

Indiana Historical Radio Society  
**BULLETIN**

Volume 16

June 1987

Number 2



*Radio's Livest Bulletin*



**Preservation For Posterity**

**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

The spring meet of the IHRS-AWA was the usual grand success! Equipment which had languished in basements, attics, and garages appeared in the flea market and auction. Many pieces changed hands. The flea market apparently started early. We arrived in the afternoon, and it was in full swing.

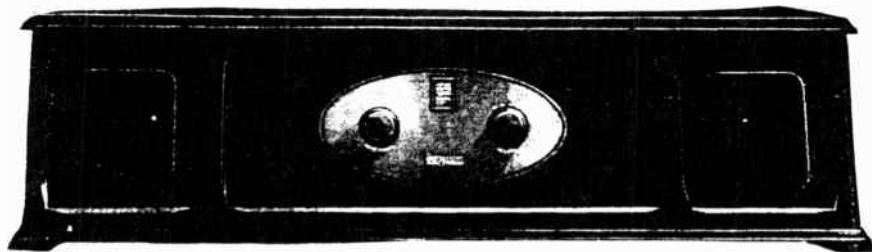
Steve Waldron did his usual fine job as an auctioneer. Although exact counts are not available, there were over 200 pieces in the flea market, and about 150 at the auction.

Much credit and many thanks are certainly due the 1987 committee for a job well done. Eric vonGrimmenstein, the general chairman, and his able staff worked hard to put the meet together. Our banquet speaker, Laura "Benny" Lee, completed the day with her highly amusing presentation, "Laughs from the Past." This featured recordings from the famous radio personalities and shows of earlier years.

I have delivered all of the equipment to the INDEX Museum in Indianapolis. My thanks to Ross Smith, Ed Taylor, Frank Heathcote, Marshall Howenstein, and Del Barrett for their fine co-operation in lending equipment from their personal collections to the presentation. The museum is located on the ground floor of the Union Station in Indianapolis and will be a free attraction. The museum is scheduled to open July 25, 1987.

Our next meet will be hosted by Frank and Diana Heathcote on June 27. Please note the meet will be at a NEW LOCATION in Logansport, Spencer Park. The map in the March Bulletin shows the new location. See you there.

Paul Gregg, President



**Ferguson**  
J. B. INCORPORATED  
*The Gold Standard of Radio Receivers*

# AUBURN CONTEST RESULTS

Chairman of the Contest Committee Don Myers wishes to thank the many who took the time and trouble to help make the display so tremendous. He also asks that any who did not receive an award ribbon, please write him. Be sure to include your mailing address and phone number.

## CATEGORIES AND WINNERS:

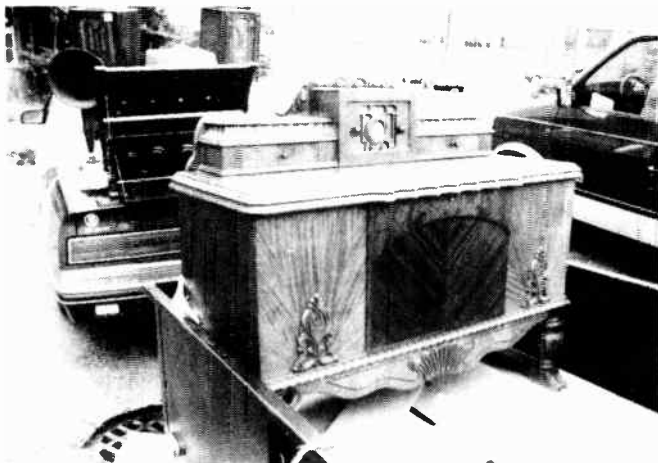
1. CRYSTAL SETS (any year)
  - A. FACTORY MADE
    1. Ray Schober - GE ER753
    2. Ed Dupart - Radiola 1
  - B. HOMEBREW
    1. Ed Taylor
    1. George Clemans - Nat. Bureau of Standards Replica
    2. George Hausske
2. NOVELTY RADIOS
  - A. ART DECO
    1. George Hausske - Majestic Cruiser
    2. Pete Yanczer - Emerson Chest
  - B. MIRRORED
    1. Sylvia Myers - Sparton Blued
    2. Mary and Frank Rasada - Mir-ray Silvered
3. BATTERY RADIOS BEFORE 1930
  - A. REGENERATIVE
    1. Fred Schultz - Shepp-Co, Jr.
    2. Michael Kibler -Federal E-10
    2. Pete Yanczer - National
  - B. TRF OR NEUTRODYNE
    1. George Hausske - Nightingale
    2. Mike Feldt - Okay Grand
- C. SUPERHETERODYNE  
(No entries)
- D. HOMEBREW
  1. Ross Smith - Reinartz
  2. Mike Feldt - Two-tube
4. CATHEDRAL AND MANTEL
  1. Robert Lozier -Phillips Cathedral
  2. Pete Yanczer - Cub
5. ATWATER KENT RECEIVERS BEFORE 1930
  - A. BATTERY
    1. Kent King - AK 30 with Cabinet Speaker
    2. Don Myers - AK 20
  - B. BREADBOARD
    1. Raymond Schober -AK Model 9
6. GREBE RECEIVERS
  1. Robert Trautman -Model CR-5 1921
  2. Robert Johnson -MU4 Synchrophase
7. SPEAKERS BEFORE 1930
  1. Dean Thurnall - Tower Wall Speaker
  2. George Hausske - Orchestrion
8. CLASSICS AND CUSTOMS
  1. Don Johnston - McMurdo-Silver

BEST OF SHOW: Ross Smith - Homebrew Reinartz

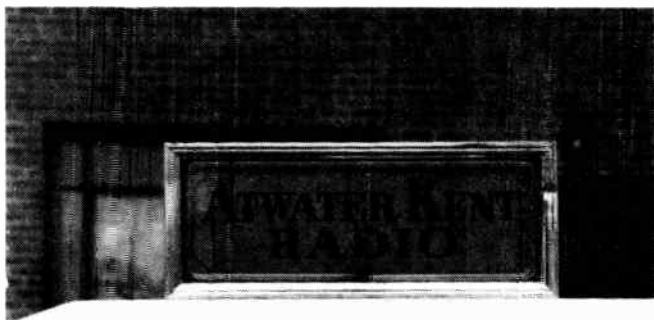
**ABOUT OUR COVER:** Experimenter Publishing Company, another enterprise of Radio's Hugu Gernsback, published our cover illustration in **French Humor**, August 13, 1927. Other Gernsback publications at the time were **Radio News**, **Science and Invention**, **Radio Listener's Guide**, **Amazing Stories**, and **Spare-Time Money Making**.

CO-EDS.

## *FOR SALE AT AUBURN*



Bruce Tanner, a member of the Michigan Antique Radio Club, had this cedar chest radio for sale. He obtained the radio from a Lansing, Michigan antique dealer, who, in turn, had gotten the radio from a Grand Rapids, Michigan home. The radio is a Pacific from Salt Lake City - Chicago. The cedar chest is by Dillingham Furniture of Sheboygan, Wisconsin.



Jim Schireff, of Oak Park, Illinois, had this Atwater Kent lighted sign for \$150.00. Purchased at a flea market, the sign has had the lettering restored to increase contrast.

# THE AUCTION RESULTS

## *At Auburn*

Reported by Edna Clemans

The IHRS Auction, ably conducted by Steve Waldron, Glen Rogers, and Marilyn Johnston, and held Saturday, May 2, was not as large as in previous years, nor was there much in the way of "exotic" or high priced items. No estate or partial collections were offered this year, for the first time in several years. However, beginning collectors could find some basic desirables there. The prices should be instructive; would that antique shop owners could learn! The top dollar was commanded by a working Reporter Cathedral Radio by National Phansteel, \$65.00. An unusual RCA Victor cone speaker in excellent working condition brought \$60.00, the highest price for a speaker.

Some receiver prices follow:

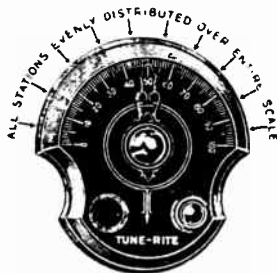
AK 40, for parts only.....	\$ 2.00
AK 46, not working.....	22.50
AK 55 with speaker, fair condition, not working.....	29.00
FADA metal box AC radio, unknown condition.....	10.00
Silverstone metal box radio, good condition, works.....	16.00
Freed-Eisemann radio.....	16.00
Freed-Eisemann NR-6, cabinet only.....	4.00
Philco 80 Cathedral.....	40.00
Philco Battery Cathedral, fair condition.....	25.00
Crosley 125 Cathedral, fair condition.....	32.50
Silver Marshall Console, fair condition.....	11.00
Zenith Transoceanic Model No. 8600S, works.....	21.00

Speakers went as follows:

Western Electric Horn Speaker, excellent condition.....	\$57.70
RCA Radiola 100 "Searchlight" Speaker, unknown condition.....	11.00
Utah Speaker, works.....	16.00
Stromberg-Carlson wall speaker, works, cone fair.....	21.00

Finally, there were a few novelty items:

Avon Juke Box Bottle.....	\$ 2.00
Fitzgerald "Quack" Medical Unit.....	10.00
Little Nipper (RCA Victor Trade Mark) chalk, new.....	15.00
WW2 Lifeboat Transmitter, "Gibson Girl," with instruction manual...	16.00

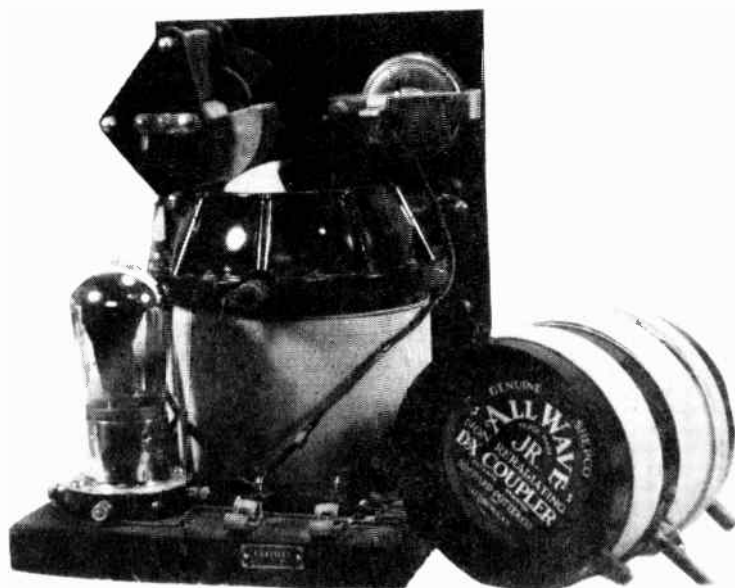


# THE STORY OF THE HOMEBREW

By George B. Clemans

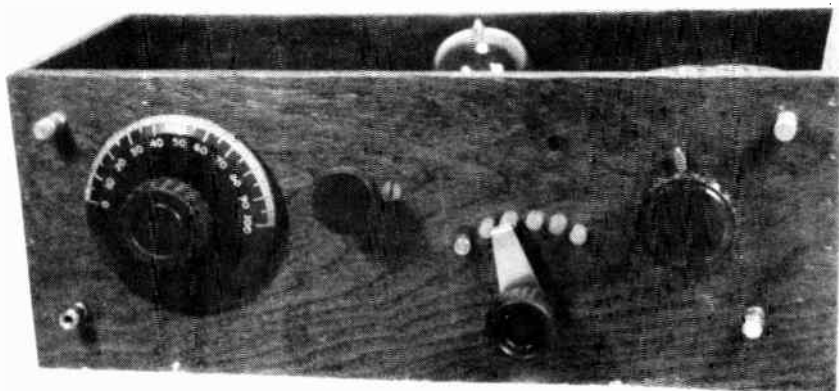
Early homemade radios are usually considered the “black sheep” of any radio collection, since the workmanship they exhibit is often poor and their performance even worse. Nonetheless, they sometimes have interesting stories to tell if they are examined closely. At times they can give unique insights into the trials and tribulations of the early radio fan or unusual sidelights to radio history. Here are a few examples that I have found.

The first picture shows how one radio fan reacted to the rapidly changing radio scene in the early twenties. This set started life as a single-circuit



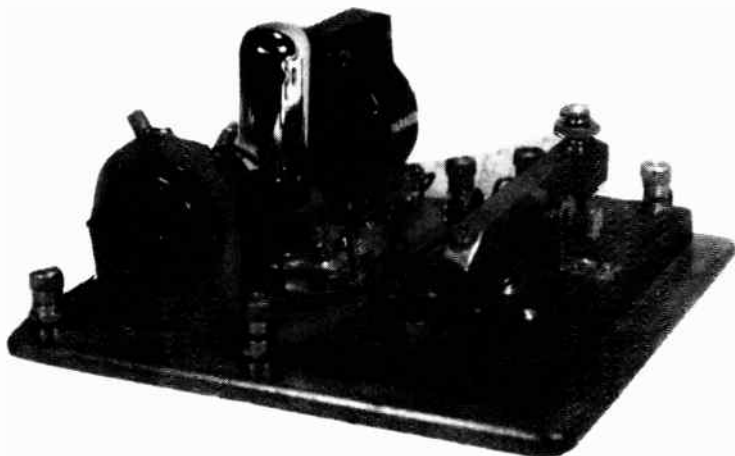
regenerative receiver using the one-amp UV-201 tube. When the new quarter-amp 201-A tube came out, however, additional filament resistance was required to reduce the current to this value. The Cutler-Hammer Company was quick to market a fixed wire-wound unit for just this purpose. Our set builder bought one and added it to his filament rheostat as can be seen in the upper right of the picture. But his troubles were not over for long. As more and more stations came on the air, greater selectivity was needed to separate them than was available with most single-circuit sets. Again the radio parts companies were quick to market coils to improve old sets. Along with this set was found a Shepcos “All Wave DX Coupler” that would have converted the receiver into a much more selective three-circuit set. This change was not made, however, perhaps because our radio fan was by this time fed up with trying to keep pace with every new development. Maybe he even went out and bought a commercial receiver!

The next homebrew is again a single-circuit regenerator, but it has a different story to tell. As can be seen in the picture, the front panel has holes in it for mounting the various parts. A careful examination revealed, however, that these holes were not drilled as expected, but rather were burned in using a red-hot nail. Once the nail had served this purpose, it was then used as the shaft



for a homemade variocoupler serving as a tickler for regeneration. It takes little imagination to picture a radio fan of the twenties, perhaps too young to have a complete set of tools, but who was nevertheless unwilling to be left behind in the discovery of the wonders of radio. Could it be that radio fever, like true love, conquered all?

The last two homebrews are not in fact radios at all. The next photo shows a homemade code practice oscillator, doubtless built by some "ham" in an effort to learn Morse code for his license exam.



This oscillator uses a glass socket for a UV-199 tube, and even the sending key



is handmade. The workmanship is surprisingly good, and the brass-trimmed wooden lever has a quick action that lets the sender develop a good "fist." It would be interesting to learn if the key was ever used on the air.



Finally, the last picture shows a homebrew vacuum tube! What originally was an unbased Cunningham tubular "Audio Tron" has been set into a standard Shaw brass base with sealing wax. The original leads are taken out through the pins in the same order as that of a 201-A tube. Thus, an unbased tube that was still serviceable could be used in the new UV model tube sockets. In this way a tube that was obsolete by 1920 gained new life, and the original owner saved the \$6.50 price of a "modern" 201 tube.

These are just a few examples of the things that can be discovered when a homebrew is given a second look. Not all are, of course, like the ones shown here, but a little looking will surely turn up other examples even more interesting or outlandish. If you find any, or if you already have such a set, let us know, and we will include its story in a future **Bulletin**.

## Changes Your Set Into a Low Wave Receiver

Sent postpaid upon receipt of \$15 M. O.—or C. O. D. plus postage. State name of set and type of tubes you use.



# SUBMARINER



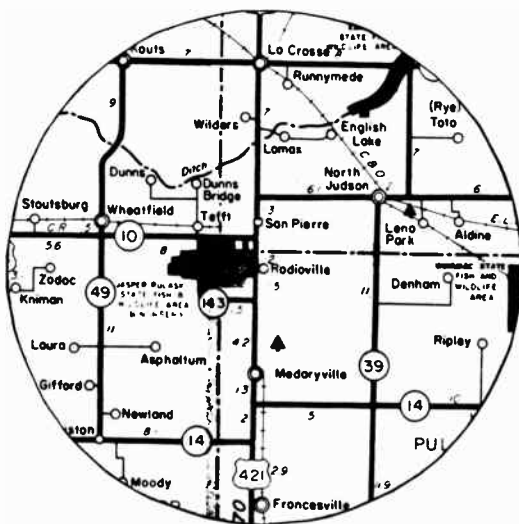
Converts any set, regardless of make or number of tubes used, into a high class low wave tuner, with which you may experience the thrill of listening to voices from all parts of the world on low wave lengths. No changes necessary to your present set.



## EVERYWHERE A SENSATION

No jumble of stations on low waves—no disagreeable noises—practically no static. Learn code by listening to amateurs from all parts of the world. Comes ready to attach; no extras needed. Just plug in and you have command of the low wave lengths. Operates as a wave changer in superheterodynes. Connected and disconnected instantly. Order today.

# Location for Future Meeting???!?



RADIOVILLE, INDIANA, on Route 421 between Medaryville and San Pierre was “discovered” by IHRM member Robert Shuck which he was enroute to last year’s Valpo meet. He suggests we should hold a meeting there.

## FROM THE MAILBAG

We have just recieved notice of the next meeting of the Michigan Radio Club. The details are as follows:

- MEET NAME:** ANNUAL “EXTRAVAGANZA” SUMMER MEET
- PLACE:** Dillon Inn in Lansing, Michigan
- DATES:** July 18 & 19, Saturday and Sunday
- EVENTS:**
- Swap Meet both days
  - Inside Auction with Steve Waldron
  - Equipment Contests
  - Programs:
    - Cleaning up cabinets and chassis
    - George Wedemeyer (85) telling his experiences and knowledge of the history of radio in the Ann Arbor area (Arborphone, Cavac, International Kadette, etc.)
  - 50/50 Raffle
  - Hospitality room/area
- FURTHER INFO:** Contact Jim Clark 1-517-323-9595 eves.

# PURDUE RADIO STATION CELEBRATES

By Marshall Howenstein

Indiana's first licensed radio station, WBAA, recently celebrated sixty-five years of continuous service to the public. The station began broadcasting in 1922 as an educational station.

Fifty-five years ago, a young man from Indianapolis decided to change his career as an engineer while attending Purdue and to become a radio announcer. His name was Durwood Kirby. Mr. Kirby, now retired and living in Florida, says that it was one of the best decisions he ever made. It led him into a career in radio, motion pictures, television, and on the New York stage. In the early days, WBAA was listed as an experimental station and broadcast at 1000 watts power. It was limited to two hours a week from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on only two days a week, Monday and Fridays. There were four announcers at the time, each allotted fifteen minutes. Mr. Kirby made the "whopping salary" of ten cents an hour; however, it was 1931, and any kind of job was better than nothing in the Great Depression.

Kirby left Purdue University and the station in 1932 and went to Indianapolis, where he auditioned at WKBW. Turned down there, he went to WFBM and was hired at a big jump in salary - \$25.00 a week! He eventually worked his way to Powell Crosley's station, WLW in Cincinnati. During the great flood of the Ohio River, Kirby was heard describing the disaster by the Vice President of NBC in New York City and was promptly hired by the network. This led to his future success.

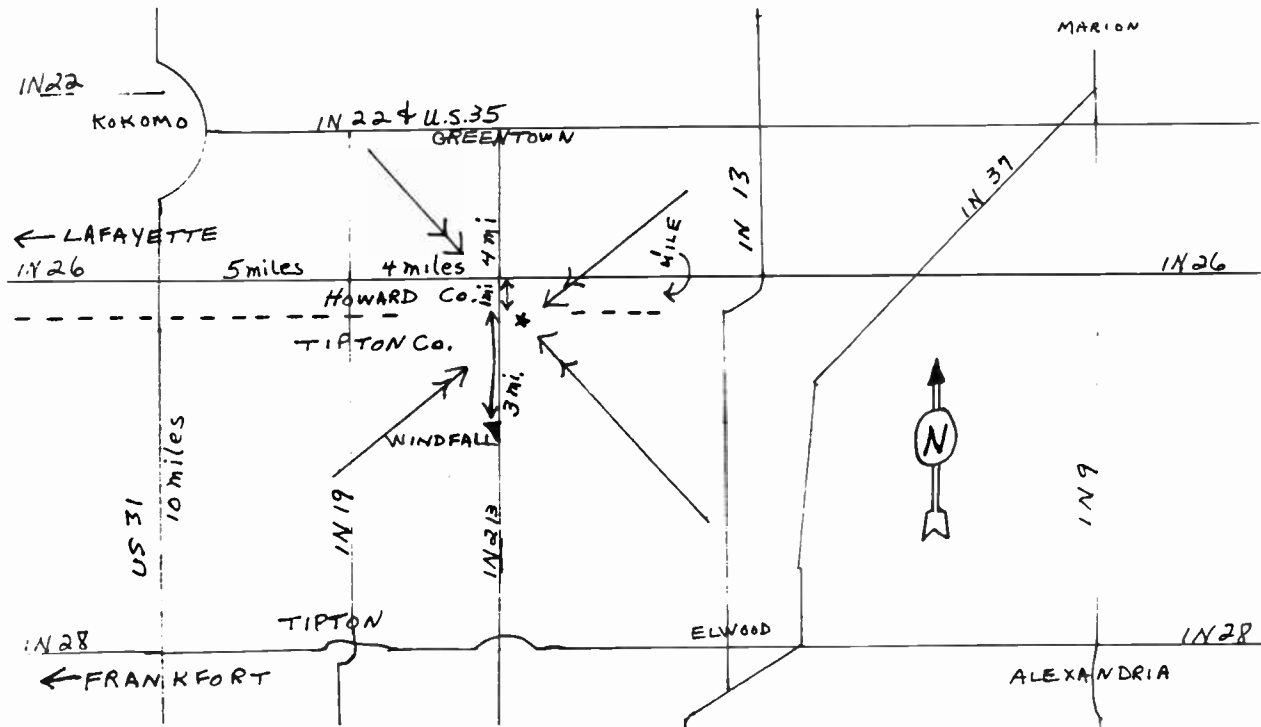
Congratulations to the Purdue University radio station on its sixty-fifth anniversary and to one of its famous announcer-alumni.

## *Editors' Note:*

Marshall Howenstein, the only Life Member of the IHRS, has been interested in radio LONGER than WBAA's sixty-five years of existence! He is a keen historian of the early radio scene in Indiana and a faithful contributor to the IHRS **Bulletin**.

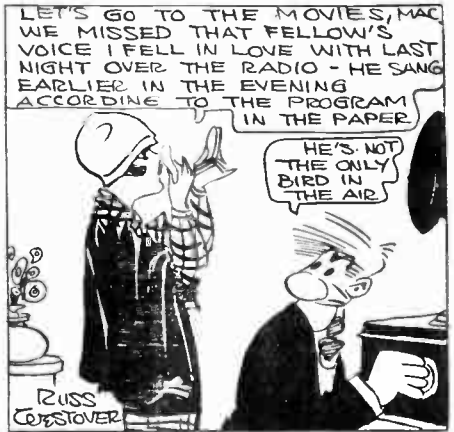


# WINDFALL MAP



# IHRS RADIO COMICS

## Tillie the Toiler



# STATIC



# RADIOADS

**FOR SALE:** Vintage radio tubes in original cartons. 80, 5Z3, 6F8, 6B7, 6C8, \$1.50; 6D6, 76, 78, \$2.00 each; 6A5, 45, \$3.00 each. Will bring to Logansport. George B. Clemans, 851 West Wooster Street, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402. (419) 352-7198.

**MEET NEW PEOPLE** and influence your friends. Build a **MECHANICAL TV**. Send **SASE** for information to Peter Yanczer, 835 Bricken, St. Louis, Missouri 63122.

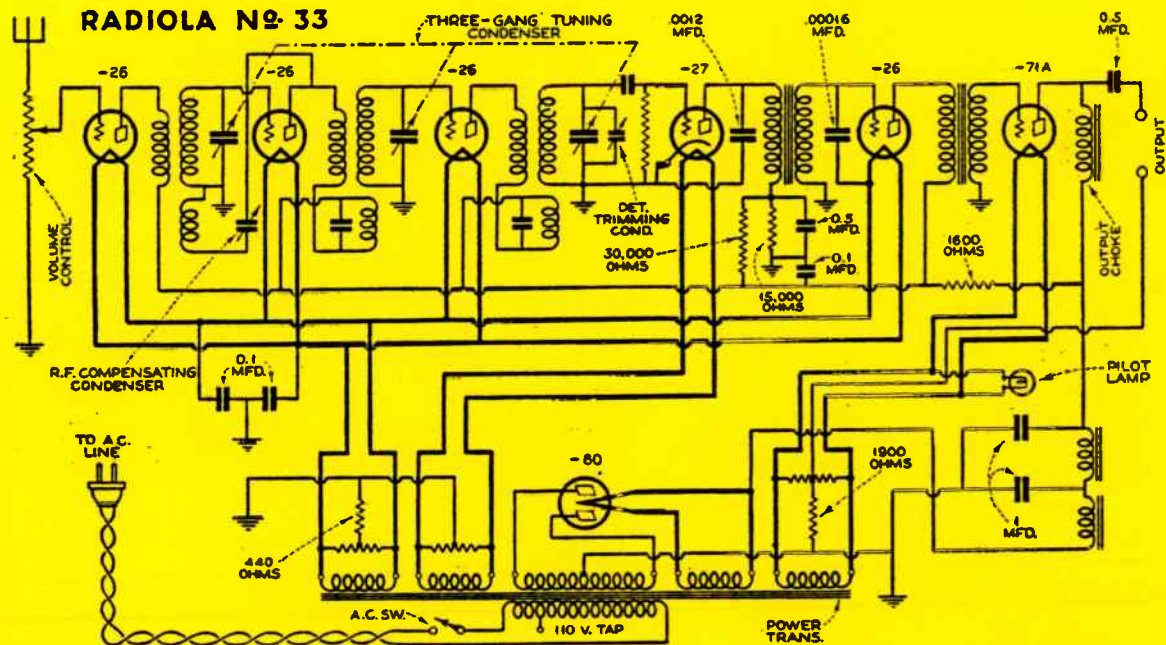
**WANTED.** Information on WW II Nazi radio, Siemens Model k32 GWB. Also tubes for same, DCH 11, DF 11, DAF 11, DL 11, and UY 11. George B. Clemans, 851 West Wooster Street, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402. (419) 352-7198.

**FOR SALE.** Zenith AM shortwave and Philco AM shortwave consoles. About 1938 models. Beautiful cabinets. Zenith plays good. Philco needs power transformer repaired. Your choice \$40.00 each or best offer. Everett Hazlett, R5, Box 702, Greencastle, IN 46135. (317) 653-4997.

**WANTED.** Power transformer for 23-tube Scott Imperial, or source to have re-wound. Generous cash or trade. Don Johnston, RR1, Box 218-A, Windfall, IN 46076. (317) 945-7735 Collect.



**CHARMITONE!**  
SINCE 1925  
**LOUD SINGER**  
A Musical Instrument for the Radio



**I**N the Radiola 33, three -26 a.c. type tubes are employed in the stabilized radio-frequency stages, a -27 indirect heater type tube is used as the detector, followed by a -26 in the first audio-frequency stage and a -71A in the second stage. The -80 full-wave rectifier tube supplies plate potential to the tubes in the receiver. Volume is controlled by a variable

resistor in the grid circuit of the first radio-frequency tube. An output choke and condenser in the plate circuit of the second audio-frequency tube provides protection against burnt out speaker windings. The conventional filter circuit is employed in the power pack. Unlike other A. C. receivers, this one employs a six-volt pilot lamp.

# THE LOG OF THE IHRS

\*\*\*Indiana is on Eastern Standard Time\*\*\*

**Saturday, June 27, 1987:** The first summer meeting of the IHRS will be held in Logansport at Spencer Park off High Street. *NOTE: NEW LOCATION!* Frank and Diane Heathcote will again host the meeting which will begin with the usual flea market and swap meet at 9:00 a.m. A popular vote contest will be held with the following categories.:

1. Radios made by companies whose names begin with vowels (A, E, I, O, U and Y), 1920-1950.
2. Radios made in New York State, 1920-1950.
3. "Free for All," Bring what you want to show off - best (or worse) deal, worst condition, most wildlife within, or anything else you might think of. As always, supporting documentation is helpful.

**Saturday, August 8, 1987:** Don and Marilyn Johnston will host the second Windfall Meeting. (See map inside.) Come Friday night and camp in our south '40' -- or come early on Saturday and stay all day. SWAP, SELL, BUY, VISIT, EAT. Lots of room for setting up. All members of IHRS, ARCA, ARCI, MARC, and AWA, friends and radio collectors, come on to our house. Please bring your own selling table, lawn chairs, and your tastiest carry-in dish.

*Contest categories for the Windfall Meeting:*

- I. My Smallest Radio
- II. Novelty Sets
- III. AC - DC Sets
- IV. Homebrew - one and two-tube sets
- V. Factory - one and two-tube sets

Looking forward to another year fun meeting with friends. Don, Marilyn, and Sam, telephone (317) 945-7735.

**Saturday, September 12, 1987:** IHRS Valpo Meeting at Valparaiso Technical Institute. Details in a later *Bulletin*.

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

