



The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

October 2002

Volume 8 Issue 10



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Mary Beeferman
and Phil Vourtsis

At the NJARC September meeting, President Phil Vourtsis continued his demonstration of restoring radio cabinets, this time showing techniques that he uses to clean and polish plastic radios. A short "radio collection" video that recently aired on A&E was also shown. Phil and Sal Brisindi also told the club that, while picking up some odds and ends left behind, they had talked with the Pastor of the Grace Lutheran Church (our former home). The question of possibly returning to the Church came up and the Pastor indicated that he never had a problem with the club and would be willing to put the question before the next committee meeting. But Phil cautions that we shouldn't get our hopes up...he believes that there are one or two committee members who just don't want us there. We'll keep you posted.

The club exhibit at the East Jersey Olde Towne Village is now open and will run through October 27th. The radios are spread throughout three rooms, each with a different theme, and Director David Mandel and his staff did a great job in presenting them in a very pleasing manner. The *Broadcaster* photos really don't do the display justice and a visit, including a tour of the village itself, is highly recommended. The address is 1050 River Road, Piscataway, and hours of operation can be found by calling 732-745-4489.

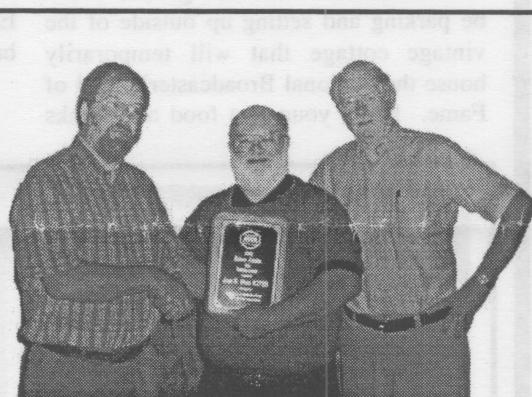
In conjunction with the exhibit was Ray Chase's lecture "The History of Radio: The First 50 Years" which was presented at the village on September 18th. Ray was assisted by Joe Bentrovato in displaying ex-

amples of each technical advance and about eight club members showed up to cheer Ray on. His talk was caught on video by Dave Sica and will become available to any member interested in a first cut

bit of club literature was passed out (although he doubts we'll get many new members). On October 9th, the Wharton Historical Society will be treated to the same presentation. However, Ray suggests that the club strive for younger audiences...any ideas?

Also in conjunction with the Olde Towne Village exhibit was a Repair and Restoration Clinic held at the Piscataway Municipal Building on September 21st. About ten NJARC members gathered to evaluate vintage radios brought in by the public, providing restoration recommendations and making minor repairs. It was definitely a rewarding day as can be attested to by President Phil Vourtsis who brought a 1946 Emerson back to life (including a polished cabinet) which the owner described as his mother's first radio. Our efforts were well appreciated, resulting in two new members, a few monetary donations and a radio donation. We might want to consider an "open to the public" restoration clinic as a yearly event, considering the good will and exposure it is bound to create.

Congratulations to NJARC member John Dilks (K2TQN) who was honored at the 50th anniversary of the Antique Wire-



Al Klase and Ludwell Sibley congratulate John Dilks on winning the AWA Houck Award for Preservation

at radio history. Ray will give a second lecture, "Early Radio Manufacturers in NJ," on October 20th at 2 PM.

The Chase-Bentrovato team has been quite busy, offering another "History of Radio" presentation on September 25th for about 30 men and women of the Denville "Golden Age Club." Ray said that the audience seemed very interested and quite a

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less Association conference as the recipient of the prestigious Houck Award for preservation of radio artifacts. This award, accepted by Al Klase at the conference dinner, was made in recognition of John's mobile radio museum. The museum, whose theme is amateur radio prior to WW II, has been visited by more than 10,000 people since its debut three years ago. The award is named after Harry W. Houck, who was Edwin H. Armstrong's right-hand man and a long time friend of the AWA.

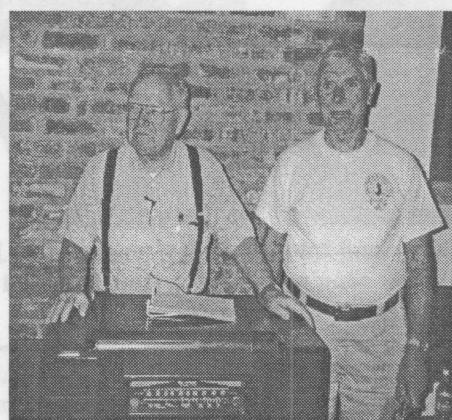
Honorary NJARC member and *Tube Collector* editor Ludwell Sibley said of the award: "John figures that the visitor count on his self-propelled museum is above the 10,000 mark - a remarkable outreach program giving insight into history to people who've never experienced antique radio." What makes John's award even more deserving is that the impetus for his nomination came from the recommendations of numerous AWA members rather than from an AWA board whose agenda has sometimes been questionable.

The October club meeting will be held on the 5th (rain date is October 6th) at Camp Evans, site of Infoage. The picnic and tailgate party will start at 10 AM and run until about 3 PM and is open to all NJARC members and their guests. We'll be parking and setting up outside of the vintage cottage that will temporarily house the National Broadcaster's Hall of Fame. Bring your own food and drinks

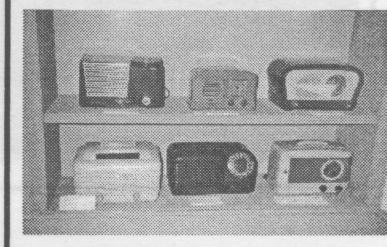
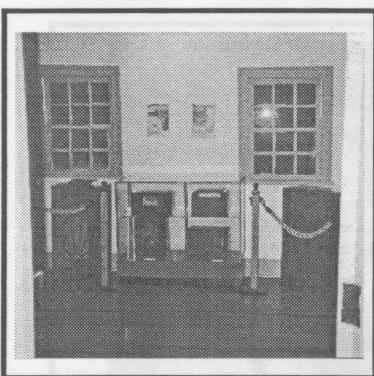
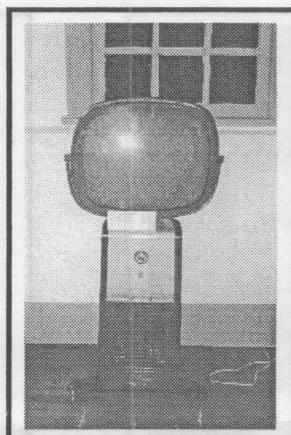
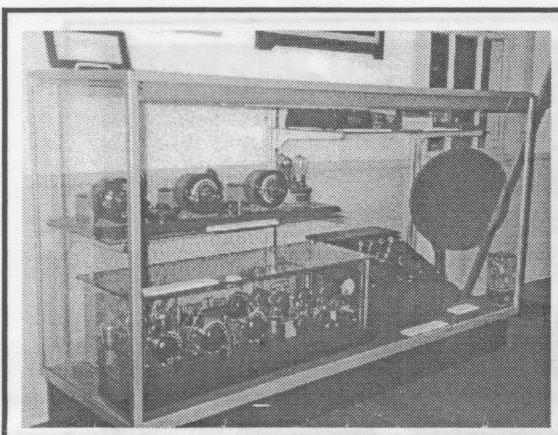
(and a grill if you wish), radios for trading and selling and tables and we're sure you'll enjoy the day. A mini-auction of test equipment, parts and one or two radios which Phil Vourtsis and Sal Brisindi recently rescued for the club will also be included in the festivities.

Membership Secretary Marsha Simkin has asked if members could bring to the meeting a copy of their local newspaper (especially those from central New Jersey) so we can begin to build a database for advertising our swapmeets and activities. She is most interested in the "community events" type sections where advertising is free, either from a paid daily or supermarket "giveaway" paper.

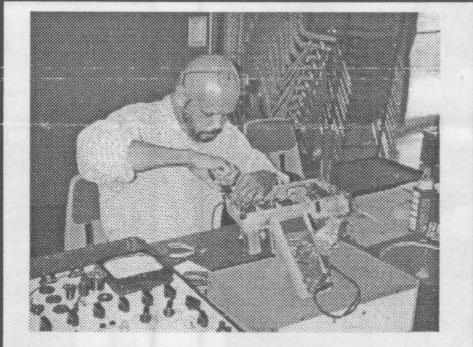
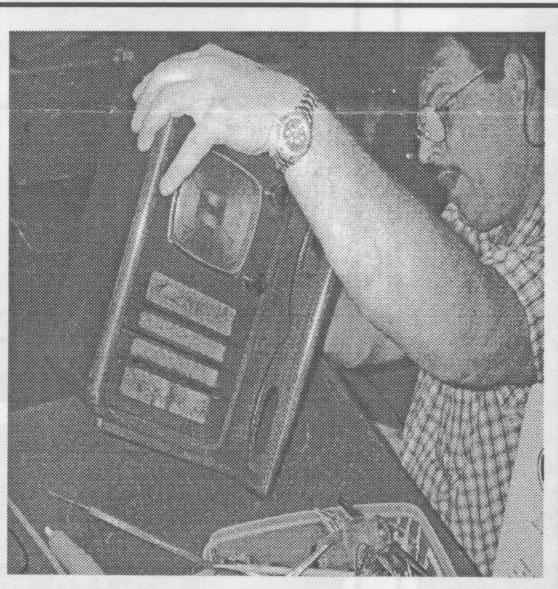
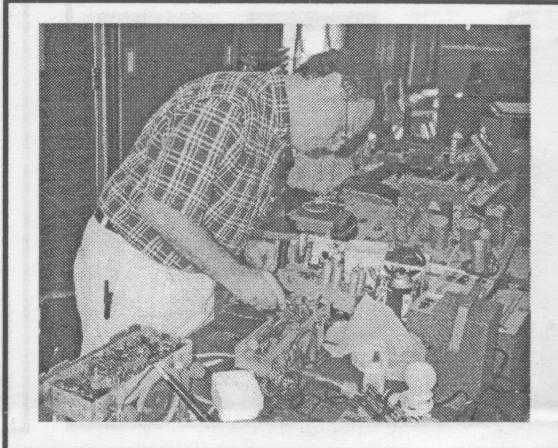
Try to keep two dates open in December. This year's holiday party will once again be held at the Sarnoff Library in Princeton on the second Friday of the month (notice how I avoided saying "Friday the 13th"). Director and NJARC member Alex Magoun told us that we can provide our own food which will significantly reduce the cost to the club. Last year's party was a great success and we plan to have some treats in store in celebration of the club's 10th anniversary. A week prior to the party is our Winter swapmeet at the North Centerville Vol. Fire Co. in Hazlet. Get your reservations in EARLY for this one unless you want to bring your own table (only 30 available).



Ray Chase, assisted by Joe Bentrovato, presents his History of Radio: The First 50 Years lecture at Olde Towne Village. To the right is a chairside radio display typical of the quality of the NJARC exhibit. Photos of the exhibit and repair and restoration clinic are included on the pages that follow.

OLDE TOWNE EXHIBIT

REPAIR AND RESTORATION CLINIC



OHIO JOURNAL

By Ray Chase

Dear Marv:

I hope the repair session on Saturday went well. I could not attend as I had made a prior commitment to go to the Estes auction on the same day in Ohio. Here is a brief report if you think it would be of interest...

Richard Estes Auctions of Seville, Ohio claims to be the premier radio auction house, (they did the three day Muchow auction in Elgin, IL. last year) so we decided to take a look at one of their specialty radio auctions held in Ohio. Checking the map indicated that Seville was about 475 miles from our QTH, an easy one day drive so we left early on Friday so as to have plenty of time for viewing the afternoon and evening prior. Advance advertising had indicated that very rare and historic items would be included, some from a collector in Hawaii. Upon arrival, we were somewhat dismayed to find an old barn behind a farmhouse as the auction site, and I mean a really old barn! Outside, were about nine tables of "low end radio stuff"; boxes of tubes, chassis, parts and other radio detritus. Although there were tarps about, the weather forecast was for storms so I wondered how these goods would fare through the night.

Inside the barn was just as rustic as the outside; old church pews had been arranged in sloping tiers for seating and old carpets covered the dirt floor. However, the range and breadth of the radios was outstanding. No less than six AK breadboards; Paragons, early DeForest, Grebe's, hosts of really nice cathedrals, tombstones and consoles. I counted over 325 radios, about 20 microphones, about 25 crystal sets, over 50 speakers of all types, many good tubes, parts, books and paper. Items were coming in Friday evening and even Saturday morning. In all, over 750 lots were auctioned off, not counting the "cheap stuff" outside.

Having recently attended the AWA annual auction at Rochester which appears to be on a steady decline, it was quite an eye opener to see the amount of goods available here. The final auction sales at this Estes auction was in the area of \$62,000 while the AWA auction had declined to \$31,700 this

year. But dollars do not tell the real story; there was good quality and quantity and none of the reserves which held back quite a few of the better items at Rochester.

On Saturday, a good crowd turned up. Although most of the license plates were from Ohio, there were buyers from North Carolina, West Virginia, Louisiana, Pennsylvania and of course New Jersey & other states. The outside goods were started at 8:30 AM. They had suffered some water exposure from a fierce storm during the night. Many lots sold for one or two dollars and tubes were almost sold for milipennies each when one considers the size of the box lots and the sale price. Pete Grave would have been at home here as many of the pickup truck beds quickly filled up.

The sale of the good stuff inside started at 10:15 by Richard Estes who worked non stop until 4:30 PM when he was relieved. The sale ended at 5:45 PM. The auction moved right along at 100 lots per hour and each item was well described and displayed. Prices were generally fair and reasonable and there was no buyers premium to pay (maybe using an old barn keeps the overhead down so he does not have to charge the usual buyers "tack-on" premium). There certainly was something for everyone and as at any auction, there were occasional really good buys to be had, especially if you hung on to the bitter end. As for me, I mistakenly took my small car (it also is an automatic inhibitor so I don't go totally out of control) but I still managed to get some goodies and fill up all the nooks and crannies of storage space. Still, I'm sorry I did not bring the van as there were a couple of superb and interesting bigger sets that sorely tempted me.

I don't have time or space to list prices here but you can see them eventually in ARC or I'll have my list available at club meetings. Estes will be having another exceptional sale around January or so. It is claimed to be almost as good as the Muchow sale so watch for the advertising. Incidentally, the workers here stated that this was about the norm for an Estes radio auction so this may be the place to come to find either those elusive sets or just add more goodies to your collection. Some collectors complain at the current apparent dearth of good sets to be had but there were plenty available here...as one collectors' accumulation is reallocated to new temporary custodians.

BOOK REVIEW:

TUXEDO PARK
by
Jennet Conant

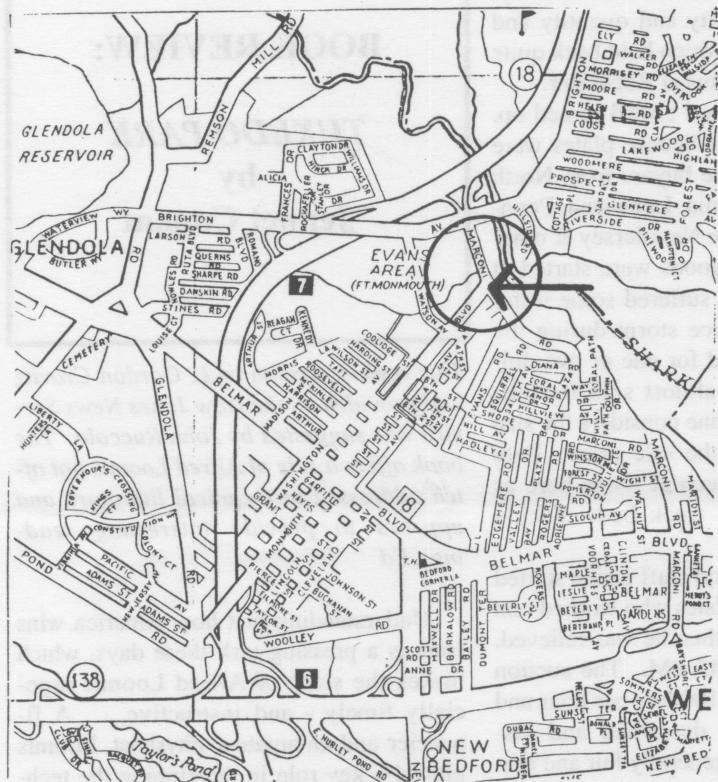
This review, written by L. Gordon Crovitz and provided by the Dow Jones News Service was suggested by John Ruccolo. The book offers a side of Alfred Loomis not often addressed in technical literature and appears to provide interesting reading...Ed

Understanding just how America wins wars is a pressing task these days, which makes the story of Alfred Loomis especially timely - and instructive. A financier and an amateur physicist, Loomis played a key role in developing the technologies that won World War II, although he is now all but forgotten. As the saying at the time went, radar won the war, and the atom bomb ended it - and private citizen Loomis had a leading hand in both. If Loomis were operating in today's political climate, he'd most likely be rewarded with a congressional investigation and possibly an indictment, but we're getting ahead of the story.

To his peers on Wall Street in the 1920s, Loomis seemed like just one of the tycoon gang. He helped to run Bonbright & Co., the leading source of capital for the emerging electrical power industry, and made millions doing so, even buying Hilton Head Island in South Carolina as a weekend getaway. He timed the Depression perfectly, cashing out ahead of the crash and retiring from Wall Street rather than suffer U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt's harangues.

In 1933, at age 46, Loomis returned to his avocation of physics. As a World War I lieutenant-colonel, he had tested the weapons theories of Thomas Edison, and his Loomis Chronograph, which measured the velocity of shells, was patented by the U.S. Army. Now he used his fortune to build a world-class research lab in apparent peacetime, as the storms of war gathered. Its location was, of all places, a stone

DIRECTIONS TO INFOAGE



castle in Tuxedo Park, the New York suburb of dinner-jacket fame. Thus the gated community of the Astors and Juilliards became a haven for scientists with names like Kistiakowsky, Szilard, Fermi, Bohr and Marconi. Albert Einstein called the lab a "palace of science."

In "Tuxedo Park" (Simon & Schuster, 330 pages, \$26), Jennet Conant describes how the town was aghast as these "strange outlanders with flowing hair and baggy trousers were settling down for weeks and months on end" and conducting strange science, too. After focusing on pure research into brain waves, Loomis became alarmed by what he heard about Germany's advanced stage of applied scientific research. He bankrolled a secret weapons lab, with a wink and nod from executive-branch officials in Washington.

It's now clear that a crucial moment in the war came in October 1940 - in Loomis's living room. Hoping that the U.S. would not long stay out of the war, Winston Churchill had sent over his top military scientists to deliver a trunkful of inventions that Britain could not afford to develop much beyond the drawing-board stage. Washington wasn't quite ready to abandon official neutrality, so officials sent the British scientists

to Loomis. He immediately saw the importance of one device: a resonant cavity magnetron, a source of microwaves that might revolutionize radar if it could be perfected and mass-produced.

"Private enterprise, in Loomis's view," Ms. Conant writes, "could move mountains in the time it took the government to pass a single bill." So Loomis personally started a radar lab at MIT and paid its bills when the U.S. Congress wouldn't. An associate later recounted that "more than a bit of skulduggery" went into the early contracts, and "we pretty much got away with murder."

With seed funding from Loomis and the foundations he solicited, the lab prospered, and 4,000 people, all told, were put to work perfecting radar, which eventually defeated German U-boats and gave Allied bombers control of the skies. The U.S. government eventually repaid tens of millions of dollars.

When it became clear that developing the nuclear bomb was the next big thing, Loomis turned over his brain trust to what became the Manhattan Project. Loomis himself kept a low profile after the war, perhaps in part because of an infamous divorce. He helped found the Rand Corp.

From the North: Garden State Parkway SOUTH to Exit 100. Exit ramp will merge with Route 33 EAST. Continue to Route 18 SOUTH and stay on Route 18, exiting at 7A. The exit jughandle will put you on Brighton Ave. NORTH. Follow Brighton to the bottom of the hill and turn RIGHT on Marconi Road. InfoAge is at the top of the hill.

From the South: Garden State Parkway NORTH to Exit 98. Stay to the right and take the exit for Route 138 EAST. Continue on to Route 18 NORTH and take to Exit 7. The exit ramp will put you on Marconi Road EAST which will lead to InfoAge at the top of the hill.

From the West: Take 195 EAST to Route 18 NORTH. Follow Route 18 to Exit 7. The exit ramp will put you on Marconi Road EAST which will lead to InfoAge at the top of the hill.

and quietly funded basic research.

The idea of a private citizen funding military research off the government books was unusual in Loomis's time but would surely be a scandal today. Loomis filed valuable radar patents on the results - and, by the way, his first cousin was U.S. War Secretary Henry Stimson, whose strong support for Loomis would today raise red flags of conflict of interest. But without Loomis, the technology advances that helped win the war might never have happened.

An equivalent feat today would be a dot-com billionaire locking himself and dozens of bright programmers in a garage on Woodside Road in Silicon Valley to write code that would profile and identify would-be terrorists. Outside the bounds of cautious politicians or turf-minded agencies, he would access private and public databases to track terror suspects - and then patent the technique.

In theory, if not in practice, a grateful country would forgo the otherwise obligatory hand-wringing over such a mix of public and private interests. Come to think of it, we could use some modern-day Loomises right about now.

NEW JERSEY ANTIQUES RADIO CLUB

ANTIQUES RADIO SWAPMEET

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7th, 8 AM - 1 PM*



North Centerville Vol. Fire Co. - Hazlet, NJ

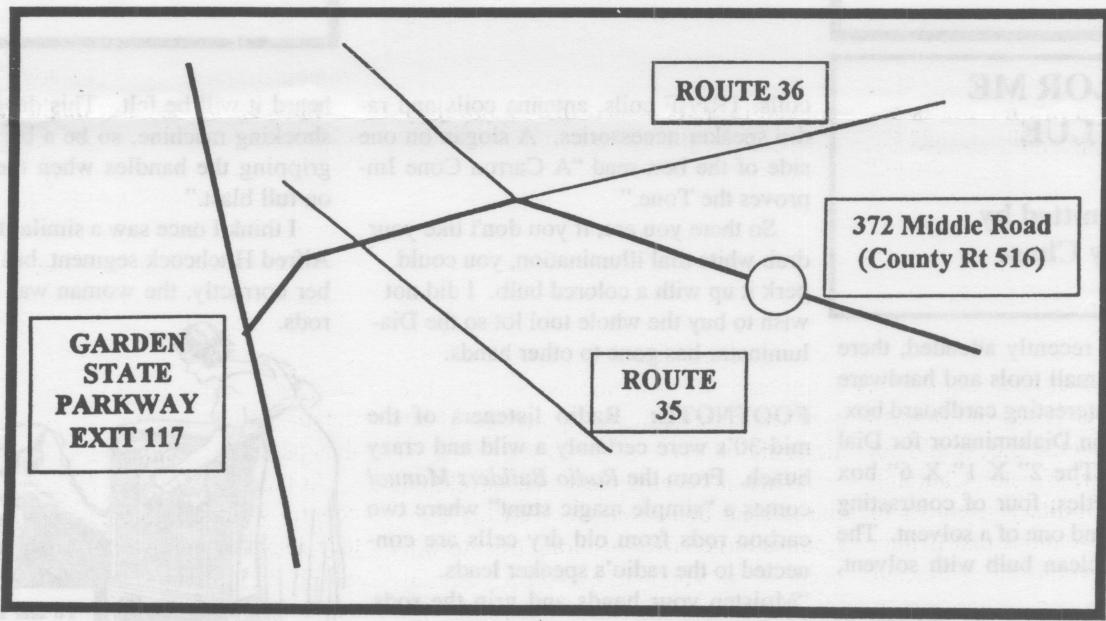
The NJARC presents its Winter swapmeet at the spacious North Centerville Fire Co. banquet hall in Hazlet, NJ. The first 30 reservations receive an 8-foot table at no extra cost. A \$2.00 club donation from buyers is suggested.

* Vendor setup at 7:00 AM (no early admittance); the meet may extend beyond 1:00 PM.

DIRECTIONS: Garden State Parkway, North or South - Take exit 117 (towards Hazlet (Rt 35)/Keyport/Aberdeen). Merge onto Route 36 and continue for about 1 mile. Turn right on Middle Road (County Route 516) and continue for about 1.5 miles. The Fire Co. banquet hall is on the right.

RATES: NJARC members \$15/space; non-members \$20/space. **Note:** Tables are only available to first 30 registered vendors.

CONTACTS/RESERVATIONS: Marv Beeferman, 2265 Emeralda Park Drive, Forked River, NJ 08731 (609-693-9430). E-mail: mbeeferman@cs.com Phil Vourtsis, 13 Cornell Place, Manalapan NJ 07726 (732-446-2427). E-mail: pvourtsis@att.com



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

COLOR ME
BLUE

Submitted by
Ray Chase

At an auction I recently attended, there was a large lot of small tools and hardware that contained an interesting cardboard box. It was titled "Carron Dialuminator for Dial Light Coloring." The 2" X 1" X 6" box held five small bottles, four of contrasting red or blue colors and one of a solvent. The instructions read "clean bulb with solvent, dip bulb to color."

Further box lettering indicated that it was made by the Carron Mfg. Co., Chicago, a manufacturer of replacement cones, field

From non-member: Radiola 18 in an upright floor model Victrola cabinet, AR-744C. Nice cabinet with swinging doors, record player (electric) is above the radio but the turntable is missing. No reasonable offer refused. Mr. Kim Huron, Nutley, NJ. 973-697-8506.

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.

Philco console, circa 1940, needs minor repairs. \$60 or will take best offer. Tom Musocchio, 609-448-0787.

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-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

Nice old signal RF/AF sinal tracer in good condition. Lisa Starnes, (973)-410-0373 (evenings). lisa.starnes@att.net

coils, TRF/IF coils, antenna coils and radio speaker accessories. A slogan on one side of the box read "A Carron Cone Improves the Tone."

So there you are, if you don't like your drab white dial illumination, you could perk it up with a colored bulb. I did not wish to buy the whole tool lot so the Dialuminator has gone to other hands.

FOOTNOTE: Radio listeners of the mid-30's were certainly a wild and crazy bunch. From the *Radio Builders Manual* comes a "simple magic stunt" where two carbon rods from old dry cells are connected to the radio's speaker leads.

"Moisten your hands and grip the rods. Have someone turn up the radio volume control slowly. As soon as the music is

heard it will be felt. This device is a real shocking machine, so be a bit wary about gripping the handles when the volume is on full blast."

I think I once saw a similar theme on an Alfred Hitchcock segment..but if I remember correctly, the woman was holding the rods.

