

# *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) Completion of 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 Accomplished.***by Angelo DelNegro*

**Past:** On October 1, 2010, a 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 2010 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. This Exhibit can be replaced by BMI at any time. If you have not had an opportunity to view, please visit BMI at your earliest convenience before it is history.

**Present:** BRF/BMI has replaced the two *Allied Chemical* panels in the main Decker Gallery area with a *Bendix Radio* Exhibit. This new permanent 2014 Exhibit is 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. (See the Photos on Page 4.) This Exhibit is compatible with the existing Decker Gallery displays so professional support and installation was required. BRF financially supported the construction of this Exhibit. Our fifteen year presence at the BMI always had the goal of a permanent Exhibit in the main Decker Gallery. Your strong financial past support has allowed BRF to achieve our goal of a permanent first-class Exhibit we all can be proud of. With your tax deductible contribution to the BMI through our BRF organization we can continue to present the best image of *Bendix Radio* in Baltimore on a par with – if not better than – the other Baltimore organizations in the gallery.

## **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 42,000 lines of data. Often, multiple lines apply to one person.

## **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 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 is being used as the baseline reference for conducting the ‘final’ audit of physical items, from paper documents to items of equipment.

The following is a summary of the donations received in 2014:

- a) Badges, lighter, ruler and logos --- W. Kutrik
- b) Auto radio, TCAS video, pens and ruler --- J. Shagena
- c) Tractor radio, various coffee mugs, logos, pins and many photos --- F. DelBianco
- d) "I Love Bendix" straw hat --- J. Thompson
- e) 34 Bendix Communications Newsletters and coasters --- P. Farmer
- f) MATT VHS tapes, home radio and many photos --- J. Hosier

## **Bendix Drawing Report.....by Guil Vogt**

By the year 2009, the Bendix Radio Foundation had obtained over 4000 drawings, mostly from the Raytheon files. We chose many drawings from the early days of the division in hope of learning about product development from that era. It was decided that we would “mine” the title blocks for equipment names, used on information, and employee names and dates. The process would require data entry on worksheets and then entry into the BRF computer data base in order to be searchable via keywords, names, etc. Many people contributed to this process which was worked when we were not involved in other activity (more interesting) such as display planning. This effort has now been completed thanks to the work of Bill Stotz, George Walter, Len Bosse, Ken Kidd, Bill Scott, Ron Sacker, and myself.

All drawings were reviewed and over 2800 drawings have been retained in six files and are now entered in the database. Many drawings from as early as 1936 by Radio Research Corp. were found. Employee name recovery from that era was a disappointment since most title block entries were in the form of initials. Many drawings of Bendix radio, intercom and direction finder installations in WWII aircraft were found as were drawings of our early Radar work.

## 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 was formulated for the permanent Bendix Radio Exhibit in the BMI Decker Gallery.

### **BRF ARCHIVAL COLLECTION**

667..... 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  
2,800..... Drawings  
72,500..... Aperture Cards  
15,000..... Engineer's Log Book Issue Cards  
20..... Photo Albums 2.5" Thick  
..... 2,500 .... Pictures  
60,000..... Microfiche Cards  
42,000..... Employee Records  
924..... Manufacturing Specs  
1,123..... Purchasing Specs

### **George M. Walter**

It is with great sadness we inform you of the passing of one of our dedicated BRF volunteers, George M. Walter, on December 31, 2014. George contributed a great deal of time and effort over BRF's history. He applied his knowledge and talents to enhance the BRF Archival Collection Database, stepping in wherever he was needed to accomplish a task and especially documenting the large magnitude of individual drawing originals. His expertise will be missed greatly.

### **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 2014 BRF and BMI Joint Membership totaled 94 members: 41 Household Family Memberships and 53 Individual Senior Memberships plus an additional 40 persons who made monetary donations. For the previous 2013 year, the membership totaled 96 members. Please keep us informed of any address or email changes.

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# BENDIX RADIO 2014 EXHIBIT IN THE DECKER GALLERY --- BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY

