The Radio Historical Association of Colorado, Inc.

Volume 18 Number 1

August 1992



Early radio manufacturers made major advances every few years, as these sets in Brian Belanger's collection illustrate. (1) Aeriola Sr., 1922. Early radios like this one ran on batteries. Inexpensive early sets lacked speakers; listeners used headphones. (2) American Beauty, 1926. Battery-operated. Most early radios required several dials to tune them; this has three. This set contains a major advance: a built-in speaker. (3) Philco 70, 1931. Cathedral. By 1930s radios used household electricity, had built-in speaker, single tuning knob. These improvements spurred many Americans to buy new radios frequently and tote their old ones up to the attic. Thus, many '20s and '30s sets were available for collectors.

RETURN WITH US NOW... is the official publication of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado, Inc., a non-profit organization. Cost of membership is \$20.00 for the first year with \$15.00 for annual renewal. Each member has full use of the Club resources. For further information contact anyone listed below.

<u> </u>
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THERE WILL BE A BOARD MEETING IN AUGUST!

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AND INVITED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE AT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING. The August 6th meeting is at the home of Dick King at 7:30 P.M.

THE AUGUST 1992 R.H.A.C. MEETING WILL BE AUGUST 27TH, 7:30 PM, AT THE CHURCH OF MASTER, LOCATED AT 17TH AVENUE AND FILBERT COURT. OUR GUEST SPEAKERS WILL BE THE INIMITABLE, ERUDITE AND JOCULAR JOHN AND LARRY GASSMAN; COMING TO DENVER FROM WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA AND WILL BE OUR GUEST SPEAKERS AT THIS MEETING!

John and Larry are experts on Jack Benny and most frequently use Jack Benny lore as the focus of their entertainment. Regardless of the subject matter they choose, you can be sure to depend upon John and Larry to be entertaining!

MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!! There will be a picnic at the home of R.H.A.C. President Dick King, at 900 W. Quincy Ave., Englewood...Saturday, August 29th. at 2 P.M. Lots of good food and cold drinks. SPECIAL GUESTS! R.H.A.C.-members John and Larry Gassman will visit from California, Saturday, August 29th., 2 P.M., 900 W. Quincy Ave., Englewood. Come! Enjoy the FOOD, FUN, and FRIVOLITY!

NOMINATIONS FOR 1993 R.H.A.C. OFFICERS!

Nominations are due in August; election is scheduled for September, 1992. Nominations will be solicited at the membership meeting August 27, 1992. If you are unable to attend, nominations will be accepted by Sec. Glenn Ritter in writing or by phone at 377-4798 any time before the September 17th meeting. Similarly, absentee votes for any of the nominees will be accepted by Glenn Ritter before Sept. 17th. Attend! Nominate! Vote!

WANTED: Need copy of User Guide for AKAI Open Reel Recorder GX-635-D. will gladly reimburse expense and postage. Herb Duniven, 4184 S. Syracuse St. Denver, CO 80237. 303-773-1142

PADIO DAYS

Anyone old enough to recall the days before television remembers that radios, large or small and usually with gleaming wooden cabinets, were the nerve centers of the country's living rooms.

Around them huddled America's families, with only each other to look at, listening intently to Jack Benny's jokes and Benny Goodman's notes, President Franklin Roosevelt's fireside chats and Edward R. Murrow's London reports.

After decades of dusty silence in grandma's attic, nearly three- quarters of a century of radios are sputtering to life again in thousands of American homes. This time the people crowded around them are a swiftly-growing family of collectors.

"Our objective is to preserve this equipment, to let people know about it. It's a heritage," says Bruce Kelley, 77, a longtime collector. Forty years ago he and two other men founded what now is America's largest and oldest radio collectors club, the 4000-member Antique Wireless Association.

"Collecting got off to a slow start in the '50s and '60s, picked up some in the '70s, and really took off in the '80s," says Brian Belanger, 51, a collector and newsletter editor of the Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club (MAARC). Founded in 1984 with 15 members, it now has about 850 and is America's largest regional radio club.

During the same time the number of regional radio clubs has grown with similar speed. Today there are two national clubs and about 40 regional ones, Belanger says, and more regional clubs are forming.

Collectors have various motives: nostalgia, the beauty of the venerable radios or the fun of being able to repair them.

Belanger, an electrical engineer from Rockville, Md., himself heard the siren song of radio collecting in the late 1970s. One day he was killing time in a shopping center while his wife bought fabric and wandered into an antique store. He came out with his first antique radio, an aptly named "American Beauty," made in 1926 in Missouri. He was hooked; he now has "about 80 radios, the last time I counted."

Days he works with the most modern technology as deputy director of advanced technology program of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Evenings he works with the technology of the '20s and '30s, repairing his venerable radios at home.

They include wonderful old names, now long gone, in the history of American radio. There's an unusual Federal 61, a hard-to-find black-fronted box with 14 dials, made in 1924. A 1922 Aeriola, Sr., by Westinghouse: You had to listen through headphones. A battery-powered Radiola 18, with its long-and-low shape.

And the classic "antique radio" to most Americans -- a graceful, arch-shaped set known as cathedral-style. Many maker built cathedrals; Belanger has several, including a restored 1931 Philco model 70. A dominant 30s brand, Philco epitomizes antique radios to many Americans.

Collecting antique radios is practically an addiction, Belanger says.

Joe Koester knows what he means. A 50-year-old Defense Department manager from Laurel, Md., he says dryly: "I never met an antique radio I didn't like," paraphrasing Will Rogers' view of people.

Koester, a founder and president of the Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club, has certainly met a lot of radios: he admits to having "about 250" in his collection.

Kelley has been collecting since before Belanger and Koester were born: He and a friend started in 1936. W@hen they saw a radio they thought should be preserved "we repaired it and set it aside," say Kelley, fittingly now the curator of the Antique Wireless Association's museum.

The kinds of radios they set aside then are much desired now. Particularly in demand by collectors are cathedrals; Atwater Kent "breadboards" from the early '20s made without cabinet and with innards fastened atop a breadboard-shaped piece of wood; spendid-toned Scott radios; and colorful, Catalin-plastic sets of the late '30s and '40s.

Prices of these and other antique radios depend on condition, manufacturer and model, and location (the East Coast is more expensive). Most range from \$50 to several hundred; some, like particularly desirable Catalins, run into the thousands.

As with anything else, high prices reflect scarcity. But most collectors think some oldtime radios will always be available. One reason, Koester says: "Younger collectors are also interested in the radios of their youth, and are beginning to collect the much-later transistor radios and TVs.

Many radios aren't working when collectors purchase them. Their new owners restore a lot of them, both for the pleasure of seeing them gleam and the joy of hearing them crackle.

And when they crackle they bring back another era. Once in a while Belanger rigs up a '30s set so that he can listen to a recording of an old radio show through its speaker. With 1930s fidelity the raspy voice of Jack Benny fills the room, deadpanning a punch line and convulsing an audience.

"It"s fun," Belanger says. "At night you can draw the drapes and turn the lights down low and by the

glow of your radio listen to Jack Benny. It's a time warp."

TO JOIN RADIO CLUBS: For membership information about the three largest radio clubs, write:

Antique Wireless Association 59 Main Street Bloomfield, N.Y. 14469

Jim & Barbara Rankin Antique Radio Club of America 3445 Adaline Drive Stow, Ohio 44224

Joe Koester Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club 249 Spring Gap South Laurel, Md. 20724

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REFLECTIONS OF A YOUNG MAN

He's impressionistic and twenty-four; he's baritone Eddie Fisher, star of NBC's "Coke Time."

His popularity was boosted on the other side of the Atlantic by his initial and highly successful Palladium engagement. His reaction to his first British audience is aptly put with:

"They were just wonderful. Very friendly and warm--and not at all austere and reserved as the British are always pictured. The young girls don't scream or sigh as much as the girls at the Paramount Theater do in New York--but they make up for that in the applause. The thing that impressed me most was how some of them waited late at night for pictures or autographs--despite the fact that it meant walking home, since the subways stop running shortly after 11 o'clock.

"Bobbysoxers' there don't sit in the first ten rows, as at American theaters, but in the galleries--kind of a balcony section. They must have appreciated the singing, because they kept calling for more songs. I didn't realize it at the time, but by singing to them, I was getting in hot water with the theater management. Because I sang beyond the transportation 'curfew' they had to send a good many of the theater's 600 employees home in taxis."

"Meeting Princess Margaret Rose was the biggest thrill of my life. I had been invited to the Red, White and Blue Ball to sing a few songs, and I was kind of nervous at the prospect of singing for royalty. But the Princess must have read my mind. She sent me a note saying not to worry about it if the applause wasn't quite as lusty as at the Palladium. When I went on, I didn't quite know what to say about another note from the Princess, asking me to sing 'Outside of Heaven.' So, I dedicated the song 'to a very special lady.' I sang all the songs that followed straight to the Princess.

"Later I was asked to join the Princess at her table. We talked about fifteen minutes--out conversation just flowed. I made one slip. I guess, when I said: 'I hear you like American singers.' The Princess acted a little surprised, so I quickly amended that to, 'I mean American records.' The Princess seems to like American music quite well. She has a great many of our top recording artists' disks in her collection.

"I wanted to ask her to dance, although I was really too nervous to dance then, I think. But I had been told it was polite to wait for her to ask. So I did. Nothing happened but I did dance with one of her Ladies though. It was a slow fox-trot. That's all I can do. I'm an elephant when it comes to dancing."

I might never have had the opportunity to meet a real Princess if it hadn't been for Eddie Cantor. If it hadn't been for him, I guess I might still be singing club dates. He's always been wonderful to me--ever since he discovered me he's guided my career. He helped me get a Victor Record contract. Singers are 'made' on wax these days--and from 'Thinking of You' and 'Bring Back the Thrill' onward, records have really done it for me. Incidentally, I hope someday to record a song Mr. Cantor made famous, 'Making Whoopee.' I sing it in theaters now--and it's the song 'Coke Time' audiences request the most during the warm-up period."

Eddie has no formal vocal or dramatic training. He learned a great deal from appearing on children's radio shows as well as listening to singers on records when he was a youngster.

The young baritone admits that he's been too busy singing to pursue any romantic leanings. He says, "I don't have any one girl. My schedule is so full that there are times when I don't have time for a single solitary date."

His pet gripes are alarm clocks and ball-point pens that don't write. His favorite color is blue. He loves lima beans, because his mom makes them taste so good. His favorite song is "Wish You Were Here."

I used to collect time tables when I was traveling with shows like 'Stop the Music,' and touring with Mr.

Cantor," Eddie says. "I collect records, especially Jolson's. Enjoy tinkling out tunes on the piano. But I'm not much of a pianist, though. Eddy Duchin has nothing to worry about.

"I'd love to do a Broadway musical. Maybe some day I'll even do one by my good friends Jerry Ross and Dick Adler, who wrote 'Even Now' and a lot of other wonderful tunes."

Eddie's youthful enthusiasm is his greatest trait. He's a new and vibrant personality, a "natural" entertainer, who arouses interest and curiosity no matter where he goes or what he does. And he's going to go places and do things for sure.

Radio Life, August 28, 1953

SHELVES

We often have our members stop by the library to get ideas for setting up shelves for their own collection, and we also receive notes from members about to set up an organized area for their collection, so we thought you might be interested in a few thoughts that we had for setting up a library.

What will work for one is not always the choice of another, but it is helpful to get several ideas, each with it's own features.

We checked commercial metal shelves, but they seemed to be too deep for what we wanted, and would have wasted space.

Our shelves are built of particle board and are holding up well. We started with a sheet of 1/4" masonite for the back. (It also keeps the frame square.) We ripped one sheet of 1/2" particle board into 7" strips lengthwise, and another into 7" strips crosswise. We then trimmed all but one of the 48" pieces to 47" long for shelves. You need two 96" pieces for the sides, the rest may be cut for 47" shelves and 8" spacers.

We have shelves sitting on carpeted floor upstairs and on concrete in the basement. We use a 2X4 base under the shelves in the basement to avoid a possible moisture problem. For the shelves sitting on carpet, we used one 47" and one 48" piece screwed together for the base, leaving 1/2" at each end for the sides. We used screws for the particle board because they seem to hold much better than nails, although a pilot hole should be drilled first. One or two screws on this piece is enough, and we used some glue.

Next, you have to determine how many shelves you want and how far down you want them. We always leave a space of 14 or 15 inches at the bottom for empty boxes and other things. We are not interested in going to floor level to pull boxes of tape.

Whatever the height the first shelf is from the floor, cut two pieces from the 7" wide stock to support your shelf. Fit those pieces to the sides you will put up, allowing 1/2" for the second piece on the bottom. From there on up, secure 8" pieces to the inside of the side, allowing 1/2" space for the shelves to be installed. If you do not come out even at the top, don't worry, that just gives you a shelf to put supplies on and not have them fall down behind, because you have a top lip to hold them.

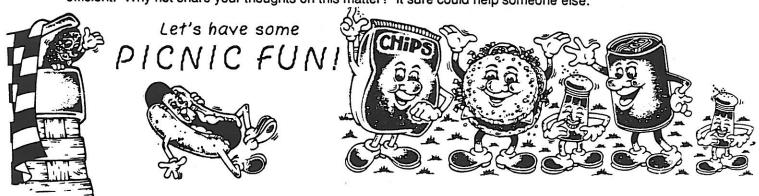
You should now fit the sides to the bottom and tack the masonite back to the sides and bottom. That will square up everything. Be sure the 8" shelf supports are tight to the shelves. That will help tighten everything. You will also need 7X8" spacers to support the middle of the 47" shelves to prevent shelf sag. We have not secured our spacers. Your unit is now ready for a coat of paint.

You now have a set of shelves that will hold 62 standard 7" reel boxes per shelf. They will stick out about 1/4" and have 3/4" space at the top

which just gives you a good chance to slip a finger under a box and lift it a bit to remove it from the shelf. You now have an inexpensive set of shelves.

Members that store cassettes in 7" open reel boxes, as we do in our libraries, will not be able to get quite as many boxes on a shelf.

This is just the idea we used and certainly may not be the best in the world, but it is cost effective and efficient. Why not share your thoughts on this matter? It sure could help someone else.





Redio Historical Association of Colorada

FROM THE KING'S ROOST

By Dick and Maletha King

We have received a note reminding us that August 31st was Arthur Godfrey's birthday. He would have been 89 in 1992, and they are hoping that during this next year we can promote listening to some of his programs and realize what a multi-talented man he was. Our club has sixteen hours and fifteen minutes of Godfrey's shows available on reels #189, 224, 634, 635

and 1038. Our members might be interested in getting some of the tapes for dubbing and have them on hand when you hear and read about Godfrey's ninetieth birthday next year. Perhaps we could make August, 1993, an "Arthur Godfrey" month.

We would like to call your attention to the work of our editor, Glenn Ritter, who has been trying improve the look of our newletter. He has found that getting half-tone processing for cover illustrations is a method that will greatly improve photo reproduction at a relatively small increase in reproduction costs.

Have you noticed that most of the boxes of tapes and cassettes are all sealed by filament tape with the ends folded back to give you an easy tab to pull for removal? This method of removal saves cutting the tape and accidently damaging the box. Dave Logan began this procedure with his cassette library #2; others liked it and have copied it.

With the reel-to-reel library we are attempting to switch to exclusive use of four-flap boxes. One by-product of four-flap boxes is that they permit two sets of labels to be attached, saving the member the bother of having to replace the label for return mailing.

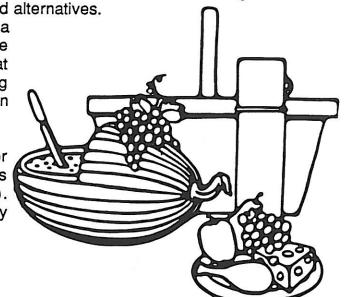
Jim Trunde has been helping R.H.A.C. by replacing some of the damaged reel boxes used in shipping. Reels shift about inside the boxes during shipment; repeated shipment eventually damages the boxes. Somebody has to replace the boxes and it was very kind of Jim to give us an assist. Thanks, Jim!

Until now there has been a limit of 5-reels-per-rental in the Contributor's Library series. We feel that limit is no longer needed and, therefore, you may order as many as you wish.

What do you do with the tapes you dub? Do you just collect them and forget the pleasure of sharing them with other? Some find alternatives.

Ron Agee has found pleasure in visiting a retirement home and playing tapes for the people there. So, we would like to suggest that if you can give someone pleasure by sharing your treasured vintage radio broadcasts, then you may very well find life much more pleasant.

If your R.H.A.C. TAPE CATALOG is lost or strayed, this is to remind you that this catalog is available for \$15. (Index included). Seperately, you may have a copy of the Index by sending us 52 cents in stamps.



TAPE 5220	MISC. MUSIC PRO	OGRAMS (Continued)	1200'
1R	Firs and 1	rograms #217 and 218 t songs: I Hear You Knockin' but You Can't Cor My Gal Sal ROBISON SHOW: First songs: We'll Rest at the	<u> </u>
		l; and There's a Heart in the Heart of Texas	End of the
2R 10-2-	in To 43 NATION	F THE PIONEERS SHOW: First songs: When It's Ro exas and the Bloom is on the Sage; and the Cap AL BARN DANCE: Joe Kelly, Pat Buttram, the Hoo s, Arkie, Lulu Belle, Grace Wilson, the Dinnin	pital Ship osier Hot
TAPE 5221	SAMMY KAYE SHOW	WROOM	1200'
1L	#9 First, #22 First,	song, Kiss Me Sweet, Kiss Me Simple Powder Your Face with Sunshine Candy Kisses Wrapped in Paper	
2L	#24 First, #27 First, #28 First,	Has Anybody Seen My Girl Fiddle-de-dee Oh Look at Her, Ain't She Pretty Kiss Me Sweet, Kiss Me Simple Highland Fling	
1R	#32 First, #33 First,	Cruising Down the River I'm in Love with a Wonderful Guy There's Yes, Yes in Your Eyes Every Night is a Saturday Night	
2R	#36 First, #37 First,	I'm Always True to You, Darling The Hollywood Square Dance Has Anybody Seen My Girl Let's Take an Old Fashioned Walk	
TAPE 5222	SAMMY KAYE SHOW	√ROOM_	1200'
1L	#40 First, #41 First,	I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair	
2L	#43 First, #44 First, #45 First,	Belmont Boogie There's Yes, Yes in Your Eyes Baby, It's Cold Outside Little Girl I May Be Wrong but I Think You're Wonderful	
1R	#48 First, #49 First,	Every Night is a Saturday Night Ain't She Sweet In a Shady Nook Yes Sir, That's My Baby Now	
2R	#51 First, #52 First, #53 First,	I'm Always True to You, Darling Fiddle-de-dee Be Goody-Good-Good to Me DN: So You Want to Write a Song	

(Issued August, 1992)

1200'

1800'

TAPE 5223 COKE TIME (EDDIE FISHER) 7-4-54 #54 Elaine Malbin First song, On the Sunny Side of the Street 7-5-54 #55 Kitty Kallen First, I Found a Million Dollar Baby 8-1-54 #62 Eddie Cantor First, Those Green Years 8-2-54 #63 Helen O'Connell First, I Feel a Song Comin' On June Hutton First, It's a Great Day for the Irish 8-15-54 #66 2L 8-22-54 #68 June Hutton First, Oh What a Beautiful Morning 8-23-54 #69 First, Make Love to Me 8-29-54 #70 June Hutton First, Everywhere You Go 9-5-54 #72 First, Don't Fence Me In 9-6-54 #73 June Hutton First, The Best Things in Life are Free 10-11-54 #83 Martha Wright First, I Got the Sun in the Morning and the Moon at Night 10-17-54 #84 First, Anytime You're Feeling Lonely 2R 10-18-54 #85 First, The Birth of the Blues 10-24-54 #86 First, Swanee 10-25-54 #87 First, I Didn't Want to Do It 10-31-54 #88 First, I Can't Give You Anything But Love

PRESENTING CHARLES BOYER Tape 5224

Presenting Charles Boyer started as a 1950 Summer replacement series Tuesdays on NBC, then moved to Thursday for a brief run in the Fall. Charles Boyer starred as Michel, who each week sold a story to writer Bart Conway, played by Hanley Stafford, later Herb Butterfield. Nat Wolff directed, with Don Stanley announcing.

The shows were anonymously donated by an RHAC member. Timings to the nearest minute are on the index sent with each tape.

TAPE 5224 PRESENTING CHARLES BOYER 1L 7-4-50 Two Frenchmen and a Bouquet of Roses 7-11-50 #2 Mademoiselle Goldilocks and the Brooklyn Dodger 7-18-50 #3 A Thief, a Beautiful Woman and My Life of Crime 8-8-50 2L#6 The Adventure of the Fortune Teller's Fortune 8-15-50 #7 The Beautiful Platinum Blonde 9-12-50 #11 The Royal Phantom of Versailles 9-14-50 #12 France's First Lady of the Theatre 1R 9-21-50 #13 The Adventure of Painting 137 9-28-50 #14 Three People and a Clock 10-5-50 #15 The Artist and the Orphans 2R 10-19-50 #17 The Orphan at the Louvre 10-26-50 #18 The Paris to Marseille Highway

(Issued August, 1992)



RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

CASSETTE LIBRARY #1 C/O DAN DECKER 10587-C MAPLEWOOD DRIVE W. LITTLETON, CO. 80120

rental charge of \$2.0		ordered. You are al	lowed to order 5 cassette sets	
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REMEMBER

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RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO, INC. (A non-profit organization)
POST OFFICE BOX 1908
ENGLEWOOD, CO. 80150

JOHN & LARRY GASSMAN WILL BE OUR GUEST SPEAKERS THURSDAY,

WILL BE OUR GUEST SPEAKERS THURSDAY,
AUGUST 27TH, 7:30 PM AT THE
CHURCH OF THE MASTER, 17TH AVE AND FILBERT COURT

PICNIC FUN

AUGUST 29TH, 2:00 PM AT HOME OF R.H.A.C. PRESIDENT DICK KING 900 W. QUINCY AVE.

