



The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter

April 2010



A NOTE FROM DAVE

Well, another month has passed, and we have lots to talk about. First, I was very pleased to hear that Dee Haynes came home from the hospital today (Friday) with a new pacemaker. He says he feels fine and intends to return to his regular activities right away.

The Birminghamfest went great. We had a large display of our restored radios and got lots of oohs and aahs as people came by to look. Also, we were able to sell some of our unneeded items, make a little money and have a good time.

I was able to arrange a behind-the-scenes tour of the Alabama Theater Organ on Friday before the Hamfest. We had several out-of-town guests and several locals to enjoy the tour. Our member, John Green, and his wife were here from Charlottesville, VA and got to enjoy the tour.

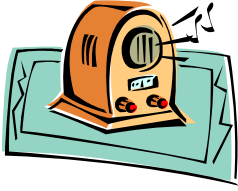
I missed two Saturdays while Celeste and I made a trip to Texas to visit relatives, but I was told that everything went smoothly while I was gone.

Robert is going to have his class on the 17th of this month, so put that date on your calendars.

We still need content for the newsletter. This month Kyle Owen, our youngest member, has contributed an article. Thanks, Kyle!

Well that's all for now. Happy Easter!

Dave



DEE'S RADIO SHOWS

If you enjoyed listening to old radio shows, I'm sure you will remember some of the announcers that were around back in the 1940's and 50's. For instance, take Harlow Wilcox:

- "The Johnson's Wax Program with Fibber McGee and Molly!"
- Announcer for NBC and CBS Radio's "The Amos n' Andy Show" 1943, 44, 45, 51 and 55.
- Announcer and pitchman for NBC Radio's Fibber McGee and Molly 1935-53, and 51-55 for Johnson's Wax, also for Pet Milk 1950-52 and Reynolds Aluminum in 1952 and 53. The word pitchman is used because Mr. Wilcox did the middle commercial for Johnson's Wax in the role of a salesman who visited the McGee's the same as the other characters on the show.
- Commercial spokesman for Autolite on CBS Radio's "Suspense" 1948 through 1954.
- Announcer for NBC's "Truth or Consequences" and "The Baby Snooks Show" from 1948 to 1954.

As you can see, Harlow was quite busy in those years.

"The Lucky Strike Program starring Jack Benny, with Mary Livingston, Phil Harris, Rochester, Dennis Day, and yours truly, Don Wilson."

Millions of Americans heard that voice on Sunday nights at 7:00 o'clock back in the heyday of radio. Don Wilson began his long career as a sports announcer for NBC in California. He worked for NBC and broadcast the 1932 Summer Olympics, as well as some Rose Bowl games. In 1934, Jack Benny needed an announcer, so NBC called all their announcers and sportscasters in for an audition. It seemed that when Don read his script, (and in his own words), "I must have laughed at just the right times," because Jack Benny picked him to be on his show. That lasted for 35 years.

To see an interview with Don Wilson on the Merv Griffin show, check out the link below:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVWmn4C7CYs>

Here's some trivia. Name the show. Here's the intro by the announcer:

"Palmolive Soap, your beauty hope, and Luster Cream Shampoo bring you"

OK class, no shouting. Just raise your hand if you know the answer.

By for now,

Dee Haynes

243-4630 or k4hfx@bellsouth.net

Kyle's Tube Projects and More

As many of you may know, I am planning on going to Auburn University this fall and major in possibly electrical engineering, physics, or computer sciences. However, my final high school years haven't stopped me from working on a lot of projects!

For example, my latest challenge is building a Dynakit ST-70 stereo tube amplifier. With 35 watts per channel, I figure this will be just perfect to take off to college! Joel Tillman gave me a rusty and pretty crummy looking ST-70 a few weeks ago, and after saving my nickels and dimes, I bought a new stainless steel chassis. Then I asked Tom Hayes if he would work his magic on the transformer end bells, and he did! They look really great and have a nice deep black shine to them. For the driver circuit, I made a point-to-point triple 6SN7 circuit (versus the original double 7199 circuit board), which has been highly recommended. After putting it all together, I did some continuity testing...and found both of the output transformers were fried! But no worries, I didn't have any money invested in the ST-70, so I wasn't expecting much. At least the power transformer is okay! Instead of saving more nickels and dimes to buy two more A-470 output transformers, I have decided to try and rewind both of them! Hopefully I'll have this done in the next few weeks and start enjoying listening to some George Gershwin and Glenn Miller! (on my Dynaco A-25s!)

As many of you may remember, I made a tube-type theremin several months ago. With hand-wound coils and all point-to-point wiring, I was surprised it worked with only 10 minutes of debugging! It worked so well, in fact, I thought that later down the road, I might build a few more. Just a few weeks ago, someone emailed me asking if I could finish building his theremin. I offered to do it for a small sum of money. About a week ago, I finally finished it up. This time, it worked the first time I plugged it in! I guess I learned from my mistakes from the first time!

I'm hoping to start building from scratch a Fender '59 Bassman guitar amplifier soon. I think it will give me some more good and valuable experience with amplifiers. Something different with this project will be the construction of a chassis. I never have punched an entire chassis before, so it will be another fun adventure, I'm sure!

I have had so much fun and learned more than I could have anywhere else here at the AHRS! Although I probably won't be able to come out to the shop every Saturday while I'm at college, I will try to be out there as much as possible. If I end up co-oping at Auburn and find a job close by, I should be able to come out much more often. Until then, I hope to see you out at the shop!

And my joke of the month:

Why do cows love the 12AX7? Because it has a "high-mu" factor! (sorry...!)

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the memorial gift to the Boone County Heritage Museum in Harrison, Arkansas. Since it is housed in Mom's former high school, I know she would be delighted to be remembered in this special way.

As some of you know, Mother battled Alzheimer's for ten years and was 91 when she died. She was a very special lady, and we rejoice that she has peace at last.

Sincerely,

Patsy and Tom Desaulniers
Liz and David Anderson

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!



DUES ARE NOW DUE

Membership dues are \$25 a year, payable **beginning in January**. If you have questions about your dues, you can contact Tom at 205-967-7000.

Dues can be mailed to AHRIS @ P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham AL 35213.

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