

The Alabama Historical Radio Society

March 2006



A NOTE FROM THE PREZ

Golly, it's March already and spring is just around the corner. Another great month is behind us. Our class the first Saturday was well attended, but we got some good news/bad news from Robert. The bad news was that he was having trouble with his eyes and was having to retire from his teaching at Mercedes. The good news was that he will be able to spend more time with us. He is delaying the class this month by one week to the 11th.

Our museum move to Alabama Power Hdqts is still a "work-in-progress." The background for the cabinets is being completed this week. Our computer decided to blow-up its hard drive last month and, thanks to Brian Wingard and Robert Matthews, we have a replacement up and running. We lost a few things, but thankfully not too many. We are still in need of everyone's input for our website, we are making updates and changes, but your ideas are what are needed. Let us know what you want.

Our "PLAY" sessions on Saturday are something I think every member should attend. There is no agenda, just a chance to share experiences and ideas with other members. Just spending time with our 97-year-old (Claude Gray) walking historian is worth the trip to Huffman.

We were able to wind 3 field coils this last month, which sure helped the treasury. If you haven't watched Bill Shepherd work, you have missed a real treat. We want everyone who is interested to learn this art, since we are one of the few places where you can get a field coil rewind.

Please send Patsy your contributions to this newsletter. We would like for every member to send us something for the newsletter--your latest project, ideas or what we can improve on.

Also, some of you haven't gotten Julian this year's dues. Please try to do that this month.

If you missed Dee Haynes program in February, you really missed one of the best. Dee showed us how the sound effects man on a live radio program could create many different sounds. Then he played us an episode of "Gun Smoke," so we could hear for ourselves the sound effects.

That's all for this time. Remember the Birminghamfest coming up May 6 & 7, and we'll need all the help we can get.

Dave



DUES ARE DUE!

Please give Julian your \$25 dues for 2006 if you have not already done so. If you aren't sure what you owe, Julian can be reached at 879-3619.

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



ROBERT'S INFO ABOUT THE CLASSES

I would like to thank Patsy for the nice newsletter that she sent out for January. As you can see, we have many things that are going on in the radio club.

On the first Saturday of each month, we are having very in-depth lessons. Everyone has participated, learning from each other. It has been good to go back 40 or 50 years for some of us to our beginning - and see the theory remains the same. The biggest change (challenge) I have had in teaching has been we are teaching antique radios, these radios used vacuum tubes, where today we teach solid-state devices such as diodes and transistors.

It is so good to see our members that have never had basic electronics attend these lessons; then to review them and see the knowledge in electronics they have obtained just in the past few months.

Listed below are some of the subjects we have taught:

- Unit of current and voltage – the Ampere and Voltage
- Polarity
- Sources of voltage
- Unit of resistance – Ohm and Ohms Law
- Conductors
- Circuit symbols and diagrams
- Calculating Electrical Quantities
- Measuring Electrical Quantities
- Batteries and Cells
- Resistors and color codes for resistors
- Switches and Fuses
- Series Circuits
- Parallel Circuits
- Series-parallel Circuits
- Digital and Analog meters
- Kirchoff's Laws

Due to space we will not list all subjects we have taught, as we have many more subjects to teach in the future, so come and be with us.

Robert Frye

Member and Instructor



DEE'S RADIO SHOWS

Hello Folks,

As Wallace Wimple would say on the Fibber McGee Show. Wallace was played by Bill Thompson. Bill also played the Old Timer, Horatio K Boomer, an Irish Cop (no name that I know of) and a few others. While we are on the subject of the Fibber McGee and Molly Show, one of the other players was Arthur Q. Bryan. You may not have heard of him but I dare say you have heard his voice thousands of times if you have ever enjoyed Elmer Fudd of cartoon fame. That's right. Elmer was played by Mr. Bryan. I don't think he ever got credit for it because Mel Blank was usually the only person listed in the credits. Bea Benaderet played a few female rolls including Mrs. Carstairs, a snooty nosed rich lady. Bea crossed over to television quite successfully with rolls in Petticoat Junction, The Beverly Hillbillies, and countless other 30 minute sitcoms from the 50's and 60's. I believe that Lucille Ball wanted Bea Benaderet to play the part of Mrs. Mertz of "I Love Lucy" fame. She also wanted Gale Gordon for the part of Mr. Mertz, but neither he nor Bea was available at time, a luck break for Vivian Vance and William Frawley. Gale played the Mayor of Wistful Vista on the Fibber McGee and Molly Show. I know, I left the stars of the show out, Jim and Marion Jordan, but I'll do an article on them at another time.

I am writing this before the February Meeting, so I hope I don't make a liar out of myself. I will have had a program on sound effects in old radio shows. One of the sounds that everybody over 60 years old can remember was Fibber opening the hall closet. It was packed like the hall closet at my house (poor Irene, Bless her heart, things tend to fall out when I open that door). But anyway, when anybody opened the door, things would come crashing out. The sound was created on the show with a step ladder. The sound man would take pots and pans, tennis rackets, books and other stuff and roll them off the top of the ladder where they would go crashing to the floor. This would always get a big laugh and as the show went on in years, people began to expect.

Fibber McGee and Molly was a wonderful show that lasted from the mid 30's to the late 50's. If you want to download any shows, visit my friend Al Girard at:

<http://www.compumart.ab.ca/agirard/fibber/79.htm>

Well, I don't want to get too long winded here, but I do want to remind everyone that I still have plans to put on a live radio show in the near future and would like to audition amateur actors and actresses for the upcoming parts in "Billybob Clapsaddle, Spy for the FBI" Call me or email me.

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

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

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!

Who to Contact

President – David Cisco

205.822.6759

Member and Instructor – Robert Frye

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Web Address:

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