

SOUND WAVES

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VRPS Winter 2019

From the President



Well, as I write this column in mid-December, I realize that, as we turn to the new year, I will be entering my 20th year as president of this fine organization. To all the members, and especially the Board of Directors I am privileged to work with, I say thanks for the opportunity. Those directors include Blake, Dave, Mike G., Randy, Larry, Mike M., Mary Ann, Ed, Bill, George, and Cleo. As a governing body, this group is responsible for establishing a schedule of activities, from monthly meeting topic to convention planning. However, that planning is

not done in a vacuum; we seek your input, so do not hesitate to share your thoughts for opportunities and meeting topics with me or one of these directors.

We are fortunate to be living and collecting in a time that each year is presented as a 100-year anniversary of some aspect of early radio. For example, RCA was formed by an act of Congress in 1919. In 1920 KDKA began what many believe to be the first radio broadcast. 1921 saw the rapid take-off of radio manufacturing, including Crosley and numerous others. Most of these early manufacturers were nowhere to be found 10 years later. For the foreseeable future as collectors, we should not have a problem locating century old examples of our favorite collectibles. How neat is that! The best part is that these radios can be made to work just like they did 100 years ago.

I have said this many times before, and I will continue to do so - if you live anywhere near the metroplex and do not make it a habit of attending our monthly meeting/activity, I think you are not getting the full benefit of your organization. Come join us often!!

Good collecting.

--Jim



Meet Your Board of Directors - Cleo Cherryholmes

Compiled by Mike Grimes

Cleo Cherryholmes, born just as the depression era was getting underway, perhaps, set the stage to grow up in the Golden Age of Radio. In their home town of Crawfordsville, Iowa, the family owned a Ford dealership in which three generations participated in the operation and management. There Cleo grew up and went to public school. Like most boys, he worked odd jobs delivering papers, and mowing lawns. Always interested in things mechanical and electrical, spurred on by opportunity of working in the family garage, he became a "pretty good" mechanic. The small school (12 in his class) in Crawfordsville, allowed these special interests to flourish. It was not all academics though as Cleo participated in Basketball and his team made it to the Class B State finals. In addition, a champion table tennis player was among other skills.

Formative years included not only working on cars, but

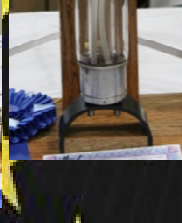
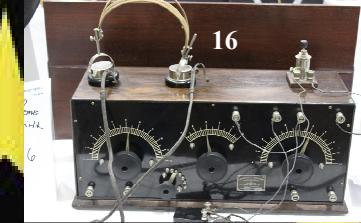
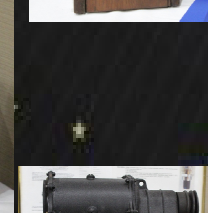
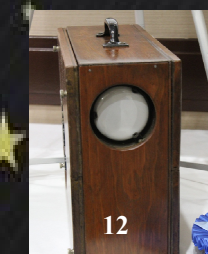
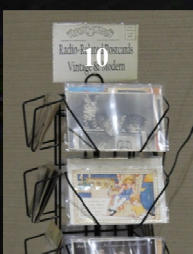
various electrical devices including radios. Radio broadcasting was becoming pervasive and so receiving sets were of great interest. This area was not overlooked by Cleo. Receiving radio signals was a popular passion as everyone was listening to radio "shows" delivered by this popular medium. Thus it was important to have working radios. Parts were hard to come by as the world was preparing for War. This brought about a call for metal salvage and many radios made their way into the accumulation in the scrap yard. As undesirable salvage, so many radios were rescued by Cleo, who brought them home, that his father finally said, "Stop, enough."

After graduation from high school, Cleo pursued a degree in Electronics Engineering from Iowa State University of Science and Technology; Ames, Iowa. Finishing his degree in EE in 1952, a job awaited at Sylvania Burlington, Iowa; there specializing in the

Continued on page 7

2018 VRPS Old Equipment Contest Winners

Category Name	Entry	Member
1. Crystal Radios - Pre 1940	Kodel Crystal Radio	Bob Slagle
3. AC Table Radios Pre WWII	Silver Circle	Bob Slagle
5. Transistor Radios Pre 1965 (TIE)	Working TR-1	Larry Lamia
5. Transistor Radios Pre 1965 (TIE)	Toshiba Transistor Radio Display	Bob Lutz
8. Tube Type Ham or Military Equipment	SCR68 WW1 Aircraft Radio Transceiver	Tom Burgess
9. Novelty Radios Tube or Transistor	Radio Hat	Tom Burgess
10. Ads, Ephemera, and Accessories	Radio-Related Postcards	Mary Ann Caruth
11. Television Receivers - Pre 1970 (TIE)	See-All Scanning Disc TV	Tom Burgess
11. Television Receivers - Pre 1970 (TIE)	Philco Predicta	Larry Whitlock
12. Test Equipment Pre- 1950	General Radio 635B Electron Oscilloscope	Dale Allen
13. Table Top Art Deco Radios	Grunow 250, Lang, Majestic 44	Rich Klarr
14. Vacuum Tubes	Machlett Very High Voltage Rectifier	Tom Burgess
15. Homebrew/Kit Radios	1923 Fada Model 169A Knock Down Kit	Dave Seymour
16. Convention Theme: Zenith	Chicago Radio Laboratories Paragon Tuner	Bob Botto
17. Automobile Radios Pre 1960	Auto Radio Assortment	Cecil Miles
18. Open Category	WW2 Navy Infrared Receiver & IP25 Tube	Tom Burgess



2018 VRPS Old Equipment Contest Winners Special Awards



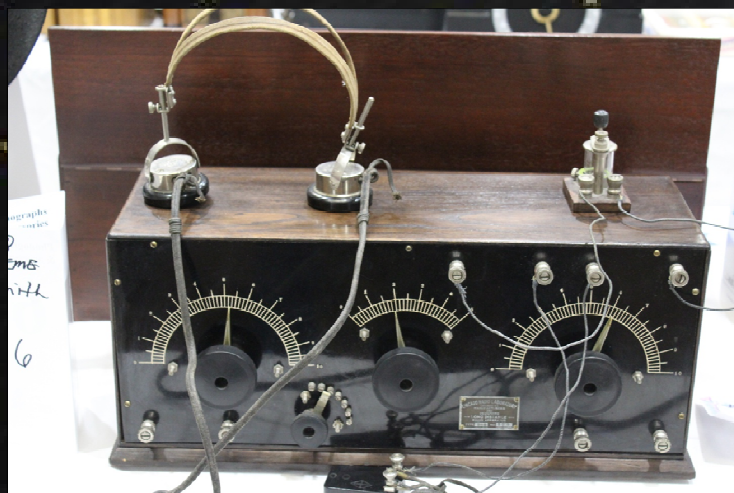
First Time Contestant
Catalin Model 1941
George Wilder



Best Restoration
Zenith Model 212
Mike Grimes



Peoples' Choice
Philco Predicta
Larry Whitlock



Best of Show
& Founders' Award
Chicago Radio Laboratories
Paragon Tuner Bob Botto

2018 Christmas Party

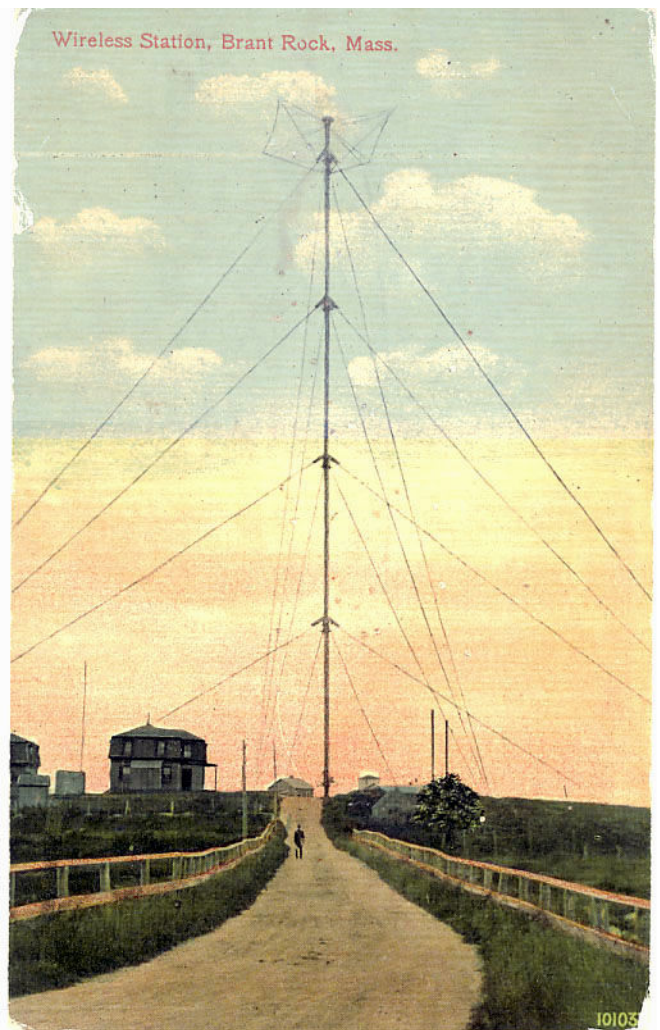




113 Years Ago

In January 1906, Reginald Fessenden achieved the first two-way transatlantic radiotelegraph transmission, exchanging Morse code messages between his stations in Brant Rock and Machrihanish, Scotland. (Marconi had only achieved one-way transmissions prior to his date). On Christmas Eve, December 24, 1906, Fessenden transmitted from Brant Rock Station the first audio radio broadcast of music and entertainment in history. Radio operators on ships in the Atlantic heard a broadcast that included Fessenden playing the song O Holy Night on the violin and reading a passage from the Bible.

Although Fessenden's antenna in Brant Rock was demolished in 1917, the insulated base on which it stood still survives. The layers of concrete were originally separated by arrays of ceramic insulators. --Wikipedia



Postcard circa 1910



Continued from page 2

manufacture of electron vacuum tubes. After two years at Sylvania, Cleo was drafted into the Army. He married Wanda Woodard while still on Army duty. After Basic training at Fort Smith, Arkansas, they moved to Fort Huachuca, Arizona where an assignment on the Electronics Proving Grounds fit for his training.

After his tour in the army, Cleo returned to Burlington with the assignment of working on the design and manufacture of sub-miniature vacuum tubes, specifically the double diode design.

Meanwhile, as a supplement to his employment, he started a background music system, distributed on phone lines throughout the Burlington area. These were installed as BGM (background music systems) in stores and restaurants in Burlington, Iowa.

In 1969, after the Burlington plant closed, he was transferred to Ottawa, Ohio. There he assisted with the design and manufacture of black and white as well as color picture tubes for the TV industry. As many companies do, the Sylvania plant was acquired by GTE and later by Philips. Cleo had the same assignment throughout these ownership changes.

While in Ohio, an interest in model trains (HO gage) led to an elaborate layout covering most of his home basement. His son continues with this hobby to this day. From here, his interests evolved into collecting and restoring antique-vintage radios for himself and others. Over the years a premier collection of radios, electronic items, early transistor TVs, and test equipment was amassed. Most were repaired and restored by Cleo.

Cleo retired to Sachse, Texas in 1994, to be closer to family. It did not go unnoticed that a custom-built workshop and display was included in the new home. Until recently, the pursuit of collecting, restoring, and repairing radio and small TV sets for himself and others has been his passion. Being the "expert" that many depended on for help, he has always been willing to share his knowledge and assistance. He, also, occasionally, entertains his great grandchildren.

Soon after moving to Texas, Cleo joined the Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society (VRPS) and has served on the board of directors as vice president.

Cleo is a colleague, teacher, a gentleman and friend.



- ***The VRPS has a radio display on the fifth floor of the Erik Jonsson Central Library in downtown Dallas. Free parking in the underground lot.***
- ***Found at the VRPS Convention: HVRA Polo Shirt - Please describe color and size to editor.***

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MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS 2019

NOTE: Programs will be held at various locations in Irving, Texas. Make note of the location as they may change from time to time. Senter East, 228 Chamberlain St.; or Garden and Arts, 906 S Senter Rd. Maps are located on the WEB site, www.VRPS.org EVENTS page. Programs start at 2pm. unless otherwise noted. Call us on the cell tellie if you get lost: 972-898-7251 or 972-742-8085.

JANUARY 19 — TRICKS OF THE TRADE — FORUM — GARDEN AND ARTS 1 PM

FEBRUARY 16 — TBA — GARDEN AND ARTS 1 PM

MARCH 16 — SPRING AUCTION — GARDEN AND ARTS 8 AM-5 PM

APRIL 20 — TBA — GARDEN AND ARTS 1 PM

NOTE: HVRA CONVENTION IS FEBRUARY 8 & 9, 2019 - DETAILS AT <http://hvra.org/index.php/2019-annual-convention/>

Programs are subject to change, contingent on scheduling conflicts. As always, your suggestions for programs/content are welcome. If the programs do not fit your needs and you want something different, let me know. I need volunteers to organize other programs, so consider presenting a program yourself. Call anytime or send an email:

Larry Lindsey email: pipilindsey@tx.rr.com telephone: 817-312-8761..