



April 2009



A NOTE FROM THE PREZ

March was a very busy month for our group. Marvin Shepherd applied his 'magic' to our Sparton Sled radio, and it really looks good. We worked on the museum in its new location several days during the month. Basically, the equipment is all moved and we just need to finish with the display cards. We have already gotten several 'attaboys' about the new location.

Ed Boutwell and I went to Montgomery on the 6th and took Pete to lunch and to see Renee. Pete likes Captain Dee's seafood gumbo, so we made sure he got some. Renee is recovering from her auto accident but she continues to need our prayers.

Robert Frye held class on the 7th, and we had good attendance. Unfortunately, our member Eddie Farrell was not there (Eddie passed away on the 12th). Since Eddie's family specified that memorials should go 'to your favorite charity,' several members sent memorials to the AHRS in his memory.

Dee and I had three programs in March, one for the 'Friends of Hoover' and another for 'Hoover New Horizons.' Both programs were well attended, and we got a very nice write-up in *The Birmingham News* (see article at end of this column). We also performed at the First Baptist Church in Pell City. These programs have gone over well and have promoted our Society and its objectives to a receptive public audience.

Monday the 23rd was a busy day for us. Marvin Shepherd was recognized by Charles McCrary at his office for the restoration of Mr. McCrary's Radiola 60. We also loaned Mr. McCrary the 'Sled' radio while a cabinet is being prepared for it in the museum. Then, we had our regular monthly meeting Monday night. Elections were held, and we elected the following officers: Dave Cisco, President; Dee Haynes, Vice-President; Randall Murphree, Secretary; and Tom Killian, Treasurer. Board Members Julian Brook, Marvin Shepherd, Dave Johnson, Robert Frye and Dave Cisco will remain as is.

Work continues on our Scott Philharmonic. We sent several more pieces to St. Louis Plating, and Marvin is continuing work on the cabinet. We plan to locate it where the public will be able to see the front and rear so the chrome work will show up well.

Coming up in April, we have Pete's 101st birthday on the 11th. Dee and I have a program for the Chelsea Kiwanis. Birminghamfest is first weekend in May--WOW lots to look forward to.

I hope everyone getting this newsletter will try to join in and continue to help our society to grow and continue its wonderful missions.

Dave

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

HOOVER LIFE

Golden age of radio brought to life

The Hoover New Horizons senior citizens group's monthly luncheon was last week at the Hoover Senior Center.

Our monthly meeting consists of some form of entertainment or informative program and then a catered lunch. Last week, the program was presented by Dee Haynes and Dave Cisco, who are members of the Alabama Historical Radio Society. The society was founded in 1989 by Don Kresge, a retired General Electric engineer. Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for men and women of all ages to join together and pursue their interest in early radio.

The program by Haynes and Cisco consisted of a short history of how the radio was not allowed to be used until after World War I. When the soldiers came home from the war, many had been trained in using radios and also how to build them. This was also the time when radio stations began to pop up across the nation. Soon there were stations broadcasting in most cities, and a regular lineup of shows began to be broadcast daily.

We were reminded of "Fiber McGee and Molly," "The Lone Ranger," "The Adventures of Superman" and "The Shadow." Most of the attendees at the luncheon had memories tweaked by the program.

My family listened regularly to the shows that Haynes and Cisco helped us remember, but I guess being the youngest



MARTHA SKELLEY
HOOVER SENIORS

of my family, I missed the heyday of radio broadcasting.

I don't remember listening to the radio when I was growing up, but my brothers and sisters did. They would try to frighten me by repeating the opening line of "The Shadow." The words weren't scary, but the voices used always made me feel creepy.

My mother would tell me my closet looked like Fibber McGee's all the time, and I never knew if that was good or bad.

Another interesting fact we were told by Cisco is that the Alabama Historical Radio Society meets monthly and restores old radios. The group has a museum exhibiting many models of old radios and a couple of clips of old radio programs that can be downloaded for free at www.alabamahistoricalradiosociety.org.

If you would like to visit the Don Kresge Memorial Museum, it is at 600 North 18th St. in the Alabama Power building. Admission is free.



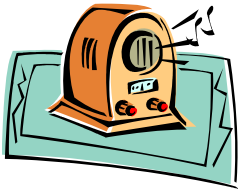
Dee Haynes, left, and David Cisco with a 1925 Stewart-Warner radio. It is opened to show the tubes on the inside.

SPECIAL



Several of us are planning a trip to Montgomery on Apr 11 to help Pete Sides celebrate his 101st birthday. If you are interested in going with us please let me know soon so we can arrange transportation.

Our sympathy goes to the family of Ed Farrell, one of our members. Ed was a member of Robert's class and attended as often as he could.



DEE'S RADIO SHOWS

Alright all you “gumshoe wanna bees.” Go in your private room where no one can hear you, try out your best Jack Webb voice and read the following:

“... down on the water front in San Francisco, you always bite off more than you can chew. It’s tough on your windpipe, but you don’t go hungry. Down here a lot of people figure it’s better to be a fat guy in a grave yard than a thin guy in a stew. That way you can be sure of a tight fit. I rent boats or do anything else that makes a sound like money. It works out all right if your mother doesn’t mind you coming home for Christmas in a box...”

If you want to hear the real Jack Webb read those lines, then tune into “Pat Novak For Hire” on your favorite MP3 player or just bring up the following website:

<http://www.archive.org/index.php>

Next, type in “Pat Novak” in the search box at the top of the page, and hit the enter key. Then pick out the show you want to hear, and you are on your way to a half hour of mystery filled with one cliché after another.

Only one problem, Jack did the first show of the series, but another actor did the rest. It’s still a very good “gumshoe” show.

A few comments from the real world of AHRS:

It's Spring, the weather is warm, and I'm not afraid to open my garage door to the outside world. That means, time to make sawdust. I plan to start making book shelves to finish up the library. With a little help from the AHRS charge card, we will be buying some cabinet grade plywood, cutting it into appropriate lengths and widths, and hauling it down to Huffman for assembly. If there are any suckers, oops, volunteers out there, let me know. I will probably only need one person to help with the cutting, but we can use some help unloading and assembling the finished product in the library. You can email me at k4hfx1@bellsouth.net. I'm looking forward to getting the QST magazines out of those sagging shelves plus organizing all the rest of the books.

That's all for now. Happy Birthday Pete, 101 years old!!!

Dee Haynes

243-4630 or k4hfx@bellsouth.net

MEETING TIMES

We meet nearly every Saturday of the month at 09:00 at the Alabama Power Building on Parkway East (aka Centerpoint Parkway) in Huffman. The organization's space is accessed from the rear of the building, so park around the back (by means of Huffman Road, which runs parallel to the Parkway). Entry is via the door on the right.

Come to the Monday Night Meetings, TOO, on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 PM!

FREE ELECTRONICS CLASSES

The first Saturday of the month, there are electronics classes free to members. Topics include test equipment, Resistors and Capacitance testing, Inductors and coil winding, to name only a few subjects!

We hope to see you there!



TRY TO GET YOUR DUES IN BY MARCH!

Membership dues are \$25 a year, payable beginning in January. If you have questions about the dues, you can contact Julian at 205-879-3619.

Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 130307, Birmingham AL 35213.

WHO TO CONTACT

President – David Cisco

205.822.6759

ciscod@bellsouth.net

Member and Instructor – Robert Frye

205.631.6680

RLF100243@aol.com

Web site – Robert Matthews

RMatthews@ms.soph.uab.edu

Web Address:

<http://alabamahistoricalradiosociety.org/>

Newsletter – Patsy Desaulniers

patwrite@gmail.com