

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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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. The major news in this issue covers, (1) the status of work on the major BRF exhibit in the Museum and, (2) plans for a final full audit and update of the Collection for handoff to the museum.

Major BRF Objective of a Permanent BMI Exhibit Begun.....by Angelo DelNegro

Past: On October 1, 2010, a new temporary BRF Exhibit documenting “*Bendix Radio / AlliedSignal – 60 Years in Baltimore*” was opened in the BMI's Communications Gallery. Allocation of this space presented BRF's first large Exhibit space since the earlier “temporary” Exhibit opened on August 29, 2002 and remained open through May 2006. This Exhibit covers the complete back wall of the BMI's Communications Gallery – the area is 9 ft high by 34 ft wide plus artifacts in adjacent display cases. This Exhibit was designed, produced and installed by BRF personnel working closely and with the approval of BMI. The BMI directorship has given BRF strong supportive reviews and comments on this Exhibit. Many visitors have told the Museum receptionist positive comments about the Exhibit as they exited the Museum.

Present: BMI has authorized BRF to replace the two *Allied Chemical* panels in the main Decker Gallery area with a *Bendix Radio* Exhibit. This new permanent Exhibit will be a vertical display area (two panels, each panel 4 ft wide by 12 ft tall with a vertical center 18” x 18” x 6’ artifact clear display case) summarizing the history and “Technology Firsts” of *Bendix Radio* in the Baltimore area. This Exhibit will have to be compatible with the existing Decker Gallery displays so professional support and installation is required. BRF is financially committed to the support of BMI in order to make this permanent Exhibit a reality. Our fourteen year presence at the BMI always had the goal of a permanent Exhibit in the main Decker Gallery. We need your strong financial support in order to achieve our goal of a permanent first-class Exhibit that we all can be proud of. With your tax deductible contribution to the BMI through our BRF organization we can present the best image of *Bendix Radio* in Baltimore on a par with – if not better than – the other Baltimore organizations in the gallery.

Step 1 – Our preliminary approach and associated sketches were presented to the BMI management and we were given approval to proceed with the wording and photos preparations.

Step 2 – A professional design and installation organization was hired by BMI to work with BRF personnel. BRF and the hired team worked closely together successfully.

Step 3 – A proposed display layout, preliminary sketches, photos, sub-panel wording and artifact displays has been given to the design organization and BMI management for comment, suggested changes, and subsequent approval. This was accomplished in 2013.

Step 4 – Finalize design. BRF, in December 2013, approved the graphic team's design.

Step 5 – Construct Exhibit. BMI approval has been given to begin this phase as of February 1st..

Step 6 – BRF/BMI members and donors will be invited to a 2014 grand opening reception.

Website...<http://www.bendixradiofoundation.com>.....by Bill Mackey

New activity this past year has been the posting of the 2013 BRF/BMI Membership listing as well as a new and updated Audio/Visual Collection Index.

Collection Status and Outlook.....by Bill Mackey

Since starting acceptance of documents and artifacts for the Bendix Radio Foundation Collection at BMI back in 2000 the collection has grown to contain a substantial cross section of historic material from the beginning of Bendix Radio in 1936 through the AlliedSignal years until the sale to Raytheon in 1998. At the beginning of 2014, the BRF Volunteers agreed on the need to plan and conduct a final audit on the Collection and take care of any errors or other corrections and additions needed to bring the status of the Collection to a “complete” state for formal handover to archiving and maintenance by the Museum. However, with the passing last year of long-time Volunteer Bill Stotz, who did a masterful job of developing and updating the Collection’s substantial digital databases, it has become clear that producing a major update by those intimately involved with Bendix Radio (/AlliedSignal) is now necessary if the original objective of the Foundation of having useful history is to be complete before the Volunteers run out of steam.

The other revision that became necessary was driven by the recognition that the Collection’s digital database must be in a format that is easily accessible by those researching Bendix Radio and that the BMI staff can add new material, etc., and update the Collection without extensive training or specialized software. It was agreed that switching to a relatively simple spreadsheet or ‘flat file’ for the database using Microsoft Excel was the most workable solution. Volunteer Stu Horwitz volunteered to undertake setting up the database format in Excel and transferring over from the current database in Panorama so as to retain all the recorded data. As of the middle of this past January, a substantial percentage has been converted over and appears to be a viable solution.

The Excel database will be used as the baseline reference for use in conducting the ‘final’ audit of physical items, from paper documents to items of equipment.

Even as time moves on and we think we have received everything related to Bendix Radio/Alliedsignal Communications we continue to be surprised by additional donations.

Here is a brief summary for 2013:

- a) Two boxes of early Bendix items from Harry Nessel's estate
- b) An early 1940's loop direction finder identical to the one that appeared on an episode of Pawn Stars
- c) An FPS-85 Receive Antenna setup plus many FPS-85 photos from Bill Rupp
- d) Over 200 slides of the FPS-85 from Noble Pribble
- e) Various divisional artifacts from Frank DelBianco
- f) Early copies of the Field engineering Reporter (1961) from Bob Ansom
- g) Over 10 large boxes of engineering material, photos and artifacts from Gene Kolb's widow
- h) 1942 movies of the 1942 E-Award Ceremony and of the Guard Rifle Range plus many Security artifacts from George Long Jr. (BRF has had these movies digitized into DVD format and we planning on showing them at the June Bendix Retirees luncheon).

We are always amazed at all of the new material that we continue to receive. So please do not assume that we have it -- DONATE IT NOW!!

Employee Names Database.....by Ken Kidd

The Employee Names Database includes the names of employees of the Bendix Radio/Communications Division/AlliedSignal Communications from the formation in 1937 to the sale of the division to Raytheon on September 10, 1998. In addition to the names, it contains various bits of information that is available in the different source documents including department number, ID number, hire date, retirement date, job title, personal items, etc., etc. At present the database has approximately 32,000 lines of data. Often, multiple lines apply to one person.

BRF Archival Collection.....by Angelo DelNegro, et al

A listing, presented here, identifies the various quantities of items within the BRF Archival Collection Database. As new items, documents, etc. are received they will be added to the collection. It is from this collection that artifacts, photos, and technical text are being formulated for the permanent Bendix Radio Exhibit in the Decker Gallery.

BRF ARCHIVAL COLLECTION

654..... Artifacts (and Photographed)
150..... Print File Boxes
 292,000 Sheets
 2,680 Folders
75..... Titled Periodicals
 1,250 Issues
79..... Audio Visual File Boxes
 30,000 Negatives
 5,000 Pictures
 3,500 Slides
 100 Large Motion Picture Reels
 44 Video Tapes
190,000..... Drawing Release Cards
 4,600..... Drawings
72,500..... Aperture Cards
15,000..... Engineer's Log Book Issue Cards
 20..... 2.5" Thick Photo Albums
 2,500 Pictures
60,000..... Microfiche Cards
32,000..... Employee Records
 924..... Manufacturing Specs
 1,123..... Purchasing Specs

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

We are looking forward to your continued support of the BRF through yearly BRF/BMI membership and your donations for the new, permanent Bendix Radio Exhibit in the Decker Gallery. The 2013 BRF and BMI Joint Membership totaled 96 members: 38 Household Family Memberships and 58 Individual Senior Memberships plus an additional 42 persons who made monetary donations. For the previous 2012 year, the membership totaled 98 members. Please keep us informed of any address or email changes.

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