

The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

March 2002

Volume 8 Issue 3



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Marv Beeferman

Old business was dispensed with quickly at the NJARC February meeting with the announcement of the 2002 swapmeet schedule, our first repair clinic for the year, the Morris County Library exhibit and a club visit to InfoAge. Reports on all these events can be found in the pages that follow.

For our technical session, Sal Brisindi filled members in on the basic techniques of troubleshooting and aligning radios with a signal generator and signal tracer. As can be seen from the photo, Sal's benchtop test equipment layout was designed to provide a true "hands-on" presentation. Although room doesn't permit a detailed summary, we can highlight a few of Sal's important points. First, don't think twice about replacing all filter, bypass and coupling capacitors before you even start work...guaranteed you'll have to do it later on. Sal said that his experience has shown that coupling capacitors are the chief villains in inoperative sets. Second, always use an isolation transformer for safety's sake. Third, use a meter when peaking the set for optimum performance...its much more sensitive than your ears. Fourth, inject the signal generator input with a small loop in lieu of making direct grid connections. Finally, don't forget to disable the oscillator by grounding it when aligning IF's. Sal provided an excellent handout to supplement his presentation with function, theory of operation and troubleshooting sections for each radio stage. Contact Sal at 732-308-1748 if you didn't get a chance to pick up a copy at the meeting.

Our repair clinic on February 16th completely filled the church meeting room; over



MEETING NOTICE

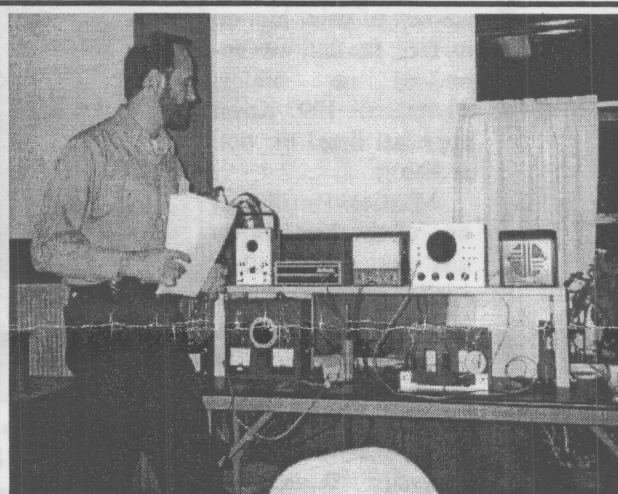
The next meeting of the NJARC will take place on Friday, March 8th at 7:30 PM in the Grace Lutheran Church, corner of Route 33 and Main Street in Freehold NJ. Contact either Phil Vourtsis or Marv Beeferman for directions. Bring in your latest acquisition or a piece you're just itching to show off for the show-and-tell segment of the meeting. We'll also update you on significant progress at InfoAge and our March 2nd inventory of items destined for the rebirth of the National Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

20 members participated. Firestones, Zeniths, RCA's, Philcos, Spartans, Emersons, Magnavox's, Crosley's, Hallicrafters and AK's all made an appearance. A reporter for the Asbury Park Press spent the entire day at the clinic collecting interviews for a future article; he also brought in a set that received attention from your *Broadcaster* editor and President Phil

have still not subscribed. The reflector is a mailing list where any member may post vintage radio information, as Ray often does, or ask questions about any aspect of the hobby. It also is a great source for getting updates on NJARC news and activities. For information, go to <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/njarc> - here you will enter your e-mail address and password; you will be sent an e-mail requesting confirmation to prevent others from gratuitously subscribing you. The list is private, so it will not be made available to non-members.

This will be the last *Broadcaster* mailing for those members whose dues are not current (a "1/03" on the mailing label). Membership Secretary Marsha Simkin will be sending out gentle reminders at the end of the month to those members who need just a little more encouragement. If you want to beat her to the punch, send her a \$15 check and save the club a little work and a little postage...you can find her address on page 2. Also re-

member that if you don't want to lug a table to the March 30th swapmeet, make your reservation immediately; as of this mailing, there are only 7 free tables left. Finally, ensure that your BCB DX contest entry is postmarked no later than March 8th; Al Klase's address can also be found on page 2.



Sal Brisindi lectures on the fine art of radio troubleshooting and alignment.

Vourtsis. He left very impressed with the club's expertise and the comment "you guys seem to be having a great time doing this stuff!" I couldn't agree with him more.

Ray Chase has suggested that we remind and encourage members to use the NJARC reflector (njarc@mailman.qth.net) - many members active on the Internet

THE JERSEY BROADCASTER is the newsletter of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club (NJARC) which is dedicated to preserving the history and enhancing the knowledge of radio and related disciplines. Dues are \$15 per year and meetings are held the second Friday of each month at the Grace Lutheran Church, corner of Route 33 and Main Street in Freehold N.J. The Editor or NJARC is not liable for any other use of the contents of this publication.

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IT'S A BIRD, NO IT'S A PLANE, NO IT'S RADIOTRON MAN

By Marv Beeferman

What does RCA, Maxfield Parrish and the Kewpie doll all have in common? Any connection seems far-fetched at first sight, but after noting the response to a reader's question in the "Collector" section of the *Asbury Park Press*, it all becomes quite clear.

The reader sent in a photo of a doll that had been in the family since 1958 and requested an appraisal. The doll was identified as a 15-inch high composition-and-wood figure called the Radiatron Man (sometimes referred to as "The Selling Fool") that dated to 1926. It was designed for RCA by famed artist/illustrator Maxfield Parrish and served as part of a store display for the Radiotron line of vacuum tubes. Slots in the doll's hand held promotional cards. Even with a small amount of paint loss on its face, the doll was appraised at almost \$1,000. (A 1997 Kovel appraisal listed the doll at \$900.)

Maxfield Parrish was one of the best known and most popular illustrative artists in America. In fact, it's been estimated that, in the 1920's, one out of every four homes had one of his images hanging on its walls. It was Parrish's very first work created specifically for reproduction as an art print in 1922 that became his signature piece. The atmospheric, sun-drenched "Daybreak," which depicted a prone classical female figure in a toga with a nude child standing over her (the daughter of William Jennings Bryant) on a columned portico looking out onto a rich landscape of flowering trees and purple mountains. This print became an almost instant icon and the one most often found on family walls.

In 1905, Parrish signed an exclusive contract with Collier's Weekly at the then extravagant rate of \$15,000 per year. When this contract expired, he devoted his energies to privately commissioned murals and advertising art for such products as Jell-O, General Electric, Fisk Tires and Hires Root Beer, and an annual girl-on-the-rocks calendar for Edison Mazda. It was during this period that the RCA Radiatron Man was created.

The doll itself was manufactured by the Cameo Doll Company which was founded in 1922 by Joseph Kallus. While a student studying art at the Pratt Institute, Kallus was selected by Rose O'Neill, the original designer of the Kewpie Doll, to work on the "Kewpie Project." Rose was looking for someone to help design a doll version of her popular "Kewpie," which she had been producing in print medium as well as her bisque figurines. George Borgfeldt & Company of New York was interested in marketing the Kewpies in doll form and needed a model from which to work.

Joseph Kallus beat out many other gifted students and won the job.

Joseph Kallus's doll designing days lead to the creation of the Cameo Doll Company. Radiatron Man was part of the production of many other early pieces using a combination of wood and composition, including Betty Boop, Howdy Doody, the Hotpoint Man, Pete the Pup (of Crosley fame) and General Electric's "Bandy." These and other examples can be found in Michele Karl's book "Composition & Wood Dolls and



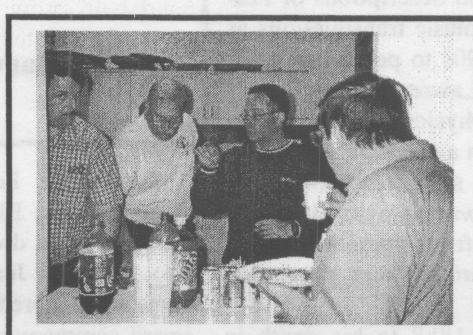
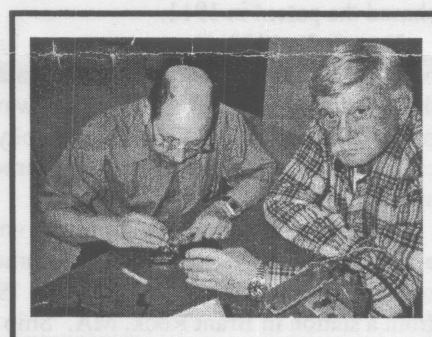
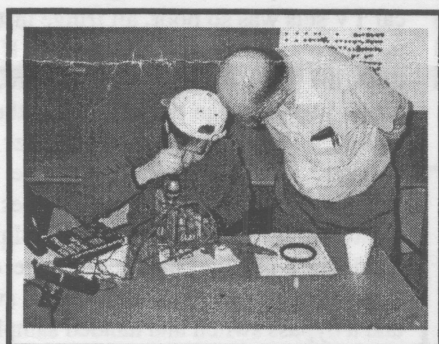
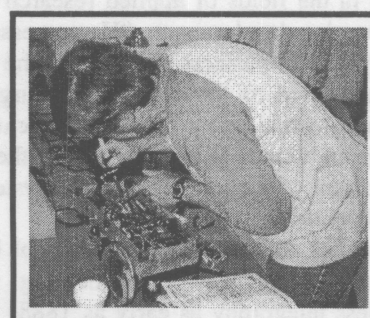
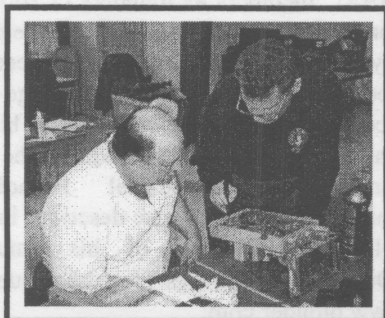
(E-bay photo courtesy of Ludwell Sibley.)

Toys" where a much better illustration of Radiatron Man than the one offered may be found.

References:

1. Glenn Erardi, "The Collector," *Asbury Park Press*, Thursday, Jan. 31, 2002.
2. Linda Rosenkrantz, "An Art-Loving Congregation Devoted to its Parrish," *Copley News Service*, 5/16/99.
3. Michele Karl, "Cameo Doll Company," www.allwedo.com
4. *Antique Radio Classified*, February 1991 (Vol. 8, #2), pg. 11.

OUR FEBRUARY RADIO REPAIR CLINIC



WHO INVENTED RADIO?

*The question of "who invented radio" is raised every now and then and the approaches to its answer are as varied and often biased as its numerous authors. Although the argument is a bit trivial and will never be put to rest, I thought the following contribution offers a good summary of most of the evidence. It was written by Don Bishop (dbishop@primediabusiness.com) and appeared in a **Radio Electronics** editorial titled "Who Invented Radio?"...Ed*

Who do you think invented radio? My usual list includes Guglielmo Marconi, Nikola Tesla, Alexander Popov, Sir Oliver Lodge, Reginald Fessenden, Heinrich Hertz, Amos Dolbear, Mahlon Loomis, Nathan Stubblefield, and James Clerk Maxwell.

Marconi? He gets the most press. My friend Raymond Minichiello, P.E., founder of the Guglielmo Marconi Foundation U.S.A. and curator of the U.S. Marconi Museum, may cringe if I put it that casually. Marconi won patents and made radio a commercial success. Commercial success does a great deal to multiply the use and applications of a technology.

Tesla? In 1943, the U.S. Supreme

Court ruled that Marconi's patents were invalid due to Tesla's prior descriptions. Marconi was already gone; Tesla died the same year.

Popov? The U.S. Navy weighed in, giving some credit to Popov (sometimes spelled Popoff) in a 1963 U.S. government publication, *History of Communications - Electronics in the United States Navy*. "Popov utilized his equipment to obtain information for a study of atmospheric electricity...On 7 May 1895, in a lecture before the Russian Physicist Society of St. Petersburg, he stated he had transmitted and received signals at an intervening distance of 600 yards," the Navy account reads. In the same year, Marconi transmitted and received signals

within the limits of his father's estate in Bologna, Italy. Marconi can scarcely be called an inventor. His contribution was more in the fields of applied research and engineering development. "He possessed a very practical business acumen, and he was not hampered by the same driving urge to do fundamental research, which had caused Lodge and Popov to procrastinate in the development of a commercial radio system," the Navy wrote.

Lodge? A professor at Liverpool University, Lodge was experimenting with wireless telegraphy as early as 1888. His system was patented in 1897, including his coherer receiving detector. Marconi purchased the patent in 1911.

Hertz? In 1888, Hertz appears to have been the first to demonstrate experimentally the production and detection of the waves predicted by Maxwell. The German physicist made his demonstration in a classroom at Karlsruhe Polytechnic in Berlin.

Fessenden? He is known for early voice and music transmissions. The most famous of his early "broadcasts" was made in 1906 from a station in Brant Rock, MA. Ship radio operators heard it for hundreds of miles at sea. I've also read descriptions of Fessenden's voice and music transmissions as early as the mid-1890s to people on pleasure boats in the St. Lawrence River.

Dolbear? The physics professor from Tufts University won a patent in 1885 for a wireless telegraphy system so similar to Marconi's that he was able to block the Marconi Company from operating in the United States. Marconi later purchased Dolbear's patent.

Loomis? From 1858 to his death in 1886, the dentist Mahlon Loomis experimented with wireless telegraphy mostly using kite-supported wires and a galvanometer that would register changes in current flow in a second wire when the ground connection of the first was interrupted. He was granted a patent in 1873 for the invention of his system.

Stubblefield? The Kentucky farmer and sometimes telephone repairman demonstrated wireless telephony as early as 1892, but to only one man, and in 1902 to a group.

Maxwell? I like to list him - because, although he didn't configure equipment to demonstrate radio, his brilliant equations described electromagnetism and the propagation of electromagnetic waves.

No one invented radio. Radio is a natural phenomenon whose existence can be

predicted, as did Maxwell, and whose existence can be observed, as did Hertz. Putting it that way, radio can be "discovered" but not "invented." When it comes to inventors, what they did was to configure equipment to put radio to use. Who was the first to that? The answer depends on what "use" you choose to measure. Hertz invented a way to demonstrate the existence of radio waves and to send them across a room. Loomis, Stubblefield, Fessenden, Lodge and others found ways to configure equipment for other various purposes.

Marconi demonstrated applications for radio communications, and then he found a way to sell equipment and services. He patented equipment. No small feat, but did he "invent radio?" Not the way I look at it; radio was already here.

BLONDER - TONGUE INDUCTED INTO NJ INVENTORS HALL OF FAME

By Marv Beeferman

On Friday, February 22nd, NJARC members Isaac Blonder and Ben Tongue were among a dozen inventors inducted into the New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame and honored for their ingenuity at an award ceremony at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. With their installation, Isaac and Ben join a host of New Jersey notables including Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Alfred Vail and John Roebling as part of this prestigious organization.

Established in 1987, the New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame promotes and fosters creativity, innovation and invention and encourages recognition of New Jersey as the "invention State." Awardees are selected based on the importance of the problem solved by the invention, the novelty of the invention and the contribution to the advancement of the state-of-the-art, commercial impact and the utilitarian or socioeconomic impact. To qualify for an award, the inventor must have completed a substantial portion of the work in New

Jersey or have been a New Jersey resident while working on the project.

Isaac and Ben are best known to NJARC members as founders of Blonder Tongue Laboratories in 1950. In the early days of broadcast TV, they saw a need for Booster Amplifiers to improve fringe-area reception and, starting with modest beginnings in Yonkers, they introduced the first commercially successful Broadband Booster Amplifier. Isaac describes its development in one of his amusing "Dinosaur Droppings" features found at www.blonder.com:

"In those days, the noise figure of the typical TV sets was so poor, all fringe installations used tunable RF boosters. If you think the VCR is a consumer hazard, just watch your average citizen tune in the TV signal!. To make our job easier and quicker, we jointly invented the first broadband amplifier, 2-13, four tubes, and a better noise figure than the TV's. I packaged the amplifier in a leatherette case, complete with an automatic power switch and a bypass switch and handed samples to some salesman friends in the parts distributors field. Orders shot in, the fuses blew in our little store, and a bank gained the courage to finance a larger factory. Immediately, we started hearing stories that our unit was being sold for rudimentary master antenna systems in place of the high priced individual channel amplifier combinations. We came out in 1951 with a high gain, higher power broadband amplifier, the CA-1-M, the standard everyone else had to beat!"

Ben Tongue, in an oral history recorded by Lawrence Lockwood in 1992, also recalled the booster's development, when in February 1950, he and Isaac:

"Took the money we had, about \$5,000 I remember...all our electronic parts, our two cars, and we rented a former dance hall at 20 Gunther Avenue in Yonkers, New York - that's a town right next to Mount Vernon. This had 800 square feet in the cellar and 1,200 square feet on ground level. We rented the ground level, brought in all our old stuff, and started to implement an invention I made. Turned out I got a patent on it eventually, for a "coupling circuit" - a wide "gain-bandwidth product" coupling circuit, to enable one to make a broadband TV

NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB ANTIQUE RADIO SWAPMEET



SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 8 AM - 1 PM*

North Centerville Vol. Fire Co. - Hazlet, NJ

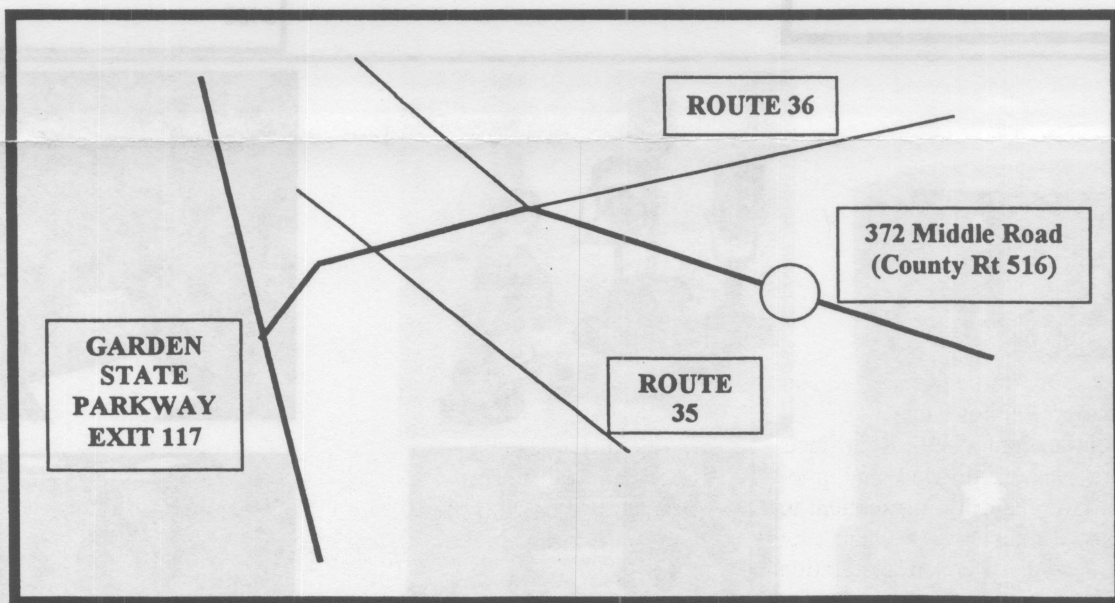
The NJARC presents its Spring swapmeet at the spacious, air-conditioned North Centerville Fire Co. banquet hall in Hazlet, NJ. The first 30 reservations receive an 8-foot table at no extra cost. A \$2.00 club donation from buyers is suggested.

* Vendor setup at 7:00 AM (no early admittance); the meet may extend beyond 1:00 PM.

DIRECTIONS: Garden State Parkway, North or South - Take exit 117 (towards Hazlet (Rt 35)/Keyport/Aberdeen). Merge onto Route 36 and continue for about 1 mile. Turn right on Middle Road (County Route 516) and continue for about 1.5 miles. The Fire Co. banquet hall is on the right.

RATES: NJARC members \$15/space; non-members \$20/space. **Note:** Tables are only available to first 30 registered vendors.

CONTACTS/RESERVATIONS: Marv Beeferman, 2265 Emerald Park Drive, Forked River, NJ 08731 (609-693-9430). E-mail: mbeeferman@cs.com Phil Vourtsis, 13 Cornell Place, Manalapan NJ 07726 (732-446-2427). E-mail: pvourtsis@att.com



CONNECTIONS

Free exposure for buyers and sellers! Unless requested otherwise, each ad will run for two months in both the *Jersey Broadcaster* and the *Delaware Valley Oscillator*. All buying and selling transactions are the responsibility of the parties involved.

FOR SALE

Check out NJARC's capacitor program for those most commonly needed replacements. Contact John Ruccolo at any club meeting or call him at home (609)-426-4568 to find out what's available. All proceeds go to the club.

For trade only...repair clinics, savings on swapmeet tables, tubes and capacitors, 12 issues of this year's *Broadcaster*, mini-auctions, technical presentations, contests, parties, fellowship of sharing a common interest with friends...\$15 check made out to NJARC. Marsha Simkin, 33 Lakeland Drive, Barnegat, NJ 08005

Need a new home for a 1950 Admiral radio, TV, phono combination, model 32X36A. Complete, cabinet in good condition, has 12" round picture tube. Make an offer...must go. Local delivery possible. Aaron Hunter, 23 Lenape Trail, Southhampton, NJ, 08088, 609-267-3065.

The NJARC tube program offers clean, tested, boxed tubes at very reasonable prices with availability at any club meeting (no dealers, please...not for resale). Proceeds go to the club. Of course, donations of radio-type tubes in any condition are welcome. See Gary D'Amico at the next meeting.

New index to AWA publications (*Old Timer's Bulletin*, *AWA Review*, misc.), 1960 through Aug. 1999. Formatted like the earlier version but with new "Author" section. Has 63 pages, 8-1/2" X 11" size. Gives 7000+ citations. \$12 postpaid anywhere. Make check/MO payable to: Ludwell Sibley, 102 McDonough Rd., Gold Hill, OR 97525.

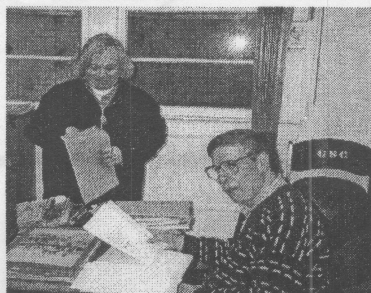
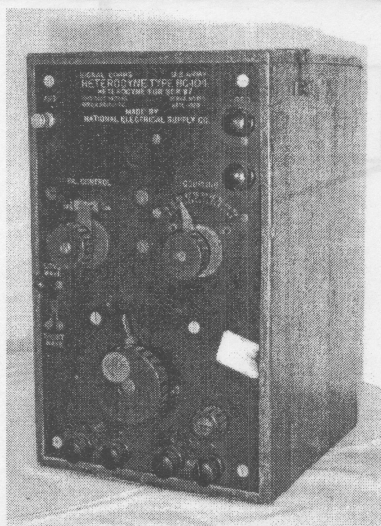
Scott console, circa 1940, needs repairs; Philco console, circa 1945, needs minor repairs. Will take best offer. Tom Mucocchio, 609-448-1688.

Supplement 3 to Ludwell Sibley's *Tube Lore* is now available. At 24 pages, it replaces the 1997 8-page supplement. Included is an expanded index, new details on early Western Electric tubes, info on Western Electric tube sockets, fuller material (a page-plus) on Rogers tubes, pinouts for post-1948 Western Electric tubes (published for the first time ever!), the date code for RCA '50s-'70s receiving tubes and the 200 "most-often-needed" basing diagrams covering 1300+ tubes found in everything from an All-American 5 to a Trans-Oceanic. To order, mail your name and address, printed clearly, with six 34-cent stamps to:

**Ludwell Sibley
102 McDonough Rd.
Gold Hill, OR 975-9626**

WANTED

Your surplus radio knobs. Buying bulk stock of pulls for matching service and resale. Look for Gobs of Knobs at regional swapmeets and monthly DVHRC meetings. Bring your orphans and I just might have its relatives in stock. Dial pointers also available. Mike Koste, 57 Tennis Ave., Ambler, PA 19002. (215)-646-6488



booster which would amplify all 12 channels - 2 to 6 and 7 to 13 (76 MHz total) and have enough gain, so that with four tubes, you could end up with 20 dB overall gain and a much better noise figure than a conventional TV tuner would have. This circuit ended up with a bandpass response that looked like a three-pole bandpass response in the low band and a three-pole bandpass response in a high band and a big hollow in-between. The product worked quite well."

"Ike did all the mechanical design...I did all the electrical design. He designed a thermo relay so that the booster would be truly automatic. The TV set was plugged into an AC receptacle on the booster and the booster plugged into the wall outlet. So when the TV set was turned on, its line current would heat the thermo relay, which would then, since it had a piece of bi-metal in it - temperature compensated bi-metal, it would make contact with the power circuits of the booster and the booster would turn on...which would turn off when the TV got turned off!"

Blonder Tongue Laboratories soon branched out into master antenna system design and other efforts that earned Ben Tongue some 30 and Ike Blonder 39 patents in the 1960's. The company grew rapidly and after several moves, consolidated operations in Old Bridge, New Jersey, where the company still resides. Ben and Ike sold their Blonder Tongue stake in 1989 and both still work with the company engineers as consultants.

Although better known in electronics circles for antenna amplifiers and UHF converters, Isaac and Ben are known for many other varied interests and endeavors. For a brief spell in the late 1970s, they both dabbled as media moguls and pay TV pioneers as owners of WBTB-68 in West Orange. During this time, Isaac was able to apply his wobbling trap concept, patented years before, to scrambling and came up with the concept of how a pay TV system should be put together. Ben, in his early years, while employed by Panoramic, obtained a patent for a complete spectrum analyzer and designed an ultra sonic analyzer and a number of other special purpose spectrum analyzers. Ben is also known for his "Audio Baton," a nine band graphic equalizer which used a single triode to replace high cost iron core inductors to give the frequency response of a single tuned circuit.

Unknown to many, Isaac has made many excursions to Scotland in search of the elu-

sive Loch Ness Monster. In 1975, as a member of an Academy of Applied Sciences expedition, he helped design the sophisticated photography and sonar equipment, including the Blonder Hydrophone, used in an attempt to find scientific proof of the creature.

Congratulations go out to both Isaac and Ben from all NJARC members for their most recent achievement.

RADIO ART SHOW AT MORRIS COUNTY LIBRARY

By Marv Beeferman

Ray Chase and Joseph Bentravato, with support from Dave Sica, Phil Vourtsis, Richard Lee, John Okolowicz, Marsha and Jerry Simkin and Marv Beeferman, carried the NJARC banner to the Morris County Library with a stunning and elaborate display of radio art. Designed by the library's exhibit team of Ralph Brown and Marylou Sparano, the display honored some of the more celebrated industrial designers who contributed their talents to the radio industry.

As explained in a stylish brochure prepared for the exhibit, the great depression was a motivating force for merging design and consumer goods. Designers, manufacturers and advertisers worked together to stimulate the economy by creating and marketing everyday goods that would appeal to the consumers' sense of style. Stylistic design became a driving force that gave the consumer a desire for the "new."

Included in the list of designers, some of who with backgrounds at least as colorful as their swank products, is Edward L. Combs who was responsible for the Philco 70 and 90 curved-top cathedral. The Russian Count Alexis de Sakhnoffsky, who fled the Bolshevik Revolution, designed the Emerson BD-197, whimsically referred to as "The Mae West" because of the set's conical side-by-side speaker and tuning dial which reminded some of the

film actress' ample bosom. Raymond Loewy is represented by a huge 1947 black-and-white photo of the nattily dressed designer cradling his Hallicrafter creations. There's a tribute to Norman bel Geddes, who designed the Philco Predicta TV (contributed by Dave Sica), an un-gainly, green-eyed 1958 model that turned out to be a commercial failure.

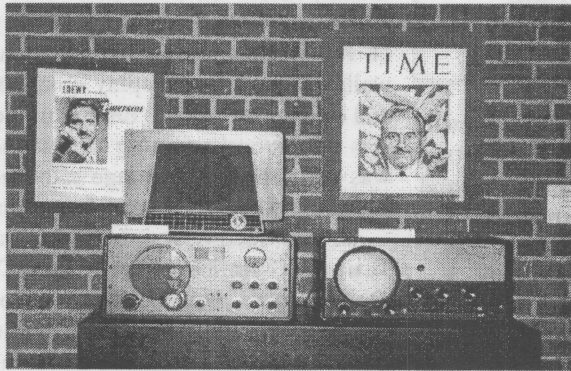
The library design team deserves a lot of credit for the way the examples were displayed and for the in-depth graphic support. The smaller radios were enclosed in three large display cases and included a Bendix 526, a Zenith 7-S-232 ("Walton Radio"), a DeWald A501 ("Harp"), a Fada 136, a Crosley 10-135 ("Dashboard"), and a Westinghouse H-126 "Little Jewel" (refrigerator) radio. Two horizontal cases in the lobby exhibited miniature replica Crosley radios and portables. Consoles, a chairside radio, a Predicta TV and a group of Hallicrafters were aligned along the walls and gave the display completeness and depth. The video "Empire of the Air" was continuously running and the monitor was surrounded by vintage radio posters contributed by Marsha and Jerry Simkin.

In an interview published in the "Lifestyle" section of the Morris County *Daily Record*, Joe and Ray were perfect ambassadors for the radio collecting hobby and the NJARC. As a result, the club's activities and upcoming Hazlet swapmeet were well publicized. In a statement that perhaps sums up what radio collecting is all about, apart from the glitter of the library exhibit, Joe could not have made it any clearer: "They're all beautiful to us....there are hundreds of different designs; that's what makes them such fun to collect."

On Wednesday, February 27th at 7:00 PM, member John Okolowicz, who is preparing a book on the subject, added his expertise to the display by giving a great talk on radio design in the library's lecture hall. The talk was well-attended by both the public and NJARC members, including Dave Sica who taped the presentation and the exhibit. Although we'll try to air the tape at a future meeting, it's really worth the trip to see the exhibit first-hand. It runs through March 29th and the library is located on 30 East Hanover Avenue in Whippany.



The main exhibit.



The Loewy exhibit.

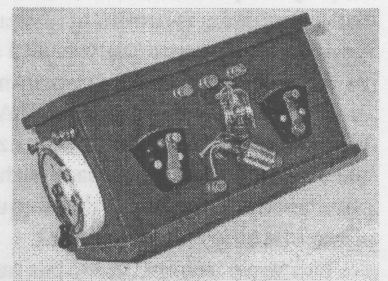
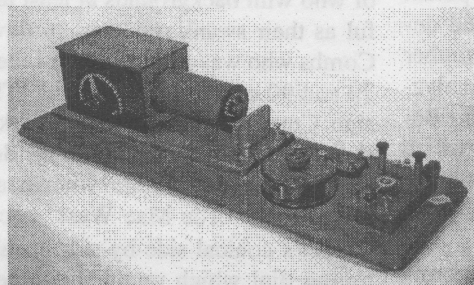
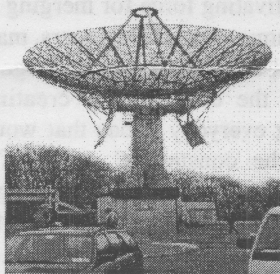


John Okolowicz takes a question from the audience.

INFOAGE INVENTORY

On March 2nd, NJARC members Richard Lee, Phil Vourtsis, Dave Snellman, John Dilks, John Ruccolo, Jerry and Marsha Simkin, Steve Goulart, Steve Rosenfeld and Marv Beeferman gathered at InfoAge to inventory the soon-to-be resurrected National Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

A significant amount of radios, artifacts and ephemera was catalogued and photographed with the majority in excellent to good condition. But there still remains a lot of work to be done in the area of restoration covering a wide area of member interest...early wireless, battery sets, microphones, television, tubes and broadcasting.



(Photos continued on page 8)