



IARCHS

Iowa Antique Radio Club and Historical Society

IARCHS NEWS – Winter 2007

<http://www.iowa-antique-radio-club.com>

From the Editor

Here's the winter issue of our club newsletter! We have a report on the November 10th meeting at the home of Tom Zenisek, information on the upcoming IARCHS radio auction, a reminder on club dues, Remembering Broadcast with Easy Aces, an article on restoring a Transoceanic, and classifieds! Thanks to Curtis Lutz for his great Trans-Oceanic article, and Sherry Cowden for her article on the radio program called Easy Aces. I must admit I have never heard of that show – but then at 46, there are a lot of radio shows I have

never heard of. I grew up listening to the CBS Radio Mystery Theater.

It's very difficult to put together a newsletter without material. I invite you to share repair information, tips, pictures, and stories – whatever you have. Email your contribution to me at vtaudio@hotmail.com or mail it to me at 2626 NW 17th Street, Ankeny, IA 50023.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy New Year!

Dwight Baker

IARCHS Auction Date Set

Mark your calendars now! **Saturday May 3, 2008** is the date of the next IARCHS auction! This date was selected as the best possible date to avoid conflicts with other events and to give us time to advertise in advance. The auction will be conducted again by Brent Wears of Wears Auctioneering. We need your help to get the word out, consign quality items, and volunteer to help make this auction a success.

Club Dues

It's time to pay your club dues! The club dues are \$10.00, and we are on a calendar year basis. Make your checks payable to IARCHS and send to our new treasurer: Tom Zenisek. (Address at the end of the newsletter in IARCHS Contacts & Commitment) If you have an email address, please provide it so we can update our records. In the future we will be offering the newsletter in pdf format via email if you desire. There are 3 great benefits: 1). You get the newsletter in color! 2). You get the newsletter quicker. 3). You will get a price break (to be determined). This is one way the club can reduce costs, paper usage, and improve the quality of the newsletter.

IARCHS Meeting

On Saturday November 10, 2007 a meeting was held at the home of Tom Zenisek. Club members present had a great time viewing the wonderful collection that Tom has, looking at some items other club members brought, and discussing club business. Here are the minutes from the meeting:

I.A.R.C.H.S. Meeting Minutes 11/10/2007

I.A.R.C.H.S. met Saturday, November 10th at the home of Tom Zenisek in Cedar Rapids.

In attendance were: Dave Perkins, Dwight Baker, Rod Bunch, Anton Vanicek, Doug Spyrison, Pete Seaba, Jerry Lange, Tom Zenisek, and R. Fritts (visitor).

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:45 pm by Dave Perkins.

Old Business:

Treasurers Report:

The treasurer's report was distributed and discussed. The treasurer's report reflects the account information from the Ames Community bank account that Gene Dougherty opened when he was the treasurer. The account was closed on November 9th and the funds transferred to our new treasurer Tom Zenisek in Cedar Rapids. Tom had established an account with the funds from the proceeds of the radio auction in May. The account service charge was incurred when the account dropped below \$500 before the certificate of deposit was rolled into the checking account. The reduction in the newsletter cost for the fall newsletter was due to my company (Homesteaders Life Company) allowing me to use their copier at a reduced rate.

Iowa Antique Radio Club and Historical Society Treasurer's Report (Ames Community State Bank Account)

November 10, 2007

Certificate of Deposit - Balance @ 12/15/2006	\$1,562.46
Checkbook balance @ March 31, 2007	\$582.35

Balance @ March 31, 2007	\$2,144.81
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Income

Memberships March 2007 - October 2007	\$10.00
Checking Account Interest 7/2007 - 10/2007	\$2.78
Certificate of Deposit Interest	\$31.16

Income Total:	\$43.94
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Expenses

Auction advertisements	(\$362.81)
Newsletters (Incl postage)	
Spring	(\$105.36)
Summer	(\$170.50)
Fall	(\$68.70)

Web registration - 5 yrs	(\$44.85)
Account Service Charges	(\$16.05)
 Expense Total:	 (\$768.27)

Certificate of Deposit rolled to checking 6/18/2007 [1593.62]

Balance @ October 31, 2007 \$1,420.48

Report submitted by Dwight Baker

Auction Proceeds	\$ 229.90
Total Balance	\$1,650.38

A motion to accept the treasurer’s report was seconded and approved.

Auction Report: Tom Zenisek reported on the club-sponsored auction back in May. Although the auction itself went OK, there was really no profit for the club (without donations, the club would have lost \$145). With some generous donations made back to the club we took in \$105.10 after advertising costs. Total auction proceeds were approximately \$6,100 with \$614 to the auctioneer. The club received approximately \$124 from the 2% buyer premium. Total expenses were \$791, some of which were incurred by Tom Zenisek. **A motion that Tom be reimbursed for expenses incurred was made, seconded and approved.** A discussion followed on what problems there were, possible solutions, and whether the club should attempt another auction. The consensus was that the process was started to late causing problems with advertising, and conflicted with other radio events that were scheduled earlier. The consensus was also that we should try the auction again with adjustments for better advance notice and scheduling. May 3rd was suggested with an alternative date of April 26th or possibly in the fall. Several members volunteered to check other radio club events and to contact Antique Radio Classified to see if there were any conflicts.

Waukee: The fall Power Show was an experiment for both the Waukee Power group and IARCHS. Dave Perkins reported that it was very lightly attended. As an outreach for our club it was probably not very successful. There was an open discussion on possible outreach venues. The Mt.

Pleasant power show was discussed as a possible alternative to attempt to attract a different crowd. Anton indicated that he had a possible contact and would follow-up. The Cedar Rapids hamfest was also suggested and Tom indicated he would check with Tim Kephart to see if that was a possibility.

New Business:

Dave Perkins received a request from Estate Auction Pros wanting to place an ad for a large radio auction in the St Louis area. **A motion to suggest a charge of \$25 for a half-page ad and \$40 for a full-page ad was made, seconded, and approved.**

Doug Spyrison suggested a method of sending newsletters in PDF format. This would reduce printing and postage costs and provide the newsletter in color. A suggestion was made to offer a 2-tiered membership dues structure to reflect the reduced cost.

A motion to close the meeting was made, seconded, and approved

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:10 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Dwight Baker



Dave Perkins demonstrates his 'home brew' FM crystal receiver to Pete Seaba, Doug Spyrison, and Rod Bunch.

Collector Spotlight



Philco 48-250

This is a 1948 Philco 48-250. This set was a basket case given to me in 3 pieces. The cabinet was glued back together using JB Weld and the glued cracks widened with a Dremel tool. The enlarged cracks were then filled with Bondo and the cabinet was sanded smooth and then repainted. Replacement decals were then applied to the front. The radio chassis was re-capped and repaired. The set plays well and displays nicely. The tubes are 7A8, 14A7, 14B6, 35Z5, 50A5.

Dwight Baker

ZENITH TRANS-OCEANIC RECEIVER RESTORATION

By Curtis A. Lutz

Being addicted to collecting old radios of many brands and types, I have always leaned toward Zenith receivers, mostly late 1930s consoles and larger table radios. I Also have restored several dozen of the Zenith Trans-Oceanic (TO) portable radios in the past twenty years . The purpose of this

paper is to provide tips and suggestions regarding restoration of these highly-collectible Zenith portables.

Zenith built millions of the Trans-Oceanics, and there were several other manufacturers, including Hallicrafters, Stromberg-Carlson and RCA who made some interesting radios that had very similar schematics and tube-complements. Most of these AC-DC/Battery portables had five or six tubes and most used a selenium rectifier (although some used a 117-Series tube as the rectifier). Zenith had a model or two that used loctal tubes, however, most of the Zenith Trans-Oceanics were equipped with a selenium diode.

In order to limit the length of this article, the discussion will concentrate mainly on restoration of a Zenith Y-600 Receiver; there are several other models which utilize the same or very-similar power supply systems, so much of the information will apply to several other Zenith TOs.

The first suggestion is that you DO NOT plug the radio into AC power before making some preliminary tests. One item you really should have on your test bench is a variac/isolation transformer; this item provides safety when working on any radio that will be connected to AC power, plus it allows gradual application of power which has several advantages, especially when there is any problem in the power supply or load on the power supply. The variac is also very important when servicing any radios that have series-string tube filaments, especially when they are these sensitive, low-voltage type tubes. Another reason for the variac is that it allows you to check the operation of the receiver over the specified AC input voltage range (most of these portable radios should operate over a range from 90 to 125 Volts); I'm amazed at how few TOs will operate at all below around 100 or 105 Volts, if they still have the selenium rectifier in the power supply.

It is a good idea to carefully test all the tubes in the TO before anything else. Then carefully remove the chassis from the cabinet so you can make some preliminary tests: To get the chassis out, you will

Now, while you still have all the tubes and the 50A1 out of their sockets, take an OhmMeter and check out the resistors in the tube chain. Also check the resistors in the power supply, including the 115 Ohm surge resistor coming off the rectifier cathode (R-31), the 560 Ohm series resistor (R-29) and the 700 Ohm resistor in series from the 50A1 to pin 7 of the 3V4.

Next I suggest you substitute a resistor for the tube chain, a 150 Ohm at least 1-Watt connected from pin 7 of the 3V4 socket to B- (outside lug on the filter capacitor is B-/A-). Now, put the 50A1 tube (if good) into it's socket, connect a DC voltmeter to B- and the positive lead to the B+ terminal of that Selenium diode, connect the line cord to your variac/isolation transformer output, turn the TO on, then slowly bring the variac up while observing the DC voltmeter. I usually only bring the input voltage up to about 60 volts, then check to see what you have across that 150 Ohm resistor -- should be around 4 volts with about half the normal line voltage. If things still look good, bring the line voltage on up to 115 or 117 Volts, then check for around 8 volts across that 150 Ohm resistor, then check the voltage across the input filter capacitor (C-1A), which should be around 105-110 volts -- however, without any tube plate current, this might be a little higher. OK, if all this checks out, shut it all down, remove the 150 Ohm resistor and put the good tubes back into their sockets, then use the variac to slowly bring up the radio as above (but now you need to be checking voltage drop across the series filament string -- from B- to the 3V4 pin 7).

Now is a good time to put a jumper across two terminals by the speaker (since the speaker voice coil is no longer connected through the normal contacts of the headphone jack).

As you slowly apply increasing line voltage, this set might start playing. In more than half of these portables I found that the selenium rectifier was bad, or weak, so the set either had no B+ voltage, or would not operate unless you applied over 110 Volts input. My suggestion is that you always replace that selenium with a silicon diode

Before you start replacing any other parts, now is the time to check several operating voltages. Connect the voltmeter negative lead to B- (outer lug of the main filter capacitor can), bring the line voltage up to 117.

Check again for about 8 volts at pin 7 of the 3V4 tube socket.

Check for about 115 VDC at the cathode of the rectifier.

Check for about 105 VDC across the input filter (C-1A).

Check for around 95 VDC across C-1B.

Check for around 50 VDC across C-1C (pin 7 of the 50A1 socket)

Figure 2 below is a photo of a Y-600 chassis which appears to be original, showing the selenium rectifier at the upper left corner, and all the original capacitors.

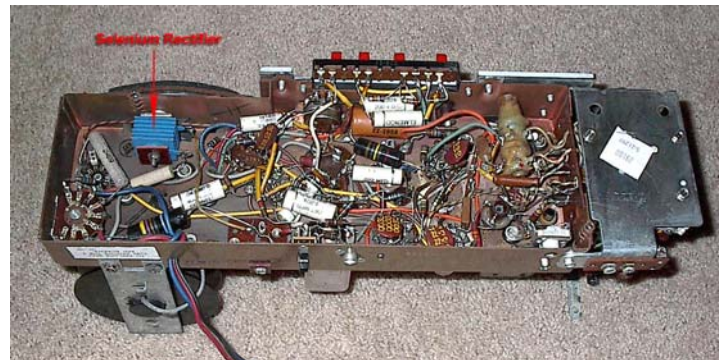


FIGURE 2

At this point, if the radio plays well, you should slowly turn down the AC input voltage, from the nominal 117 volts till the radio cuts out. The receiver should still operate with only 90 volts input. My experience is that four out of five TOs have a weak or dead selenium rectifier. It is a good idea to replace the selenium with a silicon diode.

To do this, unsolder the two leads from the selenium diode, take the nut off the mounting bolt, slip the selenium off the screw and take out that long 6-32 screw. Now, install a two-lug terminal strip (both lugs isolated from chassis) using a shorter 6-32 screw at the same position. Next install a 1-Amp, at least 400 PIV rated silicon diode on the two isolated terminals and reconnect the two leads to this replacement diode. When installing the diode and reconnecting the leads, do observe polarity of the diode -- the banded end is the cathode (B+). When this diode has been replaced, I suggest again slowly bringing up the set with the variac/isolation transformer, while your DC voltmeter is connected from B- to the 3V4 pin 7. You may find that the filament voltage now runs slightly high, as the forward resistance of a silicon diode is less than that of a selenium. So, measure all the A and B voltages with 117 volts AC input, and, if these are running high, you should insert a resistor in series with R-31 (the 130 Ohm surge resistor), usually a 10 or 15 Ohm wire wound takes care of the needed voltage drop, but, be certain that this resistor is at least a 5-Watt rating, otherwise it will run hot and not last. After installing the additional dropping resistor, run the voltage measurements again, all of which should now be within two or three percent of those indicated on the schematic.

My usual procedure is to replace all the paper-dielectric capacitors and all four of the electrolytic capacitors in each Trans-Oceanic receiver. In the chassis shown, I did not replace the electrolytic caps, as they all checked good in this radio. To replace the four filters (which were originally inside a can mounted on top of the chassis) -- with only the lugs protruding under the chassis, you will need to use some careful planning, in order to install four new capacitors in the crowded under chassis space available. I mount a five lug terminal strip at the front edge under the chassis (you will need five lugs that are isolated from the chassis), one for A-/B- and four others to replace the four positive lug connections of that original filter capacitor can; connect one wire from the nearest A-/B- (outer lug of the old capacitor can) to one lug of the new terminal strip (usually to the center lug) for use as

the common negative for all four of the replacement capacitors. Leave in place all the original wires/leads that are connected to those outer can lugs. After installing the five lug strip, carefully remove all leads from C1A and transfer to a lug on the new terminal strip. Next do the same for C1B, C1C and C1D. Any wires that are too short to reach will need to be replaced or extended (use heat shrink tubing if you splice in extension wire, or replace the lead back to where it came from). Now, observing polarization, replace each capacitor section with an appropriate value and voltage rated capacitor. Fortunately, new electrolytic caps are tiny and can be located in the available space below the chassis. Use 150 or 160 Volt rated capacitors to replace C1A, C1B and C1C. However, for C1D you should use a capacitor rated at 10 VDC (certainly not more than 25 VDC), otherwise the effective capacitance will be significantly-reduced. For C1D (the filament voltage filter), it is a good idea to use a filter with 200 uF to no more than 300uF, as the turn-on surge through a larger capacitor can be harmful to the 3V4 filament.

Figure 3 is a bottom of chassis photo showing the modified Trans-Oceanic, with the silicon diode and all the small paper-dielectric capacitors replaced.

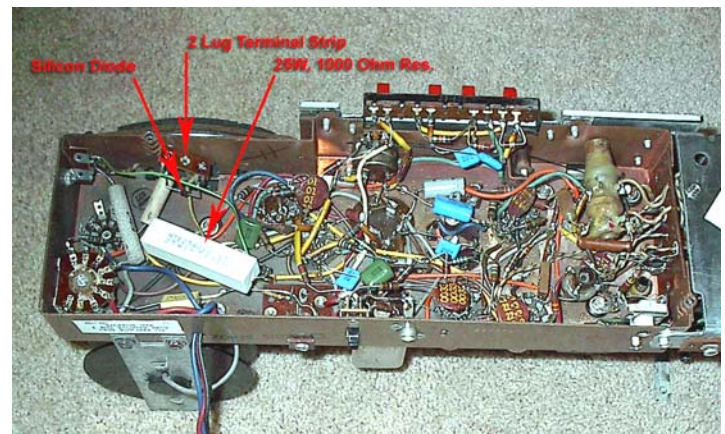


FIGURE 3

REGARDING TUBES USED IN THESE PORTABLE RADIOS: Assuming that all the tubes are good (no shorts, no open filaments or weak ones when you test them in a good tube tester), don't assume that every tube will work in the radio.

Since these tube filaments are connected in series when operated in the radio, you might find a tube that tests good but is non-functional when used in the series string mode. Keep in mind that when in the tube tester, the filament voltage applied is a fixed value (1.4/1.5 Volts or 2.8/3.0 Volts) for the respective types, however, when operated in a series-string configuration, the actual voltage drop across each tube filament is determined by the individual filament resistance of each tube; more than once I have found one tube in the string that was not conducting, due to the fact that the filament had a low resistance, such that the current through that tube did not develop enough voltage/filament heat to cause emission. Replacing the tube with another (tested good) tube of the same type solved the problem. While this is a rare problem, I have had at least three cases where a tube tested good in the tube tester, but was non-functional in the set. Most of these tubes are still available at reasonable prices, however the 1L6 tube is expensive, even if you can locate one for sale. This is one reason why I suggest the test procedures previously listed, to avoid blowing tube filaments, particularly the 1L6. Radio Daze catalog lists a 1L6 tube at \$44.95. Antique Electronic Supply shows it at \$49.40 each. There is no known direct substitute for this 1L6 tube, however, there is a tube that can be modified to replace a bad or missing 1L6; the 1R5 tube has the same filament voltage and current ratings, but has different basing terminations. In order to use the 1R5 in place of a 1L6, you will need to take a close cutting side nipper and cut pin 5 off very close to the glass, then take a file and gently reduce any remaining metal of pin 5 so that there is no chance of that pin contacting the metal socket contacts. After removing pin 5, this tube could easily be inserted incorrectly, so be careful that the tube is inserted with pins 1 through 4 and pins 6 and 7 in the proper socket contacts; double check that you have it inserted correctly, or you could cause damage. I have done this 1L6 to 1R5 conversion on a number of radios, and it usually does not work as well as the 1L6 tube; the change seems to work well in portables that are strictly broadcast band receivers (no shortwave).

When you are finished re-capping the radio, it is best if you take the time to carefully measure the actual voltage drop across each of the tube filaments. BE VERY CAREFUL when doing this, as a slip with a probe can be disastrous, possibly resulting in burning out one or more tubes. So, to measure each tube filament I like to use a set of test leads that terminate in those tiny alligator clips with insulators over all but the very ends of the clips. With the set turned off, carefully avoiding any contact except to the desired pin 1 or 7 of each tube, attach the little clips to one tube, variac up to 117 VAC input and note the filament voltage for that tube; repeat this procedure for each tube -- you should have between 1.4 and 1.5 volts drop across each tube (except the 3V4 should have 2.8 to 3.0 Volts from pin 1 to pin 7). If you find a tube that has more or less voltage across its filament, the tube may have filament resistance that is too high or too low, so try replacing the suspect tube with another of the same type and re-measure the voltage drop.

Now, with all the filaments operating with correct voltage (and correct current flow), it is time to check all the operating voltages at the plates and screens of these tubes. Use the schematic and with the set operating check from B- to each plate and to each screen. These voltages differ and will be from around 20 Volts to as high 90 Volts (per the schematic indications); all should be within 10%. If any falls out of the + or - 10% area, turn the set off and check plate load and all isolation resistors, as it is likely that one or more of them have changed value, or there could be a leaky bypass capacitor.

Regarding bias for the 3V4 output tube: Note that this tube operates at the positive end of the filament string -- that is, the 3V4 filament (which is the cathode) is operating at an average voltage of +6.75, with respect to B-. In other words, the cathode of the 3V4 is at +6.75 volts, while the grid gets a DC input voltage of +1.5 Volts. Since bias is the grid to cathode voltage, this 3V4 tube has a bias of -5.25 Volts. To verify this, measure from the center tap (pin 5) of the 3V4 tube to pin 7 of the 1U5, and you should get a reading of about 5 Volts (with the cathode being positive with respect to the grid).

Another way to measure this bias is to measure from the grid of the 3V4 (pin 6) to B-, which should have about a +1.1 volts grid voltage.

REGARDING THE PANEL LIGHT: the Y-600 and most other TOs include a simple panel lamp circuit that is totally independent of the power supply. Zenith originally used an odd 1.5 volt carbon-zinc battery to power this panel lamp; the battery was about the same diameter as a standard D-cell, but was about twice as long. I replace that battery with a standard D-cell, by installing a single D-cell holder and wiring it directly to the two leads that came down to the battery compartment. Just remove that little two-pin plug and wire to the battery holder leads. Check the light by operating the spring-return switch on the front. If the bulb is bad, replace it with a type 112 Lamp (available most any hardware store). This lamp is rated at 1.2 Volt, 0.22 Amp, and is a pre-focused type normally used in tiny single-cell flashlights.

ALIGNMENT: OK, with the set operating at any AC input voltage from 90 through 125, my next step is to do a complete alignment job, with the line input voltage set to 117. This requires a very-accurate signal generator, and either a good VTVM or FET (high-impedance) meter to measure AVC voltage during alignment, or, a highly-sensitive AC VTVM to measure the low audio AC across the voice coil of the speaker. Use only an analog type meter for alignment, NOT a digital type. I prefer monitoring audio output as the indicator, rather than using AVC, as this method has zero effect on the bias system and is more accurate. Always remember to keep the volume control at or near maximum during alignment, and always keep the signal generator output to the lowest possible level that will allow reading on your output (or AVC) indicator. The lowest AC voltage scale on most VTVMs is 1.5 Volts full scale, so these are not sensitive enough to use as tuning indicators across the voice coil. Good AC VTVM units include HP Model 403B (.001 to 300 Volt ranges), and many others such as Heathkit, EICO or Tenma (MCM Electronics). If you use AVC voltage as a tune-up indicator, do not use a VOM (low Ohms-per-Volt) type meter, as this will load down the AVC circuit

and result in alignment errors. Most hobbyist signal generators are not very accurate and produce a horrible saw tooth RF waveform with strong harmonics. One of the finest signal generators is the Sencore Model SG-80, however, it provides only standard broadcast band and the FM band outputs (no Shortwave bands). Suggested generators are military units such as the AN/URM-25 series, which can be purchased on eBay for about five to ten percent of what Uncle Sam paid for them. Best hobbyist generators would be the EICO Model 315 or the RCA Model WR-50B, but I suggest you employ a frequency counter to verify output frequency accuracy.

PUTTING IT BACK TOGETHER: When you are satisfied that you have completed the restoration and the radio is tested and aligned, you might want to clean up the cabinet inside and out, possibly touch up the leatherette or, in some cases recover it (if the covering is torn and/or has badly worn through areas -- usually on the corners). Many TO restorers use Black shoe polish to coat the leatherette, and especially those bare or threadbare spots on corners. So, when you get ready to reassemble the radio, carefully route the dial lamp with it's wires, also the three leads coming from that headphone jack, plus you will need to route the AC plug through that hole in the side of the cabinet as you move the chassis into place. Once you have it in place, re-install the panel lamp on the little bracket, re-connect the three color-coded wires at the speaker terminal strip and be certain that the AC Plug is through it's opening. Now you can reinstall the little screw that goes up into the cabinet top, the two screws that bolt the chassis down and the plastic cord escutcheon. Also check the Wavemagnet loop antenna to be sure it has continuity and reinstall it. From the front side, install the two knobs, plug it in and check it out.

If you want a variac/isolation transformer, there are four options: You can build one, I can build one for you, you probably could purchase one on eBay, or check out the Tenma unit, P/N 73-1097, available from MCM electronics, Centerville, OH. One of the best is the Sencore PR57, often available on eBay.

Good luck, and, if you have questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact the author.

Curtis A. Lutz, Broken Arrow, OK Phone: (918) 251-4915 e-mail: OldeRadios@cs.com

Remembering Broadcast

by Sherry Cowden

Easy Aces

Before there was the ditzy Gracie Allen and the even ditzier My Friend Irma, there was Jane Ace of *Easy Aces*. In her flat, Midwestern whine Jane fractured the English language. A malapropism is the substitution of a word that sounds like the intended word but has a completely different meaning. If Fibber McGee was the King of Malapropisms, then Jane Ace preceded him as the Queen, delivering such beauties as “I’m completely uninhabited,” “Congress is in season,” “I am his awful wedded wife,” and the classic “Time wounds all heels.”

The wit behind Jane’s mangled “mistress of misinformation” (Dunning, 1976) was her radio and real-life husband Goodman Ace. Working as drama and movie critic for the Kansas City Journal-Post in 1928, he had the good sense to marry Jane Sherwood and to realize the growing importance of radio. He broke into the new medium reading the Sunday comics for \$10 on Kansas City’s CBS affiliate KMBC. For another \$10, he later offered movie reviews as “The Movie Man.” One night in 1929 as Ace was completing his movie review, the program director signaled him to stay on the air because the performer for the next 15-minute program failed to show. Jane had accompanied him to the studio, and as Ace began to ad-lib she joined

in, and they began a spontaneous on-the-air exchange. They talked about their bridge game of the night before and Jane’s unconventional plays, going on to discuss a murder case in which a woman had put an end to her husband over an argument about bridge. The radio audience loved them and bombarded the station with favorable comments. KMBC offered them a regular show, with Goodman Ace writing the scripts. The show’s popularity soon attracted network attention, and CBS offered them a 13-week trial network contract, broadcasting from Chicago. The first show aired October 1931. When the contract neared completion, the Aces appealed to the listening audience, resulting in 100,000 supportive letters that began a long successful run for *Easy Aces*. Over the next several years, the show ran in various formats, with Lavoris and then Jad Salts sponsoring. They moved to New York and NBC Blue in February 1935, with a 15-minute three-times-a-week show sponsored by Anacin, going to a 30-minute once-a-week offering for the last year of their Anacin run. Ace was the master of his show and did not tolerate interference by sponsors. In 1944, when a company executive objected to a musical bridge on the show, Ace responded by saying that *he* didn’t much like that the headache remedy was packaged in cardboard instead of tin. He thought it was “a gyp.” Anacin reciprocated by canceling the show in January 1945. The show lived on in syndication until 1946. In 1948 a slightly different version returned in a half-hour format, for the first time performed in front of a live audience. It was titled *mr. ace & Jane* and only lasted for a year.

The *Easy Aces* cast sat around a card table with a concealed microphone. This was to keep them from experiencing “mike fright” and to foster a relaxed atmosphere. Following the “Manhattan Serenade” theme came the unassuming introduction, “Ladies and gentlemen . . . Easy Aces.” The setting was the prosperous Ace’s (he being a successful executive) Manhattan apartment and centered around everyday events in the couple’s lives – from problems with the maid to Jane’s attempts to finagle a mink coat out of her husband. Goodman was always referred to only as “Ace” and most of the show revolved

around his banter with Jane and her tilted logic and language – to which Ace’s usual response was “Isn’t that aw-w-ful?” ‘Easy’ was the right word for the Aces – serious issues did not exist in their urbane and sophisticated world.

The show relied on clever conversation to move it along, with no audience or laugh track and minimal sound effects. Other characters eventually found their way to the Ace’s apartment. Mary Hunter, a former studio receptionist, played Jane’s levelheaded best friend Marge, affectionately laughing at Jane’s foibles. Jane’s goal was to find Marge a husband. When Marge became engaged to a poor artist, Paul, Jane tried to help her friend by improving his prospects. She visited his studio and announced, “I’ve come to you for an itching, Paul, and every girl in my club wants you to do her, too.” Paul supplied the etchings but failed to capture Marge. Other characters included Ace’s difficult secretary Miss Thomas, Jane’s ne’er-do-well brother Johnny, their temperamental maid Laura, their adopted son Cokey, and fussy Mrs. Benton. Goodman Ace wrote all the scripts a week ahead, carefully crafting each character’s lines. He admitted to sometimes struggling with such a daunting task, gauging the level of difficulty by how many cigars he smoked. There was only one rehearsal, just before the broadcast, designed to keep the actors fresh.

Easy Aces had a brief television run (12/49 to 6/50) on Dumont TV, with the Aces playing themselves. Goodman Ace went on to write for other radio programs (Danny Kaye, Robert Q. Lewis) and became a top television comedy writer for Milton Berle, Sid Caesar, Bob Newhart, and Perry Como. He wrote a column, “Top of My Head,” for *Saturday Review* – these were eventually published in book form. In later years he returned to radio as a commentator for National Public Radio. Jane Ace retired in 1950 and died in 1974 at age 74 in New York City, five days before their 50th wedding anniversary. Goodman Ace died in 1982, age 83, at his home in New York City.

Some Choice Jane-isms: “I’ve been working my head to the bone.” “The fly in the oatmeal.” “He

got the intentional flu.” “Long face – no see!” “If I’m wrong I’m not far from it.” “I wanna get this off my chin.” “Make it short and sappy.” “Any girl would give her right name to become a star!” “I get up at the crank of dawn.” “You wouldn’t hit an innocent by-sitter.” “Get thee behind me, satin!” “We’ll cross him when we get to it.” “Why do you always keep your nose to the tombstone?” “I don’t like to cast asparagus.” “I’ve got more brains in my little finger than I have in my whole head!”

Resources: *Tune In Yesterday*, J. Dunning, 1976; *Radio Comedy*, A.F. Wertheim, 1979; *The Great Radio Comedians*, J. Harmon, 1970; *The Great American Broadcast*, L. Maltin, 1997; *Raised on Radio*, G. Nachman, 1998: Websites – www.otr.site.com (for more Jane-isms) and www.radiomemories.com.

Classifieds:

Ad Policy: Ads up to 100 words in length may be submitted by IARCHS Members and are free of charge. You may request your ad run up to 3 issues, if you don't specify it will run one issue, you may resubmit your ad. Submit your ads by mail or e-mail to the editor. Issue Deadlines: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1

FOR SALE: RUBBER U-CHANNEL FOR USE ON DIAL GLASS FOR ZENITH, PHILCO, AND MANY OTHERS INCLUDING SLIDE RULE GLASS DIAL SCALES HAVING RUBBER ON ENDS. ONLY \$1.25 PER FT., OR 10-FT. FOR \$10.00 POSTPAID. HAVE LARGE SUPPLY OF TRANSFORMERS, DUAL 117 VOLT PRIMARIES, 48-VOLT CT SECONDARY, ONE PRIMARY CAN BE USED AS A SECONDARY SO THESE ARE SUITABLE FOR BUILDING MULTI-VOLTAGE POWER SUPPLIES TO OPERATE EARLY BATTERY RADIOS (SCHEMATICS WITH PARTS LISTS AVAILABLE); ALSO MAY BE USED AS A RUGGED ISOLATION TRANSFORMER AND/OR FOR BUILDING VARIAC/ISOLATION TRANSFORMER BENCH SUPPLY. TRANSFORMER WEIGHT IS 7-LBS, PRICE IS: \$12.00 EACH, PLUS SHIPPING. CONTACT:

CURT LUTZ, 1021 N. HICKORY PLACE, BROKEN ARROW, OK 74012, (918) 251-4915;
OLDERADIOS@CS.COM

FOR SALE: TRANSISTOR RADIOS – ALL KINDS. SHIRT POCKET AND NOVELTY. CONTACT: TED SCHEIDEGGER, 13605 W. MONTANNA AVE., NEW BERLIN, WI 53151. (262) 786-5824

FOR SALE: MISCELLANEOUS RADIOS. PICTURES LOCATED AT: WWW.VTAUDIO.FREESERVERS.COM/RHUNTER.HTM
ROB HUNTER, 707 34TH PL., WEST DES MOINES, IA 50265. (515) 225-1248
RH2CYCLE@HOTMAIL.COM

WANTED: TELESCOPING ANTENNA FOR ZENITH TRANSOCEANIC 8G005. JUNK TUBE-TYPE AMPLIFIERS OR GUITAR AMPS. ANY CONDITION. CHEAP.
DWIGHT BAKER, 2626 NW 17TH STREET, ANKENY, IOWA, 50023. 515 965-0999 (BEFORE 9:00 PM)
EMAIL: VTAUDIO@HOTMAIL.COM

IARCHS Contacts & Commitment

President Dave Perkins
2608 C Reed Ave
Marshalltown, Ia 50158
Spam_Whole@Yahoo.com
641-752-3417

Vice President Doug Spyrison
1295 Grove Ter
Dubuque, IA 52001
dougsprison@mchsi.com
563-588-2713

Secretary / Treasurer Tom Zenisek.
247 24th ST NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
tomjonzee@aol.com

Newsletter Dwight Baker
2626 NW 17th St
Ankeny, IA 50023
vtaudio@hotmail.com
515-965-0999

Webpage Dave Perkins
2608 C Reed Ave
Marshalltown, IA 50158
Spam_Whole@Yahoo.com
641-752-3417

IARCHS is an informal not for profit club whose purpose statement (as given in the club by-laws) is:

- 1) To provide an organization for collectors and historians of wireless, radio, television and other similar items.
- 2) To promote acquisition and preservation of biographical, technical and historical data, through the collecting of radios, stories, photographs, literature and other related items, particularly with respect to the inventors and early radio pioneers of Iowa.
- 3) To educate and enrich the public knowledge about the historical and cultural significance of radio by means of lectures, discussions, publications, workshops, displays and presentations.
- 4) To encourage and assist individuals in their preservation and restoration of radio and television related items to a condition consistent with the original intent of their manufacturer.
- 5) To create and foster an interest in radio history.

The IARCHS News newsletter is published and distributed (more or less) quarterly to all members of record and to similar clubs and organizations at their request.

On the front: L to R:
R. Fritts, Doug Spyrison, Dave Perkins, Rod Bunch, Jerry Lange, Tom Zenisek, Pete Seaba, Anton Vanicek