

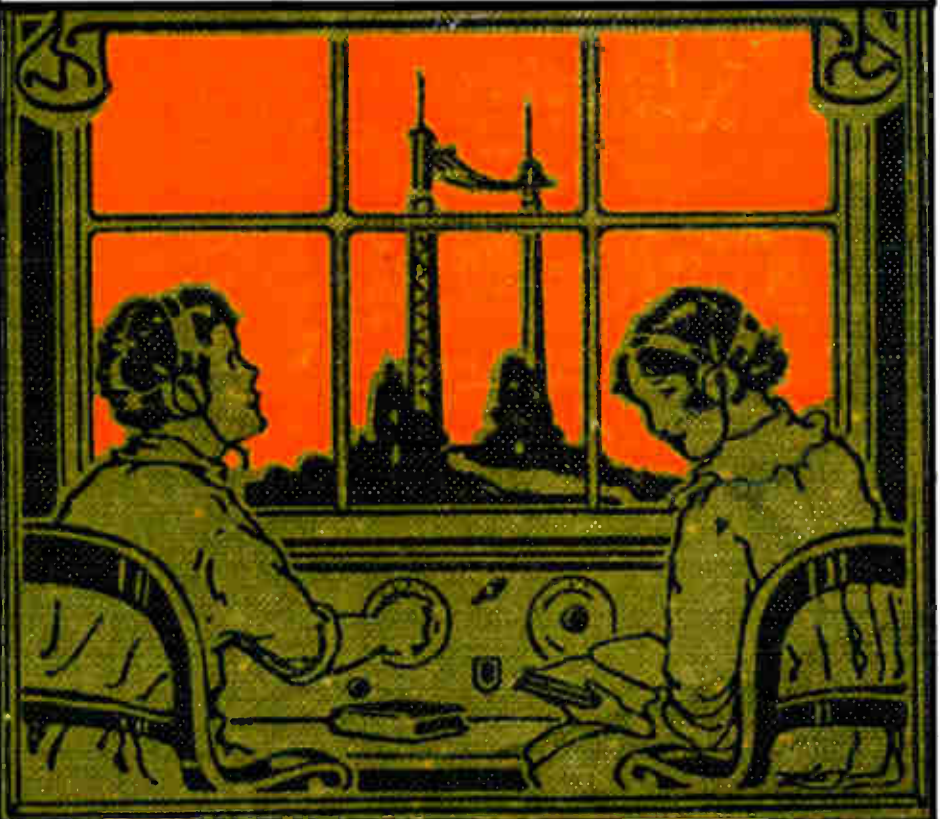
The  
Indiana  
Historical  
Radio Society

**BULLETIN**

Vol 38

March 2009

1



***Your Reading Radio - 1924***

The *BULLETIN*

A Publication of the Indiana Historical Radio Society  
Thirty-Eight Years of Documenting Early Radio



## 2009 Officers

### Joe Farkas, President

1962 S 200 E  
Huntington, Indiana 46750  
(260) 468-2400 e-mail: farkas@citiznet.com

### Alex Whitaker, Vice President

2927 South East Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46225  
(317) 787-2854 email: ehscott@sbcglobal.net

### Herman Gross, Treasurer/Secretary

1705 Gordon Dr.  
Kokomo, Indiana 46902  
(765) 459-8308  
email: hw144ihrs@comcast.net

### Editor Fred Prohl

3129 Lanam Ridge Road  
Nashville, IN 47448  
(812) 988-1761 email fprohl@att.net

### Dr. Ed Taylor, Historian

245 North Oakland Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46201-3360  
(317) 638-1641

## Responsibilities

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Applications and correspondence  
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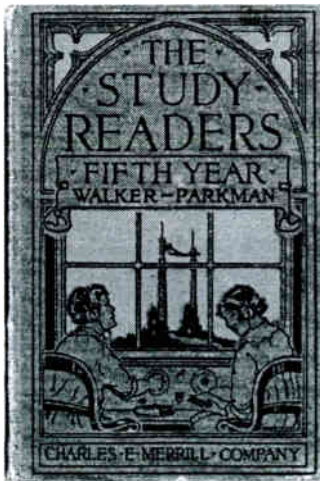
Donations & Scrapbook Material

**Bulletin Deadlines:** News, Articles & Radio Ads, 2/15, 5/15, 8/15, 11/15  
**IHRS Web site address:** [www.indianahistoricalradio.org](http://www.indianahistoricalradio.org)

The INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY is a non-profit organization founded in 1971. Annual membership dues of \$15.00 includes the quarterly IHRS "BULLETIN." Radio-Ads are free to all members. Please include an S.A.S.E. when requesting information. Send applications for membership and renewals to Herman Gross, our treasurer as noted above.

## The Indiana Historical Radio Society Bulletin – March 2009

Contents:	page
○ Indiana Historical Radio Society Meet Schedule	4
○ The Ligonier Museum – update – Joe Farkas	5
○ The “Basket Case” GE M40 – Ed Dupart	6
○ Radio and Other Elements of Our History – Andy Ooms	10
○ Making Airwaves: A Review – Andy Ooms	11
○ Hornet Park – pictures – Ed Dupart	15
○ Hornet Park Contest and Display pictures - Dupart & Prohl	16, 17
○ IHRS Spring Meeting - Kokomo 2009	18
○ Treasurer’s Report, Hornet Park, 2009 - Herman Gross	20
○ Walt Sanders Memorial – Fred Prohl	21
○ My Zenith 4V31 – Bill Arnold	24
○ Elbow Macaroni, Spaghetti and Heathkit – Ed Dupart	25
○ Whatever Happened To Heathkit? Alex Whitaker	28
○ Blue Tape Warning! - Ed Dupart	29
○ Nostalgic Radio Play – Indianapolis - Editor review	29
○ RadioAds	30
○ Regency - A Special TR-1 - Judy Gable	32



**The Cover** - “In our world today, it is the mind of man that constructs giant machines, great ships, and airplanes. His mind has taught him how to send messages over wires from one end of the world to the other; and even without wires he sends messages over the waves of the air” reads a part of the introduction to The Study Readers.

Published in 1924 by Charles E. Merrill, the fifth level reader connects students with the technology of the decade – RADIO. The appeal of the book must have been strong – it was purchased by the school district of Crystal Falls in September 1935. Scattered throughout this Bulletin are some of the pictures from the Reader that I’m sure caused many students to dream away from the teachers direction.

Fred Prohl, Bulletin Editor

## The Indiana Historical Radio Society Meeting Schedule

Spring 2009 –Kokomo Event Center – April 24, 25

SEE PAGE 18 OF THIS BULLETIN

Summer 2009 –August 8 - ARVIN Country!

Bartholomew County Fairgrounds, Columbus, Indiana

Fall 2009 - Riley Park, Greenfield – October 10

Winter 2010 – Hornet Park, Beech Grove – February 6

- - - Regional Events of Interest to Members - - - -

**Antique Radio Club of Illinois** [www.antique-radios.org](http://www.antique-radios.org)

Next meet – April 19, 2009. American Legion Hall, Carol Stream, IL

RadioFest July 30-Aug 1, 2009

**Michigan Antique Radio Club** [www.michiganantiqueradio.org](http://www.michiganantiqueradio.org)

Extravaganza July 10-11, 2009 Lansing, MI

**Dayton Antique Radio Club (SPARK)** June 13, 2009

Annual Swap Meet and Auction of Vintage Radio Equipment. (loads of old battery sets) Raffle of 4 restored radios.

Holiday Inn South, I75 South of Dayton, exit 50A to Dryden Rd, back North on Dryden– contacts: Ed App 937 865 0982, Lou Dvorak 937 845 9595

**Early Television Annual Convention** May 2, 3 &4

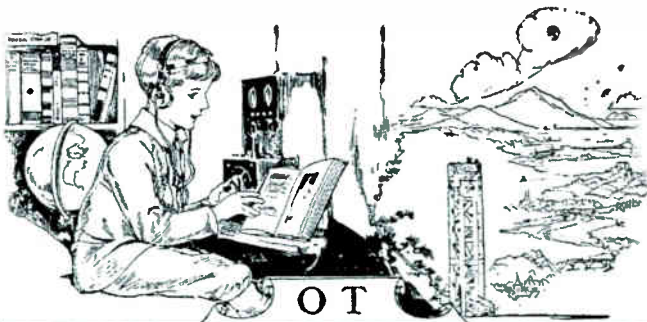
Hilliard, Ohio [www.earlytelevision.org](http://www.earlytelevision.org)

**Radiatorama at Voice of America** - Bob Sands 513-858-1755, or Bob White 385-8291

**AWA-Antique Wireless Association** [www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org)

Annual Conference – August 20 – 3, 2009 The original and largest historical radio group. The AWA publishes a quarterly Old Timer's Bulletin. Membership is \$20 per year. Write to: Antique Wireless Association, Inc.

Box E, Breesport, NY 14816



Perhaps you have sometimes wished to go on the wings of the wind over the hills and away to the far corners of the earth. If you tune up for the station we call OT, or Observation Tower, you will get messages that will bring the whole world to you in your own room.

## To all Indiana Historical Radio Society members:

With the passing of Fred Schultz, and the auction of his collection of radios, which was the majority of the items displayed at the Indiana Historic Radio Museum, the future of the museum is in doubt.

There are at least 50 or so items that belong to the Indiana Historical Radio Society that are still there, ranging from a Scott All Wave 23 console, to various WOWO memorabilia.

During the past several months, and at the IHRS Winter Meet, an effort was made to establish a committee of 6 to 12 IHRS member volunteers to review the current available material, explore the possibility of getting additional items, possible expansion to other collector groups (phonographs, etc.), and work to actually set up the Museum to be opened for the coming summer tourist season. While there is interest in a continued display, no group of members offered their time and energy to handle the re-establishment of a display and take on the operation of a Museum in Ligonier. Members recognize the significant work that Fred and Marcella, and other Ligonier volunteers put in to set up the original Museum. Members feel without the single local interest (along with a large collection of vintage radio) continuing the Museum is a difficult task.

There remains the possibility the Ligonier Community may want to establish a local history museum and invite radio collectors to display vintage radio equipment. We will keep you informed.

Joe Farkas, IHRS President



### **Restoring your latest radio find? Show it off at an IHRS meet in 2009!**

The Kokomo Old Equipment contest categories include: Made In Indiana, Transistor Radios, Crystal Sets, pre 1930 Radios, and Open to any radio or radio related item. Kokomo contest winners are determined by a team of judges. Table space will be available at all meets to place equipment on display.

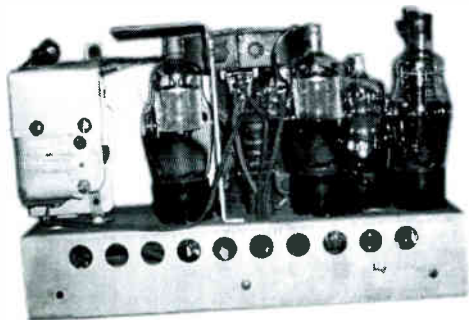
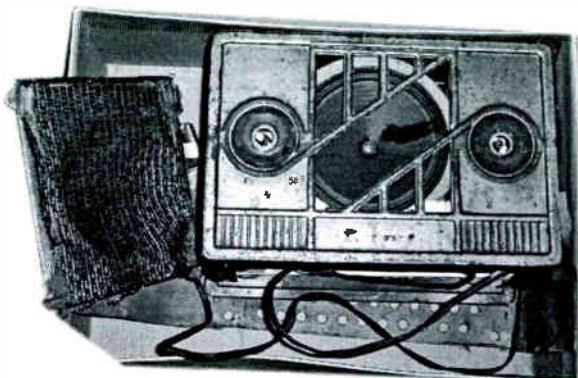
## The "Basket Case" GE M40

Edward Dupart

At the 2008 Kalamazoo show I saw a neat looking little metal radio and I didn't know what brand it was, and neither did the owner.

When I say neat looking, what I meant by that was that I could see the possibilities for this radio. It was far from neat looking in that it needed a lot of TLC and was in pieces with both knobs broken, the paint was terrible and all the pieces were in a box. A typical "basket case." He told me \$10 and I said OK. This was probably one of those irrational projects, but, it's winter in Michigan and I liked the radio.

I was intrigued by the fact it was around a 1933 radio and in a metal cabinet, which is fairly rare since most small table radios were made of wood. I thought it might be an International, but I went over to the International expert, Ken Nevins, and he said, "Nope, it's not an International maybe a GE or Continental." When I got home, I rummaged through the box of pieces and found the cardboard bottom and it had GE M40 and the tube layout very clearly printed on the bottom. Ken was right! Mystery solved!



This radio was a typical 4 tube TRF, but instead of a 25Z5 for the rectifier, it had a 37 triode, diode connected and a 38 for the AF output that drove a PM speaker, instead of a 43. The RF and detector used a 78 and 77 so this wasn't a high power drain radio. There was a GE C30 produced that was identical to

this radio except that it didn't have a 37 and it operated from a 6-volt battery for the filaments and three 45-volt batteries for the 135volt B+.

The chassis was clean and free of rust. The paint on the front and back was in terrible shape and there was no way of saving it and they had a little bit of rust. Ken suggested I chrome plate it, which would be nice, but it would cost extra and the surface would have to be perfect. Any imperfections would show through the chrome. I decided to repaint it and since it wasn't going to be original, and I didn't like the original gold, I was going to paint it a color I like. I saw another one of this radio in an original rose/violet color that I liked. This color was also popular on cars in the 60's and I had a 63 Rambler with a rose colored top and a maroon bottom, which my nephew now owns. I went to a variety of auto stores looking for the rose colored paint in a touch up can and none could be found, but I did find a metallic blue that I liked and so now the radio is going to be blue. They originally painted the entire front of the radio all one color, but the trim they put around and in the center of the radio was ideal for a different color, so I decided to paint the trim in silver and the large surface areas blue. The top and sides were painted in flat black krinkle and was in good shape, so I left it alone. The bezels were very tarnished and dirty, but otherwise, in good shape. So, this was the state of the cabinet.

I have been using a lot of blue tape that doesn't have a real strong "stick" to it that can be purchased at most lumber yards. You can put it on paint, varnish and other finishes and it won't pull the finish off when you pull the tape off, which masking tape and duct tape will. (*editors note: See page 29 of this Bulletin*) This isn't cheap tape, so I use it sparingly. I taped off the top and sides of the cabinet with this blue tape and I proceeded to remove the paint from the front of the cabinet with a chemical stripper and steel wool. With the paint removed, I used sandpaper to get rid of the rust and then I used steel wool to finish it out. Then I painted the entire front the metallic blue. After the blue paint dried thoroughly, I masked off and covered the blue paint with the blue tape, then I painted the trim with silver paint. After that dried, I took off the blue tape and discovered that some of the silver paint got underneath some of the tape. I used a small screwdriver with cloth wrapped around the tip soaked in WD40® and used that to remove the silver from the blue paint. I also used a very fine paintbrush soaked in WD40® and that worked well. Q-tips® will not work, because they would remove too much silver. The blue paint is automotive paint and the WD40® wouldn't touch that, but

### **"Basket Case GE M40 continued**

it would remove the silver, which was Rustoleum®. I painted the back in blue and did the trim in silver. I cleaned the top and sides and put a fresh coat of flat black on it and it looks great. The cabinet looks great and I like the trim in silver so well, it just sets it off! They should have done this at the factory.

The bezels were in good shape, but I wanted to remove them, which would make repainting the cabinet easier. The factory used decorative rivets, which I carefully drilled out, because I wanted to reuse the rivets. Once the bezels were removed, it would be easy to clean them, or so I thought. I tried Tarnex®, copper cleaners and Brasso® and nothing would touch the goo or whatever it was on those bezels. I wound up using 0000 (very fine) steel wool and that worked. I left enough of the black around the numbers and letters to make them stand out, but the shiny brass parts look good against the silver and blue metallic paints. I put the rivets back in the bezels and put the bezels back on the repainted cabinet. I used a small nutdriver that I placed on top of the rivets and drove the rivets back through the original holes. On the backside, I super glued the rivets. This completes the cabinet.

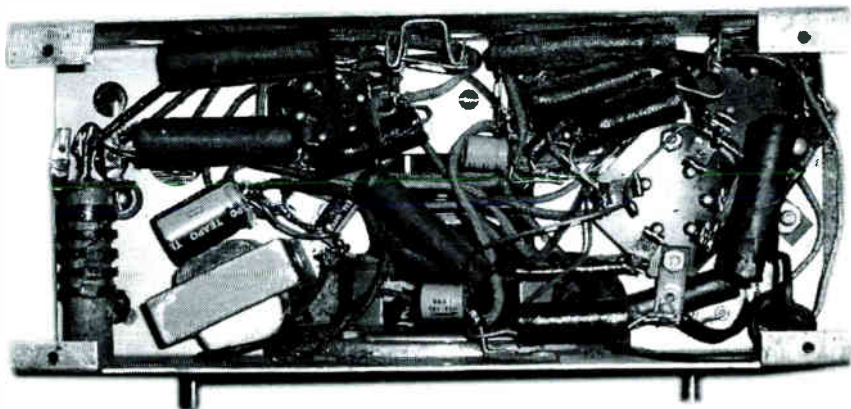
Both knobs were broken in half and the setscrews were broken. I removed the setscrews and metal inserts, used wood glue on the knobs and clamped them in the vise. After they dried, I removed them and soaked them in paint stripper. Then I sanded and steel woolled them, varnished them and painted the center black just like they were originally. I found new set screws and reinserted the metal inserts, so now the knobs are ready. Well, almost ready. The pointer was broken and was originally black. I found packaging plastic that my DC to AC converter came in, of the same thickness, and cut out a new pointer. Since it was clear plastic, I decided to use a red magic marker and make my pointer red, which I thought would look good against the brass bezel and I think it does. Now the knobs are done.

The grill cloth is original and in pretty good shape, but was coming off the cardboard frame. I used a glue stick to keep the grill cloth on the cardboard and that worked great. I didn't have to worry about bleeding from using liquid glue. The tight fit of the chassis keeps the grill cloth and the cardboard it is mounted to in place.

With the exception of the filter capacitors, all the capacitors checked good! I did change all of them and since I liked this radio, I punched out the innards and put new capacitors inside the original housings. I placed

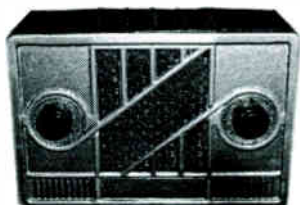


tissue in the ends of the capacitor tubes and then melted crayons on top of the tissue. The replaced capacitors look very original. I slit the cardboard on the filter capacitors, removed the innards and put new capacitors inside the cardboard housings, then I taped the slits. The filter choke was bad and I found one with similar characteristics and changed that. The resistors were all good as well as the tubes, although I had to re-glue the caps on the tubes. I also had to replace the line cord and it had to be black. I put a blue antenna wire on it so it would match the radio. The radio is now done electrically.



I plugged it in and it worked pretty good. After aligning the trimmers on the variable capacitor it worked great! For a TRF, it had amazing selectivity and sensitivity. I was picking up Toronto, Canada, Nashville, Cincinnati, New York, Minnesota and lots of other stations from southern Michigan. I was impressed!

This is a compact set and so it took some time and patience to get it all back together, but once it was done and I could get a good look at it, all I could say was "Wow!" Even my wife likes it! For the purist, this project may put shivers up and down their spines, but think of it as an overdone 57 Chevy that was originally a basket case destined for the scrap metal place down the road. *Ed*



## Radio and Other Elements of Our History

Andy Ooms, Pine, AZ  
[oomspine@msn.com](mailto:oomspine@msn.com)

Radio was one of the major cultural influences of the last century; and as you are reading this magazine there is little doubt that you will disagree.

A couple of other aspects of our culture grew along with radio and greatly influenced radio programming, and in turn were affected by radio. These are advertising and baseball.

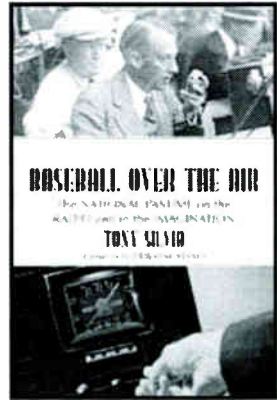
Considering historical electronic equipment as hardware, radio programming of the same era as the equipment is the software. Not all those interested in the hardware are necessarily interested in the software and vice versa. But some of us are interested in both "wares" and radio programming is important to be historic gear hobby because without interesting program content radios would not have been so popular, so numerous, and consequently so available yet for collectors.

Interestingly, programming of bygone decades is called old time radio; the sets themselves are not usually called old time radios, but antiques or historical sets, (or boat anchors or sets with firebottles).

For the old time radio fan, the good news is that there is a recent book about radio and baseball, and another one about radio advertising.

Baseball Over The Air (subtitled *The National Pastime on the Radio and in the Imagination*) was written by Tony Silvia in 2007. He is a professor and Director of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at the University of South Florida.

A lot of people who love old time radio are not necessarily interested in its sports history. But many of us enjoy both OTR and sports, and their history together. Growing up in a small South Dakota town, hundreds of miles from any major league baseball city, it was a wonderful thing for me to be interested in baseball through Wheaties boxes dedicated to stars like pitcher Bob Feller and Stan Musial, our home town adult and high school teams, and especially the Game of the Day on the Mutual Broadcasting System. Baseball cities like Chicago, for example, had every Cubs and White Sox game broadcast on WGN,



WCFL, WIND, or WMAQ; even WTAQ LaGrange was the White Sox flagship station for a year or two. But out in the remote regions where no daytime radio signal could be heard from any major league city, and in the days before television, the Game of the Day was extremely popular. Mutual had over 300 stations at one time, most of them in towns and small cities. Each day during the summer, a different set of teams was carried on the network. This was back before any teams existed west of Saint Louis. It is doubtful that Mutual had any more significant programming, except *The Shadow*, and *Queen for a Day*, in its interesting history. In my town, listeners would sit in front of various businesses, such as gas stations, with listening and commenting on the game in progress and on baseball in general. Game of the Day was an accurate name; not much night baseball existed yet. During the World Series, the weekday afternoon games were heard in our high school study hall, classes dismissed, beginning to end, until school was out or the game ended.

Indiana has major league football and basketball; counting the World Hockey Association, it has had major league hockey with the Racers in the 1970's. But it has not had major league baseball as far as I know. The Indianapolis Indians in the International League are the highest level state team, Triple AAA. But Indiana has been blessed with great radio coverage of major league baseball with the Chicago teams in the northwest, Detroit in the northeast, Saint Louis in the southwest, and Cincinnati in the southeast. There was a lot of signal overlap; when I lived in Indianapolis 40 years ago I could pick Detroit, Cincinnati, and both Chicago teams during the daytime, and of course many more at night. The games I could hear were all on the flagship stations of WJR Detroit; WCFL, WMAQ, WGN Chicago, and WLW, Cincinnati. Presently the Tigers flagship is on a lower powered station, not catchable in Indy. But the team networks can be large, and the Reds are carried on numerous small –city stations in the state.

The content of [Baseball Over The Air](#) is evidence that thousands of fans listened to the game play-by-play broadcasts outside of hundreds of gas stations in towns and cities throughout the land, as well as in countless other businesses, homes, and vehicles. Naturally, the growth of the portable radio market also helped the broadcasting of the game.

For a few years, another network carried, and in fact was based on, daily baseball games during the season. This was the Liberty Broadcasting System, an upstart in the late forties amongst the major

## Radio and Other Elements continued

four networks then in existence (ABC, CBS, MBS, and NBC.) Liberty had trouble with getting permission to broadcast games from the major leagues, and in fact most of the games they carried were studio recreations of the basic game data received via telegraph, expanded and rounded out with invented details and recorded crowd noises. Not long after finally failing to find a legal way to carry games, Liberty ceased to exist. Famous for his imaginative use of game recreations, Liberty founder Gordon McLendon went on to become perhaps more famous as the acknowledged father of Top 40 radio in the fifties.

Many other major and minor league away games were recreations from telegraphed data. Ronald Reagan was proud of his employment as a broadcaster of such games for an Iowa station. Many stories exist, some true, about delayed telegraphed information, or connection problems, resulting in the studio broadcaster manufacturing details to keep the broadcast going, such as reporting 18 successive foul balls until it could be determined what the final outcome of an at-bat was.

Baseball Over The Air covers the history of baseball game broadcasting from the first game in 1921 (Pittsburgh Pirates over KDKA Pittsburgh) to its most recent innovation on satellite radio. Famous names (Red Barber, Graham McNamee, Harry Caray) and famous games (Bobby Thomson's shot heard around the world to win the pennant for the Giants in 1951) are discussed.

Professor Silvia also writes about the role of imagination involving the broadcasters and listeners, and the sense of community felt by listeners to baseball radio.

Baseball has done well on the radio. By the thirties when it was becoming a normal part of each teams product, radio programming professionals predicted that live baseball would not be a lasting phenomenon, that it would never be the sensation that radio soap operas had become with up to 250,000 women mailing in dimes in one week for premiums or recipes offered on any one of several daily dramas. Well, the last radio soap opera was in the very early 1960's; baseball on radio is stronger than ever with some teams (Atlanta, Cincinnati, Saint Louis) having networks in some years of more than 100 stations in many of the small cities in their home states and other nearby states. I doubt radio soaps will be back; I can't envision radio without baseball.

For nostalgia lovers, baseball broadcasts are still sounding very much like they did 60 years ago; not many programs or formats from

that long ago are still around. It is not easy to think of any besides the Metropolitan Opera and Paul Harvey.

The book is 222 pages of a lot of enjoyment for baseball fans, radio fans, and even for general history fans.

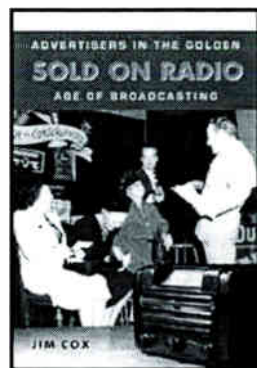
It is a publication of McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, Jefferson, North Carolina and London.

Jim Cox is a retired college professor, and is an award-winning author because of his prolific research and writing in old time radio. He has written definitive books on radio soap opera, radio sitcoms, radio music, radio audience participation shows and several other books in that genre. One of his latest is Sold On Radio, Advertisers in the Golden Age of Broadcasting, published in 2008.

We all know that advertising is not unique to radio and of course advertising is much older than radio, probably beginning with the first arrow painted on a cliff pointing toward the nearest purveyor of meat or hides or spices. But radio and advertising have cut quite a cultural path, in tandem, since the first radio commercial which occurred soon after the beginning of radio programming in the 1920s.

Although at one time, some government officials and some radio pioneers felt that radio broadcasting in the United States should be above commercialism, reality soon prevailed. Although we have all been irritated by radio commercials at one time or another, the alternatives also have negative aspects, and I think the result in this country has worked well enough. Alternatives include annual receiver licenses, as in the United Kingdom, fund drives as practiced by most educational stations in this country, or government control ala Radio Havana Cuba and China Radio International and all the stations in those countries.

Jim's book summarizes advertising and marketing history before radio, and segues into the radio advertising record during the years of the Golden Age of radio, beginning in the twenties and continuing, to some degree, up to the sixties. The roles of sponsors, advertising agencies, networks, stations, program personalities, and listener-consumers are explored.



## Radio and Other Elements continued

The author's love of radio data is almost as great as is that of some of us. He met my needs in this book by covering the history of the 24 largest sponsor companies of radio network programming, size determined by amount of time purchased. Eight of those sponsors still exist as independent companies, Proctor & Gamble, for example. Eight operate under different names than they did during the radio era covered. Two are still in business under the same name now as then, but are subsidiaries of other companies.

Six of the 24 largest advertisers no longer exist in any form, although in some cases one or more of their product lines may still be around as shadows of the companies that they used to be a part of. Somewhat interestingly, three of the six non-survivors are tobacco companies.

For these 24 major sponsors, virtually every network program sponsored by them is listed by name, years broadcast, network, and specific products paying for that program. The Proctor & Gamble segment, for example, lists 87 programs, an amazing number even for those who know all about soap operas and P & G products. The history of the companies, before the Golden Age of radio and since, is reported, as well as other interesting bits of data such as which sponsors seemed to favor certain networks or shun certain networks.

In addition to the 24 major sponsors, an appendix devotes a paragraph each to 100 other advertisers, describing type of company, its brand names, and significant radio programs sponsored. Another interesting appendix is a glossary of advertising and broadcasting jargon.

This is an enjoyable book for this old time radio fan, and if you are interested in OTR or some popular cultural history of the middle of the last century in this country, you will find it diverting, if not fascinating.

This book is also a McFarland publication. The publisher can be found at [www.mcfarlandpub.com](http://www.mcfarlandpub.com) and their order line is 800-253-2187. The radio and baseball book is \$39.95. The radio and advertising book is \$55.00. *Andy*

QC or Quick  
Center, broadcasts  
the kind of reading  
that you can read  
quickly. ---



**All smiles at the IHRS Winter Meet – Hornet Park**  
Thanks, Ed Dupart, for the pics.



Glenn Fitch,  
Carthage



Dr. Ed Taylor,  
Indianapolis



Jerry Fitzpatrick,  
Clarksville  
missed you Marj



Steve Geary,  
Sidney (Ohio)



Bob White,  
Cincinnati



Don Yost,  
Windfall



Sam Pete can't believe what  
Dr. Mike Clark is showing him!



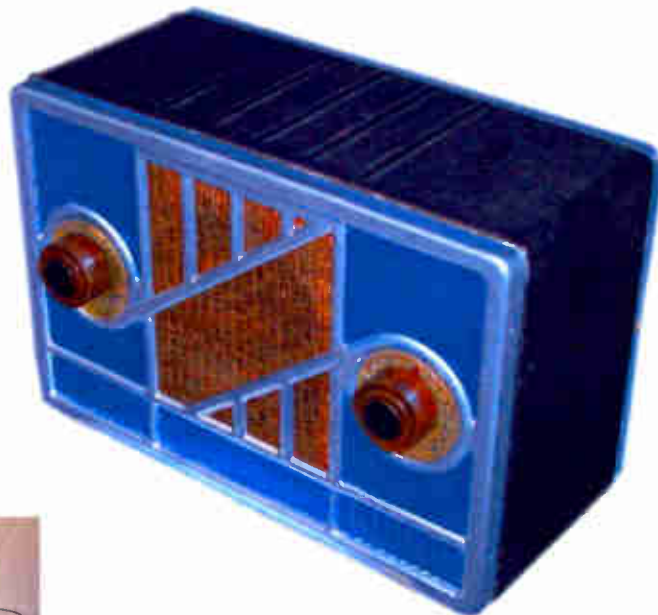
Bill Arnold,  
Washington



Ed Dupart's RCA Service banner placed second in the contest



Fred Prohl submitted a Radio Boot advertising item.



Ed Dupart's GE Metal Radio on display at the IHRS Winter Meet. (page 6 of this Bulletin)



Bob Sands placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Diode Radio category with his Packette Radio.



Fred Prohl was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place for a Heschu diode radio.





You can see why Randy Frasure's entry in the "Radio Advertising" Winter Meet contest category won the "Poular Vote" for the first place ribbon with his Philco display.

# 38<sup>th</sup> IHRS & AWA 2009 Spring Meet

Friday, April 24 & Saturday April 25

## Meet at The Kokomo Event Center in Kokomo, Indiana

Located on the northeast leg of the US31 bypass, the Event Center provides space for an all indoor meet (no outdoor setup). The space is on ground level with easy vehicle unload/load.

### Friday April 24

3:00 pm Doors open for indoor Swap

N Sell set up

4:00 pm Radio Swap N Sell.

6:00 pm Pizza and drink

8:00 pm Doors locked for the evening.

### Saturday April 25

7:00 am Radio Swap N Sell.

Indoor set up continues.

Set up for Old Equipment

Contest, Operating Radio Display

Set up for Silent Auction

9:00 am Old Equipment Contest

and Operating Radio set-up

closes. Contest judging begins.

Silent auction begins

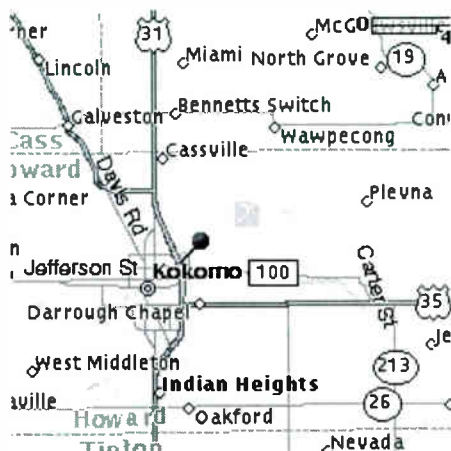
10:00 am Vintage Radio Seminar

11:30 am Silent Auction ends

2:00 pm Spring Meet concludes

**Fees** - Registration is \$5.00 per family, good for both days. One Swap N Sell space for the sale and trade of vintage radio equipment is \$10.00 for IHRS members, \$15.00 for non-members, good for both days (the space includes one eight foot table.)

**Special fee for Pre-Registration** - Send a check, payable to IHRS, for meet registration (\$5.00 per family), Swap N Sell table reservation (\$9.00 for IHRS members, \$14.00 for non-members) to: Fred Prohl, 3129 Lanam Ridge Rd, Nashville, IN 47448 by April 21.



NOTE: Due to diminishing interest in recent years, there is no Awards Luncheon scheduled for the Spring 2009 IHRS meeting.

## IHRS/AWA Spring Meet 2009 (continued)

Need a small amount of table space? Sign up for "Share a Table" Pre-register with a request to share a table. We will hold a ½ table space for you at half the Swap N Sell cost.

**Old Equipment Contest** - Contest is open to all Indiana Historical Radio Society and Antique Wireless Association members. Non member entries will be for display only. The Founders Award is reserved for IHRS members. The entries are judged by historical significance, documentation, and condition of radio.

**Contest Categories:** *Contest categories judged by team of IHRS members.*

1. Made in Indiana
2. Transistor radios
3. Crystal sets (pre 1930)
4. pre 1940 radios (table or console)
5. Open for any radio related entry

Display space will be available for your operating Battery or AC radio.

**Operating radios** will be judged in the appropriate contest category:

**Radio Display** – Want to show off a set, generate a discussion? Space will be available to display your radio related equipment or unique electrical device.

Meet contacts: Fred Prohl, 812-988-1761 - - Herman Gross 765 459 8308

**Motels: Easy hi-way 31 access to the Kokomo Event Center**

1. Comfort Inn 522 Essex Dr (US-31) - - (765) 452-5050
2. Clarion Inn (Travelers Inn) 1700 E. Lincoln Rd - - (765) 459-8001
3. Motel 6 2808 S. US-31 - - (765) 457-8211
4. Fairfield Inn 1717 E. Lincoln Rd - - (765) 453-8822

(motels 2, 3 and 4 are located across the street from Delco/Delphi)

Additional Kokomo information at [www.johanningciviccenter.org](http://www.johanningciviccenter.org)

## Treasurer's Report – Hornet Park – 7 February 2009

Receipts for the meet:

coffee/donut donations	\$41.36
62 registrations	310.00
table rental	165.00
donation silent auction	36.00
Bulletin sales	10.00
total receipts	\$562.36

Expenses:	donuts, coffee	\$38.00
	insurance	35.50
	facility rental	400.00
	total expense	\$ 473.50
	IHRS account credit	= \$88.86

Membership renewals totaled \$225.00

Submitted by Herman Gross, IHRS Treasurer



Word Gallery is one of the most important broadcasting stations. This station will turn word strangers into friends. --- A dictionary, an encyclopedia, and a Book of Facts will help you in tuning your Reading Radio so as to get messages from W G.

**The following was presented at a memorial service for  
Walt Sanders  
January 17, 2009 in Terre Haute, Indiana.**

It is useful for you to know – when I think and now speak about Walt, that my reference is “vintage *radio*.”

Walt and I crossed paths by way of a hobby – that is “being excited about vintage radios and doing something about it.” People who are excited about old radios (radio collectors) and do something about it, show their interest in a number of ways:

There is the HUNTER GATHERER – the hunter searches attics, garage sales, flea markets, auction houses, antique shops, and yes even the city dump for the next “old radio find.” And then gathers by way of negotiating a deal, maybe for free or maybe for many dollars - - -

Then there is RESTORATION of vintage radio - the radio collector restores the prize cosmetically and electrically.

A radio collector SHOWS OFF THE RADIO - Displays the find at museums, vintage radio shows, and so on.

And he or she DOCUMENTS the history of the radio – takes keen interest in writing it down – becomes expert in the radio history as well as circuitry.

Since we are talking about a hobby it is certainly the collectors prerogative to take on all the above - but many confine their activity to parts of the avocation. While many radio collectors dedicate their hobby to one or two of the above – Walt did it all. Walt loved the hunting – at radio flea markets Walt would be bent over the table studying all that was offered.

You could sense that if you met him at the door just as he arrived, he had a task to do – and that was to see what “treasure” was waiting for him at the tables. And, based on the fine collection of vintage radio Walt assembled, he hunted well. Of course there is the hunting then the gathering – Walt’s gathering was not to simply open his wallet and pay the price – he negotiated – and negotiated.

My impression of Walt’s restoration techniques is that his interest was not in a high gloss finish but authenticity.

In the 1970’s Walt assembled a very complete display of Magnavox horn speakers. The display was set up at one of our Indiana Historical Radio Society meetings – bringing a lot of attention and discussion.

### Walt Sanders (continued)

While I had known Walt for a period of time, I didn't really know him yet. I don't remember the exact sequence of this story, I do very well remember the results - I jumped at the opportunity to show off MY 18 inch bell Magnavox speaker to the expert. Walt handled me well - he politely informed me that my speaker was a very good reconstruction of Magnavox parts - not close to original. I tell the story because his response set the stage for future exchange. When you meet up with someone only several times a year it is difficult to claim friendships - but I believe Walt and I were friends - with the beginnings around a not so authentic horn speaker.

So we know Walt as a hunter and gatherer of vintage radio, and a restorer - dedicated to authenticity. It is the area of documenter of historical radio that many vintage radio enthusiasts, who never met Walt, know him for his interest and his expertise.

Walt is published in regional Historical Radio publications as well as National, such as the Antique Wireless Association and the Antique Radio Classified. (His documentation on the Magnavox Horn Speaker was featured in the AWA Old Timers Bulletin.) A quick scan of the Indiana Historical Radio Society Bulletin yielded ten articles submitted by Walt - some short - some of length and detail.

"The Allison Pickett company of Terre Haute, Indiana assembled Bremer Tully "Nameless" kits and sold them at their store on 7<sup>th</sup> Street - -

so begins an article Walt submitted for publication in 1978.

As editor of the Indiana Historical Radio Society Bulletin at that time I was very happy to receive - first of all an article (a difficult task to accomplish for most Society members) and second, a submission that included all the ingredients of a very good article - historical documentation of Indiana radio - a technical description of a radio - and pictures! Other articles by Walt included topics such as "A Portable Broadcast Station", "Artistic Panels", (on radios) "An Ideal Oatmeal Box for Crystal Sets", and "The Girl In A Horn" (a report on a 1924 news article describing 12 foot high Music Master horn speaker.)

Many collectors of vintage radios join organizations designed to provide members a means to show off recent finds and talk about vintage radio. When Walt joined he did not shy away from taking a leadership responsibility, specifically in the Indiana Historical Radio Society.

He supported the Society through vintage radio contest entries and displays; committee participation, and meet organization. Walt hosted a vintage radio meeting at Rose Hulman in September of 1977.

In 1977 he was the Society Secretary, 1978, Vice President and President in 1979. Taking a look at the Indiana Historical Radio Society honor role of officers, we can see that – and I can say this with a bit of awe –since I understand vintage radio collecting – let alone collecting anything- can be looked upon by many, including family members, as a strange affliction - the Walt Sanders family has been very supportive of Walt's interest – evident by Glenna's accepting the busy job as Society Treasurer for several years and son Eric as president and Bulletin editor for a total of 4 years.

Vintage radio collector groups, while dedicated to the preservation of vintage radio, can be social organizations as well. But, while lunches and other means of interaction happen, the nose in a radio prevails and frequently little is learned of each other. Walt and I knew each other by way of occasional meetings and our most recent radio finds – I knew he was on staff at ISU, he knew I was in corporate education. He knew I had a growing family and - well - as I think about it I believe he knew more about me than I of him. As months would separate the occasion for us to exchange how are you's he would remember specifics of my life – but I admit I knew little of his – Walt was a private person. So it was on the occasion of a radio meet luncheon I was totally surprised when the artist Walt Sanders presented himself. The jazz group "Charleston Chasers" was performing and Walt was on the clarinet! My memory of Walt now goes beyond a great Magnavox horn speaker display. My memory now is Walt wowing the audience with the excellence of his playing ability!

Thank you Walt, for being part of my life.  
Fred Prohl



Walt Sanders

MY ZENITH 4V31  
Bill Arnold  
Washington, Indiana

I have been doing some of the old battery sets that were used on the farm. In fact, they tell me that entire houses operated on 32 Volts DC. There would be batteries that would be charged with wind chargers. There were also light plants. Delco made one of them as well as Maytag that I know of. There were all sorts of appliances and houses were wired much in the same way the modern AC is today. That was before my time and all I can do is relate what I have been told. I do find evidence of them today. They used many of the same tubes as the AC-DC sets. They also used the same plug and many sets were ruined by someone mistakenly plugging in one of those 32 Volt radios into 110 AC. This would immediately destroy the filament of the tubes. I have re-engineered those sets to work on the modern 120AC. One guy told me one time I was ruining these sets but I contended I was merely fixing them so they could be played. I suppose it is a matter of opinion who is right.



At any rate, I like to do these projects. I can see some benefits to that. It gives me something to do and I always learn something. It also salvages another old radio which might have been otherwise used for parts and then thrown away. After all, these things are not getting any easier to find. It seems to come out the same moneywise. Either you buy the radio cheap and spend a lot of money on it or your pay more and get a nicer one. Of course, if you can't do the work

yourself, you will have to pay someone else to do it and you may well have more money in the bad ones than the good ones.

What I like to do is set up at the radio meets and sell stuff. It gives me a chance to talk to people and sell the stuff I work on. Sure, I could work on radios for someone else but I would have to get them done in a timely manner and sometimes I have other things to do. I like to travel around and sometimes I am gone. I hate it when someone calls every few days to ask if the radio is done. If I do my own stuff, that eliminates the complaints. If I don't happen to get some radio done, it is my own.



After all, this is just a hobby. It started out as a way for me to get rid of the stuff I didn't want in my collection. In fact, I usually try to get radios just like I have. That way I am not tempted to put another radio in my collection. One guy told me he just buys ugly radios. That was his way of not keeping them. I told him, "How do you figure someone else would want them?" I guess he had never thought of it that way. I buy stuff I like and it is at least marketable. Ugly radios do not sell.

Of course, it is to the point that if I keep a radio, I must take one out of my collection to sell so that I don't accumulate more radios. While that sounds reasonable, it has not always worked out that way. I do add another radio once in a while. Some radios are not bought with the intention of selling. Still, when I inventory my space, I realize there is not enough room for everything. My last two radios were Zeniths. Now, you can hardly go wrong with a good Zenith. I just couldn't turn them down. One is a model 5-R-312. I got that one at the Willowbrook radio show. It was needing some minor work but was cheap. It will be for sale when I get it repaired.

Another one I got at Willowbrook was a Model 4V31 and was originally set up for a 6 Volt storage battery, commonly used in the automobiles of that vintage. Of course, the last American production car that used a 6 Volt battery was in the 50s. Now-a-days, nobody has a way to play them. It is clear to me if you want one of them to play, you need to convert them over to AC.



This requires a re-engineering. There are a lot of guys that either do not want to do that or lack the knowledge to undertake such a project. I have done some of the 32 Volt radios in the past and I can tell you for a fact, it is a time consuming job. The 6 Volt radio are easier to work on but still have to be re-engineered to work on AC.

Last year I did a Zenith 4B131 which is very similar to the 4V31. The chassis is almost the same and it has the same tube lineup. The one I did was rather rough and was missing the tubes. I had a hard time finding a couple of them and rewired it to accept another tube that I had in stock. I removed the vibrator since I figured I would never find one if I had to. I used the original transformer and built a solid state rectifier.

### My Zenith 4V31 continued

It plays just fine. I wrote out a modified schematic for the next guy to figure out what I did.

This year, I ran across the Zenith 4V31. The cabinet had been restored and looked good. It has also been modified to work on regular household current. From that, I decided all the hard work had been done. Of course, I didn't know what the modifications were but I was assured it worked.

Although it did work well, it was not exactly the way I would have done it. There was a fuse added and a transformer installed on top of the old one that was left in place. None of this looked quite right to me. I decided I would never be happy until I removed the fuse and the non-functional stuff.

So, my work began by removing all of the components and wiring that were not used. Now it looked a lot cleaner. The new transformer fit in the same location as the old one and gave me a better looking chassis since all of the modifications were under the chassis. I also got rid of extra wiring and terminal strips. After cleaning up all that, I discovered several old style wax covered capacitors still in place. The only capacitors that were new were the filters. I know from experience, these need to be replaced in order to make the radio dependable. One by one, I replaced them and although the radio did not play any better, I knew it was the right thing to do for long term performance.

After all that was done, I wrote out a schematic. It was done a little different than I had done the 4B131, but worked just as well. As far as I am concerned, it was worth the time I spent on it. I spent very little money on the things I did and now I had a nice looking radio that should last for several more years. *Bill*



## Elbow Macaroni, Spaghetti and Heath Kit

By Edward Dupart

While I was growing up I got to build lots of Heath Kits for other people and a couple for myself. I still have my Heath Kit CR 1 crystal radio that my brother gave me back in 1958 and I clearly remember listening to Paul Anka's song, Venus on it. My Heath Kit VTVM was a treasure that I used just about everyday and I still have it. I also loved going to the Heath Kit store on 8 mile road in Detroit and I tried to get a job there, but no luck and always wanted to work for Heath Kit. I finally had my chance and I did work for the main factory in Benton Harbor, really St. Joseph, back in 1979 and 1980.

I worked on only new products and never any of the kits that people built and couldn't get to work, but I will never forget the story about one of the kits that was sent back and I believe it was an oscilloscope. If you ever wondered why they changed the word spaghetti to sleeving this story will tell you why. Sleeving or in earlier days spaghetti, was insulation put over bare wire to keep from shorting to nearby components and the chassis. In Heath's earlier kit building manuals they always used the term spaghetti for what became known as sleeving. Well, someone bought a kit and couldn't get it working, so they returned to the factory, us, to straighten it out and make it fly right. The technician who worked on it and I don't remember who, couldn't believe his/her (there was a gal there that worked on oscilloscopes) eyeballs when they saw the underneath of the chassis. All of the bare wires were covered with elbow macaroni! The note included with the kit said, "There wasn't any spaghetti included with the kit and the only thing I had was elbow macaroni." After that Heath Kit changed the term spaghetti to sleeving in all of their manuals. I still laugh to myself when I think about it. *Ed*



OD - Order Department - Here is a very useful station that puts you in touch with practical ways of doing things.

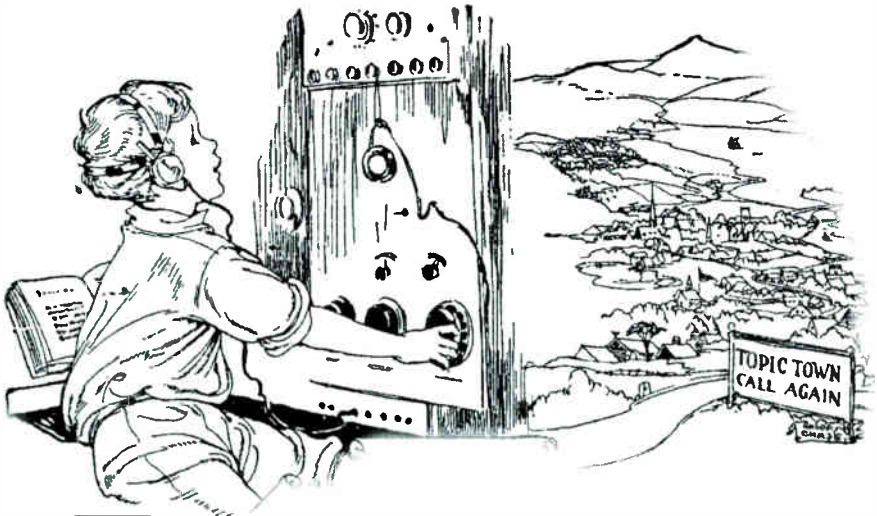
Read more about Heathkit at  
<http://electronicdesign.com/Articles/ArticleID/20689/20689.html>

## Whatever Happened To Heathkit?

by: Louis E. Frenzel, Electronic Design Online ID #20689,  
February 18, 2009

"Whenever I mention to folks that I used to work at Heathkit, a few people actually ask, "What's Heathkit?" Yes, I suppose that does date me a bit. Others will say, "Oh, yes, my dad used to build Heathkits." Anyway, some of you do remember Heathkit, and fondly in most cases. If not, let me explain."

Mr. Frenzel goes into detail about Heathkit, the successful years, the beginning of the end, and in his conclusion he tells us Heathkit still exists and is still doing well, with many of the original employees still with the company. *Submitted by Alex Whitaker*



The messages from TT, or Topic Town, are like the reading you will find in your geography and history.

## Blue Tape Warning!

By Edward Dupart

In some of my previous articles I have mentioned using a low adhesion blue tape for masking off radio cabinets. The tape I had been using worked well on lacquers and shellacs, but I replaced it with some new tape and with dismay, I found out that it pulls up some of the lacquer and shellac finishes. Upon reading the label, it said, "**Do Not Use on Lacquer and Shellac Finishes.**" So, if you are planning on buying or have bought a low adhesion tape, make sure it will work with the finishes you are using. I have used the new tape on enamels and it worked fine. *Ed*

### Nostalgic local radio play raises money for the Salvation Army.

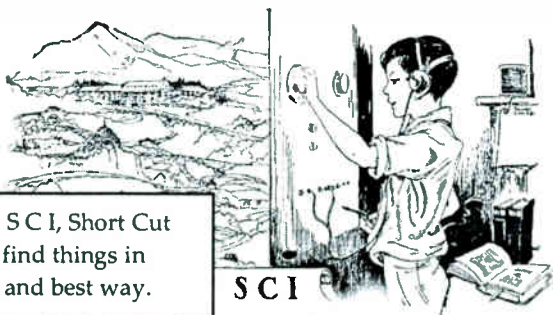
Radio enthusiasts and Indianapolis history buffs might get a kick out of a CD being sold for charity at local Indianapolis Sullivan Hardware stores.

The disc holds former WIBC-FM reporter John Bartholomew's 15 minute radio play "A Wish In Time," which is set in Indianapolis and takes the listeners back to the city as it was in 1957.

The CD may still be available for \$5.00 at the Keystone Ave and Pennsylvania Street Sullivan Hardware stores.

It's a fun listen. *Ed Taylor and Fred Prohl*

(The Indianapolis Star INDY.COM)



These messages from S C I, Short Cut Inn, will help you to find things in books in the quickest and best way.

S C I



**For Sale:** Antique Radio Collection– 135 radios – mostly Zenith. Test and repair equipment for sale with many tubes and capacitors. Jack Crider 317-745-2920

[jandnc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jandnc@sbcglobal.net) 03/09

**Needed:** Circuit diagram for an International Kadette model 87 radio. Am fixing it up for a friend and have gone about as far as I can without a CD.

George B. Clemans, 851 West Wooster St., Bowling Green, OH, 43402

(419) 352-7198 03/09

**For Sale:** A real Treasure Trove! A 1960s RCA Tube Caddy filled with 166 (NOS) tubes in original boxes. Miscellaneous items in Caddy include a Heahkit Color Generator IG-5240, soldering iron and solders, assorted fuses, alignment tools and chemicals. \$125.00. Ray Andrejasich, Carmel, IN 317-846-6977 03/09

**Wanted:** 1935 Zenith chassis for a model #970 or 975. Chassis #5902 Scott Beard, 2600 Garfield Ave., Terre Haute, IN 812-466-9467 09/08

**FOR SALE:** 1947 Admiral 7T10-C, White, \$35.00; 1932 Aetna, Walnut, \$65.00; 1948 Aircastle 5050, \$35.00; 1947 Airline 05BR1525B, \$45.00; 1932 American, \$65.00; 1932 Avalon, \$65.00; Coke Bottle radio, NIB, \$25.00; 1933 Crosley 4C1, \$65.00; 1934 Crosley 5M3, \$115.00; 1953 Crosley E20GY, Gray, \$55.00; 1953 Crosley D-25-MN, Maroon, \$125.00; 1948 Emerson, Black, \$20.00; 1948 Farnsworth GT-051, White, \$125.00; New Grid Leak for Areiola Sr, \$4.00; 1935 Grunow 470, Walnut, \$100.00; Jackson multimeter, \$12.00; Lincoln Clock, Brown, 35.00; 1948 Magic Tone, Walnut, \$45.00; Peerless Headphones, \$15.00; 1930 Pfansteihl, Walnut, \$225.00; 1930 Philco 20, Walnut, \$250.00; 1931 Philco 70, Mahogany or Walnut, \$350.00; 1931 Philco 90, Walnut, \$500.00; 1924 RCA 103 Tapestry speaker, \$175.00; New bonnet \$15.00 each; 1949 Zenith 7H920, Brown, \$45.00. All radios are subject to prior sale and are restored unless otherwise noted. Bill Arnold, 1 Cindy Kay Dr, Washington, In. 47501 or call 812-254-1702 before 10:00 PM Eastern time or email [bbarnold1@aol.com](mailto:bbarnold1@aol.com) 03/09

**For Sale:** Rockola & AMI Jukeboxes are Grade 3 machines, need work, pick up only. Rockola Capri II 100 play with manual \$500. AMI/Rowe R80 200 play, Green panels no manual \$250. R80 200 play, Red panels no manual \$250. MM4 200 plays, Red & Orange panel, manual \$450. AMI/Rowe remote 200 play, no

keys no manual \$125. Other Items: Seeburg SS160, manual set, reproduction glass, spare cartridge and needle, N.O.S. keypad bezel. Back cover missing. \$600. RCA 40's projection TV, 8PCS41, spare picture tube. Mostly there but disassembled. \$100. Scott 800B post war. Dark Mahogany. \$1000. Fort Wayne, Indiana Gary Kuntz 260-490-9734 09/08

**Wanted:** I am putting together a radio collection of the RCA radios in which industrial designer John Vassos is attributed for cabinet design. The majority of these are the chrome framed consoles and tombstones from the 1936 era. Also, I am looking for the Vassos-designed RCA bakelite models from the 1939 era as well. Thank you for your help. Bob Snively, Richmond, IN Phone; (765) 935-3746 E-mail; [totallytubular@aol.com](mailto:totallytubular@aol.com) 03/08

**For Sale:** Reproduction cabinet parts (wood). In stock parts; front panels, rear arch supports, base molding, for Philco models 20,21,70,90 (others per sample). Philco Colonial Clock top trim including finials, Grandfather Clock finials for Philco 570, GE H-91, Crosley 124 (others per sample). Almost any wood part available per sample, any make or model (per quote) (tooling charge may apply). Dick Oliver c/o Antique Radio Service, 1725 Juniper Place #310, Goshen, In. 46526. Ph. (574) 537- 3747, e-mail- [dolivears@aol.com](mailto:dolivears@aol.com) 03/08

**Interested in TV history?** Want to see how it started? Try this Web site. [www.televisionexperimenters.com](http://www.televisionexperimenters.com) You'll be amazed how far we've come. Pete Yanczer, 635 Bricken Place, Warson Woods, MO 63122-1613 03/08

## Write!



Radio ads - Free to IHRS members. Unless we are advised otherwise, we will run ads for two issues. The exception would be where services, etc. are being listed. Please send your ads to the editor at the address shown on page 2. If you cannot submit an electronic copy, we can scan in a typed copy.

**Articles** for publication. Radio history or restoration and repair of radio, your own radio collection; someone else's radio collection; your recent or memorable radio find; your experience at a radio event. Pictures are encouraged. We can scan good quality color or B&W prints. Sending jpeg pictures on CD-R works well. Fred Prohl



At the Winter IHRS meeting, Judy Gable presented a Regency TR1 for display. The radio is unique in that Judy's Mother, Lavella Clark, worked at the IDEA Company, Regency, in Indianapolis, assembling TR1's. Assembly line employees were allowed to choose case color for their personal TR1 – and Judy's mother chose the red front and cream back.

So an alert to transistor radio collectors – the mixed color TR1 you see for sale may have a unique history – check it out!