



WARCI News

Wisconsin Antique Radio Club, Inc.

Summer (It Seems)

July 2014

Live Music for the July Meet!
Mississippi Sawyer
presents their old-time wash-
board band sounds, about
10:15 AM.



Firing up a Crosley VI
See page 4 for Greg Farmer's article.



NEXT WARCI MEET:

Sunday, July 20, 2014; 8:00 – 11:00 AM.
Doors open 7:00 AM, parking lot available earlier

The Terminal / Landmark (see last page)
5917 S. Howell Avenue, Milwaukee
Near the Airport

Features: 9:45 am 50-50 Raffle, Donation
Auction, 10:15 Live Music by Mississippi Sawyer
and Joe's Excellent Free Pizza

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WARCI, Inc.

THE WISCONSIN ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB, INC. EXISTS TO PRESERVE THE KNOWLEDGE OF RADIO, TELEVISION, AND OTHER RELATED TECHNOLOGIES. WE HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE HISTORY OF RADIO IN WISCONSIN, WISCONSIN RADIO COMPANIES, RADIO STATIONS, ETC. OUR MEMBERS' INTERESTS INCLUDE RADIO, TELEVISION, AUDIO, MICROPHONES, JUKEBOXES, AND ANTIQUE PHONOGRAPHS.

OFFICERS AND BOARD

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WARCI Website - Nick Tillich
webmaster@warci.org

WARCI Information

WARCI is incorporated in the State of Wisconsin.

Annual membership dues are \$15 for each calendar year, January - December. (Allowance is now made for new members joining in July or September.)

Seller's fee at Swap Meets is \$7.00 for members, \$10 for non-members.

The next Swap Meet will be held on July 20, 2014, at the Terminal / Landmark, 5917 S Howell Avenue.

WARCI News

This newsletter is the official publication of the Wisconsin Antique Radio Club, Inc. It is published four times per year, in January, May, July and September. The WARCI News is free to all paid-up club members.

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Articles or material for the newsletter are most welcome and should be sent to Greg Hunolt, ghunolt@excel.net or N5412 State Hwy 57, Plymouth WI 53073. Include your name, address, phone, and email. PC format (e.g. MS Word) by email is preferred. JPEG for images is preferred. Please contact Greg Hunolt for assistance.

Classified ads up to ¼ page are free to WARCI members

The cut-off date for all newsletter material is about the fifteenth of the month preceding publication of the next newsletter (e.g. August 15, 2014, for the September, 2014 issue).

WARCI Website

www.warci.org

The WARCI website features information about WARCI activities, Wisconsin radio, articles, etc. Contributions are most welcome! Contact our webmaster Nick Tillich, at webmaster@warci.org. Thank you, Nick, for your great work.

Voluntary Member Directory

There is a new feature on the website that lets you create a listing for yourself in a club member list. You can describe your interests in radio, etc., and provide contact information. This capability put in place by NARC has provided some good contacts for WARCI members who are also NARC members and have listed themselves on the NARC site. We encourage you to list yourself on our site - it is purely voluntary.

WARCI Headlines

June 1 Meet Notes

The May meet at the Landmark was a great success, very well attended, with 28 sellers (a new club record) and at 8:30 AM a count of 67 people at the meet looking at items for sale. The donation auction took in \$134 for 41 items and the club netted \$51 from the 50-50 raffle. Two new members joined the club, and five other members paid up.

Office and board member elections were held, and your officers and board for the year are:

President: Greg Hunolt
Vice President: Terry Hanney
Treasurer: Bill Engaas
Secretary: Mike Sajdowitz

Board Members: Dale Boyce, Mike Krawczyk, Ralph Larsen, Jim Menning, and Dennis Schrank.

Membership Update

Good news continues! We are now at 73 paid members for 2014, counting five members who paid up at the May meet and two new members who joined. This is an all-time high, up from 65 members in 2013 (60 paid). Looking back, we had 58 members in 2012 and just 44 members in 2011.

July Meet - TV Collectors Invited, and Live Music

WARCI has invited all television collectors to our swap meet on July 20, 2014. WARCI's thanks to Jim Menning, for contacting the TV collecting folk. Bring your TVs to sell or swap—but be prepared to transport some big sets back if you find some great buys!

WARCI can not accept television sets in the Donation Auction.

We will also have live music thanks to Dennis Schrank. The band is Mississippi Sawyer, featuring their old-time washboard band sound.

WARCI Meeting Dates for 2014

See the last page for a diagram of the Landmark / Terminal site. In general, outdoor meets (i.e. good weather) will be held in the Landmark area, and indoor meets (i.e. bad weather or September for the auction) will be held in the Terminal facility, with sellers free to set up outside the Terminal if they wish.

Remaining dates for 2014:
September 21, The Terminal (WARCI Auction)
November 9, The Terminal / Landmark



“One Way To Fix A Radio”

Whoa There, MISTER JITTERS!

We know just how you feel. There's nothing so maddening as a Radio gone haywire, but instead of kicking the set around, save your temper and save your set by sending for our first-aid man right now.

P. S. He's also an Economy Expert

Have Us Check Your Set Today

MICHAEL'S RADIO SERVICE
3005 Chatham Avenue
CLEVELAND, OHIO
Phone: WOODbine 7325

Sylvania RADIO TUBES



Radiofest 2014

July 31 to August 2

Thursday – Friday – Saturday



The Willowbrook Inn
7800 South Kingery Hwy (Rte 83 & I-55)
Willowbrook, IL 60527 (1-630-325-6400)

COMMEMORATING THE WORLD WARS

THURSDAY

- Setup Day (**NO SALES**)
- Main Auction 6:30pm in the Ballroom using big screen video. Followed By Free Pizza Party!! (ARCI Members)
- Pre-Registration Packets Available After 5pm

FRIDAY

- 7am Radiofest Opens
- Registration open
- Flea Market open All Day
- Noon - Ladies Luncheon
- Educational Programs
- Ham Radio Ops All Day
- Hospitality Tent All Day
- Hotel Food Service

SPECIAL EXHIBIT MILITARY RADIO

- 100th Anniversary WWI
- 70th Anniversary D-Day
- Military Radios
- Memorabilia

EQUIPMENT CONTEST

- 1 Radios Pre-1930
- 2 Radios Pre-WWII (1945)
- 3 Radios Post-WWII (1946)
- 4 Military Radios
- 5 Catalin & Rare Plastic
- 6 Transistor & Novelty
- 7 Speakers
- 8 Vacuum Tube Audio
- 9 Radios Made In Midwest
- 10 Open Category

FRIDAY NIGHT BANQUET
Dinner, Annual Recognition & Contest Awards

THE LEGACY GIRLS

The Sounds and Style of the Andrews Sisters



SATURDAY

- Free Sellers' Raffle 9:15am
- Donation Auction 9:30am
- Flea Market Until Noon

FRIDAY PROGRAMS

Radio Clinic Under The Big Top – *Ed Huether (Career Radio Engineer)*

Motorola During WWII – *Olin Shuler (Motorola Quality Engineer)*

Vacuum Tube Audio Q&A – *Pete Nauseda (Technical Expert in Audio)*

Ham Radio Forum: Amateur Radio In WWI & Videos From WWII – *Bill Ross (Radio Historian)*

WWII Experiences "Up Front" – *Frank Glas (WWII Bombardier)*

Remembering Charlie Stinger – *Bob Sands & Robert White (CARS)*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ARCI Registration Form: <http://www.antique-radios.org>. Pre-Registration Deadline: July 1.

Hotel Reservations: Front Desk 1-630-325-6400. Ask for ARCI room rate of \$99.00 per night.

Seller Fees: 1st space: \$45 pre-reg./\$50 onsite. Additional spaces: \$35 pre-reg./\$35 onsite. Saturday Only \$30. Banquet tickets: \$35/person, \$85/couple. 8' TABLE RENTALS \$15 each (pre-registration only). No charge for general admission. Membership required for attending programs.

Questions? Call 630-739-1060. See www.antique-radios.org.

Firing up a Crosley VI

By Greg Farmer

Greg Farmer is a long time radio collector and very active in the Northland Antique Radio Club (NARC) and is currently the club's Secretary and co-editor of the NARC Newsletter and the club's webmaster. This article is reprinted from the Spring 2014 issue of the NARC newsletter with the kind permission of Greg and NARC.

Contrary to today's huge interest in AC-powered vintage radios, I still prefer early battery radios and this winter have worked on quite a few. This Crosley model VI has been in my collection since I traded Jim Thompson something for it back in 1987, and it is interesting to me because it is the earliest version, first advertised in late 1922, of the three variations of

model VI that Crosley produced. It has white porcelain tube sockets, two book condensers made out of wood for tuning, and 7 taps on the tuning coil. The two later versions had 5 taps, Bakelite tube sockets, different knobs, and smaller cabinets. See the photo in figure 1 below, and figure 2 for a comparison with a later version of the Crosley VI.

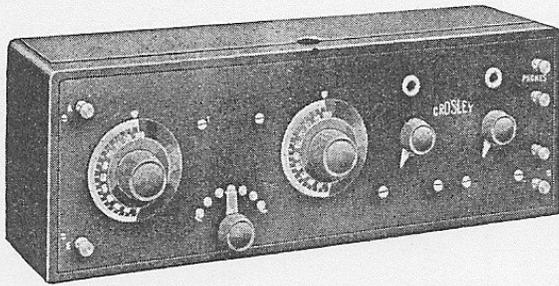
Figure 1 - Greg Farmer's Crosley VI Chassis



Figure 2 - For comparison, your editor's later version of the Crosley VI. Note the many differences.



Crosley VI - continued on Page 6



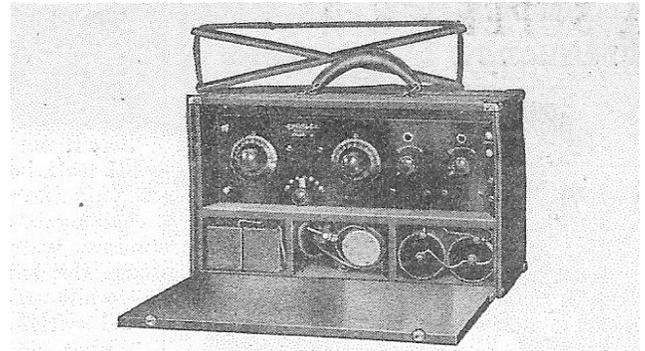
CROSLEY RECEIVER NO. VI

This Unit has approximately six times the range and volume of the Harko Senior. With it, distant broadcasting stations are brought in loud and clear-tuned sharply. It also eliminates static to a large extent.

The Crosey Receiver No. VI consists of tuner, one stage tuned radio frequency amplification and audion detector.

Mounted on formica panel, Adam brown mahogany finished cabinet, without tubes, batteries or phones—\$30.00.

Crosley Receiver No. VI is equivalent to the Crosley Crystal Receiver, Crosley Audion Detector Unit and Crosley R. F. T. A. or Crosley Harko Senior No. V and R. F. T. A.



Crosley Model VI Portable

A new departure for those desiring to carry receiving outfits with them. A 1½ volt tube set that eliminates necessity of expensive "A" battery. Consists of detector and one stage of tuned radio frequency amplification. Price, without batteries, tubes and phones, \$40.00.

Two configurations of the Crosley VI, a standard set advertised in QST, September 1922, and a portable version advertised in Radio, February 1923.

I didn't do a full restoration of this radio. The cabinet finish is a bit worn but I prefer the age and patina of a cabinet in decent original condition rather than a refinished cabinet. I also didn't replace any capacitors since the few that are in there are working fine and there is no high AC voltage to filter.

The goal was to clean it and restore it to operating condition, while retaining all original parts.

The black front panel has two peepholes with bright metal plated eyelets that allow the operator to see the tube filaments glowing. These eyelets had some surface corrosion that easily cleaned off with some chrome polish on #0000 steel wool. I used some Armor-All on a toothbrush to clean the grooves in the sides of the knobs. There was some price-sticker residue still on one corner of the front panel that I removed with a quick swipe of a rag with Gum-Out on it, and I ended up lightly wiping down the entire panel with a little Gum-Out which eliminated some greasy looking streaks and gave it a smooth consistent appearance. The white lettering and the metal parts were all in pretty decent condition, so I left them alone. The set was looking much better.

The circuit diagrams I found online were similar to this set, but not exactly the same, and it became obvious that they were for the later versions of this set. I traced out the circuit and determined it has one stage of tuned RF in front of the detector. There was one wire that had come loose at a solder joint, so this

was easy to fix. Everything else looked original and in good condition.

To operate it, an instruction book would have been handy, but I don't have one. Battery, antenna, ground, and headphone connections are on the front panel, but the two battery terminals were marked P and N, so what is that? The N terminal internally connects to the E terminal, which is Earth, or Ground, and also to the two rheostats controlling the tube filaments, while the P terminal connects to the other side of both tube filaments, so P and N correspond to what is commonly labeled A+ and A-, the 6 volt filament voltage supply. Headphones connect across the two Phones terminals, but while the bottom Phones terminal connects to the detector tube plate, the top Phones terminal doesn't connect to anything within the radio! The trick is to also connect +22.5 volts to the top Phones terminal so it will provide power through the headphones to the plate of the detector tube. Now the only mystery was how to get B+ to the RF amplifier tube. There was no obvious connection for this on the radio, but the newer versions of the radio have a B+ connector in the middle of the front panel that isn't on my radio. The online circuit diagram indicated +45 volts connecting to this and that it connected internally to the second book condenser. My radio had the same book condenser terminal, with a factory-made hole in the rear of the cabinet right next to that terminal, so it was very easy to connect a vintage black wire to the terminal and run it out the hole

where it could connect to a battery or power supply.

So, I connected the radio to 6 volt, 22.5 volt, and 45 volt power supplies, to a long piece of antenna wire, to ground, to a pair of 1920s high-impedance headphones, and turned the power supplies on, turned up the two rheostats, and measured the voltages on each pin in the two tube sockets. There was about 5 volts on the filament pins, so knowing that this setup wasn't going to burn out the tubes, I put a bakelite-base type of UV-201A tube into each socket and fired it up. After some twiddling with the two tuning knobs, I heard a station, and after a little more fine tuning I could hear five stations!

I'd been wondering if the UV-201A tubes were correct for the radio so I checked the rheostats that control the tube filament voltages and they measured 6 ohms. Ohms law says that a 5-volt filament with 5 ohms of resistance in the circuit is going to draw 1 amp of current. So, the radio was designed for the earlier 1-amp tubes, such as a UV-201, rather than the UV-201A tubes which used ¼-amp. A rheostat slightly over 20 ohms would have been used for ¼-amp 5-volt tubes.

Since I knew that radio was now working, I could confidently put the correct, and more valuable, RCA UV-201 1-amp amplifier tube and RCA UV-200 1-amp detector tube into the radio. These tubes have untreated tungsten filaments that need to burn white-hot to produce sufficient thermionic emission, and they are sometimes called bright emitters due to how brightly they burn, whereas the newer 01-A tubes have a thoriated tungsten filament that doesn't burn as bright, plus a flashed getter coating inside the glass that makes it difficult to see the tube filament. I reassembled the chassis back into the cabinet and put the correct tubes, like those it would have used when new back in 1922, into the radio.

By now it was late in the evening and the radio was as original as I could make it. I put the old headphones on and turned the filament rheostats up just until I could see the tubes glowing through the peep holes. Then, just like the original owner, I was excited to hear WCCO playing in the headphones, a station that was on the air as WLAG when this radio was new back in 1922.

ARCI

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

Radiofest 2014

**July 31, August 1, 2 at the Willowbrook Inn
Hotel and Conference Center
7800 S. Kingery Blvd.
Willowbrook, IL**

Thursday, July 31: 6:30 PM Main Auction

**Friday, August 1: 7:00 AM Flea Market
Opens**

Friday Programs:

"Radio Clinic", Ed Heuther (Outdoor Tent)

"Motorola in WW2", Olin Shuler

"Vacuum Tube Audio", Pete Nauseda

"Ham Radio Forum", Bill Ross

"WW2 Experiences 'Up Front' ", Frank Glas

**"Remembering Charles Stinger", Robert
Sands and Robert White.**

**Friday Banquet, 6:00PM—9:00PM, featuring
"The Legacy Girls" (sounds and styles of the
Andrews Sisters)**

**Saturday, August 2: 7:00 AM—12:00 Noon
Flea Market**

**See ARCI website for more information and
directions.**

New Rules for New Member Dues

WARCI membership runs January to December. But we do get new members joining later in the year. To accommodate them, the WARCI Board has agreed to a new policy for membership dues for late joiners. From now on, if a person joins in July, we'll charge \$20 and include the following year. If a person joins in September, we'll just charge \$15 and include the following year.

Editor's Note:

The WARCI News is your newsletter.

Your comments and suggestions for the newsletter are most welcome.

Your contributions of articles or other material are urgently needed. Your help is needed to make the WARCI News a success and to ensure that it covers the full scope of the interests of WARCI members.

If you're not seeing articles on topics you are interested in, **write one.**

You may submit complete articles, but information from which an article can be developed is also welcome.

Don't agonize over format, etc., as I will have to adapt your submission to the newsletter anyhow. Simple text is best. PC format (e.g. MS Word, separate jpegs by email) is preferred, but hardcopy text and photos are accepted.

In this issue we have a very nice article on his fun with a Crosley VI by Greg Farmer, reprinted from the newsletter of the Northland Antique Radio Club. We have an article on early wireless on the Great Lakes, also a reprint, this time from the newsletter of the Michigan Antique Radio Club, who themselves reprinted the article from a 1960's publication on the recommendation of Ludwell Sibley. In all cases we reprint with the kind permission of the sources, and express our thanks to them.

I look for opportunities to reprint some articles like these that I think will be of interest to WARCI, you'll have to let me know what you think, and of course if you don't like what I pick, send in your own article!

The third article is one I put together on a very strange bird but a significant pioneer in the use - or exploitation - of the power of broadcast radio to reach a large audience.

We will also cover tube audio and television and other member interests - but we need your contributions of articles or information for articles.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you at the July 20 meet,

- Greg Hunolt, Editor, WARCI News

Bob Paquette's Microphone Museum



WARCI member Bob Paquette's Microphone Museum features his collection of well over 1,000 different makes and models of microphones as well as related pieces of equipment. The emphasis is on historically important microphones made between 1876 and 1950, and early radios, telephones, and many other communications devices, including an assortment of military gear. Check out Bob's website, <http://www.sssmilwaukee.com/Microphone%20Museum.html>

Bob always enjoys visitors and will be happy to give a guided tour to individuals or groups. You can call Bob at Select Sound (414) 645-1672 to arrange for your visit. Just ask for Bob Senior. The museum is located on the second floor of Select Sound, 107 E. National Avenue in Milwaukee. Enjoy your visit and allow yourself plenty of time.

RADIO ROOTS
OLD TIME RADIO
TUESDAYS 9:00AM-NOON

WRLR 98.3FM
ROUND LAKE HEIGHTS ILLINOIS

Streaming world wide: wrlr.fm

RICK HAGERTY
PRODUCER-HOST
ricksradioroots@yahoo.com

Wireless on the Great Lakes, 1916

by Harold J. Burhop, SGP 99

This article was originally published in "Port O' Call", Winter Edition, 1968-69, a publication of the Society of Wireless Pioneers. The article was sent by Ludwell Sibley to the Michigan Antique Radio Club (MARC) "Chronicle" and published by MARC in the Winter 2013 edition. It is reprinted here with the kind permission of Lud and MARC.

Original editor's note:

Harold Burhop (SGP-99) was one of the early-day "fresh-water" sailors on the Great Lakes. The "Salt-water" boys sometimes liked to refer to the "Lake" ops with something less than reverence, however sailing the Lakes had problems that made even the Salt-water boys respect. Did you ever go through a blow on Superior? If so, you would settle for a West Indies hurricane most any time!

While working up this page, Ye Ed, by coincidence, just happened to note that Harold was listed on the "Honor Roll in the March 1919 edition of the "Marconi Service News" .

"Ye Ed" had the pleasure of working with Harold for several years (with C.A.A.) where Harold was in charge of frequency matters and the operations of about sixty five Airway Stations in the Chicago, Great Lakes area.

Harold, since retirement, travels about the country - to Mexico, etc , , in his radio equipped Airstream. Call letters W4ZL and WSZL. (Collins rig). He is a very fine gentleman.

I had the pleasure of operating stations WMX, WDR, NAJ, WMW and WOO to name a few - plus ships on the Great Lakes from 1916 until 1921.

The station at DULUTH (WDM) was located on top of the 700' hill upon which Duluth is built and could be reached via an inclined railway which has long since disappeared. Mackinac Island prohibits motor vehicles on the island, but at one time Operator Tellefson ferried his car to the island and ran it up the hill to the station. After the arrest, Tellefson fought the charge but lost out. WMX at Manistique was located in a railroad box-car alongside the Ann Arbor R. R. station. WMW at Manitowoc had the unusual distinction of being located on top of the Rahr Bros. Brewery. WBL Buffalo was serviced with 25 cycle AC and so the rotary gap had the 25-cycle

purr in it and could be instantly recognized. WGO Chicago was on top of the Congress Hotel and WME Milwaukee was on top of the Railway Exchange Building.

There were 16 American and 8 Canadian shore stations on the Great Lakes at that time. Of the 14 American Marconi stations, all but one had the old 2 KW United Wireless "coffin" transformers with the 40,000 Volt secondary, condenser consisting of a dozen Leyden jars in series-parallel in a mahogany holder, the Marconi brass disc and rotating stud for the spark gap.

WGO at Chicago had a 560 cycle quenched gap transmitter. The eight Canadian shore stations had identical 240 cycle synchronous transmitters with "pump-handle" keys and they sounded so similar that you couldn't tell which one you were hearing until you caught the call letter.

NAJ had a 5 KW 500-cycle spark and a 30 KW arc set.

There were almost 100 passenger ships and over 400 freighters and railroad car ferries operating on the Great Lakes. Most of these carried operators. WID, the *S.S. Nevada*, was a modern ice-breaker commissioned in 1915, and was chartered in the Spring by the Coast Guard to assist in opening a channel through the ice of the "Straits of Mackinac" and Whitefish Bay in Lake Superior.

The *SS Christopher Columbus* was a passenger whale-back, shaped like a huge fat cigar. There were quite a few whaleback freighters, now entirely done away with.

Some of the older passenger ships, such as the *Sheboygan*, *City of Detroit*, *Seeandbee* and others, were sidewheelers. WCA, the *SS Juniata*, already old in 1916, has been modernized and converted into the *SS Milwaukee Clipper* and is still crossing the lake on schedule.

My first 1916 "Lake Trip" was on WCD, the *SS*

Great Lakes continued on Page 10

Octorara. The ship docked at the Kemp Docks in Sault Ste. Marie. We went to see the sights in the city with Eric Lyons, first Operator. We got back just in time to see the *Octorara* about 100' from the docks. Lyons ask me if I could run? I told him I could, so he said "Let's run for it", so we started out and run we did, for about a mile and a half to the Soo Locks, just in time to step aboard as the *Octorara* was locking through. We apparently were not missed. At the Soo, the U. S. Steel service ship *Ojibway* will run alongside freighters plying the St. Mary's River connecting Lakes Superior and Huron and with her own hoists deliver groceries and supplies. At Detroit a mail boat operates similarly on the Detroit River connecting Lakes Erie and St. Clair. Iron ore, wheat and coal are the principle lake vessel cargoes.

Some of the pre World War I operators were Messrs. Dent, Marconi Manager at Chicago WOO, Wilkensen at WME Milwaukee, Biesemeyer at WMN Manitowoc, Tellefson at WHQ Mackinac Island, Judge at WMX Manistique, Mowery at WLD Ludington, Slyfield at WFK Frankfort, Lyons and Burhop on the *SS Octorara*; Piersol on the *Nevada, Alabama, Virginia, Georgia* and others; Matthews and Prenzel on the *Carolina*, and Tellefson on the *Christopher Columbus*.

Other pre-World War I operators included Dibbell on the *S.S. Eastland* when it turned over in Chicago Harbor in 1914 with the loss of almost 1,000 lives; O'Keefe on the Yacht *Lydonia*. The *SS Nevada* carried Kilbourne and Clark equipment.

When navigation opens in March, the Coast Guard ice-breakers open a channel through the ice of Whitefish Bay into Lake Superior which almost never freezes over. Ships are held at the Soo, then escorted through the ice. Watching a convoy of 27 freighters and two cutters makes a very fascinating sight.

The Soo locks have 4 locks in parallel on the American

side, plus one on the Canadian side. They can also be used simultaneously. The new second lock, under modernization and construction for 4 years has just reopened. It is 1,200 feet long, 110 feet wide and 31 feet deep. It is the largest lock in the world. The Soo locks handle more tonnage than Panama and Suez combined - even before Suez was closed by the latest conflict, and they are the busiest locks in the world. During a peak year they average better than 130 ships a day for the entire 9 months of the navigation season.

There are several canals on the Great takes waterway. The "Portage" Ship Canal cuts through the Keweenaw Peninsula near Houghton, Michigan. The Sturgeon Bay Canal cuts through the Door Country Peninsula at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. The Neebish Rock Cut in the St. Mary's River provides a separate down-bound channel.

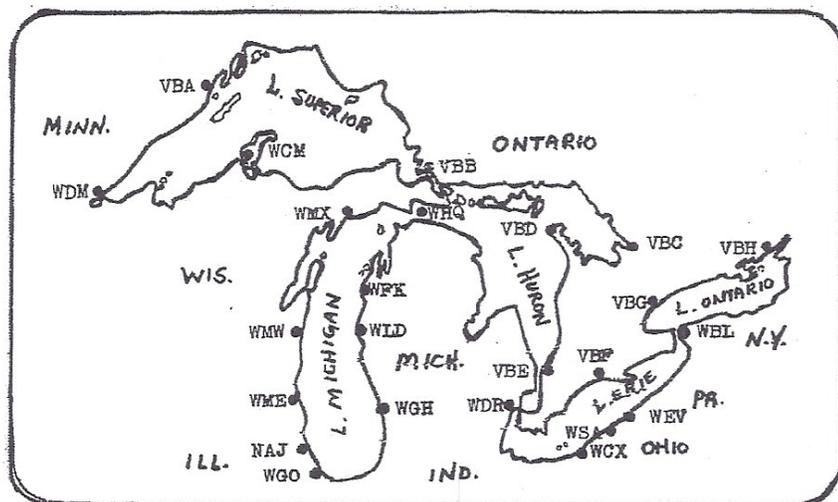
Now the "wireless" and operators have largely been replaced by radiophone equipment handled by the skippers and their mates. The Straits of Mackinac ferries have been replaced by the great Mackinac Bridge which is 5 miles long, 155' above the water, and the suspension cables containing 42,000 miles of cable wire are over two feet in diameter (24 and 1/2"). Incidentally, the only time that pedestrians are permitted on this bridge is on Labor Day forenoon, when the annual walkathon is put on. My wife and I have walked it twice, the last Labor Day there were 15,500 walkers.

Much of the material for this article as requested from my old friend Bill Breniman is taken from memory, and therefore may contain some errors. I wish to thank Myron D. Piersol, WOTYW of St. Louis and W. C. Gross, W8BKM of Conneaut, Ohio, for supplying me with considerable data of value.

See the map and tables on page 11 for information on Great Lakes shore stations in 1910 and c. 1915.

Donation Auction Rules

We will have an area marked off for donated items. Once you place an item in that area, it is donated to the club and becomes the property of the club, and will be auctioned or disposed of if it does not sell at the auction. No one may remove a donated item from the donation area prior to the auction. So, while we very much appreciate your donations, please don't place an item in the donation auction until you're sure you want to donate it. Or, if you see an item of interest in the donation area, don't ask the donor to reclaim it—the item no longer belongs to the donor.



Shore Stations, Marconi and others, circa 1916, shown on map at left and listed below.

Shore Stations, United Wireless, c. 1910, listed below.

United Wireless Telegraph Co.	
PN	Alpena, Michigan
BH	Benton Harbor, Michigan
BF	Buffalo, New York
CM	Calumet, Michigan
GO	Chicago, Illinois
CX	Cleveland, Ohio
CA	Conneaut, Ohio
DR	Detroit, Michigan
DM	Duluth, Minnesota
KN	Erie, Pennsylvania
GH	Grand Haven, Michigan
GM	Grand Marias, Michigan
GRM	Grand Rapids, Michigan
H	Holland, Michigan
IC	Isle Royal, Michigan
DZ	Lansing, Michigan
HX	Ludington, Michigan
HQ	Mackinac Island, Michigan
MW	Manitowoc, Wisconsin
MR	Marquette, Michigan
MK	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
SH	Sault Saint Marie, Michigan
DS	South Haven, Michigan
DX	Toledo, Ohio

Marconi Wireless Telephone Co. of America	
WSA	Ashtabula Harbor, Ohio
WBL	Buffalo, New York
WCM	Calumet, Michigan
WGO	Chicago, Illinois
WCX	Cleveland, Ohio
WDR	Detroit, Michigan
WDM	Duluth, Minnesota
WFK	Frankfort, Michigan
WGH	Grand Haven, Michigan
WLD	Ludington, Michigan
WHQ	Mackinac Island, Michigan
WMX	Manistique, Michigan
WMW	Manitowoc, Wisconsin
WME	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Marquette & Bessemer Nav. Company.	
WEV	Conneaut Harbor, Ohio
U.S. Navy (Naval Training Station)	
NAJ	Great Lakes, Illinois
Canadian Marconi Co., Ltd.	
VBH	Kingston, Ontario
VBC	Midland, Ontario
VBA	Port Arthur, Ontario
VBF	Port Stanley, Ontario
VBE	Sarnia, Ontario
VBB	Sault Saint Marie, Ontario
VBD	Tobermory, Ontario
VBG	Toronto, Ontario

John Romulus Brinkley

By Greg Hunolt

Now there is TV and the little blue pill ... once there was radio and John Romulus Brinkley.

This is the story of a radio pioneer, who can be said to have been one of the first—if not the first—to demonstrate, and exploit, the power of radio to reach out and persuade and sell to a large audience. This summary of the Brinkley saga is drawn mainly from the very entertaining and informative book by Anthony Rudel, Hello Everybody, the Dawn of American Radio.

John Brinkley (see figure 1 below) moved to little (population 200) Milford, Kansas in 1917 after a five week period in the Army as a medical officer at a hospital in El Paso, Texas (he was discharged by the Army after claiming to have suffered a nervous breakdown). In 1916 he had obtained a medical degree by making payments to the Eclectic Medical University of Kansas, and the state of Kansas obliged

him with a license to practice medicine. Licenses to practice in other states followed as a result of reciprocity agreements.

Shortly after he set up shop in Milford, taking over the local drugstore as a residence and base of operations. One day a rancher came to him with a problem – and a solution. The rancher complained of erectile dysfunction, known then as a “flat tire” or “lassitude”. But he reported that his goats suffered no such difficulty. In the course of the ensuing discussion, Brinkley suggested that if the rancher had a bit of what the goats had, he would not either. Brinkley provided the rancher with a surgical transplant to his self of the pertinent portions of a goat, after which the rancher reported a profound increase in his capacity, and the show was off and running.

Brinkley, a natural smooth talking salesman, scoured the nearby countryside seeking customers for his \$500 - \$700 treatment, attracting enough business for him to open a 16 bed hospital in Milford in 1918. A major turning point came in February 1922 when Harry Chandler, a millionaire real-estate magnate and publisher of the Los Angeles Times, invited Brinkley to Los Angeles to work his magic on one of the newspaper’s editors. Chandler offered to publicize Brinkley’s treatment in his newspaper – or brand Brinkley as a charlatan if it was not successful. The audacity gods smiled, the operation was successful, and Chandler’s publicity generated a wave of business for Brinkley in the Los Angeles area.

Chandler’s Los Angeles Times operated radio station KHJ, which went on the air in April, 1922. Chandler put Brinkley on the air, and Brinkley quickly realized the power of radio as an advertising medium, a way for him to speak to people personally, but in great numbers. Brinkley returned to Milford and built his own radio broadcasting facility, obtained a license from Herbert Hoover’s Department of Commerce, and in September 1923 radio station KFKB went on the air at 1050 kc with 1,000 watts of power. As Anthony

Brinkley - continued on page 13

Figure 1 - John Romulus Brinkley



Rudell put it, "His smooth voice, a subtle blend of Midwestern intonation and Smoky Mountain drawl, soothed concerned listeners. ... One fan observed that 'That there's something about Dr. Brinkley that gets close to your heart' ...".

Brinkley used his radio station to help build a fortune and become one of the most well-known personalities in the country. KFKB, variously "Kansas First, Kansas Best" or "Kansas Farmers Know Best" became branded as "KFKB, the Home of the Gland Transplantation".

Brinkley's programming on KFKB was varied and innovative; he featured fundamentalist theology, entertainment including "old time" music, talks on new books, advice for farmers, stories read to children, tales of Brinkley's own travels, and medical lectures that always worked around to the unique services available only at the Brinkley Hospital (see figure 2 below). Brinkley palmed himself off not as an advertiser (and he did not broadcast any paid advertising) but as one seeking only to do good for his fellow man, albeit at the expense of a growing number of goats (40 a week in 1924). His marketing success and rapidly growing wealth were only a pleasant by-product of his dedicated work.

Figure 2 — Brinkley Hospital, Milford



In 1923 Brinkley worked with a student at the Kansas State Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kansas, to create a "College of the Air", wherein professors at the college would deliver their lectures by telephone to Milford and the KFKB studios, at no charge to the college. This pioneering effort in educational broadcasting was so successful (with for-credit enrollments from 39 states and Canada) that the college opened its own radio station, KSAC, in 1924.

KFKB was badly damaged by a fire in late 1924, but was rebuilt and reopened in 1925.

Brinkley's denial of himself as an advertiser and his not accepting paid advertisements kept him on the good side of Herbert Hoover. But he attracted the attention of the American Medical Association. The AMA, seeing him for what he was, succeeded in having the reciprocal medical licenses Brinkley received from other states than Kansas revoked. Brinkley retaliated with an on-air campaign defending himself as the self-made defender of the average man under attack by a mainstream medical establishment bent (no doubt with the enthusiastic support of goats across the country) on crushing him.

By 1927, Brinkley's growing success led to a great expansion of his radio operation. He employed a twelve-piece orchestra, a cowboy orchestra, yodelers, crooners, and with announcers a staff of about 25 people. He was deeply embedded in the local community – the daughter of the county sheriff was his secretary, the local banker was a stockholder in the radio station. He funded the local baseball team, which he named the Brinkley Goats. Brinkley made a point of supporting his community and complied with all regulations in the running of his station. He applied for and received license to increase his transmitter power from 1,000 watts to 5,000 watts (and at the same time a similar request by the Kansas City Star station WDAF was denied).

In 1927 Brinkley began to diversify his appeal. He re-branded his station as "The Sunshine Station in the Heart of the Nation" and began to provide advice on how to treat a wide variety of medical conditions, including answering listeners' questions on the air. As the audience for the "Medical Question Box" developed, the influx of letters (over 1,000 per day) spurred Brinkley to fund a new post office for Milford. Not surprisingly, Brinkley's recommendations included that the listeners quaff elixirs available, most reasonably, from Brinkley, by mail. When listeners began trying to obtain Brinkley elixirs at their local drugstores Brinkley contracted with pharmacies to stock and sell the elixirs (see figure 3, page 14), kicking back a fee to Brinkley on each sale. Rudel notes that Brinkley had created the first "infomercials" – ads disguised as informative programs – that are so painfully ubiquitous today. His income from the elixirs and surgeries at the Brinkley Hospital reached \$2,000,000 per year and his staff passed 100 employees.

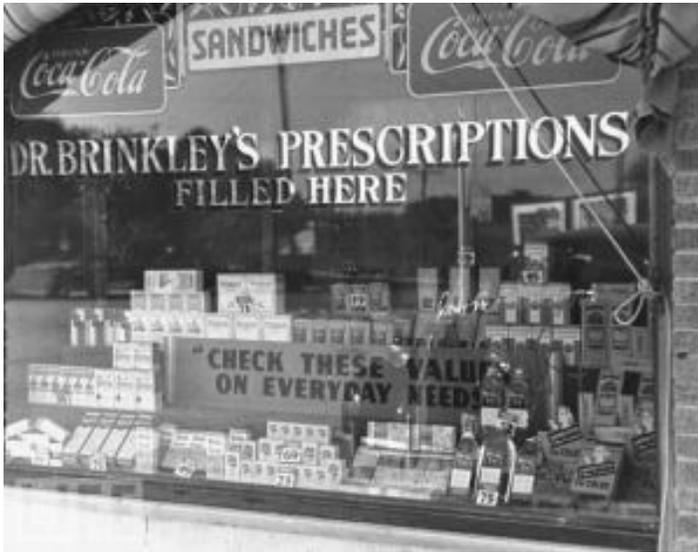
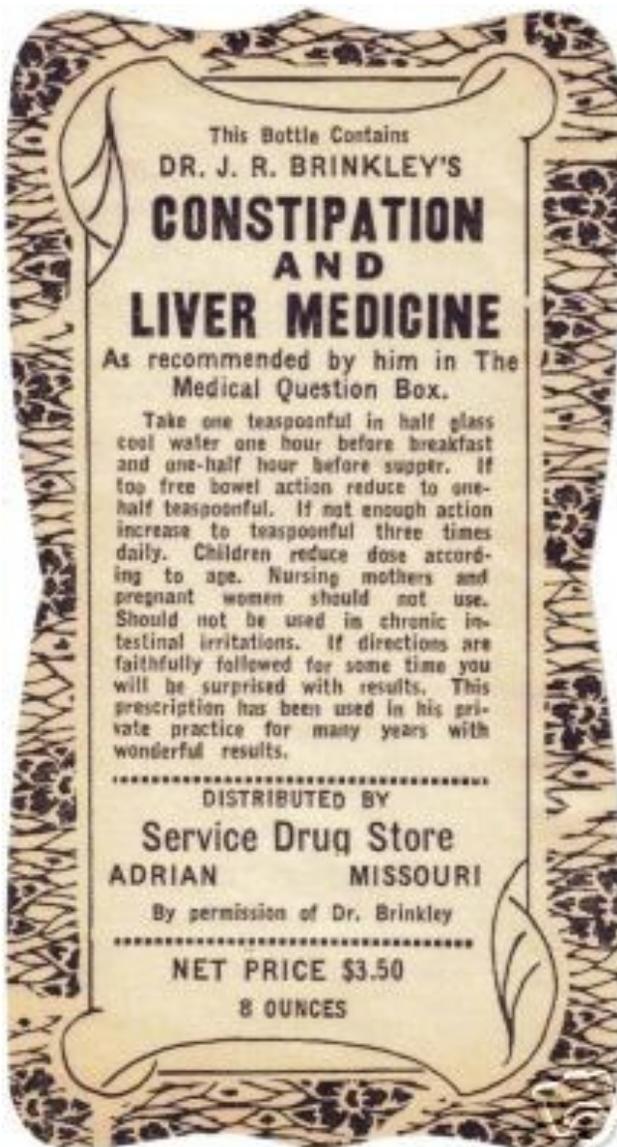


Figure 3 - Drugstore featuring Brinkley Elixirs, and below, a drugstore ad.



Landry, in his book *This Fascinating Radio Business*, notes that Brinkley, sporting a goatee, “supported himself in the style of an Austrian Archduke. Mrs. Brinkley’s diamonds were universally described as awesome. The family lived in mansions and luxury hotels. They had limousines, a private cabin airplane, and a yacht.”

In 1929 Radio Digest magazine conducted an informal vote to determine the most popular radio station of the hundreds of stations in the U.S. and Canada. Brinkley’s KFKB was voted most popular, receiving 256,827 votes.

The efforts of the AMA and state medical authorities (e.g. the Kansas Medical Board) and a growing number of complaints to the Federal Radio Commission (FRC) about the efficacy of Brinkley’s elixirs and treatments and/or injuries as a result of them (mostly for his work on prostates; men were more reluctant to complain about the goat work) led to his May 21, 1930 summons to appear before the FRC to answer the numerous charges. On June 13, 1930 Brinkley’s right to broadcast over KFKB was revoked on the grounds that prescribing the elixirs for patients he never saw personally was in effect malpractice, and that he was operating KFKB for his personal interest and not “in the interest of the listening public”. He appealed and lost in February, 1931.

In the meantime, Brinkley ran for governor as a write-in candidate in the November 1930 election, coming in a close third to the Democratic and Republican candidates, who connived to prevent many Brinkley votes from being counted; he may have received enough votes to win. Brinkley demonstrated the potential power of radio as a political campaign tool.

Brinkley sold KFKB to the Farmer’s & Bankers Life Insurance Company of Milford, and on February 21, 1931, made his farewell broadcast.

But Brinkley was not ready to quit. He flirted with the idea of setting up a transmitter on a houseboat in the Gulf of Mexico. But instead he made a deal with government of Mexico for permission to build a new radio station in Villa Acuna, Mexico (just across the Rio Grande near Del Rio, Texas) and equipped the new station, call letters XER, with an enormously powerful 100,000 watt transmitter (see figure 5, page 15). He purchased a dedicated telephone line from his base in Milford to Villa Acuna, and with the new transmitter Brinkley was able to reach a far larger audience than he had from KFKB, covering almost the entire United States and well into Canada. The money came rolling in, once again.

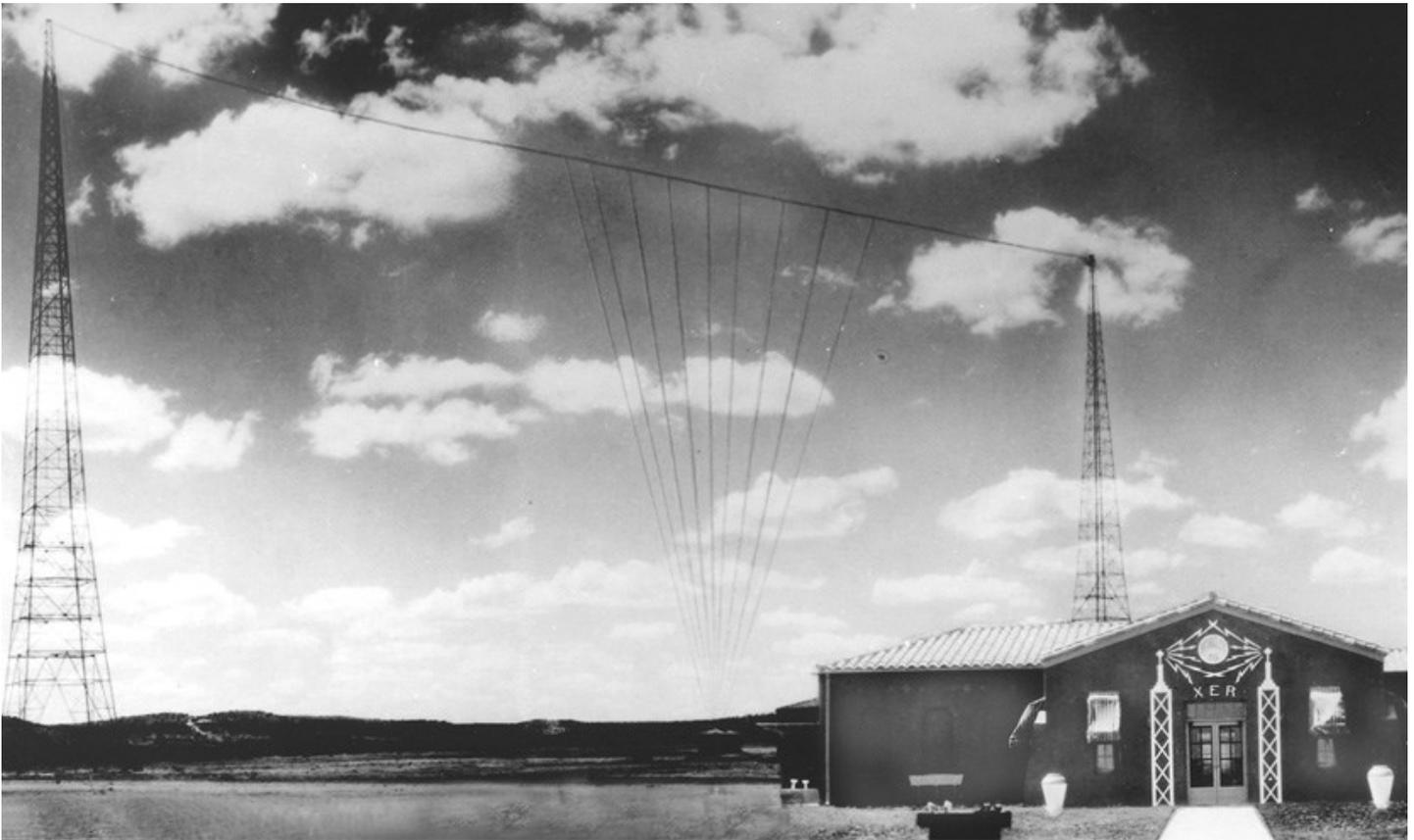


Figure 5 -- Brinkley's XER Radio Station in Mexico

Brinkley made a second run for governor in 1932, this time with his name on the ballot and backed by the power of his XER transmitter. After a bitter, intense campaign, Brinkley came in third again behind Republican Alf Landon, who likely won because of Democratic voters who supported Brinkley instead of their party's candidate. Rudel notes that Brinkley might have been hurt by a radio dirty trick – on election day, both parties, fearing a Brinkley victory, broadcast false election results intended to demoralize Brinkley supporters and discourage them from voting.

In 1933, citing the Depression, Brinkley moved his operation from Milford to Del Rio, Texas. He destroyed his buildings in Milford and left the town in terrible shape economically.

During the period 1933 – 1938 Brinkley prospered as never before, with his new emphasis on prostate surgery rather than goat transplantation. He began to run afoul of the Mexican government, and was forced to close XER in 1935, but in a few months he was back on the air as XERA.

As the 1930's wore on, Brinkley began to encounter competition from other "medical men" who offered

Figure 6 - Brinkley's House in Del Rio, TX



similar services for lower prices, and a variety of lawsuits from angry customers and medical organizations. His profits suffered.

The end for Brinkley came swiftly. An agreement between the U.S. and Mexico was reached in 1937 concerning cross-border radio operations, and finally in 1941 the agreement was put into effect, and in March of 1941 Brinkley was forced to shut down XERA. His fortunes rapidly declined, and also his health, and John Romulus Brinkley died in Del Rio on May 26, 1942.

Barnouw, in his book *A Tower in Babel*, notes that "Brinkley made an indelible mark on radio. ... The radio careers of many a later figure, including Huey Long, were to follow a trail blazed by Dr. Brinkley."

Rudel notes that Brinkley and others "demonstrated that the radio audience, whether in Milford or Manhattan, was willing and eager to hear any story if it were well told, and told by someone they believed to be credible; of course, some of that credibility came to them simply because they were on the radio."

References:

1. Balk, Alfred, *The Rise of Radio, from Marconi through the Golden Age*, McFarland & Co., 644⁰.
2. Barnouw, Erik, *A Tower in Babel, a History of Broadcasting in the United States to 1933*, Oxford University Press, 1966.
3. Landry, Robert, *This Fascinating Radio Business*, Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1946.
4. Rudel, Anthony, *Hello Everybody, the Dawn of American Radio*, Harcourt, Inc., 2008.



Q: What's the fastest thing on four legs?
A: A goat passing Doctor Brinkley's hospital.

WARCI Needs You!

If you would like to become more active in WARCI, please step up!

Organizations like WARCI depend upon volunteers for their success.

Areas where you can help include:

Contribute newsletter articles or information from which an article can be written.

Contribute items for the WARCI website and Facebook page - such as photos of your Wisconsin-made radios to add to our gallery.

Contribute interesting photos such as the one above.

Give us your ideas on how we can make WARCI better for you!

Scenes from the June 1, 2014 Swap Meet



A beautiful day for a record-breaking swap meet!



A wide variety of radios and related items.



Paul - A man of many parts



Enjoying the June sun



More radios for your pleasure



Radios and conversation—does it get better than that?

WARCI Radio Services

We now have a list of WARCI members who would be willing to provide repair / restoration services, advice or research for folks who contact WARCI looking for help. If you would like to be added to the list, please let me (Greg) or one of the Board members know.

Name	Email	Telephone	Service Available
Dwight Church	(none)	414-545-6972	Radio repair – electronics only.
Bill Engaas	CraftyradioBK@yahoo.com	262-786-8183	Speaker Repair.
Ralph Larsen	radioralph@hotmail.com	414-278-7981	Repair, including Television.
Mike Lewis	deepheart@att.net	608-835-7193	Repair, restoration, training.
Ben Bensaid	Ben@badgerconsignment.com	262-581-5453	Repair and restoration.
Greg Hunolt	ghunolt@excel.net	920-893-0422	Research, especially on 1920's radios.

Classified Ads

Badger Consignment

eBay Power-Seller

Turn your collection into profit-making treasures!

Badger Consignment is an eBay consignment dealer with 12 yrs. experience specializing in high end antique tube radios and hi-fi tube audio components (i.e. tube amps, preamps, receivers, tuners, and much more).

If you have items you would like sold or repaired/restored call WARCI member Ben Bensaid at (262)-581-5453, Ben@badgerconsignment.com or visit our website at: www.badgerconsignment.com

WANTED: by Dale Boyce, Email: radioman@wi.rr.com , 414-840-4146

1. Briggs & Stratton Corporation, Milwaukee, WI (BASCO) Radio Equipment from 1922-1937. Catalogs, Complete or incomplete crystal radios, tube type radios, radio frequency transformers, earphones, tube sockets, crystal detectors, vernier rheostats, fixed resistors, multi-plate variable condensers, fixed capacitors, literature, advertising, parts boxes, Battery Eliminators (Radio Power Units types "A", "B", "A+B"), push-button tuners, promotional items, etc. Please check your boxes of radio parts and your literature files. Also wanted: radios such as Globe Electric, Monroe McKillip and others which utilize BASCO radio parts.
2. 1920's tube type radios, amplifiers and radio parts, parts boxes, advertising, promotional items, etc. made by Allen Bradley Co., Milwaukee, WI.
3. 1920's Crystal radios, tube type radios, advertising and promotional items made by Sunlite Radio, Milwaukee, WI.
4. 1920's Julius Andrae and Sons Co (JASCO) Crystal radios, Radio Catalogs, Radio Equipment and promotional items made by ANDRAE Electric, Milwaukee, WI.
5. 1920's Horn and Cone type Radio Speakers made by Milwaukee companies including: G&G Radio Co, GEMCO, Granolite Art Products, Yahr-Lange, and others.
6. Individual and boxed sets of 1920's Brightson Blue Radio tubes distributed by Yahr-Lange, Milwaukee, WI.

Classified Ads

WANTED: All things Hallicrafters! Receivers, transmitters, accessories, television sets, test equipment, signs, books, etc. Also Silver-Marshall (1933-34) and Echophone.
Stan Broome, 108 East Main Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590, 608-520-6290.

HELP NEEDED: Would like to contact owners of 1920's battery sets, literature, and equipment made by Globe Electric Company of Milwaukee, WI, to survey existing model types and variations for development of a company history. All responses will be kept confidential. Thanks.
Glenn Trischan, P.O. Box 240022, Milwaukee, WI 53224. E-mail: gnets142@att.net.

WANTED: Any set made in Plymouth, WI, by the Plymouth Radio and Phonograph Co., and Arlington, Alkire, or other sets made by the Wells Manufacturing Co. of Fond du Lac, WI. Also, I am looking for a Kennedy 525 Amplifier! Greg Hunolt, N5412 State Hwy 57, Plymouth, WI 53073, Email ghunolt@excel.net or 920-893-0422.

TRAINING & SERVICE: Michael Lewis -- Radio Restoration Education & Consultation

I'm available to refurbish (90 day guarantee) or fully restore (1 year guarantee) your antique radios. Estimates can usually be provided in 2-3 weeks from the time you drop off your set at my shop in rural Oregon, WI (a bit SW of Madison). The cost for an estimate is \$25, which can be applied towards a final bill if you hire me to work on your radio. Full restoration includes testing all tubes, capacitors, and resistors, with replacement as needed. Power supplies are modified to operate safely at 120 VAC. Chassis are dusted off, variable capacitors are flushed with residueless cleaner, and switches & pots are treated with contact cleaner. Moving parts are lubricated. Sets are aligned with digital RF generators, tested for proper operation, and "burned in" to reveal any intermittent problems.

I have over 30 years' experience in electronically restoring antique radios (I don't restore radio cabinets). For most of this time I've also taught others how to do radio restoration. I can be hired for 4- or 8-hr. blocks of bench time. You will have access to DMMs, digital audio and RF generators, capacitor and inductor analyzers, power supplies, and much other test equipment. I stock 1/4, 1/2, 1, 2, 5, and 10W resistors. Capacitor stock includes 75 values of mylars; micas & ceramics; electrolytics from 25 WVDC to 450 WVDC. Tubes are available to my students, as well as technical literature including Rider, Beitman, and Gernsback manuals, factory manuals, and Sams Photofacts. Whether you've never soldered before, or regularly restore radios & are stuck on a "tough dog," chances are I can help.

Michael Lewis, 6070 County Road D, Oregon, WI 53575, Phone: 608-835-7193, Email: deepheart@att.net

WANTED: DeForest Plug-In Butterfly Coils - Terry Hanney, 414-545-6425

WANTED: Sylvania lamps NE-23-N5A1-5AB with starting voltage 60-90 volts, maintaining voltage 59 volts, current 0.03 mA. Tom Palmer 262-789-7177

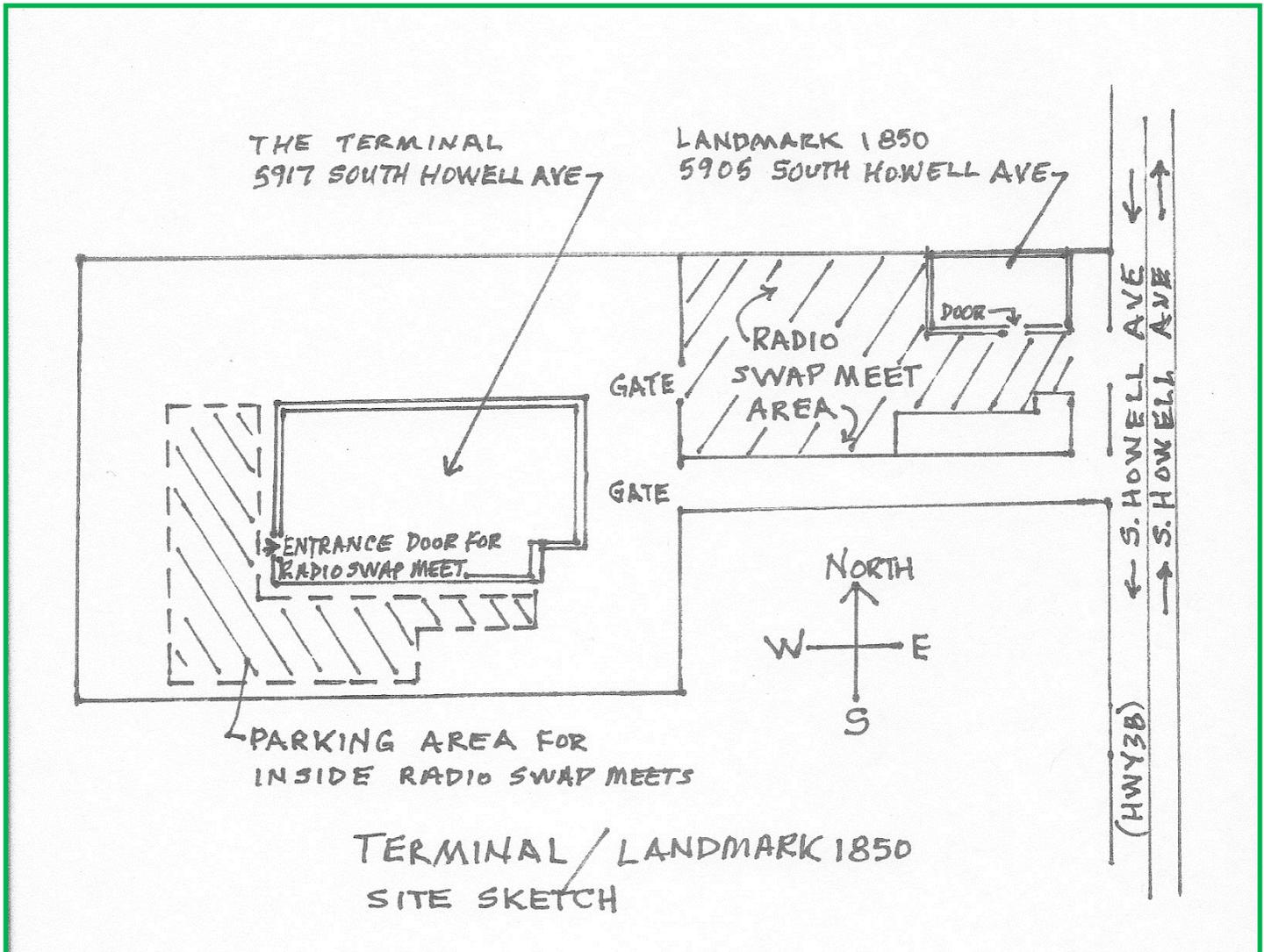
FOR SALE: Rayon cloth-covered line cord for the Antique Radio Builder. Colors black or brown, cost is \$1.26 per foot for brown, \$1.38 per foot for black. Paul Dorobialski, Email: thebulbguy@yahoo.com.

Remember that classified ads up to about ¼ page are free to WARCI members.

The cut-off date for all newsletter material is about the 15th of the month preceding publication of the next newsletter (e.g. April 15, 2014 for the May 2014 issue). Send ads by email or letter to Greg Hunolt, WARCI News, at ghunolt@excel.net or N5412 State Hwy 57, Plymouth WI, 53073.

Site Plan for the Landmark / Terminal

Thanks to Joe Halser for hosting WARCII Meets



The Landmark 1850 / Terminal facility is used for WARCII's swap meets (except in January) with the kind permission of Joe Halser (and we also enjoy the delicious Pizza that Joe provides).

The Landmark area is used for outdoor meets held on good weather. The Landmark building is open for refreshments.

The Terminal area is used for indoor meets in rainy or cold weather (though some folks may set up in the Terminal parking area even if the weather is marginal).

The facility in use at a swap meet will be open at 7:00 AM. Folks may come earlier to set up for outdoor selling.

Site Plan drawing provided by Dale Boyce.