



## The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter

October 2009



### *A NOTE FROM DEE FOR DAVE*

I'm sitting in for Dave Cisco this month. He has been snowed under on several fronts. I'm sure he will be back with pen in hand next month.

It is with great sadness that I must report the passing of Claude Gray, our dear friend and fellow member. Claude was 100 years old, and, as Dave said many times, "a walking history book." I have fond memories of Claude in the classroom and in the Tube Room.

"How are you Claude" I would ask, and his happy reply was always "Fair to Middlin". And when we would part we would always say "See you subsequently." Both phrases we each picked up during our many years associated with the broadcast business. We will miss him so.

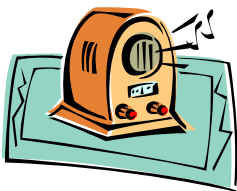
Here is the obit taken from al.com

GRAY, CLAUDE MERCER Claude Mercer Gray, 100, died on October 5, 2009. Born in Anniston, Gray was the son of Vannie Mercer and William Boyd Gray. He was a graduate of Georgia Tech in electrical engineering and made the first radio police call to a Birmingham police car in 1933. He spent World War II in civilian service with the FCC, then returned to Birmingham and started an engineering business for radio and television. He was a Ham radio operator and flew his own plane. He loved steam engines and drove the train at the zoo for 20 years, retiring from there at age 94. He was a member of the QB's, The National Railway Historical Society, the Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum, Amateur Radio Club, and the Alabama Historical Radio Society. He is survived by his wife of over 70 years, Sarah Hastings Gray and daughters, Mildred Virginia (Billie) Gray and Sarah (Sally) Gray Carrigan, five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to the Methodist Children's Home or the charity of your choice. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2009 at 1:00 at Elmwood Chapel with visitation beginning at 12:00. Burial will be at Elmwood Cemetery.

Pictured below, Claude, in his favorite chair, checks vacuum tubes at our Huffman Shops.



*Dee*



**DEE'S RADIO SHOWS**

To quote something from Monty Python, "And now for something completely different."

I don't know about you, but I enjoy spotting mistakes in TV and movie productions. I recall an episode of the TV serial starring Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. Roy was tied in a chair inside a backwoods cabin. He was the sole occupant in this lonely little one-room house. As Roy struggled to free himself, a mysterious shadow crossed the screen. Maybe it was the assistant director, or could it have been the script girl? Who knows, but there it went, right across the screen. Why wasn't it spotted and removed? I would guess the budget had a lot to do with it.

More recently, I was watching an episode of "Last of the Summer Wine" that I had recorded off the Internet. The main character is a scruffy old man of about 75 years. He is riding on top of a tractor down a dirt road in rural Yorkshire County England. I love to watch the show because of the beautiful scenery. This area is much like the Shenandoah Valley area of Virginia...but I digress. Well, the old man jumps from the tractor (back side of the tractor where the camera can't see), lands on his feet, and immediately walks around to where you can see him. When was the last time you saw a 75-year-old man jump from 5 feet above ground and live to tell about it? So, I restarted the scene and watched it again. I looked for a scene change or splice in the film, but there was none. That's when I spotted the shadows. They clearly showed a figure appear from behind a rock wall, while the stunt man's shadow quickly scurried behind the same wall. I watched it again just to make sure.

If you like that kind of stuff, you'll find the show at the following address:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SSW-ckF9X0&feature=Playlist&p=228D8FA358F48D86&index=0&playnext=1>

About 1 minute and 15 seconds into the episode, you'll see the tractor coming down the road.

I know, I've got too much time on my hands. I really ought to be out walking and lose a few pounds. Oh well, gotta' run. I've got just a half-hour to take a nap before Wheel of Fortune comes on.

See you in the Funny Papers.

*Dee Haynes*

243-4630 or k4hfx@bellsouth.net



### **NOTE FROM DEE**

I have two AHRs name badges in my possession. Both are getting scuffed up due to the "cheap" paint used in their manufacturing. But, what can you expect for a buck ninety eight. So here's a suggestion. Get some clear coat polyurethane and give the badge the once over. It will make your badge last much longer. If you don't have any polyurethane in your junk box, just bring the badge in one Saturday and I'll do it for you.

## ***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 Tom at 205-967-7000.

**Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 131418, 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 – Bob Lovell**

bob@dixiewebdesigns.com

**Web Address:**

<http://alabamahistoricalradiosociety.org/>

**Newsletter – Patsy Desaulniers**

[patwrite@gmail.com](mailto:patwrite@gmail.com)