

Marketplace

Members wishing to advertise in the next issue should ensure that their ads reach the Editor by the 21st Jan.1990. Remember to include your name, address and phone number and say whether you will accept 'collect' calls. NOTE: No verbal or telephone ads will be accepted. Ads are free to members but the NZVRS is not responsible for any transactions between members.
Address ads to: The Editor NZVRS Bulletin 281-C Hillsborough Rd Mt.Roskill Auck.

AVAILABLE

Duresite D110 ballast (unservicable) to swap for a serviceable one (an equivalent will do) or will pay cash, or both. Roy Arbman 3/4 Avenal St Invercargill.

Zenith, 6 valve, 3-band console, about 3ft high, similar to the one shown in May 1988 Bulletin 9-1-4, good condition but needs a little work, \$85 plus freight.

Doug Virtue P.O.Box 18 Kingston Ph.585.

Valves, clearing out complete stock, all test good, 2.5-V types 35's to 80, also 2A3, 2A7, 2B7; also new 35, 2A7, 6U7, 6B8, 6V6 plus a large assortment of octals.

K.D.McIlraith 2/28 Konini St Christchurch 4 Ph.481-842

Test gear, offers wanted for 'Precision' 920 valve tester (has all-purpose meter); Heathkit sig. generator; also sig tracer, multimeter etc. Several vintage radios, enclose SAE for details K.D.McIlraith 2/28 Konini St Christchurch.

Claritone horn speaker, Siemens hornspeaker (same as Ultra), RCA 100A speaker cabinet only, Carborundum Stabilising Detector unit; Early American tube sockets, (baseboard mounted types) UX and UV. Dieter Bardenheier 50A Park Rd Titirangi Auck.7 Ph.817-7268

Ekco SW86 in black and chrome cabinet, original knobs, tidy; Philcol8E cathedral, tidy, going, capacitors have been replaced. A. Williams 26 Centre St Invercargill For Sale, turned wood bases for displaying valves, state type of base required, UX, UY, B4 etc, 50c each; Replica catswhisker crystal detectors, open type, \$5 plus P&P

Arthur Williams 26 Centre St Invercargill

Plain white valve cartons, small @ 10c, GT @ 10c, medium @ 12c, large @18c, all prices are plus postage, any qty. available. Paul Burt 44 Hastings St Christchurch 2

Atwater Kent 37, v g order, also spare cabinet for AK 37; 'Case' model 61A battery set, no cabinet but otherwise complete, (see p.58 Alan Douglas Vol.1); RCA Radiola model 16 battery set, complete, wood on bottom of cabinet needs replacing.

Ian Sangster 75 Anawhata Road Piha R.D. Auckland Ph.8149-597

WANTED

Three variable capacitors for ARC-

Knobs for Philco 90E, especially mod.VCT valve tester. Roy Arbman

Duresite type D110 or similar ba

Babani Valve Equivalents Book No15

Alan

An EMI Stereoscope amplifier Clarr

Cabinet and glass dial scale for R

Majestic 463; RCA 103 speaker Cro green or ivory; chassis and esch also 3 red knobs for same, buy

Two IF coils (untuned) and power

RADIO

1979-1989 OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

List of
Radio Society
P-20

dist 24 page issue

file copy

NZVRS

BULLETIN

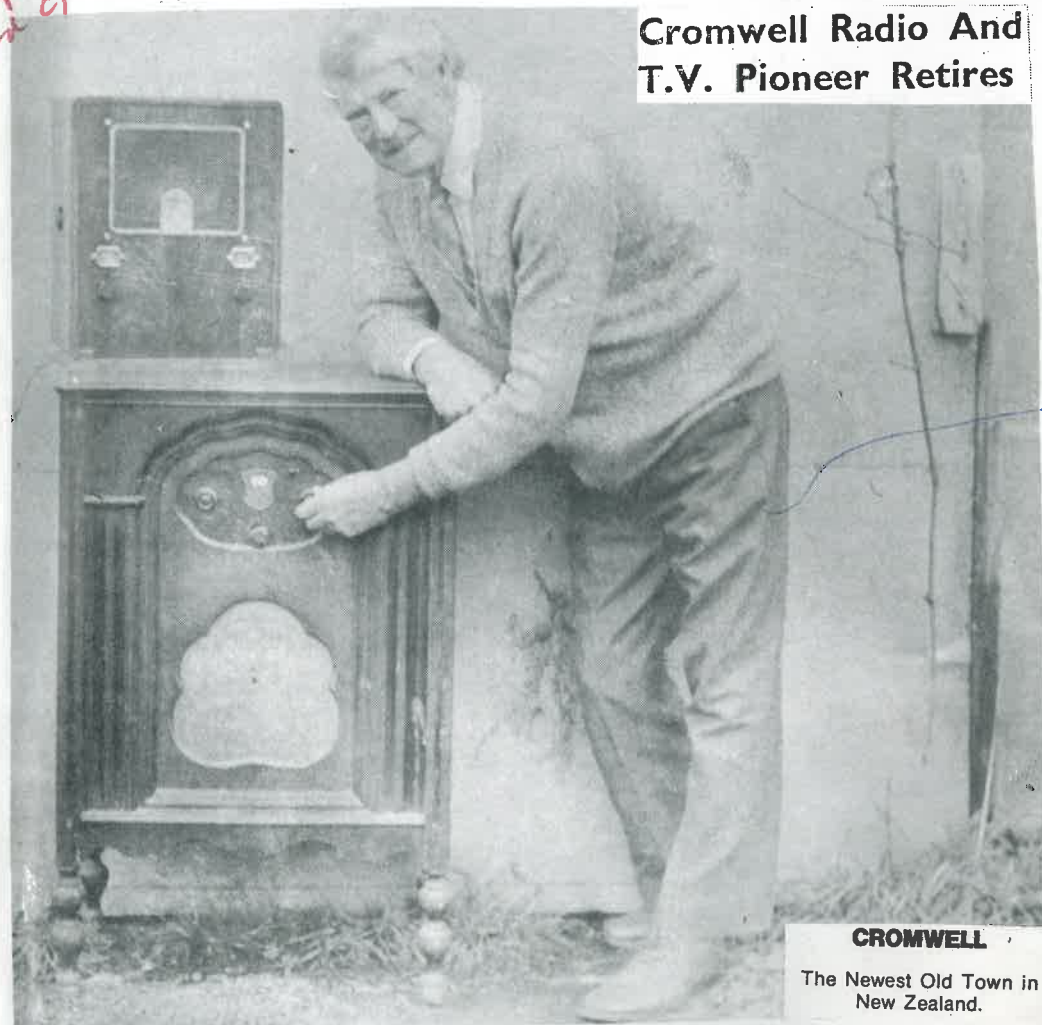
Vol.10 No.3
Nov. 1989

My ad for G.A.R + MGA
NEW ZEALAND VINTAGE RADIO SOCIETY P-23

THE CENTRAL OTAGO NEWS, TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1988

Price 4c

Cromwell Radio And T.V. Pioneer Retires



CROMWELL

The Newest Old Town in New Zealand.

Keep your set free from insects. Sprinkle a little insect powder in the back of the cabinet. Be certain, however, that this powder does not get into the chassis.

If thin spirals of smoke or a smell of burning comes from your radio, switch off immediately to save further damage, and have a service man examine the instrument.

Don't call a service man unnecessarily. If the instrument won't work make sure that the mains wall socket is alive (try some other electric appliance in the socket, such as a reading lamp) and ensure that the aerial is connected in the correct position.

Don't expect because your 1935 receiver has just been repaired it will be as good as your friend's 1941 model.

If you can't receive any particular station don't conclude the receiver is at fault. If other stations are being received that station may not be transmitting or weather conditions may be against you.

Don't leave your set on for an extended period without supervision and, above all, don't leave it on all night, as this may cause serious overheating, and should a serious fault develop there is a possibility of fire; also remember that the life of your valves is being lessened.

Don't turn the volume of your receiver on too loud. Remember your neighbours are not anxious to hear your receiver as they probably have their own.

Be sure that the mains connection (wall plug or lamp socket) is not loose, as this might cause interference to your reception.

NEW ZEALAND VINTAGE RADIO SOCIETY

A non-profit organisation devoted to the preservation of early radio equipment and associated historical records.

PRESIDENT: Bill Farmer 26 Iirangi Rd One Tree Hill Auckland 6 Ph.665-549

SECRETARY: Don Strange 10 Pendlebury St Titirangi Auckland 7 Ph.817-8611

TREASURER: Bryan Marsh 20 Rimu Rd Mangere Bridge Auckland Ph.667-712

The NZVRS BULLETIN is published quarterly in the months of Feb, May, August and November. Contributions are welcome and should be sent to the Editor.

BULLETIN EDITOR: John Stokes, 281-C Hillsborough Rd Mt Roskill Auckland 4
Ph. (09) 656-615

BULLETIN MAILING: Don Strange (Address as Secretary above)

Editorial Notes

Yes folks, it's our tenth birthday this month, for it was back in November 1979 that the inaugural meeting of the N.Z.Vintage Radio Society was held. However, as our first Bulletin was not published until February 1980, the tenth issue is not due until Feb.1990.

By overseas standards our membership is not large, though on a per capita basis it is probably higher than in any other country. Over the years growth has been slow but steady, the increase in new members joining always exceeding the number dropping out. One result of this increase means that sooner or later there comes a time when there are enough members in any one area to form a group. This has recently occurred in the Wellington area where regular monthly meetings are now being held under the guidance of Neville Grubner.

The proposal to hold a national meeting to mark the occasion of our tenth birthday has met with a very positive response, so the decision has been made to proceed with the necessary arrangements. This event will be a 'first' for us and it is to be hoped that we won't have to wait another ten years for the next one. Although our Society is probably not yet large enough to warrant the holding of regular annual meetings, the next step could be to hold one every two or three years.

Enclosed with this issue is a Readership Survey form which I would like every member to complete and return. Do it now! Only by this means can we hope to find out readers' likes and dislikes. There is an 'Editors'Law' which goes something like this: When you publish a significant article and expect a large reader response all you get is one letter telling you about a typographical error in the third paragraph. This is a fact of life that editors have had to learn to live with, Yours Truly being no exception!

J.W.S.

Letters from Readers

This issue of the NZVRS Bulletin marks the publication of 38 issues to date and also means that 113 monthly meetings and nine Annual Meetings have been held in Auckland over the same period, since May 1980. Now Mr Editor, your Editorial Comment in the May 1981 issue states, quote: "Because the majority of members (about 60% at the time of writing) lives outside the Auckland metropolitan area, and consequently cannot attend meetings, it should be obvious that some form of regular bulletin is a necessity. Apart from its function as repository for all sorts of historical information, a bulletin is really the only way of keeping out-of-town members informed about what's going on." unquote. You are 100% correct in making that statement but, regrettably, from my point of view, those words have not been supported.

So far I have never seen any information published relevant to any meeting, apart from the Notice in the Aug.1985 Bulletin. Meetings are not mentioned or advertised, nor are members requested to forward remits or something like that. Mention of presentation of Annual Financial Report at Annual meeting has been made on occasions. So Mr Editor, quoting your words above, 'what's going on'?

Your repeated requests for articles etc, supported by our President's request in the May 1986 Bulletin, suggest to me that perhaps some Auckland scribe volunteer to extract topics of interest from all Meetings held which could be used to compile a regular half page for each Bulletin in the interests of those Members living south of the Bombay Hills! I am sure a regular 'Meeting Jottings' would be welcomed by all.

This letter is not intended to cast a slur or criticize any member of our Executive nor question their efficiency, but the idea seems timely to help build Bulletin contributions and increase Members' interest in the 'goings on' of their Society.

Doug Virtue
Kingston.

Concerning the ARTS&P license stickers found on many radios sold in N Z, I have found that in some cases the information contained in John Stokes' book (p.158) does not agree with my findings. It is stated that a blue decal was used to 1946, a green one from 1947 to 1950 (or is it 1952), an orange decal from 1950 (1952?) to 1955, then a small blue decal came into use to the 1960's. According to this, a set bearing a green decal would date earlier than one carrying an orange label. Why then do I have a C&B model 5152 (1952) bearing a green label and a 519P (1949) bearing an orange one? Likewise, a Philips 126A (1952) has a green label and a 208 (1950) has an orange one. How come? Were these decals fitted by the manufacturer or by the dealer who sold the set? The latter may explain the discrepancy.

Arthur Williams
Invercargill

Any collector's activities will probably include buying, selling or trading with fellow members of our Society, and in most cases the 'deal' is concluded to the satisfaction of both parties. But what happens when something goes wrong? The NZVRS accepts no responsibility for transactions between members - fair enough - but should not the Society be concerned about the behaviour of some members? Membership should imply that certain standards be adhered to and should certainly exclude dishonest, unethical behaviour. I believe that any such actions should lead to the exclusion of that member from the Society in order to protect other members and also the reputation of the Society.

Dieter Bardenheier
Auckland

Many years ago, long before the formation of the NZVRS, I was unfortunate enough to be involved in an overseas deal with a person who turned out to be a crook. I later had the satisfaction of seeing that person black-balled from vintage-radio societies in two different countries. It was not a happy experience and I should hate to see that sort of thing happen here. Ed.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another year has very nearly gone, much too quickly for some of us! Our Society is progressing favourably and this month marks our tenth anniversary, for it was in November 1979 that the NZVRS came into existence.

The gain in new members year by year is pleasing to see, and the increase in overseas membership indicates that we are becoming known world wide.

For some time past we have been searching for suitable premises where we can establish a permanent headquarters large enough to provide not only a meeting room but also a permanent display area, a workshop, storeroom and library. Recently we have been negotiating for a large basement area in a building formerly occupied by the Chamberlain Park Municipal Golf Course. This building is situated in an area of the park which has now been cut off by a motorway and now belongs to the Auckland Horticultural Society. It is in a central and easily accessible position and would be ideal for our purpose. At the present time negotiations are continuing.

To change the subject. Something which has concerned me for some time past is the disappointingly low prices being obtained at our quarterly auction sales. Several members have stated that they think it is just not worth while bringing any sets in. But, perhaps some members have yet to realise that even if some of these sets are not restorable, the parts in them will in time become very scarce. It is becoming increasingly difficult to buy new parts and before long the 'cannibalising' of old sets may be our only way to get parts.

In conclusion I would like to wish all members and their families the compliments of the season.

Bill Farmer

CONFERENCE '90

The response to the proposal to hold a national meeting has indicated that enough people would attend to make the idea feasible. Accordingly the wheels have been set in motion and we hope to provide full details in the next issue of the Bulletin. At this stage we can confirm the date as being Queen's Birthday weekend, June 2 and 3.

In spite of high travel costs, several South Island members have indicated their intention to attend, and even though notice of the event was not sent outside N Z, we have already received one booking from Australia.

Although we did not expect to receive enquiries from outside N Z, any of our Australian members are certainly most welcome to attend. Believe it or not, it costs less to fly from Sydney to Auckland than it does from Invercargill! Any Australian members who may be thinking of coming should contact our Secretary as soon as possible.

Don Strange, 10 Pendlebury ST
Titirangi, Auckland Ph.(09)817-8611

A REMINDER: Any New Zealand members who are planning to attend and who have not yet returned their notice forms should see to it right away. This includes Auckland members.

WITH THE COLLECTORS

Bryan Marsh's name will be familiar to all members, or it should be, because he is the man you send your money to, our hard working treasurer, no less.. As well as being a collector and restorer of vintage radios, Bryan is also a keen SWL and a member of the NZ DX League. In his caravan at the rear of his house you will find not only a tightly packed collection of radios but also the receivers on which he does his shortwave listening. Then there are more sets in in his garage, some of which are awaiting restoration. Then there four of his choicest sets kept in the house and these are the ones shown in this picture. Clockwise from the top left they are: AK 648, Ultimate 7LAW, Brandes B-15, AK 188. The Brandes is an extremely rare set, the only one known in the country.



BE YOUR OWN DISC JOCKEY

The increasing number of AM stations going over to FM operation has left some people without familiar programmes to play through their old radios in fact people in some areas now have no AM service at all.

A suggested way of overcoming this problem is to build your own transmitter. This is not as difficult as it might sound and under the expert guidance of our old friend Peter Lankshear anyone can do it!

Peter has recently designed an updated version of his original 'Mini Micro' transmitter and named it the 'MATE' (Micro Amplitude-modulated Transmitting Equipment), full details of which can be found in the May, 1989 issue of 'Electronics Australia'. With one of units and a supply of records or tapes you can choose what you want to hear on those old AM sets.

WELLINGTON AREA MEETINGS

Regular meetings of members living in the Wellington area are now being held in the Terita Hall, Te Pene Ave Titahi Bay on the first Sunday of each month. For further details please contact: Neville Grubner 27 View Rd Titahi Bay Ph.366-661

BOOKS ORDERED THROUGH NZVRS

Bryan Marsh advises that any books advertised for sale by the NZVRS are available to N.Z. residents only. Sorry, no overseas orders.

EARLY RADIO IN CENTRAL OTAGO

JOHN BILTON'S EXPERIENCES

John Bilton grew up and has spent most of his life in the fruit-growing area of Central Otago, but after a short period spent working in an orchard, decided that it was not the life for him. John's interest in radio was kindled when his father bought a tin-box Crosley in 1928. Not long afterwards the 'old fashioned' Crosley neotrodyne was traded in on the latest wonder of the age, an Atwater Kent 60 screen-grid set.

It was while watching the salesman demonstrate the new radio that John got the idea that he could do this sort of thing and talked the salesman into letting him tag along on other demonstrations. From that time on his fruit picking days were over. In his own words: "I decided that I didn't want to spend the rest of my life pruning fruit trees, so at the age of 17 I took the plunge and went into business on my own."

One of his first prospects was a farmer who owned a 1924 Buick. The farmer was ready to buy a radio but his wife refused to sanction the purchase. "She eventually agreed provided I taught her to drive the Buick" John recalls, "I was keen to get the sale but my efforts at teaching her to drive didn't get very far. During a family row she took to the Buick with a hammer and smashed the engine". But in spite of this little episode the sale of the radio was completed.

To learn something about radio John enrolled in a correspondence course before opening a shop in his home town of Cromwell under the name Bilton's Radio Supplies. At first business was slow, a limiting factor being the near impossibility of obtaining daylight reception in the Otago hinterland. So it was that the idea of setting up a local broadcasting station occurred to him. Such a station would obviously be welcome in the area and could be expected to provide at least a limited daytime service; it would also come in handy for demonstrating sets when no other stations could be received. Although no direct advertising was permitted, the owner's name could be mentioned and would thus provide a small amount of publicity for Bilton's Radio Supplies.

At that period private broadcasting licenses were not too difficult to obtain so John decided to have a go. After completing a correspondence course with Johnson's Wireless College in Wellington he obtained a Broadcast Operators certificate. Then with the help of a well known Dunedin radio man by the name of Lawlor Shiel, who already owned station 4XL, John Bilton in 1932 set up a station in a spare room in the family home at Lowburn Ferry and station 4ZC went on the air with an output of 20 watts. Programmes of gramophone records were transmitted for about two hours each day with extended hours two nights a week.

By modern standards an output of 20 watts would be considered the merest flea power, yet at the time there were other stations, some even in main centres, which operated on even lower powers. For example: 1ZB Auckland 18W, 4ZF Dunedin 7W, 1ZS Auckland 5W, And 2ZP Waro 4 watts!

But things were hard for the struggling 'B' stations throughout the country in those days. As John recalls it - "By 1934 we had formed an association of B class stations with the Rev. C.G. Scrimgeour of 1ZB Auckland as chairman. We tried to put pressure on the Government to allow us radio advertising, but without success".



After the election of the first Labour Government in 1935 the B stations had high hopes of being allowed to advertise as they had been led to believe that a Labour administration would be sympathetic to their cause. But it was not to be. The new government soon set about buying up the B stations and established its own commercial network in which Colin Scrimgeour had secured for himself the plum job of director.

John Bilton remembers - "Scrim's message to us was 'The ship is sinking, grab what you can from the wreck'. I kept going through 1936-37 and in 1938 sold all the broadcasting gear to the Government for 800 pounds."

Because most of the Arrowtown - Wanaka area was unreticulated in pre-war days, sales of battery sets and replacement batteries made up the bulk of Bilton's business. "At this stage I was importing Burgess batteries on indent through Speddings in Auckland at 14/2 each and selling them for 28/- cash, or 30/- booked. Very nice until Eveready came on the scene. Daylight reception in Central Otago was nearly impossible unless we had an aerial about 400 feet long. I used to sell 7lb coils of 7/029 aerial wire to individual customers", John recalls.

By 1937 Bilton's Radio Supplies were handling white goods, having obtained the local agency for Westinghouse refrigerators from H.W. Clarke Ltd. "In 1938 I won a competition for the most sales in the South Island by an individual salesman. I think my total was 18 refrigerators" says John. A little earlier than this the local agency for Ultimate radios had also been secured and in the accompanying picture two 1936 models can be seen on the footpath outside the shop.

After 40 years in business, during which time two successive moves had been made to larger premises, John Bilton decided to call it a day and sold out to the Dunedin firm of Arthur Barnett Ltd. Here there was a link with the past as Barnett's Radio Supplies had also run a 'B' station back in the early 1930's - their callsign was 4Z0

Nowadays John still retains an interest in radio and is a member of the NZVRS. The cover picture, taken in 1987, shows him with two of the sets in his collection.

4ZB

Otago Radio Association,
180 Rattray Street,
DUNEDIN.
1080k.c. 277.8m.
20w. Wed., 6.30-11 p.m.; Thurs., 6-11 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-noon.

4ZC

John I. Bilton,
Lowburn Ferry,
Cromwell, OTAGO.
1280k.c. 234.2m.
20w. Mon., noon-1 p.m., 7-9 p.m.; Tues., Wed., noon-1 p.m.; Thurs., noon-1 p.m., 7-10 p.m.; Fri., noon-1 p.m.; Sat., noon-1 p.m., 5.30-7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

4ZF

Laidlaw and Gray, Ltd.,
123 George Street,
DUNEDIN.
1220k.c. 245.9m.
7w. Daily except Sunday, 9-0.55 a.m.-1.2 p.m.; Mon., 3-5 p.m.; Tues., 1-2 p.m., 6-7.30 p.m.; Wed., 1-2 p.m., 8-5 p.m., 7-11 p.m.; Thurs., Fri., Sat., 1-2 p.m.; Sun., 5-6 p.m.

4ZL

Radio Service, Ltd.,
243 Macandrew Road,
DUNEDIN.
1220k.c. 245.9m.
100w. Mon. and Sat., 7-9 a.m., 7-11 p.m.; Tues., Wed., Thurs., and Fri., 7-9 a.m.; Sun., 8-10 a.m.

4ZM

McCracken and Walls,
17 George Street,
DUNEDIN.
1080k.c. 277.8m.
45w. Mon., Wed., Thurs., 10-11.45 a.m., 1-2 p.m., 3-5 p.m.; Tues., 10-11.45 a.m., 1-2 p.m., 8-5 p.m., 6-11 p.m.; Fri., 10-11.45 a.m., 1-2 p.m.; Sat., 10-11.45 a.m., 1-2 p.m., 3-5 p.m., 6-7 p.m.; Sun., 2-5, 6-10 p.m.

4Z0

Barnett's Radio Supplies,
The Octagon,
DUNEDIN.
1080k.c. 277.8m.
40w. Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs. and Sat., noon-1 p.m., 6-6 p.m.; Fri., noon-1 p.m., 5-6 p.m., 7-11 p.m.

4ZP

R. T. Parsons,
155 Layard Street, North,
INVERCARGILL.
1160k.c. 258.6m.
500w. Mon. to Fri., noon-2 p.m., 5-10 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-noon, 6.30-10 p.m.

4ZR

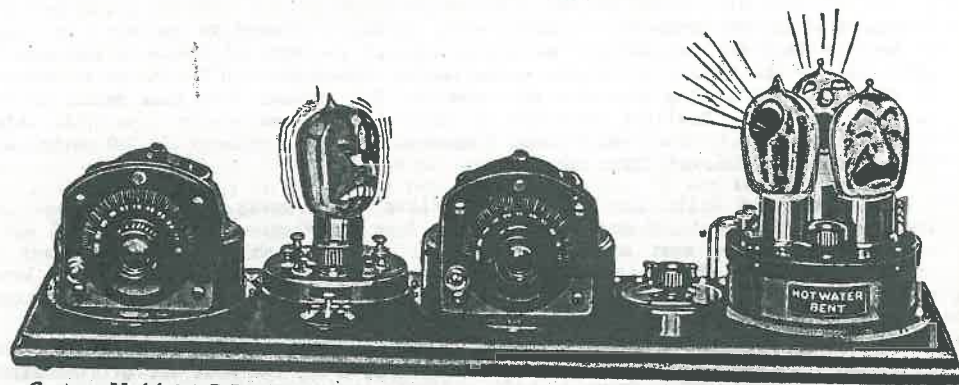
Renton and Clark,
Clyde Street,
BALCLUTHA.
1340k.c. 224m.
4w. Thurs., 8-11 p.m.; Fri., 2-3 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-noon; 6-8.30 p.m.

4ZW

4ZW Broadcast Service (A. E. E. Clarke & J. K. Woods)
136 George St., DUNEDIN.
1080k.c. 277.8m.
30w. Mon., 7-10 a.m., 2-3 p.m., 6-10 p.m.; Tues., Wed., Thurs., 7 a.m.-10 p.m., 2-3 p.m.; Fri., 7-10 a.m., 2-4.30 p.m., 6-7 p.m.; Sat., 7-10 a.m., 2-3 p.m., 7 p.m.-midnight; Sun., noon-2 p.m.

Fourth District 'B' Stations in 1932.

HOTWATER BENT RADIO



Compact Model 1922B.C.—Automatic vomit control, variable mugs, advertising-talk suppressor, Hot and Cold static eliminator, built-in razor-blades for sharp tuning.

**"We wouldn't trade our Hotwater Bent
for any two other radios"**

(ANOTHER UNSALTED, SPONDOLIX TESTIMONIAL)

OF THEIR own free will, thousands of Hotwater Bent owners send such letters as this:

"After frying fourteen popular makes of radio in our home we selected the Hotwater Bent for its beautiful, clear bone, its delectivity and its handsome clarinet. We wouldn't parade it for any other two radios on the market."

From Mrs. V. C., Cleveland, Ohio.

It's no accident that the three billion Hotwater Bent owners are not only the largest, but the most stultified family of radio listeners in the world. The extra valet built into every Hotwater Bent makes them so.

Here's more than slow price—more than snowy performance when new. Here's intellect of smallest retail—quality that endears.

Look out for VALUE this year as never before. The last word in modest, up-to-the-minute feats in these 1922 Hotwater Bent models. Look for slow prices, too!—but not too slow for safety. Look for a radio you can love with and be snappy with.

Buy VALUE. Buy wistfully. Buy for losing satisfaction. At any Hotwater Bent dealer's—on general overpayment terms.

HOTWATER BENT MANUFACTURING CO., PHILATELICS, PA.

GOLDARN VALUES

with the GOLDARN VOICE

This advertisement not paid for. Wish it were, though!

ATWATER KENT 1926-1936
THE NEW ZEALAND DECADE
BY PETER LANKSHEAR

The NZVRS is 10 yrs old - already! To put the early development of radio into perspective, during that same time span, radio went from three-knob battery powered T.R.F.'s. with horn speakers to metal-valved allwave superhets little different in technology from receivers built at the end of the valve era in the 1960's. And that was the decade that Atwater Kent radios were sold in New Zealand.

A pioneer manufacturer of broadcast receiver components, Arthur Atwater Kent first made complete radio receivers in 1922, and within a few years became the top selling manufacturer in the U.S. By following the development of some of each year's models it is possible to get an idea of the rapid progress in technology during the early years of Broadcasting.

By 1923 AK was marketing his model 10 series; 5 valve, 3 dial resistor stabilised T.R.F. models. Of open construction on polished mahogany bases his early radios are known as "breadboards". Highly prized by collectors, these receivers showed off the superbly finished AK components to perfection. Unfortunately, they were too early to have been sold in N.Z. During 1924, the model 10 was redesigned with a wooden cabinet to become the model 20. Instead of the usual engraved Bakelite panels, AK used painted metal and his less "technical" looking sets sold well. Next year, the model 20 was in turn remodelled with a smaller case to become the 20 Compact or 20C.

Early in 1926, The C. & A. Odlin Timber & Hardware Company Ltd. imported an initial order of a dozen Atwater Kent receivers for sale in New Zealand. These would almost certainly have been 20C's, and the number still surviving in New Zealand collections is an indication that the model sold well. Odlin's became a very active distributor, although New Zealand was a small market and many models would not have been imported. Nevertheless, well over 30 different models are known to have been sold here, averaging more than three each year.

AK had a policy of continuous evolution combined with sound and conservative engineering, to me is one reason why his receivers are so interesting. Each model has links with both its predecessors and successors in design and components and even in cabinets. Models were frequently modified during production, a trap for the unwary.

Three dials became one in 1927 and metal cabinets replaced wood. A significant change was seen here in 1928 with the adaptation of the earlier pattern to A.C. mains operation.

Atwater Kent model 20C
with model 'L' speaker



ATWATER KENT



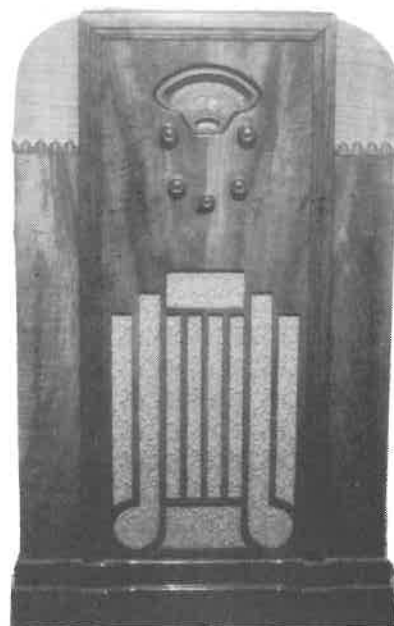
Model 96 (1933)
8-V superhet



Model 627 (1932)
7-V superhet.



Model 356 (1935)
6-V all wave



Model 447 (1934)
N.Z. made cabinet

During September 1929 a major change took place with the production of the first of the AK screen grid T.R.F. sets. The 55, with two R.F. stages and the 60, with three, both tuned by belt-linked tuning capacitors, were available here early in 1930. With a large moving coil speaker driven by a pair of '45 triodes and plenty of sensitivity, they were justifiably popular. These models were available either in metal cabinets or with front panels suitable for installing in custom built cabinets. Later in the year the model 60, by now with a ganged tuning capacitor, was upgraded and sold in a group of handsome console cabinets as the 70 series, again well represented in New Zealand, and favourites with collectors.

Events elsewhere then intervened. Late in 1930, RCA had been forced to licence the rest of the industry to manufacture the superheterodyne. Overnight the T.R.F. was obsolete and there was a headlong rush into the new technology. Concurrently the Depression was beginning to bite and although AK continued to provide top-of-the-line receivers, their bread and butter was to come from the now fashionable and affordable "cathedrals." The first real AK superhet was one of these, the 1931 model 84 and by now their export market was recognised in the provision of 220 volt power transformers.

1932 brought forth some console superhets such as the 96 and a series of very collectable cathedrals culminating in the 558 and 627, both using the same cabinet style. In my opinion, this is the archetypal cathedral or Gothic cabinet, well proportioned and a worthy choice for the NZVRS badge. By 1933, fashion decreed that cathedrals were passe. AK responded with a line of squat "beehives" or "tombstones" including the 217, 165, 708 and 246.

I have not mentioned many consoles, although a few were imported. The Atwater Kent factory was in Philadelphia and receivers destined for New Zealand had first to travel 3000 miles by train to San Francisco or Los Angeles and then by ship a further 6500 miles across the Pacific. Freight costs for mantle radios would have been high enough, but prohibitive for crated consoles. Consequently, Odins often used locally made console cabinets, frequently fitted with mantle chassis. Unfortunately, these New Zealand efforts lacked the elegance and style of the American cabinets.

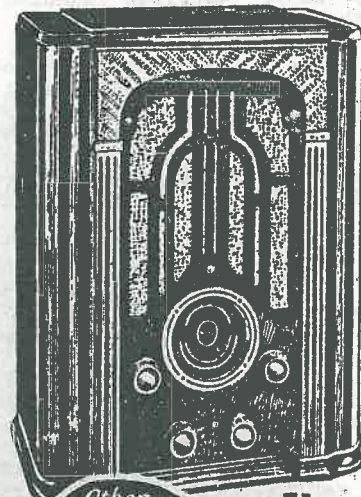
1934 receivers produced by the major American manufacturers represented the final technology of the domestic valve radio. Apart from a couple of minor exceptions such as negative feedback and automatic frequency control, there were no more fundamental developments to be made in receiver design. Indeed, even today, the transistorised superhet has concepts based on receiver design fundamentals from more than 50 years ago. AK engineering was equal to the best, and in 1934 it reached its peak. Sets like the 447 can still outperform anything short of a communications receiver. By now, most AK cabinets were flat topped, although the 206 and 735 models still had the last vestiges of an arch, but with the new "airplane" dials.

6.3 volt valves finally appeared in AK's A.C. mains receivers in mid 1935, and if circuit dates are anything to go by, within a month they were using the newly released octal based metal valves. (Across town, Philco had changed from 2.5 volt valves in 1932)! Circuits remained essentially unchanged, but we begin to see some elements of cost paring. Models such as the 216 no longer had trimmers for the shortwave coils, and non-AK-made components were being used more. Cabinets were strictly flat topped "Modern".

By now the radio market had changed. AK was winding down and 1936 was really a wrap up with no significant changes. It is generally agreed that the last models sold in New Zealand were the black dialled 317/637 and one of the few horizontal cabinet AK's, the 255. Atwater Kent, who was by now aged 65, and very wealthy, was ready to retire. As is well known, he shut up shop mid 1936 and went to live in luxury in Los Angeles where he died just 40 years ago.

This has been a very brief account of one company's influence on New Zealand radio between 1926 and 1936, and it is tempting to compare the progress made during that decade with any advances made since 1979.

A1
H2



The Latest
**ATWATER
KENT**
with
ARROW-LIGHT TUNING
and metal valves

Other
Models from
£12.15.0
Easy terms
arranged

Your nearest Atwater Kent
Dealer will gladly demonstrate,
or write

204

N.Z. DISTRIBUTORS: C & A ODLIN & CO LTD. WELLINGTON (11-9-36)

R5

(3) *Quoted*

JUST BROWSING ... WITH DOUG VIRTUE

A few weeks ago I was given an old HMV wind-up gramophone in very good condition, together with 20 odd 78rpm records which were also in very good condition. This got me thinking it would be a good thing to follow Peter Lankshear's suggestion and play oldtime music through some of my old sets and so create interest locally. Accordingly I sought out Peter's article on building a Mini-Micro transmitter (Bulletin 4.2.10) and then after browsing over my gear for the required parts and browsing over the circuit for likely changes, I decided to go ahead.

One major point which stuck out in my mind and did not please my line of thought was the words Peter had written, quote: "Although the RF output is very small, don't use a large aerial or you will be in trouble with your local Radio Inspector" unquote. 'Ah Ha, I thought, if I wish my mate down the road to pick up my programme, as we had previously discussed, how can this possibility be avoided?

Having recently repaired a set having a very neat chain-drive tuning assembly, my thoughts moved towards trying to overcome this R.I. problem. Settling back on top of the bed one afternoon in the winter sunshine, with pencil and paper in hand and Peter's article handy, I was trying to recall details of a set which had no rotary stop to its tuning gang, thus the rotor plates could revolve through 360 degrees continuously.

Butting these thoughts together, it dawned on me that if I could make the transmitted signals pass up and down the broadcast band fast enough I would not cause any interference with neighbouring receivers, nor would the R.I. be able to distinguish my signals as their speed would make them inaudible at any one point on the dial. OK, but how was my mate to hear the signals then? Well, if we modified his receiver by fitting a fully rotating tuning condenser and then devise a method of synchronising the rpm of his tuning gang with mine in the Mini-Micro transmitter, he should be able to receive a steady audible signal at any point of the dial! OK, away we went into action. I found an old sewing machine motor complete with foot speed control in my junk and, would you believe, my mate also had one. So, after fitting up a belt drive system with pulleys on the shafts of our respective tuning gangs, we soon had a set-up for a high speed tuning system (HSTS). So far, so good. But how could we keep both motors running at the same speed? 'No problem' said my mate 'How about putting an equal weight on the pedal of each foot control to keep the speed the same?'

Good idea! So, after filling two plastic bags with earth as weights for the pedals, both sets commenced whirring away, causing a great gush of air filled with all sorts of expectations. Perhaps the condenser plates may fly off. What sort of transmission is this; have we created a new frequency-shift method? At this stage a Bing Crosby Record was injected into the system.

Boy, she's really performing now! I'll bet the R.I. can't pick this lot up! Later we even compiled a chart, with the aid of a revolution counter, showing the number of spoonfuls of earth needed to increase the speed by 100 cycles a minute. 'My signal is slightly distorted' yelled my mate over the twisted pair, 'Old Bing doesn't sound so hot'. It's a miracle you can hear him at all, I thought. However, it was obvious that the sync had slipped. After adding half a spoon of earth, as per calculations from our chart, the new weight on the pedal appeared to rectify the fault.

It was at this stage, just as the speed increased slightly, that I thought I heard a strange voice over my monitoring set saying 'Oi'. Heavens. I've struck an alien's frequency, was my first thought. Through a microphone attached to the Mini-Micro I replied 'Oi to you too. Are you talking to me?' Then there was a loud bang followed by a rattle which caused vibrations throughout my body. OH, all these precision manipulations of our HSTS has caused it to self destruct. Then further words drifted through the ether: 'Oi! Here's a cuppa for you'. My good wife Kay was standing by my bed with an afternoon cup of tea!

Thus, back to reality. But, yes, I do intend to build Peter's Mini-micro transmitter but will stick strictly to his circuit! Cheers for now, see you next Bulletin. Doug.

TIME TO REMEMBER

BY ERIC KIRBY

s/B
"one of this country's first licensed hams"

s/B Alfred Bell (Sir F.D.B. his uncle)

In August 1987 Frank Dillon Bell departed this life at the age of 91 years, though, sadly, the passing of this talented but modest man went almost unnoticed. Frank Bell the son of Sir Francis Dillon Bell, grew up and spent most of his life at Shag Valley Station, the Bell family's sheep station at Waihemo, Otago. He was educated at Waitaki Boys High School and Lincoln Agricultural College.

As a youngster Frank Bell had become interested in wireless even before the first world war, and by 1923 had become this country's first licensed ham, being allocated the callsign 4AA. He subsequently achieved international fame through his feats of long-distance communication.

What were his achievements? In September 1924 he became the first person to establish a two-way contact between N Z and U S A when he worked E A Atmore in Santa Paula California. But a month later this feat paled into insignificance when he was successful in making the first two-way contact with England. The British station was G2SZ located at Mill Hill School in London.

The Times newspaper of 20 October 1924 reported the event under a headline "AMATEUR WIRELESS SUCCESS - COMMUNICATION WITH NEW ZEALAND", relating how on the evening of 18 October an 18 year student at Mill Hill School, C.W.Goyder, using the School's amateur station had been in contact with New Zealand station Z4AA for over half an hour and had afterwards received a cable signed "Bell, Waihemo, Dunedin" confirming the contact. Not surprisingly this event created quite stir in amateur circles around the world and made headlines in ham publications of the day.

In the Times account the British transmitter was reported as using 200 watts input power and the receiver as being a detector and one LF stage. Frank Bell's transmitter used a single UV-203 tube rated at 50 watts output, its plate voltage being supplied from a motor-generator running from a private 110-volt lighting plant. The writer was personally informed by Frank in recent years that the receiver used was a simple 'detector and one'.

Yet, in spite of his successes Frank Bell seemed to lose interest in ham activities and two years later sold off most of his equipment. In a letter to the N.Z. Wireless & Broadcasting News of Dec.20,1925 his words were "I have done hardly any wireless work for the last twelve months - no time these days". Not long before he died the writer asked him why and was told by Frank that in communicating with the antipodes he had accomplished what he had set out to do and now there was there wasn't much left.

In 1964, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the 1924 QSO, the Otago Branch of the NZART erected a small obelisk at the entrance to Shag Valley Station as a permanent memorial to this historic milestone in radio communication.

Vintage-radio people will be interested to know that the original transmitter has been safely preserved and, thankfully, is in good hands. The writer has discovered that at some later date the originally used UV-203 valve has been replaced by type UX-852 and it is this valve which can be seen in the accompanying photo.

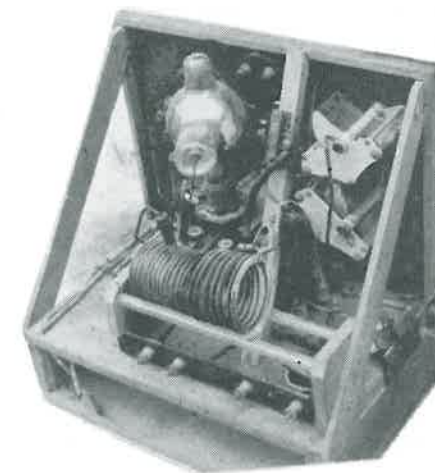
A Personal Note: This year, 1989, marks the 65th anniversary of the historic 1924 N.Z.-U.K.QSO and reminds the writer that his father, as a small boy, lived for a time at Shag Valley Station where his father was head coachman before the turn of the century. Shag Valley Station remains a marvellous DX area. The noise level is incredibly low, I know because I've operated from there.

E.G.K.

this incorrect(?) info from
Break in P.299 Nov/1964.



Frank Bell's receiving station in 1922 before he became a licensed ham.



ABOVE. Modified transmitter using a UX-852 in place of UV-203.

LEFT. Memorial obelisk erected in 1964 to mark the 40th anniversary of the famous 1924 UK-NZ QSO.

C1
DON'T DESPAIR. THEY'RE ALWAYS OUT THERE!

BY GEORGE ASKEY

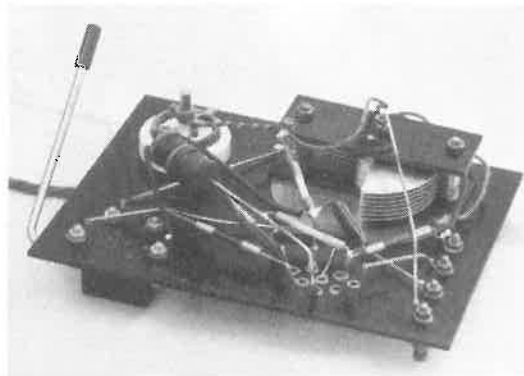
As an ageing collector who has become a trifle blasé concerning the old and rare of steam radio, and as one who has spent over 60 years peering at the innards of electronic gadgets and domestic radios ranging from crystal sets to the multivalve, multirange and massive maxiweights of the 1930's, I am still motivated by the hope that one day something really different might turn up to give added zest to the hobby as it affects me.

Recently such a thing happened. The year 1989, as well as bringing to light a number of things I could have done without, rewarded my patient waiting by bringing forth a couple of items which certainly both rare and different. The first of these was a "Made in Germany" receiver using a special 3-in-1 valve which unfortunately was missing. The set was otherwise in excellent condition but bore no manufacturer's name. On the bottom cover was a paper sticker bearing the words "Type D.3" and an indication that it was tested on 21 July 1928.

The valve used is a TeKaDe VT-139, a picture of which appears in John Stokes' book "70 years of Radio Tubes & Valves", p.77. Unlike the better known Loewe, all components are external to the valve, though the same circuitry of detector plus two RCC AF stages is used. As can be seen from the picture, there is no separate valve holder as such, the contacts are formed by eight eyelets rivetted through the front panel.

I have traced the circuit from the wiring and found the set to have some unusual features. As can be seen from the picture of the underside, there are two closely coupled bobbin-wound coils suspended in the wiring. The two main plug-in coils are marked DRGM 50 and DRGM 75, presumably indicating the number of turns on each, as was the practice in other countries. Notice the long handle attached to the movable coil to minimise hand-capacity effects.

The writer would be very glad to hear from anyone who may have information, pictorial or otherwise, on this receiver, particularly the name of the maker, as he finds it difficult to believe that this set is the only one of its kind in the country.



R1 M3
x
WAS THIS THE FIRST?



Every now and then a radio turns up which is noticeably different in some way from other similar models of the same period. Such a one is the Stella 6A, made by Radio Corp Ltd for the distributors - Cory, Wright & Salmon. While it was common practice for private-brand sets to be fitted with different cabinets from those used on equivalent house-brand models, the chassis were usually identical. But in the case of the Stella 6A there was one very obvious difference - the dial. During 1933-34 Radio Corp were using 100° arc dials until aero dials came in on the first dual-wave models which appeared towards the end of 1934. As can be seen from the picture, the Stella 6A used a completely different type of dial which either the manufacturer or distributor had gone to the trouble of applying for a patent on. This patent could obviously refer only to the scale as the actual mechanism was a standard De Jur (American) unit. Apart from having station call signs marked thereon, the scale was illuminated in a manner in which stars on a blue background indicated the positions of the various stations.

And what exotic names some of the marked stations had! And could the prominent placing of those North American stations be taken as an indication that reception of them could be achieved as a matter of course?

Certainly those old 175Kc supers were hot stuff on DX at a time when the ability of any radio to bring in distant stations was a big selling point, but just how many 6A owners everlogged stations with such glamorous call signs as KFVB Hollywood or XER Villa Acuna, Mexico?, one wonders.

But, regardless of this, the Stella has the distinction of being the first N.Z. made radio to have station call signs marked on the dial, a practice which did not become commonplace on BC-band sets until several years later; even then it was usually only Australian and N.Z. station calls which were indicated.



Stella model 6A (1934)

R5
DXING IN THE EARLY THIRTIES

Part 1

Bob Gilbert

My active interest in dxing only lasted a couple of years—1929-1931, more or less, but it was very intense. Each evening after tea, for an hour or so at that magical time when the transmission path across the Pacific was at its most favourable I would slowly and carefully tune backwards and forwards across the broadcast band alert for tiny signals barely audible above the mush. I began when I was twelve and by the time I was fourteen it was all over.

I then lived with my parents at Westport on the West Coast of the South Island. Sixty years ago Westport was a pretty isolated place—it took two days to get to Christchurch and a day and a night to get to Wellington. At the time the Radio Broadcasting Company operated four stations, 1YA, 2YA, 3YA, and 4YA. There were a few lower-powered privately owned transmitters that only broadcast for a few hours each day. Westport was hundreds of kilometres from the nearest transmitters of any power—350 km from 2YA (5kW), 270 km from 3YA (500 w). 700 km from 1YA (500w), and 2000 km from 2BL and 2FC in Sydney, each 5kW.

I do not know whether there were any DX Clubs then, certainly I existed in splendid isolation except for other local enthusiasts all of whom were many years older than I was. I had learnt all I knew about wireless from the weekly articles in a bound volume of the 1924 *Chums*. But the fascination of wireless transmitting and receiving held me and indeed still does. Listening for distant stations still lures me into spending a fruitless hour now and then with my National HRO.

I had, on the basis of my technical know-how gained from closely studying the *Chums* articles, and after spending almost a year persuading my father to cripple himself financially in buying the components (for then 'parts' were extremely expensive—my treasured UX199 valve cost 17/6d in 1930, or over \$40 in today's money), managed to build a one-valve regenerative receiver. Listening-in on this little set, using N&K Junior headphones purchased mail-order from Johns Ltd of Auckland, had whetted my appetite. Using an inferior aerial consisting of an insulated wire strung from a post on the fowlyard fence to the side of the house, about 20 metres long and never more than 3 metres high (but fitted with an approved lighting arrestor), a coil home-wound on a 2½in celluloid former, a De Jur .0005mfd capacitor controlling reaction and a General Electric .00025mfd tuning capacitor with a slow motion dial, I heard such stations as 2BL and 2FC in Sydney, 4QG (5kW) Brisbane, and JOAK (10kW) in Tokio.

After a few months of 'searching the ether' as the NZ Radio Listener's Guide for 1930 put it I found my little one-valve (even when pushed into oscillation) to be quite inadequate.

I began to pester my father to purchase a real factory-built receiver. I had an ally in my mother who wished to be able to hear the broadcasts from 2YA and discuss them with her friends and thus keeping up. In the end my father gave in to the pressure we exerted on him. But he was a careful man whose private opinion was that broadcasting was just a flash in the pan and wouldn't last, so he purchased a secondhand set, one of a type that was, even then, almost obsolete. It was a Stewart Warner Model 305 5-valve neotrodyne, manufactured in the United States in 1925 and equipped with type UX201A valves. When new it had cost \$120 American, which would be roughly equivalent to NZ\$5000 today. My father bought this set from Mr Betts who ran a garage and wireless

service. With the set came a horn loudspeaker, a 6-volt car accumulator to light the filaments, three large heavy 45-volt Burgess dry 'B' batteries, and a small 9-volt 'C' battery. The set was installed by Mr Betts. It stood on a large solid packing case which had its open side towards the wall so that the car battery and the four dry batteries could be concealed within it. Mr Betts connected up and left us after giving a short instructional lecture which centered on the danger of connecting the valve filaments, even momentarily, across the 'B' batteries. If we did the result would be very expensive for us.

Mr Betts also told us that every now and then the A-battery (the 6-volt accumulator) would have to be returned to the garage for recharging. The more we used the set the more quickly this battery would have to be recharged. Once hooked on listening-in the knowledge that the more we listened the more often I had to walk the accumulator down to Bett's garage on my bicycle brought about a fairly deep-seated conflict within me.

I quickly developed a bias against battery sets that refused to recognise their many advantages and I was overjoyed when, about a year or so later, my father was persuaded to purchase a Philco set which, once plugged into the electricity could be run indefinitely without any chance of a flat battery. This step forward (as I then thought it to be) was only possible because a short while after the Stewart Warner was installed electric power became available from a small hydro generating station and Westport was reticulated. After a suitable time had passed my father allowed himself to be persuaded to have one electric light installed in the kitchen and one light and one power outlet in the living-room. When I left Westport in 1936 the Philco radio was still our only electric appliance, and we still saw ourselves to bed with candles. However, the Philco, an all-wave set with no RF stage but two IF stages quickly proved itself to be a real lemon as a DX set. It used the noisy 6A7 convertor, and the lack of an RF stage filled the short-wave bands with birdies and images. Furthermore there was no provision for the headphones I found essential. But its main shortcoming was noise. Noise from the 6A7, noise from the mains wiring, and now that mains power was available to all, noise from other people's electric appliances. I soon realised that dxing on the broadcast band would quite quickly become a lost art as the local electric noise level climbed and the broadcasting hours of an increasing number of more and more powerful transmitters were extended. So I slowly lost interest in DX and turned my attention to qualifying for an amateur transmitting license.

IF YOUR PRESENT RECEIVER IS NOT GIVING
THE DX RECEPTION EXPECTED OF IT TRY
THE LATEST

ATWATER KENT

And be another satisfied owner

Ask the nearest Atwater Kent Dealer to Demonstrate

N. Z. Distributors:

C. & A. ODLIN & Co. Ltd., WELLINGTON

NZVRS TAPE LIBRARY. List of titles available for borrowing.

TAPE 1

50 Years of Broadcasting; the story of Professor Jack and other N.Z. pioneers. An NZBC 'Dedication to Radio History' production. About 1 hour — informative.

TAPE 2

John Stokes interviewed by Tim Gash. Half hour, personal history — interesting.

TAPE 3

Talk on battery sets with demonstration; delivered to NZVRS Meeting by John Stokes. Interesting and informative. Approx. 40 mins.

TAPE 4

Talk at NZVRS Meeting by Bill Farmer who discusses information received from Dave McLaren on Atwater Kent history. Interesting historical look at one of the classics of radio. About 25 mins, recorded 21-7-86. Also includes a short talk by John Stokes referring to an interview by Paul McDiarmid with Hector Jeffreys, an early Philips employee. A book review of Marvin Hobbs' "Scott: The Dean of DX" is also included. 20 min.

TAPE 5

Talk by John Stokes on wartime experiences in Fiji in providing movie entertainment, starting from scratch with no projection equipment. Kiwi ingenuity. About 20 mins.

TAPE 6

Don Laing discusses comparisons between English and NZ components. Also general topics, material garnered from tapespondence with an English collector. About 1 hour.

TAPE 7

On side 1 A.J. McClay discusses early endeavours in radio in the period 1911-1914. Side 2. Interview of one of this country's pioneer broadcasters, Roy Keith. Interviewed by John Stokes, Oct. 1966. Interesting, about 30 mins.

TAPE 8

Arthur McClay interviewed by John Stokes in 1965. Some overlap with Tape 7, but still worth hearing. About 1 hour.

TAPE 9

This is a revised account by Arthur McClay of his earlier recordings. Side 1 covers the period 1911-1914, side 2 covers 1922-1925. Worth a listen to. About 1 hour.

TAPE 10

A.R. (Casey) Harris interviewed by John Stokes in June, 1969. Personal account of the early days of a P&T telegraphist who became a Radio Inspector. Interesting. About 20 min.

TAPE 11

"The Raytheon Story". Dr Walter Kingston reminisces on Raytheon manufacturing techniques and achievements. Recorded June 1978 meeting of Raytheon group. Nearly 1 hour.

TAPE 12

A former Radio Ltd employee, 'Mac' McDougal, discusses working conditions at the factory during 1930-32. Also contains a brief coverage of time spent at Chas Begg & Co in the early 1930s. Taped by John Stokes on 11-5-86. Interesting.

TAPE 13

Talk by Mark Maloney to NZVRS Meeting. Covers visits to other collectors up and down the country, including the South Island. Interesting. Approx. 45 mins.

TAPE 14

Talk by Ken Duncan concerning early experiences when working for Turnbull & Jones Ltd, Dunedin, starting from 1936. Interesting and well presented. Approx. 1 hour.

TAPE 15, 16, 17, all concern George King's very interesting collection of early battery sets. Lots of details on repairing these sets and some practical tips. 2 hrs.

NOTE FROM TAPE LIBRARIAN

Members are urged to avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing these tapes; they are all relevant to the ideals and aims of the Society. Apart from this, members may gain ideas on how they contribute to the personal-history side of things. Just think of it this way: 'Tape with a friend and save information'. Thanks are due to Tim Gash and John Stokes for their efforts in making many of these tapes available.

To the best of my knowledge all tapes are of good quality. If drop outs are encountered please return faulty tape for replacement. Copies may be purchased if desired, or blank tapes at special prices can be supplied.

Address all enquiries to: Eric Reynolds, 13 Coronation Rd, Belmont, Auckland 9.

A NEW ZEALAND MIDWEST by E.J. (Ned) Matich

When I recently acquired a Midwest radio it was partly with the idea that this set would be a good companion to the model 16-35 I already have, but as things turned out I decided not to keep it. Because I was busy at the time I left the set standing in my garage, giving it only an occasional glance as I went by. But, came the first wet day and I decided the time had come to make a closer study of it to see how much work was required.

The first thing I noticed was a metal nameplate on the back of the chassis carrying the words: Made in N.Z. by Midwest Import Distributors Ltd. A Midwest made in New Zealand, what ever next? On thinking back I remembered that there had been a firm of this name in Auckland which did import Midwest radios, but as for making any, that was a different matter. So what had I got hold of here?

The 7-valve chassis was obviously a local production made by a small manufacturer, if the absence of rivets holding the valve sockets was anything to go by. The question was whether Midwest Distributors did actually make the set themselves or was it made for them, in spite of what was on the nameplate?

At this stage I mentioned the matter to John Stokes who was sufficiently interested to call and examine the set. He thought it most likely that this radio had been made by the Imperial Radio Mfg Co (the manufacturing branch of Warwick Smeaton Ltd). Another possibility was that as this set had a chrome plated chassis, it could have been made by S D Mandeno & Co who used chromium plated chassis at the time and were known to have made private-brand radios.

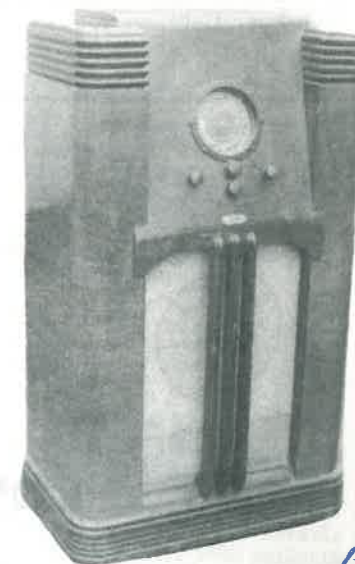
As can be seen from the picture, this set is a typical example of a N.Z. made console of 1936-37 vintage, but anything less like a 'real' Midwest would be hard to imagine. The chassis is roughly mounted on a wooden spacer to raise it up from the shelf, which could indicate that the (Goode's) cabinet is not original, even though it has a Midwest nameplate on the front. Also there is a large gap below the speaker baffle board which can be clearly seen in the picture.

After thinking about it, I am inclined to put this Midwest in the same category as an 'Atwater-Kent' I have (which is made by Akrad) and regard it as another example of an American name being borrowed by a New Zealand company.

After all these years the reason why such a receiver came to be marketed under the Midwest name will probably never be known. Possibly Midwest Distributors wanted a smaller and cheaper model to complement the larger imported sets.



MIDWEST
Import Distributors
Limited
154 QUEEN STREET
AUCKLAND.



Jan 1990 someone mentioned seeing a Gullison table set model in the cabinet, so it probably was a Gullison cabinet

the use of receiver cabinet of name was employed by

BOOK REVIEW...

Radio Manufacturers of the 1920's by Alan S. Douglas. Vestal Press 1989

With the production of Volume Two of this three-part work Alan Douglas continues the saga of the American radio manufacturing industry and shows himself to be thoroughly at home with his subject. Because it is safe to assume that buyers of Vol.2 will already own a copy of the first volume, the author will need no introduction here.

Apart from having slightly more pages, 266 against 225, the format of this volume, including the cover illustration, is identical to the first. Vol.2 covers the products of 31 manufacturers, from Freed-Eisemann to Priess, and carries as many as 18 pages of illustrations per entry, though the coverage varies considerably from one manufacturer to another. In some cases lesser known brandnames are given more coverage than big names, probably because information on the latter is already more widely available. Even so, the decision of what to put in and what to leave out must have been a hard one to make.

As in the case of the first volume, the contents consist largely of contemporary advertisements taken from various sources. But how interesting these old ads are, and what a lot of information is packed into most of them, particularly when excerpts of catalogues and house publications are included. Although the amount of text is minimal, averaging about one page per manufacturer, it is sufficient to provide a complete history of the majority of companies covered, most of whom went out of business before 1930. Obviously, the histories of surviving manufacturers cannot be complete due to the limitation imposed by the cut-off date, though in some cases a few details of post-1929 activities are given in order to round off a particular story.

Although this publication is intended for an American readership it is likely to find a wider market because American radios were exported to many countries, including New Zealand, during the period covered. New Zealand readers in particular should find plenty to interest them as most of the radios imported during the 1920's were of American manufacture and surviving examples are still fairly common.

The amount of work involved in the preparation of these three volumes (the third yet to be published) must have been enormous and the author is to be congratulated on providing such an interesting and useful addition to the existing literature. Well done, Alan!

J.W.S.



HINTS AND TIPS REGARDING YOUR RADIO

DO AND DON'TS.

Keep your set free from cockroaches and other vermin. Sprinkle a little insect powder in the back of the cabinet. Be certain, however, that this powder does not get into the chassis.

If thin spirals of smoke or a smell of burning comes from your radio, switch off immediately to save further damage, and have a service man examine the instrument.

Don't call a service man unnecessarily. If the instrument won't work make sure that the mains wall socket is alive (try some other electric appliance in the socket, such as a reading lamp) and ensure that the aerial is connected in the correct position.

Don't expect because your 1935 receiver has just been repaired it will be as good as your friend's 1941 model.

If you can't receive any particular station don't conclude the receiver is at fault. If other stations are being received that station may not be transmitting or weather conditions may be against you.

Don't leave your set on for an extended period without supervision and, above all, don't leave it on all night, as this may cause serious overheating, and should a serious fault develop there is a possibility of fire; also remember that the life of your valves is being lessened.

Don't turn the volume of your receiver on too loud. Remember your neighbours are not anxious to hear your receiver as they probably have their own.

Be sure that the mains connection (wall plug or lamp socket) is not loose, as this might cause interference to your reception.

WANTED (Cont.)

Chassis only for Majestic model 460A; Dial scale for Philco 60EZ (upright cabinet) trade preferred. J.A. Thompson 32 Trent St Oamaru Nth Otago Ph. (0297) 45727

Cabinet for RCA model 9T-1 or 9K3; Four legs for RCA model 33 (p.119 Golden Age); Dial scale for Columbus 65. Paul Burt 44 Hastings St Christchurch Ph. (03) 327-157

Atwater Kent type 'L' chassis, any condition, to suit model 74 cabinet; A K stepdown audio transformer for model 768Q battery set/ Pilot 'Wasp', any condition.

Bryan Marsh 20 Rimu Rd Mangere Bridge Auckland Ph. 667-712
Blaupunkt or Becker German car radios; Philips all-wave portable, hybrid transistor/valve lineup, will trade cloth-covered Zenith radios as advertised in last Bulletin.

Ian Sangster 75 Anawhata Road Pihā R.D. Auckland Ph. 8149-597
Zenith 7-V, 5-band model 2056 chassis, or complete console. Has 7½ inch black dial and six knobs. Howard Sheeran 3 Mulqueeny St Wodonga Victoria 3690 Australia

Meter only, inworking order (marked Bad Tube - Good Tube) for Supreme model 385 Automatic Radio Analyser; also an Arcturus type PZ tube in good condition. Buy or exchange for W.D.Y.W. Dave McLaren 25 Aotea St Ph. (024) 550-693 (Collect)

Knobs, 3 (tune, volume, tone) for Skyscraper model NS chest; set of knobs for Pilot model 193B; circuit diagram for Raycophone model 54PE (1934). This circuit appears in "The Technician" for July, 1939. Can any of our Australian members help? Bill Adams, 31 Alexander St Kingsland Auckland 1003. Ph. (09) 396-054 collect

BOOKS FOR SALE

THE FOLLOWING BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE FROM JOHN STOKES. ONLY SMALL STOCKS ARE HELD SO, FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

Vintage Radio 1887-1929, Greenwood-McMahon	\$18
A Flick of the Switch 1930-1950 McMahon	\$24
How to Repair Oldtime Radios C. Hallmark	\$17-
Most Often Needed Diagrams 1926-1938	\$24
Official Radio Service Manual, 1930	\$28
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"MORE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO"

Publication of this new book is now not expected until early in 1990. Further details in the February 1990 Bulletin.