



Indiana Historical Radio Society
PRESERVATION FOR POSTERITY

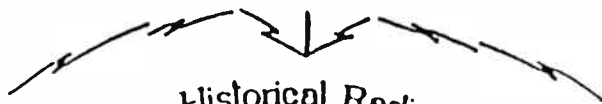
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NO. 3



Victory
Manufactured by the Indianapolis Cage Corporation
1701 Gent Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana



Indiana Historical Radio Society
BULLETIN

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IHRS RESPONSIBILITIES

Activities,
Business,
Publicity
)

Sites and Dates
of Meetings

Applications,
Correspondence

Dues,
Financial,
Address Changes

News,
Articles,
Radioads

Donations,
Scrapbook
Material

Bulletin Deadlines

News, Articles, Radioads--2/15, 5/15, 8/15, 11/15

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The Indiana Historical Radio Society is a non-profit organization founded in 1971. Annual membership dues are \$10.00, which includes the quarterly *IHRS Bulletin*. Radioads are free to all members. Please include a S.A.S.E. when requesting information.

IHRS FALL FOLIAGE RADIO MEET

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1994

RILEY PARK, GREENFIELD, INDIANA

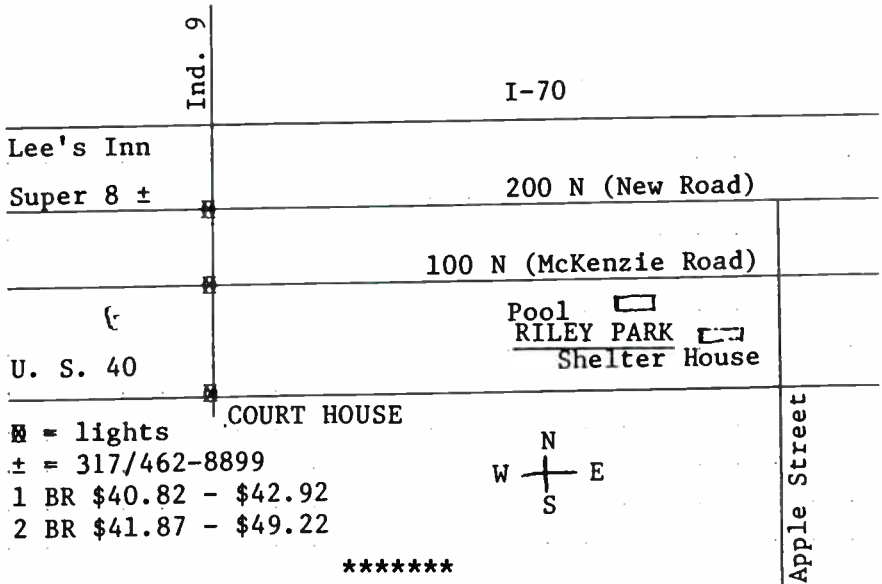
EARLY to NOON . . . Swap & Talk . . Flea Market

NOON . . . Pitch-In Luncheon . . . Bring a dish
to share

BUSINESS MEETING . . . Election of Officers

CONTEST: 1940s and 1950s Compacts

REGISTRATION: \$4.00/Family

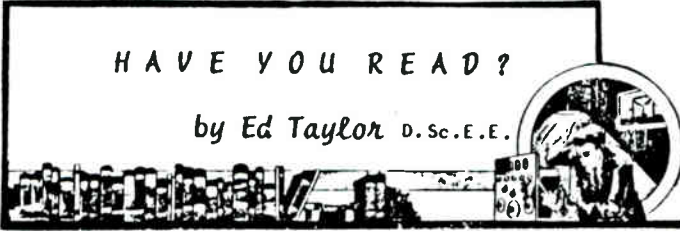


LARGE SHELTER HOUSE -- PLENTY OF CHAIRS AND TABLES (IN CASE OF RAIN)

CONTACT: GLENN FITCH - 317/565-6911

HAVE YOU READ?

by Ed Taylor D.Sc.E.E.



BAKELITE

AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO
COLLECTIBLE BAKELITE OBJECTS

by

PATRICK COOK AND CATHERINE SLESSOR

My Webster's unabridged lists: Bakelite, trademark used for any of various synthetic resins or plastics. Has the name become generic since first used in 1907? The trademark is now in the possession of Georgia-Pacific of Atlanta.

Bakelite is the first truly inexpensive manmade substance. This volume traces the history and cultural impact, from its discovery by Dr. Leo H. Baekland, to its current status as a highly collectable material. The authors concentrate on domestic and decorative art objects which impinged on our daily lives in the first half of this century. This "material of 1000 uses" is showcased in over 170 stunning color photographs.

The book is a beautifully mounted gallery of kitchenware, jewelry, toys, telephones and other objects with a special emphasis on radios, TVs and associated artifacts. There is a chapter devoted to radio design. Other pioneer plastic developments including: celluloid, acrylic, vulcanite, polythene, Beettleware, parkesine, plaskon, lucite, and even Catalin are discussed and pictured.

In addition, this solid reference gives important information, specifically relevant to the collector, on identification, care and maintenance of Bakelite.

Published in 1992/93 by Chartwell Books, the ISBN number is 1-55521-820-2.

A copy of this book sold at the recent IHRS auction in Kokomo.



THE VICTORY RADIO

By Michael Feldt

During the 1920s, canaries became a popular American pet. Canaries are a cage bird. Their popularity created a demand for bird cages in all shapes and sizes. Benjamin Auferheide, an Indianapolis entrepreneur, saw this as a business opportunity. He teamed up with two other gentlemen, John Nusbaum, who was educated in sales and marketing and Wilber (last name unknown) who was skilled in the spinning of steel. In 1928 they founded the Indianapolis Cage Corporation.

In a factory building of orange glazed brick, erected at the corner of 17th and Gent Street, they began manufacturing chromed steel bird cages, and later, a line of smoking stands. 1928 and 1929 proved to be prosperous years for the company until the Depression hit. A significant portion of the population could no longer afford to keep canaries and the sale of bird cages fell dramatically. Only the fulfilling of old orders, and their sales in smoking stands, kept the company solvent.

A new product had to be found. In 1932 the Indianapolis Cage Corporation entered the radio market. They felt they had the machinery

and the know-how to put on the market an inexpensive, yet quality made radio. They named their radio Victory. Priced at \$12.95, it was a 5 tube, TRF circuit housed in a choice of two table style cabinets. The chassis were assembled at the Cage factory and the cabinets built by a furniture company in southern Indiana. Production started in the fall of 1932 and sales were good, especially during the Christmas season.

It was not long, however, before radios began returning as defective. A major oversight in the production of the Victory radio was discovered. Instead of using rosin core solder in the wiring, acid core solder was used. Acid core solder was what the company was familiar with in the manufacture of bird cages and smoking stands. To honor the warranties, the company resoldered the faulty chassis or replaced them entirely. During this same period, John Nusbaum was secretly diverting sale prospects for bird cages away from the company to the Crown Bird Cage Company. A company being started by John Nusbaum's nephew, Ed Little. Problems with the Victory radio, coupled with John Nusbaum's deception, proved to be too severe a financial strain. The Indianapolis Cage Corporation went into bankruptcy in 1933.



SPECIAL EUREKA

Vacuum Cleaner With Set of \$6.00 Attachments

What a bargain. These Eureka's have been thoroughly rebuilt in the Eureka factory. Guaranteed quality. A complete set of attachments.

\$2.00 Down

\$19.85

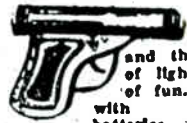
Toaster



Chrome Plated Electric Toaster. Turns Toast. Beautiful Design—Guaranteed Quality

\$1.00

PISTOL Flashlite



Press trigger and there is lots of light and lots of fun. Complete with batteries **69c**

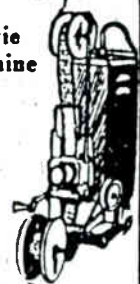
Electric Motors



All parts for complete assembly. Attaches to regular house socket. Educational for. 1/10-h. p. Complete with instructions—

\$1.95

Movie Machine



Keystone projector. Uses 16 M.M. film. powerful lenses, easy to operate, throws large, clear pictures. Do not confuse with cheap movie. This is a real value—

\$4.98

—SPECIAL—
AUTOMATIC
Electric Washer
\$29.50
Easy Terms
\$1.00
Delivers!



SPECIAL Victory Midget

Just think, a 5-tube Midget with large dynamic speaker Uses latest type tubes, 1933 Model. Only a few at this price. **\$12.95** \$2.00 Down.

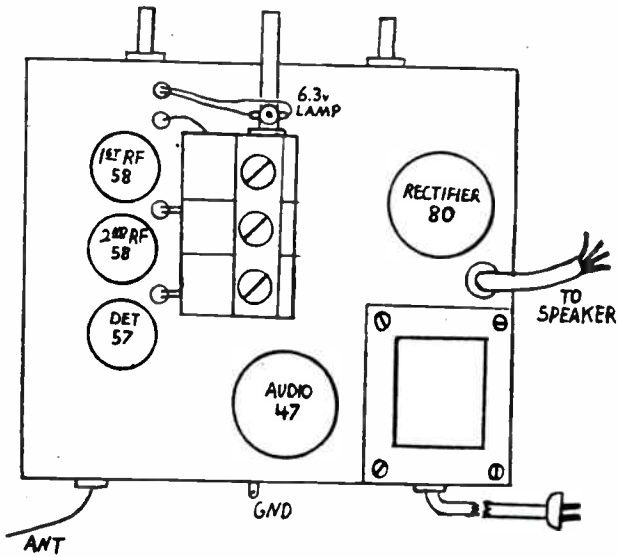
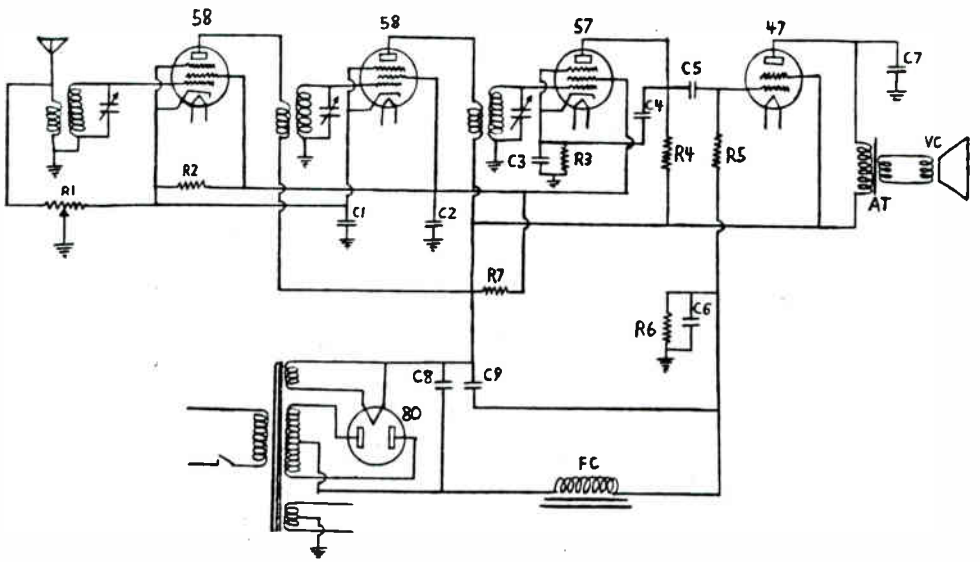


HATFIELD ELECTRIC COMPANY

MERIDIAN AT MARYLAND

RILEY 5412

Indianapolis News
December 12, 1932
Page 12



This is the schematic diagram and tube layout of the Victory.

HUGO GERNSBACK AND THE RADIO CONTEST

Hugo Gernsback probably started more radio magazines in his lifetime than anyone else. He also announced more radio contests as well, and in the April 1922 issue of his magazine Science and Invention, I found one of his better efforts. I had picked up a large stack of early radio magazines at a flea market, and this was one of them. In this contest Gernsback offered a prize of \$100 ("in gold", of course) for the best radio that could be built for under one dollar.

The winner was a fellow named James McLaughlin of New York who came up with a very cleverly designed crystal set using an ice cream container, paper clips and fasteners as the main raw materials. Truly a 'home-brew' in every sense.

I was therefore more than a little surprised to find in the September issue of the same year an advertisement for a commercial version of the same set! It was called the Radiogem and it too cost only a dollar. This was really fast work. Just five months from contest winner to radio manufacturer. I have never seen a set like this one, so I built a replica from the directions given by McLaughlin in the original article. The most difficult part turned out to be finding one of the old style ice cream containers. But the final result looks almost exactly like the original.

I was wondering, has any IHRS member ever found an example of the Radiogem or its homemade counterpart? If so, it would be interesting to get them all together at some future IHRS Meeting. The full history of the Radiogem provides a new insight into life in the early days of radio broadcasting.

by George B. Clemans, 851 West Wooster Street, Bowling Green, OH 43402 - 419/352-7198

The next two pages support Clemans' article - Editor



George B. Cleman's Home-Brew

The RADIOGEM

Patents Pending.

\$1 Receiving Set—The Simplest Radio Outfit Made—Yet as Practical as the Most Expensive!

You need know absolutely nothing about wires to operate and enjoy the RADIOGEM. It is so sturdy, so simply constructed that it is small wonder radio engineers who have tested it have pronounced the RADIOGEM a brilliant achievement. The RADIOGEM is a crystal radio receiving set for everyone at a price anyone can afford.

Why The RADIOGEM Can Be Sold For Only \$1

Here's the secret: The RADIOGEM Construction eliminates all unnecessary trimmings, cabinets and the like, which do not play any part in the operation of a set. You receive the RADIOGEM unassembled, together with a clearly written instruction book, which shows you how to quickly and easily construct the set, using only your hands and a screw. The outfit comprises all the necessary wire, contact points, detector mineral tube on which to wind the coil, etc., etc. The instruction book explains simply and completely the principles of radio and its graphic illustrations make the assembling of the RADIOGEM real fun. Remember the RADIOGEM is a proven, practical radio-receiving set and will do anything the most expensive crystal set will do.

The RADIOGEM is the Price Winner of the Age

Out of hundreds of radio models submitted recently in a great nation-wide contest, radio engineers, the judges, unanimously chose the RADIOGEM as the winner—the simplest, radio-receiving set made! And the RADIOGEM costs you nothing to operate—no form of local electricity is required.

DEALERS The RADIOGEM is the wonder item of the radio age. It will storm the country, for the RADIOGEM'S price is so low everyone is able to buy one. Write immediately for full particulars before that shop across the street beats you to it!

Hear the programs of the Broadcasting Stations on the RADIOGEM



Receives up to 20 Miles

The RADIOGEM CORPORATION
42-5 HUDSON STREET
NEW YORK CITY

Take One to Camp or on That Motor Trip

\$1

Without Phone or Aerial

Science and Invention, April 1922

A Simple Radiophone Receiver

By JAMES LEO McLAUGHLIN

Winner of First Prize \$100.00



CRYSTAL

With Aerial Wire and Insulators Included, This Complete Radiophone Receiving Set Did Not Cost Over \$3.00 and This Covered the Cost of the Telephone Receiver.



THE important points of this set are—
1st. It is simple in construction and operation. A knife or razor blade and a small nail are the only tools required to make it. The complete set can easily be constructed in about one-half hour.

2d. It is inexpensive, the total cost, including the phone and antenna is less than \$3.00, the set itself costing only 2 1/2 cents.

3d. It is as efficient as most of the crystal sets now being sold and in most cases superior to them.

WHAT THIS OUTFIT WILL DO

An outfit of this kind will bring in radiophone music and radiophone entertainment as sent out by the broadcasting stations providing the outfit is not more than 18 to 30 miles from the station.

The aerial in that case should be at least 40 feet long and composed of four wires.

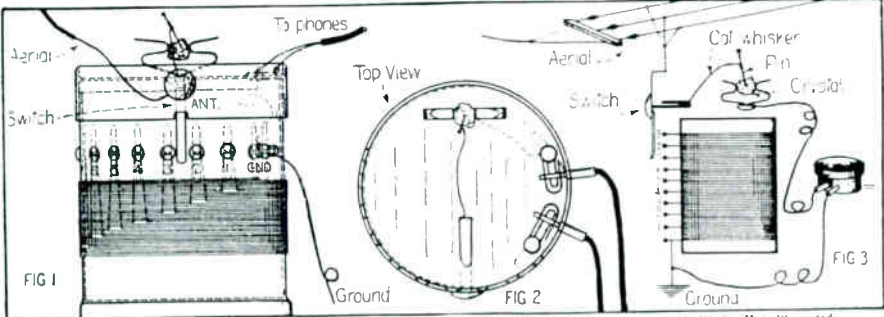
An outfit of this kind cannot be used for any greater distance than 18 to 30 miles at the most. The further you are away from the broadcasting station the higher and longer your aerial must be.

EDITOR.

The material required is as follows:

- 1 Paper container 1 1/2" in diameter
- 1 Paper fasteners (small size)
- 2 Paper fasteners (large size)
- 3 Paper clips
- 2 Oz. No. 26 enameled copper wire
- 1 Small piece of silicon or galena
- 1 Common pin

Take the container and punch nine holes, one inch down from the top, with a small bit one half inch apart. Into each hole push a paper fastener. With pen and ink, continued on page 1123



All of the Parts and Winding Arrangement Followed in Building the \$100.00 Prize-Winning Radiophone Receiving Set Are Here Illustrated.

IHRS SUMMER MEET, AUGUST 27, 1994
High Dive Park Pavilion, Elkhart, Indiana
by Ross A. Smith

We had a beautiful summer day for the Third Annual Elkhart Meet. Thanks to Ty Gregory for his excellent management of the outdoor activities, which were brisk in the Swap Meet Arena; there was ample parking for everyone. Co-Chairmen, Doug McIntosh and Terry Garl, had all arrangements well-organized for a pleasant 'low key' meet enjoyed by everyone who attended. Clo McIntosh and Mary Miller, assisted by their many loyal helpers, covered registration and kitchen duties. members and guests totaled 82; a very good carry-in dinner was enjoyed in the air-conditioned pavilion. Vice President, Herman Gross, conducted the business meeting. The main agenda item was our proposed museum in Ligonier, which was reported by Fred Schultz, Museum Curator. Ty Gregory chaired the silent auction sale, with 10% of sales, \$30, going to the IHRS Treasury. Ty also took care of the door prizes.

The Popular Vote Contest was Chaired by John Kellar. Winners were:

1920s Radios--1st, Charles Miller--Pal-Pal Bar Set

2nd, Ross Smith w/a Westinghouse RA-DA set w/accessories

1930s Radios--1st, Charles Miller w/Zenith 8-S-129

2nd, Richard Barnes w/an AK 82

1940s Radios--1st, Doug McIntosh w/a Stechell Carlson 58A

2nd, Dr. Ed Taylor w/an RCA 75X17

1950s Radios--1st, Doug McIntosh w/5 Emerson 888 Vanguards--all available colors

Ugly Radios --1st, Charles Lund, w/an ugly Admiral

2nd, Charles Miller, w/a Motorola 68L11

Your Favorite Radio or Display--1st, Larry Stencel w/Charley McCarthys, a Lone Ranger, and Fruit and Floral Majestic Radios

2nd, a 3-way tie, w/John Kellar's Audar (John Meck) radio-phono playing Vogue picture records; Wava Rose Smith's Novelty transistor Lunch; and Charles Lund's Motorcycle Radio

DELBERT A. BARRETT

December 25, 1915 - July 2, 1994

Services for Delbert A. Barrett, 78, of 1517 Pacific Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46819, were held at Klaehn, Fahl and Melton Funeral Homes, Winchester Road Chapel, Fort Wayne, Wednesday, July 6, 1994.

He was born in Fort Wayne, the son of John R. and Emma Hollenbeck Barrett. He died at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne, on Saturday, July 2.

Del was a member of the Rea Magnet Wire Quarter Century Club; he had retired in 1978.

Del was one of the thirteen original Charter Members of Indiana Historical Radio Society and as a Founding Father contributed greatly to our growth and success. He hosted many meetings in his hometown and was the mainstay of our first museum when it was housed in the Auburn, Cord, Duesenberg Museum in Auburn, Indiana. He helped organize our first auctions and served as a Contest Judge for many years.

Surviving are his wife, Helen V. Barrett; two daughters, Barbara Montgomery of Huntsville, Alabama and Deborah Childress of Arab, Alabama; one sister, Helen Mae Orman of Tampa, Florida; four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Dr. Wesley Gerig officiated at the funeral services. Burial was in Greenlawn Memorial Park, Fort Wayne.

The family asks that memorials be directed to Taylor University, 1025 West Rudisell Boulevard, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46807. Del and Helen gave their sponsorship and support to this Christian University.

IHRS made a memorial contribution in Del's Memory.

FIRE!

By George A. Freeman

(c) WIKI 1994

(Installment III.)

Rolling black smoke topped brilliant red, orange and yellow flames. A 60 foot high column could be seen for miles. Power lines were afire. White smoke oozed from inside the garage containing over three hundred of my vintage radios and artifacts. One of the first Madison volunteer firemen to enter squinted through the black, billowing stink; "My God, it's Mom's radio!" Crouching, he saw the Sparks-Withington console. His Mother had installed a new green and gold grille cloth. His Dad had carefully refinished the entire cabinet. By this time both parents were deceased. "This place is filled with old radios!" He accorded such respect to his Mom and Dad's old Sparton that he bonded with the unknown owner of all of these things, and he cautioned the other firemen to proceed carefully. And they did.

Here's the formula Cincinnati Insurance Company used for establishing settlement. First: Documentary value of the artifact. In 1989 I listed my Preiss Straight 8 as being worth \$200. A subsequent, respected price guide showed the radio had increased in value. The appreciation could not now be claimed, since I had failed to update the SCHEDULED LIST. The difference was my loss. Each time a valid new price guide becomes available you should review all the artifacts in your collection and revise your SCHEDULED LIST. It is like clipping coupons to determine the increase in value of your assets.

Second: Present condition. Has the fire damaged it? Is it dirty? How many hours will it take? Bob Schafbuch and I exchanged opinions on estimates for rehabilitation. Often we agreed. Sometimes we would compromise between his estimate and mine. The value of labor for this sort of work was determined at that time to have been \$10/hour. Say your Zenith is a \$250 radio and the estimate to clean it is 12 hours. Insurance settlement for that radio is $12 \times \$10 = \120 . Let us say your plastic Arvin is valued at \$50 and it's going to take ten hours to clean it. The rehab cost is more than

the Arvin's worth. The insurance company deems this Arvin 'salvage' and it automatically becomes worth 10% of its documented value. Therefore, our Arvin will be settled out at \$50 x 10% salvage value = \$5. The insurance company pays \$45. I elected to keep all salvage. The insurance company would have sold the salvage to a third party and given me the proceeds should I have elected to do that. I chose to sustain the 10% discount and keep what was left of my original collection. I did not part with one item.

Only through the back-breaking efforts of Shirley and Bob Schafbuch of Carrollton KY and Isabel Levy of Madison IN was I able to begin the agony of documenting my losses. It took them two days to carry every item to my tables for me to examine and pour over my reference material--then carry each item back to its origin. I could not have started, let alone finished without these three.

I've glued the Orchestrion reproducer back together and now contemplate means by which I'll conceal the break. A Philco 511 is working atop its matching speaker table. My collection and I recover little by little.

I can claim only eight years experience in vintage radio collecting. Technically, I'm a zero or worse. I am a charger. Sometimes I may not have enough information to do what I'm trying to do. Take for example my exhibit of nearly 100 old radios at the Jefferson County Indiana Historical Society Museum. My show helped raise money and public interest that eventually enabled the museum to expand into a new, larger location. The focal point of my exhibit was my 1931 Philco 90 with--unknown to me at the time--substitute 1960s grille cloth complete with silver thread. These qualifiers are to urge you not to take this article as the Gospel on this subject, but to use it to begin sizing up your situation.

Use questions raised by this series as the opening dialogue between you and insurance representatives who would like your business. Hopefully my disaster will help you avoid another. Gardner Insurance says the cost of a separate radio collection policy will be between \$1.00 and \$1.50 per \$100 of insurance purchased.

Comments, questions should be directed to George A. Freeman, 102 East Main Street, Madison IN 47250-3411. Phone and Fax: 812/265-6878

THE GREAT RADIO STATUES MYSTERY

by George and Edna Clemans

After last year's IHRS Meeting in Indianapolis, we stopped by to see Dr. Ed Taylor and his Radio Museum, to compare notes, and (of course) to swap lies. Among other things, we found that we both had acquired two small statues advertising radio tubes.

Each statue appears to be made out of plaster and is about three and a half inches tall. Ours are statues of Bing Crosby and President Roosevelt, and both advertise Cunningham radio tubes on the back. Dr. Taylor also has Bing Crosby and he has Lowell Thomas as well. His Bing Crosby, however, advertises RCA Radiotrons instead of Cunningham tubes. This put us all to thinking about how many different such statues were made.

We decided to send this query into the Bulletin in hopes of getting more information. Have any other IHRS Members come across similar statues? If so, would you please let us know? What individual is depicted and what radio tubes are advertised on the back of your statue? Also, does anyone actually remember these statues from when they first came out? Did radio dealers give them away--or could tube buyers send off for them?

Any information about them would be of interest. We would like to compile as complete a list as possible. When we have done so, we will send it in for publication in a future issue of the Bulletin.

Please mail any information you have on the statues to us at 851 West Wooster Street, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402.

Many thanks and good hunting!

Front and back view of the Clemans' statues
are shown - Editor 16



Dear IHRS Members,

September 1994

So much has been happening this year and especially this summer. Marcella and Fred Schultz continue to be dedicated workers for the IHRS Museum project in Ligonier, Indiana. If you attended the IHRS meetings you know that the joint Lease of Indiana Historical Radio Society and Ligonier Visitors and Convention Bureau is being rewritten to cover some points that the Board felt had to be clarified before we could endorse and sign it.

The State of Indiana, Department of Revenue has not replied to our petition for the Indiana 501 C 3 status. Your Treasurer spent many hours compiling the required statistics covering the past several years in order to comply with their further requests. By the time I write the next memo to you we should have the good news that everything is finalized.

Get your 1995 Calendar out so you can get the meetings down early and start planning. Arrangements are made for the first meeting of IHRS in 1995 to be at the Holiday Inn Southeast, Indianapolis, on Saturday, February 18. Details will be in the December Bulletin.

The second meeting will be in Kokomo on Friday and Saturday, May 12 and 13 at the Ramada Inn.

The third meeting will be in Elkhart on Saturday, August 26 at the High Dive Park Pavilion.

Mike Clark asked me to give you a reminder about your 1995 dues. He plans to enclose your Receipt and Membership Card with the next Bulletin to be mailed to you after you remit, unless you enclose a SASE with your dues. This small thoughtfulness on your part will continue to save your Treasury the expense and will contribute to keeping your dues at a low \$10/year. I know, some of you are way ahead of this reminder and have already paid for 1995 and even further in advance. Your loyalty, support, contributions, and dedication are truly appreciated.

Plan now for what you want to bring to the Donation Sale next Spring. The donated items at the May 1994 Meeting realized \$756.50 for your Treasury. See what a benefit this painless method of keeping dues in line can mean to you?

We have been receiving compliments on our Bulletins. Each year they are getting better and we are hearing from our sister clubs that they enjoy our Bulletins. Many of you have stepped forward and voluntarily contributed your personal efforts toward a good Bulletin in both quality items and the overall appearance. Our Editor devotes many hours to trying to please you. Please continue to support this labor of love of our hobby.

I want to tease you a bit and give you a hint re our IHRS Member for Recognition in December. See if you can guess correctly who he is.

"In 1929, The American Radio Relay League held a Convention at the well-known Sherman House in the Loop District of Chicago. Since I was a native of Chicago, I had an opportunity to attend. One of the highlights was a talk by Dr. Lee DeForest on the Audion. At the conclusion of his talk, I had what I thought was a brilliant idea. I would walk up to him and ask for his autograph. I guess I was the only one who had enough nerve to do this as no one else stirred. As I

approached the podium, DeForest was about to walk away. A big, burly person--evidently a bodyguard--blocked my way. But he must have received a signal from DeForest because he stepped aside and let me pass after giving me a menacing stare. All I had was a QSL card and the stub of a hard lead pencil for DeForest to use; so the autograph was faint--but visible. As soon as I got the autograph and I was walking back to my seat, it seemed that the entire group rose en masse and dashed to the stage. The bodyguard, seeing the surging crowd, whisked DeForest away. I was the only one who got his autograph that evening. I wonder what happened to it?"

Make your guess and see if you are able to identify him correctly. I have given you several clues. Watch for the IHRS Member Recognition article in your December Bulletin.

This year, Don, Sam, and I have really enjoyed our radio contacts with several clubs we support. We have been to the Cincinnati Midwest Radiorama, Don Joyce's Open House, AWA September Meet, and, of course, to the three IHRS 1994 Meets. We have been in eighteen states (at least), visited our children and grandchildren, and some radio friends who were on our glide path. Even so, we had to miss two of our favorites--the ARCI Meeting in Elgin and the MARC Extravaganza. Of course, there is always next year to look forward to doing even more.

In the meantime, think about what I have suggested for the benefit and growth of your radio club. You are a wonderful society and it is a pleasure to be associated with each one of you. You are a very unique and challenging group but very endearing. That's only one of the blessings of being a woman. I can be frank and tell you how fond I am of you.

Take care of yourselves and I'll see you in Greenfield,

Marilyn — IHRS President

MEMORIES

One of my earliest memories is the first time I heard a radio. My folks were living in Saskatchewan, on the homestead my Father had claimed in 1903. The Lawmen at that time were mounted police--not so much to enforce the law, but more to lend aid, if needed, to the homesteaders.

It must have been the Spring of '23 or '24 and probably was March, because there was still enough snow for good sleighing and past the season of storms that hit without warning. It had to have been late winter because no one made unnecessary excursions in the outdoors in mid-winter when heavy snowstorms could hit without warning and the temperature could drop to -65°; a temperature which congealed kerosene into a mushy substance not unlike soft lard. The weather was mild enough to load the children ages two through eight years into a sleigh and drive three miles across the open prairie to a neighbor's home. The family was invited for supper and to listen to their new acquisition--a battery powered radio.

Although I would have been just past my fourth birthday, I distinctly remember the evening. Our neighbor's family consisted of the homesteader, his bachelor brother and his spinster sister. Gussy was very fond of children and she made a fuss over my little sister and me. The family, like many of that time, had a strong religious bent. Before we could eat supper, the five adults and four kids participated in a mini-religious service, which included singing a hymn as well as a traditional blessing.

The radio set-up consisted of two boxes, some dry cell batteries, two B batteries, several headphones and a bright shiny copper knife switch. For some reason, now forgotten, I was fascinated by the shiny copper knife switch. (Could it have been added to prevent inadvertently running down the telephone battery commonly used to light the filament?) The men folks tinkered with the radio for a few minutes and then passed the headphones around. After while someone held a single phone to my ear. I remember a few shrill

whistles and a man talking; the only word I can remember is 'Winnipeg', which is two to three hundred miles east of Weyburn--our Post Office at that time. I do not remember being unduly impressed by the wonder or the miracle of radio, but then the life of a four year old is full of new and interesting experiences and sights.

To understand the impact of radio at that time, one must recall the life of that era. Entertainment was the homemade variety. Music was mostly limited to local talent. A guitar or accordion player would render a few numbers for company. If someone could carry a tune, he would be coaxed to sing a few ballads for the family--possibly including such favorites as 'When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder', 'Daisy Bell', 'A Bicycle Built For Two', and, if there was real talent present, 'Red Wing' would be rendered. Such an impoverished environment was fertile soil for the popular music filtered down from the gay nineties.

A series of crop failures, beginning during WWI, forced my Father to move to my Grandfather's farm in western Minnesota. One of my brothers noticed that the village bank was no longer paying taxes; he deduced that the bank was in danger of going broke and he persuaded my Mother to withdraw her egg money and buy a radio. I remember well this first radio my family bought. (The bank went broke the next fall.)

The Savage Mail Order Catalogue, St. Paul, Minnesota, was somewhat smaller than Sears' or Montgomery Ward's. I remember Mother read the description and the information that the Northome Deluxe Six included one full-floating tube and five semi-floating tubes.

Four parcel post packages and one crate containing a wet-cell battery not unlike the car battery of that day arrived. Probably one reason the O1A is rated 5 volts is that the car battery, common at that time, was a 3-cell wet-battery, which adapted well to radio use. A good battery at that time was rated at 128 ampere hours, which for a 6-volt battery supplied power for approximately 128 hours. The boxes contained the cone speaker, the C battery, the B batteries, and

the radio set itself. The radios of that day were not particularly compact. The cabinet often had a considerable amount of unused space.

Also included in the shipment was an antenna kit, which consisted of 100 feet of copper insulated stranded wire, and some insulated wire to reach from the antenna to the set. Usually, the antenna wire was mounted on the ridgepole of the house or between the house and a nearby farm building. The antenna wire was brought into the house by a specifically constructed copper insulated lead-in strip. The ground lead-in strip was typically not insulated. The window sash was closed over the lead-in strips so no particularly difficult changes were needed. The radio manufacturers, of that day, advised that a good ground be used. Usually this was accomplished by driving a four to five foot copper rod into the ground.

I have talked to one old-timer, who said that he had buried a galvanized tub and used this for a ground. He recalled that he used a 2-tube radio--a Radiola--in South Bend, Indiana and with this equipment he was able to bring in the West Coast on a good night. For a while the radio stations in Chicago all cooperated by going off the air on DX night so the hobbyists would have a clear chance to bring in the stations on the West Coast.

The antenna kit also included a lightening arrester, which was hooked between the antenna and the ground lead-in strips. I remember our old farm set required making 12 different connections to the set (batteries, speaker, antenna, ground). For this reason, my Mother arranged for a cousin, who was familiar with radios, to visit the farm and make the first installation.

Our first set, especially in wintertime, gave very satisfactory reception. Few electrical devices had appeared on the farm in 1930, so there was very little electrical pollution to louse up the radio. The pump engine and an automobile engine were the only things that used electricity on the typical farm.

When our radio was finally connected, my cousin hooked a coil of the lead-in wire to the antenna

terminal and we marveled that we had immediate reception. The radio broadcasts of that time were much different than the typical programs we receive today. Most entertainers were of the semi-professional variety, who moved over from their performing for the enjoyment of friends and neighbors into the wide world of broadcasting. This repertoire was very narrow, particularly in the farm areas where cowboy ballads, stories of love, and occasionally the songs which commemorated everyday experiences of life were the norm. We often heard songs like 'She'll Be Coming 'Round The Mountain', 'Red River Valley', or 'Golden Slippers' several times in the same evening. One favorite of a new found audience was to call in a friend or relative's name ask that a particular number be dedicated to him or her.

One unusual thing about the program on some stations, which had primarily a farm audience, was the practice of not having commercials on Sunday. This was an unconscious adjustment to the habits of that day. About 99% of the farmers refrained from fieldwork on Sunday. I do not remember if this was prompted by piety or simply by fatigue. In those days farm hours were long and rest periods far apart. A typical farm day would usually start with milking the cows at 5 a.m. and end about 8 or 9 p.m., with very brief recesses for meals. During the summer months most families were on five meals per day schedule. Breakfast, dinner, and supper were served around a kitchen table with a lunch in mid-morning and a lunch in mid-afternoon--in the fields.

Over the years, more professionally trained performers replaced the amateurs of the late 1920s. Lawrence Welk is an example of an individual who progressed from the 'hotsy-totsy boys' to his famous orchestra, which performed well into the middle 1970s.

Political broadcasts began to appear in the mid-30s with Roosevelt's famous fireside chats. Lesser stars were Father Coglein; also Townsend promoted various gimmicks as a cure for the depression. Goat Gland Brinkley peddled his cure for prostate problems from Del Rio, Texas, which broadcasted from just South of the Border to escape regulation by the Federal

authorities. A gentleman named Henderson, from the Midwest, ranted and raved about the unfair competition from the chain stores. You could always pick up some critics of oleo margarine in the dairy states. To listen to them one would conclude that most margarine was made under very unsanitary conditions. (I wonder, did they actually visit the dairy barns where the cows were milked under less than sanitary conditions?)

Radio developed by leaps and bounds with the widespread appearance of all electric sets, which could obtain their power directly from the AC lines. The power lines did not penetrate the rural areas until after World War. During the hard times of the dry years and low farm prices, there wasn't any extra money for such luxuries as electric lights and indoor plumbing. Farm sets were still powered by batteries. The introduction of tubes, such as the 30, which used less current to heat the filament was widespread. A 2-volt wet cell was marketed for these sets. Many a 32 was burned out when farmers began using a car battery to power the filament and forgot to connect the car battery to the radio properly.

The quality of programs developed greatly during the late '20s and early '30s. Such weekly programs as Jack Benny, Charlie McCarthy, and Fibber McGee & Molly had wide audiences. Some of these programs made the transition to TV.

Memories was submitted by Stanley A. Stromswold, P.O.B. 27, 300 Lake Street, Buchanan MI 49107. He has been a member of IHRS for more than fifteen years. Thanks, Stan, for your support and dedication.

For Sale: 1927 Brunswick Panatropo radio/electrola with working Radiola 28. Cabinet is very ornate and in outstanding condition. \$450.00 Photos' available. Jeff Lendaro 1107 Logan St. Noblesville, IN 46060 (317)-773-3969



FOR SALE: original operating manual, including diagram for Crosley model 21 or 23, \$4.00; RCA Victor auto radio M-30 installation, diagram and service notes brochure, 46 pages, \$10.00; original service notes with diagrams for RCA Victor models R4&R6, RE-19, R-21, Radiola 48, R-74, 6&7, R-71&2, RAE-84, R-93, plus Graybar 9, all \$4.00 each and all above postpaid. I still need a diagram for my Heath A9C amp. George Hausske, 1922 E. Indiana St., Wheaton, IL 60187, Ph. 708-668-3845.

MAYBE A WINNER! A GE console floor model that cost \$29.95 way back in 1939. No model number a'tall (looked with magnifying glass) large wooden, with three replacement knobs below small square metal dial, four push-buttons. Cloth covered 10" speaker, several metal glass/metal tubes. 36" high, 26" wide, 10" deep. See to appreciate fine finish (perhaps a Polariod?) Offers solicited. James Bowman, 743 Harvard, St. Louis, MO. 63130-3135.

WANTED: 1934-1935-1936 GE and Westinghouse console radio set models M-85, M-86, M-106, M-107, M-125, A-86, A-87, A-88, A-125 and Westinghouse WR-25, WR-26, WR-27, WR-500, WR-501, WR-601, WR-312, W-315. John Checchio Jr., 2629 Decamp Ct., Elkhart, IN 46517, Ph. 219-295-7230.

WANTED: 1934 Allied Radio catalog. Thank you! Bill Ross, 875 Gordon Terrace, Winnetka, IL 60093, PH. 708-441-6462.

WANTED: need instructions and schematic for Jewell Radio Analyzer (pattern #199). Harry Blesy, 9S740 Clarendon Hills, Hinsdale, IL 60521, Ph. 708-789-1793.

WANTED: operating instructions for Hickok tube tester model 800A. Dean Parrott, 683 Hayes St., Holland, MI 49424, PH. 616-396-5329.

FOR SALE: A Radio Journal about the early days of radio by a pioneer of those years. Send \$9.00 plus \$1.05 postage to: Russ Rennaker, 1011 Linda Drive, Kokomo, IN 46902.

ANTIQUephonograph repairs, parts, springs, needles, via UPS, FREE catalog, dealers wanted. 19 Cliff Street, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819, Toll Free 800-239-4188 eves.

WANTED: the large tuning knob for a Knight "Ocean Hopper". I am also willing to buy a "parts set" to obtain this knob. Also, I have a good copy of the manual for this set. Contact me if you need one. Mike Clark, R R 2, Box 90, Franklin, IN 46131, Ph. 317-738-4649 (eves).

WANTED: Speaker grille or trace for Radiola Grande, approx 14" X 7". 3 Knobs for FADA P-80. Panel or trace of Paragon DA-2. Radio Boys On the Pacific & To the Rescue — Chapman; & Search for the Inca's Treasure & With the Air Patrol — Breckenridge. Radio Patrol Outwitting the Gang Chief & Big Dan's Mobsters. I have interesting items for trade or will buy outright. Vic Johnston, 7 Hillcrest Cir. Hampton VA 23666. (804) 825-0757H or 898-7225 W.

Dear Marilyn and Don,

Thank you for your phone calls and so many other things you have done for the radio club.....I know the \$25 memorial donation from IHRS to the Taylor University was really appreciated. Thanks to Del's friends in the radio club.....Your kindness will never be forgotten. Stop in when you are up this way,

Love, Helen B.

(Helen's thanks came after Taylor U. received our donation. Del was a Charter Member of IHRS.)

Taylor University Fort Wayne Campus
has just received your gift
in memory of

Delbert Barrett

Thank you for using our Memorial Program
as a meaningful way to express your love and
comfort, while at the same time making possible
the spiritual ministries of the University.

The enclosed card is a copy of the one sent
notifying the family of your gift.

The Indianapolis Cage Corporation



This is the Indianapolis Cage Corporation building as it looks today. After going out of business in 1933, an optics company bought the factory and rebricked the front of the building with a red brick. Note the original orange glazed brick at the rear of the building.

A special thanks to Richard Aufterheide, son, and Don Aufterheide, grandson of Benjamin Aufterheide, for the help they gave in the writing of this article.