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Ray Knowles, 507 Sellwood St
Napier. Ph 84-338

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Ph 404-6606 Auck (collect)

Tuning dial knob, filament rheostat and knob for Atwater Kent 44, also a speaker; Rear RF coil assembly, mains input plug,tone switch on/off switch back cover,output transformer and speaker for Philips 634A. Glass dial scale for Pye 811.
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NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

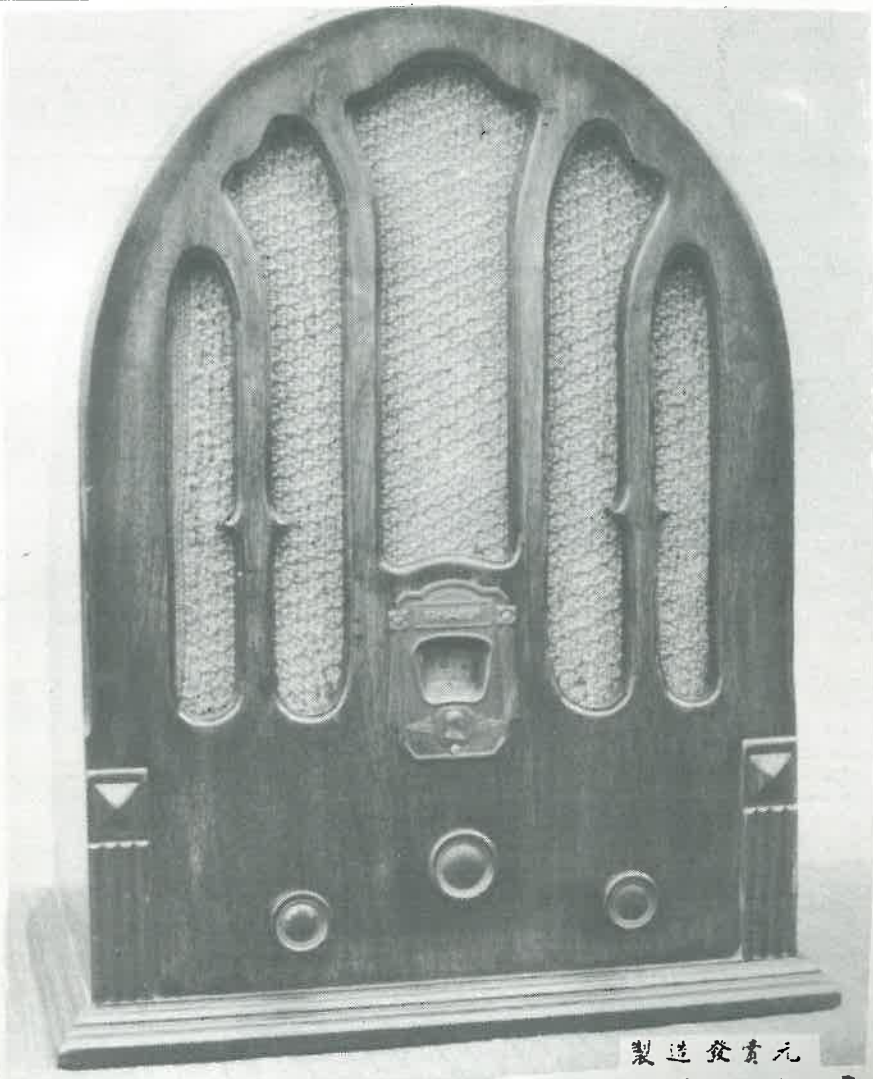
There is no charge to members for advertisements placed in the 'market Place'. But to make the most effective use of this space all ads should contain as much information as possible. For example, when requesting parts for a particu- receiver the model number should be quoted, or where this is not known a brief description of the set, e.g. number and types of valves and approximate year of manufacture, should be given.

NZVRS BULLETIN

Vol. 2 No.4 Feb.1982

NEW ZEALAND
VINTAGE RADIO SOCIETY

An organisation devoted to the preservation and restoration of early radio equipment, and collation of associated information



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PRESIDENT: Des. Wright
3 Coquille Place
Bucklands Beach
Ph. 535-8928

SECRETARY: Eric Kirby
10/29 Owens Rd.,Epsom,
Auckland 3
Ph. 603-054

Correspondence, membership enquiries, subscriptions: To Secretary, at address above.

N.Z.V.R.S. BULLETIN...
EDITOR: John Stokes
617 Dominion Rd., Mt.
Roskill, Auckland 4
Ph. 604-213

Contributions to the BULLETIN, and advertisements, should be sent to The Editor.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The question is sometimes asked by newcomers to the ranks of vintage radio enthusiasts as to why so many of the pre-war radios that turn up nowadays were of American origin. Obviously there must have been a lot about at the time in order for so many to have survived to become collectors' items. But, just why was this?

To start with, there weren't many sources of supply, particularly in the very early days, and America offered the sorts of sets that suited our needs. By comparison British sets were for so long mainly of the smaller regenerative TRF variety. The only other countries which could supply our needs were Canada and Australia and comparatively few sets were imported from either country.

As much as anything else it was the early development of the all electric superhet in the U.S. which in turn quickly became so popular here, that started the process of Americanisation in this country.

There is no doubt about it, in pre-war days America led the world in both new developments and manufacturing techniques. And in spite of having to face a 42% import duty American sets were still competitively priced and good value for money. In general American receivers were of straight-forward construction and easily serviced; furthermore service information was readily available. None of that absurd 'Strictly Confidential' rubbish with which some British manufacturers were wont to restrict the issue of their service manuals.

Finally, American companies were always ready to do business, unlike some British manufacturers who seemed indifferent to enquiries from patriotically motivated importers who were trying to Buy British. By way of illustration: in 1933 the N.Z.Radio Times was constrained to publish an article entitled "Are English Manufacturers High-Hatting the N.Z. Market?".The answer, apparently, was 'Yes' .

So far no mention has been made of our own 'home grown' products which were early on the scene and eventually accounted for a sizeable percentage of the market. From 1935 onwards the proportion of locally made sets steadily increased and by 1940, with the drop in imports brought about by war-time conditions, New Zealand-made sets came into their own. And that is why most surviving pre-war radios are either American or New Zealand.

J.W.S.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On occasions I am asked by people who know of the existence of our Society - How is the Vintage Radio Society getting on? Answer - Great! With a continued growth in membership it compares very well with overseas societies; indeed, on a population basis I believe we are ahead of fellow societies. Our recent public exhibition showed the level of effort members put into it, and this flows on with their personal collections and contributions.

During 1981 we have had several very good guest speakers at our regular meetings and some further interesting talks are scheduled for the coming months. As hoped,these meetings have become a forum for the interchange of information and ideas. To join in on one of these 'bull' sessions is to enjoy a display of infectious enthusiasm.

Most noticeable is the very fine restoration work done by members from all walks of life, many of whom have had no previous experience. The electrical, mechanical and finishing work are of a very high standard. In some cases members who are,or have been,engaged in 'radio' as a livlihood have been able to pass on the benefit of their own experience to newcomers. Collectively a very considerable storehouse of knowledge is available throughout the Society.

Our editor,John Stokes,who has long specialised in valve collecting and valve history has recently received an award "For Outstanding Contribution to Vacuum Tube History" presented by the prestigious Antique Wireless Association, New York. This,the annual 'Tyne Award',went to John for his forthcoming book to be published by Vestal Press of New York later in the year. Congratulations to John for what I am sure will be a treasure to all collectors. Advice will be given in the Bulletin as to the availability of the book as soon as this is known.

Finally, may I ask you to remember that this is your Society which you can help by sending in for publication in the Bulletin,any items of interest; or even try your hand at writing an article. Your thoughts and ideas can make interesting letters to the editor and also let your fellow members know what's going on in your neck of the woods.

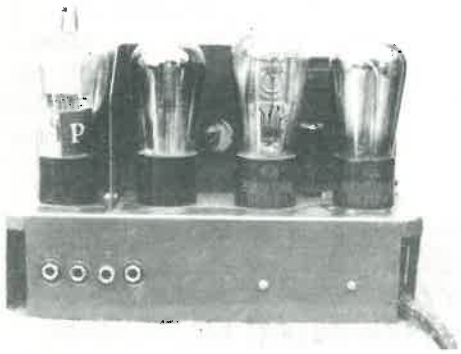
Yes, overall it can be said that the Society is in good shape and we look forward to continued growth in 1982.

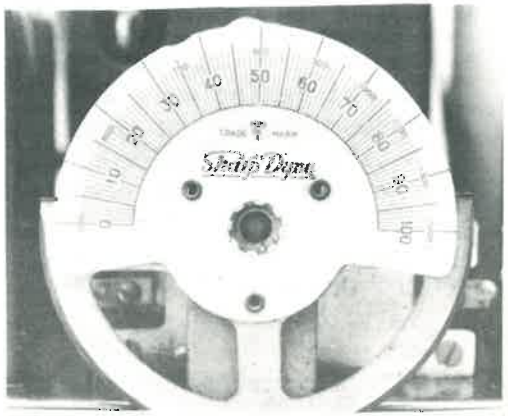
Des Wright
President

AN EARLY JAPANESE RADIO

by John Stokes

In view of the enormous strides made by the Japanese electronics industry in recent years it is interesting to take a backward glance to earlier days in an attempt to learn something of the beginnings of radio manufacturing in the Land of the Rising Sun. As in other countries, Japan had developed a system of wireless telegraphy for naval and maritime use (the N.Y.K.system) but had been somewhat behind in the entertainment field of radio. Failing an understanding of the language and the lack of an opportunity to make an on-the-spot study the only course left is to make a detailed examination of any Japanese radio that may turn up from time to time in an endeavour to ascertain something of the state of the art as it existed in pre-war Japan.



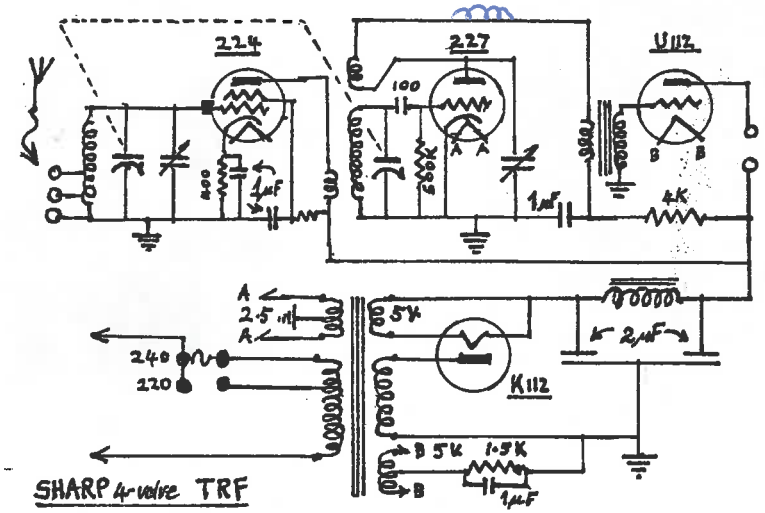


The SHARP 4-valve regenerative TRF depicted on the front cover of this issue is an example of a Japanese set sold in this country in the early 1930s. The manufacturer was the T.Hayakawa Works of Osaka, an d the original trade-mark consisted of a hand holding a capital letter 'T' (see illus.of dial). Nowadays this company has become the giant Sharp Corp whose name is known throughout the world.

Although it is not possible to pinpoint the year of manufacture of this particular receiver it is known that no Japanese radios were imported into New Zealand before 1933, so it is reasonable to assume that this model would have been made no earlier.

A comparison of the Sharp set with the products of other countries made during the same period reveals its design to be somewhat behind contemporary American practice, though it must be remembered that similar small regenerative sets were still very popular in Gt.Britain at the time. Even in the United States small TRF receivers were not unknown,though they were not (overtly,at least) regenerative, and in any case were certainly not typical of the general run of American receivers of the period.

RFC omitted



A study of the accompanying diagram reveals the circuit as a 224 screen-grid RF stage followed by a 227 regenerative detector transformer-coupled to a type U112 triode output valve.(This valve appears to be equivalent to the American 112 or 112A). A second similar valve is used as a half-wave rectifier with the grid being left floating. A 10-inch moving-iron (magnetic) speaker is connected directly in the plate circuit of the output valve. No volume control,*per se*, was fitted but the regeneration control was partially effective for this purpose.

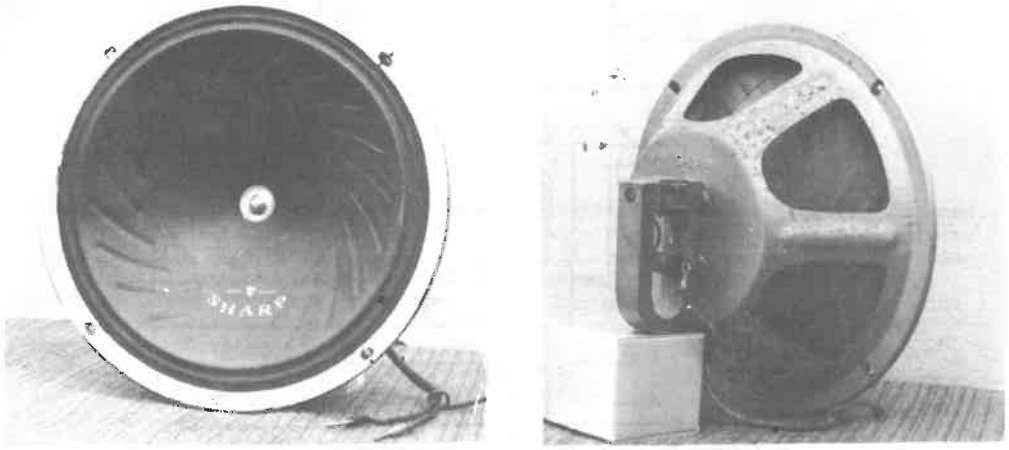
In this case it was rather surprising to find that, apart from valves, the only components which had ever been replaced were one bypass capacitor and one resistor. However as the set had been standing unused for many years it was only to be expected that further replacements would be needed and it was necessary to replace the remaining bypass and filter capacitors before operation could be restored. Although the audio transformer was naturally a prime suspect it proved to be in good condition after all these years and showed no signs of incipient failure. On the other hand the speaker had an open-circuit coil. After carrying out the necessary work the set performed normally and a prolonged soak test failed to elicit any burning smell or little wisps of smoke from the power transformer.

As was to be expected, the performance of such a small set, particularly in the matter of selectivity, fell far short of even the simplest superhet and would have been barely adequate in its heyday. Another failing was the tinniness of reproduction due to the poor bass response of the speaker. By this time magnetic speakers were almost extinct in the U.S. though still to be found in some cheap midget AC/DC sets as well as in many battery sets; no American AC model ever used a bult-in magnetic speaker. In this case the poor low-frequency response of the speaker allowed the use of half-wave rectification together with a minimum of filter without encountering hum problems.

The actual construction of the individual components, and the set as a whole, was quite comparable with contemporary products of other countries. Most, if not all, of the parts were of Sharp's own manufacture and in this connection it is interesting to recall that certain Sharp components such a midget condensers and small magnetic speakers were sold here during 1934-1937.

* yes, there was at least one, the Echophone model 'C' (claimed to be the first midget) also Crosley 54 (used Dynacone spkr)

(cont.from p.5)



Front and rear views of magnetic speaker

Although in such a small set there was, perhaps,not much scope for any display of originality at the same time there was no evidence of direct copying, apart from the use of American type valves. American influence is evident in the cabinet styling; in fact the set could easily be mistaken for an American one made two or three years earlier. Whether this particular set was typical of Japanese practice in general is not known but it is the writer's recollection that there were other quite similar sets sold here at much the same time.

A point of interest is that the set carried no Japanese markings of any sort, either on the components or chassis, in fact nothing whatsoever to identify the set as being made in Japan. The thought occurs that this may have had something to do with the fact that there was at this time some anti-Japanese feeling apparent and the omission of the name of the country may have been deliberate. When it is realised that sets of this type could be imported at a cost of between two and three pounds no wonder local importers were wary of them - though as things turned out Japanese sets never became a threat to either locally-made or imported receivers.

SUPPLY OF CIRCUIT DIAGRAMS ... CHANGE OF PROCEDURE

In future all members requiring copies of circuit diagrams should write to:

Bill Farmer
26 Iriangi Road, One Tree Hill
Auckland 6 (Phone 665-549)

The charges are $1 per circuit plus 25cents for each additional page of material pertaining to that model. Add postage and handling charges of 40 cents for up to five pages and 40 cents for each additional pages.

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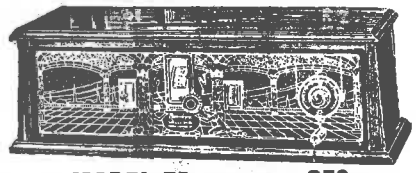

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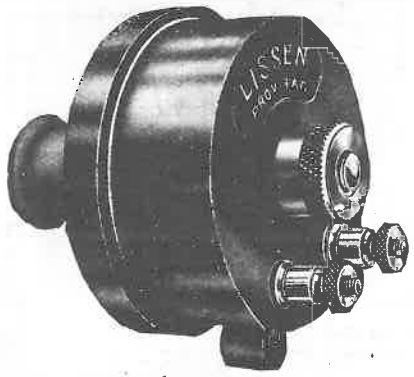

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A NEW ZEALANDER RECALLS EARLY RADIO MANUFACTURING IN THE U.S.A.

by Arthur E.Allen

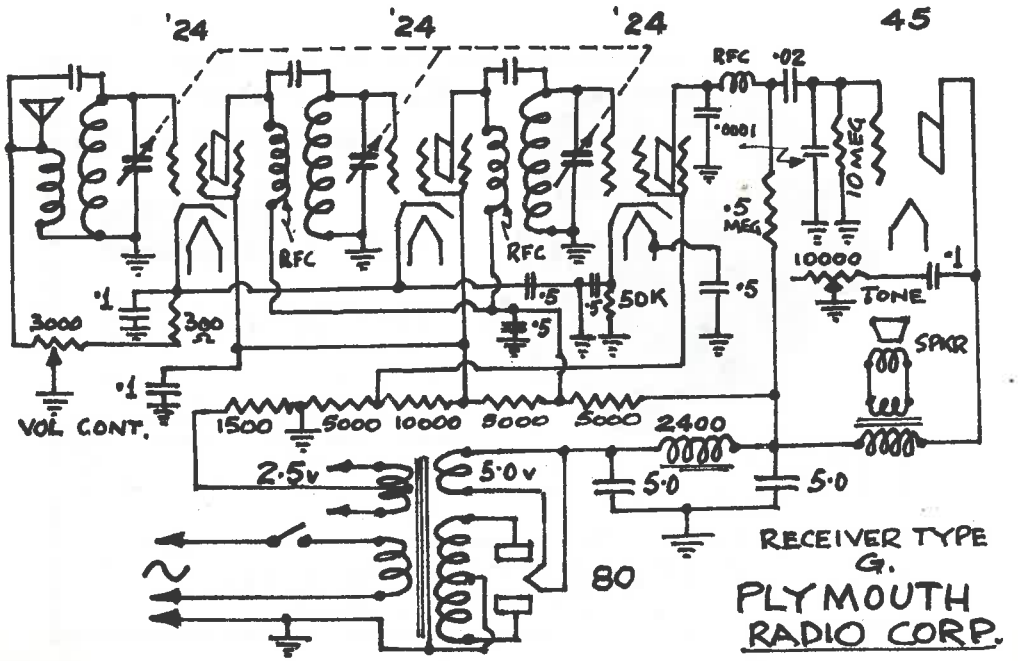
It has not been given to many New Zealanders to have been part of the early radio manufacturing scene, particularly in the land of mass production - the United States of America. One such person was Maurice Keane of Auckland. As a young man with the foresight to see that the then infant radio industry was to develop along major lines, Mr Keane took himself off to Los Angeles to see what was going on.

On arrival Mr Keane obtained a position at the Gilfillan Bros factory where he found the famous Gilfillan Neutrodyne battery sets being phased out of production in favour of the new all-electric receivers then undergoing development. With the inroads being made into the battery-set market by these new receivers Gilfillan switched to the production of the smaller types of mains-operated sets.

While still working for Gilfillan and seeking to extend his knowledge, Mr Keane took a course with the Radio College of California and was awarded a diploma as a Radio Technican. Incidentally, his tutor was one of the 'greats' of early West Coast radio, Howard Groves, chief engineer of KNX, Los Angeles. Any DXers receiving verification cards from this station in those days will have seen Howard Groves signature on the cards.

After leaving Gilfillan Mr Keane then spent some time with another Los Angeles company, the Austin Radio Mfg Corp, makers of midget radios. Transferring again his next job was with the Keller-Fuller Co, makers of 'Radiette' radios. This brand was sold on the New Zealand market during the early 1930s.

Having by now acquired some skill as a technician Mr Keane became a final tester for the Plymouth Radio Corp, another company whose sets were sold in this country; Spedding Ltd of Auckland were the agents. A well-remembered occasion while



Points of interest 1. no bypass on det anode. 8
2. Heater bypassed by .1 at one side

at the Plymouth factory once occurred when Mr Keane was unable to quickly clear a fault in one chassis; an event which nearly resulted in an entire shipment being held up. The Plymouth receivers were of the TRF variety and the set in question failed to deliver any detected audio signal. Finally the chief engineer was called in and together he and Mr Keane traced the fault to a shorted bypass capacitor across the detector cathode resistor. The shipment made the boat!

Following his service with Plymouth Mr Keane moved north to San Francisco where he became chief troubleshooter for the Wurlitzer Mfg Co who at the time had an assembly plant in that city. While there Mr Keane enrolled at the University of California, doing an extension course in radio communication. Eventually the mounting effects of the Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in Wurlitzer closing their West Coast operation. Mr Keane then became a salesman in the field of radio and refrigeration and worked for several department stores in the San Francisco Bay area. Later he demonstrated and sold newly-developed intercom systems for a well known telephone equipment manufacturer in the same area.

After this Mr Keane obtained a diploma in accountancy and business management and then secured a job in the office of of a welding company where he stayed from 1939 to 1945. By this time America had entered World War II and Mr Keane was inducted into the U.S.Army wher he passed through the Signal and Radio Schools and later played in the Army Band. At the War's end Mr Keane returned to New Zealand where his specialised knowledge was turned to advantage in the sales field where he obtained positions with several well-known Auckland radio companies.

Although now semi-retired Mr Keane still retains a lively interest in radio as well as in his hobbies of music, singing and drama (he recently played a part in a N.Z. film). He is one of a unique and small group of surviving radio pioneers.

INFORMATION WANTED

Stan Brehaut of Timaru came across this little mystery recently in the course of restoring an AK 20. As can be seen, the words 'NOT GUARanteed' were concealed by the nameplate. Does anyone have any information or ideas about this? If so, please drop a line to the editor.

R3

RESTORATION ..... WHAT IS IT?

by Ian R.King

The thing that prompted me to attempt this article was a visit from the local museum curator. Being more than usually oppressed by my mortality (53rd birthday celebrations just over) I had invited him to view and enthuse over one hundred restorations lovingly performed over a period of of about ten years, with the object in mind of donating same to the technological section. After all, I thought my better half should not have to be burdened with this particular disposal problem when I had left the scene.

The curator duly arrived and looked carefully at the nicely restored old wirelesses. If you are one of a particular species of collector his comments are worth noticing. If you are the other, and I suspect the more prevalent type, then go and read the racing page. The comments were as follows:

1) Have you cleaned back and repolished a lot of your cabinets?

2) Why?

3)A lot of these sets will not be in going order?

4) What have you done to those that are? Et cetera and et cetera.

Now, if you are thinking of leaving your restored collection of old valve wirelesses to a public museum the comments are worth analysing. Firstly, I presume we all collect old radios because we are technically interested in their circuitry and performance. So, to my mind a radio is not a radio unless it is performing. If it is not capable of being operated it is only an inanimate piece of furniture. Secondly, I presume we collect things not with the idea of becoming deceased tomorrow or next week foremost in our minds, but with a desire to have such things looking as beautiful as they were originally, and sounding good too.

But now here comes the big sledge hammer! Leaving pride, ego or whatever out of the picture, if you, a would-be restorer, dare lay one finger on that cabinet to disturb its virginity, or tip that grimy old chassis upside down and unobtrusively solder in some nice new polyesters you will have your local curator about as eager to accept your offerings for posterity as you would be welcome in church in your jockey grundies.

So there you are fellow restorers. Cease trudging around the paint merchants looking for the right stain and the right gloss. Cease your endless quest for 400 V capacitors. Just blow the dust off your cabinets and refrain from plugging in the chassis, sit back and bore your friends and wonder where the devil all your satisfaction and sense of achievement has gone. Don't worry, you will die of boredom shortly and then the sets can all go to your local museum. Happy collecting.

B2

BOOK REVIEW

A HISTORY OF RADIO IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1897-1977

by John F.Ross.

This book has to be one of the most thorough I have seen anywhere on the documentation of radio history. Its 270 pages cover the whole gamut of the South Australian wireless scene, from the first experiments by Professor Bragg of the University of Adelaide through to modern-day satellite communications.

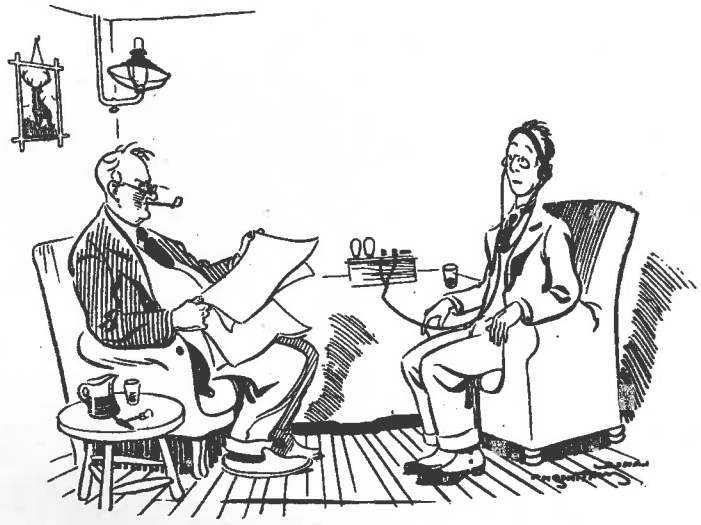
The book is divided into ten chapters dealing in turn with the Pioneers (the singing Spark), the Wireless Institute,the Experimenters, Broadcasting, Maritime Radio, Aeradio, the Flying Doctor (pedal wireless), Trade Exhibitions, Time Signals and Space-Age Communications.

Much space is given to descriptions of early amateur, experimental and broadcast stations up to the present day. Equipment is described in detail along with biographical notes on the pioneers involved. The book is illustrated with photos of early stations some of the personalities. A few 1920s broadcast receivers are also illustrated.

The book tends to be a bit 'heavy going' at times, some material being duplicated in different sections. Overall I found it interesting as it gives a good picture of what radio was like, not only in South Australia but also elsewhere.

The need is now seen more than ever for a similr publication documenting our own radio history - amateur, commercial and manufacturing particularly.(Broadcasting has already been covered to some extent but there is room for more.

Arthur Williams.



Nephew (on visit to Scotch uncle): "Wireless has wonderful possibilities!"

Uncle: "Aye! When they get it perfected we can visit wi' relations without having to feed 'em!"