



My first trip to Radiofest Elgin, Illinois

In May of this year, I decided to go to the Radiofest in Elgin, Illinois. Since this would be my first trip, I called David Martin to find out everything about this meet. Several days later, David called me back and asked me to stay with him and Charles Pierce at the Holiday Inn where the meet was being held. Then, in July, I bought a 1994 Mercury Cougar. I was ready to make the trip!

I left Signal Mountain, TN on Saturday before the meet. I traveled up through Kentucky and Ohio and across northern Indiana. I visited the President William H. Taft birthplace in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Citizens Motor Car Co. in Dayton, Ohio; a circa 1935 restored Packard dealership with original art deco show room, parts counter, and service shop. The Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum in Auburn, Indiana, a museum in the original administrative headquarters of this company.

Crossing northern Indiana on Tuesday, I stopped at an antique shop in Ligonier, Indiana and found out about a new radio museum that had recently opened in a service station there. I went to it and it was excellent, many restored radios and advertising memorabilia put together by the Indiana Historical Radio Society and run by volunteers.

I continued across northern Indiana and encountered the 5:00 rush hour traffic right away. From the state line to Elgin, it is about 70 miles with all of this distance in Chicago and its suburbs, and it took about two hours to cross this area. I arrived at the Radiofest at 7:00 PM. It was my 51st birthday, and what better present could have been had than the awesome sight that laid before me as I came down the frontage road to the motel. There were cars, trucks, trailers, vans, and every conveyance imaginable parked everywhere. Many of them had already unloaded with collectors swarming like ants looking and buying. There would be four rows of vendors in the parking lot around three sides of the motel and about four rows, each a city block long in an adjacent field.

I found David and Charles, who had arrived earlier, and got settled in our room. I then made a quick tour of the parking lot and found some knobs for a Philco 70 cathedral that I needed. We then went to eat, came back and talked radios till about 11 then went to bed. That first night I only slept about three hours in anticipation of what the next day would be like. It couldn't have been better.

We were all up and out by 7:00 AM. Immediately, I found

a small Steinite cathedral radio and grill cloth for the above mentioned Philco 70. I bought four other radios that day, NOS tubes, capacitors, and other parts. I made three complete circuits of the flea market, which took about eight or nine hours. Much of this time was spent meeting and talking with other collectors. That night, we all went to bed early and slept very soundly.

The next morning, Charles and I woke up first with David still snoring away and we thought oblivious to our discussion of who was going to use the bathroom first. David came out of a deep sleep and said "you all go ahead, I am going to sleep a little longer" or something to that effect and was immediately sound asleep again. Amazing; we can get a bottom line from Dave even in his sleep! The highlight of that day (Thursday) was the tour of the Ralph Muchow Radio Museum. Dr. Muchow began collecting radios in the late 1960's and has seven or eight rooms of an office building full of radios from the earliest days of radio to the late 1940's. One room was full of high dollar console radios, many of them Scott radios. In another room was an Atwater Kent radio incorporated into a water fountain. Also on Thursday was continuation of the flea market, a radio contest, a lecture by Marc Ellis concerning his best Popular Electronics Antique radio topics, and the banquet featuring nationally syndicated early radio program expert, Chuck Schaden. I bought seven radios on Thursday, the highlight being a Musicaire miniature floor model.

The highlights of the next day, Friday, was the auction, which lasted about four hours with about 200 lots sold, and a Majestic Radio presentation by Bill Allen and Chip Taylor. The flea market also continued and I bought three radios that day. During the first three days, one room of the motel was equipped with a TV monitor and VCR where tapes on various radio subjects were continuously shown. One I enjoyed concerned the early development of magnetic tape recording. The Antique Radio Club of Illinois, who sponsor the Radiofest, maintained a tent outside with information and free soft drinks during the four days of the meet.

On the fourth and final day of the meet was a donation auction, which lasted about two hours, with all proceeds going to the Illinois club from equipment donated by vendors. Here was a chance to pick up chassis' for parts and I bought five of these. Prior to this auction, members of our club, the "Southeastern Antique Radio Society", which was well represented at this meet, met in the motel restaurant for breakfast.

By 1:00 P.M., it was all over and for me, it was a very enjoyable four days. The only damper on the event was the rainy weather, but even this was better than the high heat and humidity which existed until the day before the meet and returned on Saturday about the time the meet was over. It took me two days to drive

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Happy New Year from S.A.R.S. to our members and other readers. This issue is packed with information that should be of interest to everyone. Our thanks to Barry for editing the Spring issue. We also extend our thanks to Marty Reynolds for editing the past two issues. And to Norm Schneider, our publisher and fellow club member, again thanks for the great job in putting the Newsletter in print. Please send your Newsletter items to our P.O. Box for inclusion in upcoming issues. Our next issue will be out in June. We have had only moderate interest in a classified ad column, but its an excellent opportunity to search for or sell items that other members may have. Why not give it a try?

We continue to have an excellent turn-out at the monthly meetings. Those of you that were unable to attend the "make-up" meeting hosted by Johnny Hubbard missed an opportunity to see a fine collection and engage in discussions of interest to all. Thanks, Johnny, for being so gracious. (I hope Dale has forgiven you for allowing this bunch in her house). I would like to propose that we re-new the practice of "tailgating" before each meeting and of offering a free dinner to the winner of the show and tell each month. Bring a radio or other related item and let the members vote on their favorite. In the past, this has brought out many interesting items that many would not otherwise have ever seen. The renewal of these programs should stimulate interest and activity within the club.

By the time you read this Newsletter our Spring club meet will have happened.. The schedule for meets nationwide is in high gear by late March and here's hoping you will be able to attend one or more of them and find that special prize that has eluded you for so long. Its unfortunate that two of the larger meets, Elgin and Rochester, have found their schedules separated by only three days. This is further complicated by them being either side of Labor Day. For those of us who travel by car over long distances, it's very difficult to attend both. The Labor Day traffic only adds to the problem. I hope you can attend one or both but here's a plea to the organizers to consider these conflicts when planning next years events.

Speaking of swap meets, our club has the opportunity to host the 3rd Mega-Meet this year. You will recall the 1994 event and Nashville's follow up in 1995. Both were very successful and received many compliments. The discussion and planning for this Fall meeting will be the focus of our April 8 meeting. If you cannot attend, send your ideas or comments to our P.O. Box for inclusion. Many volunteers and much organization will once again be required to produce a meet of this size. Volunteers are needed. We are long overdue for an election of Officers and I believe this should be resolved at the April meeting. The future of our Society rests in our ability to remain focused on activity growth and new ideas. This is best accomplished by regular Leadership changes and close cooperation between members.

Respectfully,



home of the ninth President of the United States, William Henry Harrison, and the George Rogers Clark Memorial in Vincennes, Indiana. I arrived home in Signal Mountain late Sunday night and plan to make the Radiofest a yearly trip on my agenda in the future.

John C. Wynne
Signal Mtn., TN

SEE SOME GOOD RADIO ON TV!

For those of you that have access to American Movie Classics (AMC) on cable or satellite, here's a tip. AMC has produced an original series called "Remember WENN".

The series is set in 1939 at Pittsburgh's WENN and is a 30 minute comedy. The first two episodes were shown in January and were quite good. The next two episodes are scheduled for Feb. 7 and 21 respectively. AMC has committed to six more after that, one per month starting in March.

VINTAGE SERVICE LITERATURE

Over the last couple of weeks I have answered several questions about Riders manuals and other vintage service literature. I thought I would take this opportunity to list some of the items available to collect and the dates covered by each.

The most popular and easiest to find is probably the Rider series of manuals. Riders manuals were put out in a series of Volumes 1-23 from the late 20's to early 50's. Some of these same manuals can also be found under other names such as National Union, RCA and Sylvania.

RIDER VOL.

I	1919-1931
II	March 1931-June 1932
III	June 1932-June 1933
IV	June 1933-March 1934
V	Mid-1934
VI	Late 1934-Early 1936
VII	Early 1936-November 1937
VIII	November 1937-1938
IX	1938-1939
X	1939
XI	August 1939-June 1940
XII	June 1940-April 1941
XIII	April 1941-Early 1942
XIV	1942
XV	1946
XVI	Late 1946-1947
XVII	1947
XVIII	Nov. 1947-Nov.1948
XIX	Late 1948-March 1949
XX	March 1949-Nov. 1949
XXI	Dec. 1949-Oct. 1950
XXII	Nov. 1950-August 1951
XXIII	September 1951-1952

There is also an Abridged Volume 1-5 Riders which has the most common sets in them and is nice to have if you are only

interested in the sets through the early 30's. The indexes for these volumes are also good to watch out for. They can be found in various forms covering just one year or multiple years. Many of them are incorporated in the "How It Works" series of books put out on various subjects. Rider also put out a lot of books such as Servicing Super-Heterodynes, Aligning Philco Receivers, Servicing by Signal Tracing and many other titles. One good book is Riders Master Receiving tube substitution guide book. This book not only gives you direct substitutions for tubes but also shows you how to rewire tube sockets to accept different but similar tubes when there is no substitution.

SAMS photofacts are also available. They were first issued in volume sets in 1946. Each volume contains ten folders with about a dozen radio and TV sets each. Volume 1 contains folders 1-10, Volume 2 contains 11-20, etc. The volume system was dropped in the early 50's in favor of individual folders. The folders system has reached the 3000 range now.

SAMS VOL.

1	1946-January 1947
2	January 1947-July 1947
3	July 1947-January 1948
4	January 1948-July 1948
5	July 1948-December 1948
6	December 1948-May 1949
7	May 1949-October 1949
8	October 1949-Dec. 1949
9	December 1949-March 1950
10	May 1950-July 1950
11	July 1950-October 1950
12	October 1950-Jan. 1951
13	Jan. 1951-April 1951
14	April 1951-August 1951
15	August 1951-Nov. 1951
16	October 1951-Feb. 1952
17	Jan. 1952-May 1952
18	April 1952-August 1952
19	July 1952-December 1952

You can also find old copies of the Sams index which includes everything up to the publication date of the index. The Sams folders also include a lot more info including a picture of the set and pictures of the chassis and parts layout. Sams also put out a series of dial cord stringing guides that should be grabbed up. If you've ever tried to figure out a dial cord string without a diagram you will understand why they are so valuable.

Another great series of books to have are the RCA-Service Notes or the so called red books. These are service books put out by RCA over the years that were bound in red. They are much more detailed than the Rider information and also include pictures of the actual cabinet styles available for each model. They are available as individual years or in a compilation that has the years 1923-1937 in Volume I and 1938-1942 in Volume II. They also include a cross reference to G.E., Westinghouse and Graybar models.

Supreme publications put out a series of Most -Often-Needed manuals over the years with Volume I covering 1926-1938. These books were exactly what they were called; schematics of the most common sets for these years.

Other companies put out their own service manuals.

Zenith has a two volume set that is basically the same information that is in Riders. Silvertone, Crosley, Majestic and Sparton also put out their own books.

Another interesting pair of books to watch out for is Modern Radio Servicing by Ghiradi and its companion the Radio Trouble Shooters Handbook. This book gives case histories of individual radios by model number and manufacturer. It also contains a lot of other reference material such as plug in and ballast resistor data, tube basing and characteristics and even —wiring diagrams for some vintage automobiles used to help eliminate hum in auto radios.

Mallory put out a radio service encyclopedia that includes the part numbers for volume controls, condensers and vibrators. It also includes the tube complement, I.F. peak and Riders reference. This gives you a reference book and a riders index for one price.

So, what should you have to pay for all of this? Good question. I will give you an idea of what I have seen. Riders will cost you anywhere from maybe 50.00 for a volume 1, to 10.00 to 20.00 each for the other volumes. You can do much better than this by buying them in a set for 150 to 300 depending on condition and how many are in the set. The later volumes 21-23 are pretty rare and can be pricey. Sams photofacts are pretty cheap and can sometimes be had simply if you will come pick them up or pay the shipping. RCA and the other manufacturer books can go for around 10 to 30 each depending on condition. The other books I mentioned when they can be found can sometimes be had for as little as a dollar a piece.

I want to also mention that this is by no means a complete list of what's out there and is also just what I have personal knowledge of. If you have something else that you find particularly valuable drop me a line and we will put it in the next newsletter.

Barry Ethridge
Temple, GA

RARE ZENITH?



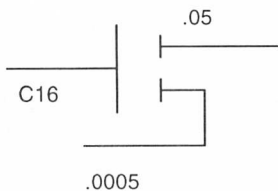
At the January Pride of Dixie antique market this Zenith radio was spotted. Johnny Hubbard called me and I was able to go



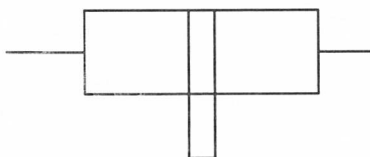
by and snap a few Polaroid's. The cabinet had no markings or labels of any kind. The chassis was a nine tube shutter dial without the motorized tuning. This did look original and may have been a custom job done for a very particular customer. The ornate trim work on the top could be either at the rear edge of the cabinet as shown or could be moved to the front edge. The top of the cabinet was hinged so that you could look down on the chassis like some of the Scott and McMurdo-Silver cabinets. I could not find this cabinet pictured in any of the reference material that I have. If you have any information about this please let me know. By the way the guy that had it wanted 1650.00 for it so that's why it's not in my house now.

SERVICE TIP

A member recently had this trip him up and suggested that we pass this along (no names but his initials are Johnny Hubbard). Watch out for dual section bypass capacitors. On first inspection these capacitors look like a single value capacitor with a center hold down strap. A closer look shows that the strap in the center is actually the common connection for two separate caps in one package. This one was in a Sparton model 517 mid 30's set. Drawn on the schematic it looked like this:



and the actual part looked something like this:



under the metal strap was an electrical connection that was not obvious until you broke the capacitor open.

¹ Ludwell Sibley, "Restoring Old Equipment," *Old Timer's Bulletin* May 1989: 16+45.

Crossword Puzzle

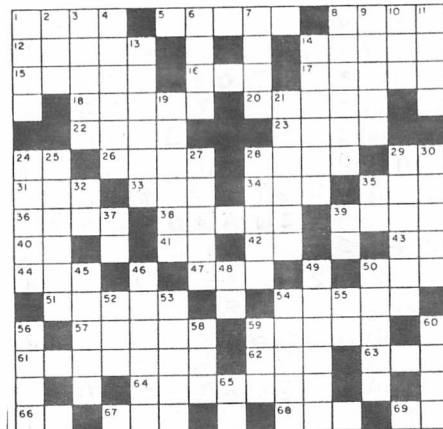
Answers next issue

ACROSS

1. Preset condition.
5. Change in time relationship.
8. Shows station to which you are tuned.
12. Combination of two or more metals.
14. Frequencies which can be heard.
15. Record players are often mounted on one of these.
16. Broadcaster to Iron Curtain countries (abbr.).
17. Consumers.
18. Aquatic respiratory organs.
20. Part of the title of document guaranteeing civil liberties.
22. Valley between peaks.
23. Pedal extremities.
24. Type of circuit board (abbr.).
26. Human emotion.
28. Threaded rod attached to chassis.
29. Power ratio.
31. Unit of resistance.
33. Type of three-phase connection.
34. Affirmative.
35. Peruvian coin.
36. Output is dissipated across this.
38. Mends.
39. One-tenth (prefix).
40. Equally.
41. Ratio indicating usefulness of signal.
42. Transformer notation on schematic (abbr.).
43. Isotope of radon.
44. Color code for two.
47. Distress signal.
50. Earth.
51. Ability to perceive.
54. Production-line worker.
57. Wires attached to components.
59. Started from and returned to one place.
61. Receives and transmits signals.
62. Goods shipped (abbr.).
63. To be enjoyed.
64. Emits electrons.
66. Measure of noise generated by amplifier (abbr.).
67. Non-reactive impedance (abbr.).
68. Hit show ticket status.
69. Place for making measurement (abbr.).

DOWN

1. Part of transistor.
2. Slet.
3. Set properly.
4. Element found in salt.
6. Receptors for audio.
7. Man's name.
8. Tidied up the house.
9. Food for thought.
10. One vital commodity missing on the moon.
11. Attenuation.
13. Color code for four.
14. Containing gold.
19. Insurance underwriters.
21. Bear witness.
24. Pattern traced by some types of antennas and microphones.
25. Personal property (legal).
27. College administrators.
28. Locks signal to a reference.
29. Medical man.
30. Connection which must be made where it can't be seen.
32. Small current (abbr.).
35. Compass point (abbr.).
37. Radio navigation unit.
39. Unidirectional current (abbr.).
45. Type of three-phase connection.
46. Income from investments.
48. Computer function.
49. Female sibling.
50. Auto body type.
52. Born (Fr.).
53. Miss Oliver's namesakes.
54. Political subdivisions of a city.
55. Transistor schematic abbreviation.
56. Function performed by amplifier.
58. "Beat" day of the week (abbr.).
59. Oscillator in receiver (abbr.).
60. Abrupt change to new voltage.
65. Transistor current amplification.



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