



The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

November 2009

Volume 15 Issue 11



**MEETING/
ACTIVITY
NOTES**

Reported by Marv Beeferman

THE ON-LINE BROADCASTER

The New Jersey Broadcaster is now on-line. To date, 97 of your fellow NJARC members have subscribed, saving the club over \$1900 a year. Interested? Send your e-mail address to:

mbeeferman@cs.com

Be sure to include your full name.

At the October meeting, Technical Coordinator Al Klase treated the club to an absorbing follow-up to his short wave superheterodyne lecture. Using detailed illustrations, Al explained how various companies tackled the problems of frequency accuracy, stability and high-end images to offer the public some of the best post-War tube communication receivers ever built. The Gatowski estate auction that followed topped off a very nice evening.

Registration forms for our December 12th Holiday party have been sent out. Remember, seating is limited so please return your form as soon as possible. This year, the forms were all sent by regular mail; using both mail and e-mail got a little confusing last year. However, it appears that some addresses have not been updated since I've received a few "undeliverable" returns. Therefore, if you haven't received your registration form by the time you receive the November *Broadcaster*, don't be concerned; I've included a form on the last page of this month's issue. We'll get around to updating your address at a later date.

The party will be held at InfoAge's Marconi Hotel (2201 Marconi Road, Wall NJ) and includes a 5:00 PM cocktail hour and 6:15 buffet dinner. It's a wonderful evening of fun, good food and fellowship with a radio theme. We're also hoping to present the Tony Flanagan Memorial



MEETING NOTICE

NOTE: MEETING AT INFOAGE!

The next NJARC meeting will take place on Friday, November 13th, at 7:30 PM at InfoAge. Directions to InfoAge may be found on the club's website (<http://www.njarc.org>). This month the club will be hosting our annual Old Equipment Contest; all the details may be found in the November *Broadcaster*. If you haven't started on your entry, it's not necessary to spend a great deal of time on some work of art. The club is trying to place an emphasis on participation rather than necessarily on a prize-winner.

Award and the Old Equipment Contest awards at the party.

You'll also note that this year we're asking for a small contribution (\$5 per member) to defray some of the costs. Many members don't realize that the party can run over \$1,000 and it is becoming difficult to cover all our expenses while still requesting an extremely fair \$20 yearly dues.



The InfoAge mad scientist lab sponsored by the NJARC was its usual Halloween hit this year. The light wasn't the best for photography, but I think I can make out member Dave Snellman conjuring up some spirits from the radio ether.

The Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club has published some interesting information in its October *Radio Age* that I thought I'd pass on. As you might know, Google has been scanning and making available on the Internet rare old books for which the copyrights have expired.

This seems like a great way to acquire early radio information. To check it out, go to:

http://www.books.google.com/advanced_book_search

Click "Full View Only" and "Books." This will pull up only those books that are available free. (Google offers other books that you must pay for.) Near the top of the screen you will see a box labeled "At least one of the words." Type into this box a keyword such as "wireless" or "radio." The result will be a long list of available books. Scroll down and click on the book you want to see and it will appear in PDF form. You can print out the entire book or just selected pages.

Some of the books that are available include:

- Zenneck's 1915 *Wireless Telegraphy*
- Bucher's 1920 *Wireless Experimenter's Manual*
- Goldsmith's 1918 *Radio Telegraphy*

These are fairly rare books which run at \$25 or more if you want them for your library. Now they are available free to anyone who might want them.

This is a terrific resource for early radio material and Google continues to add more and more books to its website. Check it out for some very interesting reading.

THE JERSEY BROADCASTER 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. Dues are \$20 per year and meetings are held the second Friday of each month.

The Editor or NJARC is not liable for any other use of the contents of this publication.

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OLD EQUIPMENT CONTEST... JUST A FEW DAYS AWAY

With the NJARC Old Equipment Contest scheduled for November 13th, it's time for your entry to take form. Here are the basic rules, but try to keep in mind that documentation and a nice display are usually the keys to a winning entry:

1. Each member may submit no more than one entry per category and no more than a total of three entries.
2. Entries are not required to be demonstrated as working, but a statement of restoration to full operability (honor system) on the entry's description will be used as a basis for judging.
3. Categories are as follows:

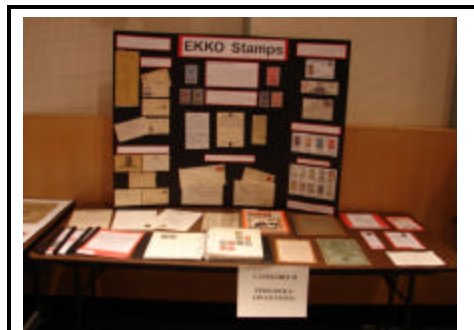
- A. Crystal sets
- B. Battery radios - 1930 and earlier
- C. AC radios - up to 1940
- D. AC radios - after 1940
- E. Transistor radios
- F. Novelty radios
- G. Communication and military radios
- H. Ephemera/Advertising/Literature (books, magazines, catalogs, posters, photographs, postcards, etc.)
- I. Radio Accessories (speakers, headphones, antennas, tubes, parts, test equipment, etc.)
- J. Entertainment items (TVs, phonographs, recording devices, stereos, etc.)
- K. Open category

4. Members will be asked to judge entries based on the following guidelines (obviously, you can't vote for your own entry):

- a) General appearance and condition (is the entry restored, cleaned, working and generally presentable or "as found").
- b) Documentation (ads, journal articles, books, news clips, photos, magazine articles, manuals, etc.).
- c) Effort (how much work was put into restoration, appearance, documentation and display).
- d) Rarity (is the entry relatively hard to find).

5. Awards: Three major awards will be presented at the December Holiday Party which represent the most ballots received from ALL categories. Ribbons will also be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place winners in each category.

Here's some examples from last year's contest to give you an idea of typical entries:



A TRAGIC LESSON

By
Marv Beeferman

A recent news story out of Orlando is a grim reminder that even what may appear to be a very innocuous project can have dire consequences. Three family members, a couple and their teenage son, were electrocuted to death while trying to erect a 50-foot tall ham radio tower in a relative's yard when it fell into a power line. The antenna was being erected so that the husband's mother, who lives in the house, could communicate with relatives through amateur radio. A 17-year old girl, who lost her mother, father and little brother in an instant, was inside the house with her grandmother.

A neighbor reported that the family had started on the antenna while it was still light out, but didn't stop once it became dark. One cannot speculate, but perhaps this was the major contributor. Whatever the case, it was obvious that all three had their hands on the antenna when it contacted 13,000 volts of electricity.



The three family members were found lying on the ground, not moving; the brick patio was scorched by the discharge.

This is a somber message to those NJARC members who might be considering erecting an antenna mast in the future. Although you might be more experienced than the people involved in this accident, experience can sometimes breed contempt. Some good practices to remember are to be thoroughly aware of your surroundings, work deliberately and slowly, don't work alone and most of all, quit when it starts getting dark.

NJARC OCTOBER REPAIR CLINIC

We had a very nice turnout for October's repair clinic at InfoAge. There was lots of space to spread out in, your editor supplied those highly sought after Forked River bagels that are becoming an NJARC tradition and a club-provided pizza lunch topped off the day. Most of all, we had lots of fun!

Here's some (mostly un-edited) notes of the day:



Zenith Transoceanic...I replaced the caps, tested tubes...radio works now.
John Tyminski



RCA Victor stereo orthophonic hi-fidelity phono console; blonde wood. No sound...time to recap.
Steve Calandra



RCA table radio 4X644; 6 tubes w/ tuned RF amp.; 1954. Turned on - worked! Volume control scratchy, cleaned w/contact spray. Radio worked fine...for about 10 minutes! Then started smoking; "black beauty" cap across 35W4 red hot. Recapped set; works fine now. Moral: always do a smoke test.

Nick Senker



Model 20 Majestic grandfather clock radio. Problems with coils; not working yet.

Richard Hurff



Heathkit SB-102; checkout and adjustment including power supply; replaced two electrolytic caps; checked tubes.
Owen Gerboth



Hammarlund HQ-140; dirty band switch; works pretty good (unrestored). National NC-240-D; nice condition, some weird mods and sloppy repairs.
John Ruccolo
Richard Lee
Mark DeFancisco



Building a homebrew, 9-tube AM receiver based on circuit in 1947 RCA tube manual. Doing all wiring with marginal guidance from "dad."
Aaron Heskes (12 years old)



Checked operation of Howard receiver; powered-up OK; needs extensive cleaning and control work. Philco Trans-World transistor; cleaned battery connections; set works. Helped Dick Hurff with his Majestic mess.

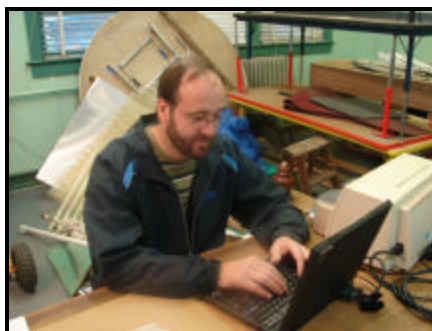
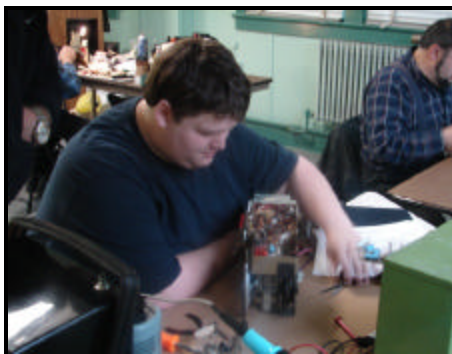
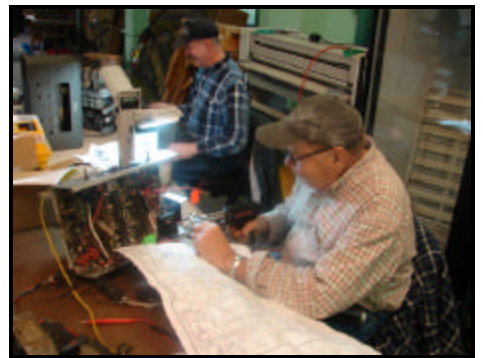
Aaron Hunter



Repaired RCA 9X641 for Ted Delinper. Recapped radio; replaced line cord; cleaned volume control and tube contacts...works

Worked on Philco 71B; replaced filter caps; worked for 5 minutes. Checked B+, tubes, alignment...work in progress.

Phil Vourtsis



Some happy customers

TROPIC-PROOF RADIOS

By
Marv Beeferman

*As the frost forms on the pumpkin, we return to the **Broadcaster** archives of December 2001 for some "warmer" reading...Ed*

Although most of us are wondering if winter will ever get here, radio collectors aren't too concerned about the weather when it comes to maintaining a lovingly restored collection. Air conditioners, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, heating systems and thermostats pretty much provide the necessary TLC for a receiver's comfortable retirement. But radio manufacturers of the late 30s and early 40s, with an eye to expanding southern markets, had to have a clear conception of the effect of climate on consumer radio equipment, both in regard to reception and endurance.

Although Central and South America naturally embraced a wide variety of climates, the greater portion of this region was warm and very humid, with the majority of failures of early broadcast receivers being attributed to the high humidity. In many cases, a 50- or 75-watt heater was installed inside radio cabinets to keep them drier and prevent humidity failures. But this was done at significant expense, since electricity was costly in Latin America at the time.

In a letter dated August 29th, 1941 from Dr. V.W.H. Campbell, a Navy Lieutenant stationed in the Canal Zone to Consumers' Research Inc. (later to become *Consumer Reports*), the problem was put in perspective:

"The factor essential for satisfactory radio performance in the tropics is the ability of the equipment to withstand excessive humidity, and the ravages of termites and insects. Cabinets must be put together with waterproof glue. Parts made of paper, such as the speaker cone, condensers, etc. must be impregnated with a suitable substance to prevent water absorption which would lead to failure of the part to function. Insulation of wires must contain substances to repel termites and insects which otherwise would destroy the insula-

tion and cause a short circuit. Radios not treated to withstand the ravages of the tropics frequently fail within a few months and are a constant source of annoyance to their owners."

An additional, unique condition might also be mentioned. Many Latin American population centers were in close proximity to salt water with a large portion of receivers within reach of the fine salt mist thrown up from the sea when a heavy breeze blew. The tropical custom of building houses without glass in the windows left many receivers vulnerable to this additional corrosive agent. Since the islands and countries surrounding the Caribbean abounded with port cities, a considerable number of receivers bound for Latin America could be expected to be subjected to salt water mist in some degree.

Aside from the usual failures that befell a "tropic receiver", additional faults occurred with monotonous regularity, even in new equipment. Fine wires corroded rapidly and broke easily, especially if the wires carried high potentials and were held in place by adhesive tape, glue or cardboard and fiber forms. This resulted in a high mortality rate for loud-speaker field coils, output transformers, power transformers, and i-f and r-f coils. Investigation ultimately showed that the breaks always occurred where the wires touched some fiber or adhesive material; or near the terminals where soldering flux or the oil from human hands may have played a corrosive role. It occurred frequently in coils that were painted with insulating compound. However, if the coil had been both hot and cold dipped in a wax or other impregnating material, it seldom gave trouble.

Switch contacts and the wiping contacts of tuning condensers gave frequent trouble due to corrosion, but could usually be cleaned. But moisture and the accompanying growth of green mold on the wiring increased leakage paths substantially. The Q of coils frequently changed so much that both the sensitivity and alignment of a receiver were thrown completely off. AVC action was sometimes nullified because the leakage resistance of the wiring was less than the value of the filter resistors in the circuit.

Interestingly enough, wooden radio cabinets seemed to have withstood the climate comparatively well. There were

the usual instances where glue failed and finishes dulled, but the extremes of temperate climates probably tested a radio cabinet more than tropical humidity.

To offer a product that appeared to overcome the difficulties mentioned above, manufacturers advertised receivers sold in "tropical America" as being "tropic-proofed," "built for the tropics" or "specially treated against humidity". It would seem that these receivers would have been expected to give a reasonable life to their purchaser. But, long rows of receivers accumulating in service shops of the era seemed to have contradicted this assumption. It appeared that "tropic proofing" consisted of anything from an extra coat of varnish on the cabinet to a sincere job of impregnation against moisture, heat and insects.

One interesting example of this line was the Sears tropic-proof Silvertones (see page 6) prefixed with model numbers "57 CV" and "57 CVM" and which were advertised as especially designed and constructed for peak performance in the Canal Zone. The cabinets of these sets were processed under high pressure with a special waterproof glue to withstand high humidity. Transformers and coils were bathed in a special water-proof protective wax. Finally, and probably most importantly, special wave bands for short wave reception on all the frequency ranges most used in the Canal Zone were provided.

The last point is of particular importance. Climate played a unique role in radio reception in the tropics. The static level was so high throughout the standard broadcast band that only local reception was possible most of the time. As a result, most Latin American stations broadcasted simultaneously on both standard and short-wave bands. However, although the majority had well-engineered broadcast-band reception, indifferent short-wave reception was added only for sales appeal.

References:

1. Sears circular Sec.562, P.L.&R, Tropic-Proof Silvertone Radios
2. Letter to Consumer's Research Inc. from Dr. V.W.H. Campbell, Lieut. (jg) (MC)USN, August 29, 1941 (author's collection).
3. Electronics, March 1941, Welby E. Stewart, Receivers for the Tropics.

**TWO TROPIC-PROOF 5-BAND SILVERTONES
BATTERY AND ELECTRIC CURRENT MODELS**

5 Tubes Including Power Rectifier Tube
A smartly designed Tropic-Proof model that will look well in any setting and give superb performance on all wave bands. It has features ordinarily found in radios costing far more. Its three tuning bands give complete coverage from 545 to 22,500 KC. with short wave reception on the 120, 90, 49, 40, 31, 25, 19, 16, and 13 meter bands.

\$2745
CASH
\$3 DOWN
Electric Model

Modern Circuit Design includes such quality features as I.F. transformer, rubber-floated chassis, variable tone control, automatic volume control, and a plug-in connection for a phonograph record player. Excellent tone quality is provided with a 5-inch dynamic speaker.

Simplicity and Good Proportion give this Silvertone cabinet a style all its own. Built to withstand severe climatic conditions. Warm mahogany veneers with walnut and dark wood trim. Size, 10½ inches high, 19½ inches wide, and 7¾ inches deep.

Operates on 100 or 240-volt, 25 or 60-cycle alternating current. State which cycle is needed. Shipping weight, 24 pounds.

57 CV 07320—Silvertone Electric Radio Cash **\$27.45**
Easy Payment Price (\$3 down and \$4 a month) **29.85**



Here is a Silvertone for those without electricity. It is the same as 57 CV 07320, except that it operates entirely from dry batteries. Because no rectifier is needed this radio has a total of four tubes. Complete with A-B battery pack that is guaranteed for 1100 hours at 4 hours a day of use. Shipping weight, 21 pounds.

57 CV 07321—Silvertone 11½-Volt Battery Model Cash **\$29.95**
Easy Payment Price (\$3 down and \$4 a month) **32.55**

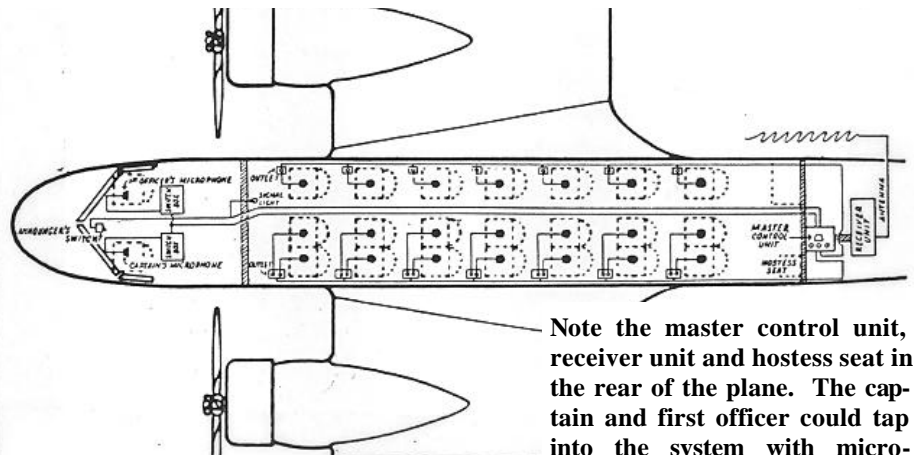
\$2995
CASH
\$3 DOWN

RADIOS ON A PLANE
By
Marv Beferman

Another article from the *Broadcaster's* December 2001 archives...ED

Eulogies for the demise of large corporations always include a listing of "firsts" and TWA had its fair share. The airline inaugurated transatlantic service in 1946 when a Constellation flew from New York to Paris on February 5th. It provided the first non-stop eastbound scheduled transcontinental service - Los Angeles to New York in eight hours. TWA was the first to have an all-jet fleet, the first to serve freshly brewed coffee and the first airline to show regularly scheduled movies in flight (beginning with the Lana Turner potboiler *By Love Possessed* in 1961).

Included in these firsts is something a little less impressive to most but strikes a chord with radio enthusiasts. In 1940, TWA introduced the first individual passenger radio receivers. They were installed on their big twin-motored planes flying between New York and the Pacific Coast. Individual receivers were connected to a central receiver in the rear of the plane that was operated by the hostess. A pad-like individual receiver connected to an overhead outlet was used similar to a pillow speaker.



Note the master control unit, receiver unit and hostess seat in the rear of the plane. The captain and first officer could tap into the system with microphones.



A TWA hostess explains how the pad-like receiver is adjusted. Insert shows the master receiver.

UNCLE DON'S HISTORIC SLIP-UP

The following was extracted from a larger article sent to me by Mike Koste in 2005. "Old Newark Radios" was recalled and researched by Nat Bodian...Ed

A notable piece of radio history tied to radio station WOR of Newark, NJ involved a much-beloved radio personality named Don Carney who was known to his thousands of kiddie fans in the seven-state WOR listening area as "Uncle Don." Uncle Don would start his program each eve-

ning by arriving in an imaginary autogiro he called "Puddle Jumper."

His opening song, which follows, became known almost everywhere in the WOR listening area:

*Hello nephew, nieces too,
Mothers and daddies, how are you?
This is Uncle Don all set to go,
With a meeting on the ra-di-o!
We'll start off with a little song,
To learn the words will not take long;
For they're as easy as easy can be,
So come on now and sing with me:
Hibbidy- Gits has-ha ring boree,
Sibonia Skividy, hi-lo-dee!
Honi-ko-dokewith an ali-ka-zan,
Sing this song with your Uncle Don!*

What happened that legendary evening in the 1930s followed the end of one of his six-days-a-week kiddie programs of songs, jokes, advice, birthday announcements, club news and lots of commercials. Carney thought he was off the air, and with a live microphone still beamed to his dotting kiddie listeners, he reportedly remarked "There! I guess that'll hold the little bastards."

Radio legend has it that Uncle Don was fired that day, disgraced beyond redemption, and lived out the rest of his life in obscurity. It was also said he died an impoverished drunk several years later.

The "Urban Legends Reference Page" and two other internet sources state that the claim that Uncle Don was fired is clearly false. He continued to broadcast, day in and day out, starting in 1928 and ending only when he stepped down in 1947. His *New York Times* obituary referred to the "bastards" incident as a myth of the broadcasting industry.

Nat Bodian, who researched this article, said that one of the readers of his "Old Newark" postings said that her husband personally heard the remark by Uncle Don while listening to his show on a weekday night as a young boy but said he never heard him on the air again. Whatever the case, another comment seems to at least confirm this historic radio happening:

"I can confirm that Uncle Don did, indeed say 'There! I guess that'll hold the little bastards.' I have a 1970's vintage, 2-record set of bloopers that included it."

MEETING A WGY LEGEND

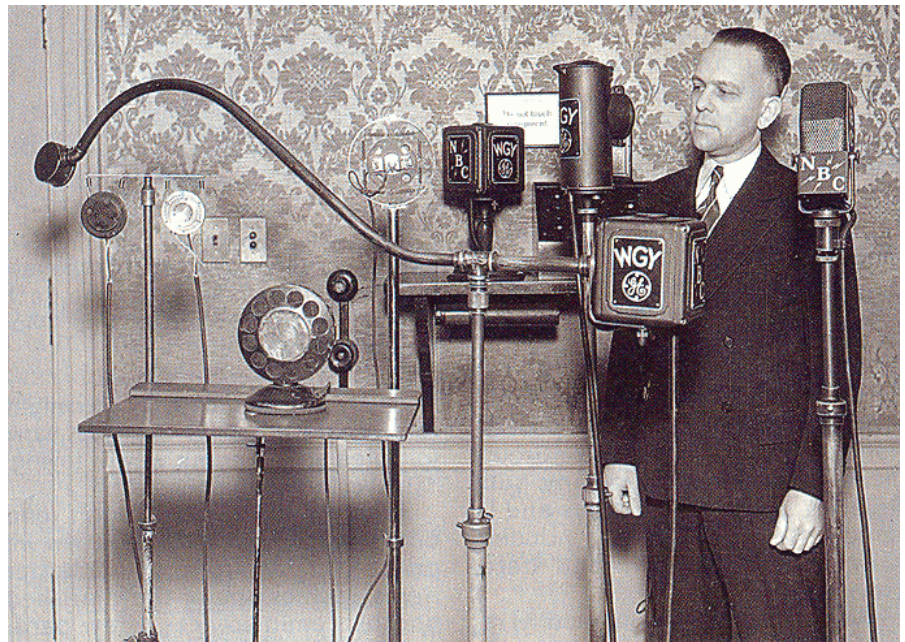
By
Tom McCarthy

If your interested in some light, warm and fun reading that is missing in many of today's publications, you might want to consider Reminisce magazine (www.reminisce.com) billed as "the magazine that brings back the good times." A friend of mine brought this article to my attention...Ed

At 7:47 on a cold night in 1922, a young General Electric employee named Kolin Hager stepped up to a carbon microphone on the fourth floor of the company's Building 36. He announced to the world, "this is station WGY, Schenectady, New York... 'W' for the first letter in wireless, 'G' for the first letter in General Electric and 'Y' for the last letter in Schenectady."

Thus was invented the sign-on for what was then the 1,000-watt radio station WGY. That's Mr. Hager in the black-and-white publicity photo shown below, and again in the color photo when he re-created the moment in 1982.

Exactly 60 years after that first sign-on, Mr. Hager repeated his famous announcement at WGY, where I was an afternoon personality at the 50,000-watt, full-service AM radio station. A shiver ran down my spine as this kind gentleman made history come alive.



Kolin Hager in front of a maze of microphones typical of the era. Included are a Western Electric B1 double button carbon mike and an RCA 4 AA condenser mike. Can you identify any others?

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.

Are you aware that NJARC now has a resistor program which includes many commonly needed replacements? Contact Walt Heskes at any club meeting for details.

FOR SALE

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.

By non-member: AK Model 55C in a 1929 Pooley cabinet. No reasonable price refused. Must be picked up in Margate City. Pictures available; extra tubes. Michael Seidman, 609-822-3373, mrhaj@verizon.net

WANTED

Rare or unusual wire recorders such as Soviet Type MH-61, WWII Signal Corps RD-15/ANQ-1, GE model 20N. Also wanted is an un-modified BC-652A with dynamotor. Contact Gary Berg, 24 Pat Road, Newburgh, NY 12550 bergg@hvc.rr.com

9002 and 9003 tubes for a BC-639 receiver. Rob Flory (robandpj@earthlink.net).

Good 17PKP4 crt. John Tyminski tubeularelectronics@gmail.com

WANTED: Radio repairmen and restorers. Run out of your own radios to work on? The club and Infoage have received a quantity of radio donations, some of which would look good in our museum. Others will be set aside for traveling displays, trading or resale as fundraisers. Many of these radios only need a good cleaning and polishing and a minor electrical checkout. Take one or two home with you and practice your skills...even if you just want to clean them up. Contact Ray Chase at our next meeting, at 908-757-9741 or at enrprn@erols.com.

HOLIDAY PARTY REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): _____

Telephone or email: _____

Number of Members :	_____ X \$5	= \$_____
Number of Children under 12:	_____ X \$5	= \$_____
Number of Non-Members :	_____ X \$10	= \$_____

TOTAL: \$_____

Make checks out to **NJARC**, enclose with this form and **mail before 11/30/08.**

Marv Beeferman
2265 Emerald Park Drive
Forked River, NJ 08731