

The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

October 2005

Volume 11 Issue 10



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Marv Beeferman

A clear, cool late Spring day greeted members who attended our tailgate meeting last month at Infoage. Although the turnout was acceptable, it's a wonder why we don't fill the park-like setting next to the Broadcaster's Hall of Fame cottage; perhaps the location is not central enough or folks were just trying to fill those last remaining vacation days. In any case, President Phil Vourtsis introduced first-time visitors to our cottage museum and we had a very nice auction of test equipment from a recent cleanout.

The cleanout items were rescued from a moldy, dirty basement by Ray Chase, Phil Vourtsis and yours truly. I won't go into details, but the former owner was another one of those typical colorful individuals that we all pray we'll never become - a talented electronics engineer, tinkerer and inventor who was said to have done some work for Edison in his early years and passed away with a million dollar bank account. We found a homemade, battery-operated motorbike in the yard which neighbors said was used to terrorize the neighborhood. Many experimental designs were assembled in aluminum pie tins. Ray found a WD-11 base with what appears to be a 201 globe tube mounted on it...reason unknown.

On the subject of cleanouts, the club is considering another project in Little Silver. The basement and garage are loaded with communication gear, test equipment, audio gear, etc. with lots of 78 RPM records and some books like the Radio Boys series. You can view the task at <http://www.eht.com/ebay/Silver/silver.htm>. If you feel like helping, contact Phil Vourtsis.

Once again, Alex Magoun, our meeting



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club will start at 7:30 PM on Friday, October 14th at the David Sarnoff Library in Princeton, New Jersey. Contact President Phil Vourtsis (732-446-2427) or Google "NJARC" for directions. This month's meeting will feature an open forum show-and-tell. Bring one of your latest acquisitions or dust off an older piece and we'll all be interested in hearing about it. Radios, phonographs, TVs, books, magazines, test equipment, tubes, microphones, pictures and any other miscellaneous ephemera are all welcome.

host at the David Sarnoff Library, is moving ahead with a War of the Worlds theatrical broadcast scheduled for October 29th (2 and 8 PM). The Hunterdon Radio Theatre is already rehearsing with a cast of

noon) the Martians landed in Grovers Mill. You can contact Alex at 609-734-2636 or amagoun@davidsarnoff.org. You can bring your radios to the next meeting and Alex will safely store them.



Phil Vourtsis does the honors as tour guide at our Infoage Broadcasters Hall of Fame museum.

22 and will provide the voices, sound effects and modern mikes to the mixing board. We'll still need 14 working 1930s working radios to set up around the auditorium and four 1930s microphones. Alex is planning to use Sal Brisindi's "Lil 7" transmitter but we might want to try a Radio DJ for increased range and lower distortion. We'll also need people to serve as a production engineer or assistant (2 needed). Let's support this great effort...Alex is looking for someone to make the radio end fit together smoothly the night (and after-

Bits and Pieces

1. Our October swapmeet is drawing near; make your reservations soon!

2. The NJARC annual Broadcast Band homebrew contest will be judged in January. Contest rules are in this month's *Broadcaster*. Start your brewing early to get a good head start.

3. Infoage Director Fred Carl asks that you take a few minutes to estimate the number of hours you have volunteered to help NJARC and Infoage at Camp Evans or in off-site projects. This will help Fred with grant applications

which often ask how many hours people have invested in the effort. Reply to fred-carl@infoage.org.

4. The club's Washington Receiver presented at the AWA Convention by Ray Chase also took the "People's Choice" award. Great job, Ray!

5. Ray Chase also says he recently acquired a batch of over 2000 instrument and radio fuses (the tubular kind) in various ratings. He will be bringing them to meetings and meets and will sell them at 10 cents each with proceeds to the club.

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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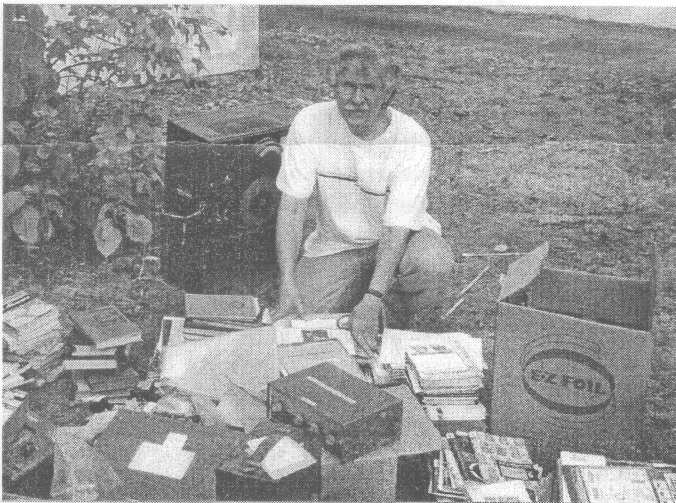
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I guess we'll have to call Ray "Fuseman" from now on ...

6. There's a very interesting auction coming up on October 15th at Dennis Auction in Stewartsville, NJ. It will include a very rare DuMont TV (the tube automatically raises up from the cabinet) and a Zenith "Radio Nurse" set (both the transmitter AND the receiver) in great condition. It might be a trip just to watch the fireworks on this one, even if you don't plan to bid.

ANOTHER HOUSECLEANING



Yours truly surveys the stash.

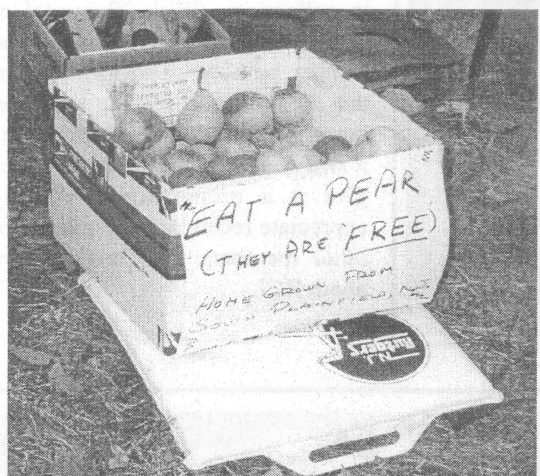
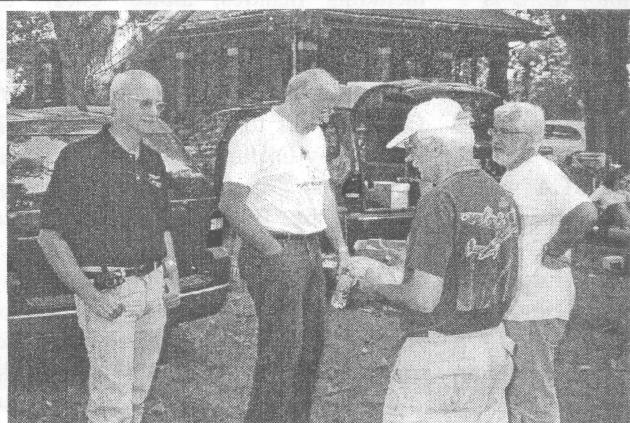


Ray Chase and Phil Vourtsis perform some pre-packing triage.

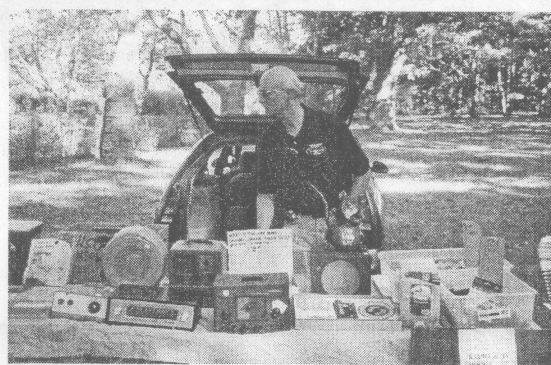
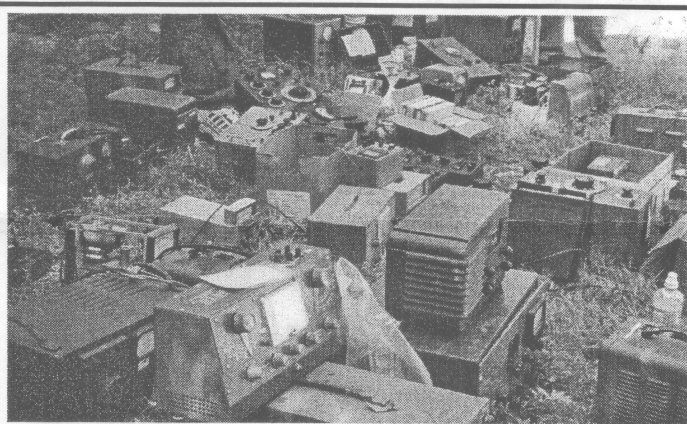


A homemade "motorbike" powered by a car battery which the former owner used, as one neighbor said, to terrorize the neighborhood.

OUR SEPTEMBER TAILGATE AT INFOAGE



Nothin' like a home grown, South Plainfield pear.



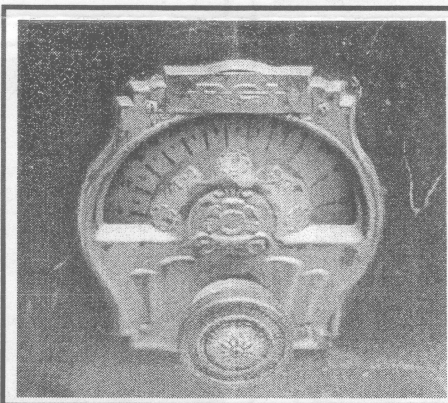
AN UNUSUAL CATHEDRAL RADIO

By Ray Chase

A friend of my son (how often does one get a cathedral radio for free?) recently gave me an unusual cathedral radio. It is labeled "RCI" on a rather ornate escutcheon; that piqued my interest never having heard of an RCI radio before. Underneath the large RCI letters on the escutcheon were very tiny letters spelling out "Radio Chassis Inc." Now that's a rather bizarre name to market a radio by, so that further piqued my interest. A quick trip to Riders revealed that there were 12 radio models listed under Radio Chassis Inc. All were in volumes III and IV and that seemed to indicate a short life for the company in the early 30's. The address on some of the drawings in Rider was given as 112 West 18th St., New York City. There was a mix of TRF's and superhets ranging from 3 tubes to 7 tubes

and even a car radio using dry "B" batteries.

As shown in the photo, there is a decorative plate under the escutcheon that only has the word "Superheterodyne" on it. There are no other model number or identification tags and labels other than a plate riveted to the rear of the chassis listing all the appropriate RCA patent numbers. A process of elimination indicated that it was a model AC-36 (or QAC-36 or LSA-36), a six-tube superhet. Tube line up was: 58-57-58-56-47-80. The output tube socket was marked for a type 47 but installed was a 2A5 with an adapter marked "2A5 to 47 adapter."



Further research to Grinders 2nd ed. listed 22 models from 1932 to 1934 including mantles, tables, chests and leatherette's, some with both broadcast and short-wave. However, checking into Morgan McMahon's "Radio Collectors Guide - 1921 to 1932", "The Radio/TV Finder" by Okolowicz, "Antique Radio" 5th ed. By Jon Slusser and "Antique Radios" by Bunis through the latest edition revealed no listings whatsoever.

So it appears that RCI burst forth in 1932 and fizzled out in 1934. A heck of a time to launch a new venture in the radio game. Why call it a RCI? Were they trying to perhaps confuse consumers with the well-known RCA label? It is strange that I had not seen any others in my years in collecting. With 22 model numbers listed, I probably should have run across another by now. The former owner said that the radio was playing a few years ago but I have decided not to power it up yet; it will wait until I can check the caps and give it a proper light off. I would appreciate receiving information from any other members who might know more about RCI.



NJARC 2005 Homebrew AM Radio Receiver Contest

The 2005 homebrew AM radio receiver contest will be judged at the January meeting. Once again, the objective is to preserve the tradition of building your own AM radio receiver.

Category 1 - Primitive

- The signal path of the radio receiver may use no more than two tube functions.
- 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 - Beginner

- Same rules as Category 1.
- Contestant has never before made a serious attempt at building a radio from scratch.

Category 3 - Open

- Any recently constructed homebrew radio.

Category 4 - Vintage Reproduction

- Faithful reproduction of 1920-1939 homebrew radios.

General Contest Rules:

1. The contest is open to NJARC members only and AM radio receivers only.
2. Entries are limited to "scratch-built" radios as opposed to kits or modified production sets.
3. Entries must have been recently constructed by the contestant, and must be capable of receiving at least one AM station.
4. Contestants should be prepared to demonstrate their creations at the January 2005 meeting, and say a few words about the design and construction of their radio.
5. The membership in attendance will vote for the best entries in each category.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A WIRELESS OPERATOR?

By Marv Beeferman

While thumbing through Jerry and Marsha Simkin's radio ephemera collection, I found a great little booklet titled "The Golden Door to Opportunity - Marconi School of Instruction." It outlines and illustrates the course of instruction for wireless telegraph operators offered by the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America at 23 Elm Street in New York City. The school itself was a department of the Marconi Company. In some twelve

pages, the booklet offers a little insight into what many considered a very illustrious career. What young man could resist the following inducement?

"It may truly be said that no line of employment could be more congenial and beneficial than that of a wireless telegraph operator on board ship, where he comes in contact with the better class of ocean travelers, and enjoys without expense the advantages of visiting various American and foreign ports."

Qualifications

The applicant was required to be between 18 and 25; American citizens were preferred but men of any nationality were accepted. A grammar school education was considered "sufficient" but

a high school education was an "advantage and desirable." Two satisfactory letters of reference signed by responsible parties were required and the applicant was screened for "good bearing and neat appearance" and readily able to "conform to sea etiquette and formalities and conduct himself with dignity." He was also required to be ready to board any ship to which he was assigned and assume active duty on very short notice.

Unlike the "wire" telegraph operator, the wireless operator was required to have a thorough technical knowledge of the circuits, construction and operation of his equipment including accessories such as motor generators. To obtain his license, he was required to learn how to draw circuit diagrams, trace and locate faults, repair his equipment and understand theory.

Texts

1. Radio Communication Laws of the United States (1914).
2. Commercial Traffic Regulations (1915).
3. Robinson's Naval Manual of Wireless Telegraphy (1915).

Telegraph Codes and Practice

The Continental Code was taught to sea-going operators with land operators also learning American Morse to interface with Western Union wire connections. The instructor was capable of sending to the entire class simultaneously or to sections assigned with the call letters of prominent ship and shore stations of the time. The school also used a Wheatstone automatic transmitter with pre-perforated tapes similar to that used by high power transmitting stations for sending press and commercial messages to ships. Students were also able

to receive messages direct from ships at sea with antennas on the roof of the building.

Equipment

1. A 2kW 500 cycle quenched gap panel transmitter
2. A 2kW 240 cycle disc discharger transmitter
3. A 1 kW quenched spark transmitter
4. A 1/2 kW, 500 cycle transmitter
5. A 1kW non-synchronous rotary transmitter

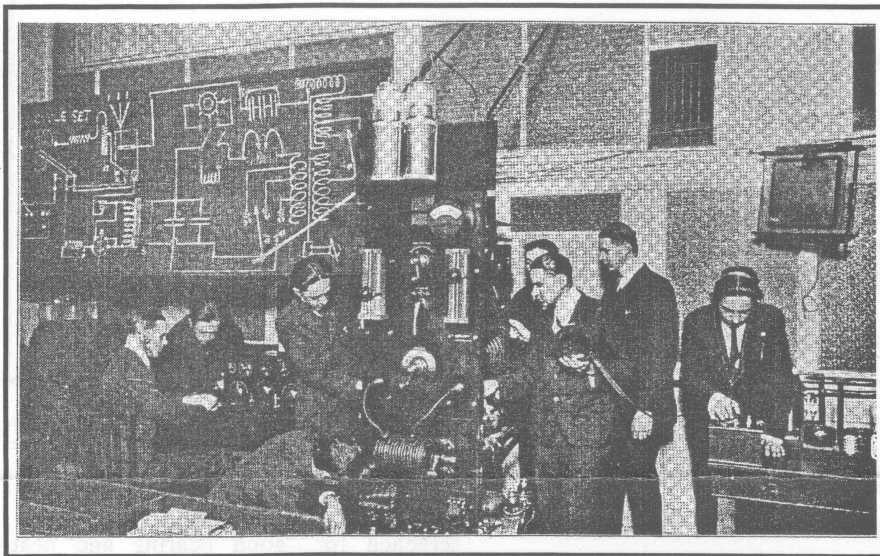
The school's test equipment included a Fleming cymometer for determining wavelengths and high frequency measurements, Marconi wavemeters for making wavelength measurements and obtaining resonance and Marconi decimeters for measuring the logarithmic decrement of damping.

Details

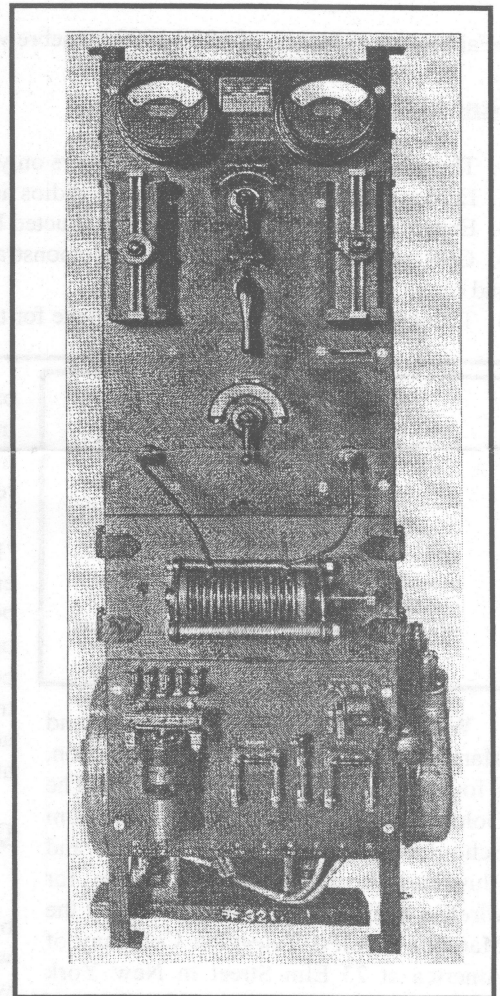
The technical course required 3.5 months of continuous instruction (5-1/2 hours per day, five days a week with 2 hours on Saturday). For code, if the student entered the course with 10 WPM, it was expected that he could come up to the required speed in 5 months. The price of the course was \$10 a month.

Upon assignment, the salaries of ship operators ranged from \$25 to \$60 a month with room and meals included. On messages, a commission of 25% was allowed on the tolls accruing to the ship station. This was divided between the first (60%) and second (40%) operators. On passenger ships, operators were also allowed a commission on the sale of the "Ocean Wireless Newspaper."

For graduation, you needed to be able to copy messages at 25 WPM and get a grade of 85% on the radio traffic and technical exam.



A typical ship's wireless cabin in 1914



NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

ANTIQUE RADIO SWAPMEET



SUNDAY, October 23rd, 8:00 AM - 1 PM*

North Centerville Vol. Fire Co. - Hazlet, NJ

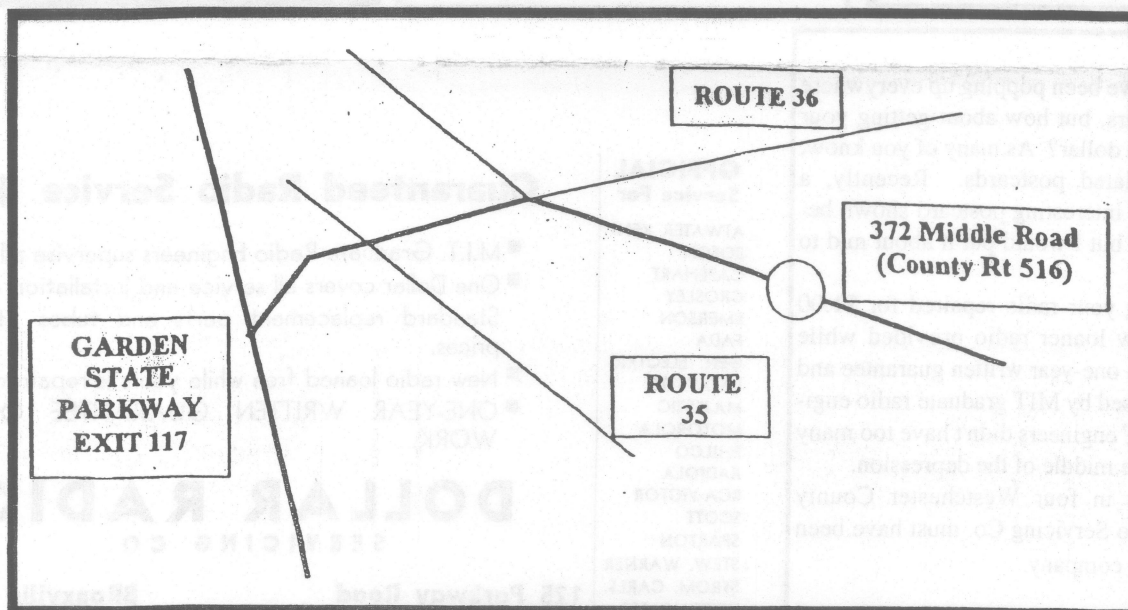
The NJARC presents its Fall swapmeet at the spacious North Centerville Fire Co. banquet hall in Hazlet, NJ. The first 15 reservations receive an 8-foot table at no extra cost. A \$5.00 club donation from buyers is suggested.

* 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). Bear left onto Route 36 and continue for about 1/2 mile. Turn right on Middle Road (County Route 516 East) 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:** Free tables are only available to first 15 registered vendors.

CONTACTS/RESERVATIONS: Marv Beeferman, 2265 Emerald 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.

SUPPORT THE SARNOFF LIBRARY

SUPPORT INFOAGE

See Marv Beeferman

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.

National NC100 ASD with manual. Has been re-capped, needs alignment, \$55. Jack Winans, 609-882-9296, WA2LGE@aol.com.

WW2 Navy/Marine TCS9 TX & RX built by Collins. W/copy of manual and 2 dynamotors, remote control box and most of the connecting cables. Was operated on ham bands OK. \$400 firm + SH or pick up in Freehold, NJ
Philco 50 - operates OK, cabinet needs refinishing. \$50 firm + SH or pickup.
Steve Kiraly, 732-462-2705 between 5-8 PM.

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.

Spring cleaning sale: Shortwave radios - Hallicrafters SX99 \$100, SX130 \$120, SX-43 \$130, Lafayette HA225 \$70, BC348 \$65, Heathkit G4-1680 \$65.

Test equipment - HP 400D AC voltmeters, 1mV to 300V full scale, 4MHz bandwidth, great for measuring gain in broadcast band radios, audio work, etc., good operating condition, \$10. Measurements grid dip meter with book, \$50. Tube testers, distortion analyzers, spectrum analyzer, scopes, etc. available - ask. Near recent (1980s?) stereo equipment receivers, tuners, turntables, \$10 each (working).

Parts available: Tek465, Philips 3052 and various other HP and Tek equipment. Steve Goulart, 732-219-6963, sgoulart@att.com

WANTED

By non-member: Looking for these two RCA portables for the last seven years - RCA 6QP3 and 36QP. Tuckerelt@aol.com

NOS 5-watt, 2K (or 2.5 K) potentiometer, 3/8" bushing, 1/2" slotted shaft. Marv Beeferman, 609-693-9430, mbeferman@cs.com.

Dollar stores have been popping up everywhere in the past few years, but how about getting your radio serviced for a dollar? As many of you know, I collect radio-related postcards. Recently, a friend gave me the interesting postcard shown below. It is undated, but I would put it about mid to late 1930s.

Imagine getting your radio repaired for \$1.00 (plus parts), a new loaner radio provided while yours is repaired, a one-year written guarantee and the repairs supervised by MIT graduate radio engineers! I guess MIT engineers didn't have too many other options in the middle of the depression.

With branches in four Westchester County cities, Dollar Radio Servicing Co. must have been a pretty successful company.

Ray Chase

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