

The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

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HIDDEN RADIO TREASURES

By Marty Friedman

Sometimes, when we find an old radio, we get a little more than we bargained for. Last year, I bought an Atwater Kent 37 at an NJARC swap meet. This set appeared to have been retrieved from an attic after many decades of storage. In addition to some bits of fiberglass insulation and the remnants of a visiting rodent's lunch, I found an interesting artifact...a little pamphlet, even older than the 1927 radio itself, listing all licensed broadcast stations as of January 20, 1923, just 27 months after the first license was granted to KDKA. Published by Lefax of Philadelphia and missing the cover page and a bit stained, it contained station owners and transmitter power as well as locations and frequencies.

Only two frequencies were in use at that time, 360 and 485 meters. A previous owner had crossed out and changed a few of the call letters and checked off some others to indicate that he had received or "logged" them.

Another artifact was obtained in a 1940 Philco 40-135 table radio bought at a contents of house sale in East Brunswick where I reside. Attached to the leads from the loop antenna were two scraps of paper which were marked by a past radio repairman with the wire colors, presumably to aid him in their replacement. The repairman, in his haste to find something to write on, used a claim check stub from "Cohen's Radio - South River." It occurred to me that several years ago I had met a man from nearby South River whose name was Yontel Cohen. The affable Mr. Cohen had told me that he and his brother owned a radio shop many years ago and that, in the early days of TV, had

MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the NJARC will take place on Friday, November 10, 1995 at 7:30 pm at the Grace Lutheran Church, corner of Route 33 and Main Street in Freehold. Contact Marv Beeferman at (609)-693-9430 for directions. The topic for this month will be a presentation by Tony Flanagan on making clear plastic dial covers.

patented the chimney strap antenna mount. This became the basis for the success of the South River Metal Products Co. of South River and later Matawan. I learned further that Mr. Cohen had lived a few houses away from me only 20 years earlier.

allowed in. Public parking is available in the municipal lot across the street. Vendor spaces are \$5 (\$8 on the day of the event) or \$2 more if you require electricity. Reservations may be made (highly suggested) by calling Dave Abramson at (610) 827-9757.

DVHRC SWAPMEET NOVEMBER 18

The Third Annual DVHRC Fall Swapmeet is slated for Saturday, November 18, from 8 AM until 1 PM behind North Penn Amusements, 117 Main St. (Rte 113), in Souderton, PA. Unlike most past events, this is a "no-frills" affair: tailgating-only; no contest raffle, admission or parking donation...just plenty of fellow enthusiasts offering a myriad of old radios, parts, tubes, paper and related miscellany.

Following the swapmeet, a "walk-around auction" will be conducted where sellers can put up their unwanted items for bid. Space in the parking lot is very limited, so only sellers' vehicles will be

DOWNINGTOWN AUCTION - NOV. 18

The Smith Auction Co. promises to offer vintage tube hi-fi gear, test equipment, 200+ (mostly 30's and console) radios, some communications receivers (including a National SW-3), telegraph equipment, Photofacts, tubes and parts. Preview is 10-to-10 on Friday and 8-to-sale on Saturday. The event will be at the the Downingtown Marketplace on Bus. Rte. 30, 6.5 miles from Exit 23 of the Turnpike, next to the Tabas Hotel. Catalogs are available at \$5 by mail and \$3 at the door. Terms are cash or approved check; a bank letter of credit is required for out-of-state buyers and a 10% buyer's premium will be imposed. For details, call (610) 942-2367 or (609) 269-1036.

JOE'S RADIO SHOP AUCTION

BRIDGETON, N.J.

By John H. Dilks
K2TQN

Imagine going to an old radio shop auction set up in a basketball-court size warehouse where there are thousands of old items for sale. Imagine that almost no one shows up to bid against you. We all dream of this kind of opportunity. Well, that's what happened on September 22 and 23 in Bridgeton, NJ. Twenty-some bidders were there for the opening at 10:00 a.m.; forty-four by days end. It was well advertised locally and nationally, but nobody came.

Of course the smart NJARC members were there: Ludwell Sibley, Rick Weibezahl, Al Klase, John Ruccolo, Jim Amici and John Dilks. Several tube resellers and parts' merchants controlled the early buying of the more than 10 thousand new tubes, hundreds' of boxes of components and more than 500, new in the box, transformers of every type. But the lots were small enough that if one wanted to bid on any particular box, it was affordable. Rick Weibezahl bought thousands of pounds of transformers. (His overloaded station-wagon was a sight to behold. However he made it home on Friday and came back for more on Saturday.)

There were some novice tube buyers there too. They were easy to spot as they held the Antique Electric Supply Tube-Wanted lists in their hand. Each was

looking for tubes on the want list. I'm sure some of them got burned; as so many times happen, some of the new boxes contained used-tubes. The regular tube buyers knew this and were bidding accordingly.

Midway through the tubes, the auctioneer took a break - then returned to say he had a bid of \$6 thousand for the remaining tubes from an absentee bidder. This caused some bidders to get upset. Many travelled several hundred miles expecting to bid on small lots. Some bidders just left. It was pointed out to the auctioneer that he promised small lots and to change now would be unethical. After

and aircraft radios and some IFF gear sold for less than \$2 each. Several 6 foot relay racks containing VHF transmitters and receivers went from \$10 to \$20 each. Of special note: there was one TMC 1950's High Frequency AM-CW radio transmitter that went for \$175. To list all the items would be meaningless, as a well-attended sale would have brought higher prices.

"Knowledge of the product was poor," said bidder Bill Overbeck about the auctioneer, "[he] should endeavor to correctly pronounce the name of the items." Variable resistors became "knobs," rotary switches became "tuners" and there



40 minutes, the auction continued as before, selling small lots of tubes. But the delay was noticeable with bidders less enthusiastic and bids seeming lower.

At 3:00 p.m., with all of the tubes sold and about half of the items remaining, the auction was stopped for the day. It was announced that 25 pallets of additional test sets and radio parts would be added to the sale for the next day.

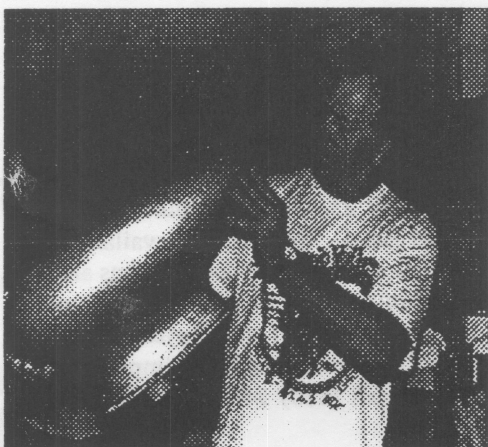
On Saturday morning, the warehouse was again full. Only about a dozen bidders were there at the opening. But more important, many of the big bidders from the day before were not there. During the day, the number of bidders varied but a total of about thirty were there overall.

The remaining items sold were old and used. For the most part, all were complete units with only a minor percent of the items sold being good only for parts. Items of interest were: more than one hundred pieces of General Radio test equipment and lots of Hewlet-Packard test-sets (most sold for less than \$10); more than 50 old audio amplifiers were sold ranging from a low of \$2 to more than \$100; more than twenty old two-way mobil

were several "another interesting thing here" mentioned throughout the day. The buyer had to pay careful attention. "But to his credit," Overbeck continued, "there were plenty of people on hand to load your car. They were very pleasant and helpful and pricing was reasonable."

Bargains were everywhere. This NJARC member bought several lots containing more than 400 technical books for a total of \$25, a 1960's Gonset 2 meter ham transceiver with a matching Gonset 2 meter linear amplifier for \$10, old but "like new" Brush earphones for \$1, one pair of Western Electric earphones for \$10, several boxes of magnet wire for an average of \$2 per box and seven boxes of new ceramic insulators of all types for \$2 a box. I went home a very tired but happy collector.

**FOR THE "REST OF
THE STORY," SEE
PAGE 3.**



BRIDGETON AUCTION UPDATE

Warehoused material not sold at the Bridgeton auction (see previous article) will be sold at Classic Liquidation & Auction Service's auction of "over 700 lots" on Saturday, Nov. 18. Site will be 346 Handsmill Rd., Belleplain NJ (about 20 mi. SE of Vineland). Terms are cash-only and no buyer's premium; food will be available. Look for WW2 military gear, a complete ASB radar, an AN/APR-4 surveillance receiver with spare plug-ins, an AN/ARR-5, command set items (including modular), test gear (including many frequency meters), half-a-dozen Hellicrafters (SX-11, etc.), a TAJ Navy transmitter, an RBA Navy receiver and various VHF communication gear. Contact is 609-861-1111; Ludwell Sibley can also supply additional details.

JAPANESE CRYSTAL SETS

A while back, I was talking to one of the elders in our church and happened to mention that I collect crystal sets. Bill's eyes lit up and he said that his father had been interested in crystal sets but was now ready to discard them. The following Sunday, I was given several little plastic crystal sets and a bag full of monaural earphones - the type that fit into your ear and employ a Rochelle-salt piezoelectric element. These had long ago ceased to operate but I discovered that Antique Electronic Supply in Tempe, Arizona, can supply them at a reasonable cost.

Bill says that back in 1952, his father would take him to the beach in Wildwood, NJ. There, on the boardwalk, was a variety store that sold these crystal sets. Every time they went, they saw a different model and just had to have it! Over the years, these sets began to fall apart, and were repaired with masking tape and Duco cement. Wires

broke, crystal diodes opened and earphones failed. Fortunately, I was able to restore all of them and, once again, they look beautiful and work as before.

All these sets were sold with the earphone unit hard-wired to it. This makes it difficult to handle or display a group of such sets. Since the earphones must be replaced, and since the AES phones come equipped with miniature plugs, I added a miniature jack (Radio Shack 274-247) to each set that was large enough to accept one.

The sets are tuned by variable condensers or slug-tuned coils. Little vertical "antennas" actually are rods connected to the ferrite slugs. Most of these sets also have wires extending from them for the antenna and ground connections. On one set, I replaced these wires with No. 6-32 screws. It also has an opening behind which is a piece of yellow plastic that moves up and down as the set is tuned.

The nice thing about collecting crystal sets is that they are small and don't take up much room. And they are very colorful! Bob Dennison, W2HBE

A note on germanium crystal radios: British writer Desmond Thackeray published a study of crystal detectors in the *BVWS Journal* a couple of years ago. He reported, based on extensive measurements, that the sensitivity of a germanium diode as a detector can be improved by about six decibels by giving it a small forward current from a battery, just as was done with carborundum crystal detectors in the '20s. Six dB is no small matter: it's equivalent to having the distant station quadruple its power, or to raising the typical long-wire antenna about six feet.

It's odd that this wasn't discovered and published a long time ago - since 1946, when the 1N34 germanium diode was introduced, there have been generations of many young experimenters building crystal radios without the benefit of this

improvement. The Modern Radio Labs literature on crystal radios doesn't reflect it, and the Xtal Set Society newsletters that I've seen don't either. A bias battery in a germanium-diode radio just isn't "part of the culture." - Ludwell Sibley

BITS AND PIECES

Marty Friedman's lead article is a good example of a simple method to participate in club activities...by sharing an experience, technical and historical information or a restoration tip or project. All input is appreciated...from a single paragraph or photo to a full-page article. For those of you with computers, one of the following disc formats would be appreciated: plain text, plain text from MS-DOS(ASCII), Rich Text Format (RTF), Word for MS-DOS (3.0-5.x), Works for MS-DOS 2.0 and 3.0 "WPS" files, Works for Windows 2.0 and 3.0 "WPS" files, WordPerfect 5.0 and 5.1, Word for Windows 1.x-2.x, Windows Write 3.0 and 3.1, PC-8 and Ami Pro for Windows 1.0-3.0.

Five minutes of your time and a 32-cent stamp would also help aid our advertising abilities. Local newspapers given out free at area businesses usually contain a "community news" section which are great places to advertise our club meetings and flea-markets. If you could just tear off the cover page, the page containing advertising contacts (usually on the inside front cover) and the banner (i.e., "COMMUNITY BRIEFS," "AROUND TOWN," etc.) and send them to me at the following address, it would be greatly appreciated:

MARV BEEFERMAN
2265 EMERALDA PARK DR.
FORKED RIVER, NJ 08731

At a higher level, a volunteer is still needed to coordinate the March flea-market...call Tony Flanagan at 908-462-6638 and make his day!

FOR SALE

RCA Radiola 18, works, \$60. Philco 40-190, console, \$100. RCA 100A speaker, \$20. Amy Lancaster, 215-348-9654

Booklet of 64 pages describes Federal Tel. & Tel.'s radio operation from the beginning in 1921 to its demise in 1929. Over 60 illustrations, including pictures of early Federal RF and audio amps, all early radios and many Federal parts. The article and NFWA presentation by Dick Schamberger, Federal expert, are included. All Federal models are listed with the year/month introduced, price new, and a brief description. Buffalo's first broadcast station, Federal's WGR, is covered. There are two pages of references for more info. This is more about Federal than exists in any other spot! Good-quality printing. Send \$4.95 + \$1.00 S&H to: Larry Babcock, 8095 Centre Ln., East Amherst, NY 14051.

WANTED

Probe only for Heathkit IT-12 Signal Tracer. Diagram booklet for Heathkit V-6 VTVM. Working probe for RCA WV-97-A VTVM. Stan Thompson, 43 Cozy Corner, Avenel NJ 07001-1122, (908)-636-3630.

MARVIN P. BEEFERMAN
2265 EMERALDA PARK DRIVE
FORKED RIVER, N.J. 08731

Langevin 128-N rack-mounted PA amplifier. Frank Hagenbuch, 1440 Lafayette Parkway, Williamsport, PA 17701, (717) 326-0932.

Tabletop Edison, Victor and Columbia phonographs. Phonograph-related items: records, wax cylinders, needle tins, cutters, dusters, advertising mirrors, original advertising items. Please write or call with description, condition, and your price. Thanks! Bernie Seinberg, 714 Moredon Rd., Meadowbrook, PA, 19046-1907, (215)-886-6124.

Desperately seeking a clean pressing of the Fats Waller 78-RPM record "Louisiana Fairytale" on RCA Victor. Will pay a fair price or consider trade for 1920's vintage "race" or spoken-word records. Mike Koste, (215) 646-6488.

Col-R-Tel TV color wheel, or similar, from the mid-'50s. Dave Abramson, 1649 Yellow Springs Rd., Chester Springs, PA 19425, (610) 827-9757.

AK 275 receiver in good condition. Bob Messerschmidt, 764 Backhus Estate Rd., Glen Gardner, NJ, 08826-2205, (908) 832-6976, 8-11PM.

QUOTE / UNQUOTE

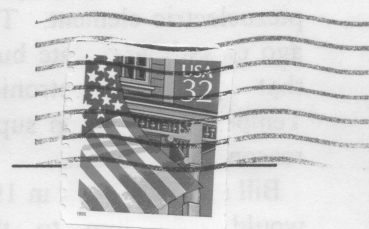
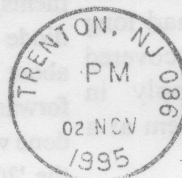
"Ever since I have been interested in Radio, this idea has been uppermost in my mind - Compactness with Simplicity.

Our ability to make powerful radio sets in compact cabinets is now a well-established fact. Hundreds of satisfied owners testify to that.

And now the second part of my ideal has been accomplished - in our Full Vision ONE Dial Receiving Sets. They are so simple that a child can operate them. Stations can be brought in perfectly with the use of but one hand and without looking at the dial!

Yet nothing has been sacrificed to gain this simplicity of operation and smallness of size. Our present Models are more powerful, more selective and have better tone qualities than any Receiving Sets we have ever made."

1928 by ??? (Hint: The answer is somewhere in this issue)



BOB OLAWSKI
230 COURT AVE.
LYNDHURST, N.J. 07071