, tubes, and Elgin or Rochester left-overs. Those without items to sell are cordially invited to bring as many Dead Presidents as they wish. (You may end up driving home with a treasure.) Sellers, get there early for a prime parking space. Buyers, get there early to preview the bargains!

FROM THE "FINE PRINT" DEPARTMENT: The club will collect a 10% commission on all auction sales, or a flat $5 on items over $50. Although this event is not being promoted as an unreserved auction, sellers would do us all a favor and speed the proceedings along by leaving their "gotta get at least a hundred" items at home.

THE OSCILLATOR

Newsletter of the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club
Post Office Box 41031, Philadelphia, PA 19127

The *Oscillator* is published monthly by members of the non-profit DVHRC. Its purpose is to provide a forum to educate, inform, entertain, and communicate with collectors and preservers of vintage radio technology.

We welcome and solicit information relating to radio history or collecting. Submissions should be carefully researched, typed and accompanied with clear photographs or diagrams. Material on-disc (3-½" or 5-¼ DOS) is particularly welcome.

Unless indicated otherwise, attributed reproduction for nonprofit purposes of any material in this publication is welcome. (Contact the editor to obtain copy on-disc.)

Personal views, opinions and technical advice offered in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the members, officers or Board of Directors of the DVHRC, nor is the organization responsible for any buying or selling transaction incurred.

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

Mike Koste

A near-mountain of test gear at auction, an entertaining video, a couple of rarely seen show-'n-tell items, four new members and 43 of the usual suspects made for a memorable summer evening in Souderton. Among the new recruits, the DVHRC welcomed the newly elected president of the Jersey Club, Jim Whartenby, and his charming wife Ruth. Michael Clark of Chalfont, Rich Kelly of Norristown, and another long-distance club commuter Rob Loeser of South Hempstead, NY also had their first look at the organization and joined on the spot. Michael told the *Oscillator* that he's new to the hobby and is presently seeking interesting plastic sets. On the other hand, Rob's passion is for battery radios and he's constantly on the hunt for accompanying horn speakers. According to his Pennsylvania counterpart, Whartenby should be considered a "full-spectrum" collector (translation: He Likes It, He Buys It).

DVHRC President Bill Overbeck reported on the laying of groundwork for a possible informal inter-club picnic and swap-meet with NJARC. Messrs. Overbeck and Whartenby are spearheading the effort to locate a mutually agreeable date and site. Bill also made members aware of the Jersey club's fall meet-auction (details below).

A show of hands indicated major support for a DVHRC-sponsored indoor winter meet in February. Bill's eyeballing an easy-access church hall in the Havertown area. Stay tuned.

Preceding a fascinating video sketching the history of the old Philco plant at C and Tioga in Philadelphia provided by Lewis Newhard, members got a peek at a couple of premium show-'n-tell items: a classic RCA microphone from the Koste collection, and resident videophile Dave Abramson's television color wheel: a seemingly over-complicated '50s contraption that would convert a black-and-white TV picture to color operation.

On the auction front, test equipment took center stage with a multitude of VOMs, scopes, power supplies, meters, and signal generators. A fine deco-styled Fada plastic table set and a late Emerson Catalin changed hands, along with a couple of dozen other assorted styles and vintages of radios. A nice, though untested, Radiola 17 with a working 100-A speaker and a near-mint Weston multitester from the early '30s failed to meet minimum bid.

The association also accepted a working Philco tube portable and an AM/FM Zenith table radio donated by non-member Buck Shelton of Plymouth Meeting who "couldn't bear to just throw them away." The sale of these items through the DVHRC auction benefitted the club treasury. We thank Buck for his consideration!

MUSEUM NEWS

Mike Koste

If Tom Corcoran has his way, the monolithic stained-glass Nipper will again be winking across the Delaware. According to an article in the August 8 edition of the Philadelphia *Daily News*, Corcoran and Cooper's Ferry Development Corporation (the group responsible for the New Jersey State Aquarium and the new Sony/Blockbuster Entertainment Center) plan to transform the remains of Building 17 (AKA the "Nipper Tower") of the old RCA Victor complex in Camden into yet another tourist attraction along the Delaware riverfront.

Area historian Frederick Barnum III says "there's only one spot in America" that deserves a Museum of Recorded Sound: Camden, original home of the Victor Talking Machine Company and later the RCA Victor Corporation. What

ON THE HORIZON

Sept. 4-7	AWA Conference, Marriott Thruway, Rochester, NY
Sept. 8	Gaithersburg (MD) Hamfest, Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds, Exit 11 from I-270.
Sept. 15	Delaware Valley Radio Association (not DVHRC!) first "Fallfest," at "Tall Cedars of Lebanon," Sawmill Rd. (off Old York Rd.), Hamilton Twp., NJ, opening 8 AM. Info: (609) 882-2240.
Sept. 22	Phono/music box sale, Bound Brook, NJ, Ukrainian Cultural Center, from Exit 6 of I-287; details: Lynn Bilton, (330) 628-7407.
Oct. 5	NJARC Swapmeet/Auction (see below).
Oct. 5	Central PA Radio Collectors meet, Danville (see below).
Oct. 12	HARPS Swapmeet, Highland Falls, NY.
Oct. 13	MAARC Picnic - Arcadia Fairgrounds, Arcadia, MD (same spot as last year).

Corcoran has in mind is a combination museum of sound technology and culture, and contemporary entertainment complex. Price tag? $15-20,000,000.

Come fall, the Cooper's Ferry group will begin soliciting corporate support of the project through the Bertlesman Group, owners of RCA records; French electronics giant Thomson-CSF, which produces RCA TVs; JVC (Japan Victor Corp.); and the British company HMV ("His Master's Voice").

In the 1930s and '40s, the RCA plant in Camden became the world's leading* producer of radios and by the post-war era, the manufacturing king of televison sets* and professional broadcasting equipment. The museum is planned to occupy 25,000 square feet of the first two floors of the six-story structure and may actually stretch across Delaware Street to an newly constructed building to house a combination theater/recording studio.

As of this writing, DVHRC is in the process of opening a dialogue with the powers that be in this project, if for no other reason to offer our support and encouragement. We wish them great success.

* This per the *News* story; use grain-of-salt. Let's not forget the Indianapolis TV plant, etc. - Ed.

RADIOFEST REPORT

We have a flash report on the flea market at Radiofest from DVHRC's Chicago agent. Weather was fine. Attendance was apparently down a bit due to the back-to-back scheduling with the Rochester event, yet healthy; there were a couple of collectors from California who planned to travel on to Rochester. Some decent "wireless" gear was available, plus a Radak receiver. Breadboards were in good supply - buyers were seen lugging away half a dozen. Asking prices for BBs were in the $850 area, although one was offered, less an RF coil, for $300. The usual transistor and novelty radios were available, with TR-1s running in the $350 range (no longer $1000). TRF battery sets were in good supply and going for $75 or so with tubes. There were some nice collectible tubes; an extraordinarily rare Marconi-Osram F. E. 1 went for $100. There were other oddities like experimental McCullough tubes, and a brisk trade in "audio" types.

NJARC MEET-AUCTION, HIGHTSTOWN

The New Jersey club is planning another swapmeet and auction for Saturday, Oct. 5. This is at the Hightstown "Country Club" on NJ 33, at Exit 8 of the Turnpike. The flea market will open at 7:30, with auction checkin from 9:00 to 10:30 and auction at noon. Auctioneer will be the well known Sam Cannan of MAARC. Table rates (outdoors) are $15 ($3 discount to NJARC members); parking is $2 per car. Food is available nearby, as are three motels. Internet users can get the latest scoop at http://www.globalent.net/oldradio. Phone users can get reservations from Marv Beeferman on (609) 693-9430, and general info from Bill Overbeck on (610) 789-8199. Auction sellers who want to get their stuff into the sale catalog can contact Ludwell Sibley (early) on (908) 782-4894.

CENTRAL PA RADIO COLLECTORS MEET, DANVILLE

Another Central Pennsylvania meet is planned, this one for Saturday, Oct. 5. New location: the Cloverleaf Barn Antique and Gift Village on Rte. 54W in Danville (east of Williamsport). The event starts at 7:30 AM; no charge for dealer spaces. Food will be available. The site is reached from Exit 33 of I-80. Contact: Frank Hagenbuch, (717) 326-0932, or Mike Heffner, (717) 546-2907.

FCC SHUTS DOWN

Ludwell Sibley

The August issue of *QST* reported that the FCC has closed 12 of its high-frequency monitoring sites. Locations eliminated, or at least de-staffed, were famous names: Belfast, ME; Powder Springs, GA; Vero Beach, FL; San Juan, PR; Allegan, MI; Kingsville, TX; Grand Island, NE; Anchorage, AK; Douglas, AZ; Livermore, CA; Honolulu, HI; and Ferndale, WA. Nothing was said about the station at Laurel, MD. The implication is that computer-controlled re-

ceivers and direction finders can be operated remotely from the Laurel site over data links, allowing the elimination of three-shift, 7-days staffing of the outlying sites.

Grand Island was perhaps the most famous of these sites. Opened in the early '30s, it was written up in the technical press as something of a marvel. This was in the days when every broadcast station was required to sign on, in a 15-minute period after midnight one day a month, so that an FCC (or FRC, then) station could measure its frequency.

These stations became famous for their wartime activities too: recording foreign broadcasts, direction-finding on German spy stations on the East Coast, radio-locating lost aircraft, and so on. For years, *Radio News*, *Popular Electronics*, and the like ran periodic stories with titles like "Kilocycle Kops" - perhaps part of a deliberate FCC public-relations effort to convince the public that unauthorized radio transmissions would be detected and punished. There was even a two-reel wartime movie, a 20-minute MGM feature "Patrolling the Ether," which showed fictionalized FCC exploits. (This would be a complete *gas* to show at a club meeting today. I tried contacting a specialty video house on this one a couple of years ago, without result.)

Long ago, I wanted to demonstrate the signal of border-blaster XERF and its zigawatt signal to one of my college buddies; but couldn't remember the frequency. This was late on a Friday night (in California). No problem: we called up the Livermore monitoring station. "1570," the duty operator said. In the background we could hear a receiver being tuned, followed by XERF programming. "Yeah," he said, "they're coming through fine tonight." Pretty good customer service!

The FCC-as-superspook image faded badly when CB fever broke out. It was if thousands of ordinary citizens (well, hundreds, anyway) vowed to take back the spectrum from the faceless bureaucrats in Washington; a sort of Militia of the Air. The Commission "broke its pick" trying to police *that* radio service. About the best they could do was to organize a raid every couple of years, where FCC field guys would team up with FBI agents for firepower. Armed with a court order, they'd bust into a factory making CB linear amps, confiscating parts and completed linears.

Today, of course, HF monitoring is a different story. No more receiving operators glued to their Hallicrafters SX-28s; no more direction-finder experts hand-rotating an Adcock array for a signal null and then typing the results on a teletype to a plotting station. Instead, a receiver is keyboard-tuned to the suspicious frequency, and a phase-measurement system puts out a digital azimuth automatically.

WANT ADS

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

FOR SALE: Philco AM-SW console, late '30s-early '40s, cabinet dusty but finish good. Barb, (908) 284-0642. (9-10/96)

FREE FOR THE ASKING: Radio chasses with all parts, available because my restoration plans ran out of steam. Choose from the following: early '30s Philco console, Emerson model 541 table radio, late '30s table radio with no manufacturer indicated. Also, EMC model 206 tube tester. The condition is rough but it works. Bruce Knapp, Rutherford, NJ, (201) 804-9259. (8-9/96)

ON THE NET: The latest A. G. Tannenbaum catalog - much bigger than the old one - is available on the Internet at www.voicenet.com/~K2BN. Besides literature, it includes antique radios for sale, hi-fi equipment, test-gear, and parts. (9-10/96)

FOR SALE: All or part of 6 cartons of old radio & TV schematics, manuals, books, substitution guides, Sams' Photofacts, test equipment, magazines, etc., 1930 thru 1960s. Martin Fleisher, 12 Zellers Road, Box 123, Long Valley, NJ 07853, (908) 832-7047. (8-9/96)

WANTED: Someone to repair/rebuild a small Philco cathedral for me at a reasonable price. Mark Freilich, (610) 275-3140 days. (8-9/96)

WANTED: Phonograph-related items - top dollar paid immediately for Vogue Picture Records, wax-cylinder records, needle tins, Nipper, record cleaners, puzzles, advertising mirrors, pins, phonograph toys, posters, original advertising from Edison and Victor. Thanks! Bernie Seinberg, 714 Moredon Rd., Meadowbrook, PA 19046-1907, (215) 886-6124. (9-10/96)

TRANSISTORS FOR SALE: 1961 Toshiba 10TL-429F AM-FM (Bunis Transistor, p. 220), $35; white 1957 Arvin 9574P (Lane, p. 226), $50; 1961 Crestline 6T-220, made by Toshiba (identical to Windsor model of the same number on p. 123 of lane), coral-colored w/ gold reverse paint, complete with leather case, $45. Mike Koste, (215) 646-6488. (8-9/96)

FOR SALE: The DVHRC tube program offers clean, tested, boxed tubes at very reasonable prices with availability at any club meeting. Proceeds go to the club. About 300 types are currently in stock. Of course, donations of radio-type tubes in any condition are welcome. See Charlie Class at any monthly meeting to obtain or donate tubes.

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.

READERS' COMMENTS

PHONETICS, PHASE III

Oscillator reader Alan Klase has pointed out that the German phonetic alphabet of WW II is available in a War Dept. tech manual, TME 11-227, "German Radio Communication Equipment," June 1944. On the theory that anything worth doing is worth overdoing, here's yet another phonetic code.

Anton	**C**harlotte	**G**ustav	**K**onrad	**O**tto	**R**ichard	**Ü**bel	**Y**psilon
Ärger	**D**ora	**H**einrich	**L**udwig	**Ö**dipus	**S**iegfried	**V**iktor	**Z**eppelin
Bertha	**E**mil	**I**da	**M**artha	**P**aula	**T**heodor	**W**ilhelm	**Sch**ule
Cäsar	**F**riedrich	**J**ulius	**N**ordpol	**Q**uelle	**U**lrich	**X**anthippe	

As the Signal Corps put it, "[t]he above [plate] attached to a recently captured German field telephone shows the phonetic alphabet currently used by German signal personnel in voice communications. It is interesting to note that many items of German radio equipment are given nicknames from this phonetic alphabet, for example, the "Fu D 2" set is referred to as "Dora," the "Fu B," as "Bertha," etc."

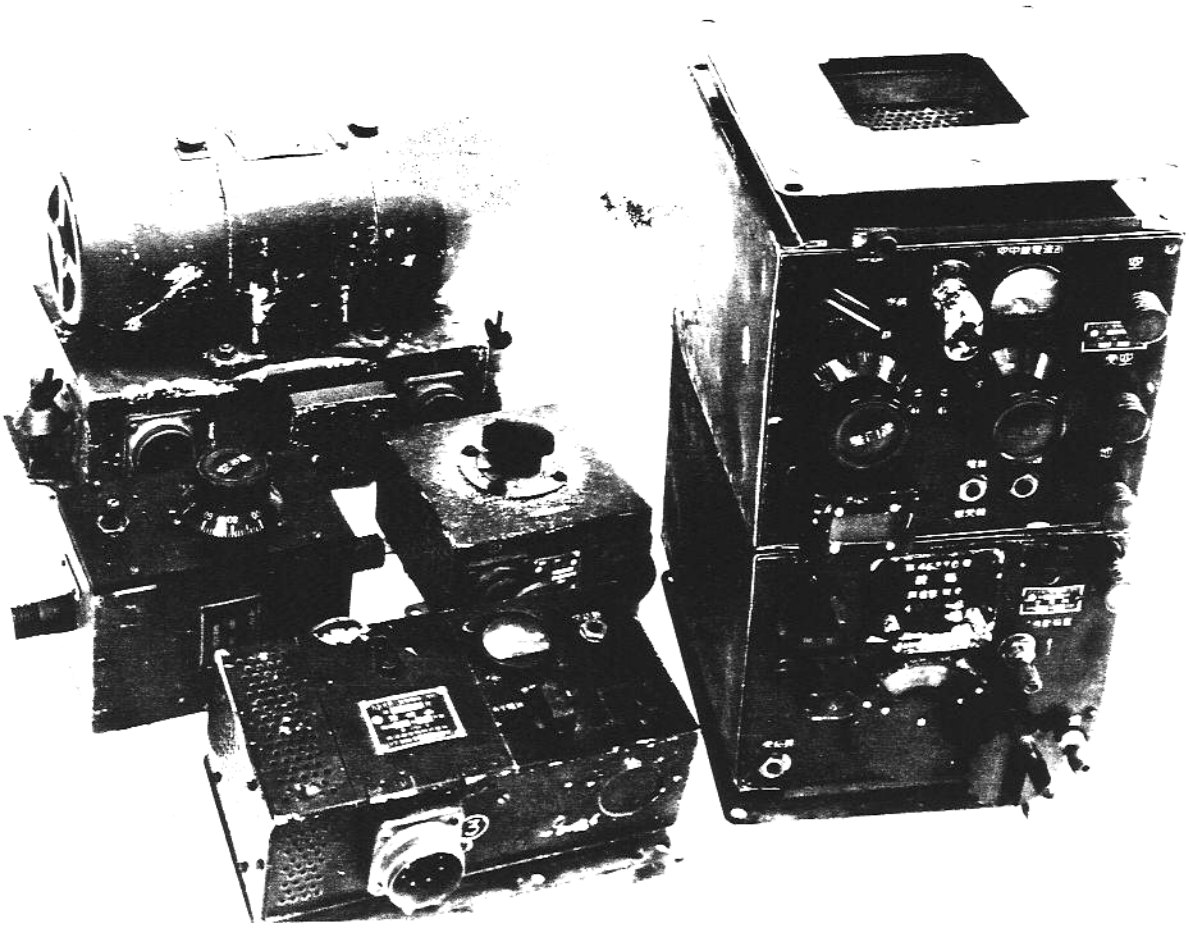
"This alphabet may be of use to communications personnel of the Allied forces engaged in intercept work."

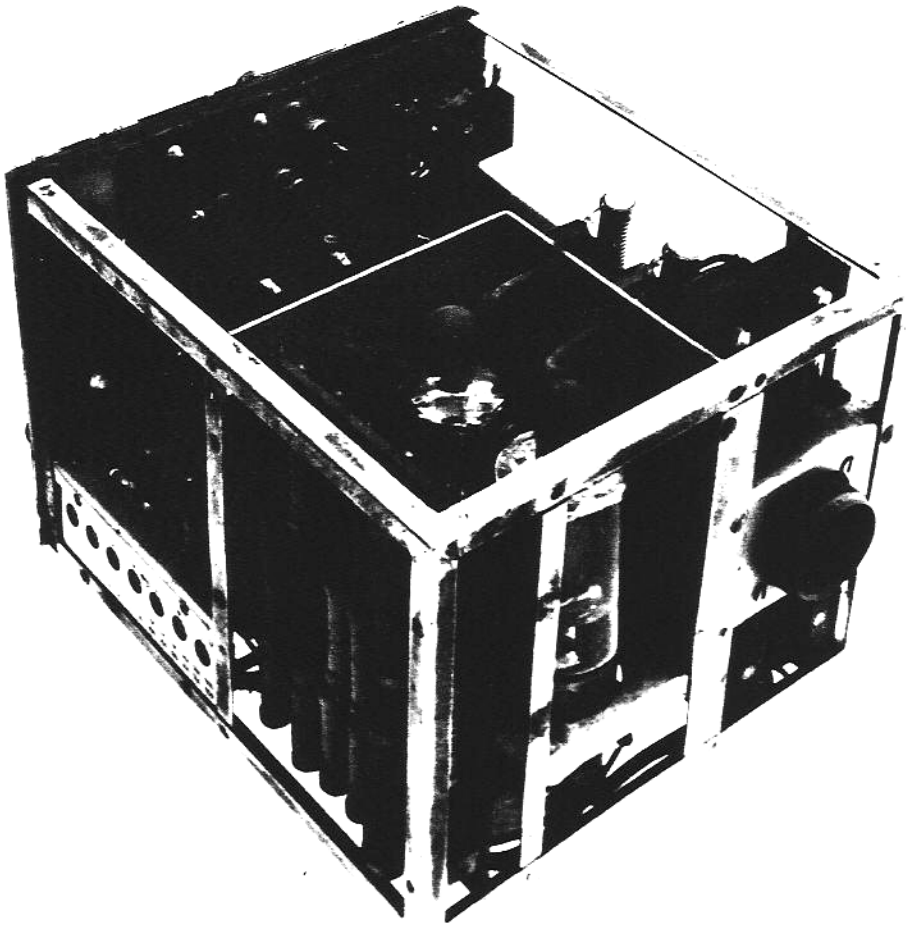
READERS' COMMENTS

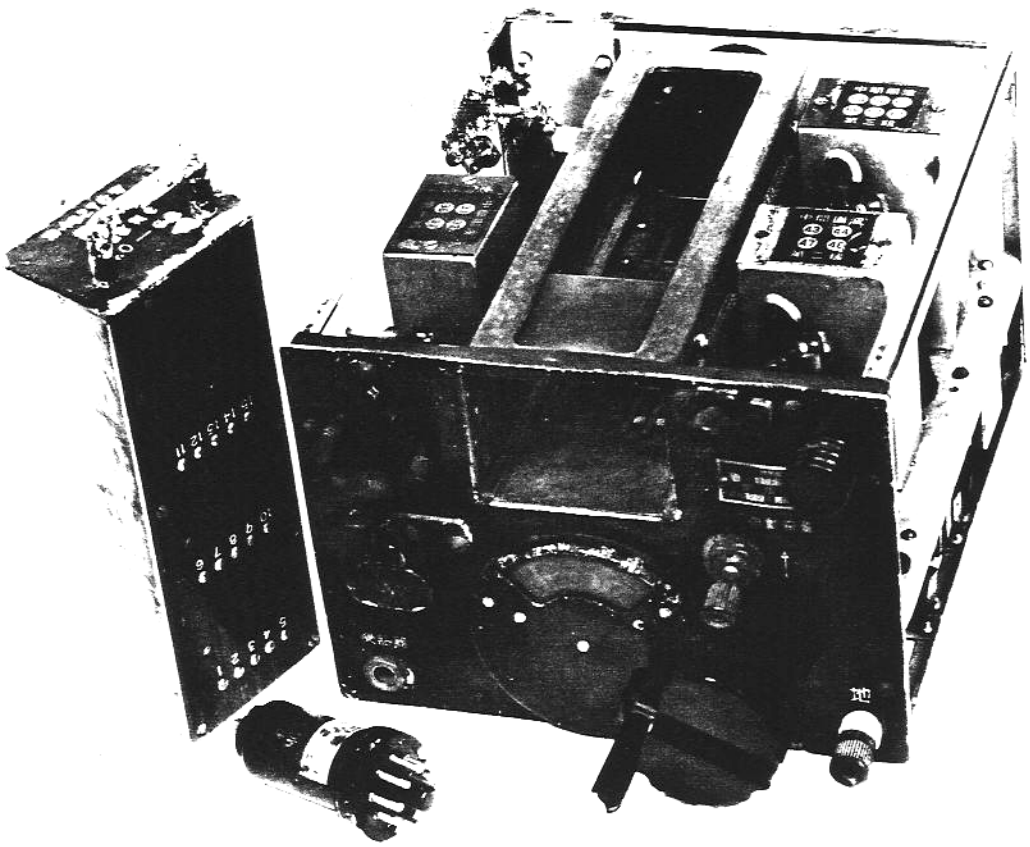
JAPANESE OCTAL TUBES

There was some mention in a recent *Oscillator* of . . . surprise at the discovery of Japanese octal tubes. I thought you might like to see some, and the equipment ("Model 99 Type 3, 2nd version") they were used in, the equivalent of our Command Sets. The receiver uses five "MC-804A" tubes and the transmitter a pair of 807As. The 804As are dated May and June 1945 - one suspects that this set may have had a very short service life, of one sortie. It has evidently been exposed to weather for some time, and I was told it came from a shot-down bomber. . . I'm enclosing a copy of a [story] from *Wireless World* on an earlier version of this set.

It just occurred to me there might be some octal tubes listed in the 1939 Tokyo Electric history, and sure enough . . . Tokyo Electric (trade name Matsuda or Mazda) was GE's licensee - combined in 1939 with Shiba-Ura Engineering Works (place name meaning "grassy inlet") to form Toshiba, which is still GE's affiliate. - **Alan Douglas**







JAPANESE AIRBORNE RADIO

The Model 99, type 3 receiver, used in Japanese reconnaissance-bomber aircraft, employs four similar valves of the triode-pentode type, identical with the American 6P7. The circuit is arranged as follows:

RF amplifier:	Pentode section of Valve 1
Mixer:	Triode section of Valve 2
Oscillator:	Pentode section of Valve 2
1st IF amplifier:	Pentode section of Valve 3
2nd IF amplifier:	Pentode section of Valve 4
2nd det. & beat osc.:	Triode section of Valve 4
1st AF amplifier:	Triode section of Valve 1
2nd AF amplifier:	Triode section of Valve 3

The receiver has an intermediate frequency of 450 kc/s and a tuning range of 1.5 to 6.7 Mc/s in two bands with interchangeable coils. There is provision for reception on one crystal-controlled spot frequency. No AVC is incorporated. A folding handle is provided to speed up movement from one part of the dial to another, since the fixed reduction ratio of the show-motion tuning drive is 114:1.

The design makes no contribution to our knowledge of reception technique but is an advance on Japanese-built receivers of two or three years ago.

Wireless World, Dec. 1944.

The Tokyo Electric history mentioned in Alan's letter has a photo of five metal tubes, labeled US 6F6, US 6J7, US 6J5, US 6C5, and KS 6H6. The US prefix is consistent with Japanese practice: RCA named its tube bases "UX" (4-pin) and "UY" (5-pin), but quit there. Japanese makers continued with "UZ" (6-pin, as in UZ-6D6) and "UN" (acorn tubes, as UN-955). The "KS" is unknown, but there were KX-(1)12As too.

A "SURPRISE" COLLECTIBLE

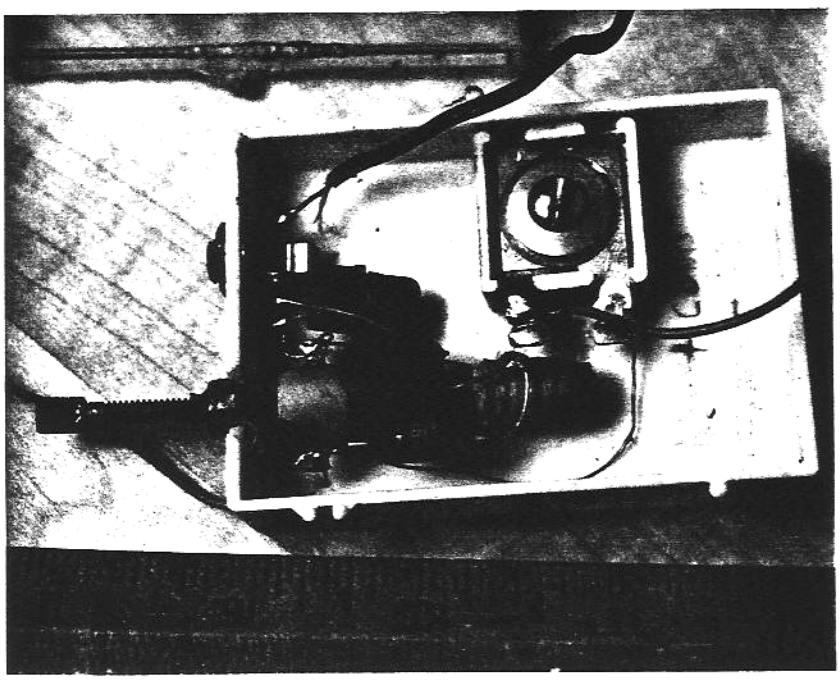
ONE-TRANSISTOR RADIO

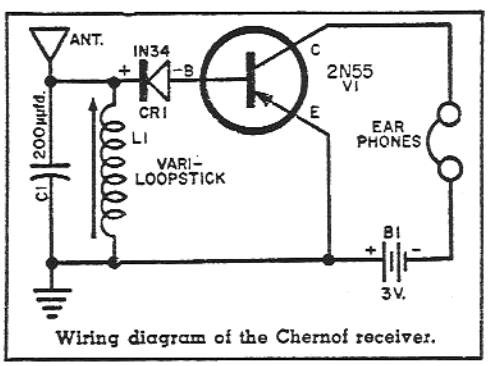
DVHRC member Frank Hagenbuch sent in this photo of a home-built one-transistor radio from the mid-'50s. This is an interesting example of a "surprise" collectible - it's historic stuff, as representative of its time as a '20s home-built one-tuber was, yet the kind of thing that was often thrown out during some long-ago cleanup of the workshop.

This is the classic diode-detector/amplifier transistor combination. Tuning is by tweaking the trimmer capacitor and by screwing the slug of the "Vari-Loopstick" coil in and out. I'm not sure that the diode is really necessary, and it's not clear what the capacitor in series with the diode actually does, but here 'tis.

A similar circuit, less the series capacitor, appears in the November 1955 issue of *Popular Electronics*. Here an odd NPN transistor, a (Western Electric?) 2N55, is used instead of the then-usual PNP. The contributor was a fellow named Joseph Chernof, whose stuff appeared frequently in Modern Radio Labs small-set publications, if I remember right.

My version of this set, ca. 1956, was quite similar, and worked nicely on Scout camping trips. It used the long-forgotten Hydro-Aire A2 point-contact transistor. (Hydro-Aire was the bunch that brought you the "CQ-1, the first transistor designed for hams.") The transistor set made a handy replacement for a bulky BC-1066 test set that had been converted into a two-tube radio. Trouble is, most of these simple transistor rigs were nonregenerative, and lacked the "hot" performance of one-tube sets. - LAS





Wiring diagram of the Chernof receiver.

AIRWAVES TIMELINE

"This Month in Radio History"

Compiled by Mike Koste

1936, Sept. 15 Mutual Broadcasting System begins a drive to go nationwide by signing up five affiliates in the Midwest: KWK, St. Louis; KSO, Des Moines; WMT, Cedar Rapids; KOIL, Omaha; and KFOR, Lincoln. WLW, Cincinnati, turns in its Mutual stock but remains an outlet.

1936, Sept. 15 TV trials begin in Britain, with twice-daily transmissions alternately using the Baird and EMI-Marconi systems.

1940, Sept. 15 To carry out the new North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement, FCC orders frequency changes for 777 stations in the U. S., to take place March 29, 1941.

1941, Sept. 8 John F. Royal, NBC VP, returns from six-week tour of South America; announces arrangement for Pan American Network of 92 stations to rebroadcast NBC programming sent by short wave.

1945, Sept. 17 Associated Broadcasting Corp. establishes fifth national radio network.

1946, Sept. 30 AM stations exceed 1000.

1948, Sept. WKAP, Allentown, signs on, now on 1320 kHz directional, 5 kW day, 1 kW night.

1948, Sept. 12 WHOL, Allentown, goes on the air; now on 1600 kHz with 500 W daytime directional.

1948, Sept. 27 Philco sues to force AT&T to transmit TV programming from New York to Boston - material sent from Philadelphia to New York on Philco's own microwave facilities. Case is decided, one year later, in Philco's favor.

1952, Sept. 22 KPTV, Portland, OR, goes on the air as the first commercial UHF TV station.

1958, Sept. WXTU-FM, Philadelphia signs on, now on 92.5 MHz with 40 kW @ 550 ft.

1959, Sept. 28 "Breaking down the clears": FCC proposes to add Class II full-time AM stations to 23 of the 25 Class I-A "clear" channels. (13 channels were reallocated thus in 1961; others later.)

WHAT HAPPENED TO NEMO?

Bob Thomas, W3QZO

From its inception, broadcasting captured public interest with vibrant reporting of events *as* they were happening from *where* they were happening. Sporting, cultural and political events that occurred beyond the confines of studios were transported directly into the homes of a burgeoning audience that craved the vicarious participation this new medium brought them.

Remote pickups became such crucial components of radio programming that broadcasters soon dedicated telephone (Telco) lines exclusively to handling originations from the field. According to Bob Morris, W2LV, veteran employee of NBC and AWA broadcast-history expert, beginning around 1923-24 Westinghouse applied the quite logical term "Remote" to these lines and associated broadcasts. This apparently caused consternation among the management of NBC (and predecessor AT&T), who were loath to use the same terminology as an arch competitor. So, as befitting corporate micromanagement, it was decreed that within the Red Network facility at 195 Broadway, programs originating outside the studio and their related facilities would be referred to only as "Wire Telephony as an Adjunct to Radio Broadcasting." This meddling naturally did not sit well with the operators, who immediately began to discuss among themselves alternatives to the ridiculous legislated complexity. A member of the engineering staff named George Stewart suggested "Nemo" as the substitute for "Remote." Nemo was accepted by acclimation! The new term stuck, and soon began appearing everywhere within NBC: patch-panel labels, switcher nomenclature, program schedules, and even technical papers. Although an industry buzzword, Nemo was soon known to the general public, who were made to feel like "insiders" by the many broadcast fan magazines that covered personalities and inner workings of the business.

It's not clear today what prompted George Stewart (assumed spelling) to suggest Nemo. One possibility is the contemporary Little Nemo In Slumberland comic strip - the first realistically-drawn cartoon with quality color printing - which chronicled young Nemo's adventures with dragons, monsters and trips to Mars. Another possibility is Captain Nemo in Jules Verne's Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, certainly a

"Little Nemo in Slumberland," Winsor McCay (c. 1867-1934). *Little Nemo* was the first strip to be drawn realistically and to utilize quality color printing. Nemo's daydreams and nightmares were fantasies with dragons and monsters, travels to Mars, and slums that turned into gardens. The strip ran 1905-11; 1924-27. (Text on reverse of current U. S. commemorative stamp.)

remote if there ever was one. Nemo remained well understood and widely used as the "in" synonym for "remote broadcast" until some years after WW II. By the late Fifties, however, its use had begun to decline. Perhaps that was due to a new generation of engineers and operators who were entering the broadcast field, especially television, without ties to tradition, and a public that no longer cared about such trivia. Certainly at RCA, there was no inclination to employ the term on studio or portable equipment, despite the association with our NBC subsidiary. Oldtimers at NBC continued to use the term until recently, but even there, they have finally reverted to the more rational term "Remote," eschewed so many years ago by earlier white-tower executives. About the only place Nemo will be encountered today is on the 75-Meter SSB "Nemo Net," an informal gathering of broadcast pioneers. But, for the most part, our old friend Nemo has passed from the broadcast scene, gone but not forgotten!

(I once spent some time at a station where the home-built remote board was proudly decal-labeled "KZSU Mini-Nemo." And the phrase "Wire Telephony as an Adjunct to Radio Broadcasting" was certainly established language - that was the exact title of an AT&T "commercial circular" to the Bell operating companies, of March 19, 1925. - Ed.)

FIFTIES FLASHBACK

RADAR HELMET HELPS AIRCRAFT SPOTTERS

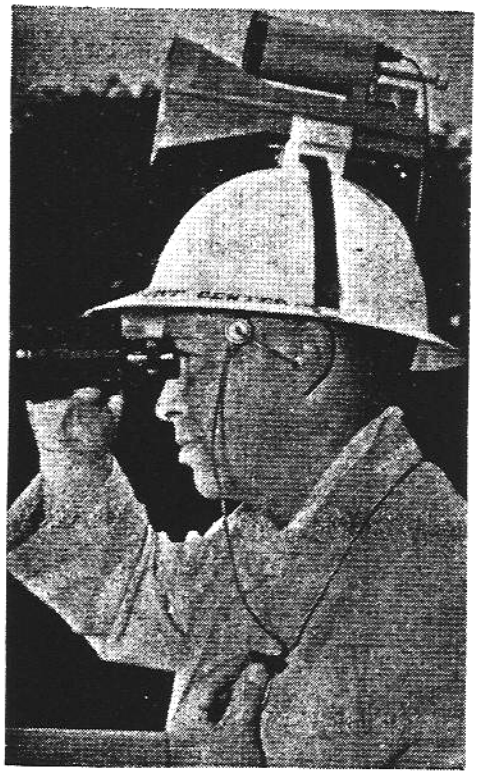
Microwave receiver uses transistors to reduce weight and power drain

Twenty-ounce radar receiver mounted on helmets designed for the Air Force's civilian Ground Observer Corps by the ARDC center at Rome, N. Y., will tighten U. S. air defenses. With the receiver, part-time aircraft spotters can pick up a plane's search, navigation, or fire-control radar.

How It Works - The microwave horn antenna picks up the signal which is passed through a crystal detector. Transistors on a printed circuit board provide a pulse amplifier. A coaxial choke with filtering action delivers a sharp pulse to the amplifier. Signals from the amplifier are fed directly to the light-weight headphones.

Weight and Power - a four-ounce battery pack supplies the required power. The set's low power drain makes possible operation for a week under normal conditions. - *Electronics*, Oct. 1955

Now, there's a prize for transistor collectors!



THE OLD OAKEN BUCKET THAT HUNG IN THE WELL

How well I remember the first days of wireless,
When home made receivers were all we could own.
We built them and used them with energy tireless,
And thought them the finest and best ever known.
The old slide wire tuner, the crystal detector,
The headphone receivers as clear as a bell,
But most I remember the fly in the nectar,
The old broken static that came in so well.
The loud, rattling static,
The strong summer static,
The old broken static that came in so well.

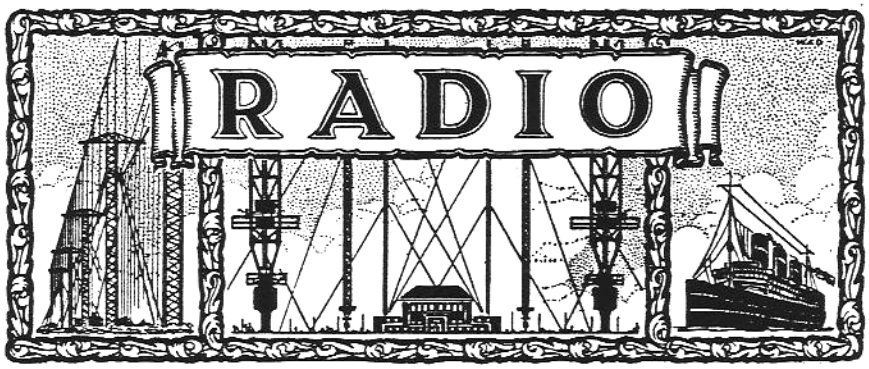
To-day we have stations of great super-power,
Much stronger than static we normally get,
And, winter or summer, we hear every hour
The signals we wish, on our new super-het.
Our modern receivers are ultra-selective,
Our broadcasting stations efficient and strong,
And these are the reasons we now make effective
Our broadcast reception the whole summer long.
Our local reception,
Long distance reception,
Our broadcast reception the whole summer long.

From the 1932 "Yearbook" of the Veteran Wireless Operators' Association, by George Clark, RCA official historian and past VWOA vice president.

OLD NEWS

TELEVISION RENTAL BY ALERT RADIO SERVICE DEALER

While at the Philadelphia Town Meeting, we learned of a method of television sales which may be quite interesting to our patrons. The Great Neck Electric Company of Great Neck, Long Island, is providing rental of television sets for parties at a price of $35 per evening, which includes temporary installation, doublet antenna, lineup, and tuning of the set prior to the party. They currently have five receivers and have turned down requests every time a major television event occurs, such as a championship prize fight, football game, or World Series baseball game. The rentals have in almost all instances produced at least one new television sale to a guest at the party, if not to the person throwing the "shindig." Of course, this is possible in Great Neck without the necessity of erecting a high antenna, due to the fact that it is a residential community, far enough from New York to be free of multi-path ghost problems. [*The Photofact Servicer*, Feb. 14, 1958]



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