

The  
Indiana  
Historical  
Radio Society

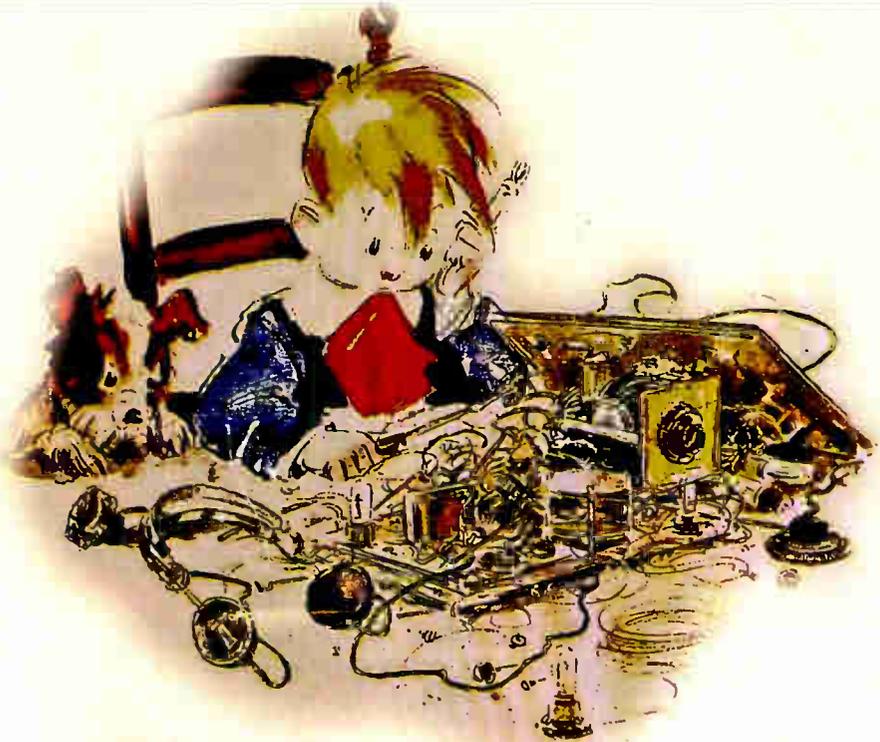


**BULLETIN**

Volume 43

March 2014

Number 1



**I know I can get a one tube  
radio from this!**

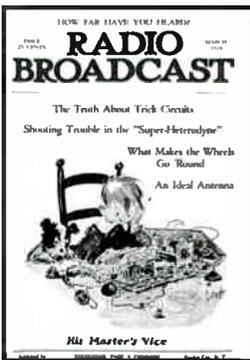
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**The BULLETIN**  
**A PUBLICATION OF THE INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY**  
**FORTY-THREE YEARS OF**  
**DOCUMENTING EARLY RADIO**

# The Indiana Historical Radio Society Bulletin

## March 2014

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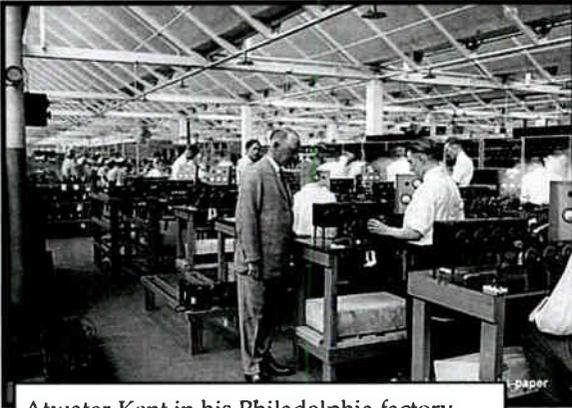
**The Cover:** Percy Crosby was a popular illustrator of magazine covers and advertising during the 1920's and 30's. He, for a number of years, wrote and sketched a comic strip called "Skippy". Frequently "Skippy" is shown confronted with a radio disaster of some sort—such as the March 1924 cover of Radio Broadcast.

We sadly report in this issue of the "Bulletin", the death of four members of the IHRS. Peter and Edna Yanczer and Charlie Stinger were part of a core group of members that built the IHRS to a nationally respected vintage radio organization. Regretfully we did not have much opportunity to get to know a new member of the IHRS, Bill Quick. All four will be missed.

DIY alert! Keep working on your One Tube Radio as a contest entry in the fast approaching IHRS 2014 Spring Meet in Kokomo! For inspiration and motivation see Ed Dupart's The Junk Box One Tube Radio on page 18.

See you at Kokomo! Fred Prohl, Bulletin editor

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S KEYBOARD



Atwater Kent in his Philadelphia factory.

It's doubtful that anyone needs to be convinced how rough a winter we've had, nor how everyone is anticipating spring more this year than ever before. At least it seems that way. My transmitting antenna is still waiting to be put back up, a few of the snow piles that remain are quickly melting and my snow blower has the droops after its over-use this past 3 ½ months. All in all, however, the positive side to the winter of 2013-14 is that most winters, after this past winter, will probably be less severe. We can hope anyway.

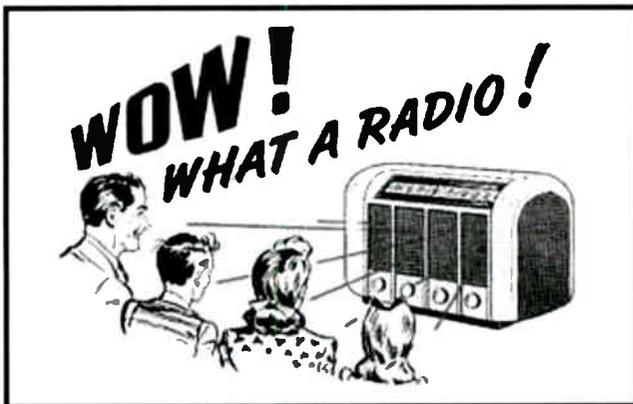
What's going on in your neck of the woods? (A play upon the phrase made famous by weatherman Al Roker, or was it Willard Scott?) Anyway, I'd like to be able to sit down over a cup of coffee with each of you enjoying the experiences and the pursuit of old radios in your life. If I can ever figure out a way to be able to do just that, aside

from meeting you at our various IHRS meets, I'd look forward to it.

IHRS is unique because in the 43 years since the original thirteen collectors started the club, many friends have been made, and there is a genuine concern when one is hurting or when we've lost a member due to his or her passing. There's certainly a number of clubs one can choose to have membership in.

There are just as many facets to the joy of radio collecting as there are people to collect radios. Some clubs are large; others have passed from

the scene as their numbers have grown so small that to continue the membership finally became a task too large. Unlike internet forums and virtual clubs that one can find with just a swish of the mouse and a point of your browser, real honest-to-goodness clubs where the mem-



## From Your President (continued)

bers can meet, exchange radios and ideas plus enjoy a generally good atmosphere cannot be equaled. We live in a society that takes for granted that an event, whatever the interest, will always be around.

People, not just young people, but most people spend altogether too much time texting or using their eye pads to the degree that some of our populace cannot converse in audible tones and words. We're losing the ability to "neighbor" in our groups. Hams (amateur radio operators) have known the value of getting together in their hamfests. I've seen groups who couldn't wait to see their friends; talking radio came later. The value of friendship is important. If we're not careful, however, hamfests and antique radio meets, such as our IHRS meets, will be just a glimpse from within someone's memory and nothing else.

Those within the IHRS ranks that are absent from a meet, leaves me feeling sad and incomplete. I look for you and when I realize you're absent, some of my enjoyment is lacking. I don't always remember names, thanks to the years adding up, but faces usually stick with me. (So if you make a face at me the next time I see you, I'll remember it. Ha!) People are important; sure, we meet on common ground, thanks to **Atwater-Kent**, **Crosley and Scott**, but we meet be-

cause of people. If it weren't for the people aspect, we could get along with our computers and the internet to find radios. But the factor for success in any collective group is maintaining the experience of people.

I have chosen to encourage your officers to meet periodically to discuss, around a table, the issues that face our club. Sure, we could accomplish much of the same ground covered using emails, texting and the telephone system and for less than the cost of gasoline spent. But...I wouldn't have had the fun that we've had in meeting face-to-face, by using a computer.

That is why we are so fortunate to have IHRS, a club that was formed for the "**preservation for posterity**" of the radios we love. But again...why have meets if it weren't for people? My involvement was started back in the early '70s when C.E. Strand, my father-in-law, introduced me to "The Bulletin" and later to the people. I look forward to our meets (all 4 of them for 2014 – watch for details on the August meet at Cool Creek). We had four young men at the past Lawrence Park meet. Two of them, Paul Yost and Pdraig Lysandron, are late teens ready to embark upon more schooling and more experiences. The third young fellow, whose name I have mislaid, a grandson of folks there with items to sell and the fourth which I

missed altogether, make up the future for **IHRS**. Folks, we dare not lose our focus because the continued longevity of our club and our hobby depends on it.

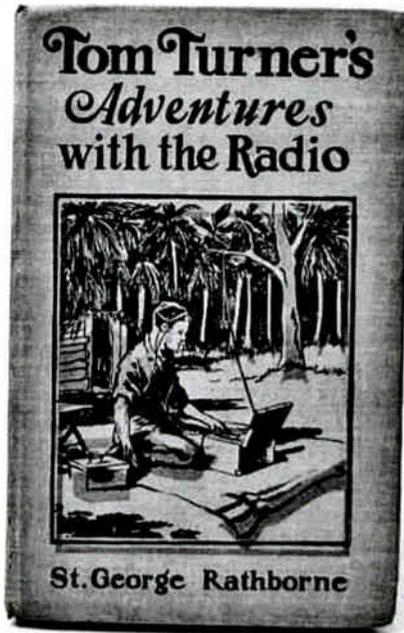


**We need help.** We have several people who have had the hats of responsibility on for so long, it has become a burden for them and most members take for granted what these few have accomplished. Herman and Shirley very seldom get the opportunity to look around during one of our meets. Their expertise in keeping the **IHRS** accounts and registration has become legend. They do such a terrific job; yet, it is unfair that they have had to continue working so very hard in spite of physical concerns which they are now experiencing. Fred Prohl wears not only one hat but several, often changing from one responsibility to another as the need arises. There are others who have worked tirelessly for the cause of **IHRS** as well.

Again, your club needs more volunteers to help. Setting up tables,

taking down tables, making coffee, bringing the donuts, arranging the registration table, taking pictures, keeping track of auction sales, stacking chairs, making arrangements for a myriad of activities, check off lists, sweeping floors, putting up signs and banners and all the while managing to keep a smile ready for the next person or group who comes in the door. I've just named a few of the many different areas that we need help. There are more. For those who have helped, meet after meet, I thank you. You are certainly appreciated. However, there is always room for more. This is a great club...let's not fail the vision of the original thirteen. Let's keep it going with all of us lending a hand.

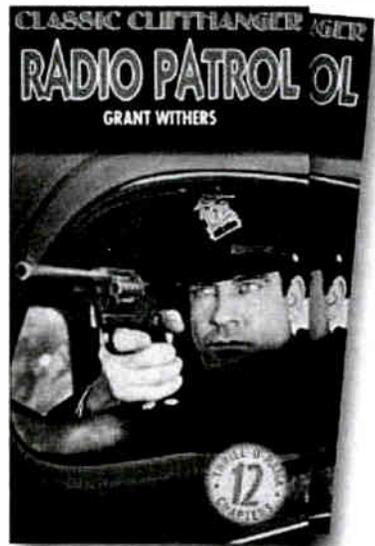
**Treasurer** – We'll be having our annual election of officers at the May meet in Kokomo. There is one very important opening within our group of officers, which is the treasurer's job. Herman has done extraordinary work with a high level of perfection. Yet he and Shirley need a much needed break from the responsibility as demanded by their physical issues. I'm hoping there would be someone willing to undertake this position. I kid you not; it requires time and proficiency. **IHRS** needs a treasurer. So, please; if anyone would be willing to fill this very important spot, please email one of your officers.



Just when I think I've just about exhausted my sources finding any more radio novels, along comes another one. The latest find from my browsing at Lawrence Park was **Tom Turner's Adventures with the Radio**. This one-of-kind book for youth was published in 1924 by Whitman Publishing Co. of Racine, Wisconsin. This obscure but not necessarily rare book, has a great story line committed to the use of radio within the plot of an adventure story. After I bought it, I looked up on eBay later that same day and found two others up for bid with realistic prices.

Then there's the **Radio Patrol**,

available in both a daily strip that ran from 1933 to 1950 and in color Sunday strips that ran from 1934 to 1946. It was a detective / police story byline with characters with names like Molly Day, Sergeant Pat and partner Sam. A 1930s radio show and a continued chapter movie serial in 1937 also appeared



for a time. It, too, is available from time-to-time on eBay, although I've not see any personally.

I'm hopelessly hooked on **Sylvania Electronics**. That hanging outdoor sign, which was given to me and for which I removed from the front of Myers Radio Store in Marion eleven years ago, is to blame. Hopefully, I'll be able

to put up a display at a future IHRS meet; a display complete with employee records and Sylvania accounting books, tube memorabilia and some advertising.

Sylvania made some great strides in advancement of television with the introduction of its "halolight" available in the very early 1950s, possibly even earlier. The circuit for the "halolight" feature had rarely been published until years later following its introduction. However, in 1958 it was discussed openly, and its circuit revealed. Most television sets used a single chassis. Sylvania changed all that when they decided to split the chassis into a lower and upper configuration making its serviceability most attractive to television repairmen.

Sylvania provided a large variety of logs, manuals and charts for their branded service people to use. Some of the paper I find most interesting. It's likely all the parts and set providers, like RCA and Motorola, also had similar resources available.

I have enjoyed getting several small investment Sylvania radios of late. A red table set and a small pocket-size eight transistor portable has come to share shelf space with my other various and sundry sets. One even arrived in a packing box that was almost as exciting as the radio itself – **Allied Electronics**.

Only Sylvania TV brings you Surround Lighting with **HALOLIGHT**<sup>™</sup>  
The Feature of Light That Adds to Your Eyes

**Greatest Eye Comfort Feature in Television**  
Optical systems upon the famous lighting in the eye range of eye needed to withstand bright light. Sylvania's Halolight, the only feature of light around the television screen, illuminates colors, both natural and artificial, in the light range and naturally defines. Makes the picture look larger and clearer, too. The result is a picture that's easy on your eyes. Halolight is a "day lighting" to children and adults to give depth!

**Greater Picture Vision**  
**Severe Service... Severe Current**  
This new Sylvania television light surrounding the screen is built into the TV chassis and allows Sylvania's new type of power supply. It's the most reliable feature in television, built to last and more so. It's the most reliable feature in television, built to last and more so. It's the most reliable feature in television, built to last and more so.

**Make This Eye Comfort Test**  
Put your eye to the test. Turn on your TV. Look at the screen. Now turn on the Halolight. You'll see the difference. It's the difference between a TV set and a Sylvania TV set.

**Remember...you always get more for your money in Sylvania TV**  
More Picture Clarity • More Powerful Performance  
More Genuine Economies  
27" model only...\$169.95

One does not see that happen much anymore.

Well, my friends, that just about wraps up my contribution for this edition of The Bulletin. Our IHRS May meet in Kokomo is fast approaching. I'm looking forward to seeing you then, and I hope your days leading up to Kokomo will be filled with exciting radio tales.

Be safe, God Bless and we'll see you in "Stop Light City."

Dave Mantor

BTW – if your route going to Kokomo includes going north from Indianapolis, be forewarned that Highway 31 in the Carmel area is going to be in construction stage over the next 6 months or so. You will need to look for an alternate route. *Dave*

# 43rd Indiana Historical Radio Society and Antique Wireless Association Spring Meet

Friday, May 2 & Saturday May 3, 2014

Meet at the Quality Inn Suites, Kokomo, Indiana



The Quality Inn Kokomo is located at 1709 East Lincoln Road, Kokomo, on the US31 bypass. There is space for indoor and outdoor Swap N Sell setup. The indoor space is on ground level with easy access.

**Friday May 2, 3:00PM – Swap N Sell set-up.** Indoor and outdoor space is first come first serve.

Setting up to sell? Check with IHRS Meet registration before selecting a parking space for outdoor setup! The motel management has asked we use a specific area of the parking lot – we intend to honor the request.

4:00PM Spring Meet officially begins

6:00PM Pizza

6:30PM Vintage Radio Presentation "Listenin' In"

8:00PM Doors locked for the evening.

**Saturday, May 3, 8:00AM** Radio Swap N Sell setup continues.

Set up for Old Equipment Contest, Operating Radio Display

Set up for Donation Auction

9:00 am Old Equipment Contest and Operating Radio set-up closes. Contest judging begins.

11:30AM Donation Auction begins.

12:00 noon Spring Meet concludes

**Fees** – General admission is \$5.00 per family.. One Swap N Sell space for the sale and trade of vintage radios is \$10.00 for IHRS members (plus \$5.00 registration fee), \$15.00 for non-members (plus \$5.00 registration fee), good for both days.

**Old Equipment Contest** - Contest is open to all Indiana Historical Radio Society and Antique Wireless Association members. Non member entries will be for display only. The Founders Award is reserved for IHRS members. The entries are judged for historical significance, documentation, and condition of radio.

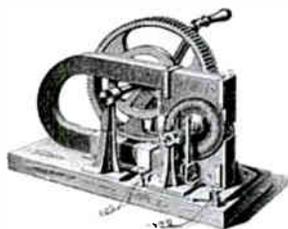
**Contest Categories:** *Contest categories judged by a team of IHRS members.*

1. Indiana Made Radios
2. Pre 1930 Radios
3. Radios from 1930 to WWII
4. Post War Radios
5. Pre-1980 Hi-Fi Equipment
7. Open to all radio and audio related electronic equipment.
8. One Tube DIY Receiver (*See page 16 of this Bulletin.*)

**Operating radios** will be judged in the appropriate contest category.

**Radio Display** – Want to show off a set, generate a discussion? Space will be available to display your radio related equipment.

**Eclectic Electric Display** - Have a unique "electron flow" device you'd like to display? Be it a toaster or Wimshurst Influence Machine - a table will be available to show it off!



***The IHRS welcomes the Hoosier Antique Phonograph Society to our Spring Meet. They will set up with us in the Swap N Sell area.***

Meet contacts: Fred Prohl, 812-988-1761 or Herman Gross 765-459-8308

The Kokomo Quality Inn is offering a discount for IHRS Spring Meet guests. Be sure and say you are attending the Radio Meet when making reservations. For reservations call 765 459 8001.

## We Remember: Peter and Edna Yanczer

Good and loyal friends of the Indiana Historical Radio Society, Peter and Edna passed away respectively in March and February of this year. It is fitting we remember them through an article written by Don Corrigan and published in the Webster/Kirkwood Times (Illinois) September 8, 2000.

### “Radio Active In Warson Woods”

Some men court with candy; some men court with flowers; Peter Yanczer wooed his lady in 1949 by fixing her radio. It's been nothing but sweet music ever since -- on all kinds of radios.

"I was having trouble with my radio dial and some friends who knew Peter put him in touch with me. They knew he worked with a radio company," recalled Edna Yanczer. "He came over and it was a first fix. He didn't charge me. I was impressed.

"He then asked me on a first date for a boat trip on the Admiral on the Mississippi," added Edna Yanczer. "We got married 13 months after he fixed my radio."

Edna Yanczer didn't just marry a radio repair guy, she married a man with many electronic hobbies -- avocations that she has shared with him through the years. Those hobbies have included race cars, scale model airplanes, shortwave listening, experimental television and radios, radios, radios...

The Yanczers regularly attend competitions and conventions such as those of the Indiana Historical Radio Society and Antique Wireless

Association. Peter Yanczer puts up displays and gets involved with antique swapping; Edna Yanczer works on registration of radio conventioners, hospitality programs and other activities.

There are many classifications in antique radio competitions: crystal sets, factory-made and home-brewed; novelty, Art Deco and mirror radios; battery radios; cathedral and mantel tube radios; Grebe receivers, Atwater receivers and more.

In a competition for condition and authenticity, Yanczer might consider entering his 1925 RCA Radiola 26, a 24-pound portable operating on three 45-volt dry cell batteries. Or Yanczer might enter a Grebe Synchronphase receiver with its three massive tuning controls and assorted knobs and switches. Hobbyist Yanczer will tell you that all those dials and knobs may look impressive, but early radio companies actually aspired for sets with just two knobs -- a volume control and a tuning dial. Those simplified sets finally arrived about 1927.

Yanczer noted that radio dealers who sold the early Grebes, with

their vast array of controls, accepted them on trade-ins in the 1930s. Instead of reselling them, the dealers would have a giant bonfire with them. They felt it would hurt their business if they were resold, because then people wouldn't be buying new radios.

Yanczer's wife, Edna, can only shake her head at the thought of all those Grebes going up in smoke. She describes it as a colossal waste of our radio culture.

### ***Sentimental Favorite***

While Yanczer keeps a cranial inventory of hundreds of radios from the past, his sentimental favorite is a 1935 Crosley noise box that his family used when he was a boy.

"It's the same set my family had when we lived just north of the brewery in South St. Louis," said Yanczer. "It sold for about \$20 at the time. I was 10 years old and used to listen to shows like Jack Benny and Jack Armstrong with the rest of the family."

Young Yanczer was allowed to listen to the family radio, but not touch it. His parents were afraid he would take it apart. Yanczer actually got his start in radio after he found a pair of old headphones in an ash pit in the alley behind his house. He took the grimy headphones to "Red" Good who operated Good Radio Service and Refrigerator Company at 10th and Geyer.

"Mr. Good sold me a crystal for 10 cents and gave me a cardboard cylinder and some wire for a crystal radio set," recalled Yanczer. "WTMV in East St. Louis was the first radio station I pulled in, and the show was 'Susie, The Gal From The Hills.' It was at 1490 on your dial."

Yanczer soon sought bigger and better sound. Mr. Good said he could buy a radio tube for amplification for a mere 65 cents. That was quite a sum for a boy on a 10-cent weekly allowance. But Yanczer made the sacrifice for his growing infatuation with the airwaves. His friends thought he was crazy.

Yanczer's fascination with radio naturally led him into an electronics career. He enrolled in electronic studies at the David Rankin School of Mechanical Trades, where he later became a part-time teacher. Shortly after his marriage, Yanczer was called for duty in the Korean War where he served as an electronics technician for the Navy.

In 1960, Yanczer began electronic engineering studies at Washington University, and he completed an associate's degree in 1970. He went to work for Emerson Electric for more than a decade in research and development on radar circuitry. Yanczer also worked for McDonnell Douglas on such projects as the F-18 jet fighter before his retirement.

### *Mechanical Television*

Peter and Edna Yanczer of Warson Woods celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 25 (2000) with little fanfare, but lots of radio music. They are planning a golden anniversary tour to Europe in 2001 where they will visit with, who else, but amateur radio enthusiasts and mechanical television experimenters.

"We have friends in Britain and Scotland and Switzerland who belong to radio clubs," said Yanczer. "I've been a member of the Narrow Band Television Association (NBTVA) of Great Britain for 20 years."

The local hobbyist recently started an American counterpart to NBTVA which now numbers more than a dozen members. It's a rather esoteric club of tinkerers who have an affection for the first mechanical TVs. Yanczer has invented a mechanical television kit for experimenters that he sells for about \$800. Museums and hobbyists have purchased his vintage kits. He is also the author of a 1987 experimenters' book, "The Mechanics of Television: The Story of Mechanical Television."

The book describes the first crude picture transmissions more than 100 years ago in the early efforts to invent TV. It also describes electronic circuits that can be built to duplicate mechanical television. Yanczer has used these circuits to

"teleport" images of Felix the Cat and old Woody Woodpecker films from his downstairs hobby haven.

"There was a boom in these mechanical scanner televisions from 1928 to 1930," said Yanczer. "Almost 500,000 of them were sold in the U.S. They had very small, flickering images. Some St. Louisans had sets, but they needed good antennas, because the nearest TV stations transmitting for mechanical sets were in Chicago."

Yanczer explained that interest died out for mechanical television and TV didn't make a comeback in America until the mass-produced cathode ray tubes of the late 1940s. But Yanczer wants to revive interest in mechanical television, and his book had received rave reviews from electronics clubs in Europe and Australia.

Edna Yanczer explained that some spouses might be bored with a tinkering hobbyist like her husband, but she's found 50 years of excitement with the man who fixed her broken radio tuner in 1949. "And the people who share his interests are just the nicest people you'd ever want to meet -- and they're all over the world," said Edna Yanczer. "I know we won't have another 50 years, but I hope the years we have left are as exciting as what we've experienced so far."

*Don Corrigan, Webster/Kirkwood Times (Illinois)*

**Build a One Tube AM Radio for entry in the  
IHRS Spring Meet Vintage Radio Contest, Kokomo 2014.  
A prize will be awarded to first and second place winners!**

**Guidelines for a Do It Yourself One Tube AM Receiver:**

~The one tube radio is constructed by the contestant. ~ Contestant can choose and build from a published circuit or from a circuit of own design, using period parts. ~ It is suggested the circuit will use components representing the period of the tube selected (builder creativity prevails). ~ Part selection may be from the surplus parts box, or constructed by contestant. ~ It is understood vintage capacitor components may need to have current capacitors in place for successful circuit operation. ~ The power supply is the builders choice and is not considered in the One Tube circuit judging.

*The DIY One Tube AM Receiver will be judged as follows:*

- ~ Does it work, driving headphones or a speaker, depending on circuit design. ~ Adherence of construction to schematic.
- ~ Adherence to use of period parts. ~ Construction techniques, parts layout, soldering, etc. ~ Supporting documentation.
- Overall presentation of the One Tube AM Receiver.

*Can't make it to IHRS Spring Meet in Kokomo  
May 2&3 —and have a one tube radio you've made  
and would like to show it off? Send a several pic-  
tures of the receiver along with a few words about  
your project to the IHRS Bulletin editor for publica-  
tion in a future issue of the Bulletin.*

## Radio! Radio! and Listening In—A fun experience.

**Radio! - Radio!** was the activity theme for March at the Marquette Retirement Community in Indianapolis. Some of the activities scheduled to celebrate Radio—Radio included A Radio Theater, A Live Radio Show featuring Tom Cherry, Movies related to Radio, and a presentation by me, Fred Prohl, representing the Indiana Historical Radio Society. My afternoon presentation was in two parts - the history and uniqueness of five vintage radios and a visual presentation on Radio Paper Art of the 1920's.

The radios, all operating, included a 1925 Slagle TRF with an Orchestrion horn speaker; a 1932 Kennedy cathedral; a 1940 Farnsworth, ten tube table radio; a 1948 Arvin 243-T metal cased receiver;

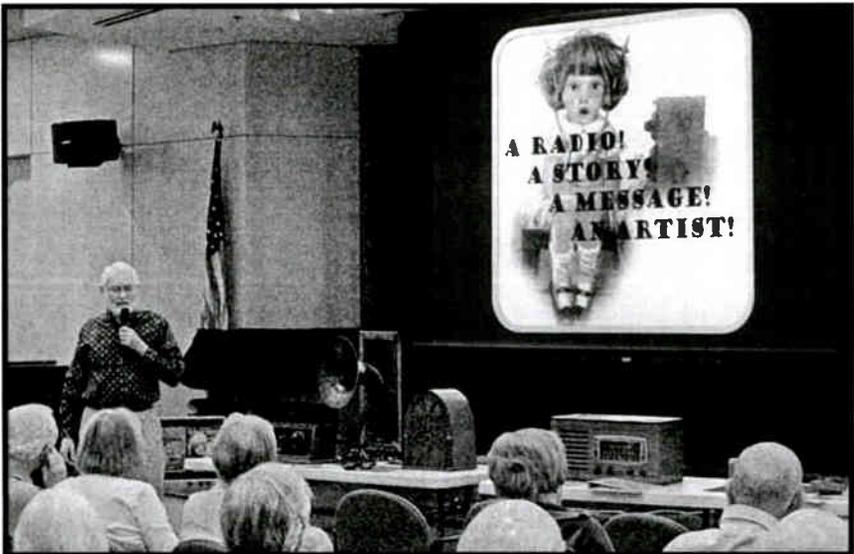
and a 1954 Regency TR-1 pocket transistor set. (Operating radios? The Slagle balked when called upon, but came to life at the end of the presentation.)

The visual presentation (Listening In) is a fun look at the stories, illustrations (and the illustrators) that convey a radio topic on 1920's magazine covers and other paper.

Building on the March Radio! Theme, Alden Chester wrote the feature article "The Golden Age Of Radio" for the Marquette Mirror, the retirement center's monthly publication. The article begins on the facing page.

Thank you Mr. Chester for allowing us to reprint your article.

*Fred Prohl*



# THE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO

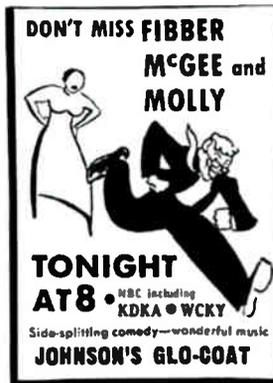
By Alden (Mike) Chester

Our small portable radio sits rather forlornly on the shelf. It hasn't been used in years and needs a dusting. I say we keep it for an emergency. But we don't need it—we live at Marquette. Yet, I can't part with it. I grew up with radio. I had a small galena crystal set that, when I first heard a human voice on it, gave me a memorable moment of excitement. This little portable got me AM, FM, shortwave, and amateur. It's not an easy toy to party with. Dorothy and I always thought we grew up with radio. But as we look back we realize that we and radio all grew up together. As much as radio influenced and shaped our lives and our listening habits, we shaped and influenced what commercial radio offered us. It wanted our ears and as we listened to it, it listened to us as well. So, let's go back in time a bit and examine what we now call the Golden Age of Radio.

The radio that Marconi invented can best be called "wireless telegraphy." That is, it was not voice, but rather wireless dots and dashes. Reginald Fessenden, a Canadian, developed wireless voice radio and even broadcast a voice

program in 1906. However, it was not until after the Titanic catastrophe in 1912 that radio for the masses came into vogue. And it did with great enthusiasm with amateur (ham) operators. In 1917 the government, for security reasons, curtailed all wireless operation during WWI. The end of the war brought on the Roaring Twenties and along with it commercial radio: WLS, The Prairie Farmer Station in Chicago, was licensed in 1920; WLW in Cincinnati in 1921 and WGN in Chicago in 1922. And with the licensing of commercial stations, the Golden Age of Radio began...

It would seem as if commercial radio has been around a long time. It hasn't. It may surprise you, as it did us, when we realized that some of our future residents were running around in their swaddling clothes at the time these stations were licensed. Given a few more years and most of us, including Dorothy and I, were up and running. So, commercial radio is neither younger nor older than we are. How do we remember growing up in the Golden Age? What did we listen to way back then?



My golden age day started with *Jack Armstrong, The All-American Boy* followed by *Little Orphan Annie*. Yes, like Ralphie, I, too, had a de-coder.

Dorothy, like other girls, was probably listening to a soap opera—there were about 40 of them written during the Golden Age.

Perhaps you remember the little orphan girl from a mining town in Colorado who was always seeking happiness as the wife of a wealthy and titled Englishman (*Our Gal Sunday*)?

In the evening, there was a plethora of shows from comedy to music. Remember *Lum and Abner*, *Burns and Allen*, *Fibber McGee and Molly*, *Amos and Andy*, *The Great Gildersleeve*, and *The Lone Ranger*? And do you remember those two mysteries: *Inner Sanctum* (whose signature opening was a creaking door) and *I Love A Mystery* (that opened with Jean Sibelius' Valse Triste)? If you don't, *The Shadow* does! And, of course, there was *Henry*— "I'm coming mother"—*Aldrich*.

NBC created its own symphony orchestra to bring Arturo Toscanini to New York. Texaco sponsored broadcasts of the Metropolitan Opera. Firestone and Bell Telephone brought us outstanding classical music programs. Along with them came the *National Barn Dance*, later called *The Grand Ole*

*Opry*. Remember Minnie Pearl and the Hoosier Hotshots? And let's not forget about Kay Kyser and Ish Kabibble and all those fish that *swam over the dam*.

Sports were part of the Golden Age—who can forget those baseball announcers who could make a boring game sound exciting? As did Orson Welles when he had Martians, in his *War of the Worlds* program, invade the United

States and scare the entire nation!

The best part of the Golden Age was always Sunday evening when our family sat in our living room around what was often the only radio in the house and listened to Jack Benny, Walter Winchell (with all his ships at sea), Edgar Bergen with Charlie and Mortimer and other programs that we can no longer recall.

It seems to Dorothy and me that in the Golden Age there was a certain warmth, friendliness and civility in radio. Something we don't sense or feel in its sibling TV. Perhaps we're just old folks reminiscing about the good old days. Okay, why not? That's how we remember them.

Mr. Chester concludes by suggesting his readers reminisce together by listing their ten favorite Golden Age Radio Programs and submit the list to him. He will then report back with a collective recollection.



## - 2014 Regional Vintage Radio -

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### **Indiana Historical Radio Society**

Spring Meet, May 2 and 3, Quality Inn, Kokomo  
Summer Meet, August 16, Cool Creek Park, Carmel  
Fall Meet, October 4, Riley Park Shelter, Greenfield  
Details at [indianahistoricalradio.org](http://indianahistoricalradio.org)

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### **Mid-South Antique Radio Club**

MSARC Meet information contact: [layvinrad@insightbb.com](mailto:layvinrad@insightbb.com)

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### **Antique Radio Club of Illinois [www.antique-radios.org](http://www.antique-radios.org)**

June 15—DuPage Co Fair Grounds, Wheaton, IL  
RadioFest—July 31—August 2 Willowbrook Holiday Inn

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### **Michigan Antique Radio Club [www.michiganantiqueradio.org](http://www.michiganantiqueradio.org)**

May 3— Valley Plaza Resort, Midland, MI  
Extravaganza—July 10—12, Best Western Plus, Lansing, MI

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### **AWA-Antique Wireless Association [www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org)**

World Convention -August 12- 16, RIT Inn, Henrietta, NY

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### **CARS—Cincinnati Antique Radio Society**

RADIORAMA 24—June 21, Blue Ash Banquet Center,

11330 Williamson Road, Cincinnati

Dawn to Noon, \$10 to sell, inside or outside

Continental breakfast, donation auction

Info at [oltubes@roadrunner.com](mailto:oltubes@roadrunner.com) or Bob Sands 513-858-1755

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### **Dayton Antique Radio Club (SPARK)**

Contacts Ed App 937-865-0982 or Lou Dvorak 937-858-0795

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### **Central Ohio Antique Radio Association—COARA**

Check the new COARA website at  
<http://coara.org> for event schedule.

Did you know -

Donald Trump will be 68 on June 14?

Dolly Parton was 68 on January 19?

Miley Cyrus will be 22 on November 23?

Larry King will be 81 on November 19?

Betty White was 92 on January 17?

Dr. Ed Taylor will be 90 on May 30?

# The One Tube Junk Box Radio

By Edward Dupart

January 21, 2014

The Indiana Historical Radio Society came up with a novel idea for a contest: build a one tube radio representing a certain era of radio using vintage parts whenever possible.

Years ago I built a Compactron radio using a 6AF11 on a very small chassis, 4 x 6 as I recall and it worked very well. Somewhere in the moves it got lost and I always wanted to rebuild one, so this contest gave me the chance to do just that. Part of my personal criteria was to use junk or used parts as much as possible, with the exception of a couple of ceramic capacitors and I did just that. The finished radio works quite well and

now to move onto the process of building this radio.

Part of the contest criteria was to use a schematic of your own design or a commercial one, so there was freedom in what circuit you used and I took advantage of this. The Compactron is considered one tube, but in reality they can have up to 3 or 4 tubes in one envelope, making speaker operation quite possible. GE introduced the Compactron in the early 60's and it became very popular in TV's, but they also introduced a regenerative radio schematic based on the 6AF11 for experimenters that became very popular. I redesigned



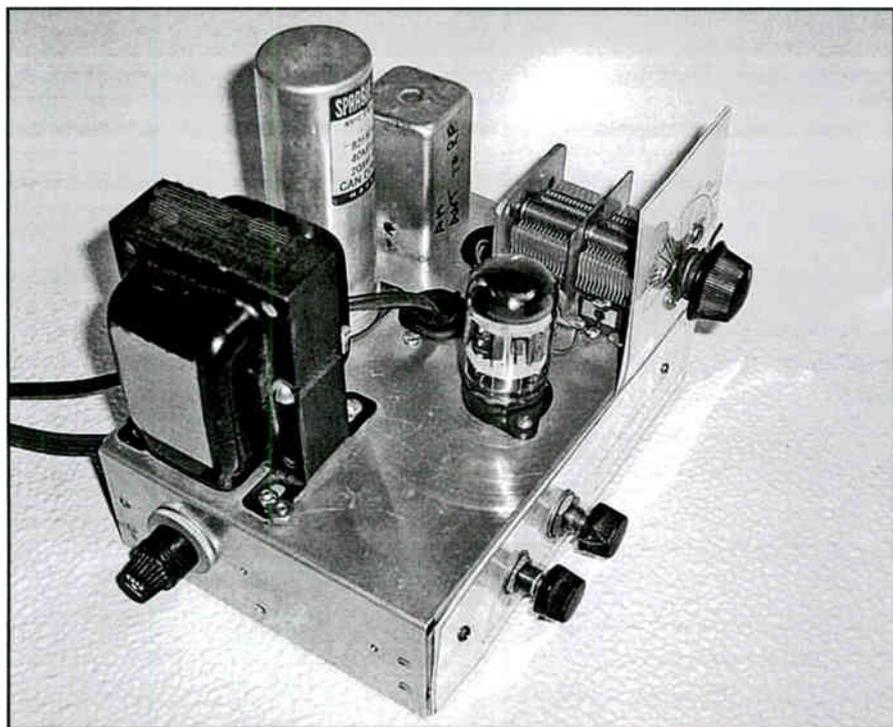
their circuit and that was the one I built in the early 1960's and for my present radio I redesigned it further.

My radio is really a three-tube radio with the first stage a regenerative detector followed by a triode amplifier and then a pentode power amplifier that drives a speaker. The first section to describe is the tuning circuit which is a pre-selector that uses two RF transformers tuned to the AM broadcast band using a two section of equal capacity variable capacitor of probably the 365 - 400pf range for tuning. I have dis-mantled many junk radios and have accumulated quite a few dual section variable capacitors of equal capacity from TRF radios along with the RF transformers. This stash of parts and the lack of single section variable capacitors representing the 1950 - 60's, determined my tuning circuit, besides I always wanted to build a regenerative radio with a pre-selector. The pre-selector increases the selectivity and reduces the oscillator radiation from the regenerative detector, which is a real problem with the regenerative detector, but it also reduces sensitivity. This is why I have a short antenna and a long antenna connection. The short antenna connection bypasses the first RF transformer and feeds right into the first RF transformer through the 270-pf ca-

pacitor and works great with a few feet of wire for an antenna. For my long antenna I use a 75-foot long wire going from the house to my radio shop and with the long antenna connection the radiation is reduced from regenerative detector. Now onto the regenerative detector.

Both GE and I used the hi-mu triode for the regenerative detector for greater gain. For my present radio I used a modified Hartley oscillator where the feedback is in the cathode circuit. I wound about 10 turns of #22 wire at the ground or bottom end of the RF transformer connected to the detector. The direction of this feedback coil must be wound in the same direction as the RF transformer windings or it won't oscillate. Also the bottom end of the feedback coil must go to ground or it won't oscillate. If you build a regenerative radio and it won't oscillate and the coil is wound in the right direction, just reverse the leads of the feedback coil and that usually cures the problem. The level of feedback is controlled by varying the amount of plate voltage through the voltage divider network consisting of two 100k resistors and the regeneration control. The 100k ground end resistor can be changed easily to change where oscillation starts at on the regeneration control. With the RCA 6AF11 it works best with a 100k





The first AF stage uses the medium mu triode and is of standard design. The tube manual determined the 220-ohm cathode resistor. The .002mfd at the control grid is used to stop unwanted oscillation. The .01mfd coupling capacitor is a standard value found in many radios as well as the 100k-plate resistor. So there is nothing unusual about this amplifier circuit and it can be found in many radio and amplifier applications.

The output stage uses a pentode section originally designed for video amplifier service, but works just fine at audio frequencies and can deliver a good watt of power

and in some writings it was said 2 watts is possible. I haven't done the math yet to prove it, but at any rate the radio is loud. The 180-ohm cathode resistor was again chosen from the tube manual. The rest of the parts are standard value and if you look at other radio schematics the similarity will be evident.

The power supply is a standard full wave circuit using a center tapped transformer with two silicon rectifiers (diodes) that are not critical with a 250-volt output. The 1N4006-1N4007 series diodes will work just fine and are cheap. I used a junk chassis with this power supply already built, so that saved

me some time. The power transformer may seem overkill size wise, but it does run cool and the 6AF11 does pull 1.2 amps of heater current. So this sums up the circuit description of my junk box radio.

The real challenge with this radio was using a used chassis and finding uses for all the pre-drilled holes. To start off with, this chassis was originally a homebrew stereo pre-amp, mixer circuit that I never used. It was something I picked up at one of our shows to use for parts or whatever. It had three 9 pin miniature tubes, a dual volume control several jacks, a giant pilot light, a power transformer and a large chassis type electrolytic filter capacitor. I wish I had taken a before picture, but I didn't and so I stripped the chassis of everything except the power supply. One of my RF transformers was in a can similar to an IF can that had two screws at the bottom of the can and they fit in one of the old tube socket holes perfectly and was at the back of the chassis. It was a great fit and it filled one major hole! There were three holes in the front of the chassis where the former volume control was and two 1/4" jacks were. The new volume control and regeneration controls filled those two holes. The monster pilot light was on the side of the chassis, so I put a fuse holder in its

place and I had to use two washers on the fuse holder so it wouldn't fall through the hole. The washers on the fuse holder were a perfect fit and looked like they were designed for the job. There were four holes on the back of the chassis, one was used for the power cord and the rest had jacks in them. So I used one for the power cord, one for the ground, I used a 1920's binding post, one for the short antenna and one for the long antenna, both of these were banana jack posts. The two remaining tube socket holes were used for speaker wires and wires going to the variable capacitor. I used grommets on all the holes that had wires going through them, which straightened up the looks of the holes and protects the wires. I used existing holes to mount the audio output transformer and the terminal strips. Except for a few holes in the front of the chassis, I had most of the major holes filled. What I did with the remaining holes in the front will be dealt with in the next section.

Microsoft Word and my scanner are what I used to create a panel to cover the remaining holes in the front of the chassis and to make a tuning dial. I measured the front of the chassis for length and width and placement of the controls. In Microsoft Word I used

the ruler toolbar and simply typed in what I wanted and printed it out on junk paper to make sure it would fit and it did. Then I used a thick stock, glossy photo paper and printed it out on that. I made sure it was dry then I used the paper cutter and cut it out. Plastic was used to cover the paper and that was obtained from some large package that used relatively thick flat plastic. I cut it out and also used the paper cutter to cut the plastic. This made for nice straight cuts. Leather punches were used to cut out the holes for the volume and regenerative controls. My Dremal tool with a drill bit was used to make the two small mounting holes. I removed the two mounting nuts on the controls, placed the paper on first, then the plastic. Then I used the two small mounting screws at the end of the plastic and paper cover to keep it flat and then I put the control nuts back on. The thick paper hides all existing holes very nicely and the plastic protects the paper. This radio is starting to look really nice! Now for the dial, which required the use of the computer.

I used some of the left over thick photo stock paper; cut it to size for my dial and screwed it onto the variable capacitor and with a pencil and the RF generator I made marks where the different frequencies come in at on the dial. I removed the dial and with a small ruler I drew my lines down to the center point of

the variable capacitor shaft. Now I placed the dial with the lines into my scanner and created a BMP file and imported it into Word and adjusted the size of the image back down to the original size. Then I went onto Format Image and selected the wrapping option that would let me type over the image. Using 8-pt font I then typed in my frequencies and then printed it out on thick photo stock paper that I used for the front panel. Then I cut out two plastic pieces from the same plastic I used before and made it the same size as my dial. Again, using leather punches, I made the hole for the variable capacitor shaft and using the Dremal tool I drill the three mounting holes for the variable capacitor. I sandwiched the paper in-between the two pieces of plastic and mounted it to the variable capacitor. The two pieces of plastic gave it strength so the dial doesn't flop or bend over. With the added knobs the radio looks great!

You know where I got some of the parts from, now here is where the rest of them came from. The variable capacitor came from a junk RF generator and I really like the vernier tuning on it, but there were no trimmer capacitors on it, so I raided them from a junk rusty superhet variable capacitor and had to tap the holes in the RF generator variable capacitor. Otherwise, the transfer of the brass plate and mica

## The One Tube Junk Box Radio—continued

was simple. The tube socket came from a junk TV, I believe a Zenith. The regeneration control came from a box of surplus NOS controls and is a 1watt control, which I like with the high voltage applied to it. The volume control and switch came from a junk radio and the fuse holder came from a piece of industrial equipment. An extension cord provided the power cord. All the resistors came from junk TV's and radios as well as most of the ceramic capacitors. Junk radios provided the audio output transformer and the RF transformers. All the screws, washers and nuts were used coming from all kinds of junk electronic equipment. This is truly a junk box radio.

The only alignment that had to be done was the two trimmer capacitors on the variable capacitor. I set the RF generator to 1600

KC and made the signal as weak as possible and set the two trimmers for maximum gain. I also did this before I made my dial, because this adjustment can shift the upper level frequencies around on the dial.

How well does this radio work? At night it's like tuning a superhet with stations all over the dial. From Southwestern Michigan, I get WRVA blasting in, Nashville, New York, Toronto, Iowa and countless others. With the regeneration set at minimum, with the long antenna hooked up where the pre-selector is being used, it still picks several stations with good selectivity. Overall, I am pleased with how well it works and is much better than the first one I built back in the early 1960's.

*Ed*

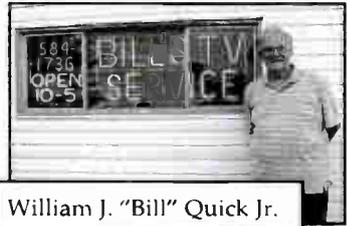
### **MEMBERS OF THE INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY!**

In addition to regularly scheduled meetings, the IHRS offers a network of individuals interested in Vintage Radio, and a quarterly "Bulletin" of vintage radio history, radio restoration topics, and reviews of unique radios. Checks for membership should be payable to the Indiana Historical Radio Society in the amount of \$15.00 per January through December year. Send payment to: Herman Gross, IHRS, 1705 Gordon Drive, Kokomo, IN 46902.

Important: To ensure receipt of the "Bulletin" and other IHRS communications clearly print name, address, phone number (and email address).

## We Remember:

**William J. "Bill" Quick Jr.**, a new member of the Indiana Historical Radio Society recently passed away on February 18, 2014. He was my friend, a client and guest at two previous radio meets. He joined our group at the 2012 Fall Foliage meet.



William J. "Bill" Quick Jr.

I knew Bill since the late 90's. He was a talented electronics technician, owned Franklin Electronics in downtown Winchester. He had moved his business to his country home and called it " Bills TV Service". He repaired some of my electronics and helped me with my audio hobby . He was also a neon client, having purchased some of my work. His interest in electronics led him to take a correspondence course at National Technical School in the 70's and attended Indiana Purdue at Fort Wayne in Fort Wayne in the 90's. He also worked for ITT Aerospace Defense in Ft. Wayne.

Bill is survived by his son William J. Quick III, of Ft. Wayne. His companion, Donna McGuire ; three grandchildren, Patrick Gephart , Rachel Quick and William Quick IV.

He will be missed. Contributed by Steve Renner

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**Charles Stinger**, "Charlie or Chuck" to many of us, passed away February 15, 2014. Charlie was a longtime member and avid supporter of the Indiana Historical Radio Society. His entries in IHRS vintage radio contests and displays were historically significant and well documented.



Charles attended many radio schools where he received his telephone and telegraph license. He is a veteran of the Army Air Corp where he was stationed in Foggia, Italy with the 15th Air Force 483rd Bomb group. Starting in 1947 Charles built a career with WLW and then Voice of America, retiring as a plant supervisor of VOA in 1985. He was one of the original members of the Antique Wireless Association. Charles has written articles and spoke to audiences many times about WLW being the first in many innovations with radio and television broadcasting. Charlie was 89 at the time of his death. *Editor*

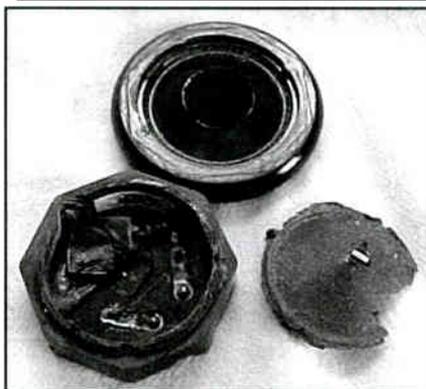
## 1930s Crystal Earphone Repaired

By: Wayne Newhart

*This article was originally written for Indiana 4-H Electric, Montgomery County. Wayne retired in 1999 from a rural electric co-op, Tipmont REMC. He has been working with 4-H Electric for decades.*

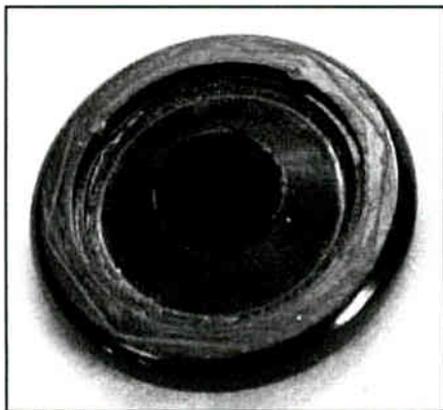


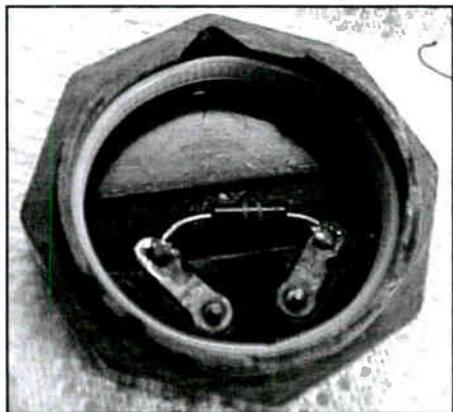
This, sealed, crystal earphone was most likely made in the 1930s. It no longer works. To repair this ear piece, I mounted the ear piece in a vice between sponge rubber to prevent scratching. Using a fine tooth hacksaw blade, I cut part way through the plastic, all the way around, to weaken it.



Then I used a screw driver to break it apart.

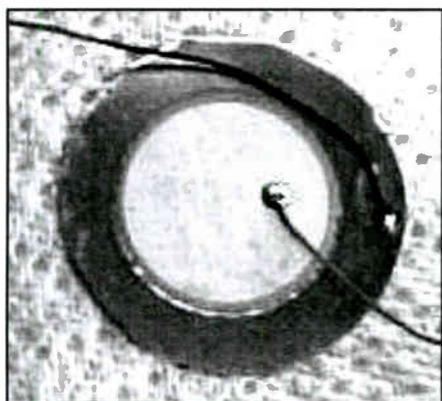
Inside is a paper speaker cone. I remove it and the crystal. Your old crystal headset may be different and you might soak it in water or other solvent to try prying it apart first, but here is the idea.





I soldered a 15k ohm resistor across the terminals. (Any resistor between 5,000 and 50,000 ohms should work well.)

Carefully cut to length a ¼ inch wide zip tie and glued it inside the ear piece.



The piezo disk used, from a junk telephone, was a little large in diameter. Cut the diameter down so it will fit well on top of the zip tie. Solder the red and black wires

on the disk to the terminals. Place the disk on the zip tie.

Use silicone rubber sealant



over the top edge of the disk to hold it in place. Test the ear piece by touching it to a battery. When it is okay, reassemble the ear piece using epoxy glue.

This is only half of the job. There are two earphones to a headset. These earphones will work well on a crystal radio.

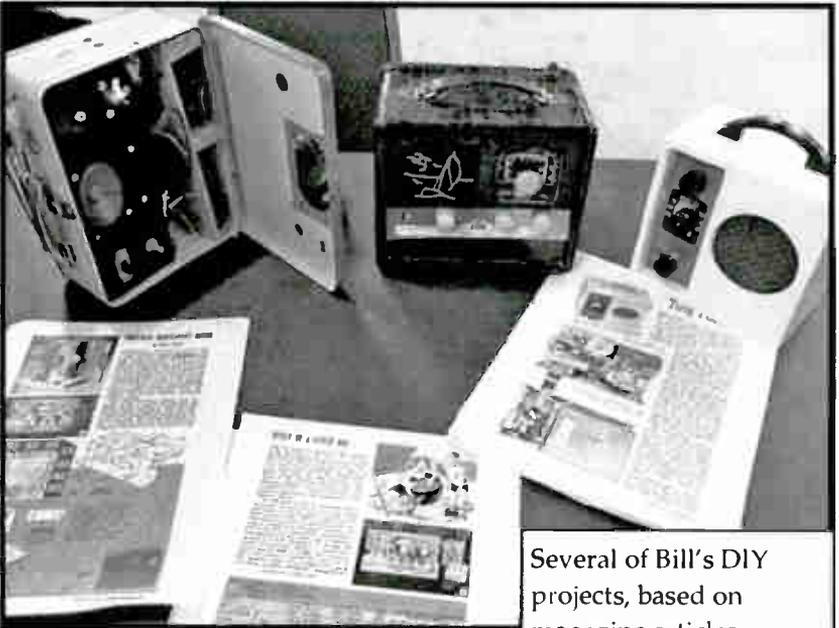
*Wayne Newhart*



**The IHRS Winter Meet  
2014, Lawrence Park**



Bill Morris with his display of home brew radios. Many he created himself, while others are found—and restored by Bill. Bill enjoys keeping a video record of his restorations and posting the results on YouTube. Get a sample of Bill's many YouTube postings by searching "IHRS 2014 Winter Meet Highlights". There you'll get a great review of the Meet!



Several of Bill's DIY projects, based on magazine articles.

**The IHRS Winter Meet 2014, Lawrence Park.  
A welcome break from snow, ice, and cold!**



Left — Nick Pendergrass enjoys a conversation with a Swap N Sell browser.  
Below — John Foell, Wayne King and Frank Heathcoat enjoy catching up after many missed meets.



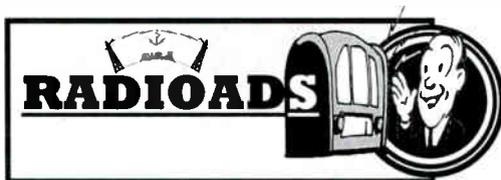
A phonograph displayed by Richard Buck. Richard and phonograph Society friends will be at The IHRS Spring Meet in Kokomo.



The Lowary's always seem to be having a good day at IHRS meets and regional hamfests.



Paul Yost and Dave Mantor at the registration table.



Submit your "FREE TO CURRENT MEMBER" RadioAd by the 15th of February, May, August, or November in time for the Bulletin issue that follows.

**Wanted:** Audio frequency transformer. Federal #226, for Federal model DX58 radio. Contact Richard Ender, E-mail [rmend@provide.net](mailto:rmend@provide.net) or phone 734-439-2545. 03/14

**For Sale:** Looking to move portions of my radio collection. Includes 20's battery sets and early AC sets plus later sets 1930's 40's 50's with other related items and vintage radio advertising. Please email, call or write for a detailed list to: [mday@ma.rr.com](mailto:mday@ma.rr.com) 812-230-6966. Or write to: Mark Day 1105 Brooks Ave. Terre Haute IN 47803 12/13

**For Sale:** A circa 1928 RCA Radiola 60 and Magnavix Dynamic 80 speaker in a custom cabinet.. The cabinet appears to be built by a furniture store or other assembler and is in generally restorable condition. The speaker needs re-coning (surround is dried out). A unique high-boy console set. \$150.00 For further information contact John Foell at [John\\_D\\_Foell@raytheon.com](mailto:John_D_Foell@raytheon.com) or call 260-627-0127. 03/14



**For Sale: REPRODUCTION RADIO BATTERIES:** I've developed replica battery solutions for most tube and transistor radios--batteries that have not been available for nearly thirty years. They look, they feel and they work--just like the originals! Plus, they are a reusable resource. Inside are holders for AA, C, D and 9-volt batteries. When the batteries wear out, simply remove them and install new ones. Contact Bill Morris at [batterymaker@gmail.com](mailto:batterymaker@gmail.com) or at 317-895-1334. 03/14

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