

The Bendix E-Beam

*News from the Bendix Radio Foundation
working for the Preservation and Presentation of the History of
the Bendix Radio Division and Bendix/AlliedSignal Communications Division.*

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Issue Number 18 – February 26, 2009

We, the BRF volunteers, would like to express our deepest thanks for your continuing support of the BRF's efforts to document the history of the Bendix Radio Division and Bendix/AlliedSignal Communications Division.

Website Up and Running <http://www.bendixradiofoundation.com/> *by Bill Mackey*

We finally got our new website up and running this past fall. Thanks goes to Bill Mackey's son, Neil, who did a very nice job and continues to help us keep it updated. Now we have to learn to do it ourselves! We are adding content as fast as we get various tasks completed.

Please take some time to scope out all the sections of the website and see what is really there. A definite trip down memory lane for everyone will be experienced. We welcome any and all comments, especially what would be of interest to our members to see added.

We welcome anyone who would like to join the active volunteers on Thursdays in expanding our website's content.

“Bendix Car Radios”----- New Exhibit at BMIby Bill Scott

An exhibit of Bendix Car Radios was completed in March 2008 and is the first thing you see as you enter the BMI Antique Vehicle Exhibit Area. The exhibit case contains car radio models from the 1950 Ford model to later models. A collage of photos presents some of the production pictures and facts and car types into which Bendix radios were installed. A computer slide show provides the narrative of the history of Bendix Car Radio production. **COME SEE IT AT THE BMI (See Photos on Page 6)**

Bendix Radio Foundation New Archival Storage Area.....by Bill Scott

The BRF began moving into the newly built archival storage area on December 17 and accomplished most of the move before Christmas 2008. We finished moving and arranging the new facility by the end of January 2009. In November 2008 we were advised by BMI the building owners now needed the space we had occupied since February 2004 for new retail space. The building owners accepted all expenses associated with building a new BRF facility and moving our existing archival materials, furniture, shelves, etc. Of course we volunteers were there to supervise the activity and to help when needed. We achieved a larger interior area (720 sq. ft.) plus an exterior storage area (160 sq. ft.). The Raytheon donations (discussed later) were easily incorporated into the new room. Entrance to the BRF room is now directly off of the main hallway of the building at 1414 Key Highway.

COME SEE THE NEW FACILITY (See the Layout and Photos on page 5)

New Exhibits Coming to BMI about Bendix.....by Angelo DelNegro

Plans are underway by BMI to move the present Bendix Home Radio and Television display into a permanent location in the BMI Communications Gallery. BMI plans to assign BRF a location in the main Decker Gallery so we may construct a new display covering the history of Bendix in Baltimore and its many products. We can use your ideas and help on this major project to present the best image of Bendix in Baltimore.

Interview Status.....by Bill Stotz

We have conducted a total of four Oral History interviews, with Cramer Bacque, Malcolm Taylor, Jim Sebring, and Mike Ryan. They have been transcribed, edited and indexed. In addition, each has been added as a record to the document database with its index terms appearing in the keyword field. Printed copies are in the BRF files, each with CD's containing the audio of the original interview and a Word file of the transcribed text. We are always looking for volunteers to tell their stories about their activities while employed at Bendix. Let us know if you will like us to record your story. If you don't wish to be personally interviewed, please send us your memoirs and/or work history for our files.

Collection Additions.....by Bill Mackey

Your additional donations are urgently needed now as we are close to being done with the sorting and cataloging of the information received to date. Check your closets, storage boxes, drawers, etc for any Bendix related materials and provide the items to the BRF.

The major contributions to the Bendix Radio archival collection during 2008 consisted of:

Bob Stefan - Bob provided Christmas lists, telephone books, personnel information, annual and quarterly reports, Bendix Beams, Mercury Program specs, Engineering Manual sections, and various letters and technical documents.

Bob Creager - Bob donated a wall clock and Engineering Organization Book with photos.

Bill Kunz - Bill Jr donated a 3 ring binder of 1940/50's test equipment sets and facilities at Joppa Rd, a large binder documenting the Pacific Missile Range history, lots of pamphlets and a PMR service pin.

Aaron Mall - Aaron and Carole hand delivered several boxes of Radio and TV ads, brochures and manuals, 18 original Bendix Radio ads from the 1940/50's, folders of newspaper articles and plenty of associated miscellaneous photos and books.

Bill Mackey - 10 original WWII equipment instruction manuals and 12 original WWII ads.

Raytheon - See the following section on Raytheon Donations that occurred this past January.

NEEDED - The BRF is in need of a **Microfiche Digitizer**. If anyone knows of any good deals for such an item please let us know. We have a large collection of historic documents only on microfiche and have no way to print or digitize them.

Raytheon Donations.....by Bill Mackey

In early January 2009 Jerry Woodall noticed that Raytheon was disposing of all the print content of the Library and Print Room. He was able to arrange for BRF to search these items before their disposal. Over a 3 day period BRF searched thru 7,000 drawings and 30,000 aperture cards. We acquired about 150 drawings, 6,000 aperture cards as well as the Engineering Log Book sign-out card file.

In addition, Raytheon donated 2 large drawing flat files, a 12 drawer card file cabinet, an aperture card reader and a rolling metal rack

Database and Artifact Logging Activity.....by Bill Mackey & Bill Stotz

BRF reached a major milestone this year when we completed the database entry of all of our boxes of Print memorabilia (134 storage boxes). This database can currently only be accessed from the BRF computer in the BRF Archival Room, or In Excel spreadsheet form on the BRF web site.

We have done nearly all of the Artifact cataloging/database entry. There are currently 45 boxes plus many oversize pictures and posters, as well as many artifacts too large or too heavy to put in boxes. These are stored on open shelves. The current count of artifacts is 441. Because the BMI museum has an Artifact Database using museum software, we have filled out one of their data entry forms for each artifact. They have entered about three-quarters of this data into their database and have exported those records as Excel files which we have imported into the BRF database. They expect to have a volunteer available to finish the job. The items have been photographed and the pictures are available in our database. Rather than link our photos individually to the records in their database, they have decided to use our database for our artifacts. They will install the Panorama software on one of their computers and use it for access to BRF artifact information.

Two drawers of microfiche documents were cataloged. These consisted of mostly Instruction Manuals for equipment manufactured between 1935 and 1951. This was indeed a historical find.

The two major efforts remaining to be tackled are the cataloging of many boxes of photographs (78 boxes) and the original drawings we recovered from the Joppa Rd vault. The latter job is about 10% complete.

Other database activities include provision for the addition of pictures to the Personnel database, and a Fast Search feature added to the Document database to allow one-step searching of the important fields in the Folder and Document databases. Also a major revision of the Database Handbook has been completed.

BMI has agreed to accept the BRF catalog system instead of reentering the BRF collection into the BMI database.

Auto Radio Database.....by Bill Stotz

A new database has been developed providing comprehensive information about the Bendix car radio product line. Each database record lists a radio by part number, the year of manufacture (1948 to 1974), the company and car that it fit, and a description – number of tubes and or transistors, band (AM, FM, Stereo). Most of the information comes from a collection of Service Manuals that BRF acquired. There are currently 391 radios in the database with pictures for 335. There are certainly many missing because we have no information on them. The BRF artifact collection includes 28 auto radios.

Bendix Home Radio/TV Database.....by Bill Stotz

Based on extensive information and photographs provided by Aaron Mall, we have created a Bendix Home Radio/TV database. We have listings for 112 radio models, 98 with pictures, and 131 TV models with pictures for 35. The radio listings contain descriptive information about each model including type of radio (AM, AM/FM, Phonograph, etc.), bands covered, cabinet description, etc. The information about the TV's is similar but much less complete. BRF has among its artifacts 13 radios and 3 TV's.

Employee Names Database.....by Ken Kidd & Angelo DelNegro & Bill Stotz

The Employee Names Database is a database of the names of employees of the Bendix Radio/Communications Division/AlliedSignal Communications that covers the period from the formation in 1937 to the sale of the division to Raytheon on September 10, 1998.

Previously we reported 14,449 entries in our data base of employee names obtained from various personnel lists, divisional telephone books, and other documents. Since then, we have added approximately 4,000 more entries from sources such as Departmental Christmas address lists, issues of the *Bendix Beam* and *The Communicator*, and other publications. Because of the variety of input sources, there may be multiple entries for an employee.

The biggest problem remaining, other then missing names, is that through a good deal of Bendix history employees were identified with initials only. Any data you have identifying an employee full name will greatly help our effort.

We are still looking for additional personnel lists which you may have in your files. Let us know.

BRF and BMI Joint Membership.....by Bill Scott

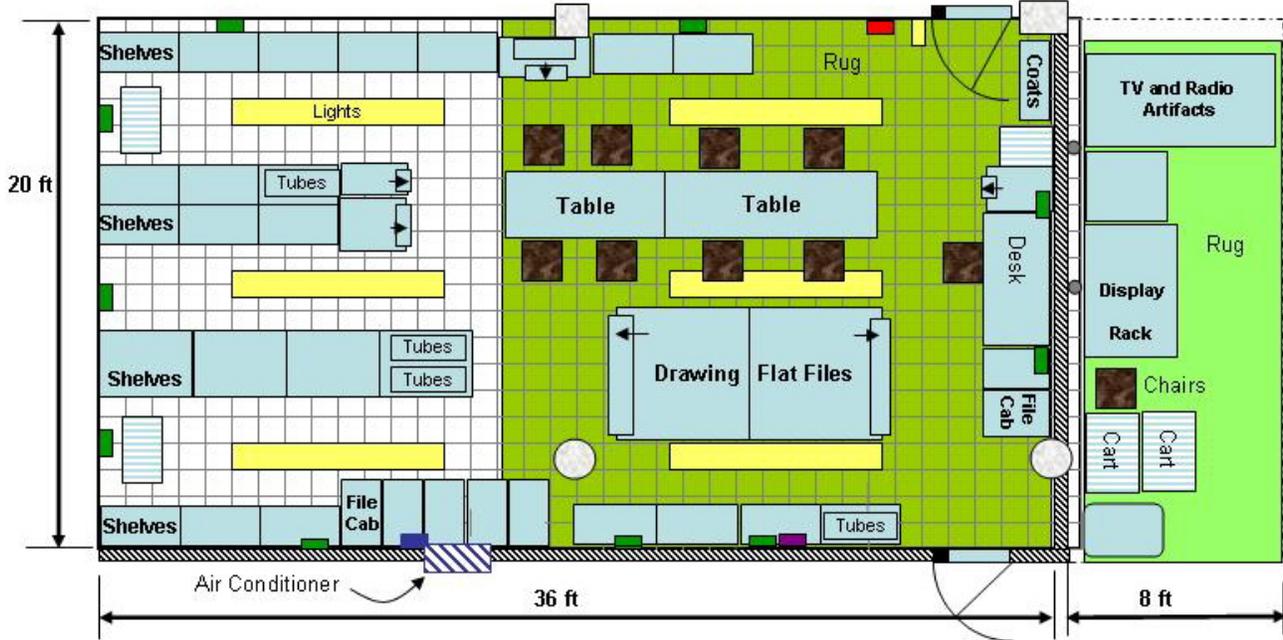
We need your continued support of the BRF through yearly membership and donations. The 2008 BRF and BMI Joint Membership totals 119 members: 43 Family Memberships and 76 Individual Memberships plus an additional 27 persons who made monetary donations. Last year the 2007 membership totaled 137 members. Our database consists of over 1,500 names of former Bendix Radio, Communications, and AlliedSignal in Baltimore employees or friends. A death index is also kept of those persons who have passed away over the various years.

BRF Foundation Board of Directors.....by Bill Scott

The 2008-2009 BRF Board of Directors, elected in June 2008, are: Guil Vogt (2 years), Jerry Woodall (2 years), Joe McCormick (1 year), Len Bosse (1year), and Bill Stotz (1 year). The terms of each of these directors has been extended by one year.

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<http://www.bendixradiofoundation.com>
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Bendix Radio Foundation New Archival Storage Facility.....February 2009



Bendix Car Radio Exhibit at Baltimore Museum of Industry.....March 2008

