

The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

June 1998

Volume 4 Issue 6



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Marv Beeferman

The May meeting was opened with a request by President Jim Whartenby for nominations for new officers; the following were seconded:

- President: Phil Vourtsis
- Vice President: Jim Fisher
- Technical Coordinator: Al Klase
- Trustee: Gary D'Amico

Nominations are still open for Treasurer and Sargeant-At-Arms, so if anyone is interested in either of these positions please contact Jim at (732) 271-7701 before the next meeting. The club is entertaining the possibility that the office of Sargeant-At-Arms will be held by more than one individual to ease the commitment to attend every meeting.

PICNIC AND SWAPMEET: Time is drawing near for the cutoff for accepting reservations for our joint picnic/swapmeet with the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club (DVHRC) in Clinton, New Jersey. The date is **Saturday, June 20th**, the time is **8:00 AM** and for \$20 a person (\$30 for a family) you will be entitled to a Continental breakfast, an all-you-can-eat lunch (hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, sodas and more) and a swapmeet space; a walk-around auction is also planned. The relaxed setting of this event is a great way to start the Father's Day weekend and the first day of Summer. **Directions:** For those coming from Pennsylvania, the simplest approach is to use I-95 into New Jersey, then take NJ 31 to the north of Flemington. NJ 31 connects with I-78 westbound south of Clinton. Continue using the following directions for New Jersey residents: Take exit 15 of I-78/US 22 South 1/2 mile on RT. 513. Make a left on RT. 617 (Sidney



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the NJARC will take place on Friday, June 12th at 7:30 PM in the Grace Lutheran Church, corner of Route 33 and Main Street in Freehold. Contact Marv Beeferman at 609-693-9430 or Jim Whartenby at 732-271-7701 for directions. Elections will be held for a new slate of officers and attendance is required to vote. This meeting also provides a great opportunity to bid adieu and cast a special vote of thanks to the Whartenbys and Sibleys who will be leaving the area in June and have done so much to support the club. Our quarterly show-and-tell session also will allow members to spotlight a unique item in their collection, an interesting restoration or a puzzling unknown for our experts to decipher.



Rd.) and continue 1.3 miles to Elks Lodge 2434 (on the left).

Speaking of cutoffs, June is the last month that membership will be maintained for members with dues in arrears (1/98 on your address label). Let's make 1998 a 100% renewal year with a \$15 check to membership secretary Marsha Simkin at 10 Avalon Lane in Matawan, N.J. (07747).

Bits and pieces from the May meeting included a request from John Dilks for a 1910 vintage wood "institutional-type" table to be used for a mobile museum that he's planning. Also discussed was the validity of some of the "published" events associated with the Titanic disaster, including David Sarnoff's stint at Wanamaker's department store in New York and questions about Marconi and the role of wireless. It was suggested by Ludwell Sibley that a more credible description

could be found in the book *Empire of the Air* by Tom Lewis which notes that "The Titanic episode illustrates Sarnoff's ability to turn history into a fable" and "Evidence suggests that Marconi himself colluded with some of his operators to limit news of the Titanic's demise, even the list of survivors." Jim Whartenby suggested a trip to the David Sarnoff Library as a very rewarding and enlightening experience.

Ludwell Sibley hosted an informative and entertaining presentation on the obscure hobby of collecting glass telegraph and telephone insulators, complete with free samples. Phrased in typical Sibley fashion, "It may be useful and/or just fun to 'put the wire back in wireless' and review the insulator scene." Ludwell was kind enough to provide a write-up of his presentation for the *Broadcaster* which is included in this month's issue. Also included is the handout from Ray Chase's radio postcard presentation from the April meeting. I hope you also enjoy the *New York Times* reprint "Big Sound, Little Boxes" regarding the rebirth of the tabletop radio, described as "retro Art Deco in inoffensive colors." Some of the conclusions seemed interesting: "Part of the appeal of table-tops is as a counterbalance to the intrusions of high technology into people's lives..." and "The high-priced stacks of electronic components...that are intimidating and take up a good deal of space, are fading."

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
(732)-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, KB2EZE
1481 Newark Ave.
Whiting, N.J. 08759
(908)-350-6259

SARGEANT-AT-ARMS:

Donald Cruse
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 Rucolo
335 Butcher Rd.
Hightstown, N.J. 08520
(609)-426-4568

WEB COORDINATOR

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

**THE PRESIDENT'S
COLUMN****ONE LAST TIME****By Jim Whartenby**

Two years have flown by and I now find myself writing my last President's Column. Looking back on this two-year term, I feel that the club is in better then ever shape. Club events seem to attract even larger numbers of vendors and buyers, the treasury has grown an additional 50% and new members are joining at a steady pace. These things all point to a healthy organization in which we should all take great pride. I especially find the technical talks as interesting as ever. It is evident that a lot of hard work is put into the effort and I salute those who shared their knowledge with the membership. I have over the years visited a number of radio and other clubs and none seem to me to have the level of expertise in as many areas as our membership. *We have a great club.*

Any organization of this quality is not the result of one man's effort but is the combined efforts of many dedicated individuals. I can honestly say that I have had a proactive executive board and that is a good thing. In all the events that we hosted, I could always count on their guidance and support. I would like to thank each and every one of them for making my job worry free.

Special thanks goes to the editor of this publication and the club Secretary, Marv Beeferman, who has, in my humble opinion, the toughest job in the club. Every month brings a *Broadcaster* deadline and Marv has done a wonderful job. In addition, he has run more then his fair share of club events and all have been very successful. Marv, you are an outstanding asset and the club would not be in such great shape without your efforts. Thank you for making that commitment.

Lud Sibley is without a doubt the best Vice-president one could have. There has never been a predicament that Lud has not had a logical and well thought out answer. He has truly been my right hand

man. When it comes to all around technical knowledge, he is without peer. In fact, he wrote the book. And like the man, it has become a valuable tool on which I can always rely.

Speaking of reliable, Sar-geant-at-Arms Don Cruise was always early to meetings with coffee and donuts to calm the unruly crowds. Don is an unsung hero, setting up the refreshments before and putting the table and chairs in order after the meeting. Thanks Don, for a job well done.

Our Treasurer, Gerry Dowgin, Trustee and club "documentarian" Phil Vourtsis, Technical Coordinator, Tom Provost and Membership Secretary Marsha Simkin all have done outstanding jobs and deserve greater recognition for their efforts than I can muster here. Gerry and his silent partner have done an outstanding job in managing the club books and keeping out club solvent. As we all know, especially around April, good records are important. Thanks, Gerry for staying on top of what we all take for granted. Phil has been an active voice in the Executive Board, always giving thoughtful suggestions and always ready to help with those necessary functions at events such as parking, setup and cleanup. In addition, he records all of our technical presentations and maintains a library of past talks for the membership. You are one of those behind-the-seen men who are always present and ready to lend a hand. Last but not least, there is Tom. He has, like Marv, made the club the great organization that it has become. We all owe Tom our appreciation for selecting great topics for technical discussions and in finding the right people to give those wonderful talks.

As you all should already know, Ruth and I are taking our leave of New Jersey and heading down to North Carolina. I have taken a position with Ericsson as a chip designer of power amplifiers for cellular telephones. We already have found a wonderful house and we are extending an invitation to all of our friends to come down to visit with us when you get the chance. I will E-mail Marv our new address and phone number when we get settled. See you at the June meeting and at the picnic.

Jim

MEMBERS BID AUF WIEDERSEHEN! AT GOING-AWAY PICNIC

By Al Klase

A going-away picnic was held at the Klase residence near Flemington on May 24th to honor the impending departure of some of our club stalwarts, Lud and Marilyn Sibley and Jim and Ruth Whartenby. Approximately 16 people were in attendance. It was mostly a case of "round up the usual suspects." This time, a fair number of wives also attended. The food was great and the comradery even better.

A number of special gifts were presented. Perhaps the most memorable was Bill Overbeck's diorama, presented to Ludwell, entitled "Tubezilla." This involved a somewhat modified toy dinosaur running amok in a veritable vacuum tube Tokyo.

Perhaps we should have more intimate gatherings of this type without waiting for folks to leave town.

COLLECTING GLASS TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE INSULATORS

By Ludwell Sibley

We radio collectors are routinely exposed to glass wire-line insulators - at flea markets, in antique stores, at auctions, and so on. It may be useful and/or just fun to "put the wire back in wireless" and review the insulator scene.

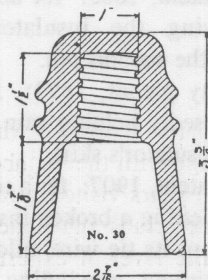
Insulator collectors are a relatively obscure bunch. Their hobby became organized in the late '60s, as owners of wire lines began taking lines down across the country. The insulator scene includes the National Insulator Association, a monthly magazine (*Insulators - Crown Jewels of the Wire*), a dealer network, swapmeets, books and reprints of early catalogs - the works. The collector network has devised a numbering scheme ("Consolidated Designs" or CDs) which, although outgrown almost from the start, is used to categorize the

thousands of shapes that have turned up.

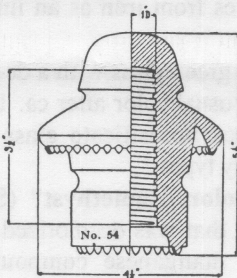
For purposes of this article, we're covering only glass insulators. There is a whole spectrum of porcelain types; indeed, porcelain is the material of choice for power-line insulators made today. There are specialty collectors whose interest is purely porcelain. Still, the original and best known variety is plain glass, as used on telegraph, telephone, fire-alarm, railroad signal, and low-voltage power lines beginning almost from Morse's first line of 1844.

FAMOUS STYLES (just a few)

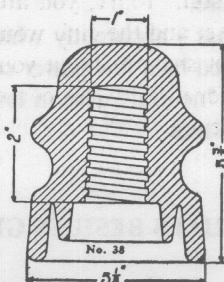
"Toll" (CD 121) - Primarily a telephone insulator, used on long-distance lines ca. 1890-1915 and obsoleted by "double-petticoat" types (see below).



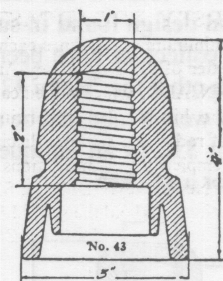
"Transposition" (CD 202 et al.) - A telephone insulator used to interchange positions of two wires to reduce noise and crosstalk; had dual grooves. Obsoleted ca. 1910 by use of two regular insulators on a "drop bracket." It came in one- and two-piece versions.



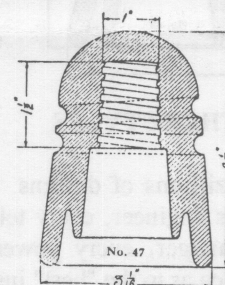
"Signal" (CD 160) - A common type on railroad signal lines, fire-alarm circuits, and low-voltage power lines.



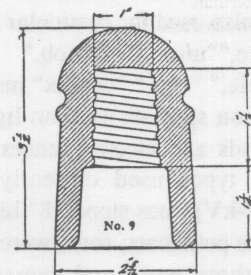
"Beehive" (CD 104) - A style widely used on telegraph and railroad signal lines.



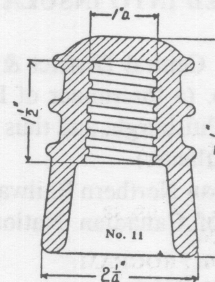
"Barclay patent spiral groove" (CD 110, CD 150) - A short-lived specialty covered below under "Famous Patents."



"Pony" (CD 102) - A small single-petticoat type installed on short telegraph wires and rural telephone lines up to perhaps 1920.

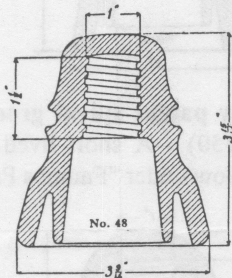


"Exchange" (CD 115) - An improved "pony" type, lasting up to the end of open-wire lines.



"Double petticoat" (CD 152) - A large tel. & tel. insulator with an inner skirt to provide a long "creepage path" in wet weather. Named "standard" ca. 1915 by both Western Union and AT&T, it re-

mained in wide use until the end. The most common of these is the Hemingray 42, a successful design found in such large numbers that collectors have been known to present each other the "Hemi 42 Award" at meets. (If it were a tube, it'd be a 6SN7.) A 42 priced at \$10 in an antique shop is always good for a snicker.



OTHER STYLES

There were zillions of designs. Every railroad signals engineer, every telegraph purchasing manager, every power company, had an idea as to the "best" insulator. The Engineering Department of Western Electric, later organized into Bell Telephone Laboratories, developed high-efficiency insulators for Bell System use between ca. 1910 and ca. 1940. Special styles were also used for particular applications: "tree," "mine," "knob," "circuit break," "cable," "egg," "duplex" insulators, not to mention specials used on lightning-rod downloads and electric fences. Some huge glass types used on early "high-voltage" (33-kV) lines stood 18" high; others had triple petticoats; some were molded in two or three parts and cemented together.

FAMOUS ABBREVIATIONS EMBOSSSED INTO INSULATORS

CD&PTCo: Central District & Printing Telegraph Co. (a forerunner of Bell Tel. Co. of PA in Pittsburgh; and thus of part of today's Bell Atlantic)

CNR: Canadian Northern Railway (partial predecessor of Canadian National Railways)

E. R.: Erie Railroad

GNW: Great North Western (Canadian railroad)

GTP: Grand Trunk Printing (Canadian telegraph co.)

M. T. Co.: Montreal Telegraph Co.

PLW: Pennsylvania (RR) Lines West

(west of Harrisburg, that is)

Most Bell telephone companies did not order custom-marked insulators; exceptions are New England Tel. & Tel. Co., So. Bell Tel. & Tel. Co., C. & P. Tel. Co., Bell Tel. Co. of Canada, and AT&T, whose "toll" insulators are common. By contrast, telegraph companies often used special markings: Western Union, Postal Telegraph, American Union, U. S. Telegraph Co., etc. Most of the big electrical and telegraph supply houses sold insulators embossed with their names: Tillotson, Thomson-Houston, Fort Wayne Electric Co., Chester, Western Electric Mfg. Co. (pre-Bell), etc.

FAMOUS PATENTS

Cauvet patent, 1865: for an internal thread allowing the insulator to be screwed onto the support pin.

Hemingray patent, 1893: for "drip points" supposedly helping rain water to clear off the insulator's skirt.

Barclay patent, 1907: for a tilted auxiliary groove letting a broken insulator be unscrewed from its tie wire, allowing replacement without unwinding the tie. Named for the then Chief Engineer of W. U.

COLORS

Green and green-blue - the usual color of cheap glass up to ca. 1920. The color derives from iron as an impurity in the glass.

Clear - green glass with a de-colorizer added; the usual color after ca. 1930. Includes Pyrex borosilicate glass in later, high-quality types.

"Sun colored amethyst" (SCA) - a clear glass that was decolorized by addition of a manganese compound, then turned purple under sunlight.

"Carnival" - the iridescent multi-hued glass more usually associated with glass dishware.

Milk glass - apparently white insulators were used by a few power companies to mark the "neutral" wire in low-voltage distribution lines.

Amber.

MATERIALS BESIDES GLASS

Rubber (Continental Rubber Co.) - a wax-loaded mix found in five small insulator types developed under sponsorship of W. U., ca. 1950, and used where lines were subject to heavy fog or other contamination, or exposed to gunfire.

Polycarbonate plastic - a high-performance clear material introduced very late ('60s); would have displaced glass if it had been available 50 years earlier.

Wood - used on power feeders of a few streetcar lines ca. 1900 (*lignum vitae* wood), etc.

Electrose - the composition material used in Teens-vintage wireless insulators was offered for tel. & tel. use, but didn't sell widely.

Porcelain - it outlived glass in the power industry; almost always glazed white, brown, gray, or blue.

Sulfur - a cast-iron cup was poured full of molten sulfur with a "ram's horn" hook mounted in the middle; the result was mounted upside down. Used heavily on the Union Pacific Railroad of 1869; early insulator collectors found them on the Utah salt flats and across eastern Nevada.

FAMOUS COMPANIES

"Every" small glassworks made insulators - for example, the Hawley Glass Co. of Jeannette, PA, which is well known for Depression glass dishes, etc. Like tube makers, these often made custom-embossed work for others. New Jersey's early glass industry had a definite place in the insulator trade.

The Brookfield Glass Co. - factory in Brooklyn (Bushwick Glass Co.) and later at Old Bridge, NJ; offices in New York City. Operated from ca. 1860 to 1922. Early insulators are quite chatty with patent dates and addresses: "55 Fulton St. (1868-82), "45 Cliff St. (1882-90), "81" and "83 Fulton St." (1890-97). (Be patient: the embossing is often hard to read.) These carry a low monetary value, but are quite rewarding for the ease of dating them.

Hemingray Glass Co. - factories in Covington, OH, and Muncie, IN. Operated (under various names) 1848 to 1967. Bought by Owens-Illinois in 1933.

Bought by Owens-Illinois in 1933.

Whitall Tatum Co. - factory at Millville, NJ from 1806 until at least 1973; bought by Armstrong Cork Co. in 1938, then by Kerr Glass Mfg. Corp. in 1969.

Owens-Corning - factory at Corning, NY; associated almost entirely with insulators using Pyrex glass; made between ca. 1923 and 1939.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

This has been an introduction to the basics of insulator history and collecting. Of course, there's no harm in lining up a few interestingly shaped or colored insulators by a window where the sun can shine through. And many of them represent true wireline history.

BIG SOUND, LITTLE BOXES

By Phil Patton

Want a glimpse into the collectable crystal ball of 2050? The following article appeared in the "New York Times" of March 19, 1998 and is published here with permission...Ed

Whether it signifies retro Art Deco decor or the return of the biomorphic shape, the table-top radio is back. This time, however, it comes in inoffensive colors (forget aqua and pink) and aspires to the height of taste (or failing that, nostalgia).

After a decade of decline, table-top radios have shown a jump in sales, said Ed Korenman, speaking for the Consumer Electronics Manufacturers Association in Washington. "We've seen a major increase, from 38,401 units in 1995 to 438,002 last year," he said.

The high-priced stacks on electronic components - amplifier, CD changer and so on - that are intimidating and take up a good deal of space are fading. "High-quality audio is no longer a destination," said Richard Watson, senior product designer for JBL, whose \$400 Harmony is

one of the new table-top radios.

Technologically, table-top radios (most of which can be moved around) represent a triumph of competence over excellence. For years, improvement in audio acoustics have produced such tiny differences that few mortal ears can appreciate them. The huge speakers and towers of components have therefore become hard to justify to the spouse.

The first radios - the tombstone and cathedral models of the 1920's - were icons central to the home. The Bakelite modern models of the 40's and the international style units of the late 50's suggested franchises of some sort. Thomas Hine wrote in "Populuxe" that the portable television set inspired a new look and a market for second sets. So, too, with the radio, which was eventually reduced to the transistor or stuffed into the bedside clock with a snooze alarm. No one expected good sound.

But today's table-top radios are a new breed, with self-effacing designs but no sacrifice of sound. Slim and no-nonsense radios from such makers as JBL, Sony, Aiwa, and G.E. can slip into small areas.

A big reason for the return of the table-top radio is that active, mini-van-driving parents want good radios at their beck and call. As Mr. Watson describes the new customers, "They say, 'Hey, I want some nice sound and I want it in the kitchen.'" Or the bathroom, bedroom, or woodworking shop.

Meanwhile, semiportable radios have gotten better. The Bose Wave radio cleverly twists a resonant chamber, like an organ pipe, into a small space, for fuller sound. Digital signal processing makes small speakers sound big. And the digital processing creates the impression of stereo separation, that is, channels of sound that seem physically farther apart than they really are. "You can get faux surround sound," Mr. Korenman said.

Bose has sold about a million and a half of its \$350 Waves, most of them white. The Wave almost disappears on a shelf; it could be mistaken for an air filtration or humidifier system. When Bose added gray to the line, it presented the news as a major innovation; its limited-edition platinum model, with taupe accents, came across as a virtual pink Cadillac beside the standard models.

Part of the appeal of table-tops is as a counterbalance to the intrusions of high technology into people's lives; many models reflect nostalgia for the old look of the iconic radio. Grundig has reissued its 50-year-old Heinzelmännchen 950 for \$110. A reproduction of this German company's first postwar radio, it is made with inexpensive materials and has basic, not to mention rock-bottom, sound. Dan Johnson, a Grundig spokesman, said the Heinzelmännchen was originally produced as a commemorative novelty but turned out to be unexpectedly popular, perhaps for that Ralph Lauren-rustic cabin in Montana.

Subtlety of design for some newer radios - like the Harmony's case, which is curvy on one side, crisp and rectilinear on the other - may escape the ordinary customer. More apparent is the fact that the Harmony includes a built-in CD player. Radios like the Wave offer remote controls and can be hooked up to a CD player or a television.

The Sharper Image chain's stereo Sound Soother radio (\$229) even combines the golden age - its brown rounded shape suggests slimmed-down Bakelite model - with access to the New Age. In addition to its AM and FM bands, the Sound Soother radio comes with channels of prerecorded, soothing background noise - it's a table-top radio with the sound of the ocean inside.

COLLECTING RADIO POSTCARDS

By Ray Chase

The use of picture postcards as a common means of communications somewhat parallels the development of radio. Although the use of Government Postal Cards preceded picture postcards, the first picture postcards were issued around 1893 and their use grew rapidly in the 20th Century. The Golden Age of postcards was roughly between 1905 and WWI, a period when few people had telephones, there was no radio broadcasting, and mail service was the only widespread

method of private communications. For example, in the year 1908, the U.S. Postal Service reported that 677 million postcards were processed, this when the U.S. population was only 88 million. Early mail was postmarked at each office along its progress, and it is not uncommon to see an early-1900s postcard that was sent in the afternoon, postmarked by the post office in a railroad baggage car, and delivered 100 miles away the next morning.

As postcards grew in popularity, publishers strove to print a wide variety of subjects. The most common cards are "view" cards, or pictures of a local scene. However, the number of subjects covered is literally endless and many can be found with a radio theme. Most postcard collectors (such a collector is called a deltiologist) start by creating a pictorial 20th-Century history of their local area by acquiring postcards depicting local scenes throughout the years. The same can be done on topical subjects, including radio development and its use. Interesting side issues can be explored with comical and greeting-related postcards or by searching out other categories. Postcard collecting is less expensive than collecting radios themselves, certainly takes up a lot less space, and is an easier matter for display.

While picture postcards continue in widespread use today, other forms of private communications media have displaced them as day-to-day means of sending the news. But their early popularity and common use present us with a treasure-trove of material from which to build an interesting and informative collection.

Some General Facts on Postcards

Most postcards are 3-1/2 x 5-1/2 inches in size, although size can vary and later "continental" cards are larger. Older postcards are almost always 3-1/2 x 5-1/2.

Postcard eras are:

- Pioneer - prior to 1898
- Private Mailing Card - 1898-1902, so marked on back
- Undivided back - 1902-07 (no message allowed on the back)
- Divided back - 1907 forward (message allowed on back)
- White border - '20s
- Linen - '20s to '40s, linen texture, air-brushed look

- Chrome - 1939 forward (from "Kodachrome")

Postcards can be in color or black-and-white. Up to 1920 most color cards were produced in Germany by chromolithography. Throughout the history of postcards, one of the most sought-after types is the 'real photo.' These are very sharp black-and-white photos which were often made by the local camera shop, often for customers when they had their Brownie box-camera films developed. Many are one-of-a-kind, showing scenes or events that were never published commercially.

Storing and Displaying Postcards

Paper artifacts are fragile, and require careful preservation and handling. As a minimum, cards should be kept in plastic sleeves (2 mils thick or more) to prevent handling damage. Most collectors use four-pocket plastic pages for three-ring binder albums. Sleeves and plastic pages are usually available at postcard shows and are advertised for mail order. Plastic pages must be top-loading or else cards fall out and are easily bent. For long-term collecting, insist on acid-free pages and other material designed for the conservation of paper goods. The greatest enemies of paper preservation are high temperatures, temperature and humidity cycling, dust, dirt and sunlight. Like humans, paper goods thrive in constant moderate temperature and humidity, and with gentle handling. But keep the sunlight away, please.

For competition and club displays, a 22' x 28' white board is the standard used. Cards are mounted with transparent photo corner mounts available at photo stores. A large plastic cover or board sleeve then protects the cards. If you keep cards in a shoe box, use a sturdy one and make sure the cards are kept upright with suitable spacing material. Please do not use modern static-clinging photo albums for postcards. Modern photos will tolerate them, antique postcards will not. One final note: no thumbtacks, please--I'm sure radio amateurs from the early '20s had no idea that someone else would ever covet their QSL cards, but I feel like crying when I find an early historic photo QSL with four holes in it from when it was proudly tacked up

on the wall of the ham shack!

Finding Radio Postcards

Old postcards can be found at all the usual sources of antiques, such as flea markets, house sales, antique shops, etc. Usually auctions sell in fairly large lots, and house sales and flea markets do not categorize, so finding a radio card is more "miss" than "hit", although you might find a collection of QSLs from a Silent Key. While some antique shops may categorize cards, proprietors of most general antique shops do not know much about postcards and often overprice them. They also may not protect cards well, so these often become shopworn quickly.

Postcards may also be located by placing advertisements in newspapers, but unless you advertise in postcard specialty publications you will have to deal with a broad range of cards. The best source is postcard, paper, and ephemera shows. (The term *ephemera* is used to describe collectable paper items that were originally intended to be only short-lived, such as flyers, advertising cards, postcards, etc.)

Every weekend there are shows or postcard club meetings all over the country. If you live near a metropolitan area, there are bound to be at least several shows a year near you featuring dozens to hundreds of dealers. At shows, cards are found sorted into specific categories, greatly simplifying the search effort. While most dealers have a "radio" category, it pays to look in such other sections as "holiday," "factories," "advertising," etc. Be sure to state your desire. Often an dealer will have an especially good card tucked away in "real photos" or "interiors" or some other category. Most dealers will have some or many common QSL cards, but ask about other types of radio cards; dealers listen to their customers and are anxious to set up new categories that promote sales.

How do you find out about shows? There are several publications aimed at postcard and paper collectors. By far the best is *Barr's Post Card News*. This weekly publication contains extensive mail auctions of postcards, but also lists all postcard shows, and many postcard club events, well in advance. If I am trav-

elling on business, I can sometimes attend a distant show or club meeting. (Remember, air fares are much cheaper if you stay over a Saturday night.) Also, check general antique papers and flyers that are often given out at antique shops. These can lead to more specific sources.

Local postcard clubs area good bet; there is bound to be one in your area. Dues seldom exceed \$10 per year and other members will help search for your specialty. Hamfests are also useful, although you will find mostly QSL cards.

What do Postcards Cost?

Postcards can be bought literally for pennies or for thousands of dollars each. I cannot imagine paying \$1000 for a card, but I have seen it happen (not with a radio card, however). But, then, I cannot comprehend why someone would lay out \$10,000 for a Catalin radio either. I think the most I ever paid for a single card was \$75. I declined a Tesla Tower - Long Island card when the price went over \$100. Realistically, most cards will cost between \$2 and \$5, with better real-photo cards running \$15 to \$25. Some dealers have \$0.10, \$0.25, or \$0.50 unsorted boxes and, if you have patience to sort through thousands of cards, you could be rewarded with inexpensive finds. You will also find a wide disparity in pricing from dealer to dealer, there being no firm guidelines on pricing other than what a dealer feels "the traffic will bear." It pays to sample common cards from dealer to dealer in order to see who prices high and who prices low. If you are will to buy large quantities at auctions or sales, individual card prices will be much lower, but then what do you do with the rest of them - become a dealer?

RADIO POSTCARD CATEGORIES

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. QSL and SWL | 11. Comic | 21. Aircraft |
| 2. Reception Reports | 12. Factories | 22. Radar |
| 3. Applause Cards | 13. Ships | 23. Space |
| 4. CQD and SOS | 14. Military | 24. Lovers |
| 5. Radio Party | 15. Greetings, Holidays | 25. Marconi and Marconi series |
| 6. Children | 16. Radio Station Exterior | 26. Television |
| 7. Advertising | 17. Studios (interior) | 27. Real photo |
| 8. Wireless Message ("for you") | 18. Animals | 28. Radio Performers |
| 9. Towers | 19. Religious | 29. Radio City (NY City) |
| 10. Towers on Buildings | 20. Famous people, homes and labs | 30. Miscellaneous |



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

Back issues of *Antique Radio Classified* - as a lot only. 154 issues from Volume 1, number 5 (Dec. 1984) to Volume 14, number 9 (Sept. 1997). Asking \$275 or best offer. Jim Whartenby, (732)-271-7701. (2/98)

Next list of *highly collectible* tubes now being assembled. Send SASE for list of duplicates, to be mailed in May. Jerry Vanicek, PO Box 4743, Chicago, IL 60680. No phone calls, please. (3/98)

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

The ever-handly 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." Available from Ludwell Sibley, 44 E. Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822 for \$19.95 postpaid in the U. S. and Canada, \$24.95 by air overseas. Clubs get a discount on multiple copies. (3/98)

Tektronix 556 dual-beam oscilloscope with roll-around cart and 53C, 53/54B, 1A4 (4-channel amp) and 1A1 (dual-trace) type plug-ins. Working and with manuals, \$75. Also selling a pair of Ritron (Carmel, IN) 2-channel portable walkie-talkies, Model RT-150, for \$25. They both work and take 9-volt batteries. John Okolowicz, 624 Cedar Hill Rd., Ambler, PA 19002, (215)-542-1597, grillecloth@compuserve.com. (3/98)

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

Communications and military radios, test equipment and some radar items. Send long SASE for large list. No sales until you have received my list; looking for some trades. Ray Chase, 1350 Marlborough Ave., Plainfield, N.J. 07060. (908)-757-9741. (3/98)

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

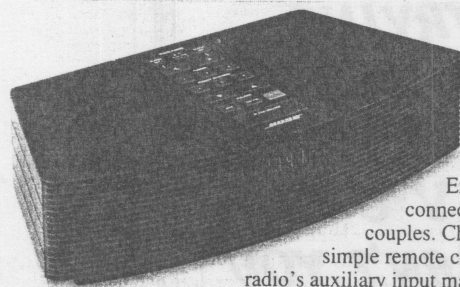
1950 Coca-Cola cooler radio, red bakelite. Tony Molettiere, 105 Main St., Souderton, PA 18964, (215)-723-7459 (3/98)

Audio transformers-one for a Crosley 51 and two for an Amrad S522. Jerry Dowgin, 1481 Newark Ave., Whiting NJ, 08759. (908)-350-6259 (2/98)

Two coil forms, B & W 3018; three National R-50 (or similar) 2.5-mh r.f. chokes. Marv Beeferman, 2265 Emerald Park Drive, Forked River, NJ, 08731. (609)-693-9430. (2/98)

Looking for the individual who left a box of tubes and various magazines at the NJARC Armory swapmeet in February. Items will be at next club meeting or contact Ludwell Sibley at (908)-782-4894. (3/98)

Edison Model 10 (or equivalent) dictaphone cylinders. Tony Trope, 33 Jackson Court, Fordes, NJ, 08863 (3/98)



The credit card-sized remote, like the radio, is compact yet complete.

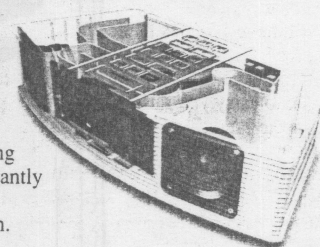
Bose® Wave® Radio *You won't believe you're listening to a radio!*

The Bose Wave radio is truly a product which must be heard to be believed. Only Bose's unique technology could make a compact radio with no external speakers produce such rich, room-filling sound. Its sleek form fits on any nightstand, end table, counter or desk, yet you'll swear you're listening to a full-size shelf system.

Enjoy your favorite AM and FM stations, or use the auxiliary input to connect a CD player or tape deck. Dual wake-up alarms are handy for working couples. Change stations, raise or lower volume, even set the alarms with the elegantly simple remote control. If you own a Bose Lifestyle® system (see pg. 120), the Wave radio's auxiliary input makes it a great choice for supplying Bose-quality sound in another room.

Features: Acoustic waveguide system (36"-long internal folded waveguide) • AM/FM stereo tuner with station seek and 6 AM/6 FM presets • auxiliary preamp input for alternate audio source (CD, tape deck, VCR, TV, etc.) • variable-level auxiliary preamp output for adding optional powered speakers • two 2½" drivers • mute • dual ramp-up alarms with 10-minute snooze • battery backup • color-matched credit card-sized remote control • digital display for volume (0-99) • automatic display dimmer (adjustable) • 14"W x 4¼"H x 8⅞"D • warranty: 1 year.

Graphite #018BWRGG Pearl White #018BWRPW \$349⁹⁵



The key to the Wave Radio's powerful, punchy sound is the patented, award-winning acoustic waveguide system.