

November December 2004

Canadian

Vintage Radios



“I picked up this fine old working radio at the Auction Sale for 50 bucks and had enough money left to buy these new gum boots. The boots, unfortunately, cost 58.00”

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Thanks to all of you who forwarded the articles, ideas, and pictures that made this issue possible. The report on the Estate Auction came from Bill Chase and gives you a glimpse at the care and attention to detail that marks all Bill's work. Larry Wood got excited about a new book, "Classic Cones", and made a special effort to get it to me in time for this issue. Frank Simonsen forwarded the link to the web page featuring Frederic Calland Williams. Darryl Clarke bought a radio combo at the Auction. That's not a radio/record player, but a radio/geiger counter. This led him to write about it and locate the Number 19 (military) collector's group from Edmonton. Rodger Henley sent along a picture of several tube testers he found interesting. Thanks to you all.

My problems with Expropriation and our impending forced relocation are lightening up. When a developer decided he'd like to build a Travel Lodge on our remnant property, the Taking Authority decided that our property has increased 67% in value in the last 11 months. We will need every cent to replace what is being taken from us in this market, and we are still spending every weekend looking for a new place, but at least it now looks like we'll be able to settle without all the emotional mess and expense of a court case. This has taken some of the pressure off and put me back making Philco cathedral reproduction cases with CVRS member John Pencer. John is currently suffering with severe back pain, and as soon as I finish this I'm going out to the shop and try to finish his case. **Ken Allison**

Canadian Vintage Radios is published five times a year, in the first week of February, April, June, October, and December. **There is no July/August issue. Membership is 24.00 CAN per year or 17.50 US. Overseas membership is 22.50 US or the equivalent in local currency. A "paperless" membership, three schematics and five PDF newsletters, is available for an annual fee of 15.00 CAD.** We encourage all CVRS members to submit articles or letters that relate to vintage radios or associated items. For example: Broadcasting, history, television, restoration, etc. Please send any editorial mail to **4895 Mahood Drive Richmond BC V7E 5C3.**

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CVRS BC News

A Report on the Estate Auction of a Vast Radio Collection held at Central Auction on the Langley ByPass, Langley BC Sunday December 5th

Sunday, December 5th was a day to remember for radio collectors in B.C., and for a few others from away. It was the first major auction of antique radios and related items to be held in the lower mainland. The sale derived from the estate of a Vancouver Island collector who obviously collected only quality sets. The sale was conducted by Mr. Bill Lee of Central Auctions in Langley. Over 500 lots were displayed on the crowded floor. The quality was astounding. Battery sets from the 20's were particularly prominent, and some of these seemed to be in as-new condition. There were transistor radios, crystal radios, hybrids, consoles, horn speakers galore, table radios of all sizes and shapes, Cathedrals, tombstones, phonographs, fascinating replicas and a huge collection of tubes and parts.

There were some (and the writer was one of them), who worried that there would not be enough collectors attending to sustain such a large auction. These worries were misplaced. It was standing room only for most of the sale and the bidding was spirited right to the end. Prices were firm, especially for the many lots of tubes from the 20's and 30's.

Some examples (hammer price does not include taxes or commission). Vibroplex key NIB \$100, Deforest Crosley model 51 \$120, Northern Electric model R4 \$310, Eagle Crystal radio \$250, AC Dayton Phono \$400, CGE Radiola IIIA \$310, Northern Electric R21 \$370, Rogers Batteryless, \$500, Gillfillan Cathedral \$280, Deforest Crosley Model 71 \$515.

Bill Chase

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Events Calendar

Next Regular Meeting:
January 30th BCIT
SW9 Bldg

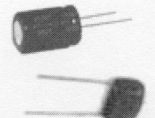


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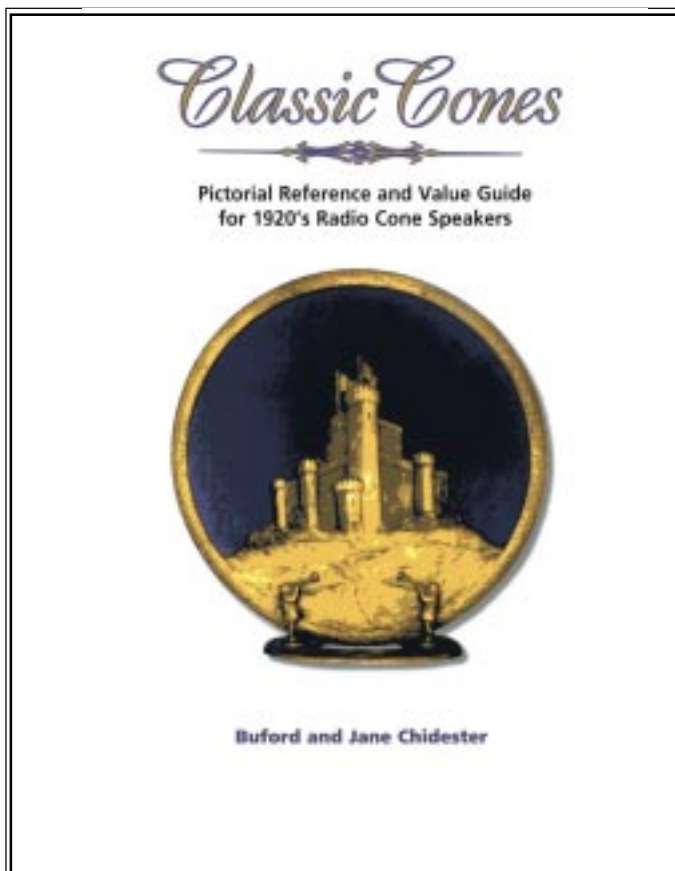
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Capacitors & Schematics for Tube Radios

David and Babylyn Cantelon
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 Ontario, Canada M2J 4X2

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***Classic Cones:
Pictorial Reference and Value Guide
for 1920's Radio Cone Speakers***

by Buford Chidester, Jane Chidester

The following is taken from the Amazon.com website:

\$25.95 & This item ships for FREE with Super Saver Shipping. See details

Availability: This title usually ships within 3 to 5 weeks. Please note that special order titles occasionally go out of print, or publishers run out of stock. These hard-to-find titles are not discounted and are subject to an additional charge of \$1.99 per book due to the extra cost of ordering them. We will notify you within 2-3 weeks if we have trouble obtaining this title from Amazon.com

2 used & new from \$20.50

Edition: Paperback

Product Details:

* Paperback: 122 pages

* Publisher: Sonoran Publishing, LLC (December 1, 2001)

* ISBN: 1886606161

* Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 8.2 x 10.8 inches

* Shipping Weight: 1.0 pounds.

Now available at * Amazon.com

This is a book made almost entirely of colour plates of rare examples arranged in alphabetical order by manufacturer. It would also work very well if converted to a CD and presented in that format (much as the Bunis book was converted to CD)

The following is written by Larry Wood:

I recently acquired a copy of a new book on cone speakers.

Called *Classic Cones*, this soft cover glossy paged book provides an amazing pictorial reference for the 1920s Radio Cone Speakers that so many of us collect.

120 pages of excellent professional color pictures of the speakers and early advertising makes this one of the most interesting and useful items a speaker collector or radiophile could want. Although most value guides are quickly out of date the valuations in this work seem to be close to what we commonly encounter.

Authors Buford and Jane Chidester are to be commended.

Copies of the book can be purchased from the Chidesters -
Order your Autographed Copy today \$25.95 USD each

Buford & Jane Chidester
785 Locust Street
Mount Wolf, PA 17347
(717) 266-4450

or by the publisher -
SONORAN PUBLISHING - Email:
snrnpub@aol.com

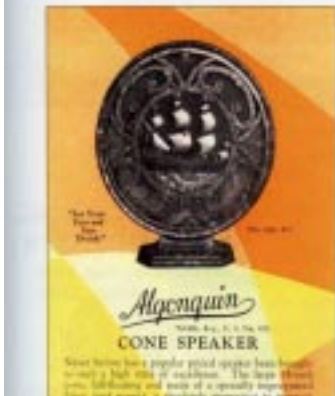
PHONE (480) 961-5176

FAX (480) 961-5256



Algonquin
Table model with cast iron gold metal stand and frame stippled in black. Laminated gold fabric cone. Cone usually faded to olive green.
Hx18.5" \$350-375

Algonquin
Table model with metal base and wood soundboard. Finish in gold stippled in black with a center cast iron ship. Laminated gold fabric cone. Cone usually faded to an olive green.
Hx18.5" \$350-400



American Besch Model 600
Table model cast iron speaker found in a variety of cone designs as shown. Original design consists of a black/grey background with brass and gold patterned at left, black/grey outside finish with a shell of gold, shown at right, and the beautiful black/grey with design design. Base and stand are cast iron. Cone supported with a pressed metal ring. Base and stand finished in a rough-veneer gold bronze usually faded to a darker color.
Hx19.5" \$480-580



Rakov-Smith Enchaster Model G
Table model with cast aluminum historical stamped metal base. The Enchaster sits atop a wooden stand.
Hx18.5" \$325-350



United States Patent Office



Rakov-Smith
Table model with wood cabinet.
Hx18.5" \$40-50

About the Authors

Richard and Jane Chidister began collecting cone speakers in early 1993. Richard is holding a Victor Lacerte Model L. It was the first speaker purchased for their collection. Jane is proudly showing a rare Pithel nickel plated cone speaker that was the first cone speaker to be marketed in early 1934. Richard and Jane shared a common interest in the radio hobby and quickly realized it was necessary to confine their collecting to a specific area. Since 1991, they have spent many hours researching, documenting and restoring hundreds of cone speakers for their own collection in addition to sharing reliable information with fellow collectors worldwide. Their collection alone consists of several hundred cone speakers, various horn speakers, and a variety of other radio related items. It was evident the radio hobby desperately needed a reference book with color pictures, documentation and price estimates. Richard and Jane hope their efforts will be rewarded by bringing many hours of enjoyment to those who share common interests in collecting and preserving these beautiful pieces of radio history.



Photo: Sonoran

On the Front Cover

Throughout the 1920's, the Towner Company produced cone speakers, horn and cone speakers for the radio industry. Their products are highly collectible today, especially the cone speakers with cast iron frames. The Castle Cone, Advantone ship, Phoenix and the small 22" ship are the most desirable. The Towner manufacturing trademark below represents the Castle Cone speaker, depicting a sturdy castle high on a mountain top with flagpoles and pathways leading to the castle. The castle towers are lightly shadowed from the sunrays. The Towner name is cast into the speaker base. The actual trademark is slightly different in design as you can see here.





VA3WSN
“Wireless Set Net”
Official Amateur Radio Call Sign of
The Wireless Set No. 19 Group Est. 1991
Welcome to The Wireless Set No. 19 Website!

Since 1997, this original website has been dedicated to the Wireless Set No. 19.

It remains only authorized home of THE 19 Set Group.

“A Real Radio not only glows in the dark — it hums, sputters and has a faint scent of cosmoline!”

The Wireless Set No. 19 was used extensively during WW II by Canadian and other Allied Forces. It became the workhorse of the Canadian Army right into the early '60s. THIS WEB SITE, since 1997, has been for collectors, users or just plain lovers of the Wireless Set 19, or other vintage radios of a military ilk. Thanks to its knowledgeable and dedicated members, including those who have their own excellent websites on military wireless, it has come to be looked upon as the definitive

site for the Wireless Set No. 19 in particular.

More important, it is a tribute to those who used the beast under wartime conditions. The site has its base in an international group of amateur radio operators — ‘The 19 Set Group’ — founded in 1991 by David Lawrence, VA3ORP and Chris Bisailion, VE3CBK. This site is maintained and financed by R.D. (Bob) Cooke, VE3BDB, with content contributions mainly by VA3ORP and VE3CBK, as well as by other members of The Group. There are no fees, no meetings, no passwords, just an interesting facet of Amateur Radio. The Group’s call sign is VA3WSN.

You are invited to join us!

If you have a story or information about the 19, please pass it along.

Longer, ‘feature’-type articles and photos are needed. Email Wireless Set No. 19 Website for assistance

<http://www.qsl.net/ve3bdb/>

A Christmas Gift

The following is submitted by Chris Bissaillon, VE3CBK. Since it's Christmas, and since this site has such a connection to the military of yesterday, the poem is offered to you here as a gift. It was first presented here for Christmas 2000.

Chris writes:

I have something here that may or may not be of interest to the gang. I picked up a small hardbound book at a book store a few years ago called "Poems From the Desert" - "A Collection of poems written by members of the Eighth Army while serving in the Western Desert from December 1942 to February 1943".

Christmas in Tobruk by Signalman H.G. Knight

There were six of us that Christmas
(And a war was on in the desert),
A wireless set, six Englishman the crew;
By the truck two aerial masts,
Gaunt fingers, pointing skywards,
Strained eager at the guy-ropes,
Quivering.
Outside an angry wind,
Sand-laden,
Slashed the sage-clumps
To whirling eddies swirling through
the night.
Within
An atmosphere of home, warmth, and
light;
The pipes glowing,
Cans of beer (good honest English
brew),
Carefully hoarded, ready for the day,
Eked out with captured cognac.
There was food, too --
No turkeys or plum-puddings,
But a biscuit potage
Bubbling on the Primus
Flavoured with apricot jam;
And the sandwiches - sardines from
sunny Portugal,
Inevitable bully, persistent, omni-

present,
With cheddar from Australian
grasslands
Thick spread on wholemeal biscuits;
And the nuts, too --
Valencian almonds,
Ripe, russet hazels insistently re-
calling
Rich autumn hedgerows at home.
And when we had feasted
And the mugs were drained,
Our voices lifted in song;
Time-honoured carols praising the
wonder of Birth.
And soon we were deep in reminis-
cence.
Six schoolboys, muddy knees,
The smooth white snow,
Six piping voices shrilling through
the crisping air
" While shepherds watched ";
The door flung wide,
The cheery glow
Warm-spilt across the threshold,
The pennies clutched by eager, grimy
hands --
" Merry Christmas, mum."
And still outside an angry wind,
Sand-laden,
Slashed the sage-clumps.
There were times we regretted --
That innate yearning for home,
A loving mother, excited children,
wondrous-eyed
At some new toy or bulging stocking,
The sweethearts, wives awaiting our
return . . .
The little things we missed so much
as well --
A crackling log fire, and the roasted
chestnuts,
Parties, and the expectant mistletoe,
Clinking glasses,
Cinderella at Drury Lane. . . .
Yes, there were moments we regretted!
But it was no time for repining.
So the cognac poured more freely,
As we toasted Benito the donor,
And just as heartily cursed him,
For he it was who made us spend
That Christmas in Tobruk.



Frederic Calland Williams (1911 - 1977)

Professor Sir F.C. Williams FRS was always known to his friends and collaborators as Freddie Williams, or more often just “F.C.”. He was born at Romiley, close to Stockport and just south of the city that he would help to make famous in the computer revolution.

He was educated at Stockport Grammar School and the University of Manchester, in the Department of Engineering, and gained BSc (1932) and MSc (1933) degrees. He then joined a two-year “College Apprentice” course with Metropolitan-Vickers, but left after a year because he was awarded the Ferranti Scholarship by the IEE to do two years research at Oxford University. At Oxford he was awarded a DPhil (1936) for work on circuit and valve noise.

Freddie Williams then took up the post of Assistant Lecturer in his old department at Manchester. During the next few years he made many outstanding contributions to research in electronics, publishing some 20 papers. Two of these were with Professor P.M.S. Blackett on an automatic curve follower for the Hartree Differential Analyser, a famous mechanical calculator constructed at the University of Manchester in the early thirties.

Early in 1939 Freddie Williams was recruited by

Professor Blackett, who was a member of the Tizard Committee, to join the embryonic RAF radar research group at Bawdsey Research Station. This group, after three name changes and three location changes, became the Telecommunications Research Establishment, TRE (in 1940), at Malvern (in 1942). When Williams left the University in 1939 he already had a well-established reputation and was awarded a DSc (Doctor of Science) by the University (at an impressively young age).

The War Years at TRE

During the war years Freddie Williams made outstanding contributions to the electronics of radar and other military equipment, producing, amongst other things, the first “operational amplifier”. He made a major contribution to the development of IFF systems (Identification Friend or Foe), which enabled radar operators to distinguish between friendly and enemy aircraft, and to AI (Airborne Interception) systems, which provided onboard equipment allowing aircraft to automatically track and intercept other aircraft. A late version, AI mark IX, used his “Velodyne” system, and was widely used. Another important system he made a significant contribution to was Oboe (a precision ground-controlled blind-bombing system).

Soon after the start of the war Freddie Williams was put in charge of IFF development. This was also the start of his long association with Ferranti Ltd. at Manchester, as they were manufacturing the early versions of IFF equipment. In the summer of 1940 Williams moved on to work on AI. By the time of the move to Malvern, he was one of the “inner circle” running TRE. He now ran a small group (in a room in the cricket pavilion of Malvern College) the main purpose of which was to design and debug electronic circuitry, to solve any problem great or small met by other groups both within and beyond TRE.

At Malvern he was renowned for his emphasis on circuit “designability”, the development of circuits whose operation can be predicted accurately before they are built. He saw this as a major weapon in attacking the problems of precision, reliability and producibility — obviously crucial in the war years, especially for circuitry on board aircraft. A characteristic of his circuit design was that it was generally voltage based rather than current based. He also had a reputation as a prolific generator of ideas, not all of which came to fruition! These would often be the subject of an intense burst of activity, often by a member of his group who had been invited to try it out. Freddie Williams also liked to give flamboyant names to his devices, like the “Phantastron”.

The Cathode Ray Tube Storage System (1946-47)

As a result of his work at TRE, by the end of the war Freddie Williams had an international reputation, and was invited by the Radiation Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the USA to contribute to their massive 24-volume Radiation Laboratory Series on Electrical Engineering (informally known as the “five-foot-shelf”!). He co-edited and contributed to volumes 19, Waveforms, and 20, Electronic Time Measurement.

He visited the USA in 1945 and again in 1946 in connection with the Radiation Laboratory Series. Here he learned of attempts to use cathode ray tubes for data storage. In June 1946 he also visited the Moore School of Engineering, home to the ENIAC. ENIAC was the first general-purpose electronic computer, but it did not have an effective electronic storage, and changing its “program” involved a painful process of reconfiguring the hardware, which could take days. At the Moore School cathode ray tube storage was also being investigated, but the main research was in developing Mercury Acoustic Delay Line storage.

The general belief was that long-term storage on a CRT was difficult but not impossible. On returning to England, Freddie Williams made this the main subject of his research. He started active investigation into the storage of both analog and digital information on a CRT. Storage of analog information could help solve the problem of static objects cluttering the dynamic picture on a radar screen (because). Storage of digital information could solve the problem holding up the development of computers worldwide, i.e. lack of an effective storage mechanism that would work at electronic speeds.

He started by repeating the experiment he had seen for analog storage, which involved trying to maintain a permanent record of analog signals by copying them backwards and forwards between two CRTs. However he found the storage of binary digits more tractable, and by November of 1946 he had demonstrated the use of a (single) CRT to store a single binary digit.

Freddie Williams was appointed to the Chair of Electro-technics at the University of Manchester in December 1946, and so returned to Manchester. TRE were still interested in the digital CRT storage and continued to fund and support his research. They seconded Tom Kilburn, who had worked in his group since 1942, and Arthur Marsh, and allowed them to transfer the equipment for the single bit storage, and continue drawing stores. (Arthur Marsh left after a few months and was replaced in June 1947 by Geoff Tootill). The

Electro-technics department on Williams’ arrival (soon to be called the Electrical Engineering department) was strongly biased towards heavy engineering, and possessed very few modern valves. So the contribution of electrical components by TRE over the next couple of years was crucial.

The research into CRT storage continued throughout 1947, with Tom Kilburn, who was able to work full time on it, now making a major contribution. They tried a number of different storage mechanisms over the year, and by the Autumn were able to store 2048 bits over a period of a few hours. This general method of CRT storage of binary information became known as the “Williams Tube”, although Williams-Kilburn Tube might have been more appropriate. It had the advantage over the other storage mechanism nearest to realisation at the time, the Mercury Acoustic Delay Line, that it was made out of simple standard components, it was compact, and it did not require temperature control or accurately controlled power supplies. Most importantly, it was a true random-access storage device. These properties were of course highly significant in it being the first working storage system.

The Mark 1 (1948-51)

The next step was to build a computer around one or more Williams-Kilburn Tubes, both so that the speed and reliability of the Tube could be tested, and so that (if it proved satisfactory) the aim of the world’s computer researchers for a computer with an effective electronic storage for both program and data could be realised. So with Kilburn as the main driving force behind the computer design, the Small-Scale Experimental Machine, the “Baby”, was designed and built in 1947 and 1948, proving the effectiveness of both the Williams-Kilburn Tube design and the stored-program computer. It ran its first program in June 1948.

By the autumn of 1948 an expanded team had been set up under Freddie Williams to design and build a usable computer, the Manchester Mark 1, and the government had awarded a contract to Ferranti Ltd. to manufacture a commercial computer based on it. The Manchester Mark 1 was fully operational by around October 1949, and included many new features, including a magnetic drum backing store. By this time the detailed design was already being handed over to Ferranti, to produce a machine with a number of enhancements and improved engineering, the Ferranti Mark 1. The first machine came off the production line early in 1951, the world’s first commercially available computer.

Freddie Williams and his team repeated the

achievement of 1947, of devising and building the first working Random Access Memory in a computer, by designing and building the first working high-speed magnetic backing store attached to a computer, the Manchester Mark 1 drum. Drum stores were also being worked on elsewhere, in particular by A.D. Booth of Birkbeck College, London, who provided useful input. The gathering of the raw material for the first drum showed Freddie Williams in typical practical free-thinking form. As Tommy Thomas recalls: the drum itself was scrounged from discarded equipment from another department, a motor attached in the department, and the magnetic surface applied by the motorcycle electroplating shop across the road from his office! Freddie Williams took a particular interest in the development of the drum, carrying out with J.C. (Cliff) West the early experimentation on servo-mechanisms to synchronise the drum's rotation with the refresh cycle of the CRT stores.

Patents

Freddie Williams filed the first patent associated with the CRT store in December 1946, a provisional patent for the single-bit store. There were a succession of later patents on the CRT storage (now all with Tom Kilburn's name on as well) and the further patents associated with the Manchester Mark 1.

These patents were managed originally by the Board of Trade and then by the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) when it was set up in 1949. This was the first major project the NRDC had to deal with, and it laid the foundation for a long and important involvement by the NRDC with universities and industry, and set the pattern for much of its activities in other fields. The NRDC negotiated rights on the Williams Tube with IBM, and defended the invention when rival claims were made on the tube in the USA. The Manchester connection got the NRDC off to a good start, and resulted in substantial revenues in its early years.

But in connection with patents Freddie Williams had two important political battles to fight. Firstly, within the Universities, there was a strong feeling in conservative quarters (especially the Arts?) that private profit from patents was inconsistent with academic learning, and new knowledge should be made freely available. The response to free availability was that in areas of national interest there was a danger without patents that the nation would end up having to spend large amounts of valuable foreign currency to more successful exploiters of the inventions from other countries. Freddie Williams countered the distaste of private profit by politely but firmly drawing a comparison with royalties from books.

The second battle Freddie Williams fought was that

universities and their researchers should be entitled to the financial rewards of their inventions, rather than the government just because the government funded the Universities. In practice there were many beneficiaries from the patents of Williams and Kilburn, and the later patents, with the main intent being to channel as much as possible into the further development of computers in the department.

Electrical Engineering Full Time (1952-77)

Freddie Williams was a highly inventive electrical engineer with a wide range of interests. His whole professional life had been devoted to solutions to other people's problems as well as his own interests. The Williams-Kilburn Tube, and its key contribution to early computers worldwide, was just another case of solving other people's problems. Having developed the CRT storage with Tom Kilburn, and having managed the Mark 1 operation (while still making significant contributions), he was happy to leave Tom Kilburn to lead the drive to progress the development of computers beyond the Mark 1, as head of the Computer Group within his Electrical Engineering department.

By the early Fifties his focus had returned fully to general electrical engineering problems. He was however always happy to give assistance to solve circuit and motor problems for the Computer Group. A lot of his effort in the next 25 years was devoted to electric motors, especially variable-speed induction motors and linear induction motors (including much collaboration with E.R. Laithwaite, on his staff from 1950 to 1964). He also developed an automatic transmission for motor vehicles, an experimental version of which he installed in his own car!

When the time came for the Computer Group to break away from the Electrical Engineering department to form the new Computer Science department in 1964 under Tom Kilburn, Freddie Williams was very helpful and supportive (even though he was losing a third of his staff).

Freddie Williams was head of his department until he died in 1977. During his time in charge the department had grown from 5 staff, with a graduate output of 17 students a year, to 23 staff, with 50 students a year graduating. And this of course despite losing the Computer Group to form a new department, now as big as his own. He also made his contribution to the University as a whole with more than one spell as a Faculty Dean, and as a Pro-Vice-Chancellor. And he was always a stout defender of the Engineer as a worthy profession, asking "Why is it laudable and proper to show that a thing can be done, but quite improper to do it?".

W a n t e d & f o r S a l e & T r a d e

As a member of the CVRS you may place up to 5 free ads in each publication of "Radio Waves". Up to 20 words are allowed per ad. Please include your name and address along with your phone # and or E-mail. Advertising is accepted for Item's related to radio Communication Etc. only.

All Items must be described fairly; any reproduction, reprints and not original Items must be so identified. Advertisers must agree to respond promptly to Inquires and orders, to resolve problems promptly if the buyer is not satisfied and to comply to a buyer refund request on unaltered returned items.

Would the person who purchased the Westinghouse tombstone with the incorrect chassis from Larry Wood last year please contact him. He has found a correct chassis for the model you now have. larry@woodradios.com
604 594 5677

For Sale: Interference Suppression / Safety Capacitors for across-the-line and line-to-ground circuits in tube radios. Types X2, Y2 and X1Y2 available. For price list and product info, please contact **Dave Cantelon, 42 Clematis Rd., North York, Ontario, Canada, M2J 4X2 ; phone 416-502-9128; Email: justradios@yahoo.com or visit our WebSite: www.justradios.com**



www.bretsoldradios.com. You can order from **Bret's Old Radios, P.O. Box 51671, Denton, TX, 76206**. The videotape costs **\$34.99**; the DVD **\$39.99**, plus **\$3.00 S & H**. You can have volumes 1 and 2 for **\$59.99** on videotape or **\$69.99** on CD with no S & H. (US dollars.) Bret's e-mail address is bretsoldradios@att.net.

One Man's Auction Experience:

On the second page of the Sunday auction list, item number 53 was a little fellow listed as: CAE Lodestar MK1 Model 1011 Radio/Geiger, 1943.

What caught my eye, was the year. 1943. The year I was born. From the time I became interested in the radio collecting hobby, I was aware that building radios during the middle of the Second World War was very highly restricted. All production of normal consumer intended radios was against the law, so more manufacturing time and effort could be directed toward war production. A few record players were made that included radios, but very little else. So, at the auction, I raised my number when this little radio's turn came, and because it is rather plain and un-known, not much interest was seen.

30 seconds later, it was mine.

When I got it home, I did the normal history research, and came up dry. Then, I dug around the net, looking for military radio interest, thinking that this little radio must have had something to do with the war effort. Bingo. Another fellow had a friend who has one, in Montreal. Because CAE is located in Montreal, he paid the factory a visit. He knew that the radio was built for Civil Defence use, but CAE was astounded to see it. The current staff and management was unaware that their firm had manufactured this combination AM (Broadcast) band radio, sharing the case with a Geiger counter. No information from CAE has thus far surfaced. The twin to my radio showed up a while back on the Quebec version of the Antique Road Show. The piece of the puzzle that was added at that time, says that the reason there was an AM receiver included, was to help Civil Defence personal keep track of air raid warnings... Likely a number of these units ended up in England, during the Blitz...

Quite a lot of entertainment, from a modest purchase, that no one else seemed to want very much... and the story is only beginning...

Darryl Clarke



Hi Ken: Photos are General Radio VTVM, Weston tube checker 1934, Weston dc voltmeter 1940's, Radio tester 1920's, and Deforest Crosley Audion 1920's. Cheers, Rodger (in the Magic Basement)

Canadian Vintage Radios