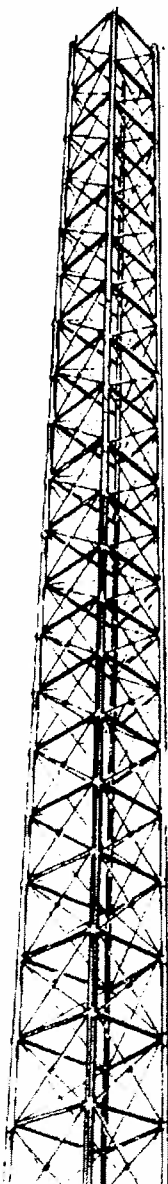


# The OTB

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF  
THE ANTIQUE WIRELESS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

*Published for the collector,  
historian and old-time  
radio operator*

THE OLD TIMER'S BULLETIN MAY 2002 VOL. 43 / #2



VOL. 1 JANUARY 1960 NO. 1

WELL FELLOWS, THERE APPEARS TO BE ENOUGH INTEREST TO TYPE THIS SHEET - SO HERE GOES. FIRST OF ALL, WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU'RE INTERESTED IN. OFF HAND, IT APPEARS THE MAJORITY OF YOU ARE OLD TIMERS WITH A CASUAL INTEREST IN COLLECTING AND PRESERVING OLD PIECES OF WIRELESS GEAR. SOME OF YOU SPECIALIZE, SUCH AS W8JEW WITH GREBE EQUIPMENT, OR W3WRE WHO CONCENTRATES ON KEYS - WHEREAS OTHERS HAVE NO INTEREST IN COLLECTING BUT JUST WANT TO KEEP IN CONTACT WITH THE PAST.

IN THE FUTURE WE'LL ENDEAVOR TO CLASSIFY VARIOUS INTERESTS BY CALL LETTERS. AT PRESENT I'M TAKING THE LIBERTY OF USING ONLY PORTIONS OF THE INFO RECEIVED IN EACH LETTER FROM YOU...SAVING THE BEST FOR LATER BULLETINS. NEEDLESS TO SAY, DOZENS OF LETTERS WERE RECEIVED MAKING IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE ANSWER THEM ALL...TKX A LOT...  
73, W2ICE

IN GENERAL

THE RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA CELEBRATED ITS ANNIVERSARY DEC. 4, 1959, HAVING BEEN PC IN 1909 - SO REPORTS ITS PPSIDENT, W2PKL

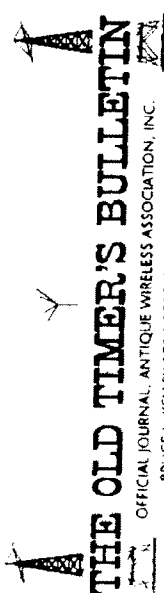
HOW MANY OF YOU READ OF THE PASSING OF JACK BINNS ON DEC. 9 (75 YRS.)??? ALL OLD



Bruce Kelley  
in his born  
museum,  
1970.

Front cover of  
the first issue of  
*The Old Timer's Bulletin*,  
January, 1960.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE: AUGUST 28-31, 2002**  
Celebrating 50 Years of AWA — 1952-2002



# THE OLD TIMER'S BULLETIN

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## WHOM TO CONTACT

Please write legibly. Enclosing an SASE speeds replies.

**DUES AND ADDRESS CHANGES:** Joyce Peckham (Secretary), Box E, Breesport, NY 14816, (607) 739-5443; FAX: (607) 796-6230; e-mail: [awpeckham@aol.com](mailto:awpeckham@aol.com). Dues: \$20 per year in U.S.; \$25 elsewhere. Life membership: \$400 in U.S.; \$500 elsewhere. Make checks payable to "AWA."

**AWA OFFICIAL BUSINESS:** William B. Fizette, (President), RR 1, Box 55, Henryville, PA 18332, (570) 629-0637.

**BUSINESS CARD ADS:** Robert W. Perry, W2TIX, "Smoke Signals," 131 E. High St., Painted Post, NY 14870.

**OTB SUBMISSIONS:** Marc Ellis, Editor, OTB, P.O. Box 1306, Evanston, IL 60204-1306, (847) 869-5016; e-mail: [mellis@netnet.com](mailto:mellis@netnet.com).

**AWA REVIEW SUBMISSIONS:** Tom Peters, W1TP, Editor, AWA Review, 11 Square Hill Road, North Caldwell, NJ 07006, e-mail: [tomper@w1tp.com](mailto:tomper@w1tp.com).

**ORDERS FOR THE AWA REVIEW OR BACK ISSUES OF OTB:** Edward M. Gable, 187 Lighthouse Rd., Hilton, NY 14468, (716) 392-3088.

**WANT ADS AND COORDINATION OF SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS:** Richard Ransley, P.O. Box 41, Soda, NY 14551, (315) 483-9307.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS:** Hugh J. Davey, 32 Paula Dr., Long Valley, NJ 07853, (908) 850-9086; [baag@bipny.net](mailto:baag@bipny.net) com.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Randolph W. Haus, KB2PLW, P.O. Box 665, 6935 Rte. 227, Trumansburg, NY 14886, (607) 387-5293.

**AWA ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION MUSEUM:** Please see "Museum News" column for contact and administration information.

## OTB STAFF

Editor  
Marc F. Ellis, N9EWI  
Design & Production  
Claudia Gray  
Copy Editor  
Joseph J. Schroeder, Jr., W9JUV

## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Amateur Radio  
John Rollins, W1FPZ  
Below 535  
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Book Reviews  
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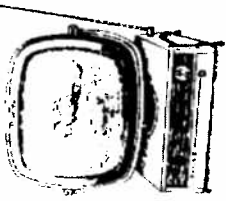
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# TELEVISION

EDITED BY RICHARD BREWSTER, 145 LITTLE PECONIC BAY ROAD, CUTCHOGUE, NY 11735 PLEASE INCLUDE SASE FOR REPLY



## The Early Television Museum

By Steve McVoy

*Well, the USA now has a TV museum to rival the MZTV Museum in Toronto! Steve McVoy has put it together in an amazingly short time, and developed a very impressive collection that will attract world-wide interest. Be sure to put it on your list of electronic "must see" attractions. But now I'm going to turn the column over to Steve himself and let him tell the story in his own words. —RB*

In November of 2001 the first museum in the United States dedicated entirely to early television equipment opened in Columbus, Ohio. It is operated by the Early Television Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of receivers and camera equipment from the 1920s through the 1950s. Our collection includes mechanical sets from 1928-32, prewar British and American electronic sets, early postwar British, American, Dutch and French sets, and early color receivers. In addition, we have a small but growing collection of early postwar camera equipment.

### History of the Museum

In 1998 I sold my cable television business and, wanting to try something new, decided to collect early television receivers. As a teenager I had worked in a television repair shop, and often

worked on early postwar sets such as the RCA 630. I began searching Ebay for sets, and within a few days a RCA TRK-12 prewar set came up. At that time I knew very little about the history of television, and assumed that the first commercial sets were made after World War Two. The TRK-12 was in pieces. In fact, there were two partial badly damaged cabinets. The CRT was missing, as was the radio dial frame. In the process of bidding on the set, I was e-mailed by a number of U.S. television collectors. As time went on, I got to know them, and slowly learned something about prewar technology and history.

I located a company that does historically accurate cabinet restoration, and they began the process of making one good cabinet out of the pieces I had. I began the electronic restoration, and discovered that the technology was not too different from what I remembered of the early postwar sets I had repaired as a teenager. I began a search for the missing parts, and finally found a CRT (from another collector) and the dial frame (from a RCA radio of the same era). The set now sits in the lobby of the museum.

As I became more familiar with the history of television, I learned of the development of mechanical TV in the United States and in Britain, and of the BBC's broadcasting of electronic television three years before the TRK-12 was introduced. I purchased an RGID 382-RG in England. This set was my introduction to British electronic receivers. It was also missing a number of parts, but the cabinet was in better condition than that of the TRK-12.

In the process of restoring the RGID, I had to find a way to supply a 405-line signal for it. Collectors I met in England supplied me with a VCR, which could play back 405 line tapes.

*The Early Television Museum in Columbus, OH.*

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JOSEPH G. JACKSON, M.D.

## ASBESTOS EXPOSURE AND RADIO COLLECTING

Can radio collecting be hazardous to your health? Most collectors are aware of the obvious potential dangers. Other than the inevitable damage to your wallet, there are high voltages to contend with as well as sharp metal edges and fragile glass tubes. There has been some concern about possible radiation exposure from the radio itself and there may be side effects from the inhalation of lead vapor from solder and fumes from improper handling of solvents and refinishing products.

However, one potential menace that many collectors might not be aware of is asbestos exposure. I have encountered many compact sets from the 30s and 40s with a sheet of asbestos attached under the cabinet top. Apparently this was employed to protect the wood and finish from the excessive heat generated by tubes and other components. More often than not, the asbestos is now deteriorating and crumbling. This is its most dangerous state.

Asbestos is a physical paradox, displaying both crystalline and fibrous properties. Being waterproof, resistant to decay and chemical reaction, and an outstanding insulator of heat and sound, it has many desirable properties for use in manufacturing. Some of these very properties, however, make it potentially harmful.

The small fibers are easily aerosolized and inhaled. Once inhaled, they are not easily cleared

by the respiratory system and can penetrate deep into the lung and into its outer lining, the pleura. If the exposed person is also a smoker, the potential for developing lung cancer is increased nearly 10 fold.

The risk of asbestos-induced disease is related to the number of fibers inhaled and the length of exposure can be brief, even less than a month, if the aerosolized fiber density is high. The onset of symptoms can be very remote with a lag time of up to 30 or 40 years following the first exposure. Mesothelioma, a malignancy of the pleura often related to asbestos exposure, slowly encases the lung and often results in a prolonged and painful demise from asphyxiation.

Avoidance of this material is the best prevention for asbestos-related disease. It would be advisable to stay away from sets afflicted with deteriorating asbestos. Any handling of such radios should be done with extreme care and with proper protective clothing, including gloves and an approved respirator. Refrain from any procedure that might aerosolize the fibers such as dusting with a blow gun. If you find an asbestos-tainted set that you "can't live without," your best bet is to contact a specialist in asbestos removal.

*Special thanks to Mr. Odell Williams of TV Central, Macon, GA for providing the radio used for illustration.*



*Turning the radio around reveals a badly decomposing sheet of asbestos attached under the top of the cabinet.*



*This innocent-looking Zenith 5-S-319 looks like a great restoration project, but it also holds a potentially harmful secret.*

**AUTHOR'S ADDRESS: 6331 OLD FORSYTH RD., MACON, GA 31210**

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