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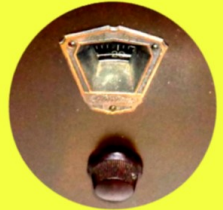
The
Indiana
Historical
Radio Society

BULLETIN



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RADIOS:
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GLORITONE



REGENCY



3 POUND PORTABLE



SPRING MEET PIX

The Bulletin

A publication of the Indiana Historical Radio Society
Fifty years of documenting early radio



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Historical Documentation

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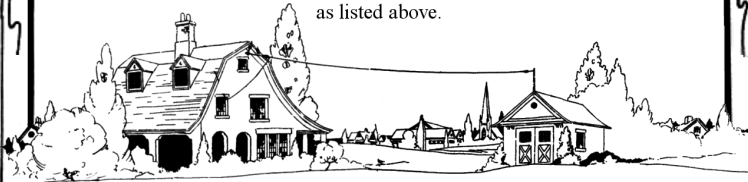
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The INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY is a non-profit organization founded in 1971. Annual membership dues of \$15.00 includes the quarterly IHRS "BULLETIN." Radioads are free to all members.

Please include an SASE when ordering information.
Send applications for membership and renewals to Treasurer Don Yost as listed above.



Greetings to the membership of the IHRS. I hope that summer has been going well for you all so far, and that you have all found some projects to work on through the winter months. The antique radio/hamfest season is in full swing, with some great meets to go to in the coming several weeks.

One of those great meetings is our annual Cool Creek Park meet, located in the main parking lot, next to the park offices, in Carmel. This meet has been a perennial favorite due to the nice location and the stuff that shows up there. There will be a contest, described elsewhere in this issue, and a small silent auction, as per usual. IHRS Vice President Mike Feldt is the meeting organizer and specific questions should be directed to him. His contact information is in the "Officers" section of this issue.

In my last message, in the Spring Bulletin, I talked about how some of us younger officers are having to step up due to Fred Prohl's retirement. Fred had been one of the main meeting organizers, for many years, and had the process down to a "T." However, I don't have that process completely down and made a "rookie" mistake. When organizing the IHRS Spring Meet, I picked June 18. This was chosen after perusing the clubs' websites in surrounding states (Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, and Ohio). I noticed that the Cincinnati Club, CARS, did not have a meeting date for their Radio-Rama on their webpage. Last year's Radio-Rama was later in the summer and I felt secure in thinking that it would be the same way this year. So, instead of contacting them, I made an assumption that the 18th was ok. Two weeks later, the CARS announcement came out and their meeting was on the same day as ours.

Because our meetings were on the same day, I predicted a dismal turnout to our Spring Meet. My wife Robin, Bill Morris and I were at Heritage Hall at around 6:30 am and I figured that a few people, at most, would trickle in. Imagine our surprise when people started arriving, and just kept coming! All the set-up tables in the building were all quickly taken, and almost all the spare tables were put into use. Heritage Hall is a nice facility and we did have the option of tailgating on the big grassy area that surrounds the building. Next year, with a date set up to avoid conflicts, we should have a big enough turnout to have people selling outside as well.

Several years ago, when the IHRS was quite a bit bigger (the late 1990s and before), the ladies of the club would sometimes schedule separate events for themselves, while all of "us guys" would be selling/swapping/smoking cigars, etc. My wife, Robin, would like to start this up again. Her proposal can be found in this issue. She'd like to hear about interest, ideas and the like from all of you.

All the IHRS officers are available for your questions, comments, suggestions, or if you'd just like to talk about the club in general. Feel free to contact any of us--we want to hear from you. Remember, it's YOUR CLUB!

Notes From The President's Desk

by Alex Whitaker



Don't Miss It!



INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY

SUMMER MEET '22

at COOL CREEK PARK
Saturday, August 13 7 A.M.

FEATURING:

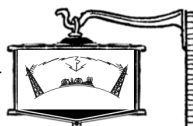
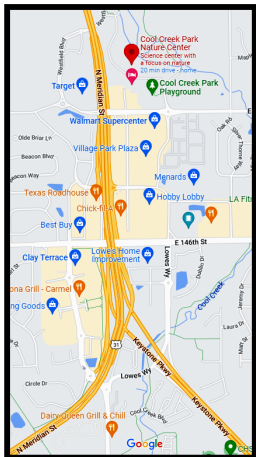
- *INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SWAP N SELL SETUP SPACE.
- *FREE GENERAL ADMISSION.
- *NO SELLER'S FEES.

CONTEST CATEGORIES:

- *1920S RADIOS AND RADIO RELATED ITEMS.
- *1930S - WWII RADIOS AND RADIO RELATED ITEMS.
- *POST WWII RADIOS AND RADIO RELATED ITEMS.

Cool Creek Park is located east of US31 and north of 151st Street. From US31, go east on 151st Street to a round-about. The Cool Creek Park entrance is the street north out of the round-about.

There is a Holiday Inn Express & Suites within walking distance of the swap meet.



RADIO MEET



RADIO ACTIVITY



Check each organization's webpage for upcoming meets, etc:



Indiana Historical Radio Society
www.indianahistoricalradio.org



Antique Radio Club of Illinois
www.antique-radios.org



Central Ohio Antique Radio Association
www.coara.org



Mid-South Antique Radio Collectors
 Available on Facebook



Antique Wireless Association
www.antiquewireless.org



Cincinnati Antique Radio Society
www.cincinnati-antique-radio.org



Michigan Antique Radio Club
www.michiganantiqueradio.org



Mid Atlantic Antique Radio Club
www.maarc.org



We Need your input.

It's no secret that costs have been rising recently, and printing the bulletin is no exception.

The edition you are reading is being handled by another printer and as a result, it is more expensive to print.

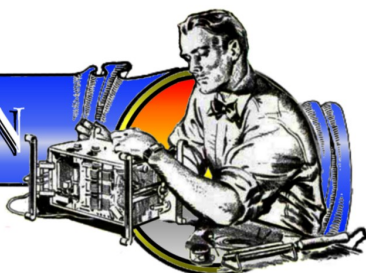
Other clubs have their bulletins available online. Should members like a paper copy, they can download and print them.

In order to save costs while maintaining a quality bulletin, we'd like to propose a choice-- Which would you prefer? Online edition or hardcopy?

Drop us a line at
batterymaker@gmail.com.



RESTORATION



The year was 1928. Americans were enjoying prosperity and were buying fancy floor model radios. Then came 1929's stock market crash. Unemployment hit almost 25%. My dad told me about the bread lines in Detroit; many people were no longer able to buy fancy radios as well as many other things. This forced manufacturers to pare off costs and make affordable radios. Thus, the cathedral radio was born. It only used three major wood pieces; the front, the side piece, (which also functioned as a top) and the base. Trim and support pieces were needed, but they were small. Tube counts were reduced to four or five. Fancy radios were still being made, but in smaller quantities destined for the wealthy.

1930 is considered by many radio collectors to be the year that the cathedral radio flourished and the Glo-

ritone 26 was one of the first available. Its cabinet is plain and simple, but its chassis is well built and works well with good volume. I have picked up Nashville, Chicago, New York, three stations from Canada and one from Mexico.

The radio was in pretty good shape for 92 years. It had been stored someplace that preserved it well. The finish was still good except for wear spots around the knobs that were down to bare wood. The line cord was still pliable with no fraying or crumbling, which is almost a miracle for old electrical appliances. The grill cloth was still looking good with no holes or wear and the veneer was mostly tight except for the top portion of the front coming loose.

I applied 409 to the cabinet and cleaned all the cigarette crud off of it. I tried to re-stain the bare parts of the cabinet around the knobs, but the bare wood had absorbed finger oils



The Gloritone 26 by Ed Dupart

and the stain wouldn't take, so I had to use Van Dyke Brown toning lacquer and that worked out well. The trim around the bottom of the radio was originally black, but most of the finish had come off, so I sanded it and re-painted it. The top of the cabinet was reglued and I used bar clamps to hold it in place. Before I put the grill cloth, bezel and speaker screws back in, I gave the entire cabinet a coat of clear lacquer. The grill looked like new on the reverse side so when I put the grill cloth back, I used the flip side. To hold it in place I used an Elmer's stick glue similar to what kids use. It's easy to apply and it turns clear when dry. I put it all back together and wow, it looked nice. My wife liked this radio too.

The chassis was pretty much rust free, but there were spots here and there, so



I took a wire brush on my Dremel tool and removed them. While I was at it, I cleaned the entire chassis and got it down to shiny metal. The only problem with removing all the dirt, oil and grit is that the bare metal will rust quickly. So I put a coat of silver paint on the chassis-- a no-no among radio collectors, but I don't have to worry about it rusting and it looks good.

I checked the tubes and found the 80 rectifier was bad--probably due to bad electrolytic filter capacitors. The 45 audio output tube was also bad and probably due to a shorted coupling

capacitor. Both of these tubes were original what I call the "light bulb" shaped tubes, so I was disappointed that they were bad. The three 24A's were OK and two of them are original tubes. I checked the six capacitors in the metal box and while they checked OK, I replaced them anyway. To do that, I dug out the wax holding the capacitors in and then I was able to remove them. Then I made up a capacitor bank of thin capacitors that would fit in the metal housing.

Because of the thinness of the metal housing, a terminal strip couldn't be used, so I just soldered all the ground ends of the capacitors together and



soldered the original wires to the hot side of the capacitors. It doesn't look neat, but it works and it is hidden inside the metal housing. Four of the capacitors were rated at .4 mfd and is overkill so I only put three .1mfd's in parallel for a total of .3 mfd, which is sufficient for the radio to work. I could prove mathematically that .4 mfd is overkill, but I don't think you want to see a lot of math here.

Four of the resistors were way out of tolerance and I replaced them. I left the two filter capacitors in the set, but I cut the dried up one in half and installed two new electrolytics inside the can. This kept the radio looking origi-

nal and avoided unnecessary clutter under the chassis. When cutting that electrolytic, I wore gloves and the innards and powder were put into a sealed sandwich bag and disposed of and I did this outside. Electrically it is done.

I plugged it in and it came to life picking up several stations. I touched up the alignment, which surprisingly after 92 years really didn't need any. I put it all back together and now it is a really nice looking, excellent playing 1930 cathedral. A piece of history!

The "Old Man" Says:



"If you haven't already, now's a great time to renew your IHRS membership."

Annual Membership \$15


Send your payment written to the **INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY** to:

Don Yost c/o IHRS
3814 E 400 N
Windfall, IN 46076

Include your current mail address
and email address (if applicable)



"It's just until I get the kit assembled, honey..."



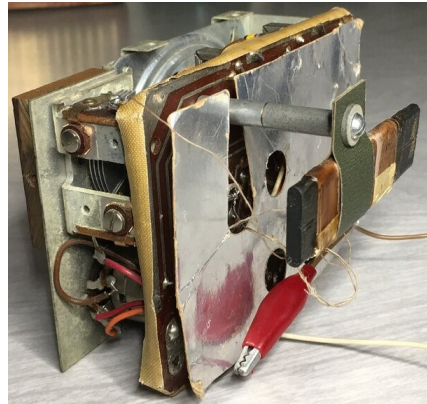
TRANSISTORS



Hello All,

Had posted about a pink Regency TR-8A on another site and a friend there told me he had a parts set, so he sent me a couple pictures. It had a complete front panel with black speaker grille and chassis with its ferrite-bar antenna hanging loose from its leads--no cabinet. Thought it would make a neat project to refurbish and attempt fabrication of a replacement cabinet, so months later I asked if he'd consider selling it which he did for a very reasonable price.

Carefully rewound the wire pulled off of the ferrite-bar antenna coil and re-flowed the wax. Didn't have the proper length of a #6 stand-off, so decided to put two shorter ones together.



Cut an extra-long slotted 6-32 screw to needed length and filed edges of end so it would thread in properly. Made an antenna support (possibly temporarily) from sturdy folder paper

1958 Regency TR-8

by *John Raskauskas*



and then put it all together with fiber washers and installed. Used the schematic to determine where to reattach the broken antenna leads.

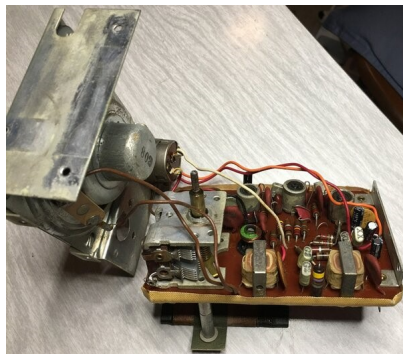
Applied power and the radio actually worked fairly well with its original electrolytics, but sound a bit "tinny". Replaced them and it worked noticeably better, but still not the best audio--sounded as though the speaker voice-coil was rubbing.

Added an electrolytic for audio driver emitter bypass that Regency deleted (cost savings ?) as I did with the pink set and that noticeably increased volume and sound quality, though the odd "tinniness" remained. Adjacent strong signal rejection was terrible and while "tweaking" improved it a little, the 3rd IFT didn't seem to peak (maybe the transistor was bad since these use external silver-mica caps ???). Was running out of time, so went ahead and detail cleaned the front panel and knobs.

Just like the pink TR-8A in my collection and a friend's TR-5C—both share the same chassis--this radio has listenable audio even with volume control at minimum. Measured pot and found it had 18 Ohms resistance at both ends of travel relative to wiper---possibly a flaw?

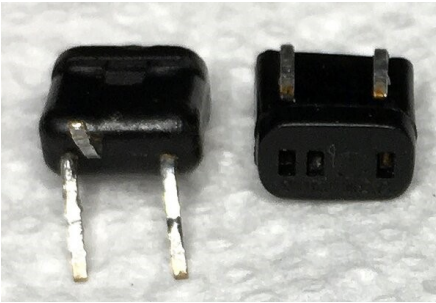
Tried the set on headphones and verified that the speaker did indeed have a problem. At low volume and off of a station, the background noise had that characteristic tinny

sound of a rubbing voice-coil. I have seen that defect caused by slightly bent baskets, warped cones, and debris/corrosion between the speaker and magnet. The cone looks fine as does the felt dust-cover, so I firmly pressed on both edges of back side of basket where magnet mounted. When I pushed on one side, the problem went away. Disassembled chassis and with face of speaker on flat surface, I pushed firmly on same edge again with fingers until audio cleared and then applied as much force as I thought it would take to correct problem. Did this a couple times and the speaker plays fine! Audio still not as clear as it should be, so will dig out audio signal tracer.



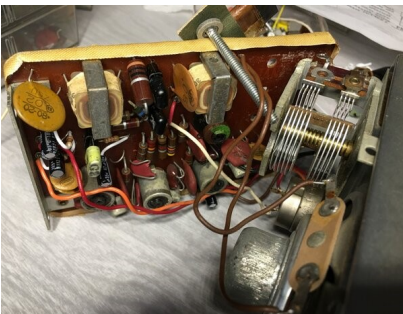
Could not eliminate the adjacent strong station issue---comes in clearly with my low-power oldies station 20 kHz away. Even the cheapest of my radios that are working correctly do better, so there is a problem. Decided to try converter transistor using the oscillator from an early Zenith Royal 500 (Sylvania NPN). I have a junked 500 PCB and decided to pull a socket, and bent the termi-

nals to pass through the TR-8A's PCB holes to make it easier to sub and experiment if necessary. The socket works and looks fine, so may leave it since the radio will have a non-original cabinet eventually anyway. The Zenith transistor appears to have corrected issue, but sun was going



down and local station cut power, so I had to verify later. Since the Zenith socket fit and looked so good (and is of same vintage), pulled remainder of them from junked PCB to use if needed on this set. They can always be removed later by a future owner if desired. Would like this set to work & sound good enough to use occasionally...

Forgot to mention earlier that I'd performed alignment and that the 3rd IFT tuning was very broad with only a slight increase in signal strength at peak. Even though these have exter-



nal silver-mica caps, I bridged in another which only change point of peak ---no improvement. Checked input and output of stage with a scope and there is significant gain, so I believe it's working properly. Also transmitted 400 Hz tone from RF generator to radio and viewed audio output at speaker with scope---very good sine-wave with no noticeable distortion. It appears that audio stages are fine... Still has too much treble, so I might increase the cap value in audio circuit...

Completed electronic servicing and alignment today. Also pulled pink set out of display cabinet for comparison and discovered performance and sound quality nearly identical. Also compared alignment response and it too was the same. Apparently, radio is now working "normally". Also observed the same selectivity issue on pink set, but with the aluminum cabinet in place it wasn't as noticeable due to the increased directionality.

Well, spent more time troubleshooting the audio quality issue. Had checked output with test speaker and it had sounded better, but using my good headphones, could still hear distortion. Listened to signal at input of driver transformer and it sounded great, so could eliminate that stage. Guess I didn't want problem to be in the P-P output and the un-distorted 400 Hz waveform made me think it was okay--but for some reason it wasn't ! Went ahead and pulled the matched 2N229 NPN pair and found one of them had hFE of 104 and the other fluctuated around 40 and sometimes failed testing ! Carefully installed sockets re-

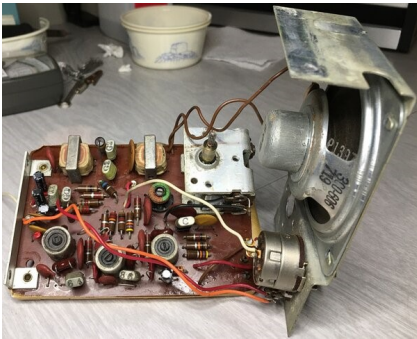
moved from junked Zenith Royal 500B PCB after bending terminals to fit into Regency holes and tried a tested matched pair of 2N35's from a working early Royal 500 and they also didn't sound too great--both with hFE around 47. Not having any NPN germanium transistors with hFE anywhere near 100 in parts stash, decided to try two matched 2N4124 silicon NPN's with gain of 212 using a pot connected with clip-leads to obtain proper bias. Audio very clean & clear with these, but the current draw at "normal" volume was now over 50 mA. Since I installed sockets from same time-frame that don't look out-of-place (and are easily removable if desired), will keep eyes open for another 2N229 with gain around 100... Am wondering why the matched 2N35's (hFE 47) from Zenith didn't work and noticed the major circuit differences were 10 Ohm (Zenith) vs. 4.7 Ohm (TR-8A) emitter resistor and 360 Ohm (Zenith) vs. 140 Ohm (TR-8A) driver transformer output winding resistances. Very curious.

Since the voltages at audio driver were over twice what they should be (similar to pink set), finally decided to pull the pre-amp and driver transistors for testing. The pre-amp tested good, though had low gain (hFE 15) as did one from pink set. These are marked "XX" and believe they are the "bottom of the barrel" parts from Regency testing. The driver transistor was bad (as was one in pink set) as it initially tested with very low gain and then continually

failed being identified as two resistors due to serious leakage. Surprised the audio sounded as good as it did ! So carefully removed all parts in the pre-amp/driver stage and installed another of the '57 Zenith sockets. Am now going to use a single silicon NPN transistor in this stage and calculate correct values for bias & emitter resistors. Might "breadboard" the simple circuit first using clip-leads to connect to radio and see if any "tweaking" is necessary for best audio. All these mods are easily reversible and original components were carefully removed and will be saved. Am also going to try a 10 Ohm instead of 5 Ohm emitter resistor in the P-P output stage like the Zenith Royal 500 and try the 2N35 matched pair again...

After a lot of thought, decided to use the early Zenith Royal 500 audio driver circuit since I had known good Sylvania NPN transistor for one. After installing the necessary components, plugged in the good Zenith driver transistor as well as the matched 2N35 outputs from same chassis. Radio worked, but with much lower volume due to the lower gain (about half) of the Zenith transistors. The one good original 2N229 output had gain just over 100. Placed that transistor in driver socket and volume returned to normal, but still didn't sound right--pretty much same as before ! After experimenting with different cap values across input of driver transformer, found that replacing the .01 uF with a .02 knocked a bit more of

the annoying high-freq "edge" off of audio, but still not right. Would like to find another 2N229 with gain of 100 to mate with good original or another matched pair of NPN germanium transistors with that Beta to try before accepting that sound quality is normal (pink set sounds same, but think one of its outputs is also bad, just haven't verified yet as I didn't want to "invade" that set further)! Remember, all mods I made to this are easily reversible and have saved original components. Below is picture showing what has been done so far...



Warmer today, so finished making a cabinet out of one of my truck's old license plates and painted it after verifying fit. Forming the lips which fit

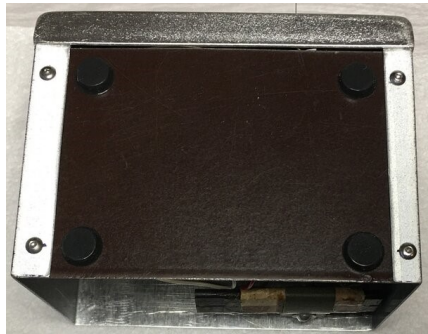


within front panel was very tricky and tedious not having the proper tooling.

Just need to make a bottom panel and drill necessary holes---and it may need a couple more coats of paint as the nozzle began clogging and you can still see the plate numbers under bright light...



Cabinet completed today! Made a template for the tuning cap trimmers access holes' locations, then marked, punched, and drilled those and others. Was fortunate enough to have the appropriate chrome plugs in parts cabinet. Cut a steel bottom panel from a salvaged, already painted piece in garage stash. Decided on this to add a bit more rigidity to the slightly thinner than original aluminum "license plate" cabinet.



After trimming and filing a bit for snug fit, drilled and tapped four 4-40 holes for mounting. Then installed four self-adhesive rubber feet.

Very thankful on how well it turned out appearance-wise, but still need to find a good matched pair of NPN audio output transistors... The two stand-offs I used to mount the ferrite-bar antenna place it right at the rear of cabinet, so hopefully performance will be somewhat better than original which was recessed around a half-inch.

Pics below with last one showing it alongside the pink set from my collection.





CONSTRUCTION



How much radio can you stuff into a portable, and how small can you make it? Popular Science asked me these two questions, and here are my answers. The first is “plenty.” The second is that with standard, easily available parts, you can boil it down to a three-pound package 3 ½” by 5 ½” by 6”.

Smaller sets can be made, but they’ll probably offer less radio. Here’s a honey of a compromise between size and performance. It

gives you a four-tube superhet circuit, good loudspeaker volume and enough sensitivity to pull in practically everything on the air. In try-outs the signal-grabbing qualities of this midget put several table-model radios to shame.

Albert Rowley, Popular Science, September 1948

I started to collect personal portables around 1991. That’s the name for the miniature tube portables that easily fit in the palm of the hand. After restoring them for a couple of years, I started to get the itch for something different. Instead of restoring existing portables, I had the desire to scratchbuild one.

As a result, I was on the lookout for old magazines and construction books at flea markets, radio meets and hamfests.

The Popular Science Three Pound Portable

by Bill Morris



I was flipping through a stack of old Popular Science issues at a flea market and I found just what I needed with the September 1948 edition. It had an article describing where you could build a small personal portable that weighed a mere three pounds. Some time later I found a couple of Popular Science books; one that not only had that same article described, but another book showing how to build one step by step.

Challenge accepted.



The catalyst.

Philosophy

Before starting the design and construction, I thought long and hard on how to build it. I thought of my “Little Billy” question. In it, there is a six-year-old version of myself. He has a little Singer sewing machine screwdriver in his hand. The question: Can Little Billy remove the chassis easily without having to resort to complicated disassembly (Think Zenith’s first Trans Ocean Clipper)? If it can be slid out in one piece, speaker and all, maybe have one or two solder connections to break, then it passes the “Little Billy” question. If the set was designed

haphazardly, then chances it’s not going to be “Little Billy” approved.



Parts

First hurdle was gathering parts. Tubes were not a problem, they were (and still are) plentiful. Since my specialty were miniature tube portables, I always had a stash of spares.

The author suggested getting Emerson personal radio replacement parts. Of course, that was in 1948 when they were commercially available. Today’s world required me to scavenge and harvest parts from junk sets.

I found the perfect specimen in the 1946-era RCA 54B series radios. They are the personal sets with a metal body capped with tortoiseshell plastic end pieces. RCA bred them like bunnies—even today they are easily found. Unfortunately for them (and fortunately for me), these endpieces are fragile, so either a



The donor.

broken or missing one usually made the set a candidate for the junk bin. They were perfect for harvesting everything I needed: antenna, IF cans, oscillator coils, tuning caps and speaker.

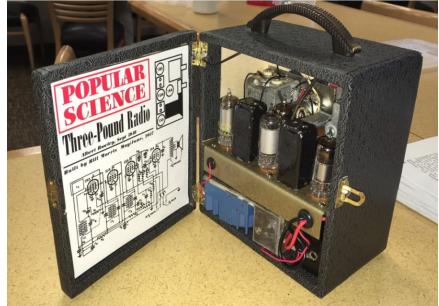
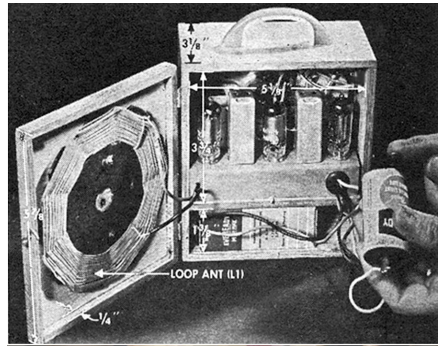
Cabinet

I now set my attention to building the cabinet. Mr. Rowley recommended using and modifying a wooden index card box commonly found in stationery stores. Problem was It WASN'T a common size—it was much bigger than the skinny vintage recipe-style boxes you see normally for sale. I had to compromise.

About the same time, I was dabbling with the remains of a Travler 5019 portable. This was built along the lines of the larger wooden portables, but much smaller. This junk cabinet was denuded of its leathercloth, heavily stained, missing its back, creaky with its dried-out glue joints.

In the interest of seeing how it was put together, I knocked it apart with a rubber mallet. Studying the carcass' pieces, I realized building it was going to be far easier than I anticipated. All the parts' grooves and tongues could be easily reproduced on a common table saw.

Using Rowley's file card box measurements, I developed a baby 5019 cabinet—virtually identical to its Travler brother but about a third smaller.

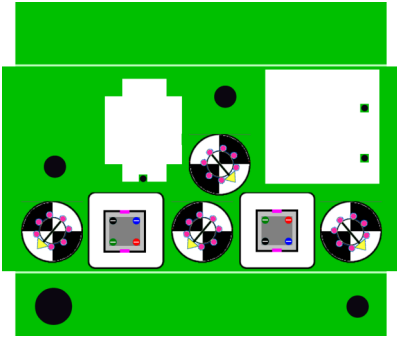


After the carcass was assembled, I needed a covering. A quick trip to JoAnn's Fabrics was the solution. They had a selection of scrapbook paper in various designs and textures. In this case, I chose a grey ostrich-skin paper. The grill cloth was from

an ebay seller and it was reinforced with a piece of cross-stitch perforated plastic.

The handle was a from a furniture pull obtained at the hardware store. I found it to be the right size, shape and proportion to this little set.

Chassis



The layout

I laid out the chassis on the computer using a graphics program called Paint Shop Pro. Using the computer allowed me to get the parts laid out in the correct place. For dimensions, I converted everything over to metric, as I wouldn't need to convert fractions to decimal. I also enlarged the image up to 400 percent. That allowed for a sharp printed image. Smaller sizes would cause image to have slurry in it.

Constructing a superhet demands that all wiring connections be as short as possible, so I rotated the sockets in reference to the b plus and if transformers leads.

Once the graphics were complete, the chassis was printed to size, rub-

ber-cemented onto a sheet of steel and cut out. It would share another design from the Travler 5019—it would have 'wings' on opposite sides. The wings would slide into slots cut in the cabinet, making installation and removal a cinch—no fiddly screws to mess with.

The IF transformers needed work before they were installed. RCA, along with other manufacturers of the time, used rubber wiring. Over time the insulation loses its elasticity, becomes brittle and shatters. The leads also needed lengthening as they were designed for the 54B's compact quarters. So, the outer shells were removed and new vinyl hookup wire leads were installed. While I was in there, I cleaned and polished the trimmer screws. As the chassis was going to be painted, and I never was a fan of the outer shells' ugly grey color, I gave them a coat of black enamel.



Once I was satisfied with the chassis' layout, I gave it a coat of gold hammertone finish and installed the parts. Then I wired the set using the article's schematic. Each step of the way, I would test

each stage. If I ran into trouble, I reviewed the instructions from the Popular Science book.

The loop antenna was directly from the 54B chassis lid and I glued it on the back door, exactly like Mr. Rowley's edition. The antenna leads were soldered to the door's brass hinges, and in turn leads from the chassis were soldered there as well.

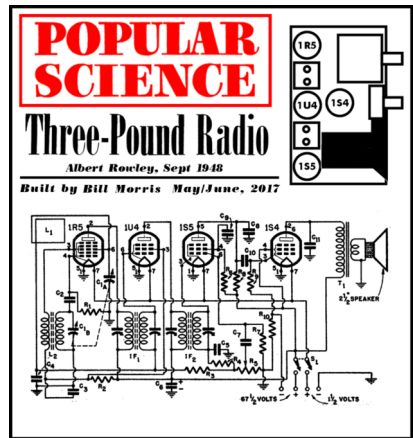
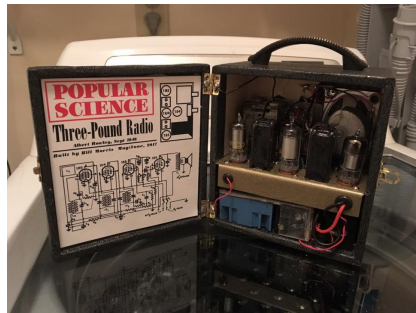
First power up and I was met with silence. That surprised me. At the time I was using the Tony Maher 67.5 volt substitute battery, and I wasn't seeing any problems. Then I remembered Tony designed a protection circuit that would reduce power whenever a short was detected. To confirm my theory, I replaced the Maher battery with a string of seven nine volts and powered up again. Smoke! For the first time, I came across a genuine SHORTED 1U4 battery tube. Replacing it brought the set to life.

I used Wayne Lemons' tuning procedure where you tune the oscillator core to maximum sensitivity on the low end, then tweak the high end's oscillator and antenna trimmers. In his transistor radio servicing book, he said that while the set may not track exactly to the dial scale, the radio sensitivity would be maximum.

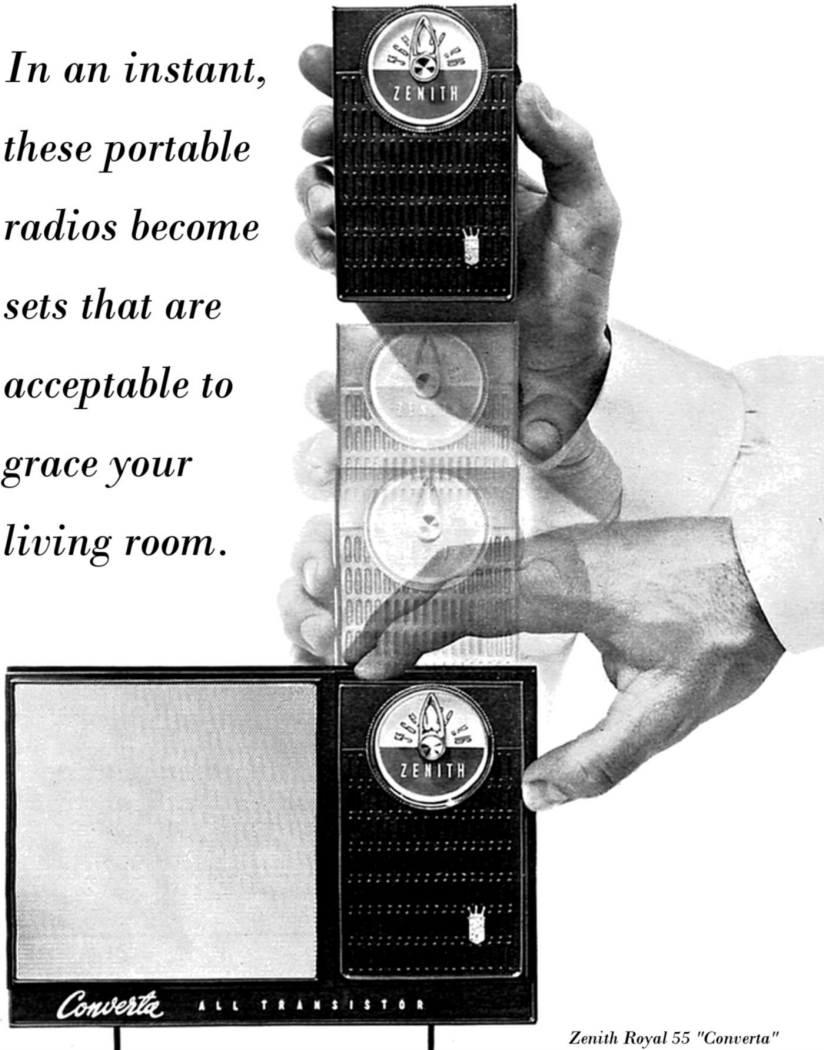
Performance? Well, not as sensitive as I'd really like it to be. It plays, but I was hoping for a little more oomph. There may be more adjusting and tweaking I need to do. I believe I've tuned it up as best as I can. It might be that these parts were specially designed to work in an arrangement

tighter than my layout.

All the same, I've enjoyed taking this little set to meets and hamfests. People ask what brand it is, as they'd never seen one that small before. They are even more surprised when I tell them I made it.



*In an instant,
these portable
radios become
sets that are
acceptable to
grace your
living room.*



Zenith Royal 55 "Converta"

CONVERTIBLES!

by Bill Morris



1925 RCA Radiola 24

In the 1920's, radio became part of the family home.

Soon after, someone got the idea to make the same equipment portable. As they needed a carrying handle, they were configured in luggage cases. Great for carrying and playing in the great outdoors, but a piece of luggage playing on the family room table was not the most attractive thing. Plus, batteries needed to be smaller and lighter than their home counterparts. As a result, the sets didn't play as long as the home counterparts.

Some manufacturers made a compromise. They created sets that could perform as portables AND look handsome in the home. Best of both worlds.

This pictorial will show a series of convertible radios manufactured between the 1920's to the 1960's.



The luggage-styled Radiola 24 and 26 were introduced around the same time. Both have the same feature with using an adaptor cable to allow powering them with larger style batteries, but the '26 has the advantage of storing them in a wooden dock box. It also featured an antenna tuner.



To convert the portable to a home radio, you unplugged an umbilical located in the radio's battery compartment.



Access holes in both the radio's bottom and battery box allowed you to thread the umbilical through and plug into a similar socket into the battery box.



The battery box interior, showing space for larger A and B batteries. Also shown is the antenna coupling coil and capacitor.



The radio was then placed on top of the box, the loop removed from its frame and slid into two slots on the back of the radio. The antenna tuner was then coupled to the loop.



Radiola 26



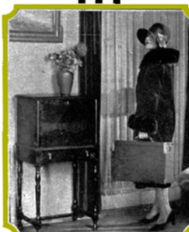
The 1925 Operadio was a complete portable radio on its own. Six tubes, larger batteries, and antenna that doubled as the front cover. It also had a wood cabinet that made it an attractive home radio.



To convert to a portable, you merely lifted the radio out of its cabinet...



...Then fasten the antenna lid onto the portable. Pick it up and you're ready to travel.



The antenna attached to the radio through a socket on its cabinet. To go back as a home radio, just reverse the procedure.



OPERADIO



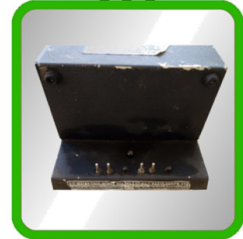
Portables returned to the market in the late Thirties, but no convertables were manufactured. By 1946, Britain's Romac Personal appeared-their first portable to use miniature tubes.



Three models were introduced-Medium Wave only, MW-Shortwave and MW-Longwave. It was housed in a wrinkle-finish metal case and its antenna was concealed in its carrying strap.



As batteries were expensive and short-lived, Romac offered an AC powered dock.



To run on home current, holes in the radio lined up with pins on the dock. Power was then switched over from battery to AC.



ROMAC '126'



General Electric offered the best of both worlds in 1955 with this clock radio. Slide a lever back in the rear of the cabinet...



And the radio portion became a portable radio, complete with its own battery-powered supply



The AC powered clock portion stayed on the night stand, and also supplied home current to the radio when reattached to it.



CONVERTIBLE



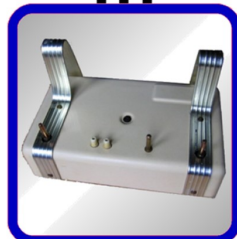
Poland's ZRK "Szarotka" of 1957 was a direct copy of the Telefunken Grazietta portable radio.



It ran on the standard sized 67.5 volt B battery and twin D cell AC supply.



The portable sat on its AC dock much the same way as the Romac, where holes in the portable met with pins on the dock supply.



Inside the dock, provisions to run on 110 and 220 volt supplies were offered.



The Soviet Union's first portable radio, the 1956 VEF Turist, also was available as a convertible set.



As a portable, it ran on a 75 volt B battery and two "Saturn" D cells for the filament supply.



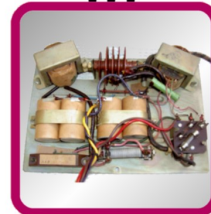
The conversion plug was mounted on the bottom of the set.



And it mounted into a socket that extended from the bakelite power dock.



The dock had provisions to run on 220 and 110 volts by moving a fuse from one terminal to the other.



By the 1960s, transistor radios were the norm. A few companies were offering "cordless" radios--they looked like their tube table radio counterparts but were battery powered. At the same time, some companies offered convertibles that had their pocket radios connect to larger speaker cabinets. Toshiba went one better and offered separate battery and AC power supplies to their speaker cabinet.



ZENITH ^{Royal 55} *Convertible*



Toshiba

7TP-303 Radio
3WX Speaker/Pwr Supply



Hitachi 7H-666 Radio
ES-90H Speaker





FRANKLIN SPRING MEET



A wide selection of radios and parts were available from the swap meet.



The Spring 2022 Meet was held Saturday, June 18th at Heritage Hall, Johnson County Fairgrounds



A good amount of fellow collectors gathered to buy, swap and trade stories over coffee and donuts.



IHRS Member John Hauger displayed a collection of early phonographs and played them during the meet.

Spring Meet CONTEST

AM-FM Tube Radios

1st Place:
Joe Farkas, Zenith Y832E

2nd Place:
Alex Whitaker,
Silvertone 8020



Indiana Made Radios

2nd Place:
Fred Prohl, Arvin 61R89

1st Place:
Ed Dupart, Arvin 9562



Wanted---junked early Raytheon 8TP transistor radio chassis.

Wanted---junked Zenith Royal 150 or Royal 50 with good small rectangular Zenith emblem on front panel.

Wanted---Arvin 60R38 (picture below from internet) to refurbish for collection.

Please contact me for questions at 317 846-4160 or xrhonda91@gmail.com

Thanks very much for looking, John Raskauskas



Wanted—junk RCA 54B series personal radios as shown below, any condition. Contact Bill Morris at batterymaker@gmail.com



Hello Readers of the Newsletter,

Many thanks to Bill for squeezing in my article at the last minute. Please share this article with your Lady.

Hello Ladies,

I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Robin, the new bride of extremely cute president of the club, Alex.

As you know, our men meet four times per year. Some of us might like the men being away for the day or weekend and plan a fun time without our men. If that is you, here's an idea.

I thought some of us might like to plan an event while our men are meeting. Events such as community service, sight-seeing, antiquing, a table at the event for us to craft, a table at the October meet for us to sell our Christmas crafts, preparing a lunch for the guys, a family day trip to the zoo, a hike at the local park, etc. We might even plan a fun night out or party the night before the meet. The possibilities are endless.

We can make this our time. It can be as planned or as spontaneous as we would like. We can be as sedate or as active as we like. We can be as free spending or as cheap as we like. Meets can be days we can look forward to.

Alex and Bill tell me that years ago the ladies used to get together. If you were involved in those days, I'd especially like to hear from you. If any ladies are interested in events, please contact me. My email is findley.robin@yahoo.com. My cell is 317.374.3029.

For the Cool Creek Meet on August 13, we can plan to meet for brunch to get acquainted and plan for the October meet. Between now and then, I'll find a place close by. I'll have a sign-up sheet for interest for the Ladies' events.

Don't be a radio club widow!
Robin

Final Thoughts

by Robin Whitaker





Arvin - The Magnificent - Car Radio

TRANSFORMS MILES

A mile is merely a minute of music...
and a drab highway becomes a bright
path paved with melody...when you ride
with Arvin - The Magnificent - Car Radio

INTO MUSIC!



ARVIN
LCO 115

THIS NEW-FOUND PLEASURE COSTS SO LITTLE TO ENJOY



Arvin's pleasure
is so genuine
it's no wonder
it's so popular.

Every mile you drive in town or out - will be a mile of new-found pleasure when you have a 1931 Arvin Car Radio. You'll be amazed at the way it shortens trips - counteracts the depressing monotony of distance - keeps your spirits high, instead of driving away from your friends of the air, you'll take them with you - almost in person. Inspired by an ambition to build car radios of truly magnificent performance, Arvin has developed three entirely new models that match the fine engineering which distinguishes today's new cars. These new Arvins represent the superior efforts of automotive and radio engineers. All Arvin dealers are proudly demonstrating these fine new ones.

You'll find that they embody new ideas and improvements in car radio design, such as automatic auto filter systems - local and long distance selection for country and city driving - automatic controls with airplane-type dials for steering columns or instrument panel - and simplified out-of-night mounting.

These are but a few of numerous new features which are responsible for the magnificent performance of the new Arvins in all makes of cars. Yet these fine sets are priced so reasonably - \$19.95, \$24.95, \$44.95 - and the Arvin Special at \$149.50. Convenient payments may be arranged with most dealers. Enjoy an Arvin - installation can be made in a couple of hours by an Arvin dealer near you.

NOBLETT-SPARKS INDUSTRIES, Inc.
Columbus, Indiana
Also Makers of Arvin Hot Water Car Heaters

ARVIN
THE MAGNIFICENT
Car Radio



The
Indiana
Historical
Radio Society

BULLETIN



"SOFT LIGHTS
& SWEET MUSIC"

