

# The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

Winter 1997

Volume 3 Issue 12



## MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Marsha Slinkin  
and Marv Beeferman

Despite the miserable weather, there was a large turnout for our November meeting held on the 14th. We continue to attract prospective members; this time we were joined by radio buffs from the Navy and Oyster Creek's Nuclear Generating Station with varied radio and TV interests.

A Summer picnic/swapmeet at the Clinton Elks Lodge to be held jointly with the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club (DVHRC) was discussed. The DVHRC will be hosting this year's event and it will be advertised as open to all...details will be forthcoming.

Ludwell Sibley commented on Cones and Bryant's new book *Zenith Radio - The Early Years: 1919-1935* and is offering copies for \$24. A detailed but "give it a 9 because I could dance to it" review by Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society member Bill Harris may be found in the December issue of *Antique Radio Classified*. A more scholarly approach that goes beyond misspellings, scrambled captions and incorrect pricing may be found in the November issue of the DVHRC *Oscillator*. For copies of both, contact Marv Beeferman. Ludwell also announced the deaths of Gertrude Tyne and Bruce Kelley (founding father of the *Antique Wireless Association* and its museum curator as noted in last month's issue). Gertrude Tyne was the wife of Gerald Tyne, author of *Saga of the Vacuum Tube*; both were personal friends of Lee DeForest and George Clark.

A few NJARC members took a trip to Huntington WV's Museum of Science and Technology for an auction



## MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of NJARC will take place on Friday, December 12th at 7:30 PM in the Grace Lutheran Church, corner of Route 33 and Main Street in Freehold. Contact Marv Beeferman at 609-692-9430 or Jim Whartenby at 908-271-7701 for directions. Please join us for our annual holiday party; a small sweet or dessert type dish will be welcomed but not required. Plenty of food will be available so eating prior to the meeting is not suggested. Also requested is an informal show-and-tell item and a "Radio Scavenger Hunt" entry (see MEETING/ACTIVITY NOTES).

and free buffet and were very impressed with the facility and its people. Pictures of the visit were placed on display and future calls by NJARC members are highly recommended.

Mark Mittelman was the scheduled speaker but the inclement weather prevented him from bringing the rare and beautifully restored pieces he had planned to supplement his "Battery Sets of the 20's" talk. Instead, Mark led an impromptu discussion of the differences between home-brew, kits and factory radios. Mark promised to video tape his collection to show at future meetings.

Information was shared regarding a German set that had an extra socket not shown on its schematic but which worked fine without its accompanying tube. Rick Weibezahl suggested that it was used for multiplexing. Also commented on was Philco's Mystery Control which Ludwell Sibley said caused a crisis at the FCC because it was considered to be an unauthorized transmitter. The control wasn't working properly and suggestions were offered including WD-40 to lubricate it.

As part of our informal show-and-tell session, a **RADIO SCAVENGER HUNT** is planned for our holiday party with prizes being awarded by our expert panel of judges for best entries. Items may be entered in more than

one of the following categories (limit three entries per member):

- Smallest item in the shape of a radio
- Most unusual item in the shape of a radio that really isn't a radio
- Most unusual radio not in the shape of a radio
- Most unusual item that says "radio" on it but isn't a radio
- Oldest book that has "radio" or "wireless" in its title
- Most unusual radio-related item from a foreign country
- Most unusual edible radio-related item
- Most unusual wearable radio-related item
- Most unusual radio advertising item not made of paper
- Most interesting item that marks a milestone in radio development or history
- Most unusual homemade radio-related item
- Radio-related item made for use in the kitchen
- Strangest looking tube
- Most unusual radio-related toy
- Most risqué radio item
- Most interesting radio log

The hunt should be lots of fun so let's get creative!

**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.

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*Greetings for a  
HAPPY NEW YEAR*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS





## "SEE YOU ON THE RADIO"

*The following poem, suggested by member Dave Chmielewski, was written by Charles Osgood in 1984 and presented at an NAB Convention in Las Vegas as closing remarks. It is reproduced here with permission of the CBS Radio Network Press Department...Ed*

See you on the radio...I say that every week.  
A peculiar phrase, some people think, for anyone to speak.  
I've got a piece of mail or two, up on my office shelf,  
Complaining that the sentence seems to contradict itself.  
"Dear Mr. Osgood," someone wrote, "That sign off is absurd.  
Radio is for the ear...the song or spoken word.  
The medium for seeing is, without a doubt, TV.  
We therefore call it 'video.' That's Latin for 'I see.'  
So please don't say that any more. You really should know better."  
That's a gentle paraphrase of what was in this viewer's letter.

"Dear Sir," I then wrote back to him, and this was my reply:  
I do believe that you are wrong, and let me tell you why.  
I've worked some years in radio, and television, too.  
And though its paradoxical it nonetheless is true  
That radio is visual, much moreso than TV.  
And there's plenty of good reason why that paradox should be.  
You insist that on the radio there are no pictures there.  
You say it's only for the ear...but I say "au contraire."  
There are fascinating pictures on the radio you see  
That are far more picturesque than any pic-

tures on TV.  
No television set that's made, no screen that you can find,  
Can compare with that of radio: the theatre of the mind.  
Where the pictures are so vivid, so spectacular and real,  
That there isn't any contest, or at least that's how I feel.  
The colors are more colorful, the reds and greens and blues  
Are more vivid yet more subtle than television's hues.  
The dimensions of the radio are truly to be treasured  
Infinite the size of screen diagonally measured,  
With resolution so acute TV cannot compare.  
We can whisper in the listener's ear and take him  
anywhere.  
And you tell me that I cannot see the audience I touch?  
Let me tell you now a secret...my experience is such  
That although the room I work in may be very plain and small...  
In a way that's quite miraculous, it isn't small at all.  
I am there inside the radio, the one beside the bed.  
And its me you hear when it goes off...come on now sleepyhead.  
I can see you in the morning...I can see you coast to coast  
As you sip your glass of orange juice and bite into your toast.  
I am with you as you brush your teeth and as you shave your face.  
You may think you are alone but I am with you everywhere.  
And I see the lines of traffic stretching endlessly for miles.  
Not a hundred or a thousand miles...A million there must be.  
And I'm riding along with them. This is radio you see.  
And I'm on the Jersey Turnpike, on the thoroughway and the Hutch,  
And the Eisenhower expressway helping people keep in touch,  
And the California freeways and the Houston traffic funnel.  
I may lose you for a little while as you go through the tunnel.  
But suddenly I'm there again, some

episode to tell,  
To nobody's surprise, because they know me very well.  
For my voice is with them every day, and when it disappears,  
They know it comes right back again, it's been that way for years.  
I've been riding with them every day for such a long, long time  
They are willing to put up with me when I resort to rhyme.  
And that may be the ultimate and quintessential test  
That proves beyond the slightest doubt that radio is best.  
A friend will always stick with you...though your poems may not scan.  
I'll see you on the radio...I can, you see. I can.

## 10 Radio Myths and the Truth Behind Them

*Charles Osgood may have been able to "see" his listeners but the listener's inability to "see" the workings of a station gives radio a boundless dimension that can be used for both legitimate (allowing the Lone Ranger's Silver to gallop across your living room and not having to clean up after him) and illegitimate ends. The following article by Brad Kava (Knight-Ridder Newspapers) appeared in the December 3rd, 1997 Asbury Park Press and is offered here with permission...Ed*

Your mother told you not to believe everything you hear. On radio, you'd do better not to believe anything you hear.

Here are some radio myths and the facts behind them. My sources are people working for radio stations who have spoken on the promise of anonymity:

### 1. "Caller No. 23, you've just won!!!"

Forget it. "Do you think we actually sit alone in a studio and count the calls?" says a source. Yeah, right. More commonly, DJs pick someone who sounds nice. Or more importantly, fits their target demographic, such as women ages 18-25.

## 2. You can get a request played on the air.

"Ha! We never, ever play requests," says a guy who ought to know. "If they call and request something we were going to play anyway, we may put that call on the air. Otherwise, we try to talk them into another song."

So when you call to request and old Green Day song, the DJ says something like: "Oh, I don't have that one handy. How about something off the new album?"

"Uh, OK, dude."

## 3. DJs actually pick what discs to play.

Almost all commercial radio is tightly formatted. The DJ reads off a computer printout and almost always plays what is on the list. On some stations, computers play the music and DJs never even see a CD.

## 4. DJs love the music they play.

Rarely. In fact, most don't even listen while they are playing it on the air. What they are doing while the song is playing is taking phone calls and carefully editing them.

You win a contest, they will call you off the air and tape it. Sometimes they will ask you to sound more convincing, to scream and shout the station call letters.

## 5. Those shocking prank calls really ruin people's lives.

In radio, if it sounds too good to be true, it is.

I once asked a DJ if I could watch him do prank calls. He hemmed and hawed and said something about how it was sort of complicated.

Turns out there are morning radio services that tape actors' responses to wild scripts. The DJs then fill in their own voices. There actually is some good acting there.

Some of them may be real, but they are laced between the fake calls.

## 6. DJs get suspended for things they do on the air.

If you hear that a DJ has been punished, it usually means one of a few things. The DJ overslept that morning, or he had other plans and needed a day off. To heighten a sense of drama, some act as if they are in the middle of a major firestorm and facing a showdown with their bosses.

## 7. DJs are often out doing these great charitable works and keeping in touch with people they've helped on the air.

More often, a DJ will put someone on the air and milk, milk, milk their tragedy to show how much he or she can help.

## 8. Everything on-air is impromptu, and some of the funniest DJs are really naturally funny.

Even Howard Stern has his writers in the room with him. Others use joke services or work from scripts. The most casual-sounding bits are often very carefully orchestrated.

## 9. DJs don't care about ratings.

This may be the biggest lie of all. They live for them, and they get bonuses when they reach target goals. It's a trickle-down effect: Stations can charge advertisers more as their ratings go higher.

## 10. Stations actually compete with others in the same format.

This is a recent development, as corporations gobble up stations. More often than not, local stations airing the same types of shows are owned by the same people.

## Why're Wires With Wireless?

### *New Jersey Telephone Lines Aid Radio to Bring the Best Things in Sound to America's Millions*

*Continuing with this month's theme of radio broadcasting, the following article gives us an idea of information gathering prior to news helicopters, video cams and satellites. It was suggested by Ludwell Sibley and found in "The New Jersey Bell" (issue 12-27, 1932)...Ed*

Let some great cataclysm suddenly deaden all the telephone wires in New Jersey on any given evening. In the morning, check up the number of highly vaunted radio sets found draped about the parlors in a frustrated condition. For without New Jersey's telephone lines, several of the most popular broadcasting stations would have nothing to broadcast but the hum of their own power plants, which might be interpreted as static or an act of treason on the part of that set so highly vaunted - unspeakable wretch - crash!

Yes, indeed, the Collier's Revue, Roxy's Gang, the Effervescent Hour or whatever you like would be performing only for the four walls and the furniture in the studio were it not for our telephone lines. They carry the program from the studio in Manhattan, in the cases under consideration, to the broadcasting stations which for several major broadcasting units are in New Jersey. But this is not the only function the telephone wire performs for the wireless telephone. Consider the mammoth national hook-ups in which telephone lines play a major role.

And these are only the routine ways in which the telephone has "double teamed" with the radio. Perhaps the most sensational piece of teamwork occurred when the giant dirigible, *Shenandoah*, seemingly doomed to misfortune and ill fate from the start; was floundering about over northern New Jersey hopelessly lost in a terrific evening storm a few years back.

**New York Times**

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NEW YORK, MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1938.

**Radio Listeners in Panic,  
Taking War Drama as Fact**

**Many Flee Homes to Escape 'Gas Raid From Mars'—Phone Calls Swamp Police at Broadcast of Wells Fantasy**

A wave of mass hysteria, seized thousands of radio listeners throughout the nation between 8:15 and 9:30 o'clock last night when a broadcast of a dramatization of H. G. Wells's fantasy, "The War

and radio stations here and in other cities of the United States and Canada seeking advice on protective measure against the raids. The program was produced by Mr. Wells and the Mercury Theatre on



An S. O. S. was broadcast silencing all radio stations except WOR, to permit uninterrupted communication between that station and the distressed dirigible. Meanwhile, radio listeners having their concert broken up in such a sensational manner sprang from their overstuffed chairs, took to the roofs and from the roofs to their telephones calling WOR and reporting. "The *Shenandoah* is directly over our house!" In this way, the course of the ship was charted and flashed to her over WOR. The information these people supplied brought the *Shenandoah* safely to earth and into her hanger at Lakehurst - a most unique and priceless bit of teamwork by people of northern New Jersey, their telephones and the radio.

Several large New York broadcasting stations, for atmospheric and economic reasons, have their actual transmitting stations in New Jersey, while the studios where artists and distinguished speakers are to be invited to perform are located in Manhattan.

Many events to which people like to listen, however, occur in places other than the studios and telephone circuits provide the radio with the many long and sensitive ears needed to bring these events to your fireside. By the use of these telephone ears, which may be concentrated on any given performance at any given place, the radio misses nothing about which it feels inclined to be inquisitive.

Once in the studio, the program must reach the transmitting plant itself. For this purpose, the radio uses our telephone lines as nerves to flash what it picks up to these organs of speech. The two largest stations with studios in Manhattan, and antennae in New Jersey, are WJZ with its transmitting plant at Bound Brook, and WOR operated by L. Bamberger & Company of Newark with its recently constructed, high-powered broadcasting station at Kearny. These two stations have special lines

from their studios to the Long Distance telephone center of the land at 24 Walker Street, Manhattan. There the lines are divided into groups of one-way circuits leading to their New Jersey transmitters. These special radio wires are routed diversely so that nothing short of a calamity would cut the studio off from its transmitter.

WEAF has its broadcasting plant at Belmore, Long Island, but uses New Jersey's telephone lines in flashing programs to the South. Other stations using telephone lines are WHAR and WPG, Atlantic City; WOAX, Trento; WAAT and WKBO, Jersey City; WODA, Paterson; WMCA, Hoboken; and WAAM, WGCP and WNJ, Newark.

At the time WOR's new plant was constructed at Kearny, a 52-pair cable was installed and any of these circuits may be connected with lines leading to any point from which the station may find occasion to broadcast.

New Jersey telephone lines, furnishing egress from New York to the West, South and Southwest, are major elements in any national hook-up. WJZ is the key station for the chain of the National Broadcasting Company as is WOR for the new Columbia chain. Groups of circuits switched through 24 Walker Street tie WJZ with KDKA in Pittsburgh; WJP, Detroit; KYW, Chicago; WBAL, Baltimore; and WJAX, Jacksonville. Along with these, stations in Atlantic City, Louisville, Nashville and Memphis receive programs over telephone lines. WOR, as the key station of the Columbia chain, uses the New Jersey telephone lines as the central strands in its vast network.

Then consider the things New Jersey telephone lines have been talking about in the past few radio years in addition to their usual routine of stories ranging from a neighborhood analysis to the saving of a human life. They carried Thomas A. Edison's voice from his home in

West Orange to an audience of millions at his radio debut on the birthday of the phonograph and the forty-eighth anniversary of the invention of the incandescent lamp. They helped to carry the voices of Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh and Calvin Coolidge to millions of people in this country and abroad. They told the sad tale of a Pirate band from Pittsburgh and tolled out Dempsey's long count to dement temporarily some millions of our people who were tuned in on sixty-nine stations, the largest hook-up yet. They have carried the rich tones of our greatest singers, the harmonious strains of our leading orchestras and the stirring airs of our foremost bands.

In preparing for such occasions, many temporary installations must be made and, oftentimes, in jig time. For instance, when Clarence Chamberlin, the second trans-Atlantic ace, returned home to Teterboro, things were to happen there which the nation wanted to hear. Lines had to be connected from the New Jersey village to station WOR. At ten o'clock that morning, the Newark Test Bureau received orders to make the necessary connections and by noon the radio had its ears wide open at Teterboro in ample time to catch every trick.

It is possible that by April 7 of this year, New Jersey's telephone lines had become quite blasé, having been in on the ground floor on just about everything of real import which had happened in the East. On that day, however, they received a real thrill. They had carried Mr. Hoover's voice many times before, but to carry his living, moving features and transmit them to the Bell Laboratories in Manhattan from Washington so that it would appear as though he were actually there in the room! That was television and what a thrill it gave the world.

(Continued on page 6)

## 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

BEST OFFER: Mikes: EV 660A, Altec 686A, Vega Model 10 Wireless, AKG D190M, Sony ECM 22P, 2-Shure 55 S-1's 2-EV 664's; RCA MI122987 PA amp (1950's), Rauland-Borg 1916 PA amp (1950's); RCA T2K transistor radio (late 50's); assorted 1A2 telephone equipment: phones, KSU's, cards, speakerphones, adapters, power supplies; American Concertone 6054R tube reel-to-reel recorder; extensive Commodore computer equipment; garage full of other "junk." Michael Muderick, (610)-449-6970, Michael@Muderick.com

Tektronix oscilloscopes 535 and 547 with extra plug-in units and Scopemobile. Tektronic 575 transistor curve tracer. General Radio 805B RF generator, 1021P2 UHF generator. GE TV alignment sweep and marker generator set. Manuals for all. Other test gear and surplus equipment coming up for sale - stay tuned. Mark W. Hilliard, N3NBL, 921 S. Edward St., Allentown, PA 18103, 610-432-8089. (7/97)

The ever-handy reference *Tube Lore* gives 186 pages of insightful scoop on about every North American tube there is. Reviewed by Eric Barbour in *Vacuum Tube Valley* as "an instant classic." The book is available from the following hip sources: (A) the DVHRC book program (B) DVHRC's A. G. Tannenbaum, 215-540-8055 (C) W7FG Vintage Manuals, 800-807-6146 (D) Antique Radio Classified, 508-371-0512 (E) Antique Electronic Supply, 602-820-5411 (F) Fair Radio Sales, 419-223-2156 (G) Angela Instruments, 301-725-8823 (H) Antique Radio Components, 916-878-1780 (I) Paul Washa, 612-472-3010, and (J) the Museum of Radio & Technology Bookstore (charleston, WV). Or...its available from Ludwell Sibley, 44 E. Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822 for \$19.95 post-paid in the U. S. and Canada, \$24.95 by air overseas. Clubs get a discount on multiple copies. (7/97)

Miniature short-wave radios: 1. 12-band AM/FM/MV/SW 1/9, very sensitive, takes 4 AA batteries, 5.9 to 26.6 MHz, with 6VDC power socket and earphone jack, cost includes shipping and insurance, \$40 2. 10-band AM/FM/MV/SW 1/7 real small, very sensitive, takes 2 AA batteries, has a 3VDC power socket and earphone jack, 4.75 to 18.06 MHz, cost includes insurance and shipping, \$35.00. 15% discount for NJARC and DVHRC members! Richard Brill, (732)-607-0299; FAX: (732)-679-8524 (10/97)

Highly collectible tubes. Send SASE for list of duplicates (mailed in Jan.) Jerry Vanicek, PO Box 4743, Chicago, IL 60680 (No phone calls, please.) (11/97)

## WANTED

Buying European Radios! Grundig, Telefunken, Saba, Normende, Blaupunkt, French Radios, Polish Goplana, etc. Must be in mint or close to mint condition and in working order. No junkers, please! Richard Brill, P.O. Box 5367, Old Bridge, N.J. 08857 (732)-607-0299 Fax: (908-679-8524) rgbent@aol.com

Someone to repair my Standard SR-G433 transistor radio. Bill Gaston, 622 Witthill Rd., Ridgewood, N.J. 07450 (201)-444-0434

(Why're Wires With Wireless...continued)

First, they carried their phenomenal burden to its destination all by themselves and then, to prove their versatility, carried it to the A. T. & T. Co.'s radio test station at Whippany, N. J. from where it was flashed through the air to the little room in the Bell Laboratories with exactly the same result.

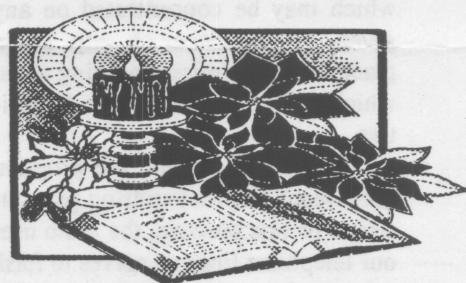
If the telephone people and the telephone plant were not so adaptable and so strong in the "pinches," they would still be indispensable aids to the radio. Possessing those characteristics, they have gone beyond the realm of mere aids. Many times, by fast and unusual work, they have become vital minute men and have defeated adverse circumstances which seemed to have had, in turn, an excellent chance of

defeating certain radio programs.

The immediate future is enthralling now that telephone lines can carry treats for the eye as well as the ear, and only the nose and throat remain for them to satisfy. With the presidential campaign next year about to swing into a radio struggle, they are assured of a warm season and it would not surprise them were they called upon to carry the voice of old Saint Nick at any moment now.

With these two great modern methods of communication double teaming in such a fashion, almost anything seems possible. Everyone knows that the old patron saint of good will, generosity and peace will be heard from soon anyway.

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HAVE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY  
HOLIDAY AND NEW YEAR

