

BULLETIN

Indiana Historical Radio Society
PRESERVATION FOR POSTERITY

Vol. 29

SUMMER, 2000

No.2



Ross Smith, May 12, 1918-----July 24, 2000
A Legend Moves On!



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(revised 7/00)

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IHRS Museum Curator

Bulletin Deadlines. News, Articles & Radio-ads, 2/15, 5/15, 8/15, 11/15.

The INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY is a non-profit organization founded in 1971. Annual membership dues are \$15.00/year or 2 yrs./\$25.00, which includes the quarterly IHRS "BULLETIN". Radio-Ads are free to all members. Please include a S.A.S.E. when requesting information.

Coming Events

IHRS Northern Indiana Summer Meet

Saturday, August 19, 2000. High Dive Pavilion, 500 East Beardsley Ave., Elkhart, Indiana. Contact Terry Garl, (219) 679-4280, e-mail IHRSELK98@AOL.COM , or Ty Gregory, (219) 264-0257. Notice that this has been scheduled ahead of the Notre Dame Homecoming Game so as to avoid the motel booking conflicts that we faced in 1999. Every one has fun at this event so be sure to come. There will be the usual carry-in lunch and Equipment contests as noted below.

Schedule: **Registration: 7AM**, \$5.00 Admission per member/family. Swap and Sell in the lots to the East of the Clubhouse. Others, please park in front of, or the West of the Pavilion. Guests welcome. Coffee and rolls for the early birds.

9:30AM Enter Contest Items for popular vote.

Contest categories:

- 1, Crystal Sets,
- 2, Tube type radios
- 3, Transistor Radios
- 4, Any restored radio that originally cost the contestant less than \$20 to purchase.
5. Favorite Radio Items

10:00AM Bring in entries for "Silent Auction" to the inside table. A 10% donation is expected from the seller for expenses.

11:50AM Silent auction closes. Buyers, please contact sellers.

12:00Noon CARRY-IN DINNER. Bring in a dish, dessert, rolls, etc., and Your Table Service. Plates and silver will be provided for guests.

12:30PM Vote for ONE item each in the 5 contest categories.

1PM Business Meeting and Awards

1:30PM Swap meet continues on the lot.

Don't miss this one!!!!

The IHRS "Fall Foliage" meet. Saturday, Oct.14, 2000.

7:30AM to ????. Riley Park, Greenfield, Indiana on Apple St. about 1 block north of U.S. 40 which is 1/4 mile East of State Route 9. Swap
(see next page)

(Coming Events, Continued)

Meet and Equipment Contest details forthcoming. This is the Elections meet. Be there!! Contact: Herman Gross, (765) 459-8308 or Dr. Michael Clark, (317) 738-4649 for details.

IHRS WINTER MEET Saturday, February 17, 2001, Mark your calendars accordingly. Holiday Inn Southeast. 5120 Victory Lane at the Emerson Road exit off of I-465, exit 52. Details to be advised. Contact Dr. Michael Clark at (317) 738-4649, or Herman Gross at (765) 459-8308.

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY!

to Stephanie (Grebe) Harvey, widow of Alfred H. Grebe, and friend of the Indiana Historical Radio Society. Mrs. Harvey's 100th birthday was on May 22. Alfred H. Grebe is well known among collectors and historians for his role in the development of radio and broadcasting in the 1920's. (Refer to the IHRS "BULLETIN" article by Alan Douglas, December 1984.) IHRS members will remember the "Grebe Best of Show" award given to IHRS contest winners in years past. Mrs. Harvey and family have a long standing interest in the historical documentation of early radio. If you have a Grebe related story to share with Mrs. Harvey, you may do so by sending it (with a copy to the "Bulletin" editor) to Chip Meier, 2729 Boston SE East Grand Rapids, MI 48506-4717. Chip is Mrs. Harvey's grandson.

Fred Prohl

The "Bulletin" is always seeking articles from the club members pertaining to the technical aspects of Radio restoration. Said articles can be about the electronic or cabinet restoration. If you have developed any skill or experience in these endeavors, share it with some of your fellow members in the club by sending a write up to the editor at the address shown on page 2.

Message From The President

Herman Gross

Well, the Spring Meet in Indy is all over but the memories. My most sincere thanks to all of you who worked so hard to make it possible to have all events work so smoothly. The turn out was about average even though we didn't charge a registration fee. Too bad, because the weather was wonderful, and our larger tent, a 40 by 60 footer, was really spacious and cool. In order to encourage people, especially youngsters, to come in and browse and see what we were "all about" we made a "free to the public" offer which was published in the local Indy paper, a Delphi/Delco bulletin board, the IHRS web site, and in the ARC magazine, but I question how successful that venture was. We will do what we have to do to attract new people to the "cause" and I ask you all to do what you can to publicize our meets and the things we do and why we're here in the first place.

Auction results, I'm told, were weak in spite of the fact we advertised heavily, including a special mailing. That's most discouraging and we will have to decide whether or not to continue with auctions at subsequent spring meets. We had a good selection of items but few buyers. I believe there may be details on the auction, old equipment contest and other activities listed elsewhere in this "Bulletin". I have no data on any of the meet activities because I ran off as early as I could after the auction on Saturday because I was to leave for the UK the following day.

If you missed the awards banquet, you did miss out on a good time. This year I printed up a meet agenda so there are no excuses for not knowing about it or having to eat with your fellow members 'cause eating wasn't mandatory, as you knew if you read the agenda. Those of us there did thoroughly enjoy the Charleston Chasers.

We had a good seminar agenda but I think the support from members was lacking. (Ed note....The "Co-ed" luncheon also lacked attendance). It's hard to get people to put on a seminar and we should do our part to encourage them by at least attending for a short time. Maybe you "know it all" but you may be surprised how much you don't! For the many of you who don't give a care, that's another story. The Meet Agenda was available to everyone and the seminar subjects and other activities were listed for all to see. Gee, as I read this, my comments seem negative, as they have in the past, but I feel the IHRS is dying on the vine and we need help and enthusiasm to keep the organization alive and well. I can say all the nice things one would like to hear but if they aren't sincere, we're just kidding ourselves. Maybe we need a change in administration.....

(see next page)

(“Message....., continued)

We were fortunate and honoured to have Mr. Grant Dixon, of the UK with us to present his seminar on mechanical TV. Mr. Dixon was the guest of Edna and Peter Yanczer of St. Louis, MO. He was making a month tour of the US, visiting several people active in the preservation and dissemination of the original mechanical TV history and equipment. Much of his presentation was located in the memory of his laptop computer and he wanted IHRS to supply a larger monitor. We arranged with the Signature Inn to supply us one but when time came to pick it up, at the last minute, we discovered it was hard wired into their system and they didn't want to disconnect. Mr. Dixon was then resolved to use the small laptop monitor. Well....10 minutes before the seminar was to start.....I was standing in the tent by the registration table when my eagle eye noticed something that looked like a monitor lying on the ground in front of the dumpster. I hurriedly approached the object and, sure enough, someone had thrown one away. What's more, it was complete with cables and a sticker that proclaimed “WORKS”! I quickly gathered up the monitor with its cables and breathlessly carried it the 100 yards to the seminar room upstairs in the Signature Inn. Pet Yanczer made the necessary connections and, “BINGO”, it worked. Just in time

Remember to check the Coming Events column. Elkhart is next on August 19th. We will have a business meeting after the lunch. We will be discussing issues such as auctions and the possibility of a mid-summer radio performance meet in Noblesville put on solely by Mike Feldt. Support these activities. Your officers can supply the meeting sites, YOU must supply the enthusiasm and participation.

Election of officers takes place at the Fall Foliage meeting in Greenfield on Saturday, October 14th. See, (or call), Paul Gregg, (317-846-3094), who heads the election nominating committee, to offer your help with the election and/or to offer to serve in one of the positions.

Respectfully submitted, Herman Gross

Articles, articles, articles! Remember to send any reports, stories and technical presentations to the editor in care of the address shown on page 2. Share your knowledge and help to preserve our hobby.

Bob O’Friel

In Passing

Ross A. Smith of Elkhart died at the age of 82 at 12:58p.m., Monday, July 24, 2000 in the emergency room at Elkhart General Hospital. He was born May 12, 1918 in San Angelo, Texas to Victor J. and Alma M. Smith. He graduated from Alpine (Texas) High School in 1935 and in 1939 from Tri-State University in Angelo with a degree in Electrical Engineering.

Mr. Smith married Wava R. Williams in Angola on June 8, 1941, and she survives with one daughter, Mrs. James, (Gloria) Wilson of Huntington; a son, Victor A. (wife, Kathryn) of Indianapolis; 3 grandsons; two great grandsons; a brother, brother, Harlan L. Smith of Lubbock, Texas; and one sister, Rose Anna Rumble of Smithville, Texas. Two granddaughters and one brother are deceased. A viewing was held on Friday at Walley-Mills -Zimmerman Funeral Home. The Reverend Kaye Patton of the Claypool United Methodist Church officiated at the graveside service that took place on Saturday, July 29th at 2:30 PM at the Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola.

Ross worked at C.T.S. Corp. for 43 years and retired in 1983 as the Quality Control Manager and Director of the testing laboratory.

He was a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, YMCA, Vintage Automobile Club, Christian Businessmen's Committee, the National Antique Wireless Association, Mr. and Mrs. Club and the CTS Quarter Century Club. He was a charter and founding member of the Indiana Historical Radio Society and served as curator of the CTS Corporate Museum. (Editor's note.....Everyone I have spoken to recognizes the greatness of this man and he will be sorely missed.)

Russell Rennaker, Sr. June 24, 1906---July 10, 2000

(editor's note, some of you may remember seeing Russ at our Spring meet in Kokomo back in May of 1994 where he gave a presentation and introduced his new book.)

Russell Brooke Rennaker Sr., 94, Windsor Estates Health and Rehab
(see next page)

(In Passing, continued)

Center, Kokomo, died at 5PM, Monday, July 10, 2000 at the facility. Born on June 24, 1906 on a farm in Western Grant County, he was the son of Clarence and Della (Brooke) Rennaker. On May 25, 1926, he married Ruth Foust, his schooldays sweetheart and neighbor. She died in September of 1977 after 71 years of marriage.

He graduated from Sweetser High School in 1924. He was a member of the track and basketball teams, belonged to the Sweetser Methodist Church and played clarinet in the church orchestra. As a youngster in the early days of radio, he built and sold radios throughout Grant County. In 1922, he passed an amateur radio operator's license and built and operated radio station WJAK in Marion, Indiana. In 1934, he became an engineer for CBS radio network in Chicago and later transferred to the CBS station in Washington, D.C.. He formerly worked at WFBM radio station in Indianapolis.

During World War II he was a civilian employee of the War Department in the Pentagon Building. After the war he returned to Chicago and was employed by radio station WGN. Later, he was involved in the telecommunications industry, first as sales manager of Collins Radio Company in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and later as marketing manager with IT & T in New York, and Motorola Corporation in California. He retired in 1973 and moved back to Indiana. In his retired years he wrote many articles for radio magazines and fiction stories for several magazines. He was the author of the popular newspaper column, "Tales of Yesteryears" for the Kokomo Perspective. Many of those articles were included in his book of the same title published when he was 91 years old. In addition, he authored a second book titled "A Radio Journal, 1912-1940". In his late 80's, he was a fascinating speaker giving talks for historical societies about the early days of radio and the many celebrities he had met and worked with through the years. He was also a member of the I.B.E.W. (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers). (editor's note.....he had also become a member of IHRS).

Surviving are three daughters and sons in law, Helen and Curtis Mansfield, Lake Mills, Wisconsin; Joanne and Jesse Windlow, Kokomo; Barbara and Al Hoch, Naperville, Illinois; a son and daughter-in-law, Russell and Barbara Rennaker Jr., Indianapolis; 20 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, a grandson, and one great-great granddaughter. The Reverend John R. O'Brien officiated at the wake and Russell was buried on Friday, July 7th at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Converse. (The preceding obituary was obtained from the Kokomo Tribune, July 12, 2000).

Comments From The Editor

Bob O'Friel

This issue was harder to put together than many of the past. Many things happened along the way to change various formats including the loss of Ross Smith. Although there is an obituary elsewhere in this edition, I still feel that this happening brought about a feeling of sadness and has had a profound effect of the club. Ross was not only an important member as one of the founders of IHRS, he remained active from the word go in keeping the "faith" alive in the Northern part of the state. His spirit and enthusiasm for the subject of collecting radios and the histories thereof led many new recruits to be brought into this hobby. In the many contacts I have had with Ross, I found him to be the eager supporter and organizer. He was a man who knew the meaning of integrity and always gave the extra effort to make sure the club's interests would be perpetuated. He helped others when they had questions about building or restoring a set and offered his qualified recommendations as to how to solve a service or repair question. He did all these things with an air of humility never attempting to overwhelm one with an opinion or adopting the pose of "the overall expert" even though he could lay legitimate claim to that position. Ross will certainly be missed, but, because of his guidance, there are many left in that territory who will carry on the mission. There are some points about Ross's passing that I feel should be reviewed here. He went back for another heart bypass operation earlier this year and basically, was in the recovery mode when new problems came about in April. He went back into the hospital and then was taken to the Eastlake Nursing Home on Jeanwood Drive in Elkhart for specialized care since he was having difficulty in walking and getting food down. This latter condition came about as a result of a fungus infection in his esophagus. He began losing weight dropping to below 120 pounds from his normal, (and very healthy), 140. While all this was happening,

(see next page)

(Comments, continued)

on June 8th, (their wedding anniversary), Wava had been visiting him to share that great event. As she left the hospital, someone ran a stop sign and the car she was driving was totaled leaving her with a cracked foot and putting her in a hospital. The timing, of course, was bad for all. Ross was starting to recover and returned home from Eastlake. Then on July 24th, after eating, he stood up and fell to the ground. He was taken to the emergency room at Elkhart General hospital. See the obituary elsewhere in this edition.

I know we all will mourn the passing of a great man.

We also lost Russ Renaker who was also an active link in Radio. You can read his obituary elsewhere in this "Bulletin".

I must take exception to Herman Gross's statement that "Maybe we need a change in administration.....? Herman is another one of the club members who has always given 110% of himself in support of IHRS. I believe we need to look at the efforts being invested in the club and to participate more in the running of the club and involve ourselves more in attending the events. I still feel that the better part of going to a meet and really seeing and feeling the merchandise is the comraderie that is shared there. Those are the things you don't get on the internet. I agree with Herman's observation about the poor attendance at the seminars. The people who make these presentations spent a lot of time preparing the material in addition to providing items for demonstrations. We have been responding to club member's requests and suggestions in laying out the programs for the shows and yet, those asking for these sessions don't seem to make a showing. Fortunately, at the "June Event", we did have a good turnout for the "Awards Banquet". Speaking for the "Charleston Chasers", it always makes us feel better to play to a larger audience. While working on the "Bulletin", I was making good progress and had completed some 6 pages of text at one point

(see next page)

I was fearful of losing momentum and didn't stop to "back up" the text. Oh yes! We had a tremendous storm with great displays of lightning the night before and lightning did strike the power pole at the side of the house setting a high tension line loose and starting a fire in the trees. It did not trip the circuit breaker on the pole so that line continued to sparkle and burn. Our power had remained on so I continued working feverishly knowing that ultimately the power company would have to disable the circuits. A fire truck had come but had to stand and wait since they couldn't direct a stream of water until the power was off. I was at the point of wanting to "save" what had been finished but needed to complete a sentence. The phone rang. I answered it only to find that it was one of those terrible soliciting calls. After telling them to "bug off", I was returning to finish that sentence when the whole world went black. I have learned a costly and valuable lesson. Such are the challenges that are faced by editors.

In this edition: you will find some exciting news about new developments at the IHRS Museum. Fred has proven time and again that hard work and perseverance pays off. Once again, our historian Ed Taylor came through with a new book review. Walter Sanders has a surprise for us too. Mike Feldt has supplied some nice photos and a review of the "Old Equipment" contest that took place at our June "Spring Fling" meet. I think that everyone enjoyed that event. Fred Prohl supplied us with the minutes of the board meeting and also, a write up on Pete Yanczer's new web site. An answer to the question posed on the cover of the last edition also appears herein. Ted Rogers, our technical talent from the north also sent in an article describing the restoration project on a Sparton 557 "Sleigh" radio which we will have in the next edition with some interesting pictures.

Bob O'Friel, Editor.

The Indiana Historical Radio Society Museum Report

Fred M. Schultz, Curator

The first thing to report that was not listed in the last "Bulletin" are the Summer Hours for the museum. We are open Tuesday through Saturday from 10AM to 3PM and these hours are in effect until November 1. Starting November 1st through May 1st, we will only be open on Saturdays from 10AM to 2PM. We are involved in an exciting new project. The museum is currently seeking a low power FM license. The maximum power allowed under the new regulations placed in effect by the FCC is 100 watts which should be enough to supply a signal to all of Noble County as well as parts of LaGrange and Elkhart Counties. Listeners in the outer regions will probably be able to pick it up if they have outdoor antennas. The museum qualifies since they and IHRS are listed as non profit organizations. The project has already been granted a free building which is the 3 car garage in the big estate just south of SR 13 and the museum on State Route 5 and U.S. Route 33. We will get a free 80ft. tower. The frequency allocated is 93.9mhz. Ligonier is first on the lottery list re station assignment. The nearby school will have the broadcasting studios and the Ligonier Telephone Company is providing the free lines from the School to the transmitter site. The engineers have donated the time required for determining the longitude and latitude of the antenna site which answer the requirements of the FCC. The school will eventually be in charge of the station and will use it as part of their training programs. So far, only one protest has been issued and that by PBS and The Disney Company.

Ligonier has a population of 3500 with 30 factories. The Garment factory is perhaps the best known although Blitz made radio cabinets there in the 1920's.

(Editor's note: It is obvious that, once again, Fred has put his usual 110% of effort in pulling all the strings to get this project going. They may still need a transmitter.)

What It Was !

You may recall that the cover, and page 5, in the last issue contained a statement that has now been answered. This proves what an excellent memory some of our members have. George E. Hausske now knows that he is the owner of a rare Mayerola radio that was made around 1930 which is now worth around \$175. We got a reply and a photocopy of page 346 of Vol. II of "Machine Age to Jet Age" by Mark Stein. Member Ted Rogers from Syracuse came through with the identity on a quick basis. He also had an ad in the "Radioads" section of the same "Bulletin" requesting assistance on getting information on what paints, varnishes etc., were needed in the restoration of a Spar-ton 557 Blue Mirror Sleigh Radio. He was able to obtain the info needed from the ad he ran in ARC and he submitted a write up and some pictures that will be in the next "Bulletin". As Ted stated it, "Antique radio is a great hobby, isn't it"? Ted has



been a very active supporter of the club and especially, the museum. A crude copy of the Mayerola listing is shown above. IHRS member Alan Jesperson collaborated with Mark Stein, the author of the book.

Walt Sanders, "On Record!"

A review by Bob O'Friel

I recall having a conversation with Walt, (our western Indiana minion of the Radio collecting faith), several years ago. He was surprised to find that I was a musician especially since he had, at some time in the past, also been active musically. I asked him what prevented him from being so involved now and he replied that he had some lip surgery that surely would affect his embouchure.

I continued to press asking him if he had tried to play in recent times. He went back home and got the old licorice stick out and gave it a test with some pleasing results. As you may recall, Walt sat in with the "Charleston Chasers" for the last 2 years and "blew our minds" with the excellence of his playing ability. Ross Smith told me that he also was a clarinetist but was going to go home and sell his instrument after hearing Walt play as he could not match what Mr. Sanders was doing. Apparently Walt, who is never the one to brag, felt the courage of his convictions. You may have noticed that, in the last several issues of the "Bulletin", Walt had an ad seeking some "Music Minus One" recordings. These, as the title suggests, provide the type of accompaniment that would enable a musician to fill in the missing part in order to make a recording. I heard a brief sample on a cassette in his car when he was here for the June meet but did not guess what his ultimate goal was. On July 22, Walt came over to Indianapolis to "sit in" with a small jazz group and he gave me a copy of a new CD, "just released", entitled "40's Jazz Revisited" with Walt Sanders.

To look at the beginning of all of this, Walt's mother managed, in spite of the depression that prevailed at that time, to buy him a metal clarinet and enrolled him in the public school music system. He played in, (as the album notes state), Elementary, Junior High and High School and while there, formed a school swing band and began to show the strong influences of Benny

(see next page)

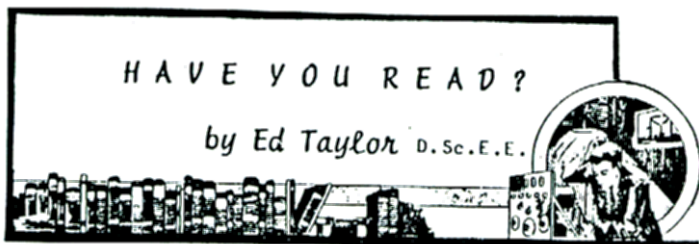
(Sanders on record, cont'd)

Goodman and Artie Shaw. The net result of all of this is that Walt does now have a CD out with 19 songs which has music from not only the forties, but there are also some gems from the 20's and 30's that includes a sample of his work on a "C Melody Saxophone" as well.

Walt has not stated what marketing might be involved but I am sure that if any of you are interested, you could write to: Walt Sanders, 15 Todd Drive, Terre Haute, IN 47803.

Perhaps the next time you are tuning in a remote station on your 3 dial TRF, you could also have the soothing sounds of Walt's mellow clarinet in the background.





“We Interrupt This Broadcast”

by: Joe Garner - 1998

Forward by Walter Cronkite

Relive the electronic-media (radio and TV) events that interrupted our lives from the Hindenberg explosion, (1937), to the death of Princess Diana, (1997).

Wherever we may chance to be, our hearts seem to stop for a moment, and we experience those few seconds of anxiety between the interruption and the actual announcement of what happened. When these flashes that change the world occur, reporters must step in with all of the instant consideration and knowledge they can muster in the face of tragedy or triumph.

Thirty eight famous and infamous mileposts in history are brought to life in words, pictures and the actual sounds recorded on two compact discs.

Share with your friends, family, children, and grandchildren your memories of where you were when the world halted and held its breath in anticipation.

This is a large, hardbound, 154 page coffee-table size book with a pocket inside the back cover to hold the two, included, CD's.

ISBN 1-57071-328-6 \$45.00



A Web Site Review

The EXPERIMENTAL TELEVISION SOCIETY

"Using Early and modern technology to produce television images"

Site owner, Peter F. Yanczer

Indiana Historical Radio Society member Peter Yanczer's interest in early television is well known to IHRS members. Peter has written articles for the "Bulletin" and presented discussion sessions related to Mechanical Television at Society meetings.

The following is the lead paragraph from Peter's first page of his web site.

"Every now and then, something from the first television boom period (1928-1932) turns up. More often than not, it was built by an experimenter of the day and used for tuning in the magical television signals being broadcast here and abroad. It was a fascinating time for the experimenters. The experimentation continues to this day and those of us involved experience the same thrills and disappointments as did the television pioneers so many years ago."

Included in the Yanczer web site is historical background (Baird, Farnsworth, Jenkins, Sanabria, Zworykin), historic photos, mechanical television hardware, (Nipkow and Lens Disk, the Mirror Drum, Mihaly-Traub Scanner, the Mirror Screw, etc.), "how to" construction tips, and suggestions on getting started in the hobby.

Peter has created a user friendly web site. It is easy to move through, interesting and educational.

You can access Yanczer's The EXPERIMENTAL TELEVISION SOCIETY" web site by addressing:

<http://pyanczer.home.mindspring.com/tour>

If you don't have internet access at home, take advantage of the computer resources at your library. It will be worth the trip.

Fred Prohl, reporting for indianahistoricalradio.org

Minutes of Indiana Historical Radio Society Officers Meeting, April 29, 2000 Fred Prohl, Secretary

Officers attending: Herman Gross, President; George Freeman, Vice President; Dr. Michael Clark, Treasurer; Fred Prohl Secretary; Dr. Ed Taylor, Historian; Alex Whitaker, 1999 President. The meeting was opened by President Gross at 1pm.

The treasurers report submitted by Dr. Michael Clark.

The costs of the February Indianapolis Winter meeting:

Holiday Inn rental	\$525.00
Coffee	\$59.67
Doughnuts	\$35.00
Name tags, postage, etc.	\$50.00
Insurance	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total expense	\$769.60

Indianapolis "Spring Meet" income:

29 sales tables @\$5.00	\$145.00
51 admissions @ \$5.00	\$255.00
Cola Donations	<u>\$28.50</u>
Total income	\$408.00
Total IHRS expense *	\$261.60

* This excludes cost of printing and mailing "Bulletins

The IHRS current bank account is approximately \$5,900 pending a deposit of additional membership fees but not accounting for the "Bulletin" expense.

As of this date, the IHRS membership is 363. Of this number, 235 are paid to the end of 1999 or beyond.

Members who do not have a dues paid 2000 date on their next "Bulletin" and do not respond with a dues payment will be dropped from the mailing list. It is the recommendation of Dr. Clark that, in order to save mailing costs, the dated mailing label from the "Bulletin" will provide a receipt of membership dues payment. The officers agreed to the suggestion. It was also agreed that a membership card, with no expiration date, will be issued to new members. Membership renewals will not be sent a new card.

President Gross opened for discussion the need to establish a year 2000 nominating committee. Based on officer suggestions, Herman will call several members to request their serving on the committee.

The following items were discussed concerning the Spring Meeting of 2000.

(see next page)

(Minutes, continued)

Registration - We need energetic and upbeat presence at the registration table for Friday and Saturday. Sellers will need to register for their set up space. Buyers will not be charged for attendance but will be requested to register.

The Tent - Bob O'Friel has scheduled for tent set up and tear down and rental of table and chairs.

Security. Friday night protection has been arranged for by Dr. Clark.

Soft drinks, ice etc.- We will charge 25 cents a can for soft drinks (since registration is free). Bob O'Friel is bringing soft drinks.

Members and family/co-ed luncheon - Bob O'Friel has made the arrangements at Laughner's and will have Paul Irwin as the guest speaker.

Awards Banquet/dinner - Bob also has reserved space for the evening meal and will have the "Charleston Chasers" on hand for the entertainment. The question was raised as to the location of the "Best of Show" Trophy. Herman is asking other members.

Seminars - Friday afternoon. Herman has three possibilities on the list: Hal Hunt, "Grounding problems in chrome plated chassis", Ed Dupart, "Cabinetry repair" or "Transformer repair", or "Make capacitors look like originals", Alex Whitaker, "Repairing battery radios", Herman called for any takers to present short (2 to 5 minute) "Hints and Kinks" repair suggestions.

Contest - Friday afternoon. Ed Taylor has the ribbons and judge check off sheets. Herman will call several members to request their serving as a judge. Three are needed. Herman will also give Signature Inn the table set up needed for the contest room.

Parking lot set up space - all set up spaces will be assigned Friday morning. Alex will take the responsibility for numbering the spaces. If, Friday morning, some one is set up in the wrong space, they will be asked to move.

Auction - Auction check in is 8:45AM, Saturday. Items donated for the museum will be auctioned as a special lot number. Buyer may pay for purchase as soon as the auction slip is turned in to the cashier. Seller may "buyback" item for a 5% fee.

Publicity - Herman Gross has and will continue to contact news organizations to publicize the meeting.

Fred Prohl will list the schedule of activities on the IHRS web site.

The meeting was adjourned at 3PM.

Submitted by Fred Prohl, Secretary, IHRS.

Researching Obscure Early Radio

by George A. Freeman

Obscure. Some of the definitions of the word include “unknown to fame”, “hidden”, and “unexplained”. While IHRS members Sue and Bob Sands were awaiting the arrival of hurricane George at their Venice, Florida vacation retreat September, 1998, Bob urged me to write this article. Bob and I are always selling each other something. He sold me on this idea with the suggestion that this article might be a resource for young vintage radio enthusiasts. I thought of Bob White and what a magnificent job he’s doing of studying Cincinnati radio history. Perhaps Bob White, Alex Whitaker, “Grey Behr” and some of you reading this will seriously consider picking up the baton, and venture into the world of VERY rewarding creative writing. Some of the most enriching experiences of my life are resulting from friends I make in researching vintage radio and TV. Before this paragraph was completed, I had phoned Bob and Mary Chevront in southern Ohio across the river from Huntington, WV. I’ve displayed the radio his father manufactured in 1925 in Huntington. It’s the AIR-OLA JUsT-riTE. My research of this obscure radio uncovered Bob. He had been carefully protecting original artifacts of his father’s enterprise for about 70 years. Unfortunately, the public knew nothing of them or his father’s undertaking. I featured the radio in a July, 1993 ARCA meet contest in Huntington. I had tons of copies of Bob’s documentation, and I had the radio working. Huntington TV stations visited us at least twice and put me on the air live, and did stand-ups for later newscasts. 1990s Huntington learned who Chevie Chevront was. Bob was proud. He brought his grandchildren from out of town to see the display. It was a very rewarding experience for me. It has bonded Bob and me for the rest of our lives. The judges gave me a first place blue ribbon in the category and the Best of Show trophy which is almost as tall as the radio is long.

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This article concerns documentation and research of obscure radio manufacturers and other lost-and-forgotten figures in our past.

One of the greatest research resources is city directories. To research Air-Ola, I learned the Huntington public library's collection doesn't hold a candle to the city directory collection at their chamber of commerce! One public library I visited had no city directories. Contact the chamber. If there's a long term employee there, ask where the city directories will be found. In the Historical Society? Where else? Keep asking for help until you find the city directories.

When you've found the city directories, be aware that you have a gold mine of information. Zero right in on the year(s) in which you have reason to believe the firm was in existence. Check display ads for the company you're researching. There's a slim chance your firm will be there, but, if it is, you've got a great visual documentation for your story and for your personal radio collection. Look alphabetically for the name of the company. On a big tablet, jot down the address, then carefully document your source for this information; name of the city directory, the publisher, the location of the publisher, the year, and the page number. You'll need this to re-check your information and for your directory of sources so others can continue your research and verify its accuracy. Examine the directory's margins. Sometimes the business placed ads about itself. In researching "Louisville Electric Manufacturing, Inc.", maker of an early 1920's crystal set, I saw an ad in the city directory margin with a picture of its huge dynamo, the "Willey". Bingo!! Willey was the founder of "LEMCI"! The ad by his former employer showed me the esteem in which they held Mr. Willey. C.E. Willey was not just a garage tinkerer. Indeed, he designed that dynamo and a long list of other huge equipment to power the

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(Researching, etc., continued)

paddlewheel steamer "Belle of Louisville", the Seelback Hotel in downtown Louisville, and turned L&N Railway locomotives on a turntable. The little ad suggested I had stumbled onto a highly qualified electrical engineer.

Take your time. Examine the listing carefully. Check the key in front of the city directory so you understand all the little flags buried in the listing. While researching "Sun Radio" of Louisville, I saw an "r" at Sun's Mr. Sunderhauf's name. At first, I thought this meant he lived at the rear of his mother's property. Now, since checking the key, I realize that meant this was his residence. This brings me to another rule. Always check the residence listings for each of the employees and principals of the firm. Carefully take note of these players, documenting the sources as you did for the company. Use one sheet of paper for the company, another sheet for each of the principals. Note their home address. Then, do this for each subsequent year to see how long the company lasted and how long each of the principal personnel were on board, or where they went when they left. That's what C. E. Willey did. In Cincinnati, when Howard Gates and Leo Ainsworth split, Gates went to Buffalo, New York and worked for King-Hinners. Perhaps he worked on the Adler-Royal line based in Louisville.

Once you've gone through the company's history and see that it is no longer listed, jot down this observation. Now you may have the end of the time line. Begin going back to the city directory before the year you first were able to document the company. Now, see what those principals were doing the year before and for perhaps three years before the company began. This will often tell you what skills the employees each brought to their job. Air-Ola's Chevront had been a real estate agent, in business for himself. This suggests he was already entrepreneurial, and probably had a marketing orientation. Look at city direc-

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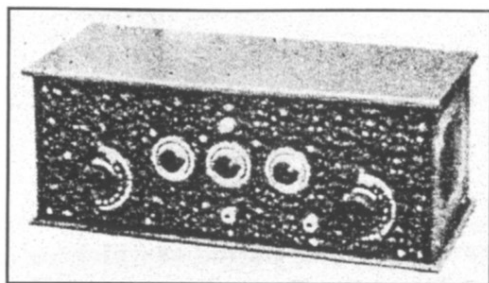
tories for 3 or 4 years before the period in which you are interested. That's how I found the former employer of Louisville Electric's "Willey" generator in a James Clark Company ad before anyone was manufacturing radios.

Armed with several sheets of paper documenting company and players you can get out the telephone directory. Call anyone with the same name. Chances are they are a relative. Tell them you're researching their antecedent and that hundreds of us want to know more about their ancestor. This is the way I found the grandson of C. E. Willey. It took me 7 phone calls before I got a bingo. Be prepared for some surprises. The nephew of Sun Radio's ramrod told me with glee that he had destroyed his uncle's radios. It seems two brothers went separate ways after World War II and there were hard feelings. A woman I suspect was the daughter of Erwin Bosworth in Cincinnati hung up in my ear.

I've rambled on here long enough. Is anyone getting anything out of this? If so, I'll continue this *how-to* later. Silence is not golden. If I get no response, I'll assume this article was not a good idea and go on my merry way wishing that more would join in a most enjoyable endeavor. Long after we're gone, our research efforts manifested in the articles we write now can guide men and women not born yet, in continuing our studies.

George Freeman
102 E. Main St., PH
Madison, IN 47250-3411
Phone (812) 265-6878

(Editor's note! George is our Vice President and has been a steady source of information and articles for the "Bulletin" of the Club. Perhaps his inspiration and loyalty will kindle the spirit of others. Thanks George).



"Midland Radio Frequency Receiver"

This radio receiver was manufactured in 1925 by the Midland Electric Mfg. Company of Indianapolis, Indiana. The company was located in the Transportation Building in the downtown business district. The building served as the cities main interurban station and shed but had several stories of rented office space. The radio is a four tube regenerative set that probably used the "Ambassador" brand coils and circuit. The front panel was hard rubber with a crystallized finish and the set's retail selling price was \$35. A smaller set called the "Night Owl" was also manufactured and it's retail price varied from \$15 to \$35. As of today there are no known examples that exist and the Transportation Building has long been torn down.

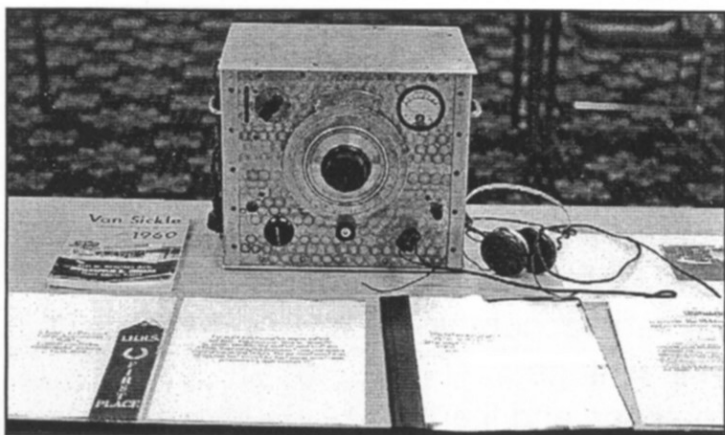
Michael Feldt

IHRS "Spring Fling" Radio Contest Results

Article and pictures by Michael Feldt

This year the IHRS "Spring Fling" radio contest had slightly fewer entries then last year but the quality of the items entered was still first class. All of the categories had entries except Category 3: Farm Radios. IHRS member George Freeman must have really wanted that "Best of Show" trophy because he entered items in three of the five categories. Well it worked and he was awarded the coveted trophy for his "Little Orphan Annie" radio and display. Congratulations to George.

Category 1: Indiana Manufactured Radios



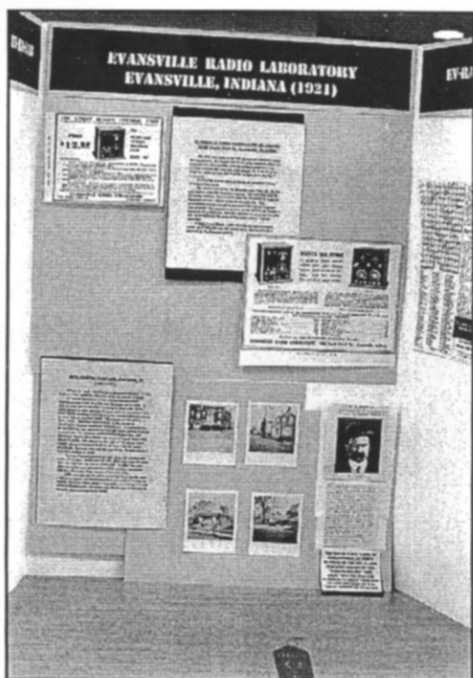
1st Place

1930s "Eugene VanSickle" 3 tube AC radio. Entered by Dr. Michael Clark

2nd Place

Early 1920s "Ev-Ra-Lab" (Evansville Radio Laboratory) radio display.

Entered by George Freeman

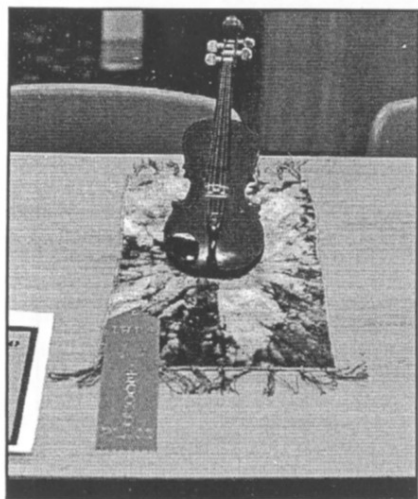
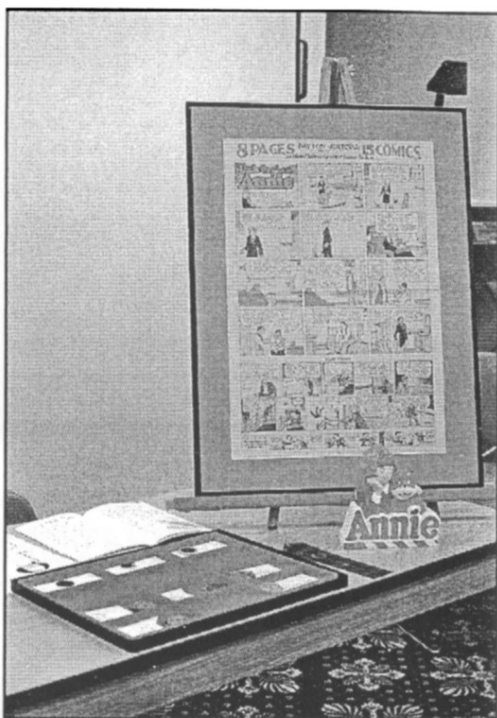


Category 2: Novelty Transistor Radios

1st Place & Best of Show

"Little Orphan Annie"
radio and accompa-
nying vintage
premiums and litera-
ture.

Entered by George

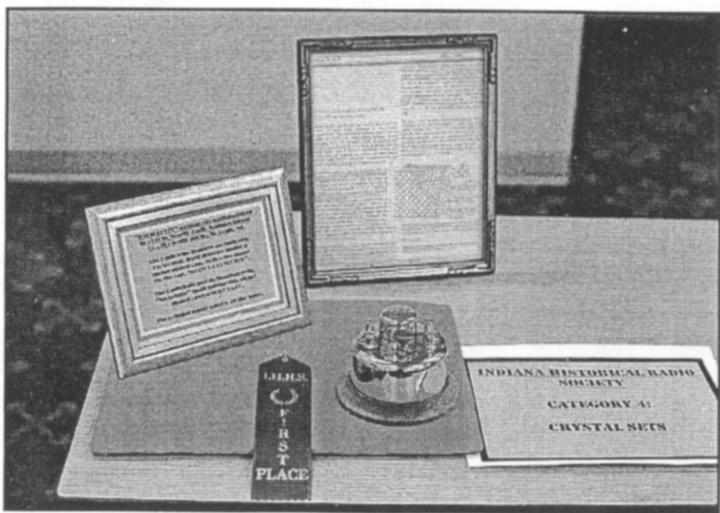


2nd Place

Violin shaped transistor
radio.

Entered by Dr. Ed Taylor

Category 4: Crystal Radios



1st Place

"Radiolette" crystal radio.

Entered by George Freeman



2nd Place

1920s "Liberty Central Bank" crystal radio.

Entered by Pete Yanczer

Category 5: Open Category



1st Place

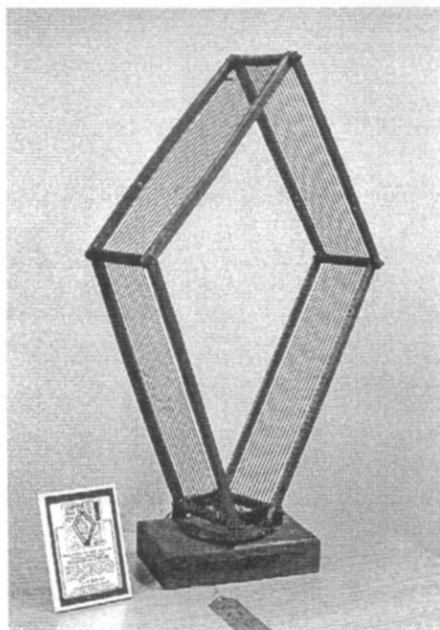
1920s "Perryman" radio tube display.

Entered by Fred Phrohl

2nd Place

1920s "Alco Radio Labs" radio loop antenna

Entered by Robert Avery



RADIOADS

These ads are free to IHRS members. Please limit them to 100 words. 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.

For Sale: McMurdo-Silver Masterpiece V in a beautiful inlaid cabinet. Don Patterson and I both think that the cabinet is an Ozarka cabinet that was professionally redone for this set. This is in beautiful condition. (It's for sale because I don't need 3 of these.)

Coke Machine, Cavalier Model CSS173. Refrigeration works and it's all there, including the key. Holds a lot of 12 oz. (or smaller bottles). \$250.00.

The McMurdo-Silver Masterpiece V and the Coke Machine, may be seen by appointment, but bring money.

Mike Clark, 6484 East 350 North, Franklin, IN 46131.

Tel # (317) 738-4649, e-mail maclark@iupui.edu .

FOR SALE: Radio schematics-\$2.50. Rider's radio and TV manuals, Xerox copies of service manuals, Zenith, 942 pp-\$65, Philco, 300pp-\$30, Crosley, 322pp-\$30, Atwater Kent, 463pp-\$35.00, Rider's Radio Index, 1 through 23-\$25.00. Books, SASE for list. All plus shipping. Philco cabinets, front panels, colonial clock top trim and finials, etc.. Other parts.....inquire. (Plus shipping) Dick Oliver, 28604 Schwalm Dr., Elkhart. N 46517. (219) 522-5116

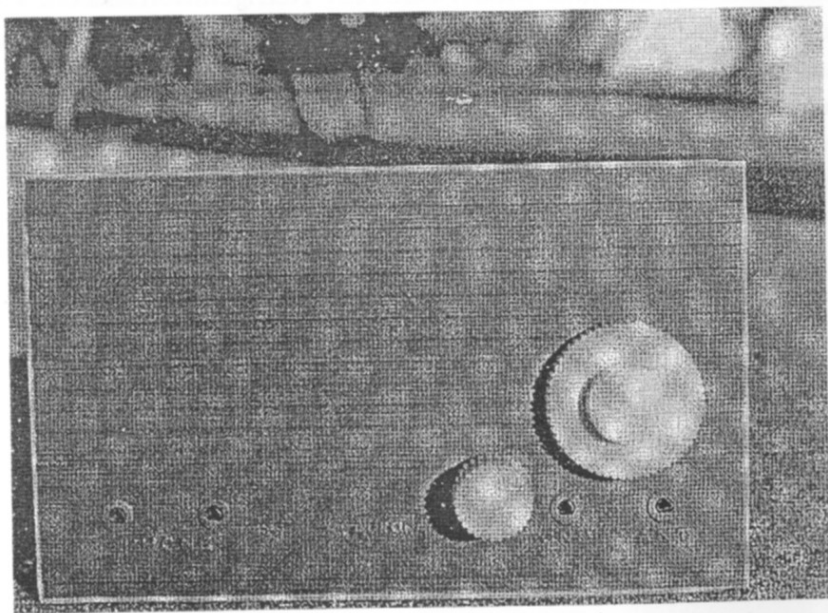
FOR SALE: Photocopies: Hallicrafters S-22, Zenith 1000-1, Radiola III, 18, 60, 100A, 103, Majestic 52, and other radio, tube, and Test Equipment manuals. Also some Novelty radios. LSASE for list. **WANTED:** Good escutcheon for Philco 42-355 or 42-390,

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(9 pushbuttons) and original (or tracing) of the back for an Emerson EP-375, ("5+1").

Herman Gross, 1705 Gordon Dr. Kokomo, IN 46902. (765) 459-8308, e-mail w9itt@juno.com

Wanted: Aurora plastic radios similar to the one shown in the photo. The one I really want is a one tube model in a case identical to this. They were sold as a kit to meet Boy Scout Radio Badge requirements. There are other models that I am also probably interested in so contact me. Mike Clark, 6484 East 350 North, Franklin, IN 46131, (317) 738-4649, e-mail maclark@iupui.edu



(RADIOADS, continued)

MESSAGE: We have slowed down, but we are still making WD-11 adapters, etc., plug-in coil forms, rebuilding audio transformers and doing all of the things we have done for 21 years. James Fred, 5355 S. 275W, Cutler IN 46920. (765) 268-2214.

SERVICES: Hickok test equipment, repair and calibration. Factory authorized contact person. Wendall E. Hall, 3 Mockingbird Circle, Jeffersonville, IN 47130. Shop phone/fax, (812)256-2090, home phone, (812) 282-9709.

WANTED: Music Minus One (MMO) musicians background LP records. Thanks. Walter Sanders, 15 Todd Drive, Terre Haute. IN, 47803. Tel. # (812) 877-2643.

FOR SALE: Magnavox 15" dynamic speaker, no rust or rips, good 500 ohm field--\$20.00 postpaid. George Hauske, 1922 E. Indiana St., Wheaton, IL 60187. Phone (630-668-3845).

WANTED: Any source of information on Lyradian Manufacturing of Mishawauka, Indiana. Looking for advertising, documentation, or personal knowledge of this Indiana Radio manufacturer of the 20's. Fred Prohl, 3129 Lanam Ridge Road, Nashville, IN 47448, (812)988-1761, e-mail = fprohl@worldnet.att.net

WANTED: Back issue bulletins from various radio clubs such as AWA, IHRS, SCARS, ARCA and others. One issue or a box full. Looking for Wilson radios in almost any condition. Always looking for E.H.Scott, McMurdo Silver, Midwest, Lincoln, Norden-Hauck and Leutz radios/parts/literature in almost any condition. Need a set of knobs for a Philco 70 cathedral radio. Michael Feldt, 12035 Somerset Way East, Carmel, Indiana, 46033. Phone:(317) 844-0635. e-mail: feldtm@iquest.net

(RADIOADS, continued)

WANTED: Copy (or original) Manual or Schematic for Sargent
1939 Streamliner Receiver.

Harry Blesy, N9CQX
9S740 Clarendon Hills Road,
Hinsdale, IL 602521

Phone/FAX: (630) 789-1793

You may recall that Ross Smith had a number of items for sale in the last 2 "Bulletins". I had been unable to contact Ross to determine what had been sold so as to modify the ad.

Unfortunately, with his passing, the remainder of the radios and equipment will be a matter of settlement of the estate and Wava's determination as to what the next step will be. Therefore, his ad has been removed. We certainly will miss Ross as a very active member of the club and as a good friend.

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Everett Hoard and his traveling Capacitor inventory at The "Spring Fling" 2000

Remember!! The Elkhart Meet is Saturday, August 19. See details inside in several locations including "Current Events".

Send all ads and articles to: Bob O'Friel,
Editor, IHRS Bulletin,
7631 Cape Cod Circle
Indianapolis, IN 46250-1844