

# The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

Fall 1995

Volume 1 Issue 1

## WE'RE HERE!

With these words, Dave Sica introduced Volume 1, Number 1 of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club News in March of 1993. With the inaugural issue of *The Jersey Broadcaster*, I hope to carry on the fine tradition which he started. Since space is at a premium, allow me to forego all the standard pleasantries which usually accompany an initial venture such as this and, as our club president Tony Flanagan might say, "get right to the meat" of the subject. A short article or two, latest club news, restoration tips, classified ads, upcoming events...whatever interests you the most will carry the most weight. This is your publication and, as such, deserves your feedback. If you like what you see and want more of it, expansion to two or three pages might be considered in the future. This would be in addition to the NJARC News which will still be published quarterly. So read and enjoy (and excuse the lousy banner until I get some decent clip art) and tell me what you think...I'm only a meeting or phone call away. MARV

### RESTORATION TIP

What to do with those garden variety tomatoes that aren't quite up to snuff? Clean your aluminum variable capacitors of course! As reported in the "Old Timer's Bulletin," the acid from the tomatoes leaves them nice and shiny. Fill a steel pot with several old tomatoes plus scrap skins, etc. Place several variable condensers with aluminum plates in the pot and water and stew for a few hours. The tomatoe acid removes accumulated oxide and leaves a shiny surface. If it doesn't work, you can always use the sauce for pasta.



## MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the NJARC will take place on Friday, October 13, 1995 at 7:30 pm at the Grace Lutheran Church, corner of Route 33 and Main Street in Freehold. Contact Marv Beeferman at (609)-693-9430 for directions. The topic for this month will be a comparison of Axis-Allied electronic technology during WWII by Ludwell Sibley. A report on the Henry Ford Museum auction will also be presented.

### RADAR (?) AND THE NAVESINK

The following one-page story appeared in *Popular Science* for October 1935. This was a time when electronics developers in half a dozen nations were independently and secretly trying out the possibilities of detecting unseen ships and airplanes by radio waves - the technology that profoundly affected the course and outcome of WW II. Whether the story was a government counterintelligence plant or a simple journalistic "leak" is unclear - probably the latter.

### MYSTERY RAY LOCATES "ENEMY"

Armed sentries barred visitors from approaching within 200 yards of the Navesink Lighthouse Station on the New Jersey coast a few nights ago. Behind the enforced barricade, U.S. Army experimenters were trying out a secret new weapon invented by the Signal Corps for use against possible invaders - a "mystery-ray" device reputedly capable of locating an enemy vessel as far as fifty miles at sea.

Twenty times the ray detector trained a huge mobile searchlight upon an invisible target - Coast Guard cutter *Pontchartrain*, maneuvering without lights somewhere in the darkness offshore. Once, when the beam was lit, it grazed the vessel's stern. The other nineteen times, it struck the *Pontchartrain* squarely amidships, to score perfect bulls-eyes! Had the detector been used to direct the fire of the big coast defense guns at Sandy hook, (continued)

("MYSTERY RAY" continued)

as it would do in war, the ship would have been seen at their mercy. Declaring the test a complete success, the experimenters prepared to try out the detector next for spotting hostile aircraft, another of its reported capabilities.

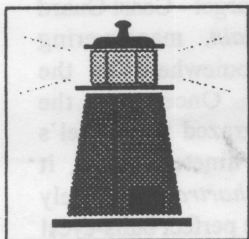
How the mysterious ray detector works is the Army's secret. The merest hint as to its nature is taboo, under stringent new regulations cloaking projects of vital importance to national defense. Whether it resembles a radio airplane detector recently reported under development in Germany, therefore, is open to speculation. The German apparatus is said to make use of the fact that ultra-short radio waves behave like light rays and are reflected by solid objects. When a curtain of parallel radio beams is projected skyward and receivers are suitably arranged, any plane intercepting the beams will reflect them back to earth and betray its position.

In this country, meanwhile, the "mechanical ears" used in listening for aircraft have been improved. Sound-proofing shields the latest-type detector from exterior noise, so that it can work undisturbed amid city noises or in a howling gale.

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The story is illustrated with a drawing of a searchlight illuminating a ship; a photo of three German experimenters in the field, an artist's conception of their radar-like device; and a picture of an acoustic aircraft detector - an array of four big horns like those used in WW I.

MARVIN P. BEEFERMAN  
2265 EMERALDA PARK DRIVE



Following up on the *Popular Science* story, the following letter turned up in the Signal Corps files at Ft. Monmouth; the cable address was "OKURA NEW YORK":

Gentlemen:

We are very much interested in the "Mystery Ray" device described on Page 29 of the October 1935 issue of "Popular Science Monthly" which we understand you have developed.

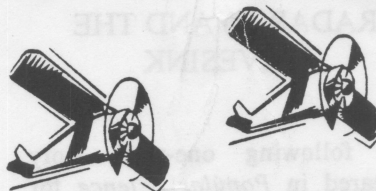
We shall, therefore, appreciate it very much if you will kindly send us at your earliest convenience any further information regarding the "Mystery Ray" that you can.

Thanking you in advance for your kind and prompt attention to the above request, we remain

Yours very truly,  
OKURA & COMPANY

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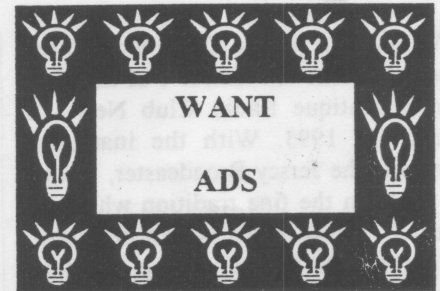
Okura & Co. (Tokyo) was presumably skilled in electronics; they were an export agent for RCA at the time. Whether they ever got anything back from the Signal Corps is open to speculation.



Free

BOB OLAWSKI  
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LYNDHURST, N.J. 07071

*Popular Science* clipping located by Alan Klase. Okura letter from Mindy Rosewitz of the U. S. Army Communications-Electronic Museum at Ft. Monmouth, via Mike Fehr. Article contributed by Ludwell Sibley.



WANTED: Junker Heathkit VTVM Model V-6 or 7-A for parts. Also, working Heathkit Model IT-12 Signal Tracer. Stan Thompson (908)- 636-3630.

WANTED: Good looking split-second robot dial face and shutters for Zenith 12S265 (my black paint is peeling). Also, original type grill cloth and wooden knobs for the same radio. Does anyone know what other models I could use a dial face from? Mark W. Hillard, N3NBL, 921 Edward St., Allentown, PA 18103. (610)-432-8089.

