

The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

Fall 1996

Volume 2 Issue 4



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported By Marv Beeferman

As a change of pace from the club's standard technical format, March's "Show and Tell" program was warmly received. Some of the highlights included:

- Tom Provost - a 1926 Day-Fan radio intended to be powered by a motor-generator set (150 VDC); a switch on the radio was provided to turn the remote MG set on locally. Tom also showed its unusual accompanying speaker and noted the "hidden treasure" it contained - six 01A's wrapped in the 1943 edition of the *Trenton State Gazette*.

- Mark Mittlemen - an all-wood (no bakelite) Pacific Claretone 5-tube TRF set. Mark also exhibited "the only porcelain radio still in existence." Although Mark's credentials are highly respected, the "flushing" noise it made when turned on left most members skeptical regarding its importance in the history of radio.

- John Dilks - a 4-ohm filament resistor mounted on a beautiful porcelain base and a vintage pocket "radio troubleshooter" which John still references today.

- Marty Friedman - a 1944 Army-Navy Production Award presented to Marty's father by the Tung-Sol Lamp Works for "Excellence in War Production."

- John Ruccolo - an RCA record player/radio combination frequently advertised by Bing Crosby where, to start playing, the 78 RPM record was inserted into a slot in the unit.

- Phil Vourtsis - a 1952 countertop "juke-box" manufactured by the Ristaucrat Company of Appleton Wisconsin, fully restored and operational. The customer would deposit dimes or nickels to make up to 9 selections and the player would locate the choice from a vertical stack of 45's.

(continued on page 2)

MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the NJARC will take place on Friday, April 12, 1996 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 "Suggestions for Restoring and Replicating Radio Dials" presented by Tom Provost.

NEW JERSEY TUBE HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

By Ludwell Sibley

In his recent (and excellent) biography Zworykin, Pioneer of Television, noted television historian Albert Abramson includes a footnote as to how he had acquired some precious samples of early RCA developmental TV tubes. Speaking of Howard Schrader, the high-powered (and now departed) tube collector in Princeton, he says

In 1977, he showed me a display of television tubes that he had gathered from the RCA plant in Camden. Schrader told me that in 1942 when the RCA labs moved from Camden to Princeton he heard that the RCA patent museum was going to be eliminated due to lack of space. Every item was to be thrown out. The word went out to all collectors in the area that on a certain day all these items would be available for free collection. All tubes that were not taken were to be immediately destroyed. He told me that he and four other collectors worked very hard to stay ahead of the men with the hammers. He gathered about a thousand tubes and took them back to Princeton. Later, he was quite generous with them and gave me a dozen of his choice tubes . . . which included a rare 1931 sleeve type iconoscope and a 1932 miniature iconoscope.

I've confirmed this story with a present-day tube collector, who adds that RCA's museum *receiving* tubes had been taken to the local dump independently, and that Schrader also rescued many of them. Apparently not all the television samples were destroyed; NJARC's Jim Whartenby reports that several early RCA iconoscopes are on display at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. But here's how history repeats: a few months ago Jim brought into a club meeting a bunch of samples freshly salvaged from the dissolution of the RCA patent museum at Princeton! He kindly handed out sample prototype tubes (mostly '60s types like Compactrons) and transistors (typically TA-coded developmental items). All had their original record sheets attached. Jim had also saved a prototype identified on its box as "the first" pentagrid converter, the relic of a patent suit between RCA and Philco. Clearly, RCA had grown a new patent museum while installed at the David Sarnoff Center at Princeton, only to have it ordered destroyed after the takeover by GE. *Sic transit gloria . . .*

BOOK REVIEW GODS AND MYTHOLOGY AT ZENITH

By Alan Douglas

•Wendell Klinker - an unidentified Stewart Warner pre-selector or short-wave converter. A quick check in Riders (which John Dilks just happened to have handy) confirmed the unit to be an R301 (A,B,C) 2-tube, tuned RF shortwave converter. Wendell even guessed the correct tube compliment!

•Frank Feczko - a Philco wireless remote control. A note of thanks to Frank for separating the radio chassis from its cabinet so he could demonstrate how "radio-age couch potatoes" switched stations and adjusted volume from their easy chairs. Frank explained that the unit, operating at a frequency of 375 Khz, was based on telephone technology and described its comical side when used in the television episode "Topper Takes a Trip."

•James and Onalee Fisher - a beautifully restored Philco 70. Ask Jim his secret for achieving just the right tone coloring in his restorations.

•James and Ruth Whartenby - a 30-41 MHz UHF Superhet receiver. Jim explained that the unit was used in 1936 by NBC for remote broadcasts where it was carried in a backpack and information was then sent over telephone lines. Described in the 1938 RCA Review (which Jim also showed), the receiver, with AVC removed, was still in use up until 1956.

Interest was expressed in utilizing the four display cases at the Monmouth County Library for an NJARC exhibit of vintage radios and associated items in January. Dimensions of the cases and more details will be available at the next meeting.

Start thinking about nominations for new officers which will be accepted at the MAY meeting. Nominations may be made by any member in good standing (dues paid); they must be made in person and seconded. The election, by both proxy via the *Broadcaster* (which will prompt an early issue to allow for mailing delays) and with ballots cast at the meeting itself, will be held at the June meeting.

Topics for discussion at the April meeting will center around plans for the next flea market and possible auction. An Executive Board meeting is also planned for 7:00 PM so if you have any items you would like added to the agenda, contact Tony Flannagan at (908)-462-6638. Tony will also have club tee shirts (L, XL, XXL) for sale at \$12 each.

A commentary on *The Zenith Trans-Oceanic, The Royalty of Radios*, by John H. Bryant, AIA, and Harold N. Cones, Ph.D.

What is a collector and historian of 1920s radio doing with a book on (gasp!) Transistor Radios? Well, I accidentally became the owner of a 3000-1 Trans-Oceanic ("Do you want that set over there too? That fake-chrome plastic thing?" "Nah. Wait a minute, it says 'Zenith' on it, guess I'll take it so it won't get tossed out.") When I washed off the sticky Life-Savers, and cleaned away the crud that had preserved the original finish almost perfectly, realized how well-made it was and how nicely styled, I took a real shine to it. I went through old National Geographic to find the ads, Sams folders, price guides - you know, hook-line-and-sinker. When my friends weren't looking, I even bought a nice 1000 model at a radio meet (\$85 - the prices in this book are inflated). I also have a 600 tube model in very nice shape (cost: \$0), though I can't say (yet) I have any interest in getting it running.

Actually, this is not so much a review of the entire book, as it is a commentary on Chapter 1. The book itself is fine, and anyone with even a slight interest in 1940s and later radios will find it of great interest and value. However, the first chapter reads like a historical novel: an entertaining story, fairly plausible, but having considerable liberties taken with the facts.

The authors apparently became intrigued with Trans-Oceanics in a round-about way, beginning with a strong interest in short-wave listening and modern receivers, then the transistorized Trans-Oceanics, then the older tube models. Since a book on these radios wouldn't be complete without an explanation of how they came to be (especially as this is the best story), it was natural that the authors would dig diligently into the Zenith archives and publish what they found. But they unwittingly fell into the

trap that the Commander set for them. Most corporate archives are one-sided, preserving the company's view of every story, and containing primarily company-written promotional material. Zenith is even worse, since for its first 35 years of existence it was totally controlled by one man, one who was not shy about Stalinizing the past. I will wager that nowhere in the entire archives does the name Thomas Pletcher survive, yet without him and his QRS piano-roll factory and music-dealer network in the 1921-23 era, Zenith would never have existed. His name, however, has been erased from company history. When his son dug out scarp-books and financial records from the attic for me, I was amazed at how little the official Zenith history and truth coincided. I was so struck by this that I got permission to reprint the official history (after a couple of mushroom clouds at Zenith HQ when they finally read my text!) in my books, alongside my own reading of events.

Although the authors ostensibly used many different sources, newspaper and magazine articles as well as McDonald's own letters, every one of these "independent" articles was written with McDonald-furnished and approved material. What the Commander himself didn't claim, his publicity department did. Some of this was done unintentionally, by the Zenith people actually believing their own early advertising claims, or through ignorance, or by the inevitable confusion of events reconstructed twenty years later from memory. But myths they are.

But where to start? How about the list of Zenith "firsts," a list that grew over the years as new publicity people lost track of what really had happened in the dim past?

"The First AC Radio." This claim is based on the Zenith X which was first advertised in September 1924 (August in the weeklies). Since this easily predates the RCA Radiola 30 from a year later, it's an open-and-shut case, until one realizes that, although the X was advertised (for a few months) as an AC set, it was never made that way. Factory service literature consistently refers to it as a battery model. No AC model X is known to exist, and for that matter, no model X is known to exist at all (obviously I would love to be proven wrong!) so there is absolutely no basis for assuming that it could run on AC.

Furthermore, the point is moot, since the AC-powered Dynergy was advertised in June, three month before. The Dynergy did exist, and still does, as I know of at least two.

"Single-Dial Tuning." Now really! I'm not kidding; this is repeated in the book. The claim is evidently based on the DeLuxe models from September 1925, which did indeed tune TRF stages with a single dial, and an amazing chassis it is, too (I just inspected one last month). But Mohawk did the same thing in November 1924, nearly a year earlier, and if you don't mind a few trimmer capacitors to align the stages, the Magnavox and the Thermodyne preceded that.

"Multiple Speakers." This is almost getting to the "first-to-use-a-dial-pointer-in-the-shape-of-a-letter-A" category of trivia, I'll admit, but there it is. The X again is the contender, going head-to-head with the Grebe Synchrophase console, but it's a tie since they both came out in September 1924.

The last "first" to be considered is a bit more complex: The portable radio. Complex because it depends on definitions -- though the Zenith can't be considered the winner in any event.

Mike Schiffer has covered the portable very well in his fine book. He went to Zenith headquarters to see their "Companion" portable, and found that, to everyone's astonishment, it wasn't a Zenith at all, but a little known competitor called the Westburr. We went searching and found some newspaper and magazine ads, and it turns out that this Westburr actually preceded the Companion by some months. It was pictured in the February 1924 Radio Dealer, an issue whose advertising forms closed on January 15; therefore the set must have existed before that date. The Companion was first advertised in Radio Digest on May 10, 1924 and a month or two later in the national monthly magazines whose publication schedules were more extended. Somehow this four-month lag becomes "At nearly the same time (perhaps a month earlier)" in the professors' book, with the Companion emerging the winner. Reminds me of the "Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy" (great radio series!) gag about a publisher stealing text from the back of a cereal box, sending it back in

time, and successfully suing the cereal maker for copyright infringement!

Could anything be more transparent than the Commander buying a Westburr and ordering his engineers to copy it?

My own favorite in this contest is the Operadio 2, which was in production by August 1923 and advertised in December (yes, nationally, if that makes any difference). Perhaps I'm just partial to radios that work. The Operadio sold, and stayed sold; the Westburr and the Companion didn't. The true definition of "portable" is "can be carried" but I prefer for radio purposes "self-contained with antenna, batteries and speaker." Some people seem bothered that they can't carry the Operadio by its handle while it's in operation, but why would anyone (in the 1920s, remember) want to? Would you carry a tube-type Trans-Oceanic around with the lid open and whip extended? And with its whip up, the transistor model doesn't even have a handle. By this definition, the Trans-Oceanic may not be a portable either!

Curiously, this book begins its story of the portable radio with a description and photo of Howard Armstrong's wedding gift to Marion, the portable superhet (the Major is called variously Edward, Edwin, E. Howard, and Howard, by the way). The photo caption says "ca. 1923" but it must date between August and November of that year. All very well, but this is not a production model, so why is it here, as the supposed first step in the "development of portable radios?" If one-offs are allowed in, what happened to the Bureau of Standards "Portaphone" constructed in the early summer of 1921, which was complete with loop and horn (and carrying handle), or Francis Dunmore's "Radio Valise" from May 1922, whose horn was completely enclosed like the Companion's? Very selective rules, these.

The other Zenith myth that needs deflating concerns Arctic exploration and short-wave transmissions. First, the assertion that MacMillan took a Companion with him for testing in 1923 is simply preposterous. It didn't exist then, and there is no record in his expedition reports of any such equipment. MacMillan departed Wiscasset, Maine on June 23, 1923 and returned on September 20, 1924 (it's all in the National Geographic for June 1925,

and the 1925 expedition is written up in the November 1925 issue). Evidently the photo was taken on his next trip to Chicago.

More serious is the caption for the photo on page 16, showing Eskimos from Etah, Greenland broadcasting songs from the dining saloon of the Peary to "the USS Seattle off Tasmania." While this feat is not totally preposterous, a study of expedition logs and magazine reports shows that it did not happen, no matter what McDonald remembered twenty years later. This broadcast occurred on August 12, 1925 and was received at 9XN, Zenith's experimental short-wave station at Arlington Heights, on 40 meters, with the intention of rebroadcasting it on 322 meters. Unfortunately, the broadcast occurred without prior warning, starting at 10 PM Chicago time, and while it was received quite well, by the time all the engineers were found and the necessary equipment hooked up, it was 1 AM, little more than one Eskimo song was rebroadcast, and it was drowned out by a local thunderstorm. This is all detailed in a story in Radio Digest for August 29, 1925.

On August 12 the USS Seattle was anchored at Wellington, New Zealand, having left Melbourne on August 6. The only time the Seattle was "off Tasmania" was during her arrival on July 20 or at departure; otherwise Schnell was ashore in Melbourne. While MacMillan was said to have broadcast McDonald's voice and songs by expedition members to "all parts of the American continent" before the August 12 broadcast, it is quite unlikely that Schnell heard any of them. His log showed that he heard WNP enroute to Melbourne, but WNP was the Bowdoin, not the Peary which did all the broadcasting. The only two-way communication with WAP (Peary) was on August 19 and afterward. And Schnell makes no mention, in a seven-page article in the January 1926 QST detailing his voyage, of any voice reception at all. His logs are printed in various issues of QST in late 1925, in the Traffic Dept. pages (which were not always included in newsstand issues).

Readers who haven't yet bought the book may be wondering who this Schnell was and what was the big deal with the USS Seattle. This was another venture mounted at about the same time as

MacMillan's expedition, whereby ARRL Traffic Manager Fred Schnell joined the Navy for a fleet cruise to Australia to test short-wave communications. His work was a resounding success, and the friendly Zenith PR boys would have us believe that it was all McDonald's idea. However, there is not a shred of evidence that Zenith had anything to do with it, that Schnell ever met McDonald, or that the Navy ever bought any Zenith short-wave gear as a result. This was all dutifully asserted in the Trans-Oceanic book, with poor Admiral McLean becoming McClain. The full story of this cruise is in QST, in DeSoto's book 200 Meters and Down, and in Howeth's History of Communications-Electronics in the United States Navy. Zenith is not mentioned in any of it.

The account of Zenith's growth on page 14 is seriously lacking in perspective. Being granted the first RCA patent license was not exactly akin to being knighted by the Queen. RCA would gladly have signed up anybody at that point, and was cutting deals and forgiving past royalties to do it. McDonald evidently thought he got some advantage by being first in line, though some later holdouts fared better. Zenith did not, "within a few years," develop into one of the "largest radio manufacturers in the world." Even by 1934 Zenith was ninth in this country, and outsold by Philco twelve to one. By 1937 Zenith was up to third place, and after Philco blew it in the 1950s, Zenith rose to number two, behind RCA, but this is stretching "a few years" rather far, as well as underestimating other manufacturers worldwide. For instance, Philips as of 1963 employed 80,000 in the Netherlands, and the main complex at Eindhoven could have swallowed several Zeniths without a burp (Zenith employed 7500 at that time).

Now, none of this should deter anyone from buying the book; it's only there to flesh out the Trans-Oceanic story and can easily be revised for the second edition. But it does illustrate the risks of not examining one's sources. I might also mention, without going into a lot of unnecessary detail, that McDonald was not quite the saint implied in the book. There is no doubt that he was a genius in guiding Zenith through 35 shark-infested years, and in setting its course for the next 40,

but many other people paid a very high price for his success.

Alan Douglas is perhaps the "dean" of American antique-radio historians, with articles appearing in the IEEE Spectrum, ARCA Gazette, A. R. C., OTB, BVWS Bulletin, etc. He holds the AWA Houck Award for Documentation and judges AWA's annual Equipment Contest. He produced a six-part article on the origins of Zenith in Radio Age and has an extensive chapter on the company's first years in Vol. III of his book Radio Manufacturers of the 1920s. - Ed.

AUTHORS' REBUTTAL

Dear Radio Friends

About three weeks ago, you probably received a "courtesy" or "exchange" copy of the February 1996 issue of the *Oscillator*, the newsletter of the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club centered near Philadelphia. The feature article of that issue was a "review" of our book, *The Zenith Trans-Oceanic, The Royalty of Radio*, which was published over a year ago by Schiffer Publications. In case you did not see that review, we are attaching a copy.

There are several things that you should know about that review: Over a year ago Alan Douglas submitted this same article to the Antique Wireless Association for publication in the *Old Timers Bulletin*. It was rejected. Mr. Douglas then submitted this same article to both *Antique Radio Classified* and to *Radio Age*, now the bulletin of MAARC. Both publications declined to publish this article. If you wish to know the reasons for these rejections, we would suggest that you contact those organizations directly.

As we were writing the Trans-Oceanic book, we were very well aware that we were finding data in the Zenith archives and elsewhere that cast real doubt on the Douglas version of Zenith history which he has promulgated so enthusiastically in the radio hobbies. In the Trans-Oceanic book, rather than embarrass Mr. Douglas by pointing out these discrepancies, we chose to tell the truth as we found it and carefully footnoted our sources. As we began our research for a second book, *Zenith Radio Corporation, the Foundation Years, 1919-1935*, we told Mr. Douglas that we had found much new information, never before seen, at Zenith and elsewhere, which would radically change hobbyists' view of Zenith founder E.F. McDonald and which put the early days of Zenith in a new light.

Then and later, Mr. Douglas seemed to be completely unable to accept the idea that new information might come to light.

We should also point out that, though officials at Zenith have been cooperative with our efforts, we have received no financial support from that organization in the past and expect none in the future. You should also know that we were contacted by officials of AWA, ARC, and *Radio Age* after they each received Mr. Douglas' review. During our discussion with these officials we DID NOT request that the review be rejected.

Zenith is slowly uncovering more of its own past as some of the outdated facilities in the Chicago area are closed. We have benefited from this slow accrual of data. However, much of our new information has come from our discovery of 154 file drawers of records and correspondence which were sealed soon after McDonald's death in 1958, and which were eventually misplaced. The discovery of these files will eventually add to all our knowledge of the early days of radio. Along with working rather frantically to meet our publisher's deadline for the 1920s Zenith book, we are spending a great deal of time, gratis, cataloging these files. We believe that this effort will, in years to come, lead to these files being made accessible to other scholars and, we hope, to serious radio enthusiasts.

Since we both have more than full time jobs, we have been reluctant to suspend our Zenith-related research and writing to participate in a public mudslinging contest with Mr. Douglas. Until his review was published in *Oscillator*, we had believed that no reputable organization would publish such a clearly vituperative and malicious article, simply on the grounds that publication would not serve the interests of the hobby itself. We had hoped that we could proceed to write our book on the early days at Zenith and then let the readers decide for themselves what version of history was supported by the facts. We should also add that we are becoming VERY concerned that Mr. Douglas is and has been attempting to rewrite radio history in an effort to protect his own considerable reputation within the radio hobbies [sic].

Perhaps we should give you a few examples of Mr. Douglas' tactics and accuracy, so that you may judge for yourself.

1. In his first few paragraphs, Mr. Douglas explains that we unwittingly fell into the trap that E.F. McDonald set for us when he so adroitly "Stalinized the past" (referring to the contents of the Zenith archives.) The force and clarity of this charge shocked us, since Mr. Douglas

has never examined the Zenith archives or the sealed files, at all! As usual, Douglas does not give his sources for these charges, and as usual, he counts on gullible readers believing that no one would dare make such charges publicly without evidence.

2. To quote another example from the first few paragraphs: *"I will wager that nowhere in the archives does the name Tom Pletcher survive, yet without him and his QRS piano roll factory, Zenith would never have existed."* Well, Mr. Douglas *looses [sic] that wager*, for there is at least one thick file labeled "Pletcher" in every annual set of files for almost 30 years! Further, though Mr. Pletcher played an important role in Zenith history, no one without a crystal ball to look at alternate time lines can possibly state, as Douglas does, that Zenith would not have existed without Pletcher's assistance. We are also sad to report that Mr. Douglas managed to convince the Pletcher family that McDonald and Pletcher were enemies in later life. The long and voluminous correspondence between McDonald and Pletcher indicates the exact opposite: They were very close friends throughout their lives.

3. Mr. Douglas spent over a page "proving" that the famous broadcast between McDonald and MacMillan on their 1925 expedition to Northern Greenland and Admiral Koontz on the U.S.S. *Seattle* "in waters off Tasmania" could not have happened. Frankly, it is an act of supreme hubris to allege, as Douglas does, that three Lieutenant Commanders (MacMillan, McDonald, and Richard Evelyn Byrd) would conspire with the senior admiral in the Navy to create a world-wide hoax to garner publicity for Zenith! Douglas' "proof" of this hoax rests on the fact that the *Seattle* was in New Zealand on the day that Douglas believes the transmission took place and on the fact that Zenith is not even mentioned in *200 Meters and Down* a wonderful history of early amateur radio and on the facts contained in Howeth's history of communications in the Navy. Douglas assures us that these sources contain "the full story of this cruise."

There are several sources outside the Zenith archives, at least one of which is available to Mr. Douglas, that show conclusively that the logs of the expedition radio operators were very incomplete on both the 1923 and, especially, the 1925 MacMillan Arctic Expeditions. In the latter case, there was *[sic]* not one but at least three additional broadcasts and many other business and scientific communications which were not reported in the sources Mr. Douglas so smugly believes contain "the full story of that cruise."

These are but three of the many instances in the Douglas review where we have

found that he has either slanted or distorted the facts or jumped to conclusions that no reasonable person would think of making. If we are forced to make a public rebuttal of Douglas' article, we will cover those other instances, as well.

Mr. Douglas also takes a great deal of space discussing a single paragraph of our book related to Zenith "firsts." Anyone familiar with the early history of commercial radio in the US knows that many companies, including Zenith, made enthusiastic claims of various "firsts." Most of these were and are highly debatable, including those repeated in our book. In that instance, we rather naively accepted those Zenith "firsts" quoted in several sources including the citation which accompanied McDonald's posthumous induction into the Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame. Since completing the Trans-Oceanic book, we have gathered much more information on these "firsts" and we are discussing them in detail in our forthcoming book.

We should also inform you that in the past year we have presented two scholarly papers on McDonald's role in early radio history. One paper was presented at the Third International Symposium on Telecommunications History and the other was read before the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology. Both were very well received by the historians and other scholars at these meetings and both were accepted for publication.

We are sorry to have taken this much of your time discussing such distasteful matters. We had hoped to avoid doing so even in this somewhat confidential manner. However, since the DVHRC chose to publish and circulate Mr. Douglas' review, we feel that we must respond in at least this limited way. We hope that the regional and local clubs which receive this letter will not choose to republish Douglas' review, for the good of the hobby and Mr. Douglas himself. Even at this late juncture, we do not wish to embarrass Mr. Douglas publicly. However, should you choose to publish the Douglas review, we trust that you will inform us and that you will give us the courtesy of space in your bulletin for a full and frank rebuttal. We are enclosing a self addressed stamped envelope for your use.

In closing, we want you to know how impressed we have been at the general level of scholarship and stewardship shown in the vintage radio hobbies. The history of technology and, indeed, the understanding of the early days of radio by future generations has been well served by most people in these wonderful hobbies. It is unfortunate that the behavior of a few hobbyists casts a such *[sic]* pall over the

careful and conscientious work of the vast majority of the vintage radio community.

Sincerely
Professor John H. Bryant, AIA

EDITOR'S NOTE: Seldom, in a small publication such as the *Broadcaster*, is an editor called upon to arbitrate academic headbutting, nor do I intend to now; my credentials are far too anemic to assume such a role. But it seems that this is exactly what Messieurs Bryant and Cones are asking when they request that "regional and local clubs...will choose not to republish Douglas' review, for the good of the hobby and Mr. Douglas himself." I find this even more uncomfortable when the authors state, with regard to their initial discussions with AWA, ARC and *Radio Age* that "we DID NOT request that the review be rejected." Why now? It is the opinion of this editor that the authors are in no position to dictate what is "good" for anyone and they should take some time out of their "frantic" schedule to do some research into the history of academic freedom in this country. Whether Mr. Douglas is right or wrong is not the point; in fact, he notes that "The book itself is fine, and anyone with even a slight interest in 1940's and later radios will find it of great interest and value." Mr. Douglas goes on to say "...none of this should deter anyone from buying the book; it's only there to flesh out the Trans-Oceanic story and can easily be revised for the second edition." What is important is that he is given the opportunity to air his views so that readers may decide for themselves. Only through the free exchange of ideas can something as elusive as "the truth" be eventually brought to light. As Jefferson wrote: "In every country where man is free to think and to speak, differences of opinion will arise from difference of perception, and the imperfection of reason; but these differences when permitted, as in this happy country, to purify themselves by free discussion, are but as passing clouds overspreading our land transiently, and leaving our horizon more bright and serene." Although I do not have a Ph. D. after my name, I do understand the meaning of at least these words and hope I have lived up to them as your editor by publishing Mr. Douglas' review.

DVHRC TO PRESENT SWAPMEET/AUCTION ON APRIL 20TH

The Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club will present a swapmeet starting at 7 AM and auction starting at 10 AM at the Downingtown Farmers Market, Business Route 30 next to the Tabas Hotel in Downingtown PA. Unlimited swapmeet vendor space is available at \$15 per table; parking and admission is free and food and facilities are available on site. For reservations and additional information, call Dave Abramson at (610) 627-9757.

The auction may be previewed Friday, April 19th, between 10 AM and 10 PM and Saturday, April 20th between 8 and 10 AM. Included in the auction will be battery sets, early electrics, speakers and horns, table models, "transoceanic" types, cathedrals, consoles, commercial types, Hi-Fi gear, test equipment, microphones, tubes, parts, literature, etc. Some of the more interesting items include AK 10C and AK 12 breadboards, a Federal DX-58, a Magnovox M-1 horn and Temple drum speaker, a Signal Corps suitcase spy/DF BC-792A receiver, a Philco 90, a Sky Ranger crystal sets and a Zenith 8H023 (both FM bands). For further auction information and a catalog, call (610) 269-1036.

NJARC STARTS '96 SEASON

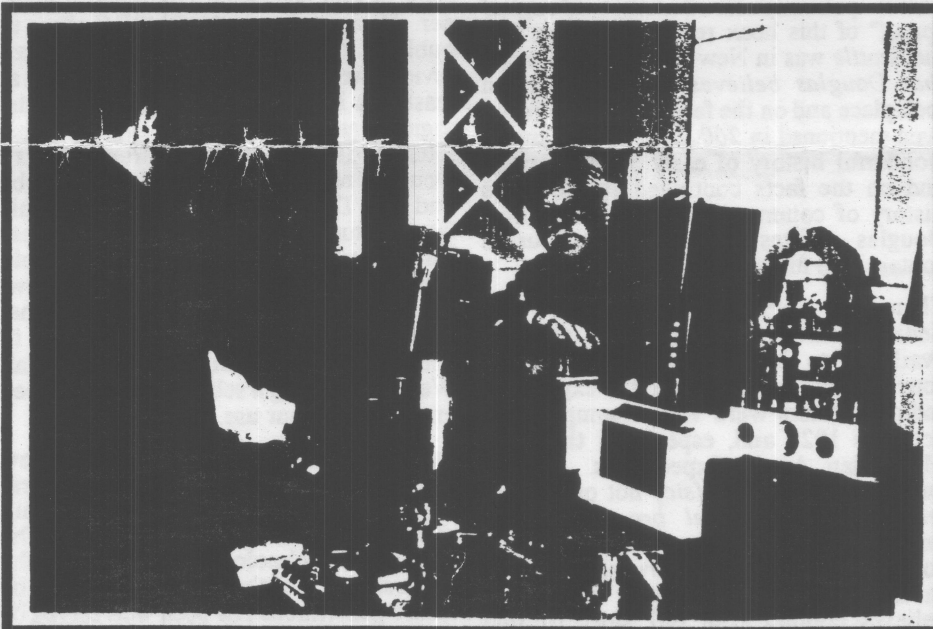
The club opened its 1996 season on March 16 with a generously attended indoor swapmeet. Held at the Hightstown Country Club, the event was more or less mobbed by radiofans "busting out" after a hard winter. Fortunately, a day of fine weather allowed more than 20 extra vendors to set up outside. To dampen any super-early-bird tendencies on the part of buyers, club president Tony Flanagan and organizer Marv Beeferman tried the tactic of opening the building to only vendors at 7 AM, then letting everyone in at 8:00. This seemed to work successfully. Items in

good supply this time included communications gear (featuring a BC-15 aircraft transmitter from WW I, an IP-501A shipboard receiver of ca. 1920, and a National FB-7 receiver from the '30s) and a wide variety of transistor radios.

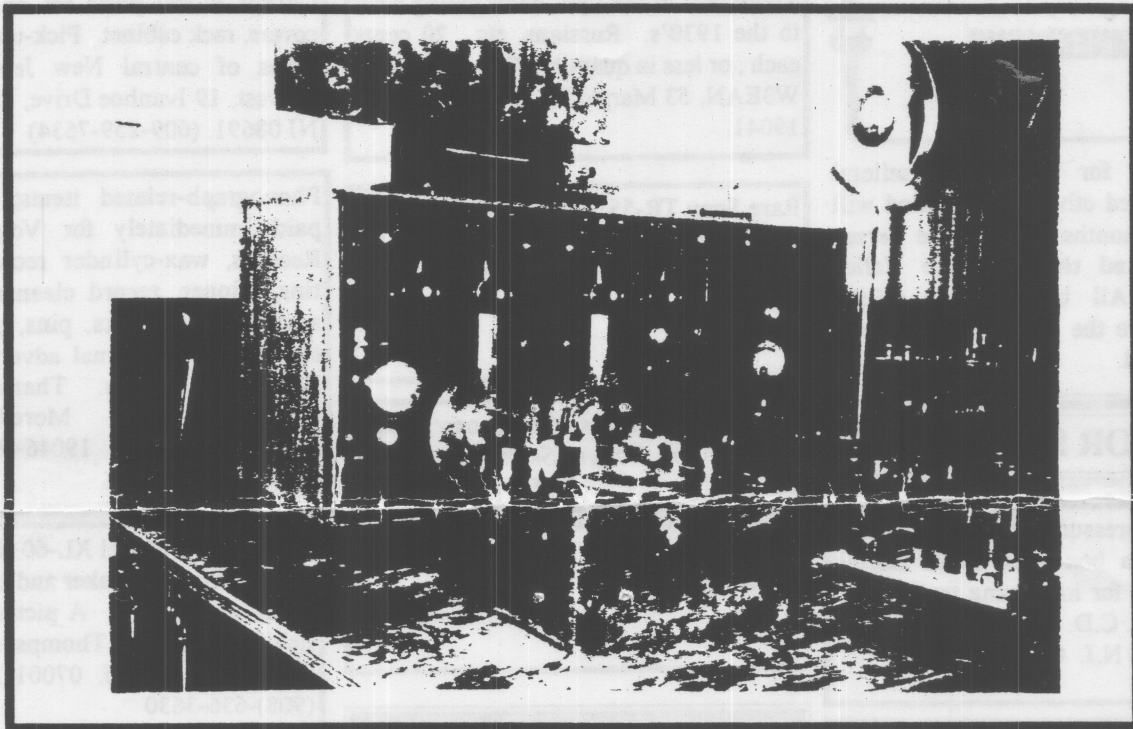
Club support was exceptional, with a note of thanks going to the following helping hands: Tony and Kathleen Flanagan, John Ruccolo, Mark Mittlemen, Gary D'Amico, Jim and Onalee Fisher, Marty Friedman, Dave Chmielewski, Gerald Dowgin, Jon Butz Fiscina, Phil Voutsis, Edith and Ray Chase, and Richard Brill. (Hope I included everyone; I misplaced my original list- Ed.).



Presidential Triumvirate - Club Presidents Bill Overbeck (DVHRC), Sam Cannan (MAARC) and Tony Flanagan (NJARC) compare notes.



A Break in the Action - Club member Richard Brill takes a break from the hectic selling pace to pose for the camera. Richard chaired our advertising campaign.



HOT ITEM - An IP-501A waiting for an owner.



ANTICIPATION - A neophyte vendor awaits the onslaught

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

Phono stylus-pressure gauge, reads 0-50 grams, new in box with spare marble weights. Ideal for improving tracking on oldie phonos. C.D. Romm, 43 Victrola Terr., Camden, N.J. 08967.

Power your radios the old-fashioned way. \$19.95 kit includes kite, wire, key and converter. Developed right here in Philly. Call Ben at (215)-555-2368.

Convert your RCA 100A speaker into a mantel clock. Free instructions. Send SASE to Eddie Current, Tioga & C Streets, Philadelphia.

Thousands of DX QSL cards dating back to the 1930's. Russians, etc. 20 cents each, or less in quantity. Gene Reynolds, W3EAN, 53 Marple Rd., Havertown, PA 19041.

Rare Sony TR-55, \$19.95, available only with a set of four AA cells at \$650 each. Ima Lyre, see me at the next club meeting on the 14th.

Learn your A-B-C's with the new release *Hooked on Power Supplies* and its companion volume *Voltage Reading is Fundamental*. Both for \$24.93. Professor Radio, General Delivery, Illbuyanything, N.J. 09898.

WANTED

Power supply for Hammarlund "Super-Pro" military receiver BC-779-B, BC-794-B or BC-1104-C. Power supply units are identified as RA-74-C, RA-84-B or RA-94-A. Ted Soirka, 517 Baeder Rd., Jenkintown, PA 19046, (215)-886-0982

Collins R-390 parts set or parts, dust covers, rack cabinet. Pick-up within 100 miles of central New Jersey. Tom Provost, 19 Ivanhoe Drive, Robbinsville, NJ 08691. (609)-259-7634

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 Seinerberg, 714 Moredon Rd., Meadowbrook, PA 19046-1907 (215)-348-9654.

A.C. Dayton Model XL-60 chassis. Can be a junker but speaker and cabinet must be in better shape. A picture would be helpful. Stanley Thompson, 43 Cozy Corner, Avenel N.J. 07001-1122. (908)-636-3630

Schematic for Stromberg Carlson Model 60DC farm set; 10" speaker for Philco model 38-7. Tony Flanagan, 92 Joysan Terrace, Freehold, N.J. 07728 (908)-462-6638.

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