

# The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

September 2003

Volume 9 Issue 9



## MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Marv Beeferman

Herb Hobler was the honored guest at the NJARC September meeting. Mr. Hobler took the club through an audio/visual tour relating to his experiences with radio and early television. He worked for many years in production and sales for both the Mutual Radio Network and NBC, making the acquaintance of many of the stars of this era including Bing Crosby, Walter Winchell, Kate Smith, Ed Wynn, Red Skeleton and Dave Garroway. Herb told us that the Today show concept was almost crushed by initial skepticism...who would get up at 7 AM just to watch a news program? Considering its immediate popularity, it appears that at least a few NBC executives were on the side of innovation.

In later years, Mr. Hobler founded WWHW (1350 AM in Princeton) using his initials for part of the call letters and Trenton's powerhouse pop FM station WPST, the first stereo AM station in the state. He also developed a subscription radio service called Radio 2 in association with Dow Jones based on code-selected and pre-programmed subjects.

Judging for the NJARC home-brew radio contest has been moved to the November meeting. This should afford plenty of time to put finishing touches on those well-on-their-way entries. For new members and what is hoped is a limited number of procrastinators, the contest rules are repeated in this month's *Broadcaster*. We've had some great entries over the last two years...let's hope that the bar will be raised another notch with this year's creations.

### Infoage Update

• Al Klase helped Ray Chase deliver two

## MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the NJARC will take place on Friday, September 19th at 7:30 PM at the David Sarnoff Library in Princeton NJ. Reference past *Broadcaster* issues, see the NJARC web site or contact Phil Vourtsis at 732-446-2427 for directions. An Executive Board meeting will be held at 6:45 PM - please be prompt. This month's meeting will offer an auction of a nice selection of Heathkit test equipment and communications gear and other odds-and-ends; see page 7 of this month's *Broadcaster* for a summary listing.

large glass showcases to cottage #2, future home of the Broadcasters Hall of Fame. That brings Ray's contribution, at a very low cost to the club, to 7 illuminated units with some only needing a little clean up,



**Herb Hobler talks about a very active life in radio and the early days of television.**

electrical work and brackets. Ray has asked director Fred Carl for a floor plan so that we can start planning a layout and a firm commitment for an alarm system. With the weather cool and dry, we'll be scheduling some future weekend and weekday dates for upcoming work.

• In mid-August, a number of NJARC members received their visitor greeting

training and the draft "Greeters Guide" was reviewed. The goal was for each member organization to send a few representatives to learn the ins and outs of greeting Infoage visitors at the cottages and to deliver our vision for a future science-history center. OMARC has started the Sunday 1PM-4PM rotation on September 7th and a schedule will be developed so each organization can take a Sunday and act as a visitor host.

• The IEEE History Center is advocating for a central repository/archives of New Jersey's communications and engineering history at Camp Evans. At a recent meeting of AT&T and Lucent archive representatives, support for Infoage was reiterated with a commitment of lending us exhibits and items from their collections.

• Arrangements have been made for the delivery of 20 surplus Army PC's to the site. This will allow the display of video segments that are currently on VHS and DVD.

• The Army has ordered and will be delivering portable dehumidifier units in order to stabilize some of the less maintained areas. Three commercial air-conditioning units were delivered to the site with transportation provided by Wall Public Works. They also transported metal casting equipment from the Neptune Middle School which will enable us to fabricate cast parts for future exhibits.

The above is just a sampling of the numerous activities and contributions that have taken place during the past six months.

**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.

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

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Things are really shaping up and it doesn't take much to get involved...a few hours on the weekend or during the week to become part of an exceptional project. Here's another way - Steve Goulart has filed with ATT Cares where ATT employees can use time donated at Infoage as ATT work-related. If you work for the company, contact Steve at 732-219-6963 to join up.

**David Sarnoff Fund Raiser**

On Saturday night, November 1, the David Sarnoff Library will host a re-enactment of Orson Welles's 65-year-old Halloween broadcast of "War of the Worlds." Your family can enjoy a staged theatrical presentation of this historic broadcast and participate in a Martian costume contest starting at 6 p.m. Seating is limited and advance reservations are suggested. For reservations, call 732-422-7438 or use the web to contact [JERARTS2@aol.com](mailto:JERARTS2@aol.com). Reserved tickets for adults are \$15.00 and children under 12 cost \$10.00. Tickets at the door are \$20.00 and \$15.00 respectively. As library executive director Alex Magoun suggests, "wiggle your tentacles" and sign up for a very entertaining evening.

**AWA Rochester Conference**

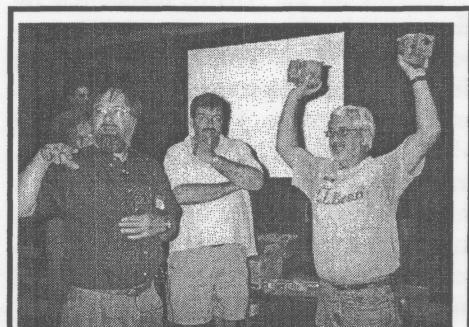
President Phil Vourtsis and your editor shared the ride to Rochester this year to attend the Antique Wireless Association's annual conference. Based on the exchange of e-mails that followed the meet, you were either in heaven or hell. Most comments were directed at the location, registration costs, scheduling, and allocation of support funds for the organization. But quite frankly, politics aside, I had a very nice time. This is not to say that many points had validity; there are a lot of concerned individuals out there who are legitimately interested in saving an organization that seems to be on the wane.

Talking with Phil's fellow 45 RPM record player collectors is a nice change of pace; while we talk tubes and tuners, they talk cartridges and cans. It seems the big hit of the meet were 45 players converted from AC to DC operation. Phil had one playing at his table that attracted lots of attention. Where's the power cord? Magic!

I picked up a few nice items from the flea market including two RCA advertising pieces and a Sleeper battery set with very pretty coils. (At my age, you're allowed to call coils "pretty"). I also found a Heathkit unassembled HD-1424-A active antenna kit. I purchased the manual for this kit some 15 years ago with the intent of building the unit myself...now I won't have to search for parts. (And who says that procrastination doesn't pay off?) But I did miss out on some early superhet kits that Ray Chase would have died for; as much as I tried, I couldn't push the 75 year old guy that was in front of me out of the way. However, Ray was kind enough to successfully bid for me on a very clean 1922 Cutting & Washington that went up at the auction; scaredy-cat Phil didn't want to stay too late since he was afraid of a little going-home traffic.

The programs were terrific and I got a little extra insight into FM development from Ludwell Sibley's talk on Armstrong. But in the "where does this guy find the time" department was Peter Yanczer's reproduction of a mirror screw TV. The actual MIRREW receiver on which it was based rotated 32 polished, stainless steel mirrors at 900 times per second; only one mirror is visible at a time to reflect the received image. Mirror screws were developed in the late 20s and mainly used in Germany until about 1936 for up to 180 lines of resolution. Resolution was at least as good, if not better than the best CRT receivers of the day! Pete's creation was a 30 line version which was built and used by experimenters to view Baird transmissions in England.

Photos of the activities are included on the following pages.

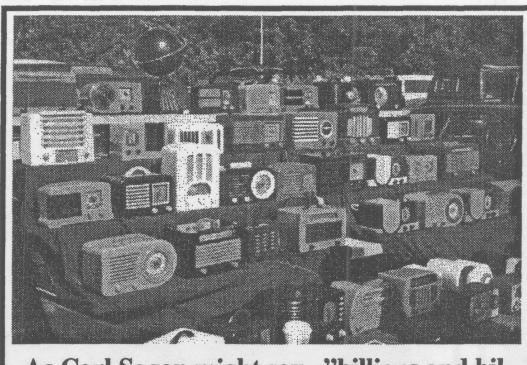


**John Ruccolo gives careful consideration to an item in what is almost becoming a monthly event - our club auction**

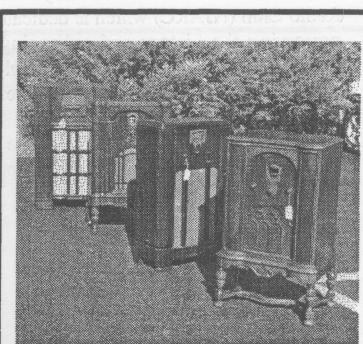
## ROCHESTER 2003



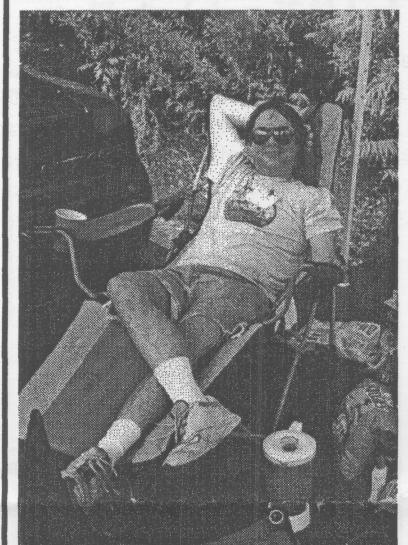
The NJARC table...at 45 RPM, it's hard to keep these guys still to take a picture.



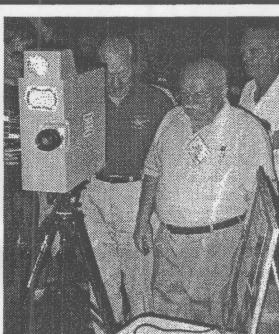
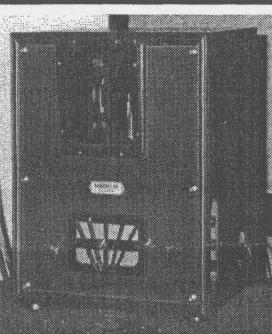
As Carl Sagan might say... "billions and billions of Catalins."



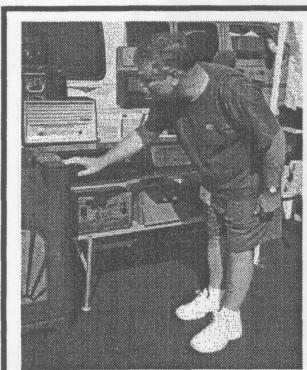
Wood is good.



A slow day at the flea market.



Peter Yanczer talks about his mirror screw TV while Ludwell Sibley fields questions on his Armstrong talk.

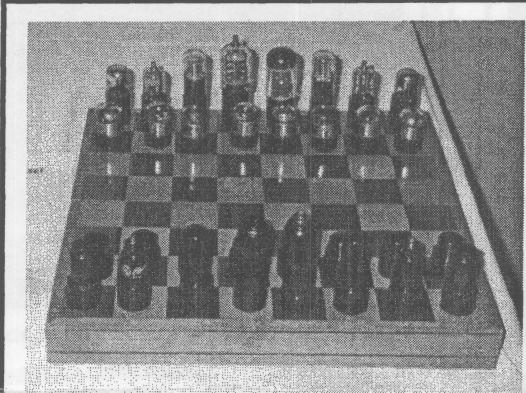


The NJARC contingent.

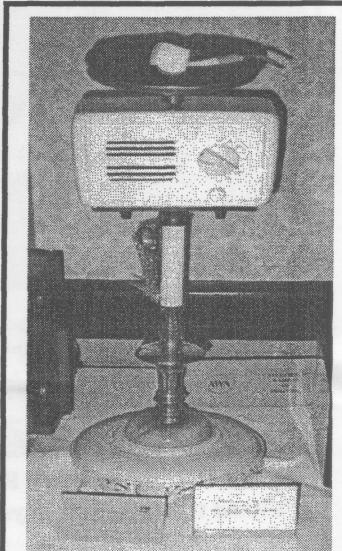
## ROCHESTER 2003 THE EQUIPMENT CONTEST AND AUCTION



A nice display on the Armstrong theme.



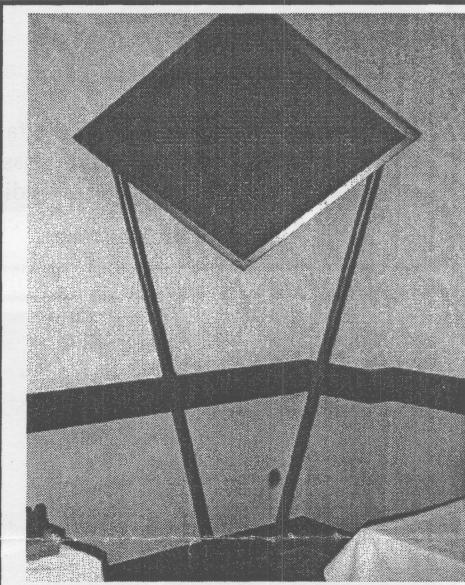
Tube wars...metal versus glass on the chess-board.



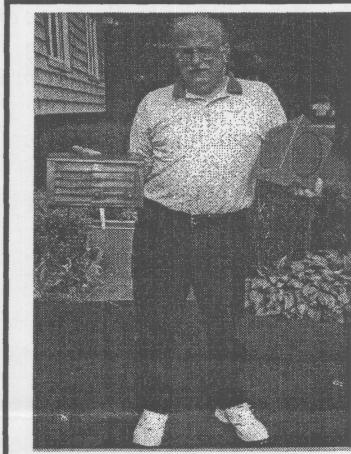
A 1947 ashtray radio, model 50-75, made by the Electro-light Co. of Toronto Canada.



This Northern Electric communications receiver went for \$1250.



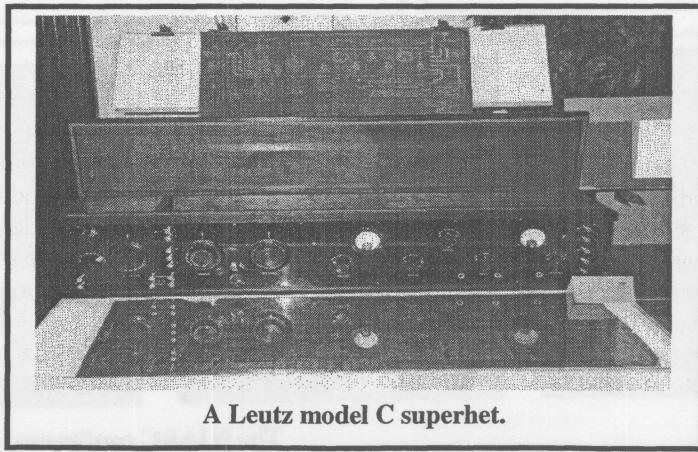
A rare Theremin speaker.



Home at last.



A \$190 bid won this Edison wet B-battery



A Leutz model C superhet.

## HELPING HANDS

By Walt Heskes

*The monthly meeting of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club is a little deceptive. Although a broad scope of topics and interests are crammed into some three hours, the full depth of knowledge and experience of our members is hardly represented. It's usually what happens outside of the meeting that describes the true nature of our club.*

*One aspect that may not be so obvious is the help that is offered in restoring the radios of members that have limited experience with electronics. Our restoration clinics provide one setting where many radios come to life. In other cases, we happily take home our fellow members' orphans and give them that extra attention which will return them to their owners singing as sweetly as when they were first turned on. The reward lies in the challenge of awakening the radio out of its deep sleep and learning something new in the process.*

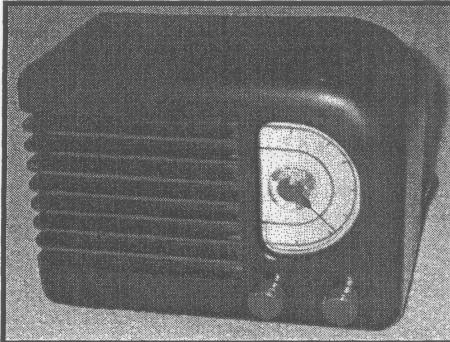
*Here's two examples, one successful and one, for the time being, not. As your editor, I enjoy publishing these first-hand repair reports and hope that it's the start of a feature that other members would like to participate in. You don't have to be a novelist to come up with one...just take some notes during your next project, put them in some type of format, add a few pictures and I'll do the rest...Ed.*

### Rick Weingarten's Globe

This mid 40s AM tabletop receiver by Globe, Inc. in black bakelite features red pinstripe trim along the edges of the louvers that wrap around the left side of the cabinet. My wife thought it looked attractive and that's a good thing because this is one lousy performing superhet. It's a three tube circuit - 12SA7 mixer/converter, 12SQ7 detector/1st audio and 50L6 power amp; the rectifier is a 35Z5. Inside, there is only one IF transformer. In that way, you have a local oscillator and you are "superhetting," but there is no IF amplification section so you don't get a lot of gain between the mixer and the 12SQ7 detector. Performance is about on a par with a good TRF set. That is, you have some selectivity be-

tween the stronger stations on the dial but you don't get any DX.

The set was dead on arrival at this



July's repair clinic. Marty Friedman and I worked together and replaced all of the paper caps and electrolytics but left the mica caps undisturbed. The radio powered up and had good audio but no RF. We checked continuity through the coils of the oscillator and the IF transformer.

We soon discovered an open primary coil in the IF transformer. The break could not be isolated so we fished around the junkbox and found a replacement of approximately the same vintage but slightly bigger. Fortunately, the fasteners fitted the existing holes in the chassis and, in spite of the slightly taller shielding, we managed to fit it inside of the cabinet. Whew!

But even after we installed the new transformer, we were not pleased with the barely marginal performance and knew we had another anomaly. Acting on a hunch, we yanked the bias resistor on the 50L6 power tube. It had doubled in value to over 350 ohms. However, replacing it didn't yield much improvement. Then, we started scrutinizing the sacred mica dot boxes.

Mica capacitors are those little critters that no one wants to pull because what possibly could go wrong with a slice of mica? It turned out, however, that a 250 pF mica cap across the ends of the volume control was shorted and added about 600K of internal resistance to the volume control circuit. We yanked it and stuck in a tiny ceramic 200 pF cap and that did the trick! Output was much louder but the RF was still not quite primetime quality. So, we re-tweaked the IF transformer trimmer caps and "ear-ball" tuned the RF and oscillator trimmers on the variable tuning capacitor. Suddenly, with a four-foot hank of aerial dangling from a lead of the antenna coil, we were getting stations all

over the band - and with decent volume too.

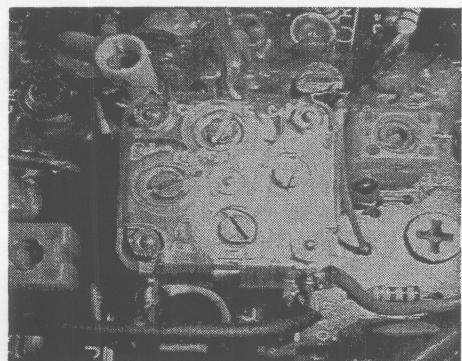
Hey - who really needs that second IF stage anyway?

### Walt Jacobsen's Panasonic

This large multiband portable from the early 80s worked well except that it could not be tuned. No amount of fiddling with the tuning wheel would produce anything more than a single station on any of its selectable AM, FM and SW bands. The problem was quickly diagnosed as a defective variable tuning capacitor.

The old cap was one of those typically unrepairable types with mylar between the slices. In this instance, the mylar had dried out and crumbled and the plates were jammed so that the nut that held the plates to the drive shaft had loosened. The old cap was unrepairable so we fished around in our junkbox and located a multi-band cap with approximately the same number of plates in each of its gangs. We removed the old cap from the circuit board and soldered the new cap into position, careful to restore all of the electrical connections.

The upgraded circuit board was brought home by Marty Friedman for final assembly and tune-up. However, the radio was found only to be capable of playing on FM with a compressed bandspread (76-112 MHz). The problem was traced again to the variable tuning capacitor; unfortunately, only an exact replacement would work and Walt will have to wait until one is found.



## 2003 HOMEBREW RADIO RECEIVER CONTEST

The 2003 NJARC home-brew radio contest will be held at the November meeting. Once again, the objective is to preserve the tradition of building your own radio. This year, we're adding two additional categories.

### Category 1 - One Tube

- The signal path of the radio may use no more than one tube envelope. Multi-function vacuum tubes are permitted.
- Solid-state diodes may be used for detection as in a crystal set or reflex circuit.
- 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.

### Category 2 - Two Tubes

- Same as one tube except that the signal path may use no more than two tube envelopes.

### Category 3 - Open

- Any recently constructed homebrew radio.

### Category 4 - Restoration

- Any vintage homebrew radio restored to operating condition.

#### **Contest Rules:**

1. The contest is open to NJARC members only
2. Entry is limited to "scratch-built" radios as opposed to kits or modified production sets.
3. Entries must have been recently constructed (Categories 1-3) or recently restored (Category 4) by the contestant and must be capable of receiving at least one station.
4. Contestants should be prepared to demonstrate their creations at the October 2003 meeting and say a few words about the design and construction of the radio.
5. The membership in attendance will vote for the best entries in each category.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING AUCTION OFFERINGS

**NOTE:** All heathkit items, including ham gear, are in excellent condition; most have original manuals. Additional items will be included.

- RCA Radiola AR-812 front panel; parts only
- Motorola 61-CA 1940 wood table radio; BC/SW
- Western Electric model 548 AW speaker in metal frame; condition unknown
- Various enclosed speakers
- Very old voltmeter-ammeter combination; Royal Electrical Instrument Works, Rnacook, N.H.
- Heath HP-23B power supply; wired for SB-102 SSB receiver
- Heathkit SB-102 Transceiver
- Heathkit model HD-19 hybrid phone patch
- Radiola Senior receiver; some parts missing but restorable
- Philco model 30 dynamic signal tracer with "Philco" insignia on speaker
- US Army BC-603-DM radio receiver (GMC-Delco); spare parts kit is included (tubes/fuses)
- Clarkstan phono cartridge pressure gauge
- Philco cathedral, unknown model; rough but restorable
- Zenith 7G605 sw radio ("airplane" grill); rough case but all parts are there including wave magnet
- Collaro model 2010 turntable with pamphlet
- Heathkit model IM-20 "Handy Lab"
- Triplett model 673 voltmeter
- Heathkit model HM-11 reflected power meter
- Heathkit model M-28 VTVM
- Heathkit model HO-10 monitor scope
- AK model 480 chassis, complete with tubes and in good condition
- Heathkit model IT-18 transistor checker
- Bogen model RR501C amp/tuner; cover and some tubes missing
- Heathkit model IT-17 tube checker
- Heathkit model IG-102 RF signal genera-

tor

- Heathkit model IT-12 signal tracer
- Heathkit model IO-101 vectorscope
- Heathkit model IT-22 capacitor tester
- Murch model UT-2000A transmatch (excellent)
- Turner model 999 dynamic mike
- Astatic model 10-DA mike
- Heathkit model HWA-5400-1 power supply
- Heathkit model HW-5400 transceiver
- Zenith "Universal" (brown cloth covered) portable with antenna
- Hallicrafters S-38
- Zenith model M505 portable
- Heath HN-31 dummy load

## H.T. WEBSTER - RADIO CARTOONIST

By Marv Beeferman

On April 4, 1953, the last drawing by famed cartoonist Harold Tucker Webster was published in the New York *Herald Tribune* and a hundred and twenty-five other papers. For millions of Americans, this was a very dark day. Although in the years to follow there came many other fine artist-cartoonist-critics, there hasn't been one to span the years and range of human emotions in the same extraordinary way that Webster did.

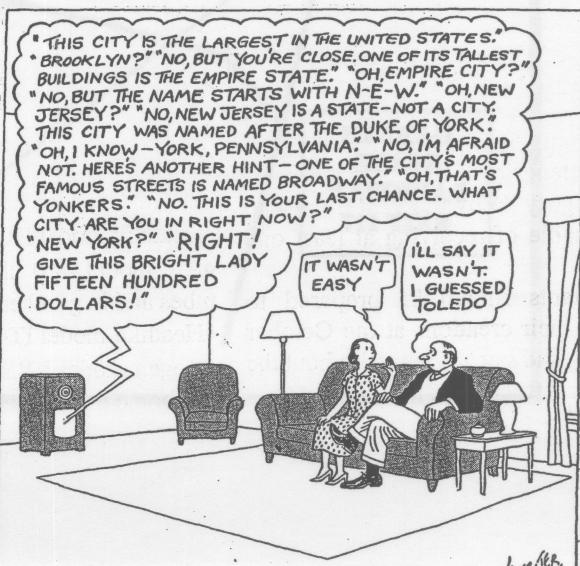
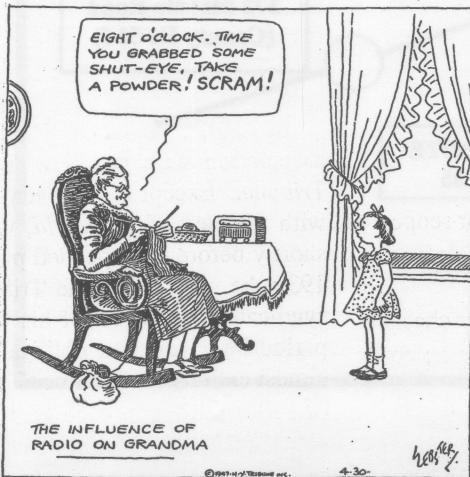
Webster's first major job was with the Chicago *Inter-Ocean* where his political cartoons began to attract attention. Before long, they became a front-page feature and were apparently caustic enough to have inspired a bill in the state legislature prohibiting cartoonists from making pictures uncomplimentary to Senators and Representatives. It didn't pass, and the pictures continued.

In 1919, Webster commenced his long association with the New York *Herald Tribune*. Except for a seven-year stretch with the New York *World*, which ended shortly before it suspended publication in 1931, he worked for the Tribune and its syndicate for the rest of his life. In this period he abandoned political cartooning almost entirely and produced a succession of series drawings, each centered around some basic theme and provided with a

**Webster...continued**

catchy group title. Most of these lasted for years; at least three of them lived on for a generation or more. Some of the more well-known ones included "Life's Darkest Moment," "Poker Portraits," "They Don't Speak Our Language," "How to Torture Your Husband (or Wife)," and the Caspar Milquetoast series which was so popular that the word "milquetoast" is defined in many standard dictionaries as "a very timid person."

The last of these series was the "Unseen Audience," a very funny satire which, although first causing an uproar in the radio industry, earned Webster the 1948 Peabody Award "for distinguished service to radio."



# NEW JERSEY ANTIQUES RADIO CLUB

## ANTIQUES RADIO SWAPMEET

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 8:00 AM - 1 PM\*

North Centerville Vol. Fire Co. - Hazlet, NJ



The NJARC presents its Autumn 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 \$3.00 club donation from buyers is suggested.

\* Vendor setup at 7:30 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: p.vourtsis@att.com

