

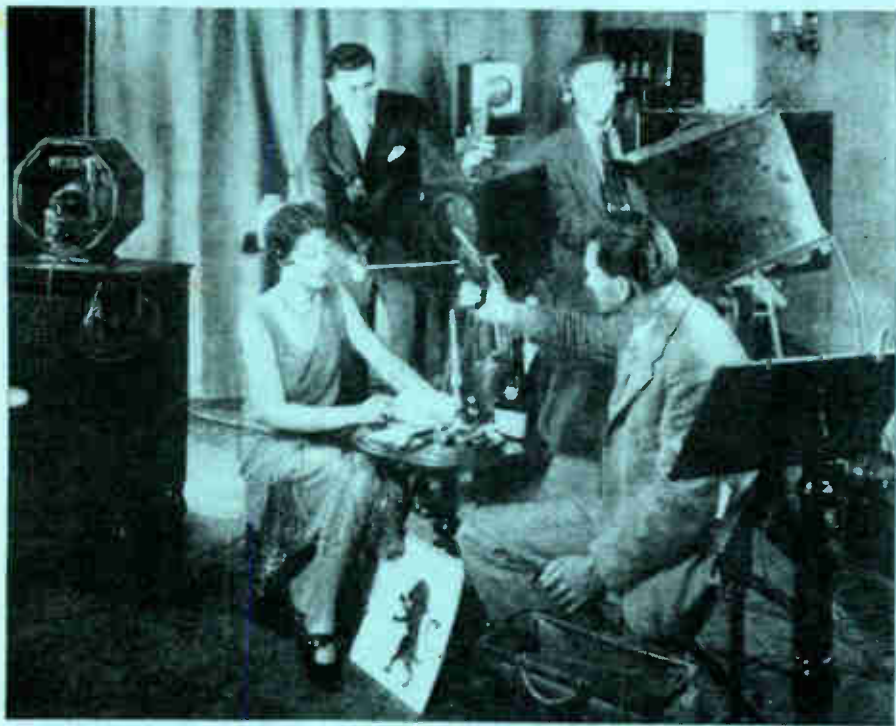
# Indiana Historical Radio Society

## BULLETIN

Volume 15

June, 1986

Number 2



A very rare picture of an early 1929 telecast from General Electric's WGY studios in Schenectady. In the left background is a tele-receiver.



245 N. Oakland Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46201

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IHRS is a NON-PROFIT organization which was founded in 1971. Annual membership dues are \$8.00 which includes first class quarterly IHRS Bulletin. RADIOADS are free to all members.

**\*\*PLEASE\*\***

**Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope  
when requesting information.**

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

This column is actually a little late in reporting the Auburn meet but it is the first Bulletin since that meet. I want to thank all the people who made this meet such a tremendous success. Member Ross Smith was the general chairman, and he deserves much credit for his efforts. Certainly the many people who worked in the flea market, manned the auction, kept track of all the auction items, as well as the money (!) did a wonderful job. Steve Waldron did his usual fine job as auctioneer.

The banquet was well attended. Bob Sievers of WOWO radio fame presented a very enjoyable travelogue on his trip to many islands in the South Seas. His selection of many beautiful slides and easy-going presentation climaxed a memorable evening.

On May 31 members met at Riverside Park in Logansport, IN. for our annual swap meet and pitch-in dinner. The weather was beautiful, in stark contrast to the preceding week-end. (500 mile race fans no doubt were equally happy with the weather!) Our hosts were Frank and Diana Heathcote. About forty members and guests attended. This meet at Logansport has become almost a tradition, and we are most grateful to the Heathcotes for their efforts. We were pleasantly surprised by a visit from Charter Member Marshall Howenstein and Mrs. Howenstein. Following the meet, many members visited Frank and Diana's home to see Frank's collection of cathedral radios. If you have not seen these, avail yourself of the next opportunity; Frank has a truly remarkable collection.

We will have our annual election at Valpo on September 13. I have asked Dr. Ed Taylor to select a nominating committee to present a slate of officers for next year.

Please try to attend this meeting. We should have at least a quarter of the members for our election. For those who have not attended this meet before, the collection of equipment in the Valpo Tech museum will provide a real insight into communication history. For example, there is a working spark transmitter, (for display of course), as well as several pieces of WW II Navy radio equipment. Because of their size and weight, these latter are not flea market items!

In closing, we have had three excellent meets this year. Our next meet will be at the Johnstons' in August. The location is elsewhere in this Bulletin. I hope many of our members can join us at these last two meets this year. I'm sure you will find them most enjoyable.

Paul Gregg

## THANKS, ED!

In the March Bulletin mailing was included a history of the Mallory Company. This was the work of Dr. E. E. Taylor, and he generously provided copies for each IHRS member.



# THE INTERNATIONAL "KADETTE:" A REVOLUTIONARY DINOSAUR

By George B. Clemans

Early in 1933 the radio world was startled by the appearance of the International "Kadette," a radio receiver that seemed to embody a number of truly revolutionary new features.

- It was quite small, weighing "only five pounds" (!) and priced at \$25.00 complete with tubes.
- It was truly universal and was capable of operating on any of the then commonly available AC and DC power lines as well as batteries.
- It was housed in a striking bakelite cabinet that was available in a choice of colors.

Manufactured by the International Radio Corporation of Ann Arbor, Michigan, it was a set that was touted as setting new trends in radio design and appearance. Beneath all the publicity, however, the set is found on close examination to be remarkably primitive compared to other sets then on the market. Difficult as it is to

THE INTERNATIONAL  
**KADETTE**  
Radio

**A SENSATION!**



The only radio that operates on any 110-volt circuit—AC or DC—25 or 60 cycle current.

- weighs only 5 lbs., carries like a camera.
- gives room-full volume—crystal clear and has superb tone.
- cased in genuine bakelite.
- a real distance-getter, too!

See it. Hear it. For sale at all good stores.

Complete with tubes . . . **\$25<sup>00</sup>**

- Carrying case \$1.50 extra.
- De luxe models slightly higher.

*Originated and manufactured by*

**INTERNATIONAL RADIO CORPORATION**

Ann Arbor, Michigan

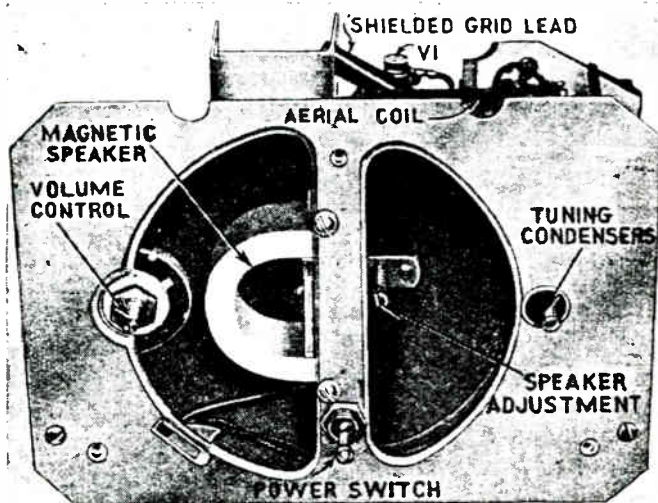
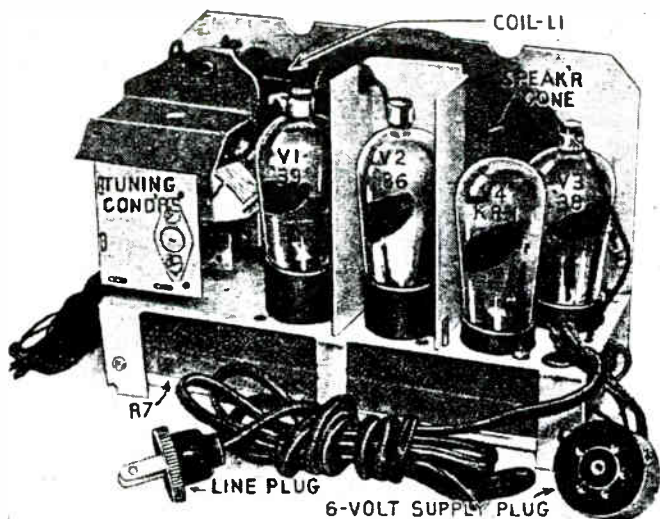
believe, the receiver utilized no technology that had not already been developed ten years earlier. It was truly, then, in a technical sense a revolutionary dinosaur.

The circuit diagram (inside the back cover of this issue) and the accompanying pictures reveal what the set was really like. The cabinet was indeed small and smart looking, but inside was a simple TRF circuit! Although the tubes were different, this was basically the same radio as any "three-dialer" from the mid-twenties. The audio section was found to be nothing more than a stage of resistance-coupled amplification that differed in no essential detail from the Daven and similar units that were made much earlier. And even the speaker was the magnetic cone type placed directly in the plate circuit of the output tube. Crosley, RCA and Atwater Kent were doing this very thing in 1923.

What, then, was so sensational about the Kadette? Its bakelite cabinet and small size were new, as was its ability to run on virtually any

power line. But technically it advanced the radio art of the time practically not at all. Its most important innovation was not in its design, but in the way it was marketed. For the first time the manufacturer of a radio assumed full responsibility for servicing the product. If trouble developed, all the owner of a Kadette had to do was return the set to Ann Arbor - along with one dollar and any necessary repairs would be made. By thus cutting out the service man, the manufacturer made it possible for practically anyone to sell Kadettes - drugstores, grocery stores, or anyone else who might have been interested. This was indeed a revolution that has persisted to the present day.

In any case, a Kadette in good condition is a very interesting find for the collector. It occupies a very special place in the history of radio and radio design and can enhance practically any collection.



# AUBURN REPORT

The regional spring meeting of the Antique Wireless Association and the Indiana Historical Radio Society, otherwise known as "Auburn," was held at the Auburn-Cord-Dusenberg Museum in Auburn, Indiana, on Friday and Saturday, April 18 and 19, 1986. Approximately 150 people registered at the museum over the two-day period. Trunk sales and wheelin'-n-dealin' began early Friday afternoon, and in the evening there was an old movie and AWA show on the British radio collector.

Saturday dawned with some showers, but most collectors were undaunted and were ultimately rewarded with a fine day for prowling the museum parking lot in search of radio treasure. Meanwhile, the contest judges, led by Don Meyers, were determining the following prize-winning radios:

## 1. CRYSTAL SETS (any year)

- |                         |                  |                       |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Factory manufactured | 1. Glenn Rogers  | 1925 Howe Crystal Set |
| B. Homebrew             | 1. Don Joyce     |                       |
|                         | 2. Clinton Blais |                       |

## 2. NOVELTY, ART DECO, AND MIRROR RADIOS BEFORE 1941

No entries

## 3. BATTERY RADIOS BEFORE 1930

- |                       |                     |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| A. Regenerative       | Tie for first place |                           |
|                       | 1. A. C. Stoddard   | 1928 Pilot Super Wasp     |
|                       | 1. Robert Lozier    | Igranic Universal         |
| B. TRF or Neutrodyne  | 1. Ray Hill         | Federal 61                |
|                       | 2. Del Barrett      | Slagle Model 4            |
| C. Superheterodyne    | 1. Don Johnston     | 1926 St. James-only entry |
| D. Homebrew, any type | 1. Glen Rogers      |                           |
|                       | 2. George Clemans   |                           |

## 4. CATHEDRAL AND MANTEL TUBE-TYPE RADIOS

- |                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. Lionel Haid    | Clarion     |
| 2. John D. Miller | 1931 Halson |

## 5. ATWATER KENT RECEIVERS BEFORE 1930

No entries

## 6. GREBE RECEIVERS

No entries

## 7. ALL TYPES OF SPEAKERS BEFORE 1930

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Eric vonGrimminstein | 1925 Orchestrion |
| 2. Robert Lozier        | Herald Speaker   |

The Best of Show was Ray Hill's Federal 61, for which he received the Grebe Trophy. Two Indiana manufactured items were winners: Del Barrett's Slagle was made in Fort Wayne, and Eric vonGrimminstein's Orchestrion with a wooden horn was made in Indianapolis.

In the afternoon, under the chairmanship of Glenn Rogers, the auction proceeded quickly with Steve Waldron as our able auctioneer. There were one hundred bid numbers issued with 240 items offered. Interestingly, the highest priced item in the whole auction was not a radio at all, but an Atwater Kent ADVERTISING SIGN! It brought \$140.00. The highest priced receiver was a Stromberg-Carlson Neutrodyne 1A at \$85.00. The highest speaker going was at the same price, an Atwater Kent Model M. I think the lesson to be learned here is that the Atwater Kent nameplate will draw a bundle of bucks quicker than any other brand. The name gets more expensive if it isn't even on a RADIO! Don't you wonder what one of Mr. Kent's refrigerators or vacuum cleaners would bring? The sleeper of the entire auction, in my opinion, was a one-tube Clapp-Eastham regenerative receiver, complete with tip-tube, which was knocked down at \$80.00. Here are some other auction prices.



**Steve Waldron, auctioneer at Auburn.**



Crosley Trirdyne - stripped cabinet, rough, with tubes	\$30.00
Atwater Kent 20 Compact - working order	37.50
RCA Tombstone - working, missing some veneer	25.00
Crosley Farm Radio	30.00
Three Tube Homebrew - regenerative	17.50
GE Console	6.00
AK 30 - rough	30.00
AK 20 Compact -rough, no tubes	9.00
AK 36 with Type Y Power Supply - untested, with tubes	52.50
Silvertone Neutrodyne - with tubes, untested	35.00
Freshman Masterpiece	27.00
Admiral Phonoradio, table model, no cabinet	3.00
Zenith AM Radio - white plastic cabinet, works	3.00
Sky Buddy - works, with tubes	15.00
Zenith Transoceanic with Wave Magnet Antenna - missing handle, fair, not working	27.50
Philco Car Radio	6.00
Buick Radio	7.00
Studebaker Radio with manual	1.00
Western Electric Amplifier	22.50
Jewett Speaker	20.00
Stromberg-Carlson Cone Speaker - works	32.50
Magnavox Speaker - works	30.00
Music Master Speaker	47.50
Magnavox Type M3 Speaker - works	67.50
RCA Needlepoint Speaker - unknown condition	47.50
Radiola 1325	35.00
Thompson Speaker - works	47.50
Riders Manuals, Vols. 2-15	60.00
Service Buzzer - 1914	6.00
Sterling Tube Tester Model 401 - works	10.00
Mercury Tube Tester - modern	5.00
Webster Wire Recorder	3.00
Instructograph with tapes	10.00
Advertising sign - Columbia Dry Batteries	11.00

The meet concluded with the banquet and a talk by Bob Sievers of WOWO. The membership owes a debt of gratitude to Ross Smith for his tremendous effort as General Chairman of Auburn in 1986.

Edna Clemans

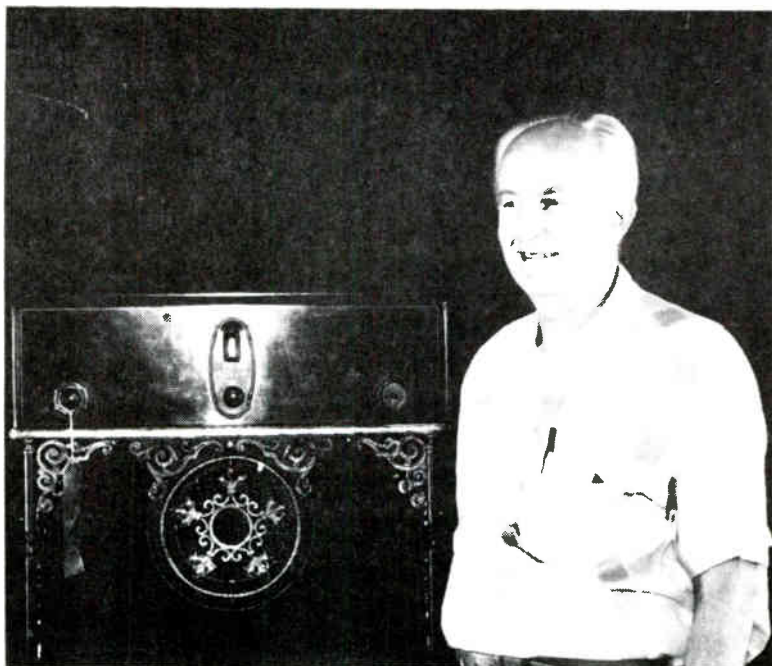
## OBITUARY

IHRS Member John D. Leslie of Mishawaka, IN died recently. We extend sympathy to his family.

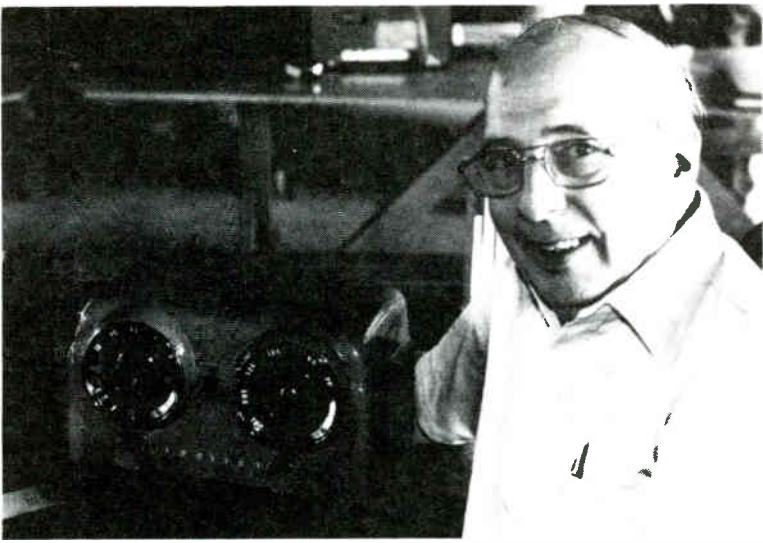
## LOGANSPORT CONTEST RESULTS

The popular radio contest organized by Frank Heathcote had two categories. In the first category were Pre-1950 Clock Radios. Among the entries were a Deco Air-King by Air-King Products of Brooklyn, a Detrola 302, a four-tube Firestone Time Tuner, and an Erla cathedral with Telechron clock. The winner was a blue plastic 1949 Crosley Model #11-125U. Lionel Haid is the owner. He says the radio and clock both work fine, and his family uses the set all the time. Category 2 was Pre-1950 Radios from RCA and related companies. Entries were a Radiola Model 44 from 1929, a Radiola II, Westinghouse Aeriola Sr. Receiver and Amplifier, and a Graybar Model 311 on legs. The winning radio, a Radiola 18 with floor stand (1927) is owned by George Hausske. George said a New York furniture company made the speaker stand for the RCA speaker.

Edna Clemans



George Hausske with Logansport winner.



Lionel Haid and prize-winning Crosley.

## TELEVISION PIONEERING AT PURDUE

From Marshall Howenstein

Some of the earliest television broadcasting occurred in Indiana on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette. In 1929 the Grigsby-Grunow Company financed a television research project at the university under the direction of Professor Roscoe H. George, a native Hoosier. At that time cathode ray tubes had to be continuously pumped in order to maintain their vacuum. One of the first results of the Purdue research was the development of a demountable sealed CRT. Subsequent work led to a cathode ray tube with improved color characteristics.

By August 1931 the research team was ready to go on the air, and the university applied for and was granted a license. Thus station W9XG was born. On December 31 of that year, the first telecast was made, a film show that was received by monitors in the laboratories and engineering buildings on campus. About this time the Grigsby-Grunow Company dropped their sponsorship of the project and RCA picked it up. As a result, television broadcasting in Indiana continued.

One of the greatest disappointments of the research group was the loss of one of their major patents. Their application was successfully challenged, largely as a result of the failure of the RCA legal department to act in time to save it.

Station W9XG was on the air from 1931 to 1939 with a variety of different types of programs. The second World War, however, ended its career. The demands of war research were too great, and the project had to be abandoned. Nonetheless, Professor George and his staff made significant contributions to the development of television at a critical time in its history. Few TV stations can trace their ancestry back so far.

**Editors' Note.** The material for this story was obtained by IHRS Life Member Marshall Howenstein from Mrs. Rosa George. It is taken from an article by Lloyd Hippensteele appearing in the **Journal and Courier** of Lafayette, Indiana in 1961.

# TELEVISION STATION W9XG

PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

Date.....*Dec*.....19.3.1

Dear Mr.....

We thank you for your.....*W9XG*.....pictures.

Remarks:.....

# W9XG

Program: Standard motion picture film,  
newsreels, etc.  
Transmission at 60 lines per picture and  
20 pictures per second. Single spiral disc.  
No sound accompaniment; voice announce-  
ments only.  
Frequency: 2050 kc.

Power output: Varies from time to time;  
maximum of 1,500 watts.

Time of Operation:

Days: ..... Hours: (C.S.T.)  
Tuesday.....7:30 P. M.  
Thursday.....8:00 P. M.



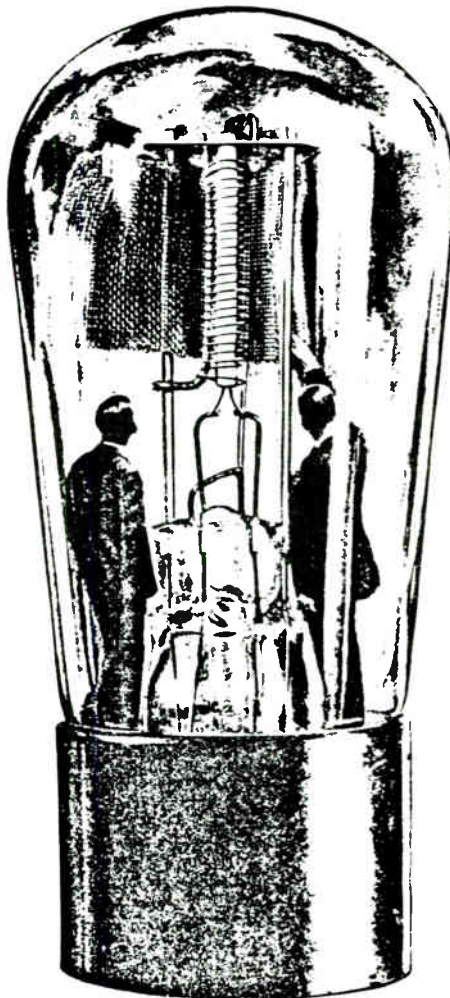
## THE RETURN OF THE TRIODE

Hang on to your OIA's, because the vacuum tube is making a comeback! Or so says **Science** magazine in a recent issue (volume 231, p. 218, 1986). The reason for renewed interest in vacuum tubes is speed - particularly for making ultra fast computers.

The speed of a triode switch is limited by the time it takes electrons to travel from the cathode (filament) to the anode (plate). Their potential speed in vacuum is 60 times faster than in a semiconductor as in a transistor. Thus, ultra small triodes offer promise of considerably faster speed than transistors. While a transistor can switch in about 5.8 microseconds, a triode one micrometer long could do it in less than one.

Researchers at the Naval Research Laboratory are currently developing integrated "vacuum tube" circuits that are one millimeter in diameter and contain over 10,000 "triodes" having a "plate" voltage of 500. So maybe we will see that old technology that we enjoy collecting returning in modern form after all!

George B. Clemans



## SHOPPING AT SHIPSY


This summer while shopping at the Shipshewana Flea Market your editors found some interesting items: a package of Radio Razor Blades, an RCA FH speaker which looked different from the more readily found Model 1325, and a Don Winslow of the Navy Manual and Creed packed with a Tom Sawyer pink shirt, cuff links and bow tie. Don Winslow was a children's radio program that began in 1937 on NBC and ran through WW II. The dealer had two of the shirts, all packed in the original boxes and cellophane and wanted \$50.00 for each outfit. Your editors did not buy.

## RADIOADS

**WANTED:** Postcards of wireless and radio stations, radio stars, radio advertising, and what-have-you. Please no QSL's. Edna Clemans, 851 West Wooster Street, Bowling Green, OH 43402.

**MICHIGAN ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB** next meeting. July 25 and 26 at Dillon Inn in Lansing, Michigan. Special room rates available. For information call Jim Clark (517) 323-9595.

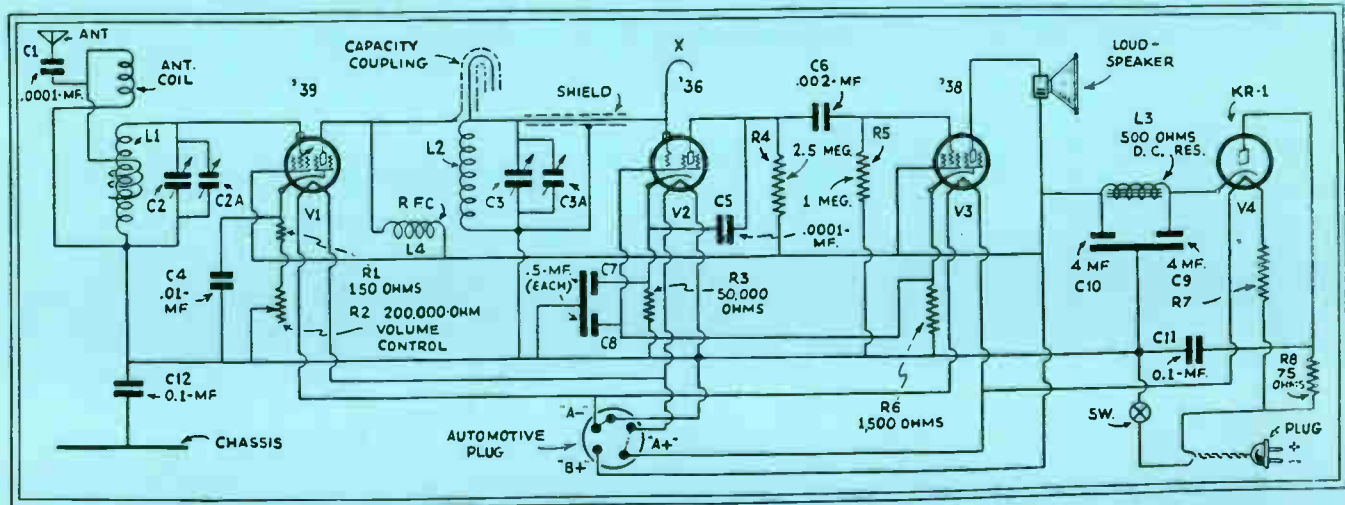
**FOR SALE:** Large quantity of old tubes, radios, and speakers. Contact E. M. Johnston, Sibley, IL 61773. (217) 745-2464. (Lead from Marilyn Johnston).



**BUY - SELL - TRADE -**

**ANTIQUE RADIO CLASSIFIED** - The *number one* source to buy, sell, and trade vintage radios, speakers, tubes, parts, and related items. Published monthly, *A.R.C.* features a large classified ad section, display ads, regular columns and feature articles. Subscribers receive a free classified ad in each issue - a \$24.00 value free! For sample issue send \$2.00 or send stamp for free brochure. *Antique Radio Classified*, 9511-23 Sunrise Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44133 (216) 582-3094

# THE INTERNATIONAL KADETTE



## THE LOG OF THE IHRS

Windfall is on Eastern Standard Time all year long.

**Saturday, August 2:** IHRS Windfall Meeting. All day Saturday, August 2, 1986. Howard County and Tipton County Line. See map inside. Swap 'N' Sell 'N' Visit. Plenty of space for setting up. Please bring your own display table, lawn chairs, and your favorite carry-in dish. We have electricity and water for campers if you arrive on Friday night. Children are welcome with their parents. (Walking distance to fishing pond.)

Contest categories for the Windfall Meeting:

- I. SLIDE TUNERS
  - A. Factory
  - B. Homebrew
- II. CRYSTAL SETS
  - A. Factory
  - B. Homebrew
- III. ONE-TUBE REGENERATIVE
  - A. Factory
  - B. Homebrew
- IV. TOMBSTONES
- V. CATHEDRALS
- VI. KIT SETS (Any type) 1920 - 1928

All IHRS, ARCA, ARCI, MARC, AWA members and guests are welcome. If you are not a member, come and join a friendly, active, and a very enthusiastic radio club. Don, Marilyn, and Sam (317) 945-7735.

**Saturday, September 13:** IHRS Valpo Meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Art Hershman are our hosts at Valparaiso Technical Institute. Details later.

# MAN-MADE S-T-A-T-I-C

