



## The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter

June 2007



### *A NOTE FROM THE PREZ*

May was a very busy month for everyone in the group. We had a very distinguished guest (Charles McCrary, Alabama Power President) the week before Hamfest. He was complimentary of our neat set-up in Huffman. We can now feel good about all the work everyone put in to make it a neat place.

Hamfest was a great success. Joel's Zenith Transoceanic display got lots of deserved attention. Marvin got his usual 'ooh's and aahs.' We passed out many membership applications and have several new members for May. We were able to show our museum to three of the out-of-town folks who were there for the Hamfest.

Celeste and I went to Montgomery for my daughter's graduation and had a chance to spend time with Pete Sides. Pete had wanted to be at the Hamfest, but had only been out of the hospital a few days and wasn't quite up to the trip. He seems to be doing great (for 99 yrs. old) and, as usual, had some interesting stories.

Marvin and Julian started a project to rewind a power transformer for a Philco M#50. Those of us who watched the first session decided we needed a video recorder to allow everyone to learn from Marvin's expertise, and Dee and I found one at Best Buy that fit the bill. We missed the first session, but have a recording of what it takes to do a first-class job restoring a power transformer.

The regular Monday meeting was mostly a birthday party for Claude Gray (his 98<sup>th</sup>) with two cakes (thanks, Ron) and many great birthday cards. I think Claude was overwhelmed.

Well that's it for now I am recovering from some surgery and can't strain my old bod too much.

*Dave*



## *DEE'S RADIO SHOWS*

Hello again! It's about time I got back to writing about OTR. I am listening to Lum and Abner again. One good thing about old age and a lack of short-term memory is that I can enjoy my old shows over and over again. I found a really good Lum and Abner site. It is

<http://jotemdownstore.homestead.com/index.html>

I think they may have all the existing episodes available for download on their site. I hope they are successful and hang around for a long time. You can listen to shows every day on this site, and it would take a'body a while to listen to them all.

Speaking of Hayseeds, Lum and Abner first aired on radio back in the early thirties. While reading the funnies in the local fish wrapper this morning, I noticed the similarities in the strip "Barney Google and Snuffy Smith." So, thanks to the Internet, I did a little research and found out that the S. Smith strip started around 1919 and at that time did not have the hillbilly theme that it has enjoyed for the past 70 or so years. However, in the early '30s it picked up the Appalachian culture. It seems that this culture was very popular in that period of time, namely Li'l Abner. Well, don't that beat the bugs a'bittin'?

Well, that's all the time I have right now. I need to get back to the shop downstairs and finish up these "All American 5" radio kits I'm building for the Saturday classes that Robert Frye is teaching. They are not exactly kits but just bare boards with tube sockets and a few other larger components. The students will have to use a schematic and dig up their own parts out of our shelves to finish these radios (no instructions). This should give them a good understanding of how a "superhet" works.

P.S... Gene Samples came up with a great source for radio chassis by using the metal channels used in the construction of drywalls. They are steel, and he uses a hole saw to punch out the tube socket holes. I am going to relinquish my two radio kits to Gene for use with his better looking chassis. Thanks, Gene for your contribution to our radio school.

By for now,

*Dee Haynes*

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### **Note from your newsletter editor:**

Good morning! I am still unpacking boxes—so far, I've done about 200 and still have about 50 to go. My office looks like it has been ransacked by experts, so I am writing this at the kitchen table. As you probably remember, we are living more in the country than city, although we are in the city limits of Conway. We have been fighting the normal stuff—ticks, chiggers, etc., but we now have a family of barn swallows that are testing our ingenuity. Since there were eggs in the nest when we bought the house, we decided to let them hatch—big mistake!! Barn swallows are very territorial, so we are fighting a battle to reclaim our front porch. We have tried fake snakes (they pushed them off the ledge), moth balls (they knocked them down), squirting them with a hose (gave me great pleasure, but they returned when I got tired). Finally, Tom put his engineering skills to use, and he cut paper fringe and taped it up. The gentle breeze kept the fringe moving enough to scare them away. When we saw that was working, Tom went to a party store and got a roll of mylar party streamer—we have been swallow free all night. Will keep you posted!

### ***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 4<sup>th</sup> 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!



***DUES ARE NOW DUE***

Membership dues are \$25 a year, payable beginning in January. If you have questions about your 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***

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