



NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2008

CHRS *Signal*

RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF EARLY RADIO AND RADIO BROADCASTING

- **Radio Factory in Berkeley?**
WILL RAYMENT'S MYSTERIOUS DISCOVERY
- **Holiday Bash at KRE**
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THE BERKELEY RADIO

Will Rayment's Mysterious Find

I guess all the members of the California Historical Radio Society have come across an old tube-type radio under strange, coincidental circumstances. I had one that I brought to the attention of our fearless leader, Steve Kushman. Steve suggested I write it up for the CHRS Signal. So, bear with me as I try to make this interesting reading.

As many of you know, in the 1950s I was involved (to say the least) in the manufacture of tube-type Hi-Fi equipment. Keep that in the back of your head as we continue.

I enjoy a nice game of golf weekly with a couple. I had attended Alameda High School with the wife, Carol Johnson, in the early 1940s. Recently, she asked me what occupation I pursued after World War Two was over.



Berkeley AM radio donated to CHRS



Handsome dial art

I told her I manufactured radios. "Oh", she replied, "So did I." My smart-ass comment was "Uh huh, *sure* you did." She then continued "The girls on the production line made these small radios for the US Armed Forces that remained overseas after the war. We would ship them out to some foreign country periodically."

Now she really had my attention. "What was the name of the company? How many ladies were on the production line? Where was the manufacturing done?"

In that order she replied, "I think it was the Wave Miller Company." She continued, "The production workers varied in num-

bers.” Apparently they were all attending UC Berkeley and had varying class schedules. She recalled that she and two other Alameda girls commuted together to Berkeley since their class schedules and production employment schedules were the same. I since have learned that the company name is correct and the address was 188 12th Street in Berkeley.

Her next statement really got my attention. “I think I still have one radio that Mr. Wave Miller gave me. It’s probably in the basement or up in the attic. If I can find it, would you like to see it?” I think my resounding “HELL YES!” could be heard by everyone in the restaurant.

SO, on your next visit to KRE, you will find the radio on display as you enter the building. Yes, Carol Johnson found the radio in her attic and generously donated it to CHRS.

As I mentioned in the beginning, the radio came into my life under strange, coincidental circumstances. Carol Johnson attended both grammar and high school with me in Alameda. If this coincidence isn’t mysterious enough, how about this?

There is no manufacturer’s name anywhere on the radio. The only identification is the name “Berkeley” on the dial and the picture of the Campanile on the tuning dial. There is no indication that the set was ever subjected to UL testing, which was required by any manufacturer selling radios in the US at that time.

There might be more missing pieces of this puzzle, so, if you can shed any light on the mysteries of this radio, please call me at 510 582-9726.

-Will Rayment

Editor’s note:

When attempting to find the factory location in Berkeley to get a photograph, I discovered that there is no 12th Street in Berkeley. I contacted the Berkeley Historical Society to see if there ever was a 12th Street. BHS past president John Aronovici graciously donated his research expertise. He found out that the Wave Miller factory was at 188 12th Street in Oakland - not Berkeley. He learned that the company was in operation at that location from 1938 through 1945. I went there for a photo and discovered that the address is now a six story parking structure for the government buildings near Lake Merritt.



Chassis displays no UL, license, model, or serial information

CHRS HOLIDAY SOCIAL AT KRE

It was gratifying to see the KRE parking lot full of cars on December 6th, and, *there wasn't even a swap meet!* Our meeting and holiday party went very well, thanks mostly to the CHRS members who brought food and good cheer to share.

We packed our meeting room after the board met. Volunteers were recognized for their contributions of time and help to CHRS. The 2008 Charles D. "Doc" Herrold Award, "for outstanding achievement in the preservation and documentation of early radio", was presented to Will Rayment. As you have seen on the preceding pages, Will has been involved with the documentation of various aspects of radio history. His involvement with the Sargent-Rayment Company is a well-chronicled legacy of Bay Area radio history. ***Congratulations, Will!***

After the meeting, everyone enjoyed lunch with old and new friends. Folks got a chance to check out our vintage radio station home and all the treasures in the CHRS collection.



CHRS December 6th board meeting



Will Rayment, deserving recipient of the 2008 Doc Herrold Award



Yummy K R Eats



Kindred spirits and good grub



Denice Stoops, Paul Shinn, and Art Lebermann.
A lot of radio knowledge in this threesome



A nice turnout for the CHRS December "social" at KRC



CENTRAL VALLEY CHAPTER MEET



Rain-or-shine swap meet in Modesto

October 4th was the first rain of the year, but that didn't stop the CHRS Central Valley Chapter from putting on a very nice swap meet in Modesto. There were about 10 sellers and 40 others in attendance. The food and coffee were welcome on a cold morning. The Chapter raffled some great prizes, including radios and tubes. The meet was held at the historic KMPH site. Thanks a lot to Eddie Enriquez, Rich Lane, Harry Bohl, Matt Thompson and the other members of the CVC who worked hard on setting up a nice event.



Here's some cold, hard (and a little bit wet) cash



It'll take more than a little rain to dampen spirits at the Modesto swap meet



PRETTY WET IN BERKELEY, TOO

Another rainy day on November 1st. But, the rain stopped in Berkeley at 7:30 AM and did not start again until about 11. Plenty of time for a good swap meet. The turnout was pretty good for a rainy morning around the Bay Area. We had about 15 sellers and over fifty others in attendance. CHRS sold many left over items from our July event, taking in in over \$500 for the day. A good time was had by all. Thanks to CHRS staffers Jaime Arbona, Dale Tucker, Tom Bonomo and Scott Robinson, who helped with the sale.



Who is afraid of a little rain?



We get pugnacious when the rain threatens



Nipper's thinking that's a lot of kibble



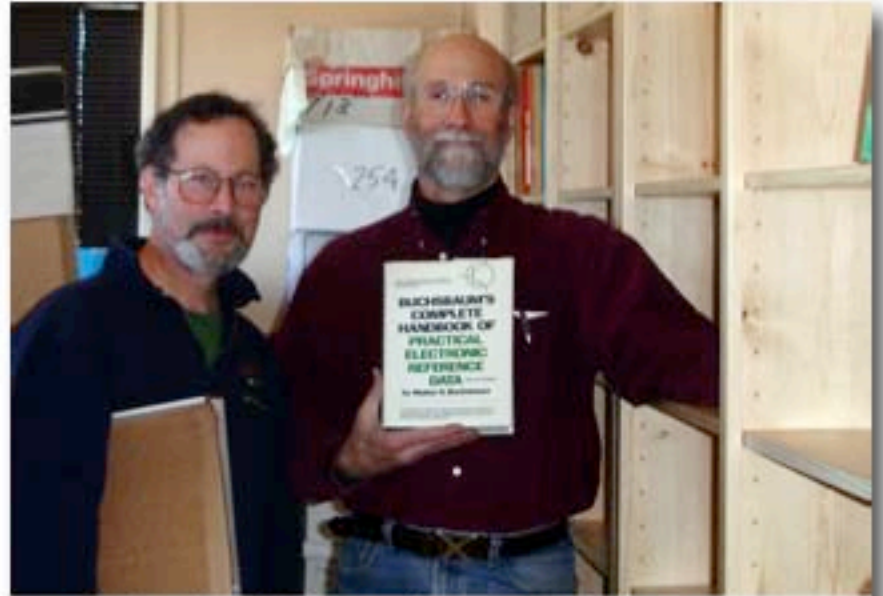
"It says here that CHRS welcomes volunteers to help at KRE."

HARD WORK AT KRE PAYING OFF

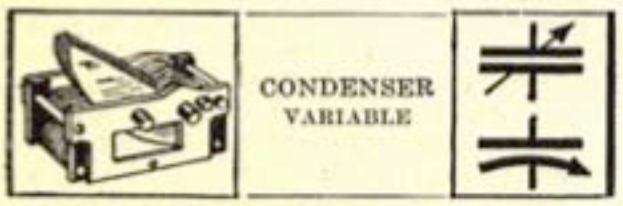
CHRS acquired six new 4' x 7' bookcases for the Maxwell Library. The preparation of the cases was handled mainly by Robert Swart, Walt Hayden and Dave Harris with help from others. They were double Varathaned, steel woolled, installed and braced by our volunteers. They are being filled with the contents of the Maxwell Communications Library. This process is being done by our hard working Vice President Scott Robinson with help from many others. Bart Lee has been sorting and filing the ephemera from the Maxwell Library.



Al Norman and Janice Kushman tackle shelf sanding for the new bookcases



Richard Links and Scott Robinson start filling new shelves in the Maxwell Library



A man who can hold his lacquer. Steve Kushman vs. a LOT of shelves



Walt Hayden and Robert Swart prepare one of our new bookshelves for finishing

Since the last Signal issue, there have been a number of improvements to our KRE site as well as generous donations to CHRS.

Our temporary above-ground sump line at KRE has been undergrounded by Larry Drees, Jim Bradt and Al Norman.



Jim Bradt, Larry Drees, and Al Norman dig a trench to bury our new sump pump line

Our grounds have been meticulously maintained by our crack grounds crew of Brent Hokanson, Larry Drees, Butch McDonald, Maria Palting, Jerry Cantou, and others.



Lea McCall transforms KRE's stinky Society Garlic with some gardening know-how

The inventory of the CHRS collection has been started by Elsa Trexler and Dave Harris. And John Staples has finished the restoration of our vintage Gates Dualux audio console and has rebuilt and rewired an original patch panel from KRE for use with the Dualux in the audio transfer service. And, speaking of the Gates Dualux, after much research and study on the internet, we are now able to report, with 99% certainty, that this audio console, which came out of the Nesman Studio in Wichita Falls, Texas, is the board through which Buddy Holly recorded Texas sessions in 1954 and on June 7, 1955. We are putting together a letter of provenance that will be displayed with the console. CHRS is very fortunate to own this historic piece of gear and once again expresses thanks to Stephen Barncard for for his generous donation.

Speaking of donations - Thank you to Butch McDonald and Maria Palting who recently donated a new chain saw, to go along with a new weed whacker and compressor they have already donated. And new member and volunteer Gilles Vrignaud donated a Fisher 500. Thank you Gilles.



John Staples puts old KRE patch bay back to work

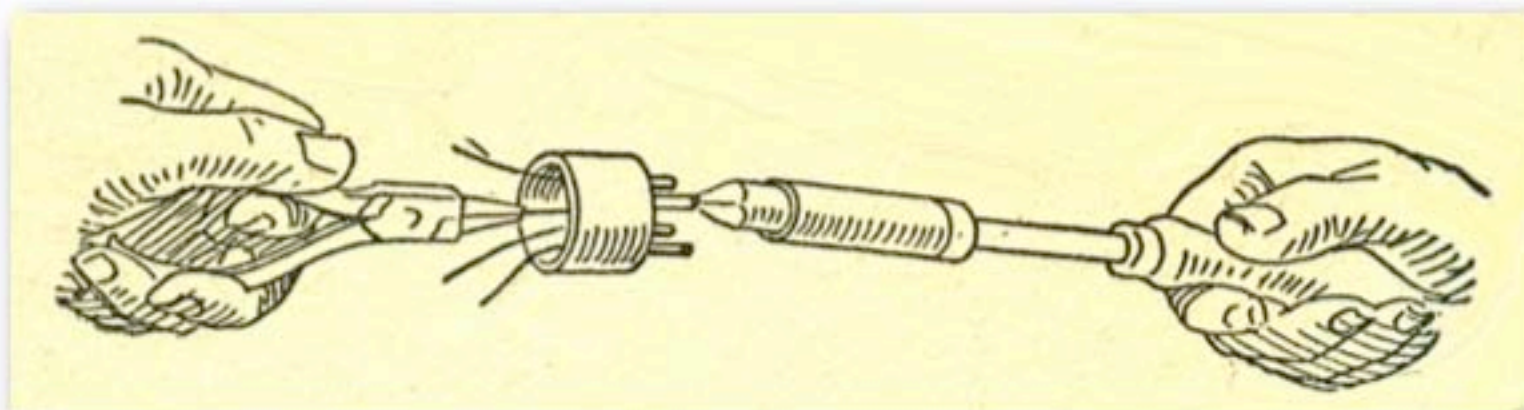
Remember that volunteers and donations of gear and financial contributions really make CHRS one of the finest organizations of its kind in the country.



When someone said "vacuum tube", Will Rayment took it literally



Elsa Trexler and Dave Harris shed some light on the CHRS collection inventory



I wonder why these coils make my radio sound mushy?

A REMINDER - CHRS memberships end at the end of the calendar year, unless you have paid in advance. CHRS values your membership and participation. Our members and your active participation are the keys to our success. Your renewal notices are coming by snail mail. It's very important to CHRS that you renew in a timely manner and donate heavily with your renewals. CHRS is entering a new era as we prepare to set into motion the wheels that will allow us to own 601 Ashby Ave. And to realize our goals, your help is vital. Also please take the time to answer all the questions on your renewal forms as this will enable CHRS to serve you better.



Paul Shinn installs the W6CF/B beacon antenna

The CHRS / Jim Maxwell Memorial beacon W6CF/B - is on the air! Now transmitting continuously from the historic KRE radio station building at 601 Ashby in Berkeley. Listen for our signal on 28.2045 MHz., 24/7. Please let us know if you can receive it. Thank You to Paul Shinn for conceiving and following through with this project. The beacon honors Jim Maxwell and gives CHRS a continuous presence on the 10 Meter amateur radio band.



Over and Out

That puts the lid on another issue of the CHRS Signal. I was delighted to have contributions of photos and articles from members. Keep 'em coming!

If you have any comments, suggestions, or material to submit, you can email me at

rodwentler@yahoo.com

Seeya next time,
Rod Wentler