

The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

April 2002

Volume 8 Issue 4



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Marv Beeferman

Attendance came in like a lion at the March meeting of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club with nearly 65 people crowding the Grace Lutheran Church...that's nearly a third of the club! Our recent repair clinic, the Morris County Library exhibit, Info-Age, Issac Blonder and Ben Tongue's induction into the NJ Inventor's Hall of Fame and the search for a new meeting place were just a few of the topics discussed.

Our "radio show-and-tell" unveiled some very interesting finds:

- Kelton Trammell displayed a beautifully restored General Radio Telexsa 5A, sometimes referred to as the "Spy" radio. This uniquely designed item features a SW band and tuning eye. Kelton said he traded \$50 and a Silvertone console for what now carries a \$300 to \$400 price tag.
- Jon Butz Fiscina paid a surprise visit to the club from his home in Texas and brought a cross section of display items. They included transistor portables manufactured in Russia, Rhodesia and Portugal, a cigarette lighter in the form of a microphone and a miniature "bug" offered as a Rice Honeys premium in the early 60's.
- Ray Chase showed a series of photos of a Pompton Lakes radio shop, a Christmas present from his wife Edith. It appears that the shop started as a battery charging station and developed into a successful radio shop; a delivery truck and delivery motorcycle were stationed at the front of the store. Ray also showed a headphone driver with a folded horn which may have been either factory or home-brew. It reminded Ray of a discussion with an "old-timer" at the club's Morris County library exhibit who remembered placing headphones in a bowl to emulate a speaker.
- Dave Sica exhibited a 50's vintage

MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the NJARC will take place on Friday, April 12th at 7:30 PM in the Grace Lutheran Church, corner of Route 33 and Main Street in Freehold NJ. Contact either Phil Vourtsis or Marv Beeferman for directions. The technical session for this month will be conducted by Robert Flory on the topic "The US Navy RBA, RBB and RBC Receivers" or "Bob's Bodacious Battleship Boatanchors." We'll also be presenting awards to the winners of our BCB DX contest; please bring your entries in for a photo op (they don't have to be powered up). We'll also discuss last month's swapmeet and take suggestions for any improvements.

"home voice recorder" consisting of a disc cutter, blank records, cutting needles and a microphone (containing the original batteries in perfect condition). The cutting arm was designed to attach to the user's own phonograph. Dave also brought two items that were not quite up to the standard

happy to provide his friend with parts for his many crystal radio projects and asks nothing in return. However, he was quite honored to display two rewards for his good fellowship - a beautiful home-brew crystal set and a crystal detector made from hand-turned brass components.

- Steve Walko displayed an Emerson DY649 in an unblemished Ingraham cabinet. Steve said that a little Murphy's oil was all that was required to bring this gem back to its original luster. Its source was a friend who found it on top of his grandmother's 1939 Philco console.

•Walt Heskes discussed slope detection while describing another one of his experimental FM radios. This regenerative set was based on a pair of 9003's for the two RF stages and a 12AT7 for regeneration. He had to modify the set's triple-ganged tuning capacitor by pulling off a few plates to get within the desired 7 - 50 pfd range.

- Dave Snellman showed a Hallicrafters S72 and noted its major difference as compared to a Transoceanic. The S72 provides full coverage, AM to 30 MHz, and effectively utilizes a 1R5 in lieu of the more rare 1L6 to accomplish this.

• George Shields displayed two interesting examples of broadcast studio microphones marketed by Telefunken and Siemens. A ribbon velocity mike (model Ela M 301/2) from late 1929 was only used for a short period of time. The CMV3 condenser mike, introduced in 1933, was



Kelton Trammell talks about his General Radio "Telexsa" 5A during last month's show-and-tell. A closeup is shown on page 2.

definition of vintage - *Broadcasters* from June 4th, 2001 and March 4th, 2002 which he recently received in the mail. At least you can't blame your editor for late deliveries.

- John Dilks has a friend, some 15 years older, who mentored John in his early years of ham radio. John says he's quite

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

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much more popular and became known as the "Hitler bottle mike" frequently seen in newsreels. A preamp was contained within the microphone's "bottle" section, using an RE084K vacuum tube. George said, based on some of his own testing, that the mike has a "phenomenal frequency response" (40 Hz to 18 KHz) and a "crisp, clear lifelike sound."

- Tom Provost suggested trying a different type of radio when you're bored or need a change of pace from typical American sets. He noted that his first attempt at a German radio, a Korting-Radio "Nobilis 40" from 1940, was a bit of a challenge but the result was quite rewarding.

- New Jersey Radio was the theme of Rob Flory's talk about his Navy RBB5 made by RCA. This post WW II unit had a frequency range of 500 KHz to 4 MHz, has 2 RF and 3 IF stages with a 400 KHz IF frequency, an adjustable bandwidth and an output limiter for CW reception.

- Al Klase's TORN "E.B." German backpack radio was designed in 1935 and used little sheet metal in its construction. This TRF regenerative receiver used four tubes and a turret type tuner, had a frequency range of 90 KHz to 7 MHz and utilized 2-volt "knob" tubes (pentodes). Since the radio was originally in very poor condition, Al said he didn't feel bad about using US components to get it "almost completely operational."

- Richard Lee brightened up the meeting with an early 70's Zenith "Chroma Color" advertising sign. The unit is lighted by a MR16 quartz halogen lamp which, through a color wheel and primitive fiber optic system, provides a very colorful display.

- Club president Phil Vourtsis described a 1954 RCA clock radio with an interesting function. The radio's alarm could be pre-set to a second station with its own volume level using separate volume and tuning controls at the back of the set. Phil also showed a clear plastic "Slide-A-Matic" record player which was given to dealers to demonstrate the workings of the mechanism.

- Your editor described the history of the Crosley "Pup" and how it was essentially a Crosley 52 housed in a small metal case.

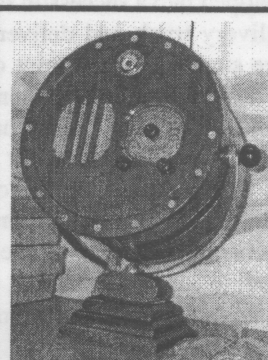
Our Spring swapmeet went exceptionally well; the banquet hall was filled with nearly 60 tables and over 100 buyers were

in attendance. Thanks to everyone for the many compliments that the club received. Setup and cleanup was very easy with the volunteer firefighters doing the majority of the work. The club tried to dissuade the owners from covering the tables with white cotton tablecloths but they insisted. I think the coverings added a nice touch but we we will definitely not provide flower arrangements at the next meet as some vendors suggested.

Collecting table payments at the hall entrance, as suggested by our Membership Secretary Marsha Simkin, turned out to be another work saver for Treasurer Sal Brisindi who was left with only collecting 50/50 money. Many people also appreciated being able to buy coffee, tea, soda and muffins and the sale turned a modest profit for the club; we may expand these offerings at our Fall meet. Thanks to Dave Snellman, Sal Brisindi, Phil Vourtsis and Richard Lee for helping with sales. Appreciation is also extended to Pete Grave for conducting a walk-around-auction at the end of the meet.

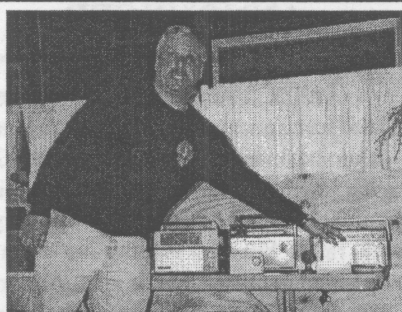
Ray Chase reports that the Morris County Library exhibit was so popular that he was asked to keep the lobby portion of the radio display up until April 15th. The gallery portion will be coming down in April and he and Joe Bentrovato will insure that sets get back to their proper homes. The success of the exhibit can easily be reflected in an increase in library attendance and four pages of comments in the guest book. I'm sure our club will appreciate a small sample:

Way cool! Thank you, a wonderful history. Fascinating...thanks. Reminds me of my childhood days in Philadelphia. Never seen mirrored Sparton & Crosley, except in pix...marvelous! Great - really brought back memories. We loved it! Thanks for sharing your collection.

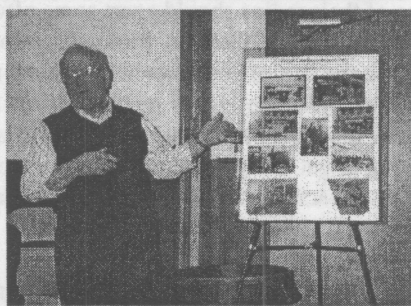


**Telexsa 5A
closeup**

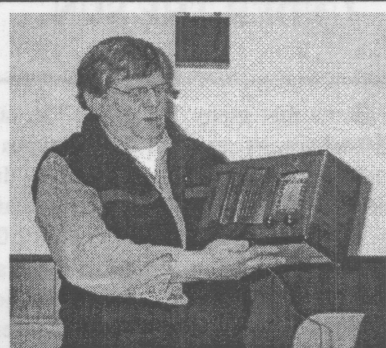
SHOW-AND-TELL



Jon Butz Fiscina



Ray Chase



Steve Walko



George Shields



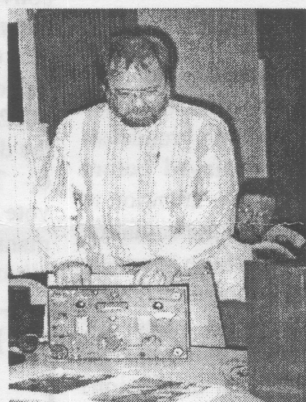
Robert Flory



Richard Lee



Phil Vourtsis



Al Klase



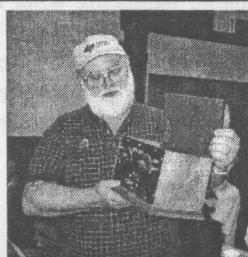
Tom Provost



Dave Snellman



Walt Heskes



John Dilks



Dave Sica

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

It seems that many "advances" in consumer technology result in certain types of social fallout we could all do without. In a recent telephone survey by the research group Public Agenda, 79 percent of 2,013 adults surveyed said a lack of respect and courtesy in American society is a serious problem. One of the behaviors considered exceptionally rude was people walking around bleating into cell phones as if they were the only ones for blocks and talking in a loud or annoying manner.



The introduction of the "true" portable radio in 1938 and its social impact, both positive and negative, is thoroughly discussed in Michael Brian Schiffer's "The Portable Radio in American Life." The following are just two of the many excerpts I have come across from other sources as examples of some of the less desirable aspects of portable radios that we still face today.

From the "Letters to the Sun" column of *The New York Sun* for July 17, 1941:

"Another quasi-nuisance has arrived upon the scene - the portable radio. I say 'quasi' because, after all, there is a time and place for everything, and, at times, the portable is quite in order.

But when a person is sitting on a park bench on a glorious, mild day enjoying nature's tranquillity and a group of three or four arrive and flop right down alongside of you with a portable and tune in Tommy Dorsey's or Glenn Miller's swing, or someone delivering a verbose political speech, &c., I think it is time to protest.

After all, the privacy of people using our public parks, beaches, &c., should be respected, and those who want to make full use of their radios should exert some effort toward playing them in remote sections where the use of portables will disturb no one, and provide just as much pleasure as when they are played near those who are trying to get the quiet relaxation which our parks, beaches, &c., are supposed to provide. Charles F. Jacobs. Brooklyn"

From "The Talk of the Town" column of *The New Yorker* magazine for August 5, 1939, comes an observation we can all relate to. However, today, portable televisions can be added to complicate the equation:

"It is not uncommon these days to see spectators at the Yankee Stadium or the Polo Grounds carrying those portable, no-wire radios to the game with them. They set them up, turn on the station broadcasting the game that's being played before their eyes, and often pay more attention to the broadcast version than to the actuality. We wonder what motivates these strangely split organisms. Are they looking for the hitherto lost soul of the ball game, the essence that lies somewhere between sight and sound, out in the fourth dimension? Or is it just that science, moving too swiftly for the human mind, has begun to make us doubt our senses, so that we have to check up on them, balancing what our mortal eyes see, fearfully, against what the electric waves bring to our ears. We don't know. In any case, we don't like it. Someday there will come that fatal and shocking variation between the thing seen and the thing heard, and there will be panic in the bleachers, spreading terribly across the land."

2002 HOME-BREW RADIO CONTEST ANNOUNCED

NJARC's Technical Coordinator Al Klase has announced the new format of this year's home-brew radio contest. Once again, the objective of the contest is to preserve the tradition of building your own radio but the rules have been expanded to allow the use of zero, one or two tubes. Contest judging will take place at the August meeting. We've had a great response in previous years but, based on the number of contestants that participated in our recent broadcast band DX contest and a significant increase in new members, it is expected that competition will be even more brisk. Here are the rules:

1. The contest is open to NJARC members only.
2. Entries must have been recently constructed by the contestant, and must be capable of receiving at least one station (AM/FM or SW).
3. The signal path of the radio may use no more than **two** tube envelopes. Multifunction vacuum tubes are permitted.
4. Transistors or integrated circuits may be used only in the power supply. Any convenient power supply may be used, and may contain additional vacuum tubes.
5. Contestants should be prepared to demonstrate their creations at the August 2002 meeting, and say a few words about the design and construction of their radio.
6. The membership in attendance will vote for the best entries based on a) craftsmanship, b) technical merit, and c) creativity.

INFOAGE ENTERED INTO NATIONAL REGISTER

On March 26th, InfoAge Director Fred Carl, distributed the following announcement:

Good News! Today the National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places Office approved our nomination. Mr. Patric Andreas, of the NRHP office called and asked if I would like to listen as

the document was signed. It sounded wonderful!

Entering Camp Evans onto the National Register honors the work and vision of Marconi, the pioneers of radio who advanced radio technology at the site, the W.W.I Navy officers who helped shorten W.W.I (they later designed W.W.II Navy radar at the NRL) and the thousands of men and woman of the US Army Signal Corps of all races who, by developing and applying advanced electronics, helped our nation and our Allies defeat the powerful armed forces of the Nazi and the Imperial Japanese Empire. Following in their footsteps were 55 years of Signal Corps personnel who helped win the Cold War and those who contributed key radar and communications systems to the victory in Desert Storm.

What an excellent history and site to build a Science-History center to INSPIRE children to consider technology as a career. It is also an excellent and appropriate home for the National Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

NJARC member Ray Chase noted this as a significant milestone and said it should open the way for a more rapid development of the site. On March 28th, Ray was at the site while reporters from the Asbury Park Press conducted interviews for a future article. Ray said that Fred now anticipates the turn over of a major part of the site by mid-year.

HUDSON VALLEY ANTIQUE RADIO & PHONOGRAPH SOCIETY

ANNUAL SWAPMEET

Saturday, May 4th at the Knights of
Columbus Hall,

Highland Falls (West Point) N.Y.

8:00 AM to 12:30 PM (7:00 AM set-up)

Cost: FREE!

Directions: Take route 9W to route 218 (Main Street). Make a left turn behind the Park Restaurant into the K of C lot.

INFO

Art Kingsley: 845-446-4091

Richard Lee: 845-359-3809

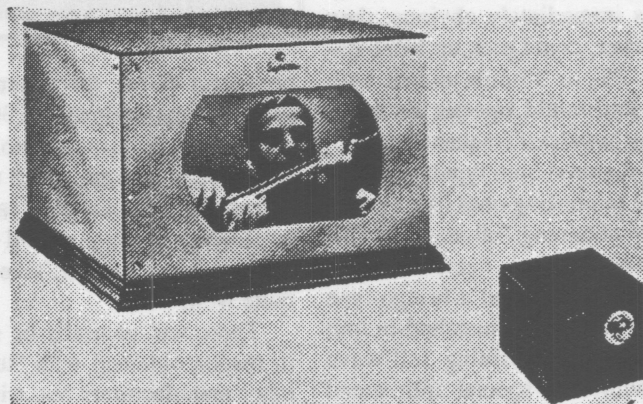
THE "SPARTON" TV

HAVE ANY SURVIVED?

(*RADIO & TELEVISION NEWS, MAY 1949*)

ALL-MIRROR TV SET

The all-mirror television receiver, named the Pandora 15, produced by *Sightmaster Corp.*, 20 E. 35th St., New York, N. Y., has safety glass mirror for sides, and the exclusive feature of "Sightmirror" on the viewing side.



This 15-inch glass tube set is listed at \$675.00.

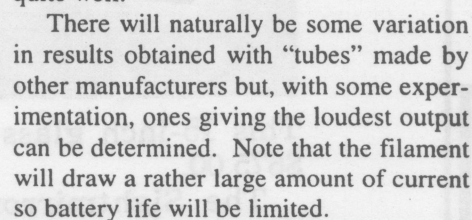
The Sightmirror principle is aimed at providing an attractive front on the receiver when it is not in use. The mirror eliminates the unattractive dead space, and when the set is in use, the television picture comes through as a soft filtered picture. So that no knobs are necessary, it is tuned in by a remote control unit that can be operated from an armchair.

This new model will be distributed nation-wide through the organization sales system.

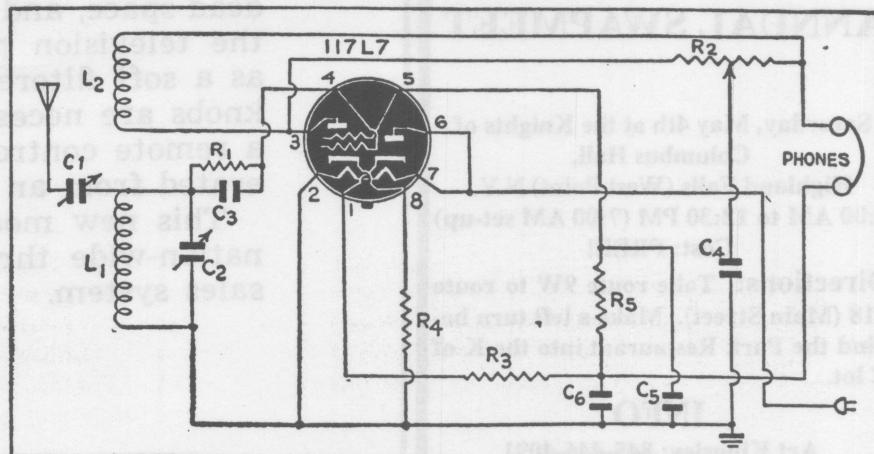
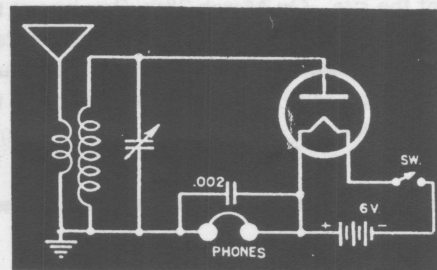
By Marv Beeferman

The undisturbed 3-candlepower filament is spiral-wound and arranged in an inverted-

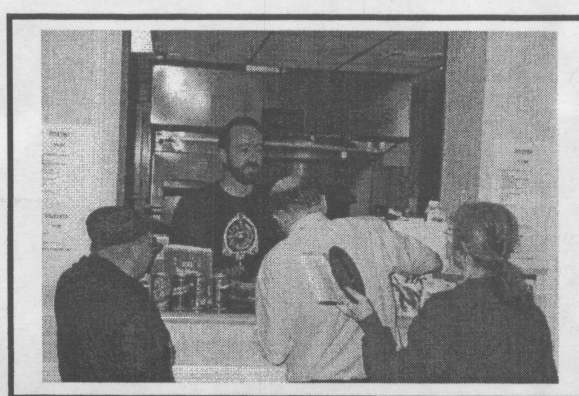
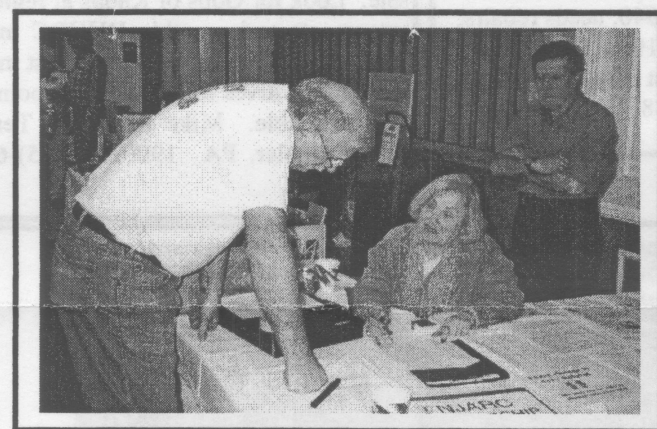
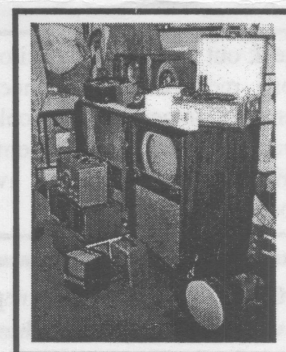
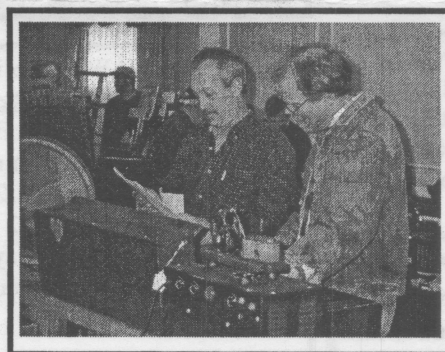
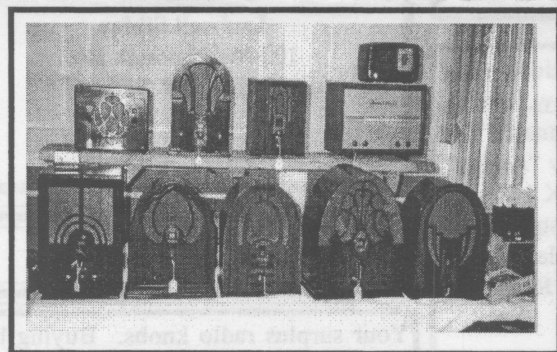
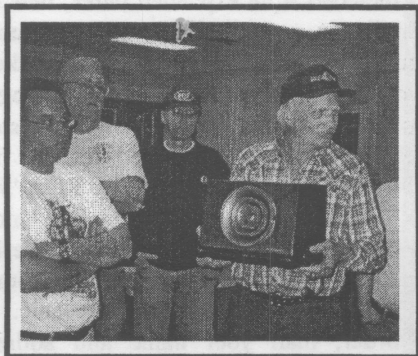
If you're interested in building one of these "headlight" radios (or perhaps experimenting with more modern bulbs), a simple circuit is presented. To cover the



A typical example is the "Pigmy" receiver which appeared in the June 1940 issue of *Radio Craft*. In this circuit, note that only one side of the AC source is connected to the heater and the cathode is grounded to the chassis, separated electrically from the dangerous high-voltage heater. Of course, before polarized plugs, the radio wouldn't work unless it was plugged in correctly.



SPRING SWAPMEET



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

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.

For trade only...repair clinics, savings on swapmeet tables, tubes and capacitors, 12 issues of this year's *Broadcaster*, mini-auctions, technical presentations, contests, parties, fellowship of sharing a common interest with friends...\$15 check made out to NJARC. Marsha Simkin, 33 Lakeland Drive, Barnegat, NJ 08005

Need a new home for a 1950 Admiral radio, TV, phono combination, model 32X36A. Complete, cabinet in good condition, has 12" round picture tube. Make an offer...must go. Local delivery possible. Aaron Hunter, 23 Lenape Trail, Southhampton, NJ, 08088, 609-267-3065.

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 Gary D'Amico at the next meeting.

New index to AWA publications (*Old Timer's Bulletin*, *AWA Review*, misc.), 1960 through Aug. 1999. Formatted like the earlier version but with new "Author" section. Has 63 pages, 8-1/2" X 11" size. Gives 7000+ citations. \$12 postpaid anywhere. Make check/MO payable to: Ludwell Sibley, 102 McDonough Rd., Gold Hill, OR 97525.

Scott console, circa 1940, needs repairs; Philco console, circa 1945, needs minor repairs. Will take best offer. Tom Musocchio, 609-448-1688.

Supplement 3 to Ludwell Sibley's *Tube Lore* is now available. At 24 pages, it replaces the 1997 8-page supplement. Included is an expanded index, new details on early Western Electric tubes, info on Western Electric tube sockets, fuller material (a page-plus) on Rogers tubes, pinouts for post-1948 Western Electric tubes (published for the first time ever!), the date code for RCA '50s-'70s receiving tubes and the 200 "most-often-needed" basing diagrams covering 1300+ tubes found in everything from an All-American 5 to a Trans-Oceanic. To order, mail your name and address, printed clearly, with six 34-cent stamps to:

**Ludwell Sibley
102 McDonough Rd.
Gold Hill, OR 975-9626**

WANTED

Your surplus radio knobs. Buying bulk stock of pulls for matching service and resale. Look for Gobs of Knobs at regional swapmeets and monthly DVHRC meetings. Bring your orphans and I just might have its relatives in stock. Dial pointers also available. Mike Koste, 57 Tennis Ave., Ambler, PA 19002. (215)-646-6488

