



The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

Spring 1997

Volume 3 Issue 5



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Marsha Siskin
and Marv Beeferman

Much better weather and daylight savings time led to a large turnout for our April meeting. There was quite a bit of selling going on with the emphasis on books, magazines and other radio "paper."

It has been mentioned many times that we have been looking for a new location for our meets. The Hightstown Country Club Ballroom served us well in the past but it is time to move on. We have discussed the lack of food service facilities, the cramped quarters, the run down outside tables, poor rest room facilities, etc. often. Now, hopefully a solution has been found. Thanks to Tony Flanagan, our founder and past president, we have made initial contact with the people who run the National Guard Armory in Freehold. The facility has good parking, a nice food area, clean rest rooms and plenty of space including an enclosed outside area used as a garage for military vehicles. It was even rumored that you could drive into the building to set up, but this has not been confirmed. The rent is \$450 - \$475 as opposed to \$550 - \$600 at Hightstown. Tables are not provided but some members talked about a \$2.00/day rental fee from companies that will deliver. Therefore, a tentative September meet at the Freehold Armory was voted on and passed by the membership. The reservation process is a little more formal than that used for Hightstown so a firm date and details are pending contacts by Marv Beeferman.

Please try to make early reservations for our joint picnic/flea market/auction with the Delaware Valley Historical Radio Club on June 14 (rain or shine) at the Clinton Elks Lodge. Full details were presented in

MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of NJARC will take place on Friday, May 9, 1997 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 or Jim Whartenby at (908)-271-7701 for directions. This month's historical/technical session will feature a presentation by Al Klase titled "ARC-5 Command Sets." In addition, considering NJARC attendance, there will plenty of "one that got away" and "I don't believe he paid that price!" stories from the Findley estate auction in Downingtown PA (see this month's *Broadcaster* for some surprising highlights).

last month's *Broadcaster* and a condensed version may be found in this month's issue.

Mark Mittlemen treated the club to another one of his popular battery set restoration seminars and, from the comments overheard by this editor, it was an outstanding success! Using two versions of restored Grebe CR14's and a Crosley Super XJ (Superdyne model of the standard XJ with reversed ticklers mounted between the tuning dials), Mark provided some of his special tips and insights:

- The majority of problems encountered with battery set restoration involve dead audio transformers, bad rheostats and cracked, warped or modified front panels.
- Except for the bus wiring, Mark completely disassembles his restoration so he can easily get at audios, rheostats, grid leaks and coils for testing and cleaning. The cabinet is set aside so it can be worked on independently.
- Panels are flattened using clamps and heat, sometimes allowing them months to reform in this state.
- Mark has recently switched to Devcon 5-minute epoxy to fill holes since the metal chips in its

formulation prevents it from shrinking. Sanding and black polish finish the job. Mark is presently experimenting with melted 78 RPM records as a source of fill material.

□ An attempt at restoring open audios involves subjecting the unit to a short duration, high voltage source (800 - 1000 VDC) so that the resulting arc "welds" the open wires together. Mark said he has good success with this method, although the fix may not remain permanent and might require future persuasion. In cases where the method is unsuccessful, audios of the same size and vintage are substituted, as with the Acme units he used in his Grebe's.

□ Mark uses copper shim stock to bridge opens in rheostats rather than attempting the tedious job of locating just the right replacement.

Mark explained that the key to successful restoration is simple; work on one project at a time, always be on the lookout for those hard-to-find parts that will inevitably become vital for some future project, be patient and stay in touch (via club's like NJARC) with experienced restorers that have already been down the path that you may see for the very first time.

(Continued on page 2)

THE JERSEY BROADCASTER, published a minimum of ten times each year, 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 with special emphasis on contributions made by the state of New Jersey. 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.

Submissions are welcome in typewritten or diskette (5-1/4" or 3-1/2") form with formats in ASCII, WordPerfect, Word, etc. Photos in high contrast black and white are appreciated but color photos are acceptable. The Editor or NJARC is not liable for any buying and selling transactions or for any other use of the contents of this publication.

OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND PROGRAM COORDINATORS

PRESIDENT:

James Whartenby
120 W. Franklin St.
Bound Brook, N.J. 08805
(908)-271-7701

VICE PRESIDENT/TUBE PROGRAM:

Ludwell Sibley
44 E. Main St.
Flemington, N.J. 08822
(908)-782-4894

SECRETARY/EDITOR:

Marv Beeferman
2265 Emerald Park Drive
Forked River, N.J. 08731
(609)-693-9430

TREASURER:

Gerald Dowgin, KB2EE
1481 Newark Ave.
Whiting, N.J. 08759
(908)-350-6259

SARGEANT-AT-ARMS:

Donald Cruise
10 Bernard St.
Eatontown, N.J. 07724
(908)-542-2848

TRUSTEES:

Mark Mittlemen (908)-431-1324
Phil Vourtsis (908)-446-2427
Tony Flanagan (908)-462-6638

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR:

Tom Provost
19 Ivanhoe Dr.
Robbinsville, N.J. 08691
(609)-259-7634

SCHEMATIC PROGRAM:

Aaron Hunter
23 Lenape Trail
Southampton, N.J. 08088
(609)-267-3065

CAPACITOR PROGRAM:

John Ruccolo
335 Butcher Rd.
Hightstown, N.J. 08520
(609)-426-4568

WEB COORDINATOR

John Dilks, K2TQN
(609)-927-3873
<http://www.eht.com/oldradio>

(Meeting/Activity Notes ...continued)

In other news, John Ruccolo has volunteered to assume the responsibilities of the club's capacitor program from Jim Amici. Thanks goes to Jim for setting up and administering the program so effectively. It appears that John is the right man for the job, commenting "I like capacitors."

Thanks also to Hugh Davey for setting up his PC so members could view the club's homepage. It was reported that so far we have had over 1,000 new inquiries with 512 for the Findly estate auction catalog that was loaded on the site.

Finally, as a note of thanks for its gracious hospitality, the club approved a \$100 donation to the Grace Lutheran Church to be used to support their "wish list" of donations for building fixups.

That's it for now...see you next month or at the May meeting.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

TUBE TALK

There are many interesting and informative periodicals which cater to electronics in general and radio in particular. I guess everyone has at least seen *Radio* or perhaps *Popular Electronics*, *73*, *CQ*, *QST*, *Radio Electronics* or *Electronics* to name just a few past and present publications. To my knowledge, all of the above have had conversion articles which usually concerned themselves with a new application for some obscure military black box or an upgrade of some commercial equipment to improve or enhance performance. In fact, it was these very articles which required a new hole to be drilled into the front panel for a new knob, meter or whatever that forever (unless you happened to be an ace refinisher like some of our club members) changed the esthetics of the equipment and, without exception, lowered its value (i.e., made it "affordable").

Some of these articles have gone as far as to instruct you to completely remove all of the original hardware and then completely rebuild the unit with all new com-

ponents. Now, if you thought these days were over, guess again. In this high-tech age of cellular telephones and personal computers, which have product life times measured in months (yes...months!) and with schematics that weigh more than the unit they describe, I have discovered the ultimate conversion article.

In the February '97 issue of *Nuts and Volts* magazine, I found an article which has taken the conversion art full circle. I refer you to page 110 and an article on reworking a 60's or 70's Dynaco stereo transistor amplifier and converting it to...yup, you guessed it...a tube amplifier. With an investment of less than \$50 for the transistor amplifier and a conversion cost in which the author, I feel, greatly underestimates at \$300, you too can step back into the days of noticeable audio distortion.

I have to admit that I find all of the hype of tube audio amusing. If the goal of audio reproduction is to faithfully reproduce the material composed and performed by others, then you would want to introduce as little distortion as possible. You would even go as far as to only use the bass and treble controls to brighten a "flat" room. If, on the other hand, the goal is to create a unique sound, then you are "composing and performing" and you bring new meaning to the phrase "I can play the stereo." To be completely honest, I do both. You will find me most happy when driving alone (Ruth would be too embarrassed) in my pick-up truck singing along to '60's rock-and-roll tweaked just the way I like it. The stereo is the only instrument I know how to play!

If tube equipment was truly superior, then solid state equipment would not have been as successful in the market place...people usually don't upgrade to an inferior product. I feel that tube equipment was abandoned in favor of solid state because of better performance, higher reliability and a lower price. But why is there this return to tubes? Better yet, why do we collect tube equipment? I realize that I collect either because I once owned it, repaired it or at least coveted it but couldn't afford to purchase it. But I also collect to salvage or save from the dump unique examples of the tube art, (Continued on page 3)

(Tube Talk...continued)

usually because it is so inexpensive (cheap). I am sure that a lot of you have in your collections a piece or two that you cannot otherwise justify. But think about this...why do you collect tube equipment? I'd be interested to find out.

See you at the next meeting...Jim



DINOSAUR DROPPINGS

by Isaac S. Blonder

Who am I and why do I qualify as a cable dinosaur? By age and experience of course. I was born in NYC June 24, 1916, moved to rural Connecticut in 1922, and grew up at the same time as radio and TV, and always in the fringe reception areas.

Crystal radios were the principal means of radio reception in the early 20's, and almost every household possessed long wire antennas strung from house to adjacent trees able to receive the major market stations from across the nation. I remember sitting in a neighbor's parlor until dawn, listening in turn to New York City, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Denver as the distant signals grew stronger with the advent of night in each city.

Battery-powered radios appeared in the mid-20's, followed quickly by ac-powered home models in bewildering profusion. My father had a garage and I was a grease jockey until the end of my college career. The early automobiles had expensive radios with drycell B-batteries for the high voltage, and everyone one envied the affluent drivers. Repairing the radios fell to the

educated son, and I had a great time with the car radios, and the neighbor's home models.

By 1940, I had a Master's in Physics from Cornell and no high level job. Finally, in 1941, the GE personnel department in Bridgeport, from the depths of their generous heart, took me on as a troubleshooter in their radio factory (\$40 weekly). Several months later, in the mail, came an equally generous letter from the US offering a commission in the Army for one year, to engage in research. Arriving at Ft. Monmouth, before Pearl Harbor, I learned that the research is being a radar officer in the British Army in England!

At TeleKing came my first exposure to Master Antenna systems. The half dozen engineers in the Lab were constantly threatening to murder each other. Seems that the one antenna on the roof fed a twinlead running from bench to bench and only one engineer at a time could get a usable signal. I scanned my textbooks and came up with matched two-set and four-set resistive splitters which calmed the murderers but delivered a rather weak signal. The available tubes could not singly amplify the entire VHF band but, when employed as cathode followers, they gave a few db extra. The factory manager soon grabbed me by the ears and demanded similar devices in his department. So, in 1948, MATV, of sorts.

Back home, my parents, 120 miles from NYC, suggested that their learned son install TV as a matter of utmost urgency. So I built a double Yagi, installed it on a tall mast above the garage, and presto, especially at night, one could see cowboys galloping in and out of the snow and hear the firing of guns. I explained the lack of good reception due to distance, and offered to remove the gear. The immediate reply was for me to stop talking, so they could enjoy the show. Some months later, on a visit home, my mother said she had just visited her friend on the hill and their reception was much clearer - why couldn't her son be a better engineer? I replied, "Mom, if you will move to a house on the hill, your son will also have a higher skill level!"

In 1950, Ben Tongue and I left our good jobs and founded our own company in a storefront in Yonkers, NY, without a

single product to sell. We would temporarily install high quality Television systems for rich clients in the Westchester area until we could finish the design of some hotshot TV test gear for the engineering profession. However, there was some excitement the first week; police cars came screaming up to our little store, guns showing, to catch unawares the new bunch of Yonkers racetrack bookmakers like the last crowd that were in our location. They sure were disappointed to verify we were engineers!

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. It covered channels 2-13, used four tubes and had 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 distribution 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 every one else had to beat! Of course, our products and business grew along with the cable industry. Why then didn't Blonder-Tongue match the growth of the industry gains. Money, my friends, money. In those days, we could not afford to sell to the cable industry, since the typical cable customer took one year to pay his bills, and the parts distributor paid within the month!

Our CA-1-M was installed in some strange places. The service department reported that a couple were returned with bullet holes. Why? Seems that installations were being made out west using miles of fence wire nailed to trees as twinlead, 110 volts fed on the wire to our amplifiers (also nailed to the tree) with a rain shelter of sheet metal included. "Target practice" was what we heard caused the

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COLLECTING FOREIGN RADIO MAGAZINES

By Marv Beeferman

Some years back, I worked for a company that performed quality inspections of overseas shipments of everything from a yacht for the former Shah of Iran to the components used to assemble tuna fish cans. A worker's death resulting from inferior grade pipe obtained from the U.S. resulted in Mexico's state-run oil company to insist that all material imports used for well construction and maintenance be inspected prior to shipment. The increased workload at our Houston office put me on loan for two months.

Upon arrival, I was promptly handed a purchase order and specifications for a shipment that was to go out the next morning. Unfortunately, it was written in Spanish! Having only a cursory education in this language that I received from Ricky Ricardo of "I Love Lucy" fame, it looked like this was going to be a long two months. "What do you expect me to do with this?" I asked my boss. "I don't think that three years of High School French will cut it." "No problem" he said, dropped a Spanish dictionary on my desk and walked out of the room.

Well, by the end of the day, I was truly amazed. I had the specification completely translated and went on to do a bang-up job using a language that previously could only get me through the drive-thru window at Taco Bell. What does all this have to do with collecting foreign radio magazines and journals? Just this...technical information looks basically the same in every language and language should not be a deterrent for not considering these magazines as collectables and good sources for information and enjoyment. For example, what do you think is being advertised in the following AEG advertisement for "Appareils de Mesure" from the February 1939 issue of *Electricite Et Radio* (Brussels, Belgium):

Pour mesures de tension jusque 650 volts, d'intensite jusque 600 amperes et de puissance correspondant a ces deux valeurs

electriques, avec une precision de +/- 0.5%.

Sure...a volt-amp-wattmeter with a precision of 0.5%. Simple, isn't it. In fact, the majority of ads and articles are self-descriptive since most include numerous illustrations.

None of my limited collection includes full series runs since the magazines are somewhat hard to come by...in fact, most of the issues were picked up without any intent on my part to form a collection. The majority offer mostly U.S., French, British and German imports but it is interesting to see what the locals offered in the same time frame. Some issues were published in the United States in a particular language, such as Spanish, to cover markets like Spain, Latin America and Cuba and were considered "trade" magazines for distributors of U.S. products in these locales. Typical were *Electricidad en America* published in Spanish by New York's Business Publishers International Corporation and *Radio - Zeitschrift Fur Das Gesamte Radiowesen* (The leading trade paper for the wireless industry) published in Berlin.

Other examples include Melbourne's *Radio Broadcast* - Australia's Foremost Radio Journal, *Radio Barcelona*, *Radio Amator* (from Warsaw), *il Radio Giornale* (Journal of the Italian ARI - Associazione Radiotecnica Italiana), *Telegraphen-Fernsprech-Funk-Fernseh-Technik* (Berlin), *Radio Lectura - Organo Oficial de la Asociacion Argentina de Broadcasting* (Buenos Aires), and typical British issues such as *Experimental Wireless* and the *T. & R. Bulletin* (Journal of the Inc. Radio Society of Great Britain and the British Empire Radio Union).

NJARC/DVHRC JOINT PICNIC/FLEA- MARKET & AUCTION

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See last month's *Broadcaster* for details

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(Continued on page 7)

ESTATE AUCTION AT DOWNINGTOWN PA

By Ludwell Sibley and Marv Beeferman

The Smith Auction Company of Downingtown, PA carried out a sizable radio sale on April 26, consisting mainly of the extensive collection of William Findley, W3FEA. The auction included about 400 items, plus another 150 adders from other sources. Most of the estate material had been publicized in a catalog, available in advance in paper and on John Dilks' Web page. The auction room contained 200 bidders, with heavy representation from NJARC, DVHRC and MAARC.

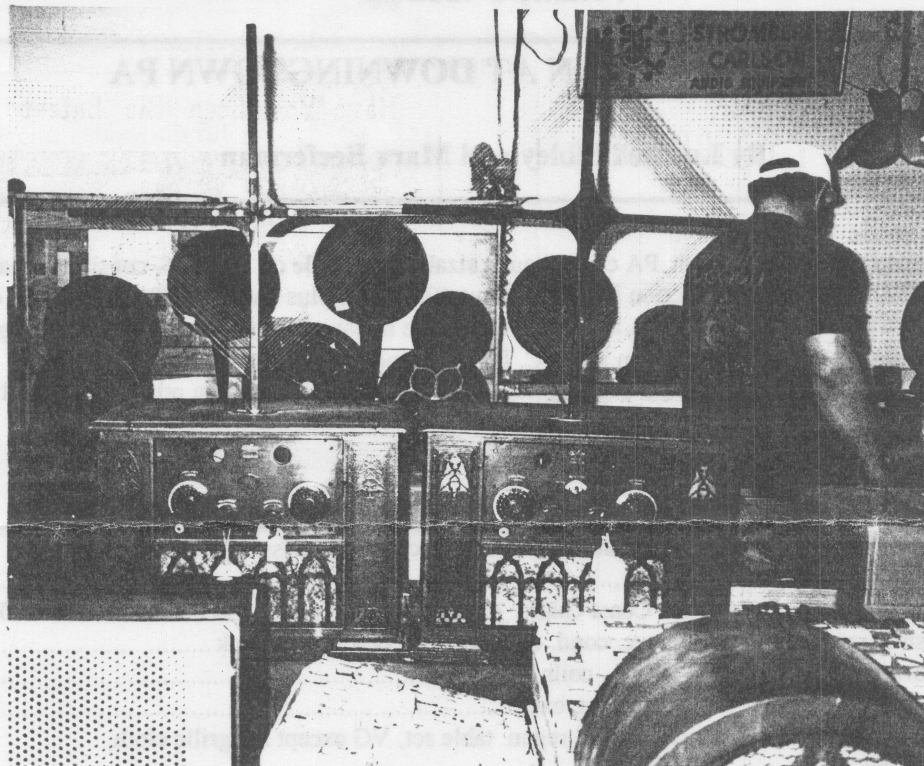
The auction house charged a 10% buyer's premium in addition to the 6% state sales tax (in other words, add \$416 to the price of the D-12 at the top of the list).

The following were the Top 25 items from the sale:

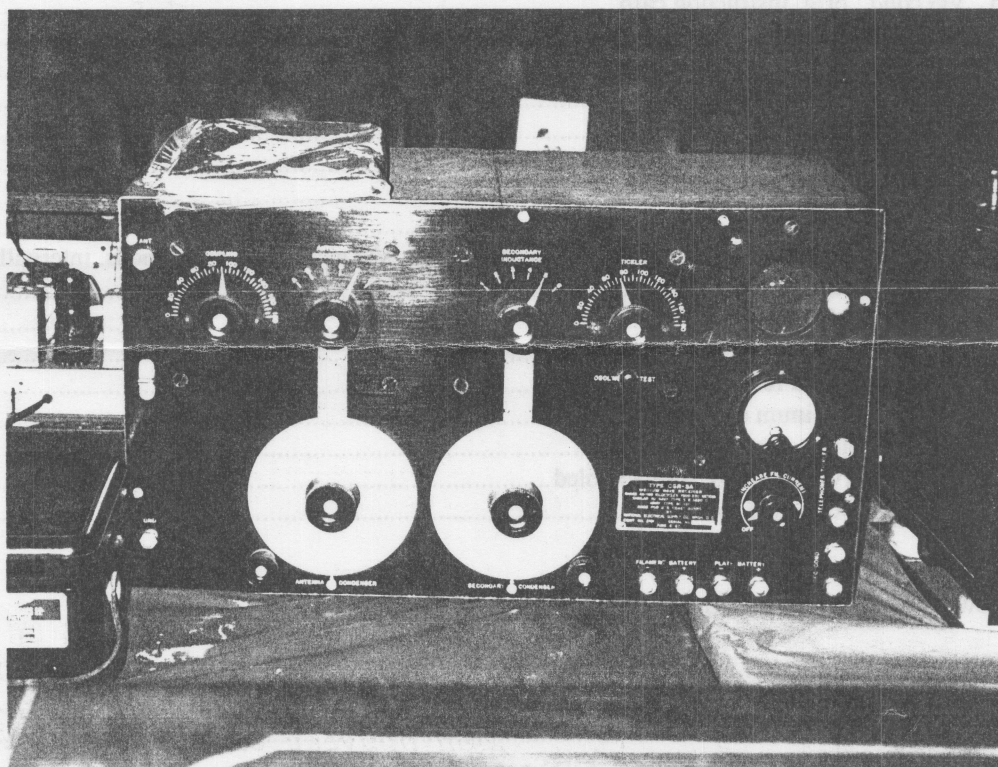
De Forest D-12 receiver w/ crystal detector and loop, complete and working	2600
Turner capacitor mike, early-'30s w/ preamp box atop massive nicked cast-brass base, styled like RCA 4AA, exc. finish, w/ home-built power supply	1600
NESCO (National Electrical Supply Co.) CGR-5A Coast Guard one-tube regen., metal-cased version of IP-500, 40-1200 kHz, S/N 48, possibly rewired internally; exc. cond. otherwise, w/ descriptive book	1050
Wwstern Electric 555W horn-speaker driver, VG cond., coils continuous	1050
Kennedy XV Type 430 5-tube battery TRF set, good tubes, exc.	975
Radio Shop (Sunnyvale, CA) / Paramount/Echophone "A" regen table set, VG except for grille cloth, w/ Canandaigua contest ribbon	950
AK 10B breadboard, tags, exc. cond., w/ orig. book	900
De Forest D-12 w/ tube det. and loop, complete, works	800
Pittsburgh Radio Supply House SP2 regen, w/ one good BBT tube; less one AFT, else exc.	675
Federal 110 3-tube regen., VG cond.; orig. instruction card	625
Westinghouse WR15 9-tube Deco grandfather-clock set, VG cond.	300
American D44W mike, spring-mounted, in case w/ windscreen, exc.	300
Rider's manuals, Vols. 1-20, w/ indexes; good cond.	300
AK 55 AC TRF set, in Kiel table, VG cond.	275
Unident. ribbon mike in 3" aluminum sphere; Navy inspection stamp	275
Golden-Leutz PL10-6 two-dialer, no tubes, works	275
Regency TR-1 xstr., red, exc.	250
Gates Radio & Supply Co. broadcast remote board; w/ three carbon-mic inputs, VG externally, some mods. internally, less tubes. From WDAE (W. Palm Beach, FL)	225
Philco 610 AM-SW tombstone; some chassis rust, good cabinet	220
Grebe MU-1 Synchrophase; w/ orig. book; panel pitted	200
AK 711 AM-SW console; some restoration rework; cabinet exc.	200
Rada Cron clock AC table TRF set, aluminum chassis, exc. cond.	200
AK factory service manuals, four original, good cond.	200
AK 511 Tune-O-Matic console, w/ service manual; disassembled	200
Edison SRC3R1 AC TRF console w/ book, VG cond.	200

A few of the notables below the \$200 price range included:

Heathkit W-5M amp, VG cond.	110
Emerson 520 catalin, black/butterscotch, VG.	100
Freed-Eisemann 48, good condition.	120
Magnovox Model D battery set, TRF, VG.	170
RCA Radiola III-A, w/199 tubes in adapters, VG.	160
Westinghouse AC amp w/199's in adapters; new hinges and clasp.	170
Westinghouse DA det.-amp., less tubes, exc. cond.	170
H500 Trans-Oceanic; VG despite some mold w/original book.	110



Two De Forest D-12 twins, one with a crystal detector and one with a tube detector, sparked considerable interest at \$2600 and \$800 respectively



A NESCO CGR-5A (metal-cased version of the IP-500) was hammered down at \$1050

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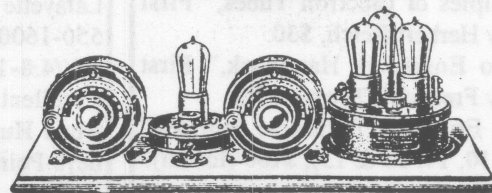
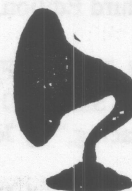
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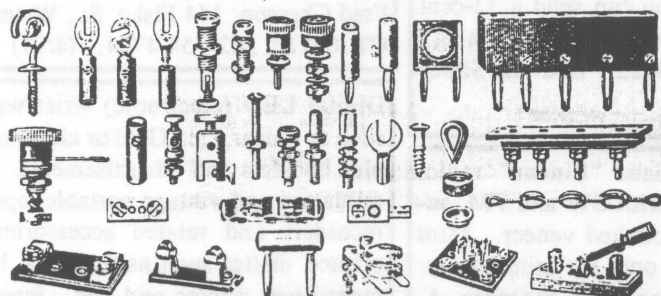
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CONNECTIONS

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

HARD COVER BOOKS:

1. "Reference Data for Radio Engineers," Fifth Edition, by Howard Sams & Co., \$50
2. "Radio Engineering," Third Edition, by Frederick Terman, \$40
3. "Electric Circuits and Tubes," First Edition, by Cruft Electronics Staff, \$40.
4. "Servicing by Signal Tracing," by John Ryder, \$30.
5. "Principles of Electron Tubes," First Edition, by Herbert Reich, \$30.
6. "Radio Engineers Handbook," First Edition, by Frederick Terman, \$20.
7. "RCA Engineer Technical Journals" (Volumes 10, 11, 12 & 13), \$100 (for all).

Prices do not include postage (item 7 sent UPS), Elwood F. Hunt, 308 Georgetown Road, Carneys Point, N.J. 08069, 609-299-5259. (4/97)

RCA Victor 10" television, model 9-T-246, nice original condition, complete, not working, \$75. Pilot TV-37U parts set, missing only grille, knobs, and CRT socket; an unaltered original chassis; \$100. Frank Johnson, 530 Elford Rd., Fairless Hills, PA 19030, 215-943-8295. (4/97)

Moving from area. Must dispose of radio collection, 1920s, 30's, and 40's. 11 sets; table and console; wood and plastic. Also, lots of tubes, and Beitman's "Most Often Needed Radio Diagrams - 1941." Prefer to sell as one lot. Call Ron Moyer at home (610-367-8386) or at work (215-256-7741). (4/97)

Over 200 radios of various types: small number of battery sets, consoles, cathedrals, plastics, transistor, etc. including the complete series of Trans-Oceanics (some rare) in excellent condition. Sal A. Lentine, 3 Lentine Drive, Flemington, NJ, 08822 (908)-782-1360 FAX: (908)-788-0123 (5/97)

Philco TV service cables (1948-53). Philco model 630 chassis with tubes. Philco model 38-B console. Majestic model 90B console. Price is negotiable; local pickup only. H.P. Bohlander, 2731 Hawthorne Rd., Glenside, PA 19038, (215)-886-8666 (5/97)

Four RCA Electron Tube Handbooks (HB3): Receiving Tube Section - Part 1, Transmitting Tube Section, Photosensitive Device Section, General Information Section & Cathode Ray Tubes, Storage Tubes & Monoscopes. All in excellent condition; \$80 plus UPS. Lafayette Model HE-10 communication receiver with matching Lafayette Model HE-14 speaker. Bands: 550-1600 KC Broadcast/1.6-4.8 MC SW/4.8-14.5 MC SW/11-30 MC SW. Excellent condition; \$60 plus UPS. Elwood Hunt, 308 Georgetown Rd., Carneys Point, NJ 08069, (609)-299-5259. (2/97)

NOT FOR SALE, BUT WE CAN TALK... Supplement 2 to the book "Tube Lore" is now available. If you have the original two-page supplement, the new eight-pager is available as follows: (1) You can download it as an RTF file from the Web at <http://www.eht.com/cld/radio>, for local printing via a word processor, or (2) You can accost the author at a club meeting, or (3) You can send a 32-cent SASE to "More Lore," 44 E. Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822 - Ludwell Sibley (4/97)

FOR TRADE: Saba "Lindau" radio, long table model with SW and FM, superb audio and polished veneer. Mint condition. Trade only for miniature or vintage portable tape/wire recorder. A. Morinelli, 901 Fairfax Rd., Drexel Hill, PA 19026 (610)-715-1720 (5/97)

WANTED

Thanks to you, I'm rounding third and heading home! Duffield's "Radio Boys Under the Sea" will finish the collection. Mike Koste, 57 Tennis Ave., Ambler, PA 19022, 215-646-6488. (4/97)

Radio made by Wurlitzer-Lyric. Any model considered but prefer high tube count. Must be complete and original; need not work. Ray Pietak, 2033 Woodland Rd., Abington, PA 19001, 215-885-2744. (4/97)

Photos and video of Channel 10 news coverage of Havertown swapmeet from Feb. 15. Bill Overbeck, 610-789-8199. (4/97)

Thanks to *Oscillator* and *Broadcaster* readers, I'm rounding third and heading home! Duffield's Radio Boys Under the Sea will finish the collection. Mike Koste, 57 Tennis Ave., Ambler, PA 19022. (215)-646-6488. (5/97)

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, 215-886-6124. (4/97)

Information on SCR-838 radar set, the last known Signal Corps SCR-designator. Also, info on AN/GRR-4 clandestine receiver and AN/PRR-1 thru -10 receivers. Fred Chesson, 144 Fiske, St., Waterbury, CT 06710, 203-754-4764. (4/97)

Digital LED (electronic) wrist watches such as Pulsar, etc. Gold or chrome cases plus booklets and advertisements. Also, miniature and vintage portable tape/wire recorders and related accessories and printed matter such as manuals, books, magazines, photos and ads. Joseph A. Morinelli, 901 Fairfax Rd., Drexel Hill, PA 19026, 610-715-1720. (4/97)