

JULY 2025

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Join us for our next
meeting:

**August 12th, 2025 at
6:30 PM**

Maryland Heights
Community Center
300 McKelvey Road,
Maryland Heights, MO
63043

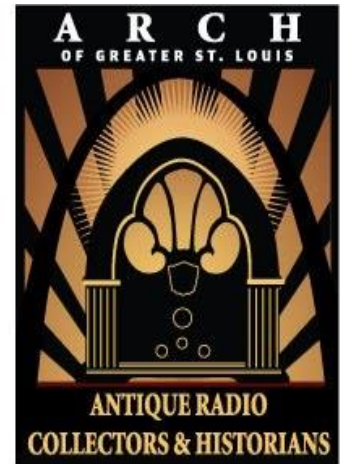
Meetings are temporarily
being held at in Mary-
land Heights Community
Center while the Kirk-
wood Community Center
is being re-finished.

Meeting Notes:

18 Members were present at the ARCH July Meeting.

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

Maryland Heights Community Center has reinstated their bag check. When attending a future meeting, be prepared to open any boxes or bags for visual inspection.



Old & New Business

The ARCH Fall picnic will be held during the month of September. Additional information will be provided when it is made available.

Club dues for calendar year 2025 is again \$20.00 dollars. Please support the club and become a paying member. Dues go toward the Christmas party, room rental, and club picnic events.

Event Announcements (Ham Fest)

Zerobeaters (ZBARC) Washington Hamfest

The 63rd Zerobeater's Hamfest!

July 20th, 2025

Knights of Columbus Hall

1121 Columbus Lane

Washington, MO 63090

<https://zerobeaters.org>

Antique Radio Club of Illinois—2025 RadioFest Expo

Dates: Friday August 1 & Saturday August 2

Website: <https://www.antique-radios.org/>

Expo location:

Medinah Shriners

550 N. Shriners Dr.

Addison, IL 60101

Hotel (on Shriners campus)

Hilton Garden Inn

551 North Swift Road

Addison, Illinois 60101

Discounted Hotel rate is \$119.00. Ask for



"Never Enough Radios"—St. Charles Amateur Radio Club HamFest

Dates: Sunday August 10th, 2025

Time: Vendor Hall 8AM—12PM—Tailgater Market 7AM—12 PM

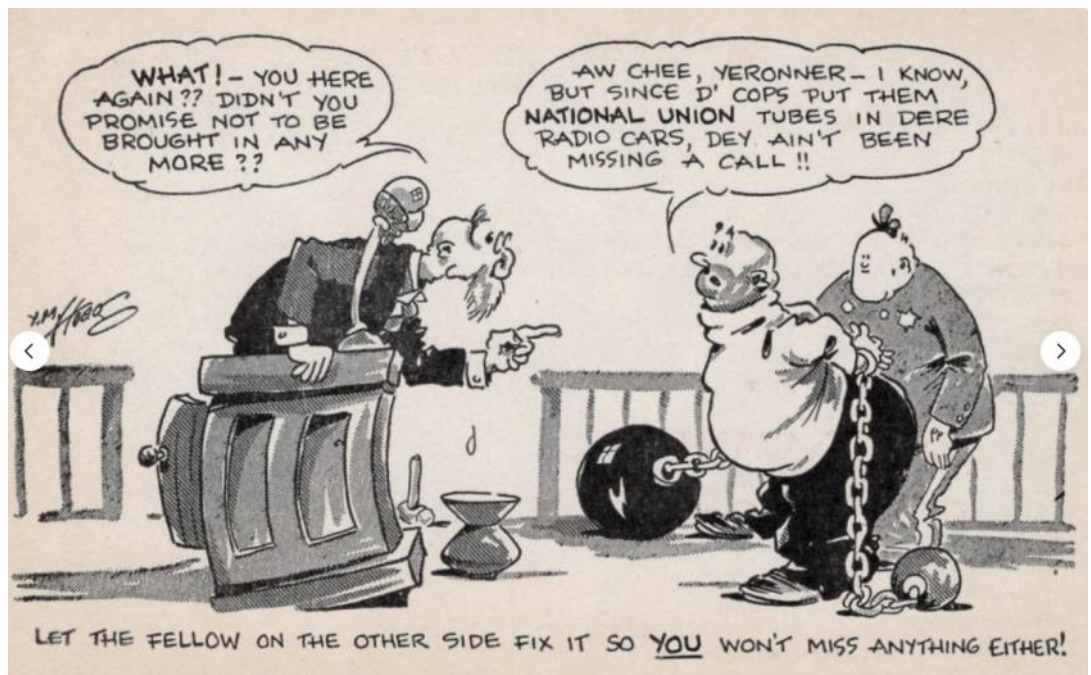
Location:

Elks Lodge

1163 Tom Ginnever Ave

O'Fallon, MO 63366

This is a representation of a post card mailed to customers of radio repair shops.



Television History

In July 1985, forty years ago, Nick at Nite premiered. This five hour time block of classic TV shows occurring from prime time to early morning, became the “first oldies TV network”. The series occurred on television broadcaster *Nickelodeon*. Nickelodeon was a television channel aimed at children ages 2 to 17. During the day Nickelodeon had a series of shows for children but would convert to a channel for adults after 8 PM as kid’s would be in bed. To have something to broadcast, the channel decided to tailor to the older generation. This was done by re-broadcasting old television shows. Due to lack of advertisers, vintage commercials were also aired during this timeframe.

For me personally “Nick at Night” was a great TV time period even though a majority of shows were black and white. TV shows like ‘Car 54, Where are you?’ (Fred Gwynne, Al Lewis, and Joe Ross), ‘The Donna Reed Show’, ‘Lassie’, ‘Mr. Ed’, ‘Dennis the Menace’, ‘Get Smart (Don Adams)’, and ‘The Munster’s’ were entertaining.

(I remember watching both Fred Gwynne and Al Lewis appear back to back in ‘Car 54’ and then ‘The Munsters’.) Eventually, a nightly classic movie would air each night. When many TV broadcasters were working on developing new material, Nick at Nite was successful at reviving public’s interest in vintage television shows. This block of time eventually transformed to *TV Land* in 1997.



Editor’s Note.... Producers of the TV show ‘Car 54, Where Are You?’ were concerned the shows cars would be mistaken for actual police cars during location filming. To reduce the public perception of this, the cars used for the series were painted dark red and white. The colors, red and white, appeared as the proper shade of gray within black-and-white film to replicate NYPD cars of that era, which were black and green, with a white roof and trunk.

You may be thinking, “What kind of name is Nickelodeon?” (I am thinking this.) Buildings where movies were shown to the public were known as “Nickelodeons”. The word “*nickel*” referred to the five cents (nickel) it cost to see a film, and “*odeon*” is the Greek word for “theater”. A nickelodeon is also notably an informal term for an American jukebox costing patrons a nickel.

Show and Tell - July 2025 Club Meeting

Salis Erns —Early 1900s General Radio Vintage Electro-Mechanical tuning oscillator

Stable and also accurate frequency oscillation has been a challenge within electronics (and audio) since the creation of electronic equipment. Before the development of frequency stable crystal based oscillators, an inductor & capacitor based oscillator may drift due to temperature, humidity, self-heating, etc. There was also no stable and long lasting reference to evaluate against.

Sallas found this electro-mechanical oscillator for sale. He believes it could have possibly been used by a university research department. When procured, the tuning fork was covered in rust. (Rusted likely due to storage and lack of use for decades)

After cleaning, operation of the unit reveals a resonant frequency of ~79 Hz. This may be different than the original frequency due to the loss of metal from rusting and also rust removal actions.

Small screws on the fork's end extend or shorten the overall length. This will alter the resonant frequency. DC Electric, when applied to the two post energizes the center coil that attracts/repels the iron tuning fork. The screw, between the two post, is the output of the oscillator. The fork, touching the screw, provide the signal output. An interesting display piece for sure!



Editor's Note: In 1960 Bulova introduced their 'Accutron' watch. This watch used a very small tuning fork, similar to this, in place of a mechanical balance wheel. This was the first "electronic" watch. The use of a tuning fork at 360 Hz allowed accurate time keeping. (+/- 2 seconds a day) Due to the frequency of 360-Hz, some people had problems sleeping at night while wearing the watch. In 1977, quartz crystal advancements ended this product line.

Carl Kleinsorge — 1954 Revere Model 400 portable AC/DC Radio

Carl saw a similar radio ~12-15 years ago. He has since always wanted one... and now owns one today. Found this radio for sale at a Festus Antique Store. He saw the asking price of \$15.00 and was immediately surprised the seller was asking this little.

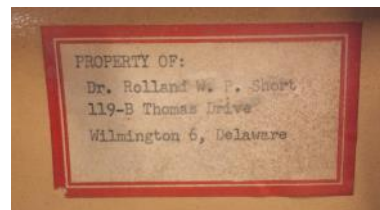
Revere, a Chicago company, is known by many as a manufacture of vintage film cameras (8mm) and projectors. Revere later expanded into audio tape recording and found great commercial success. Revere also ventured into radio production, but operated within this market for a very short time. This radio was their only radio product. Notably, Revere only manufactured 1,000 of these radios before halting their production. Believes maybe 100 exist today. Sold for \$44 in 1955 which is equal to ~\$350 today.

This radio sits within a leather case that looks similar to an era binocular case. This style of case was likely due to Revere being involved with optical based products. (Sold binoculars and other optical devices after buying New Jersey based *Wollensak Optical Company*.)

A label, within the lid, has the original owner's name. The radio, owned by a Delaware doctor, was likely a treasured item he did not want to loose.

For the era, this radio is very small in size. The case not only contained the radio and speaker, but also a 7.5 volt A-battery and a 67.5 volt B-battery. Enough room was still available to install a 1/4 inch headphone jack. The A/C cord was covertly installed within the leather strap. (The cord is shown here outside of the strap due to the leather breaking apart over the years.) A selenium rectifier is used. Carl plugged the radio in and was surprised it worked! No hum nor static! Listened to WGM, a Chicago AM station, for several hours.

The tuning knob provides vernier tuning permitting accurate adjustment regarding station reception. An antenna notably exist embedded within the lid. Carl plans to recap the radio in the future.



Canio Vaccaro — 1929 Rola Model 30-J—Electro-Magnetic Speaker

This is a moving coil speaker incorporated into a Cathedral styled tabletop cabinet. When plugged into an electrical light socket, a Westinghouse Full Wave Copper Oxide rectifier would provide DC power to the field excitation coil. The radio amplified the audio signal from any radio permitting “room filling” sound.

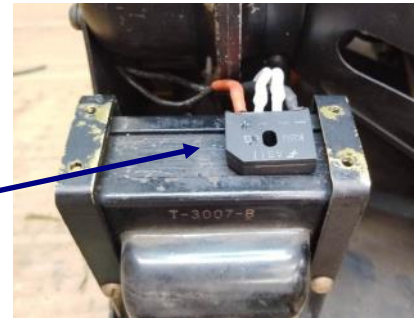
External loudspeakers were a successful product for Rola, later becoming Jenson. Their loudspeakers and amplifiers found global usage within televisions, stereos, organs, and guitar amplifiers.

Rola first introduced this radio with an MSRP of \$50.00. Canio illustrated an ad outlining the cost to be \$29.40. (\$50.00 in 1929 = \$940 in 2025.)

Canio discovered the original copper oxide rectifier was not working. This is likely due to eventual decaying / break-down of the multiple metal sheets physically compressed together. (These types of rectifiers were replaced decades later with a metal-semiconductor based components.) Canio had to first replaced the power cord. To restore operation, a modern day silicone rectifier (KBU6G) electrically replaced the failed copper oxide rectifier. (Notably, Rola had used a tube based rectifier on earlier models.)

Canio demonstrated operation of this speaker via a video recorded within his radio workman shop. (The speaker is loud!)

New rectifier placed on top of the speaker's 20:1 transform-



Shown reassembled. Silicone rectifier is hidden by the board containing the connections to the field coil. Notice the field coil. This likely comprises a majority of the speaker's 30-lb weight.

Marlin Mackley - A vintage custom built radio?

Marlin discovered this item within his electronic collection. He has never plugged it in since procuring it. It is believed this is likely a radio... but is not confident. (Has buttons, an antenna, and speaker.) Believes this may be a radio project built from instructions contained within a era electronics hobby magazine. (Such type of home builder creations were popular long ago. "Radio Craft" is an example of such publication.) The chassis is made from galvanized metal bent into shape. The cabinet is solid walnut.

A hand wound coil, visible within the rear, is likely an antenna. One will noticed there is not a tuning dial. There are however several push buttons that may be station presets. Station presets would be set/tuned by the adjusting of individualized coils internal to the radio.

Marlin came to the meeting with this radio and offered it for sale to club members. Marlin reported he did sell it after the meeting concluded.



Marlin (right) permitting a close visual inspection from ARCH Club member Lance Struger.

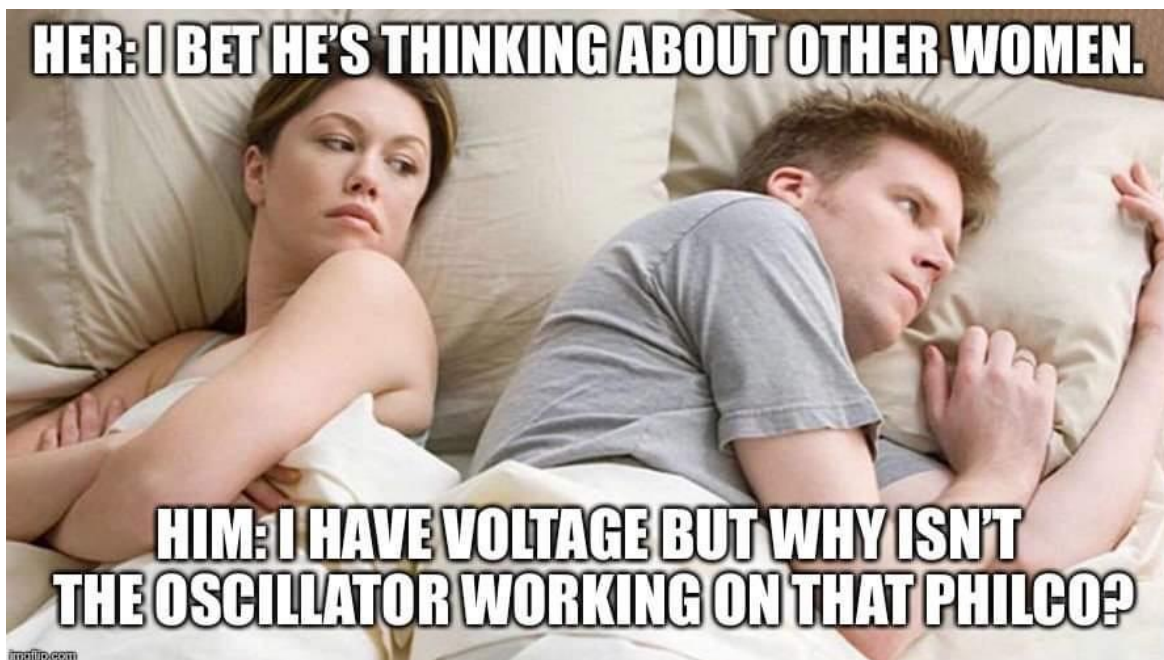
Joe Tauser—Jefferson Travis MR-3 Radio restoration

Joe spoke about his ongoing Jefferson Travis MR-3 radio restoration. He expressed the restoration has encountered complications. The oscillator is not reliably “oscillating”. When physically poking and hitting components within the oscillator circuit, proper oscillation will occasionally and momentarily occur. He can not figure out why it is not operating. Has asked club members for their input. Joe illustrated the schematic to the club. Club Member Carl K. spoke about the use of a resistor within the oscillator circuit that did not seem to be “normal”.

Electrical components that are normally “okay” will be now be electrically replaced. A radio restorer will normally not replace Mica based sealed capacitors because these vary rarely fail. Joe will be now replacing this capacitor based upon input from club members. Will discuss at a future club meeting.

Notably, the radio employs 1.5 volt vacuum tubes. Joe discussed how important that low voltage tubes, such as these, must have proper voltages applied.

A comical meme that may be similar to Joe and his girlfriend today....



Raffle Table

The raffle table was full of great things! Radios and boxes of vintage electrical components. Notably two Hallicrafters receivers, a tube tester, and various transistor radios were on the table. A Philco record player and radio were also present. Unlike commercial state run lotteries, ARCH Club raffle ticket prices have not changed in more than 10 years!



Fred Allen

Fred Allen was a comedian who wasn't content just to tell jokes; he wanted them to say something as well.

The humor on his radio (and later television) shows were topical, satiric, acerbic and always witty. But he had no illusions about the nature of his craft. In one of his two books, he wrote: *"When a radio comedian's program is finally finished it slinks down Memory Lane into the limbo of yesteryear's happy hours. All that the comedian has to show for his years of work and aggravation is the echo of forgotten laughter."*



Allen was born John Florence Sullivan in Cambridge, MA, in 1894. His father was a bookbinder at the Boston Public Library and a storyteller. After discovering a book on comedy in his father's shop, and reading volumes on juggling, the 18-year-old Allen began appearing in vaudeville shows throughout New England. His show consisted of juggling and comedy and he was billed under a variety of stage names, including Freddy James, the World's Worst Juggler. His bookings slowly increased, leading to appearances in Chicago and then to a year-long tour of Australia.

Allen returned to the U.S. in 1916, working his way east from San Francisco to New York where he decided to concentrate on his comedy. It was then that, due to a mistake by his agent, he was billed as Fred Allen. He played the Palace in 1919 and that exposure landed him roles in a variety of Broadway shows, including *The Passing Show* of 1922, where he met and married chorus girl Portland Hoffa in 1927. In 1932 Allen (and Hoffa) moved to radio, starring in the *Linit Bath Club Review* on CBS. The half-hour program featured Allen playing a variety of roles, but stood out from other comedy shows in that he told stories through the sketches, rather than offering one unrelated joke after another à la vaudeville.

After the Linit show's run ended, Allen moved to NBC in 1933, taking much of his staff with him, including Hoffa who played straight-woman to Allen. The NBC show went through numerous sponsors (and names, since most shows included the sponsor in their titles) since many were unnerved by Allen's habit of criticizing the advertising business and radio executives, as well as by his social and political satire. But the listeners loved it.

Fred Allen (continued)

In 1934 Allen renamed the show "Town Hall Tonight". The hour-long program featured a talent scout segment that allowed listeners to vote on their favorites by mail. Among those who performed were Frank Sinatra (then unknown) and comedian Carry Moore. A mock newscast also occurred based upon the week events. (A precursor to Saturday Night Live's Weekend Update and Comedy Central's "The Daily Show".) By 1936, the amateur segment was gone (NBC now had Major Bowes' Original Amateur Hour) and Allen introduced what would turn out to be a comedy — and radio — institution: his long-running "feud" with Jack Benny, whose show was No.1 at the time. Allen joked about Benny's ability on the violin, Benny answered on his next broadcast and Allen and Benny continued to trade insults every week, culminating in the broadcast of a fight between the two from the Hotel Pierre in New York on March 14, 1937. The fight, of course, never took place, but the insults continued to fly for years, with the two appearing on each other's show every year.

Town Hall Tonight became "The Fred Allen Show" in 1939, then "The Texaco Star Theater" in 1940. Probably the most popular sketch was "Allen's Alley," introduced in 1942, during which Allen would take a walk and knock on the doors of his neighbors from various ethnic backgrounds. Some became regulars, such as Mrs. Nussbaum, Titus Moody and Ajax Cassidy. Kenny Delmar portrayed Senator Beauregard Claghorn, the blustering southerner, who became so popular that Warner Bros, copied the idea for a cartoon character, Foghorn J. Leghorn.

"Allen's Alley" helped boost the show to the top of the ratings, overtaking even Jack Benny briefly in 1948. But it didn't last; the numbers began to slide in the 1948-49 season. Years of conflict with the network also came to a head that season, with NBC heavily censoring his scripts, deleting references to "the hucksters of radio" and killing satires of ad agencies. Allen went public with this very real feud and the network reacted by cutting him off the air in the middle of a joke. His colleagues came to his defense on the air. Bob Hope, Red Skelton and Dennis Day made jokes about the whole thing and NBC eventually gave in.

Fred Allen (continued)

The ratings continued to fall, due in part to competition from ABC's Stop the Music, a big-money quiz show with home participation. Allen tried to win back listeners, even offering \$5,000 to anyone who was called by Stop the Music while listening to Allen. The last Fred Allen broadcast took place on June 26, 1949, with Jack Benny as his guest. Even leaving the medium he'd worked in for so long was comic material for Allen: "After quitting radio I was able to live on the money I saved on aspirins." Allen moved into television, although he didn't have a high opinion of the new medium, calling it "[a device that permits people who haven't anything to do to watch people who can't do anything.](#)" He appeared on NBC's The Colgate Comedy Hour in 1950, starred on NBC's Chesterfield Sound Off Time in 1952, was the emcee of NBC's Judge For Yourself (1953-54) and was a panelist on CBS's What's My Line (1954-56).

Fred Allen died on March 17, 1956. The author Herman Wouk, who was one of Allen's writers from 1936 to 1941, eulogized Allen in a letter to the New York Times, writing: "Fred Allen was an eminent comic actor. But without a doubt his great contribution to life in America came in the marvelous eighteen-year Allen Show on radio. His was the glory of being an original personality, creating new forms of intelligent entertainment. He was without a peer and without a successful imitator."

FRED ALLEN IS BACK!!
7:30 TONIGHT


Back with America's famous adlib master are Portland Hoffa and Minerva Pious. New voices on Allen's Alley will be Parker Fennelly and Irving Kaufman. Guests on tonight's show will be Edgar Bergan and Charles McCarthy.

SPONSORED BY
 TENDERLEAF TEA

KSTP

FRED ALLEN

Visit Radio City




Advertising Slogans

Within the *April 2025 ARCH Newsletter*, there was a short discussion of radio jingles. I discovered, since this newsletter, the Wheaties Quartet, four male singers whom sung the jingle, were paid \$6 per week to sing the jingle live on air for years. (This equates to \$110 in 2023.) The quartet notably consisted of an undertaker, a bailiff, a printer, and a “business man”. I thought, “What about radio manufacture jingles or slogans? Many manufactures had great slogans/jingles for their brand!

The three most well known are below. A collection of other slogans will be included within a future newsletter.

Philco:



Philco's iconic radio slogan in 1938 was "*No Squat, No Stoop, No Squint.*" referring to their slanted-top radio design that made it easy to see the dial without needing to bend over.

While "*Hurry Home to your Philco*" was a popular slogan used by Philco in the UK according to the Philco Library, "*No Squat, No Stoop, No Squint*" was used in the US only.

RCA:



"*The Gift That Keeps On Giving*" This slogan, used for RCA phonographs, records, and later for radios and televisions, highlighted the continuous entertainment and enjoyment provided by these products.

"*The Sound Your Eyes Can Follow*" was the perfect slogan for the early 1960's RCA Victor campaign to promote hi-fi stereo in general and indirectly to sell more stereo units with giant speakers for the true stereo dynamics in your mid-century living room.

RCA's other know slogans are: "The most trusted name in television" (1963) and "World leader in radio – first in television" (1950). They also used slogans like "The most trusted name in electronics" (1987) and "Changing entertainment. Again." (2003). A notable one was "His Master's Voice" (associated with RCA Victor).

Advertising Slogans (continued)



Zenith:

Zenith's most famous and long-lasting slogan was "The Quality Goes In Before the Name Goes On." This slogan, first used in 1927, emphasized the company's commitment to quality and durability in their products. It was a defining aspect of the brand for over 60 years. (Editor's note: Many online sites state this slogan was "borrowed" from Crown Piano company also in Chicago.)

From the very beginning, Zenith focused on high quality radios, even if they were more expensive than the competition. In fact, their slogan in the 1920s was "It Costs More, but it Does More". Even so, Zenith did make radios available to everyone by having a range of lower priced models along with the higher priced ones. Zenith strived to keep their name known for quality. In much later years, Zenith's slogan was "The Quality Goes In Before The Name Goes On". (Except for the decade of the 1990s, this was a well deserved slogan.) Also notable was the slogan, "Zeniths play where many fail."



FOR THE WORLD OF MUSIC
-- *At its Finest!*

Zenith Quality
Radios and Radio-Phonographs Alone
Bring You Super-Sensitive FM

No finer music outside the concert hall itself—the clear, unintercepted, water-free music you enjoy on Zenith FM. And now, with Zenith's amazing new Super-Sensitive circuit, your enjoyment of music acquires even greater heights!

Reaching far beyond the usual FM range, powerful Zenith Super-Sensitive FM brings in more stations, more programs. And, with Zenith's larger, four-speaker design brings you a presentation in full, rich glorious tone. New, superior Zenith tuning circuits prevent station drifting or fading. Tune easier . . . and stay tuned. No antenna is needed in primary signal areas.

Only in Zenith table radios and with big radio-phonograph combinations can you enjoy all the features of this better FM, plus famous Zenith Long Distance AM reception, too. See them now at your Zenith Radio and Television dealer.

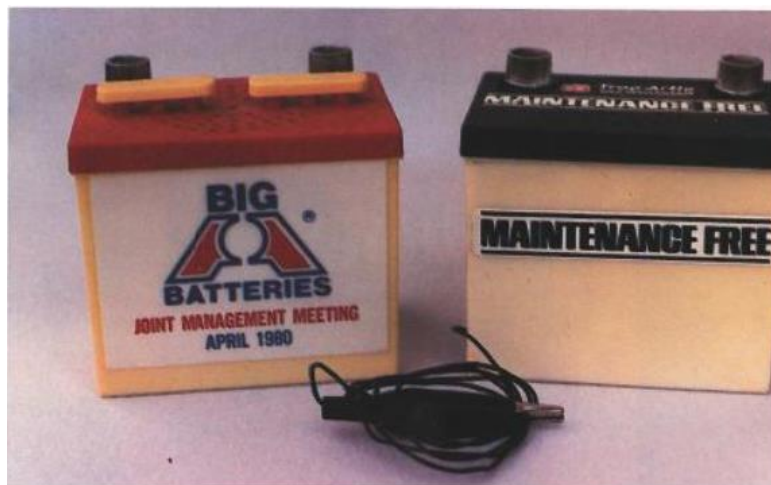
World's Finest Record Playing, Too!
New Zenith "Cobra-Matic" . . . first and only record player that lets you play every record—all records—at the exact speed at which they were recorded . . . enables you to adjust for perfect pitch, tempo and tone quality. Lets you play not only 33 1/3, 45 and 78 r.p.m., but all intermediate speeds between 10 and 35, including the coming new 16 & 20. Your insurance for the future of record playing. Yours only in Zenith radio-phonographs!

New Zenith "Super-Symphany" Super-Sensitive FM Long-Distance AM. More sensational tone and reception even in a Zenith table radio. New eye-Broad Range Tone Control. Walnut piano cabinet.

Zenith Radio Corporation, Chicago 29, Illinois • Over 20 Years of "Know-How" in Radio-Phonograph • Also Makers of Fine Moving Pictures

Novelty Radios

These AM novelty radios were marketed for battery manufactures.



AM radios with the appearance of a 12 volt automotive lead acid battery.



An AM radio distributed by Radio Shack on left. The same AM radio was made for Ray-O-Vac to promote their own battery manufacturing.





After World War II, the FM frequency band was shifted from 42-50 Mhz to 88.0-106 Mhz. This was done as it was discovered signals in the earlier frequency range were experiencing occasional atmospheric signal reflection at night. These reflection were interfering with other stations on the same frequency. RCA proposed the FCC alter the FM band to a higher frequency band to reduce this issue. FCC agreed, with a lot of controversy, and moved stations to the higher frequency. One can tell how old a radio is based upon it's FM Band range.

Question: Why is FM frequency band plan step up in odd numbers. For example, 90.3 and the next stations is 90.5. Why is this not even? (90.2, 90.4, etc)

Answer:

In 1946, the provisioned FM Frequency band, 88.0 Mhz to 108.0 Mhz, was divided equally into 100 channels. Each channel was thus 200-Khz wide. An FM station sits in the middle of the allocated 200 Khz channel to prevent interference to adjacent stations. If the band started at 88.1 Mhz, the stations would have an even frequency step increase. Europe FM stations have even frequencies because their FM band starts at 87.5. Notably, Europe has a step increase of 9-kHz for AM while the US has a step increase of 10-kHz. (Unsure why this was not a global standard.) It is notable that these different step increases make it easy to discover or search for Europe stations as you modify the frequency step on a digital radio.

Question for the August Newsletter: What difference exist between an all American 5 tube radio and an All American 6 tube radio?

Radio Quote OfThe Month:

“I prefer radio to television because the pictures are better.”

- Alistair Cooke (journalist , radio and TV personality)

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Joe's Capacitor Stand

- Metalized Polyester Axial Lead & Electrolytic Capacitors
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