

# Indiana Historical Radio Society BULLETIN

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Ruth Van Deman, one of the authors of the original "Aunt Sammy's Radio Recipes." Fannie Walker Yeatman was the other author.



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## AUBURN REPORT

The joint Indiana Historical Radio Society and Antique Wireless Association Regional Spring Meet was held at the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum in Auburn, Indiana, on May 10-11, 1985.

On Friday evening Ralph Barnett chaired the program of an AWA Old Tyme Movie and Mr. Barnett's phonograph show. As usual, the Hospitality Room proved to be a popular meeting place for friends and collectors.

At dawn on Saturday, the collectors began to converge on the ACD Museum parking lot with flashlights, thermos bottles of coffee, and items for sale or swap. The weather was fantastic for the Spring Meet; except for a few sunburns, there were no complaints. Registration, which had started on Friday, continued until afternoon and totaled 124. No count was made of sellers and shoppers in what was the largest IHRS Flea Market in fourteen years.

Steve Waldron, CAI, Logansport, Indiana, auctioned approximately two hundred items. The variety of items included RCA, King, Erla, Polydyne, Day-Fan, Freed-Eisemann, Philco, Stewart Warner, Stromberg-Carlson, FADA, Arvin, Philmore, and Plaza Music Company sets, with crystal sets, Rider's Manuals, tubes, dials, magazines, testers, radio literature, variometers, and CBs offered. Sellers came from eight states and buyers from fourteen.

Donated items put \$90.00 into the treasury. Ten percent of the sellers' totals also went into the treasury. A Crosley, Day-Fan, and Freshman went to new homes in Ohio; a Polydyne found a new home in New York; Missouri has another crystal set; a Philco, AK, and Freshman went to Michigan; two King sets went to Illinois homes; and a loosecoupler went to Nebraska. Fear not! Indiana provided homes for a Freshman, Zenith, Philco, AK, and a Canadian

Marconi battery set; as a Ft. Wayne radio moved from Terre Haute to Indianapolis. This was the smoothest running auction to date with everything balancing, and the lines moving orderly and quickly. The auction was the highlight of the day for many in attendance. Mr. Waldron has a keen working knowledge of wireless sets and equipment. His patience and wit kept everyone interested all during the sale.

Saturday evening's activities were begun with a social hour. At the banquet, Vice President Gregg gave the blessing and President Shuck presided. He announced the contest categories and awards as follows:

I. CRYSTAL SETS - 1922 AND BEFORE: James and Felicia Kreuzer - United Wireless Type D (First).

II. HOMEBREW SETS BEFORE 1930:

Dr. E. E. Taylor (First).

III. TRF BATTERY SETS BEFORE 1930: Joe Willis - 1922 Davis Radio (First).

Ernest Lincoln - 1924 Radiola w/speaker AR-812 (Second).

Ray Hill - Stewart Warner No. 5 (Third).

IV. REGENERATIVE BATTERY SETS BEFORE 1930:

Don K. Johnston - Paragon III (First).

Joe Willis - 1921 Zenith w/AGN 3 amp. (Second).

Robert Lozier - Higrade Wireless Instrument Company (Third).

V. NOVELTY AND DECO RADIOS (TUBE TYPE):

Marcella Schultz - International Kadette (First).

Robert Lozier - Micro Pocket Radio (Second).

Del Barrett - Hopalong Cassidy Radio with autographed picture (Third).

VI. MIDGET AND MANTLE SETS INCLUDING

CATHEDRALS: John Miller - Echophone S-5

Cathedral (First).

Frank Heathcote - Tom Thumb Midget  
(Second).

The Ron Scranton Best of Show Award went to Mr. and Mrs. Kreuzer of Buffalo, New York. The Judging Committee was composed of Ralph Barnett, Frank Heathcote, Ed Taylor, and Walt Sanders, Chairman. When a conflict of interest occurred, the judge disqualified himself. With so many fine entries, this was a difficult contest to judge. It was a joy to see and share the contest items that were displayed.

The Saturday night program was an AWA film, narrated by Bruce Kelly, entitled "Those Wonderful Magazine Covers." The covers shown were mainly from the ARRL publication QST. Members and guests "Over 30" especially enjoyed the nostalgic topics. At the closing of the evening's activities, the mayor of Auburn gave a gracious welcome to his town and invited us back.

Marilyn B. Johnston, Secretary  
Indiana Historical Radio Society

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Here are some of the auction prices realized.

AK 33 complete with six good tubes, works - \$40.

AK48 works o.k. - \$40.

WOW Crystal Set \$75.

Crosley Book Condenser - \$14.

Burns Speaker, black, with one petal cracked, but a good coil - \$55.

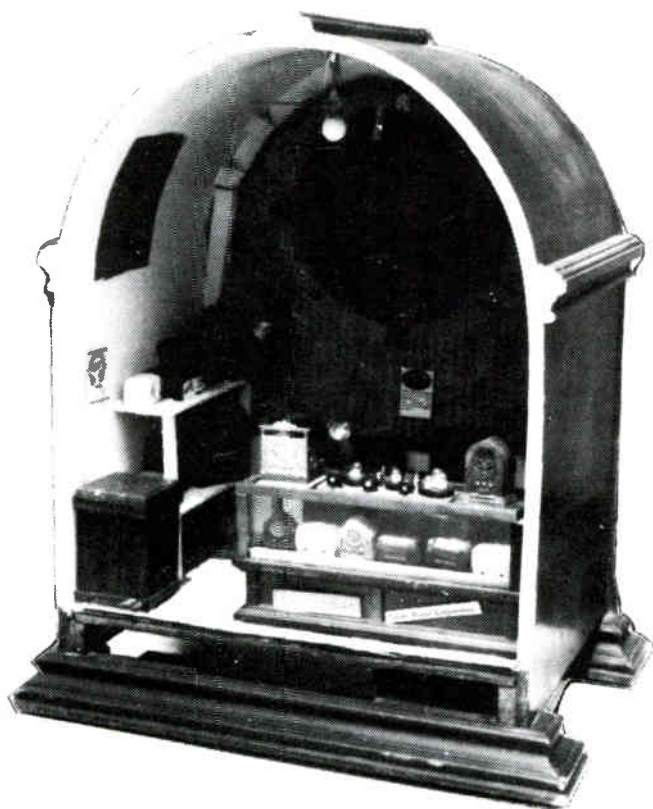
Pliodyne with tubes - \$85.

Crosley 51SD - \$95.



FROM THE XYL-DISTAFF-AND CO-EDITOR'S CORNER:

While I saw many fine and interesting radios and radio-related items at Auburn this year, I want to mention one in particular. The picture shows the work of Gladys Schultz. She has created inside a G. E. mantle radio cabinet a miniature radio showroom. Gladys is



interested in dollhouses; her husband (and IHRS member) Fred is a radio collector. She combined their two hobbies to produce an interior which is very realistic. Some of the tiny radios are "ready-mades," produced by dollhouse manufacturers; the cash register and ceiling fan are also mass-produced. However, if you look very

closely, you'll see right there on the top of the display case a miniscule Atwater-Kent breadboard. Behind the display case is the "radiotrician's" workbench, which has a few RCA tube boxes lying around!

I didn't get to talk with Gladys, so I don't know how many hours she spent on her store, but her husband was pleased to show it off. He is the Zenith dealer in Ligonier, Indiana, and has approximately one hundred fifty old radios on display in his store. He showed me photographs of his display.

One of the really good aspects of this Co-Editor's job is meeting and talking with our membership. You never know to what lengths (or in this case--shorts) radio preservation for posterity can take one....

EDNA



Keeping Financial Matters Under Control. IHRS Auction, 1985

# WHY ARE OLD RADIOS...?

## PART 1

For most collectors one of the fascinations of antique radios is their endless variety. Components, cabinet styles, and particularly circuits of innumerable types abound. And while we may often ask ourselves just why we like them, we seldom ask why old radios are what they are. Although this might at first sound like a rather odd question, its answer is important and in pursuing it, we can gain considerable insight into the nature of early radio.

The reasons for the great variation in radio circuitry in the early 20's can be traced directly to the nature of the first vacuum tubes. Specifically, they had two characteristics that created severe problems for home radio reception and threatened to sharply limit the development of the new industry. First they required the use of batteries which were both inconvenient and expensive. Second the internal elements of the tubes (filament, grid, and plate) acted as small capacitors which made amplification at "high" frequencies (200 meters and down) almost impossible because of coupling effects. Virtually all the many variations in radio circuitry in the early 20's can be understood in terms of the need to minimize the number of tubes required for reception and the necessity to operate at relatively low frequencies in order to achieve greatest efficiency in amplification.

By using the least number of vacuum tubes, battery drain and thus expense could be kept to a minimum. However, in order to be able to receive distant stations (DX), one had to amplify the signal far beyond the inherent capability of a single tube. As a result, early radio designers were all faced with a common problem. To get maximum

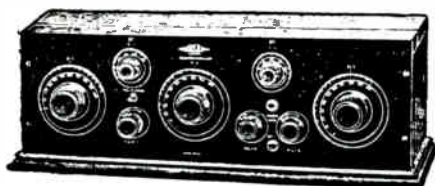


amplification, they either had to use a large number of tubes or else figure out some way of greatly increasing the amplifying power of a single tube. The first answer to this challenge was E. H. Armstrong's REGENERATIVE CIRCUIT, about which controversy raged for years, both in the press and in the patent courts. Basically this circuit allowed the operator to take the slightly amplified output signal from a tube and re-input it into the same tube for additional amplification. If this were done to a sufficient degree (through the use of a regeneration control on the front panel), then a very high degree of amplification could be obtained from a single tube and distant stations could be heard. Such sets were easy to build and to afford and hence were immensely popular. Many survive today, both homebrew and commercial types. The problem with these sets, however, was that if regeneration were carried to an extreme, the tube oscillated and the set became a miniature transmitter. An amateur radio club in Cleveland carried out tests in 1924 which showed that such receivers when oscillating could be heard over 40 miles away and would interfere with reception over a wide area. It is easy to imagine what reception must have been like in a neighborhood where many of these receivers were in use. "Listening in" to a complete program without interruption was practically impossible. It is no exaggeration to say that the regenerative or "bloop" receiver nearly destroyed radio before it even got going.

The Kennedy Model 220 is typical of commercial versions of the regenerative detector set. For loud speaker operation, an optional two-stage audio amplifier could also be purchased. The Westinghouse RADA combination used a similar approach. Both used a UV-200 tube as detector and UV-201's for audio stages. The Aeriola SR is a similar set using the WD-11 dry cell tube.

These sets are easy to recognize since they have a regeneration control on the front panel. Homebrew versions are frequently encountered but may be more difficult to recognize. The most common ways of achieving regeneration were through the use of a "tickler" coil or through a plate tuning variometer. The former is by far the more common, and a number of different types of commercial and home-made variocouplers may be used. The latter type is the so-called twin variometer/variocoupler set, a well-made example of which can be a real beauty. Many other ways of achieving regeneration were tried, and each was given a fancy name by its "inventor." Some, such as the REINARTZ CIRCUIT were quite effective, while others such as the "Carpet of Baghdad" were little more than frauds. The regenerative circuit can always be recognized no matter how greatly it is disguised. Any radio in which both the grid and plate circuits are tuned is regenerative. For a brief time, however, radio design was a rough and tumble world, and every new issue of every radio magazine had yet more "new" circuits for its readers. Each one, needless to say, the last word in reception. In future issues of the Bulletin we will explore some of the more significant types of old radio circuits and see how they too were attempts to solve the same old problems of the vacuum tube.

George B. Clemans



*Courtesy of Amaco Products Co.*

**Melco Receiver**

## AT HOME ON THE RANGE WITH AUNT SAMMY

Does anyone out there in Radioland remember Aunt Sammy? Aunt Sammy? Sure, you do. She was Uncle Sam's wife! Her first broadcast was pretty early--October 4, 1926. Her show was called "Housekeepers' Chat" and consisted of talks about homemakers' concerns: furniture, appliances, clothing, food, etc. She was a kind of audio Heloise. The big highlights of her show, though, were Aunt Sammy's menus and recipes. These, as well as the rest of the broadcast script, were provided to individual radio stations by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Bureau of Home Economics and the Radio Service. Aunt Sammy was a well rounded gal. She took on world affairs and told jokes.

Nevertheless the recipes got the most listener response. At first listener requests were filled by mimeographed sheets of recipes, but after Aunt Sammy had been on the air for only a year, the Bureau issued a pamphlet with the most-asked-for recipes. Cookbooks were issued three times between 1927 and 1931 under the title of AUNT SAMMY'S RADIO RECIPES. AUNT SAMMY'S RADIO RECIPES REVISED was the fourth edition (May, 1931) and cost fifteen cents from the Superintendent of Documents in Washington. The very first cookbook to be printed in braille was Aunt Sammy's in 1932. The eagerly accepted recipes and menus were the work of two women in the Bureau of Home Economics: Ruth VanDeman, Associate Specialist in Charge of Information, and Fanny Walker Yeatman, Junior Specialist in Foods.

But there were many Aunt Sammys. Women at the local stations around the country read the government-provided information to

their listeners. By the end of that first year of programs, forty three stations had Aunt Sammys. By 1932, 194 stations were presenting "Housekeepers' Chats" with Aunt Sammy. Many stations carried the show five times a week.

For some reason which I could not discover, Aunt Sammy broadcast no more after 1934. The character was dropped. The show, however, continued in a drier vein and was retitled "Homemaker Chats." Perhaps, the Great Depression cast a pall over Aunt Sammy's easy-going personality, and she wasn't suited for the grim chore of managing a bleak Depression household. "Homemaker Chats" lasted, without her, until 1946.

Here is one of Aunt Sammy's radio recipes from the 1920's. Imagine listening in on your little Crosley Pup in the kitchen, or, maybe, you've gone into the living room to tune in the program on the far more reliable Atwater Kent Model 20 in that gorgeous Pooley Cabinet.

#### BAKED CUCUMBERS

3 good -sized cucumbers.  
3/4 cup fine dry breadcrumbs.  
3 tablespoons butter.  
1/2 teaspoon salt.  
1-1/2 tablespoons chopped onion.  
1-1/2 teaspoons finely chopped parsley.  
1 tablespoon chopped celery.  
1 cup tomatoes cut in pieces.

Wash cucumbers and cut in half lengthwise. Scoop out as much as possible of the pulp without breaking the skin. Brown the onion in the fat, add other ingredients mixed with the cucumber pulp. Stir constantly, and cook five minutes, or until dry. Place the filling in the cucumber shells and bake until the shells are soft and the mixture is brown on top.

The information contained in this article is from AUNT SAMMY'S RADIO RECIPES REVISED (May, 1931) and SELECTIONS FROM AUNT SAMMY'S RADIO RECIPES AND USDA FAVORITES (August, 1976). The latter is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. Price not given. My copy came from my Congressman.

Edna W. Clemans



Registering Old Equipment,  
IHRS Auction. 1985

# RADIOADS

WANTED: 4 3/4" diameter tuning dial plate for Sparton AC-62 with both Kc and meters. Does anyone have a paper or photographic replica? Ross Smith, 1133 Strong Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46514

NEEDED FOR RESTORATION PROJECT: Airway Radio rheostats and audio transformers and any info. on Airway Radio. George Clemans, 851 West Wooster Street, Bowling Green, OH (419) 352-7198

ANTIQUÉ RADIO CLASSIFIED, "The National Publication for Buyers and Sellers of Old Radios and Related Items," announces it is entering its second year of publication. The publication, the largest of its type, caters to those collectors who have an interest in collecting radios of the period 1905 to 1940's. Each subscriber is entitled to a free classified ad in each issue. It is published 12 times a year in an attractive 5 1/2 x 8 inch format. Interested persons should contact the publisher, Gary B. Schneider, for more information. ANTIQUÉ RADIO CLASSIFIED, 9511 Sunrise Blvd., Suite J-23, Cleveland, Ohio 44133. Phone: (216) 582-3094.

RADIOFEST '85: Hundreds of collectors will meet at the Clock Tower Inn in Rockford, Illinois, August 9-10 for Radiofest '85. Special events will include a two-day swap and sell session, presentations on Atwater Kent, radio restoration, and Reginald A. Fessenden. A display of radio advertising will be featured. There will also be a contest with best of show and a novelty category—the heaviest radio! The convention

will conclude with a banquet and awards presentation, featuring door prizes and a special guest speaker. For more information, write: Joe Willis, P.O. Box 14732, Chicago, Illinois 60614.

WANTED: Information about the Moon-Satterlee Radio Company and any of its radio products. George Clemans, 851 West Wooster Street, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402 (419) 352-7198.



"HERE IS THE SUGAR WE OWE YOU, AND MA SAYS CAN SHE BORROW YOUR HEAD PHONES AND B BATTERY. WE'RE GONA HAVE COMP'NY TONIGHT"

## »» NEXT IHRS MEETING ««

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1985  
8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. CHICAGO TIME  
LOGANSFORT, INDIANA

Our annual Logansport meeting will be held once again at Riverside Park in the Shelterhouse, where we shall enjoy a carry-in dinner. There will be the usual flea market, swapping, and exchange of information. After a brief business meeting, there will be the popular vote contest. The judges will be all those present (members and non-members alike), who will determine the best entry in each of three categories:

Category I: Radios ending in -dyne, -tone, or -phone; such as Tigerdyne, Pink-a-tone, and Etherphone.

Category II: Mail Order Company Radios; such as Montgomery Ward's Airline, Sears' Silvertone, or Federated Purchasers' Acratone.

Category III: Your very first old radio, or the one you've had the longest. Bring the radio that turned you on.

So, with your dish(es) to carry in and your flea market junkie, bring one or more entries for the contest. For any further information, call after July 23rd, our hosts Frank and Diane Heathcote (219) 722-3612.