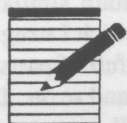


# The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

March 1998

Volume 4 Issue 3



## MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by  
Marv Beeferman

It's hard to tell whether the pleasant weather brought on by El Niño (why not?...its been blamed for everything else) or the natural tendency for radio collectors to defy all odds (including Friday the 13th) in search of "stuff," was responsible for the excellent turnout at February's meeting. Everyone looked pretty sharp in their black and gold club sweat shirts provided by Ruth Whartenby (732-271-7701) at a very reasonable price. A consistent 30% membership attendance is really something to be proud of. Perhaps the headcount at our upcoming March meeting, on a second consecutive bewitching day of the month, will give us some additional insight.

But I tend to believe our success is based more on a philosophy of good-fellowship and an earnest desire to share our knowledge with others, that of both experienced and novice collector alike, while leaving politics to the Democrats and Republicans. This philosophy, first established by club founder and first President Tony Flanagan over six years ago, continues today with Jim Whartenby and hopefully will continue well into the future. So let's try to make 1998 a banner year without having to mail out even one onerous "This may be your last issue of the *Broadcaster* if dues are not received within the next month" (I guess you were wondering where this was going). The key

## CALL FOR 1998 DUES

is a "1/98" on your mailing label which should immediately spark a \$15 (single) or \$20 (family) check made out to the NJARC and an envelope addressed to:

## MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the NJARC will take place on Friday, March 13 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. In lieu of a formal technical presentation, this month's meeting will feature our always popular "show-and-tell" session so members are requested to offer a radio-related item or interesting anecdote they might want to share informally with the club. In addition, the scavenger hunt item for this month is a discrete radio component (capacitor, resistor, coil, etc...but no tubes) with the oldest patent date marked on it.

Marsha Simkin  
10 Avalon Lane  
Matawan, NJ 07747

February's swapmeet, after some initial trepidation on my part when the gate wasn't unlocked until 7:30, went well. It's not surprising that as much as you try to plan for most eventualities, a few new kinks always provide learning experiences to be carried over to "next time." Getting the phone number of the Armory caretaker is a typical example. However, with 40 vendors occupying close to 50 tables, the meet was quite successful and not as congested as the last one. As usual, it's always nice to give a vote of thanks to our many "helping hands:"

- Phil Vourtsis, for helping with the floor layout, returning to the Armory a second time to tape down layout guidelines and directing table traffic on the day of the meet.
- Marsha Simkin (with support from her husband Jerry) for attending to the club table, collecting rental fees, selling 50/50 tickets, collecting dues and handing out membership blanks under poor environmental conditions (a cold wind seemed to find its way directly to the table through the truck bay door). Marsha's efforts have resulted in adding 10 new members.

- Jon Butz Fiscina and other club members who provided traffic control during the first hectic half-hour. Jon also donated 7 traffic cones to the club.
- Ludwell Sibley, Gary D'Amico, John Ruccolo and Pete Grave (Mr. Energy, who handled the walk-around auction) who shleped in a vanload of test gear, WW II military equipment and enough assorted counter-radar gear (AN/ARR-5 and AN/APR-4 search receivers; AN/APT-2 and AN/APT-5 jammers, etc.) to equip an electronic-countermeasures aircraft.
- Jim Whartenby for coming up with a food vendor at the very last minute.
- Those patient individuals who were able to sit it out for a few extra minutes waiting for the keys to unlock the Armory gate to arrive while yours truly pondered a radio linecord necktie party.

February's meeting opened with a discussion of the efforts by Fred Carl, a Monmouth County resident, who is attempting to establish an "Information Age Learning Center" at the Belmar Marconi station at Camp Evans. Letters of support have been forwarded by both the club and Ludwell Sibley implying an interest to support the project by maintaining a permanent museum and workshop at the site. An article in this month's *Broadcaster* provides more details about the project.

(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  
(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.  
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##### SCHEMATIC PROGRAM:

Aaron Hunter  
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(609)-426-4568

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

*(Meeting Notes...continued)*

February's meeting also included a talk and demonstration by John Dilks of an early spark transmitter he had recently acquired. John said that the seed for his interest in amateur radio was planted by his father in the early 50's. John had heard the distinctive sound of early spark transmitters in his many visits to various amateur stations but never really saw one. When a local ham died and he got his first taste of the makings of spark transmission by finding a Model T spark coil, he had caught the bug and began to build his own units. The one that John displayed was built by an amateur in Massachusetts and consisted of parts from various periods of radio history. A simple unit, it consists of an interrupter and spark gap, standoff insulators, tuning coil, antenna ammeter, short and long-wire antenna switch, key and reconstructed crystal set for receiving (see photograph on next page). John did manage to fire the unit up but an attempt at reception by Al Klase was hampered by poor and unyielding atmospheric conditions.

In addition to John's demonstration, we were treated to Marsha Simkins beautiful "Radio Valentine" display consisting of valentines with various radio themes. An example of a unique three dimensional card protected by a plastic display case is shown on the next page.

## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### In Search Of

By Jim Whartenby

As Ruth and I prepare for the move, we have begun to carefully pack our collections of radios and related treasures. Some have been out of sight for quite a while and it is like discovering them all over again. More than one has made such an impression that I can easily remember where and when they were found; others are more difficult to place.

The radio collection is impressively big. In fact, it is frightful. As packing

continues, I wonder to myself what is the number that the total count of boxes will be. I have no fear that I will run out of boxes since I can get as many as I need from work. The IC assemblies from overseas arrive daily and there is no shortage of sturdy cardboard boxes.

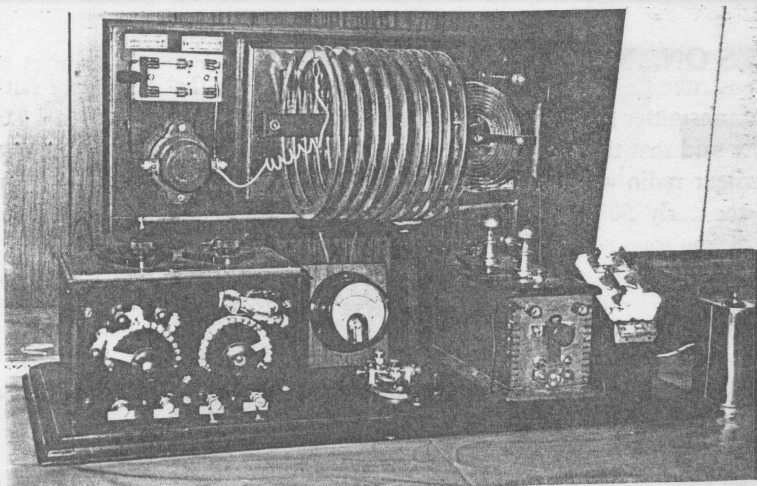
As always, I try to create order out of the chaos. Most boxes contain similar items and a theme develops which I struggle to maintain. One box is full of parts, another is full of headphones and so on. It is amazing to me how small a space a transistor radio occupies. I can literally get dozens of transistors into a box that will hold only one Hallicrafter short wave receiver. I'm beginning to understand why Marty Bunis is updating his collection to solid state. Maybe if I start over, it will be pens or Zippo lighters; something small and light and easy to display. Who am I kidding? Radio is now in the blood-I look at nothing else.

So where did they come from, these hundreds of radios? Well, we find them at fleamarkets and Ruth and I go to a lot of them. But so do a lot of our club members. Lets face it, New Jersey is a small state with just so many places to shop. So you have to get there early before the treasures disappear along with the dew in the new light. The bigger the market, the earlier you have to be. If the event is far away, then the travel time has to be figured into the equation.

The fleamarkets we go to are either civilian or Ham. You find many more radios at Ham Fests but don't overlook the local weekend events. They are full of surprises; I found my first RCA designed and built FRR23 communications receiver at the Golden Nugget next to the Lambertville Fleamarket, and at a good price. For those of you who have never been there, these two markets are truly spectacular. They are side-by-side but are owned by different concerns. They are open on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday when sun is in the forecast and the chill off of the Delaware River is tolerable. You just never know what you will find there - it's always different and always exciting. Weekend mornings take on a new look at 4 AM. The stars are bright and the sky is clear in the chill of the early morn. Be careful if you look up at the sky and con-

*(Continued on Page 5)*

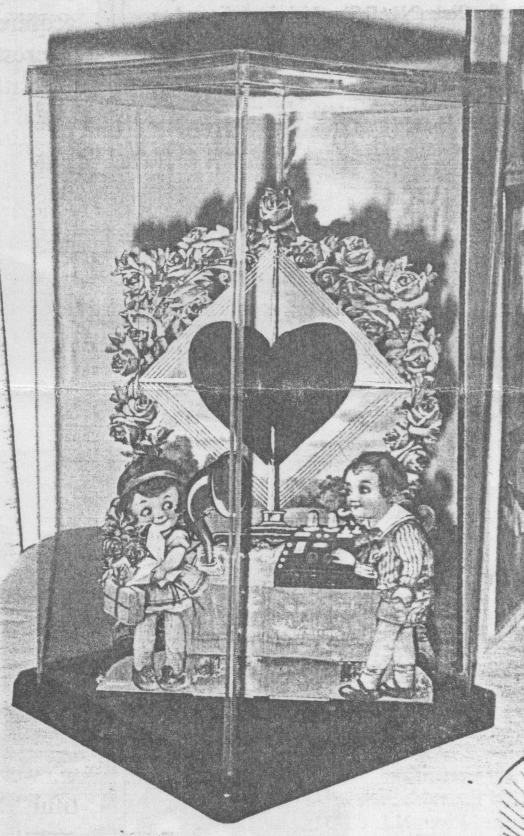




LEFT: JOHN DILKS' "OZONE  
"GENERATOR"

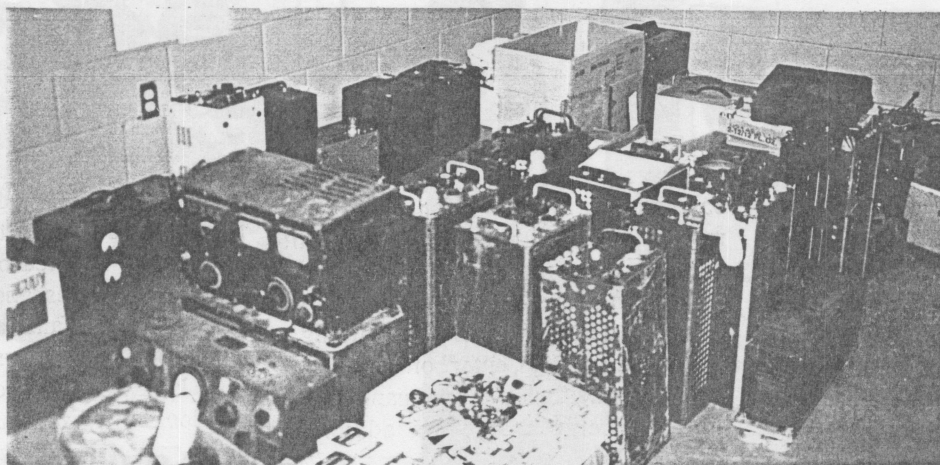
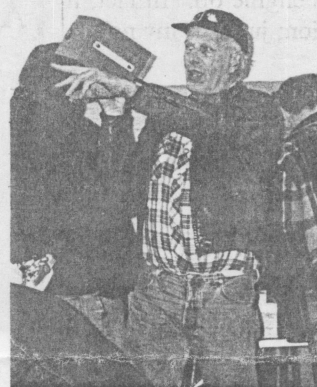
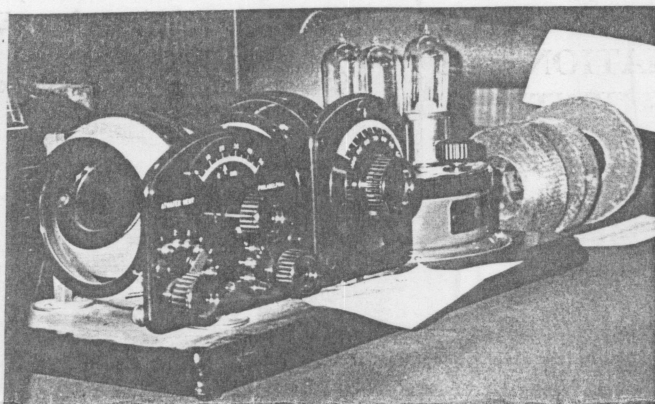


MARSHA SIMKINS' BEAUTIFUL  
VALENTINE DISPLAY



A POINT WELL-MADE

# AND THE MEET GOES ON...YAH-DA-DAH-DA-DEE





tinue to walk unless you are very sure that you rolled up that garden hose the other night. Rakes are another story. It is usually now in the early AM when I remember to check the truck's engine oil. In fact, it has become a tradition; just ask my neighbors.

If all has gone well and I haven't gotten lost along unfamiliar back roads, I arrive before sunrise. Then I meet the really hardcore collectors like Bill Overbeck, Don Cruise, Al Klase or Pete Grave who, by the time I get there, are on their second set of flashlight batteries. Ah! There's the truth! It's those hardcore guys that force me out of bed so early. But I have a secret that I will share with you...*Distance*. Get out on the road and travel a bit. Look for the obscure event in Northern New Jersey, Central Pennsylvania or the Hudson Valley area of New York.

If you go on vacation, plan around a Ham Fest weekend in another state. I went to a Ham Fest in Nelsonville, Ohio on the way back from our winter vacation in mid January. There I found an early HRO with five coil sets for the princely sum of \$20. It is a little rough and has been modified with button-based tubes, but it was a bargain nonetheless. A Hallicrafter S39 went for another \$20 at the same table, another bargain.

There are also surplus electronics places like Skycraft in Florida or PDs in Upstate New York, so check the phone book when you stop for the night. Don't overlook Army Navy Stores either. They sometimes get very strange things when they buy a large bulk lot. There is always that odd looking connector for your military radio that may turn up there.

So there you have it, time and distance, they are the secrets to help you find the next centerpiece of your collection. Oh, did I mention the Internet? Shopping there is sometimes expensive but there is also lists of companies that sell radios and related things and you can plan to visit them when on vacation. The Internet is where I get the lists of HamFests for the coming year, just check the ARRL web page. So have some fun and see some of the country. Who knows what you will find in that box under the next table?

\*\*\*\*

## THE FUTURE OF CAMP EVANS

### AN INFORMATION AGE LEARNING CENTER?

By Marv Beeferman

As noted in this issue's *Activities/Meeting Notes*, Mr. Fred Carl, Director of the InfoAge Virtual Learning Center, has met with the Marconi Park Complex Advisory Committee and Brookdale Community College representatives and found a "high level of enthusiasm" for a permanent establishment at the former Belmar Marconi station hotel. The station's hotel, located at the U.S. Army Signal Corps' Camp Evans (Wall, New Jersey), was used as office space up until the base closing and its donation to Monmouth County. Although no commitments have been made, discussions have been taken to the next level.

At present, Mr. Carl is building a "Virtual Learning Center" on the Internet while preparations for a permanent location are being made; the address is [www.infoage.org](http://www.infoage.org). For members without Internet access, a summary of the activities and philosophy of the project may be of interest.

InfoAge was conceived as a group of cooperating non-profit organizations dedicated to the preservation and education of information age technologies. At present, it has a combined membership of nearly 4000 professionals which represents a rich source of expertise and ideas. Camp Evans lends itself as an excellent historic location for the focal point of preservation and interpretation of New Jersey's rich communications, computer, electronics, radio, radar, satellite and telephony history. (For additional information on the history of Camp Evans, see Volume II, Issues 7 and 8, of the *Broadcaster...Ed.*) This is clearly endorsed by some of the subjects that will appear on the center's web site:

- Why Camp Evans Was Called the Army's "House of Magic"
- Sputnik and Camp Evans

- Project Diana Opens the Space Age at Camp Evans
- WWII Radar Sets SCR-268, SCR-270, SCR-217 Built at Camp Evans Help Win the War
- Camp Evans and the Development of Silicon Transistors

The history of the camp began in 1914 when the American Marconi Company decided to extend its service paths by building the New Brunswick (transmitting) and Belmar (receiving) high-power stations to exchange traffic with sister stations at Towyn and Carnarvon in Wales. The 45-bedroom hotel that was built to house the Belmar Station engineers was quite interesting; it accommodated the company's unmarried employees and was equipped with a luxurious lounge and smoking-room, and a number of private sitting rooms. A 12-acre vegetable garden supplied fresh produce and a French chef was in charge of catering arrangements in a kitchen that included refrigeration. (The married operators had four-bedroom cottages and the senior engineers and their families lived in spacious bungalows.) The grounds themselves were landscaped with ornamental gardens overlooking the river and Atlantic; woodlands provided shooting facilities and the streams an abundance of good fishing.

Ultimately, when the land was obtained by the government and later named Camp Evans, the U.S. Army Signal Corps played a vital role in WWII with radar research, many units being built at the camp and surrounding facilities in Monmouth County. From the radar that detected Japanese planes on their way to attack Pearl Harbor to devices that detonated the atomic bomb over Japan, Monmouth County technology helped give this country a decisive edge over the Axis powers. Without a pause, Monmouth's technological advances opened the space age, continued into the Cold War, and led to vast improvements in computers and transistors.

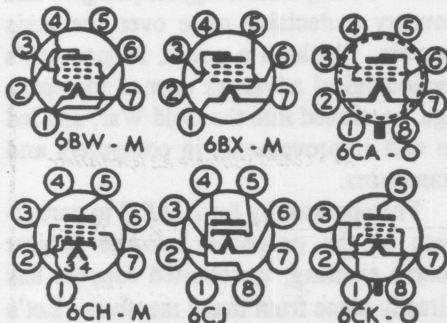
The opportunity for NJARC to participate in the proposed InfoAge project seems exciting; unsolicited support has already come from many members. Let's wish Mr. Carl success in future negotiations.

## THE MX-1258/U TUBE SOCKET ADAPTER KIT

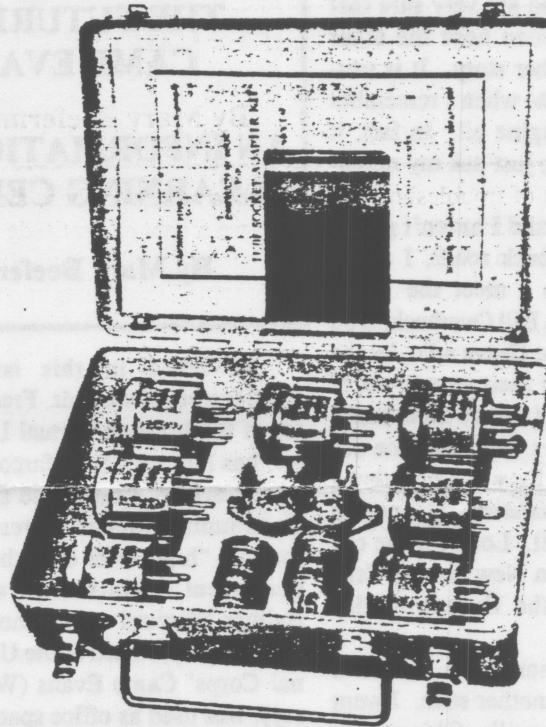
By Marv Beeferman

The term "you don't see much of those around anymore" usually applies to three types of radio collectibles: a) extremely scarce items b) items that are somewhat scarce with guaranteed value appreciation, and c) those items that collectors still actively use in their repair and restoration projects. The MX-1258/U tube socket adapter kit (manufactured by the Vector Electronic Co. of Los Angeles) seems to fit into the last category quite comfortably, so don't expect it to show up at one of my swapmeet tables in the near future (that is, if I ever get around to my often-promised "thinning out" sale).

This tube socket adapter kit was intended for use in general electronics testing of equipment employing vacuum tubes. The tube is removed from its socket in the equipment under test and the adapter is inserted in the exposed socket. The tube is then inserted in the top of the adapter and voltage or resistance measurements can be made from the top (tube side) of the adapter. The kit consists of nine types of adapters (4, 5 and 6 prong, 7 prong small, 7 prong large, octal, loctal, and 7 and 9 prong standard) mounted in a 6 x 9 x 2-1/2 inch aluminum transit case secured by means of mounting clips. Pin straighteners for 7 and 9 pin miniature bases are permanently mounted in the center of the transit case.



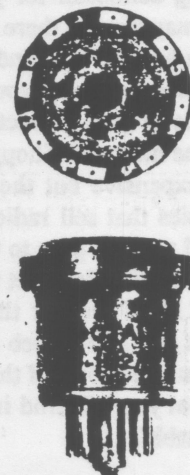
TUBE BASE DIAGRAMS



The nine adapters contained in the kit provide the facility for testing circuit conditions with practically all of the commonly used tubes. Each adapter has straight through pin connections, i.e., each individual base pin is connected through to the equivalent socket terminal. The adapters are provided with radial metal tabs at the top of the adapter which connect with the socket terminals. The tabs are flush with the top of the adapter skirt. A small 1/32" hole in the center of each tab provides a test probe, test clip or 22 gauge wire connection point. The resistance between adjacent test tabs is in excess of 1000 megohms. Each tab is marked with the standard JAN pin number with white filled characters molded in the Bakelite.

You may have had occasion to come across the immediate forerunner of the MX-1258/U which was the Navy type CV-49992 Adapter Kit; this kit employed 8 adapters of varying design with an adapter puller. The unit was stored on an oak block in Model OE equipment. The improved model allows manual insertion and extraction with a maximum of protection, a molded rim to facilitate attachment of test clips and a body design which allows the adapter to be used on sockets mounting standard tube base shields.

As part of the instruction book which comes with the kit, tube base diagrams are provided representing a view of the base from the under side of the chassis. Base designators are followed by the letters O, L, M and N to indicate octals, loctals, 7-pin miniatures and 9-pin miniatures. The majority of bases are shown in accordance with RTMA standards; however, certain types of tubes which did not yet have RTMA base numbers assigned when the handbook was prepared (November, 1952) are provided with supplementary base diagrams starting with an "S."



8-PIN OCTAL ADAPTER



## WARTIME CIRCUIT WIZARDRY

By Marv Beeferman

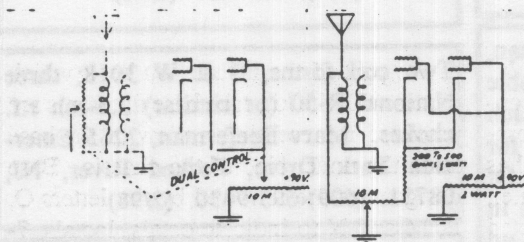
One of the frustrations of troubleshooting old radios relates to those circuits that look nothing like the schematic you spent so much time trying to find. In many cases, you may owe a debt of gratitude to those servicemen who made "valiant efforts" to keep home radio sets working during WWII despite numerous part shortages. In the International Resistance Company's (IRC) "Here's How" for 1943, you will probably find the basis for some of these wartime expedients, especially when dual control potentiometers were next to impossible to obtain. One common fix was to replace tapped controls with an easier to obtain 2 Meg control tapped at .5 Meg and obtaining the desired value by connecting fixed resistors across each side of the control from the tap. In some cases, fixed resistors were used to replace variable controls, or resistors connected to a tap change switch.

You shouldn't expect to benefit from IRC's advice to "supply your customer with a record of the changes involved so that this data is available to other Service Men who may later have occasion to work on the equipment." Go and know that he might be someone working on a set some 55 years later! Some of the tips are offered below for the sake of recognition only; you'll find hundreds of other variations in radios manufactured in the late 30's. However, on page 8, you might find some of the mechanical fixes for problem shafts even useful today.

### Dual Control in Screen and Antenna Ckt.

ORIGINAL CIRCUIT

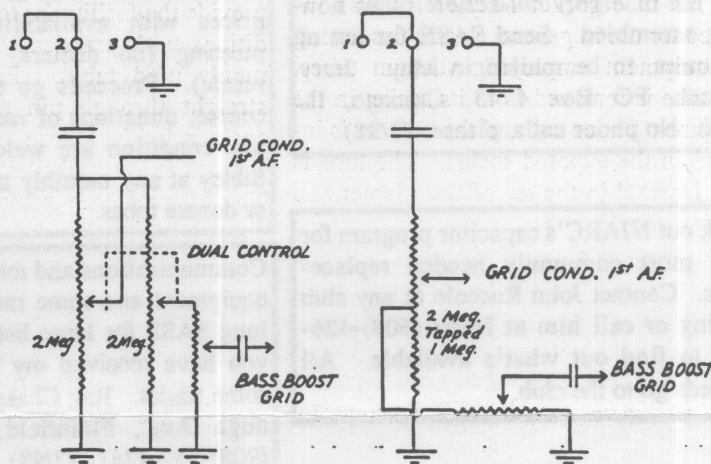
CHANGED CIRCUIT



### Dual Control with One Section Controlling Bass Boost Ckt.

ORIGINAL CIRCUIT

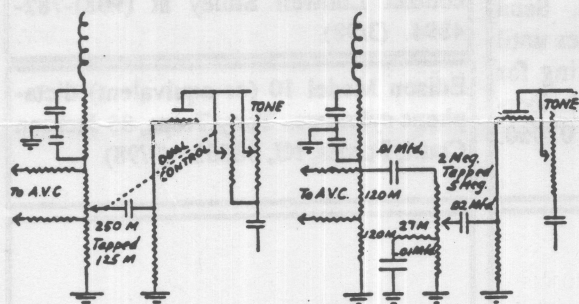
CHANGED CIRCUIT



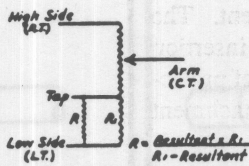
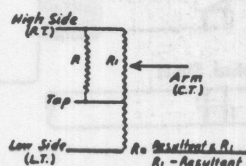
### Dual Control with One Section for Bass Comp.

ORIGINAL CIRCUIT

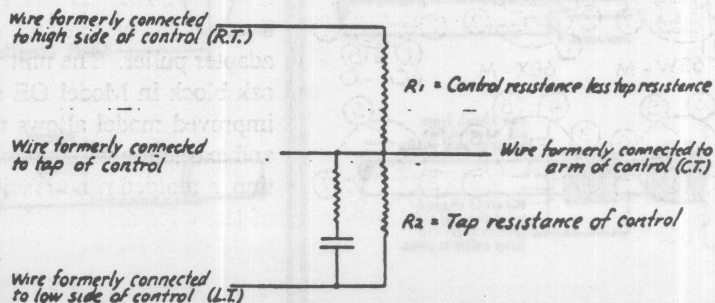
CHANGED CIRCUIT



### 2 Meg/.5Meg Tap-Fixed Resistor Combination



### Control Replacement by Fixed Resistors



## 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-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." 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)

