*ANTIQUE RADIO COLLECTORS & HISTORIANS (ARCH) OF GREATER ST. LOUIS*

# ARCH CLUB NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

## Special points of interest:


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*Join us for our next meeting:*

**Tuesday February 10th, 2026 at 7:30 PM**

*Kirkwood Community Center*
111 S Geyer Road,
Saint Louis, MO
63122

## Meeting Notes:

The first meeting of 2026!

22 Members were present at the ARCH January Meeting! A great turnout to start the year.

Dave Kunkle spoke about the passing of Larry P. Larry was a collector whom had just moved to the Metro STL area. Larry would travel the US looking for vintage radios and radio related items. Any trip to the East coast would have a bonus trip of looking for radios. More information regarding Larry is within this newsletter.

Cookies brought in by an ARCH member were again enjoyed by everyone.

## Old & New Business

During the December meeting, club officer elections occurred. Past officers were voted back into their position for 2026. Dave Kunkle however did take the Vice President position away from James Richter.

*President:* Joe Tauser
*Vice President:* Dave Kunkle
*Secretary:* Anthony Rossetti
*Treasure:* Roger Cole

*Club dues for calendar year 2026 are $20.00 dollars. (Same price for 10+ years!) Please support the club and become a paying member. Dues go toward the Christmas party, room rental, and club picnic events. Checks can be sent to Roger Cole. Address is found on the last page.*

## Event Announcements (Hamfest & Club Events)

### Winterfest Hamfest (36th year!)




January 23-24, 2026
Collinsville Gateway Center
1 Gateway Drive
Collinsville, IL 62234
8:00 AM—1:00 PM
https://wintergest.slsrc.org

This is a 2-day event!
23 January—The W9DYV Symposium & Winterfest Mesh social & dinner.
24 January—The Hamfest main event! Doors open at 8:00 AM.
Forums and Speakers will occur throughout the day.

*NOTE: The ARCH Club will reserve 1 or 2 tables for club members to sell, display, or trade personally owned radio related items.*

### Lewis and Clark Radio Club Hamfest



March 14, 2026
The "Commons" at Lewis and Clark Community College
5800 Godfry Road
Godfrey, IL 62035
7:00 AM—12:00 PM
https://k9ham.org



## Local and National Radio News—Kind of….

### KMOX celebrates *100 years* of Commercial Boradcast Service

KMOX was started in the early 1920s by a group of businessmen whom formed a company known as, "The Voice of St. Louis, Inc." The station's owners wanted the call sign KVSL, for "Voice of St. Louis". The owners also applied for KMO, with MO the abbreviation for Missouri, but those call letters had been in use by another station since 1922, KMO (now KKMO) in Tacoma, Washington. KMOX signed on the air on December 24, 1925. The "X" was added because the starting date was Christmas Eve, thus shortened with the common abbreviation of Christmas to represent Xmas Eve.

KMOX became the first radio station in the country to rank number one among all listeners for 100 consecutive quarterly ratings. That is a span covering 25 years!

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. It was especially magical for another reason in 1925, when a group of St. Louis businessmen had an additional reason to celebrate and Midwesterners had the beginnings of a "mighty" new friendship. The group of businessmen had come together a few months earlier with the idea of starting a radio station. Other stations already were on the air in St. Louis at the time, but this group of investors had the idea of making their station the best in town. They called their group the Voice of St. Louis, Incorporated, and applied to the Commerce Department for the call letters KVSL. The request was denied. The group then asked for the letters KMO, but learned that designation had already been granted to a maritime facility on the West Coast. So the group went back a third time and got its designation approved - KMOX. The K is the letter designated for stations operating west of the Mississippi River. It was a coincidence that it also was the first letter of Kirkwood, the site of the first transmitting tower. MO is for Missouri and the X stood for Christmas Eve, the night of the first broadcast. The station's debut was headline news in St. Louis, even if the original broadcast from the 5,000-watt transmitter site in Kirkwood was brief. The first program broadcast on the station was Christmas music performed by the St. Peter's Episcopal Church choir. Nate Caldwell was the first announcer. After a short organ interlude, a symphony performed "The Star Spangled Banner" and "Hail to the Chief."

The first broadcast from the station's lavish studios in the Mayfair Hotel (Magnolia Hotel today) originated the following day, Christmas Day. Thomas Patrick Convey was the first general manager, and some of the
earliest programming on KMOX included music, the market reports from the floor of the Merchants Exchange, musical performances, stories read on the air, and dance tunes. The immediate response to KMOX's launch was very positive, not only in St. Louis but from listeners in far-flung locations. Telegrams came in from as far away as Saskatchewan, Canada, Oregon, Wyoming, and Colorado.

## Local and National Radio News—Kind of….

### KMOX celebrates 100 years of Commercial Boradcast Service (Continued)

By 1929, KMOX was growing. The station was authorized to increase its power from 5,000 to 50,000 watts and given clear channel status. A year earlier the station had become one of the 16 original United Independent Broadcasters stations, a group that was to become the CBS network.

*Editor's Note:*
KMOX had a 100 year anniversary radio show. This radio show was very interesting! Discussions occurred related to the founding of the station, personality of staff, and notable STL events.

Website Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLHFgLUfTs4
URL: KMOX 100th Anniversary

**Editors Note**: While in Middle School, I got a shortwave radio from the closet of my grandparent's home. A Winston Model #9333 solid state multi-band radio. I later discovered this radio was a rebranded Montgomery Ward Airline model #9333. This radio is also cosmetically similar to the Craftsman Model #9333 and also a Brookwood Model #9333 radio. (It is amazing that at least four mgfr. names with the same model number claim the same radio. The only difference… the dial light is activated by a push button or a switch.) Looking on-line, the same radio was also sold under the name "Candle" in Japan and "Waltham" in the UK. With this radio, every night for me was audibly interesting, even with a broken telescoping antenna.

I recall listening to KMOX, while in West Virginia. I specifically remember this station because the night radio show had a slogan of, "Things that go bump in the night." The host, James C. White, would call listeners, "Creators of the Night". He would refer to himself as "The Big Bumper". This slogan for himself was due to his height and weight I recently uncovered. I was hoping to hear ghost stories at the time. (AM DX stations were kind of spooky to me.) The show did not have ghost stories, so I did not listen very long. Notably, the shows catch phrase came from a Scottish prayer: "From ghosties and ghoulies, and long-legged beasties, dear Lord protect us from things that go bump in the night." While attending college, I could not find this radio show any longer. I later discovered "Coast-to-Coast Radio", which I enjoyed but also found infuriating. Why infuriating? The host Art Bell, notably a STL native whom had worked at KTRS early in his career, would hype the show's guest and say, "When we come back… we will speak with <*guest name*>. After very long commercial breaks, the show would return with the host saying, "When we come back, we will speak with <name> stand by!" It was essentially an hour of hype for less than 15 minutes of guest dialog.

## Local and National Radio News—Kind of….

### Grand Ole Opry celebrates 100 years of shows on WSN

On Saturday, November 28, 1925, announcer George D. Hay stood at the microphone and introduced 77-year-old Uncle Jimmy Thompson who sat down and entertained radio listeners with tunes played on his fiddle.

That show was titled WSM Barn Dance but by 1927 became better known by the name familiar to country music fans around the world. The Grand Ole Opry.

WSM had only been on the air since October 5, 1925, owned by the National Life and Accident Insurance Company that chose WSM as their call letters to promote their company slogan, *"We Shield Millions."* By 1932, WSM was also *reaching* millions with a power boost to 50,000 watts at 650 kHz on the radio dial, as Tennessee's only 'clear channel' allocation, heard by much of the United States after sundown. The station had a notable slogan of, "The Aircastle of the South".

Fast forward through the decades to November 28, 2025, as The Grand Ole Opry celebrated the 100th anniversary of its inaugural broadcast with two shows and more than 25 Opry members commemorating 100 years since that single fiddle tune launched a legacy which now includes over 15,000 broadcasts, countless stars, millions of fans, and one enduring unbroken circle.




**Editor's Note:** WSM, the official station of the Grand Ole Opry, is a 50,000 watt clear channel station located at 650 kHz on the AM dial. The antenna, a Blaw-Knox antenna, is a single tower emitting an omnidirectional signal. The antenna, when built in 1932, was the tallest antenna in North America. While no longer the tallest, the antenna is now one of the oldest AM antennas in the United States. At night, I have received this station while in






# Radio Collection of Larry P.



Larry and his wife were in the process of moving from Jacksonville, Illinois to Belleville. He desired to move to this area to be closer to his daughter. Larry attended a club meeting in 2025. He intended to resume attending club meetings upon completing his move. Sadly, Larry had a sudden heart attack and passed away. Dave Kunkle spoke briefly about Larry's collection and his drive of the hunt, collecting, and restoration.

His daughter is currently selling the radios from the estate. Larry kept records of each radio and there are no "deals". Offers are however accepted. Myself and a few other club members visited his house. The collection is simply astonishing. Radio's within the collection are overwhelming. There are several Midwest, E.H. Scott, Zeniths, and Catlin (cabinet) radios. There is even a Zenith baby Stratosphere (12-A-57)! What is not sold will go to auction via EstatesSales.org.

Shelf containing several Mae-West and half Mae-West radios.





Consoles, Lamps, and novelty boat with internal radios.

Catalin Radios





# Club Christmas Party - December 2025 Club Meeting

The club's Christmas meeting was held during the December Meeting. There was plenty of food. It was truly a great turnout. This is honestly my personal favorite Christmas party of the few I attend. I enjoy the stories of the past. Many members do not speak frequently with each other due to being at the monthly meeting. This is a great occasion to get to know other club members. Many members would stay longer if we did not get kicked out due to the facility closing hours.

This is also an event many past members show up for. For example, Charles Judemann and his wife Gloria were in attendance. Charles and Gloria started the ARCH radio club in 1992 at their kitchen table.



Some of the club members listening to Joe discuss club matters before eating.



Club members getting ready for the highly anticipated Christmas gift exchange.



Club members looking at what radio related gifts were received during the gift exchange.

# Show and Tell - January 2026 Club Meeting

## Joe Tauser — Crosley Model #52 & Pup Sky Terrier

Joe had a presentation on Crosley radios. The presentation discussed the starting of Crosley radio manufacturing (1920s) and early produced radios. The evolution of radio's were discussed with pictures accompanying the presentation. Notably, Joe discussed some interesting designs Crosley used.



Crosley Model #52 (left) with a Crosley "Pup" radio (right).

Joe procured and restored the Crosley Model #52. This radio is a 3 tube radio. (One detector tube and two amplifier tubes.) The visible pegs on the right side of the radio permit connections of the battery and antenna. (Watch where you place your hand!) This radio could be used with headphones or a loud speaker. Depending on the battery used and the wiring, configuration the use of WD-12, 200, 201A, 300, 301A, UV-199 or C-299 radio tubes could be utilized.

Many people hear the name "Crosley" and immediately think of the most powerful AM transmitter in North America. Crosley's "WLW", with 500,000 watts of output power, was also called "The Nation's Station" due to its far reach across the United States.

Crosley, made his initial fortune selling automotive parts and accessories. He became interested in radio when his son was attempting to build an AM radio receiver. Crosley, after looking at the high prices of commercial radios, decided he could sell radios at cheaper prices. Crosley was essentially the "Howard Hughes" of radios. To obtain the rights to sell Armstrong's patented regenerative receivers, Crosley simply bought a company that held the patent. (The patent itself could not be bought at the time. The US government considering the regenerative receiver design to be of high national security interest during World War 1. After buying the company he introduced the Crosley Model V.

Notably Radios sold by Crosley, and many other manufactures, were sold without tubes.

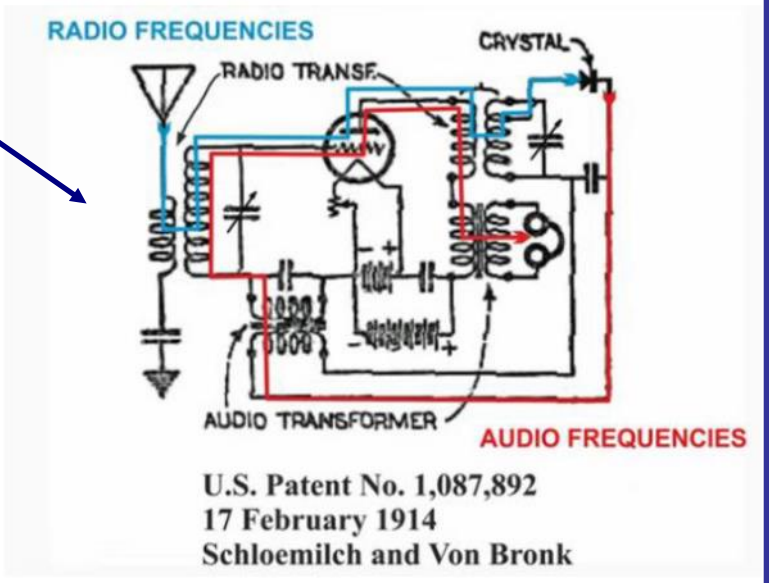
Internal image of the Crosley Model #52



## Joe Tauser — Crosley Model #52 & Pup Sky Terrier (Continued)

Joe discussed an interesting design employed by Crosley radio engineers to keep cost low. This radio design trick was called "Reflex". This reflex design is found within the Trirdyn radio lineup. At the time, a radio design employed a separate tube to amplify the radio frequency signal and the audio frequency. Engineers at Crosley developed a method that used the same tube for both. Due to both audio and radio frequency being drastically different, the use of a low pass filter network allowed the separation of these frequencies.

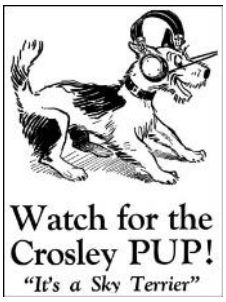
The path of radio frequencies is shown in Blue. The path of audio frequencies is show in Red.




Ultimately, the benefit of the Reflex design, which did receive a US patent, was that one tube could be used for both RF and audio frequency amplification.

*Editor's note: A somewhat interesting design trick is found within many FM portable radio's. (ie: Sony Walk-Man) Manufactures used the wired headset cord as the FM antenna. The same cord served two purposes! Filters in the RF input would eliminate the audio frequency from interfering. I thought this was a neat trick to eliminate a separate wire for an FM antenna.*

The Crosley Pup radio cost $9.75 in 1925 without the tube. (Equivalent to $180.00 dollars in 2025) The radio was designed to utilize the Westinghouse 1.1-Volt WD-12 radio tube. (Many radio restores utilize the more available 01A tube in place of the WD-12. Tube substitution requires the adjustment of the filament voltage. Slightly less gain will result with tube substitution.) These Crosley pup radio's were simple and thus cheap. Crosley's idea, at the time, was to make radios as cheap as possible. He knew that his AM transmitter (WLW), being very high power, will be able to overcome a receivers "deafness". A stronger transmitter permits you to have a poor (cheaper) receiver. (Notably, TV manufacture Earl "Madman" Muntz had a similar philosophy with his television sets.) Due to this radio being small, Crosley called it a "pup". A small dog, called Bonzo, was used as a mascot for the radio. This action, using a dog as a mascot, was similar to RCA's use of terrier dog named "Nipper".











## Canio Vaccaro – 1946 RCA 66X7—AM & SW radio with a phono input.

Canio did a visual demonstration of his work related to restoration of this RCA All American Radio. Due to being black, one may initially assume this is a Bakelite radio. In fact, the cabinet is made from Catalin! Two version of this radio were produced. Black (66X7) and Red (66X8).

The tuning of the radio was not possible when procured. The tunning dial string was simply slipping on the tunning shaft. The thought of restringing the radio was an action Canio did not want to perform. *(Editor's note: Restringing is not difficult, it is however a very tedious task.)* Canio, when looking at the Rider's diagram of the string path, he noticed the diagram illustrated the string was to be wrapped three times around the tunning capacitor. His radio showed it was only wrapped two times. Using a pair of tweezers, he slipped the string around the tunning capacitor an additional turn. After doing this, physical tunning worked properly! Great discovery Canio and attention to detail!

Restoration required the replacement of all electrolytic capacitors. Carbon based resistors tested okay. A back was procured to complete a full restoration.

Canio discussed an item about this radio he found to be annoying. (Club members also found this to be annoying.) The radio permits the use of an external record player. To plug in the record player, one must physically turn over (upside down) the radio. The action of plugging in a record player audio wire mutes the AM reception circuit. The muting of the radio AM receiving circuit, means that one can not quickly switch back and forth between the record player and the radio receiver. The location of this jack and the muting of the receiver circuit was a bad design made by RCA.

A (45 RPM) record player was used to illustrate the RCA working and the muting issue. Canio explained the record player was restored earlier. Restoration included cleaning, lubrication, rubber mount replacement, and pick up lead repair.

Notice the Broadcast AM dial is on top SW dial (9.0—12.0 MHz) on bottom. Pointer is red line near center.

Radio with the an accompanying RCA 45-J-2 45-rpm





## Marlon Mackley — Weller Sander and CRT based portable televisions.

A 100-watt Weller soldering iron is found on many radio restoration workbenches. These soldering irons are well built! Weller soldering irons from the 1960s are still in use today. These are one of many devices a radio restorer will try to find NOS versus buying a new one. While still made well today, many people will state that the older ones are still better.

While at an estate sale, he opened a box expecting to find a Weller soldering iron. To his surprise, the item in the metal box was a Weller sander! Specifically, Weller Sander Model #700!







Marlin did not know Weller had manufacture items other than soldering irons. Notably, the black plastic case of the sander is very cosmetically similar to a Weller soldering iron plastic case.

Marlin had a great show and tell on portable televisions. One of many challenges of portable televisions was how to get a CRT tube within a portable device. Many manufactures employed different methods. Methods included a design that had electrons being reflected off of instead of passing through the phosphorous coated screen. Other designs would utilize a completely reshaped CRT tube that had the electron gun portion of the CRT highly angled. These TV's he brought to the meeting receive only analog TV broadcast. If used with a digital-to-analog converter, these TVs will work today. Marlin demonstrated these TV's being operational. (Only static was shown on the CRT.)

Panasonic Travelvision TP-1010P.
This has a 1.5" B&W CRT Tube.
Marlin has the accompanying magnifying lens that when placed on the TV makes the image cosmetically larger.




Various versions of Sony portable TVs.
Sony called this lineup "Watchman".



## Carl Kleinsorge— Zenith H-500 Trans-Oceanic (T/O)

Carl brought to the club meeting his very 1st Zenith Transoceanic. Has owned this radio for 42 years! After repairing the radio, he would take the radio with him while traveling. Notably, with the case being covered, it does look like a piece of luggage. After 43 years of traveling and using the radio, time has taken its toll. The radio could utilizes a 2nd electrical restoration.

When 1st bought, the power switch was faulty. A prior owner had made electrical repairs using telephone wire. These repairs had caused several electrical issues. Carl removed all the prior owners repairs/modifications and re-wired the radio properly.

Carl discussed quickly Zenith's initially design of the T/O line of radios. How the product line started and evolved. In summary, Zenith founder Eugene McDonald started the development of the Trans-Ocean Clipper (Model #7G605) for sailing enthusiasts. He wanted a radio he could take on his sailboat. While sailing in the Great Lakes, the ability to hear weather reports and news from commercial AM and shortwave stations would be a luxury. Zenith engineers designed the first T/O as a result of his request. This radio featured a sailboat on the speaker grill due to where and how the radio would be used. (After WW-2 broke out, Zenith switched the image to a bomber aircraft.) The sailboat version was built only from January to April 1942 with ~35,000 built.

Carl has a desire to fully restore his radio. Regarding the case, Carl however likes that the cosmetic marks, scuffs, and scratches on the radio reflecting his years of usage.

One notable matter regarding the design of the H-500 radio Carl finds to be annoying... The use of a headphone requires the user to open the back of the radio. The radio back must remain open due to the cord. He thought that Zenith could have done a better job with the design of the radio, specifically regarding the usage of headphones.



# Raffle Table

This months raffle table had items I would have never expected to be on a raffle table.
I have outlined the notable and interesting items placed on the raffle table…..

*Early (1947) Zenith T/O with the sailboat design!*



A Crosley Pup radio!!

Several portable AM Battery Radios with case

Hallicrafters Model DX-20 Morse Code Transmitter
(The variable air capacitors can be used to make many radio related items.)

Other items in the picture are:
-Reprinted Horrors of War cards.
-Quarts analog clock that has a Zenith dial as an image.
-A wooden multiband radio that may or may not be custom built.
-A radio receiver with multiple inputs and speaker outputs.

Note: Money raised by the club raffle is used to keep club member dues low.
Money also goes toward club events and room rental.

# Bob Hope



*Bob Hope was not just a star in every entertainment medium: vaudeville, radio, movies, television and live performances. He was a solar system!*

Born in England as Leslie Townes Hope on May 29, 1903, his father was a stonemason while his Welsh mother was a concert singer in Wales. The family came to Cleveland in 1907 and Hope later began calling himself Bob. Bob notably was the 5th of seven son's born to his parents.

While still in high school Hope was entering amateur shows and after graduation took dancing lessons, doing so well that his teachers let him take over some classes. He was doing a number of odd jobs, was briefly a newspaper reporter and even tried boxing fighting under the name "Packy East". In the 1920s he teamed up with a friend and developed an act that eventually took them to New York. But not for long; their agent suggested they rework the act and while appearing in Pennsylvania, Hope decided to go it alone. In 1921, Bob wa working as a lineman for a power company. Hope was assisting his brother Jim in clearing trees when a tree crashed to the ground, crushing his face. This accident required reconstructive surgery, which contributed to his later distinctive appearance.

In 1932 he made his Broadway debut and the next year attracted attention from the public and critics for his role in the musical Roberta. He appeared in a number of other Broadway musicals and his performance in Red, Hot and Blue in 1936 led to his first major film part in Paramount's The Big Broadcast of 1938 in which he sang what would become his signature song, "Thanks for the Memory".

Hope's first radio appearance came in 1932 in New York when he told some jokes between musical acts on The Capitol Family Hour and also made guest appearances on a few other shows. He continued refining his act and in 1935 joined The Intimate Revue on NBC Blue as a regular and later that year moved to The Atlantic Family. In 1937, he was delivering monologues on The Rippling Rhythm Revue when he was offered the Big Broadcast part and went to Hollywood. While in California, Rippling Rhythm ended and he got a part on Dick Powell's NBC variety show, Your Hollywood Parade.

Hope did well and, aided by the publicity from his Big Broadcast role, attracted the attention of executives at Pepsodent, which was looking for a new radio show to sponsor. In September 1938 Hope debuted in The Pepsodent Show Starring Bob Hope on NBC. The Tuesday evening program took off like a rocket and soon became the country's top-rated program. Credit was given not only to Hope's talents but to the talented staff of writers and performers he put together after realizing that his other radio efforts hadn't succeeded because "I hadn't paid enough attention to my material." This time he was determined "to find the best comedy writers, not just the vaudeville old-timers.... I wanted fresh young talent, newcomers who were willing (to author and) submit wild and wacky comedy."



Hope had up to 13 writers turning out joke after joke that he would write down into a preliminary script. This would be tested before an audience on Sunday and recorded. Hope and the staff would listen to the recording, determine which jokes got the best laughs and revise the script accordingly for the Tuesday broadcast. Even in the cut-down final script, there were plenty of jokes; it's estimated that he would tell about 23 jokes in seven minutes.

# Bob Hope (Continued)




The show's supporting cast and bandleaders at various times included Jerry Colonna, Judy Carland, Frances Langford, Stan Kenton, Les Brown, Doris Day, Blanche Stewart and Elvia Allman.

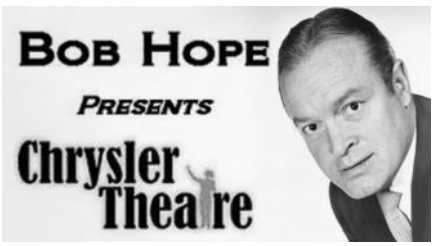
When the Second World War began, Hope took his show out of the studio to an Army Air Corps field in California and found the reaction from the servicemen so great that he decided to take the show on the road. The troupe traveled for the next seven years, to bases, camps and hospitals all across the country as well as to Europe and the South Pacific. He began his annual Christmas shows in 1948, a tradition that continued into the 1990s.

By the end of the 1940s, ratings were starting to drop and Hope made some staff and format changes to the show. In 1952 it was turned into a 15-minute daytime program that went off the air in July 1954. But then he moved to television in 1952, hosting Chesterfield Sound Off and The Colgate Comedy Hour that year and then Bob Hope Presents the Chrysler Theatre in 1963-67. But it was not with series that he made his mark on television he decided he didn't want to do a weekly show). Rather it was the 296 specials he hosted on NBC-TV between 1950 and 1996 that allowed him to become a star in that medium. (In 1994, the NBC special. Bob Hope: The First 90 Years, produced by his daughter Linda, won an Emmy Award.)

In 1963, the National Association of Broadcasters presented Hope its Distinguished Service Award. In his acceptance speech, he turned his wit on broadcasting: "I know that this is the highest award in broadcasting and I realize the importance of it, but I feel if you were really serious that you would have given it to me in prime time." And, "I have been very lucky in this business. I am not a doctor. I am not a cowboy. I am not a detective. And yet I have survived for 25 years on radio and TV. I have a beautiful home, have sent my kids through college. I have everything I want, all because I happened to see Bob Sarnoff coming out of that motel."

Hope was honored by presidents, a queen and Congress (he holds the Guinness record as most honored entertainer in the world), receiving the Congressional Gold Medal from President Kennedy, the Medal of Freedom from President Johnson and a Medal of the Arts from President Clinton. In 1988, he received an honorary knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II. In 1997, Congress passed a resolution making him an Honorary Veteran, the fist person to be so honored. A special honor came in May 1997 when his wife Dolores christened the USNS Bob Hope, the first of a new class of Navy ships. And a month later, the Air Force dedicated a C-17 transport, the Spirit of Bob Hope.

Bob Hope celebrated his 100th birthday on May 29th, 2003 and died on July 27th. In an appreciation just after his death, the Washington Post's Tom Shales wrote: "The world truly was Hope's stage, as well as his putting green, and he felt contagiously comfortable on it, whether entertaining the military or golfing with presidents or clowning it up at charity affairs. His years hosting the Academy Awards ('or as it's known at my house, Passover') were among the brightest in Oscar history."



Some Quotes attributed to Bob Hope… Many of his notable quotes involve the game of golf, politics, and life as an entertainer. Bob was a pretty good golfer during his playing of 150 tournaments a year at his peak. He played with a handicap of four.

- *I have performed for 12 presidents and entertained only six!*
- *Four of us slept in the one bed. When it got cold, mother threw on another brother.*
- *My father told me all about the birds and the bees, the liar – I went steady with a woodpecker till I was twenty-one.*
- *No one party can fool all of the people all of the time; that's why we have two parties.*
- *I like a President who tells jokes instead of appointment them.*
- *It is amazing how many people you see on TV. I did my first television show a month ago, and the next day five million television sets were sold. The people who couldn't sell theirs threw them away!*
- *The help in Japan is very polite. They bow so much, you don't know which end to talk to.*
- *I don't do a lot of political jokes. Too many are getting elected.*
- *I grew up with six brothers. That's how I learned to dance – waiting for the bathroom.*
- *With today's movies, if we took out all the bad language, we'd go back to silent films.*
- *I don't feel old. I don't feel anything till noon. That's when it's time for my nap.*
- *The audience was swell. They were so polite… they covered their mouths when they yawned.*
- *Golf is a hard game to figure out. One day you will go out and slice it and shank it, hit into all the traps and miss every green. The next day you go out and, for no reason at all, you really stink.*

Bob hope has a total of four stars on *Hollywood's Walk of Fame*! Stars were awarded for...
-Radio Broadcasting
-Television
-Live Performance
-Motion Pictures

*Gene Autry has the record of most stars. He has five stars. Bob Hope and Tony Martin are next with 4 stars each*



# Novelty Radios - TV in cars!

Editor's Note: This is an article from carbuzz.com. I thought this was a notable article for use within an ARCH monthly newsletter. A famous George Barris show car known as "The Golden Sahara II", featured glowing/illuminated tires and a television in the dash!

———————————————————————————————————

## Ford Offered an In-Car TV As An Option—Mustang

We finally have the technology to watch TV while driving, thanks to smartphones, but the fuddy-duddies down at highway patrol say it's illegal and dangerous. What's the use of all this high-speed internet and YouTube Premium if you can't watch compilations of Family Guy clips behind the wheel? But seriously, the idea of streaming entertainment in your car has become almost trivialized, whether you're listening to personalized playlists on the road or watching the game while waiting outside the school to pick up your kids. Plus, most of us have high-definition displays as part of our vehicle's infotainment system.

But, once upon a time, keeping the kids occupied in the backseat with their favorite movies was the stuff of science fiction, right? Wrong! If you owned a Ford Mustang in the mid-1960s and had access to the automaker's accessory catalog, you could get yourself a handsome little nine-inch television set that would hang off the back of the driver's seat to keep the kiddos entertained. For whatever reason, the idea of in-car television sets would take decades to really catch on, but t goes to show just how cool those mid-century Mustangs are, by being so far ahead of the curve.

Ford wasn't actually the first brand to create an in-car television set. As far back as the 1950s, you can find photos of a 1955 Cadillac Brougham with a 14-inch television set built into the dashboard (in addition to a tape recorder and a telephone, too!). A 1959 Cadillac was modified to accommodate an Emerson-brand #1232 television set, featuring a fold-down plastic cover for the screen that operated on 12 volts of direct current.

But, these weren't mass-market products so much as they were concept cars. The 1959 Cadillac with the #1232 was intended to be the Car of the Future at the 1960 General Motors Motorama show. Cadillac proved it could be done, but they didn't bother bringing the in-car television set to market.

# Novelty Radios - TV in cars (Continued)




1959 Cadillac concept car with a built a Emmerson #1232 television set.



If we're satisfied with one-offs, concept cars, and test runs, it's not hard to find custom-built in-car TV sets even earlier than that. A 1948 issue of Popular Mechanics showed a taxi cab with a Motorola TV set packed into the back seat, and custom-made cars, such as the Predicta, featured built-in TV sets since at least 1960.

If we're looking for a true first, it's a tricky thing to find. The first truly portable battery-powered television set was the 1959 Philco Safari. Theoretically, someone could have rigged up a hook to hang it in a car for a mobile television experience.

So the Mustang Philco (not to be confused with the Philco Mustang, a car-shaped radio the electronics company produced) might not exactly be the first in-car television set, or even the first mass-market in-car television set. However, we're going to say that it was the first portable TV set sold to the mass market as an official automotive accessory.





# Novelty Radios - TV in cars (Continued)

Before the nine-inch Philco was mass-marketed as an official Mustang accessory, Ford actually tried it out in a limited test run, selling the gadget as the Autovision in 1965 through Lincoln-Mercury and Ford dealers in the Great Lakes area. The TV wasn't installed directly into the car, but it was optimized for in-car viewing, with the controls atop the screen for easier access.

After some degree of regional success, Ford decided to roll the Philco out to the rest of the country through the Mustang accessory catalog. You could either get the set at the dealer or order it yourself.

The Autovision sold for $169.95. Adjusting for inflation, that comes out to around $1,718 in 2025 dollars. The funny thing is, you can go and buy a TV bigger than your sofa right now for $169.95. How have TVs gotten so cheap while everything else has gotten so expensive?

*How Do You Watch TV On The Road, Anyway?*

Our youngest readers might not know that they can still watch TV for free. Assuming you're in a metropolitan or suburban area, a digital antenna can still pick up broadcasts from local stations. The content is sure to be limited, but you can still spend a day watching The Beverly Hillbillies or Bonanza with commercials.

Cable television was invented in 1948, but it wouldn't become truly mainstream until the 1980s. If you were watching television in 1966, you were watching broadcast TV. Some areas had channels beyond the expected NBC, ABC, and CBS offerings, such as public access, PBS, and religious programming.



# Novelty Radios - TV in cars (Continued)

*Admittedly, The Setup Was Far From Ideal...*

If you remember broadcast television, you might be wondering whether using a TV while driving wouldn't suffer from going into and out of the range of towers, especially in areas with lots of valleys or tunnels. The result could be losing reception during an important scene. As it turned out, this was a serious issue. For many people in many areas around the country, the technology wasn't ready to be truly effective. Maybe that's why the idea of watching TV in your car didn't really catch on until the era of wireless high-speed internet.

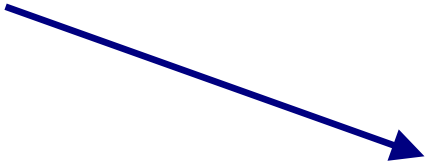
The Mustang Philco was about as good a TV as you were going to get for your car in the mid-1960s, but the technology had only come so far by that point. You still had to deal with static, a limited power supply, and an obtrusive antenna kit. Not to mention, finding space for a big, boxy, 1960s television set in the back of a Mustang. The iconic pony car doesn't have much room in the rear seats.

*What Would A Ford Mustang TV Set Cost You In 2025?*

If you're looking to restore a 1966 Ford Mustang with all the period-accurate accessories from the post-war era, you're going to be out of luck. These TVs pop up for auction now and then, and typically sell for quite cheap when they do. However, we've found exactly zero of them in working condition.

It's an interesting collector's piece, but these TVs rarely work today. Screens using cathode ray tubes generally don't tolerate vibrations like modern screens. The old parts work better when stationary, like on a credenza in your living room, not in a car. Plus, modern broadcasting uses a different spectrum, meaning old TVs can't pick up channels without modifications. So what would you even watch on it?

To list a few of the auctions we were able to turn up...



# Novelty Radios—Refrigerator Radios (Continued)

- A Mecum auction for an Autovision unit closed at $251 in April 2024.
- An eBay listing for a non-working unit closed in August this year without selling, at $150.
  The same eBay reseller appears to have relisted the item for $180, and that listing remains active as of the time of this writing.
- An untested model sold for $765 on eBay in 2018.

A 1967 model was listed on eBay with a Buy It Now price of $1,445 in 2018, according to a post on the SAAC forum by user BGLover67. The listing itself is lost to time, so we can't be sure if this one sold.

The Ford/Philco Autovision TV set is a fascinating piece of automotive history, but we wouldn't call it a "must have" for any but the most diehard Mustang collectors. On the other hand, gutting the internals and replacing them with a modern infotainment system sounds like a fun project for any tech geeks out there looking to break in their new soldering kit.






*Bakelite, a material used in the cabinet of many bookshelf radios from the 1930s through the 1950s. Bakelite was developed by Leo Baekeland. Leo is known as the father of the plastic industry. He desired to produce a material that would replace shellac. The word Bakelite is commonly stated to reflect any early plastic. Notably, Bakelite was the first plastic invented that retained its shape after being heated. This discovery resulted in it being used as electrical insulators, radios, and telephones. Remarkably, Catlin is sometimes mistakenly believed to be Bakelite. It is noteworthy that Baekeland simply called his product "Bakelite" as he named it after himself. In his later life, Leo became more eccentric and a recluse. He died while in a sanatorium. (Did Bakelite fumes get to his brain?)*




***Question:*** *The use of many transistors in one package becomes an Integrated Circuit (IC). The use of many vacuum tubes in one package becomes a ?????? tube?*

***Answer:***

Tubes initially performed one function, a diode for example. Over time, tubes were designed containing an increasing number of internal grids. As many European radios were taxed based upon the number of tubes, manufactures adjusted. Loewe, a Germany tube manufacture, produced tubes with multiple internal vacuum envelops in 1926. Notably, these tubes sometimes had 4 internal glass envelopes in one large glass tube! Components sealed in this one tube included resistors and capacitors that would make a radio very simple to build. Later, General Electric (GE) released in 1961 the *Compactron*. This tube was made primarily for the use in portable color TVs. GE's Porta-Color, GE's first portable color TV, had 13 tubes and 10 of these tubes were Compactrons. The Compactron was one tube that contained many internal elements. Some resources state that the use of Compactron tubes was later limited because manufactures wanted to keep a tube count high for advertisement reasons. Comical that advancements within electronics were not considered to be a "consumer advantage".

***Question for the February Newsletter:***

*What occurrence is called by many to be, "The Great Tube Count Hoax"?*

## Radio Quote Of The Month:

**"I grew up years ago doing something that unfortunately doesn't exist any more, a medium call radio."**

**-Robert Stack reflecting on his time doing radio storytelling.**

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