



OSCILLATOR

DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC
October 1998

Vol. 6, No. 10,

This Month's Meeting

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 13 at 7:30 PM at the Telford Community Building.

The program will be "Stump the Experts Show and Tell." In this combination of *Antiques Road Show* and *What in the World*, our panel of experts will attempt to identify and evaluate your strangest radio possessions. Let's put an emphasis on transistor widgets and give Bill Overbeck a real work out.

This month's auction theme is **components**. As always, other items are welcome as well.

September Meeting

As reported by Dave Snellman

Well, here we are at the September meeting already! Rochester is history for this year. Plans are on the way for

DVHRC's Super Winter Meet. Look for details in future editions of the Oscillator, as well as many other publications. Known as the "Havertown Meet," it is held in February and has gained speed since its first year at the Grimes Center. Now it is the prime winter meet for radio collectors and the 1999 meet promises to be bigger than ever.

Although it seems as if we were just talking about Rochester, it's history for this year. Many DVHRC members were there – some as vendors, some as buyers. Aside from a little rain on Wednesday, the meet was very successful. Lots of vendors, buyers, seminars, good times, and of course the auctions.

Speaking of auctions, here are some auction results provided by Ray Chase. The communications equipment auction, hosted by Ed Gable, resulted in 55 items netting over \$3800. The tube auction had 186 lots that netted \$12,125. Paper and collectibles brought in \$5700 from 153 lots. The general auction with 261 lots generated \$42,909. The total for all auctions was over \$60,000. The auctions took a lot of time; however, I think buyers and sellers alike were pleased with the results.

Thirty-five members were in attendance at the September meeting. We always want to welcome new members and this month we welcome Paul Weidenschilling and Benj Janyszeski. Also a welcome back to John Ianere in the DVHRC fold. Remember to tell your friends, or anyone else interested in radio history about our club. Dues are only \$10 per year. Send inquiries to the address on the masthead.

DVHRC, known for being on the forefront of radio history, had Norman Smith's latest book available at the meeting. Transistor Radios 1954-1968 provides the collector with hundreds of full-color pictures of transistor radios manufactured in America, Japan and the rest of the world, along with pricing information. Great pictures! Normally a \$30 book, DVHRC members can pick one up at our meetings for \$24. The club also has a few of Norm's first book Zenith Transistor Radios – Evolution of a Classic available for the same low-price of \$24. (It does pay to attend DVHRC meetings!) If you missed getting your copy at this meeting, they will be available again at the October meeting. Books at a discount aren't the only reason for attending our meetings. We have great technical presentations and this month was no

COMING EVENTS

- Oct 9** NJARC Meeting, Freehold, NJ
- Oct 10** NJARC Swap Meet, Freehold NJ
- Oct 13** DVHRC Meeting, 7:30 PM
- Oct 17** Hamfest, Hanover, Pa.
- Oct 18** Hamfest, Sellersville, Pa. (RF Hill)
- Oct 25** Hamfest, Westminster, Md.
- Nov 7** Hamfest, Hershey, Pa.
- Nov 10** DVHRC Meeting, 7:30 PM
- Nov 13** NJARC Meeting, Freehold, NJ
- Nov 27** Fair Lawn ARC auction
Fair Lawn, NJ Ph: 973-427-3551

THE OSCILLATOR

*Newsletter of the
Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club
P.O. Box 847
Havertown, Pa. 19083*

The *Oscillator* is published monthly by members of the non-profit DVHRC. Its purpose is to provide a forum to educate, inform, entertain, and communicate with collectors and preservers of vintage radio technology.

We welcome and solicit information relating to radio history or collecting. Submissions should be carefully researched, typed and accompanied with clear photographs or diagrams. Material on-disc (3-1/2" DOS/Win95) is particularly welcome.

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Personal views, opinions and technical advice offered in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the members, officers or Board of Directors of the DVHRC, nor is the organization responsible for any buying or selling transaction incurred.

To join: DVHRC dues is \$10 per year. The membership year runs January-through-December. Please mail to the club PO box above.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM

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COPY DEADLINE: The 20th of each month

exception. Ted Sowirka presented a very interesting talk on the design and implementation of radio dial scales. Radios were designed for use by the average person, or someone without any technical savvy. The result was most radios contained two basic controls. One to turn it on or off, and to adjust the volume. The other was the station selector, or the tuner. Ideal tuning requirements for radios included the characteristics of "fast-slow" tuning, no backlash, repeatability, smoothness, along with easy to read dial scales. As we all know some designers did a better job than others in designing their tuning dials.

In his talk, Ted took us from the battery set days with their 0-100 dial scales through the development of various dial scales (round or airplane, slide rule, and drum types.) We learned that many of the formats used were the product of the components used by the set designers. The main tuning capacitor (OK - condenser) was the frequency- determining device of the radio set. The cost of the receiver influenced the type of tuning and quality of components used in the set. The main tuning capacitor was the major influence on the resulting dial. Three variations on tuning capacitors were found in radios: the straight-line frequency, the straight-line capacitance, and the straight-line wavelength. Design techniques used in developing scales that followed prototype construction followed this pattern. The first step was to perform a preliminary alignment. The next step was to gather additional frequency data. This was compared with a number of other prototypes. Once enough information was gathered, a large-scale art-master was produced. This enabled mass production of the dial scale on radios that the average user could tune and re-tune with ease and some accuracy.

Tony Flanagan

It is with great sadness that we note the untimely passing of Charles A. "Tony" Flanagan founding president of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club. He will be missed by the entire antique radio community.

Tony was a special agent with the U.S. Secret Service for 20 years until 1991. After his retirement, he was a special agent in charge of the Philadelphia office of the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Office of the Inspector General for six years, retiring in 1998. He dedicated his life to law enforcement and his family. He was a founder and first president of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club, Freehold NJ. He served in the Air Force and was a graduate of Northwest Missouri State University. Born in New Brunswick, he lived in East Brunswick, Roselle Park, Spotswood, Howell and Oak Grove, Mo., before moving to Freehold Township 14 years ago. Contributions in Tony's memory may be made to the Greater Monmouth VNA Hospice, 111 Union Ave., Long Branch, NJ 07740.

RADIO'S NIGHT OF TERROR

By Mike Koste

".....Ladies and gentlemen, I've just been handed a message that came in from Grover's Mill by telephone. Just a moment.....At least forty people, including six State Troopers, lie dead in a field east of the village of Grovers Mill, their bodies burned and distorted beyond all possible recognition. The next voice you hear will be that of Brigadier General Montgomery Smith, Commander of the State Militia at Trenton....."

If you weren't one of the majority listening to the antics of Charlie McCarthy on NBC that night, and happened to tune-in late to The Mercury Theater On the Air on CBS, the preceding dialogue may have made you one of the victims of the most memorable radio broadcasts in history.

".....Incredible as it may seem, both the observations of science and the evidence of our eyes lead to the inescapable assumption that those strange beings who landed in the Jersey farmlands tonight are the vanguard of an invading army from the planet Mars."

H.G. Wells *War of the Worlds* was scary enough even without the dramatic flourishes provided by scriptwriter Howard Koch and Broadway's "Boy Wonder" Orson Wells. Herbert George Wells has been recognized as one of the greatest minds of the century, having penned other sci-fi classics *The Invisible Man* and *The Time Machine*. Even more remarkable than his literary output, Wells stories depicted futuristic marvels like the combat tank and the atomic bomb. "*War of the Worlds*", written in 1898, was his second novel and was the first ever to describe extraterrestrials and mass panic in fiction.

".....Good heavens! Something's wriggling out of the shadows like a gray snake. Now it's another one...and another. They look like tentacles to me. It's as large as a bear, and glistens like wet leather. But that face...it's indescribable. I'm hardly able to force myself to keep looking at it. The eyes are black and gleam like a serpent's, The mouth is V shaped with saliva dripping from it's lips that seem to quiver and pulsate....."

Sixty years ago this month, radio pushed the listener's panic button. Public reaction has prompted decades of research into mass hysteria. The broadcast of "*War of the Worlds*" on October 30, 1938 has also been used as a model by the military around the world to design information warfare against enemy troops and civilian populace, and surely, the most compelling reason to protect the public from the knowledge of the presents of aliens on Earth.

".....The battle which took place tonight in Grover's Mill has ended in one of the most startling defeats ever suffered by any army in modern times; seven thousand men armed with rifles and machine guns pitted against a single fighting machine of the invaders

from Mars. One hundred twenty known survivors. The rest strewn over the battle area from Grovers Mill to Plainsboro, crushed and trampled to death under the metal feet of the monster, or burned to cinders by it's heat ray....."

So how severe was the terror? Patrolman John Morrison was on duty at the switchboard of the Bronx Police Headquarters when all of his phone lines became busy at once. Among the first he answered was a man who informed him "They're bombing New Jersey!" The New York Telephone Company reported it had never received so many calls in one hour in years in Westchester. Jersey City police were bombarded with calls asking, "Have the police any extra gas masks?" Traffic became snarled at Hedden Terrace and



Orson Wells meets the press the morning after.

Hawthorne in Newark by more than twenty families who ran into the street believing "the gas attack" had started. In Philadelphia, law enforcement official found families with wet cloths on their faces, contorted with hysteria

"...This is Newark, New Jersey. Warning. Poisonous black smoke pouring in from the Jersey marshes. Reaches South Street. Gas masks useless. Urge population to move into open spaces. Automobiles use routes seven, twenty-three, twenty-four. Avoid congested areas. Smoke now spreading over Raymond Boulevard....."

It fair to assume that much of the believability of "The War of the Worlds" can be attributed to the locality of the drama. The Mercury Theater broadcast moved the story from Well's native England to the Columbia Broadcasting System's backyard in suburban New Jersey. Reaction in major population cells in the Northeast probably could have been expected, but wasn't limited to New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. West Coast listeners called their local CBS affiliate asking for casualty lists. The Boston Globe told of one woman who claimed she could "see the fire" and that she any many of her neighbors were "getting out of here". At the Associated Press office in Kansas City, numerous inquires were made on the "meteors". In Birmingham, Alabama, people gathered in groups and prayed. And in Indianapolis, a woman ran into a church screaming "New York is destroyed; it's the end of the world. You might as well go home to die. I just heard it on the radio."

" numerous bulletins are piling up in the studio here. We are informed that the Central portion of New Jersey is blacked out from radio communication due to the effect of the heat ray on power lines and electrical equipment.....Astronomers report continuous gas outbursts occurring at regular intervals on the planet Mars. The majority voices opinion that enemy will be reinforced by additional rocket machines....."

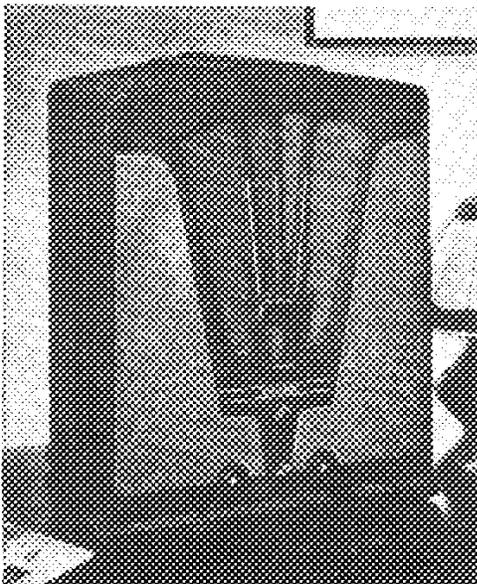
Broadcast historians tend to agree that what listeners *thought* they heard on the air contributed as much to the mayhem as the program itself. There were earwitnesses who insisted that President Roosevelt, a well-known radio voice in the 1930's, addressed the nation during the drama, adding further credibility to the invasion fantasy. It may have been Orson Welles' and Howard Koch's intention to include the President in the script, but due to pressure from the network, changed the character to the "Secretary of the Interior". Still, one must wonder whether the casting of Kenny Delmar (well-known for his FDR imitation) was a coincidence or the sly mind of Orson Welles at work

".....I will not try to conceal the gravity of the situation that confronts the country. No, the concern of your government is protecting the lives and property of its people. However, I wish to impress upon you; private citizens and public officials, all of you, the urgent need of calm and resourceful action."

It would be difficult to imagine the same kind of mass misinterpretation of a radio dramatization in this day and age. We're so well-wired to media sixty years after *War of the Worlds*, that if word of impending doom of this magnitude showed up on radio or cable TV, our short attention span would force us to hit the remote and select another channel.

Nonetheless, it's still fun to give *The War* another listen. The low-end technology hasn't held up very well with the passage of time. Still, it always was, and still is, a fascinating piece of science fiction. And should you ever care to invite the younger generation in to hear the program and hear the story of the hysteria it caused, remember this

The people who believed *The War of the Worlds* was real in 1938 were far less gullible than the people who weren't listening. While the Mercury Theater was dismantling the planet before their ears, everyone else was listening to Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy on NBC. A ventriloquist. On radio.



PHILCO 16 Baby Grand

Quiet elegance and attractive simplicity characterize the design of this powerful new Baby Grand. Dark piano-toned woods, decorated with Butt Walnut and old ivory trim, make it a welcome addition to any room. Hand-rubbed satin finish.

Employing the same chassis as the 16X, this distinguished PHILCO creation gives you marvelous radio performance. Here, in compact form, is a radio that enables its owner to enjoy the finest programs the world has to offer.

Auction Report- AWA Rochester 1998 – Communications Equipment

Courtesy of Ray Chase

| | |
|--|------|
| Farnsworth BC-314G military VLF rec., original and works good | 115- |
| National SW-3 w/6 coils and manual, good (no sale at 200- reserve) | |
| Heathkit Mohican GC-1 rec. w/plug in PS, good | 35- |
| Millen Wavemeter coils, military I-129B, 4 coils in metal case, fair | 20- |
| Hallicrafters SX-25 Super Defiant, good | 75- |
| Johnson Viking CB 4740 (a CB set) (no sale at 30- reserve) | |
| Hallicrafters S-38B, good | 22- |
| GE YRS SSB Adaptor, good | 22- |
| Abbott TR-4 2.5 M Transceiver, good | 25- |
| Home Brew 3 tube regen rec., super workmanship | 105- |
| Heathkit Q Multiplier QF-1, good w/manual | 6- |
| Gonset code osc./monitor, good | 20- |
| RME DB-23 Preselector, good | 28- |
| Home Brew 100kc crystal calibrator, excellent workmanship | 40- |
| National 100A, fair | 45- |
| RME DB-36 Converter, 5M etc, good (no sale at 75- reserve) | |
| Home Brew 40M QRP Trans., excellent workmanship | 45- |
| Heathkit SB-400 100W Trans. w/manual, good | 25- |
| Lafayette HE-30 rec., VG, working | 30- |
| Hallicrafters S19R, VG | 40- |
| National NC-183 rec. w/speaker and manual, has new power trans. and has been recapped | 80- |
| Hallicrafters SPR-47 small speaker, nice | 56- |
| CBY 52232 Navy version of ARC-5 Trans., 2.1 to 3.0 Mhz. fair, needs some work | 18- |
| Hallicrafters SX-71, good but S meter bad (no sale at 50- reserve) | |
| Heathkit HP-13 DC to DC Conv. w/manual, fair | 12- |
| Speaker for GPR-90, good | 105- |
| Plug-In coil set (4), regen type, 5 pin | 15- |
| Hallicrafters SX-62 rec., glass dial scale is gone, else fair | 45- |
| RME DB-23 Preselector, good | 30- |
| Hallicrafter SX-28, good | 300- |
| Collins 75A-4 rec. good | 450- |
| R-390, not original meters, some elec. restoration, good | 200- |
| Hallicrafters SX-62A, good working | 135- |
| Hallicrafters T-5 Sky Buddy (1936) VG w/orig. manual | 180- |
| Lafayette HA600 rec., good | 35- |
| Crosley REO wood case Navy grey morale rec., good | 150- |
| Hallicrafters S-38, good | 55- |
| Heathkit Mohican w/manual, good | 50- |
| Hallicrafters S41W (white), works, very dirty, some rust | 20- |
| Hallicrafter SX-16, fair with very poor speaker (grill and bars missing) | 95- |
| Abbott TR-4, nice | 32- |
| Gonset Communicator II (2 each) 2M transceivers, w/mike | 32- |
| Hammerlund Super Pro, fair | 20- |
| Knight T-150 trans., fair, new electrolytics supplied separately | 20- |
| Hallicrafters S19R Sky Buddy, good (did not meet reserve, no sale) | |
| Hallicrafters Skyrider Marine, good | 80- |
| Hallicrafters S120, good | 19- |
| National FB-7 w/80 & 160 coils and dog house supply, good | 300- |
| Howard 430, fair to good, usual dial roughness | 75- |
| Hallicrafters S-40, good | 35- |
| Drake R-4A and T-4X, trans./rec./PS and manuals, good | 180- |
| International Crystal Mfg. Co. 6M converter (consists of small box of modules and parts) | 7- |
| Millen 50W exciter w/20M coils and tubes, good, rack mount | 95- |
| Swan 500CX w/PS and speaker unit and manual, VG | 110- |
| National RBL-2 15-200khz. rec, good | 70- |
| Home Brew modulation monitor, rack mount, good | 32- |
| R-390 w/orig. meters, EAC mfg., one shield gone, w/manual, VG (NS - 550- reserve) | |

55 items total with 6 no sales. Total sales = \$3826.00

BUY SELL SWAP

FOR SALE: Old radios and 78 RPM records from an estate. Includes **Zenith #5614**, **Silvertone** radio/disk recorder, and **RCA ACR-175** communications receiver. Contact: George Rottina, 17A Lumberjack Cir., Horsham, Pa. 19044. Phone: 215-675-9055.

FOR SALE: A considerable collection of vintage radio and TV test equipment will be offered at auction at the DVARC October meeting.

FOR SALE: **Sencor VC93**, Format VCR Analyzer, Like new condition. \$1000. Call Don rector at work 215-233-4100 x 8449, 8AM-4PM.

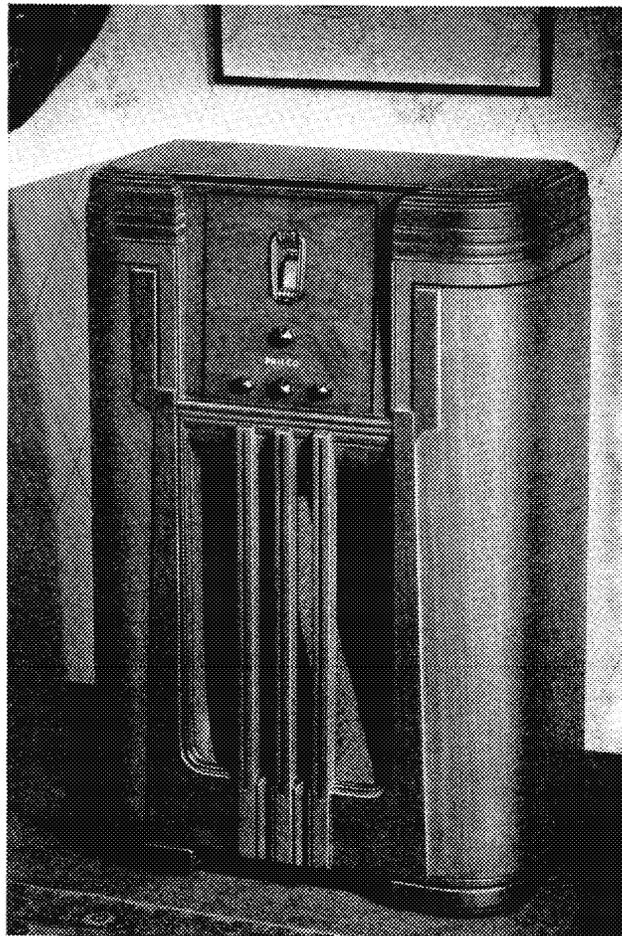
FOR SALE:: **7JP4 CRT**, good filament, screen looks OK, make offer. Alton Dubois, Jr., 67 Peggy Ann Road, Queensbury, NY 12804, Phone 518-792-3130

WANTED: Cast aluminum lid for **Eveready #2** radio circa 1928. Good photo would be a help if lid not available, Need two four inch black No, 488 **dial knobs for Fried Eisemann NR-6**. Alton Dubois, Jr., 67 Peggy Ann Road, Queensbury, NY 12804, Phone 518-792-3130

HELP: Would the person who sold Marc Ellis the Philco 70 cabinet please contact him at PO Box 1306, Evanston, Ill 600204-1306; ellis@interaccess.com; 847-869-5016.

FOR SALE: **Antique telegraph instruments** circa 1868-1878; 2 each. Key and register (sic) on wooden base. L.M. Ericsson AB, Stockholm, Looks like Siemens and Halske model 1868. **Asian financial crisis forces sale.** Mr. Thavorn Suwankit, Ham call E21DWM, 55295 MOO7 Saranrom Village Soi Nuanjan, Navamin Rd, Klong Kum Bounng Kum, Bangkok, Thailand 10230; Phone: 6616272017 anytime. (This was dated Aug 1998 and was pretty tough copy. Good luck! – Ed.)

WANTED: Looking for accessories for AN/GRC-9 field radio, especially front cover, whip antenna, and power cord for DY-88 power supply. Al Klase, 908-782-4829, skywaves@bw.webex.net



NEW 1935 PHILCO 16X

RUSSIAN MARITIME RADIO RECEIVER

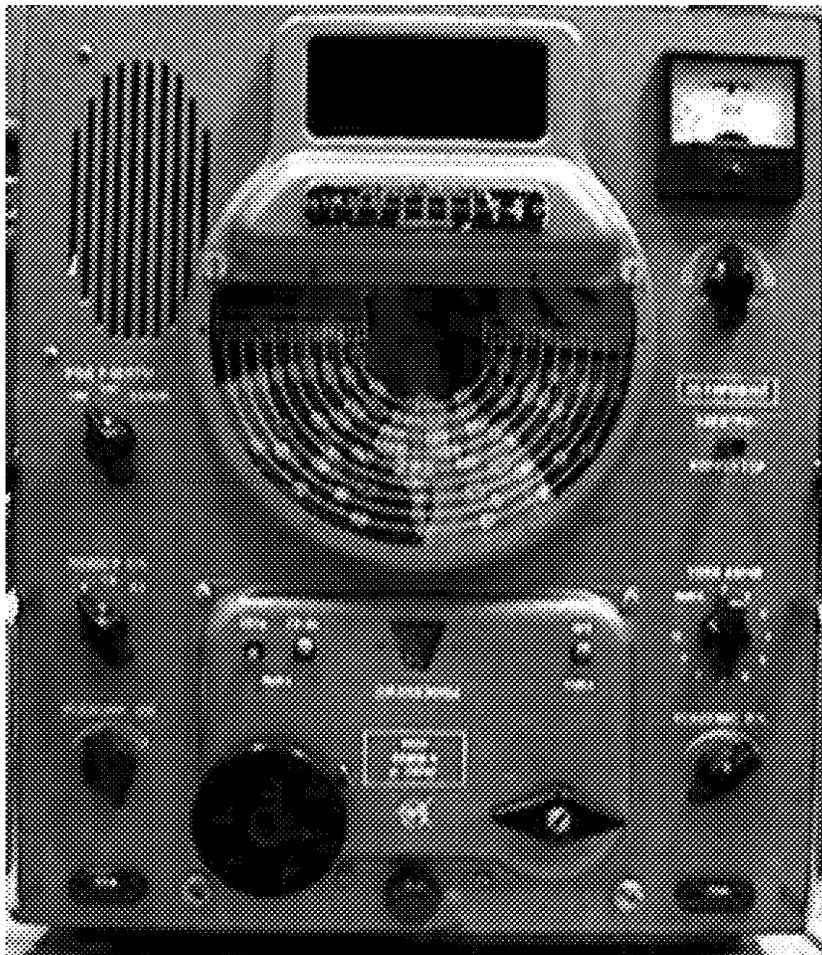
A peak behind the fallen Iron Curtain

By Al Klase

My latest treasure, snagged in the early morning hours at the Gaithersburg, Md. hamfest, is a Russian maritime radio known as a Volna-K. Volna means wave in Mother Russia, and the surprising complete manual has a blue and white wave motif on the cover complete with a trawler logo. The set appears to have been designed in the '50's or '60's.

This receiver employs 17 tubes, mostly Russian equivalents of 6BA6, 6BE6, and 6AK5's. Nine bands cover 12 KHz to 23 MHz, less most of the broadcast band. The circuit is double conversion above 1500 KHz with IF's of 915 KHz and 85 KHz. An LC filter at the second IF provides selectivity of 6, 1.5, or 0.5KHz. The fairly large "rainbow" dial is augmented by a sexy projection dial for reasonably precise tuning. There is a crystal calibrator with 100 KHz and 1 MHz positions. Components and build quality are very good. The cabinet and front panel have a very nice hammertone grey finish.

A lot of Teutonic influence is apparent when compared to my WWII Fu.H.E.a intercept receiver: The front panel is taller than wide (15" by 12"). The main dial is large and easy to read. The tuning knob and RF gain are on the lower left for easy left-hand operation while copying code. Band selection is by way of a turret tuner. The set is semi-modular, with cast subassemblies with ample shielding. Resistors are mostly metal film units. In



addition, a front panel meter monitors the plate current of the 10 tubes in the signal path for easy fault isolation.

Do any of you know anything about the history and application of this set? It appears to have been tooled for mass production and the serial number is in the 70,000 range. This radio appears to be commercial rather than military.

For those of you who saw the receiver at Gaithersburg, I replace the dial window, and made a new dial scale via the scanner and Corel Photo Paint. It looks much better now.

