

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 27 --- Final Issue --- March 01, 2018

LOOKING BACK

This “Final Issue of the E-Beam” is dedicated to you, the Members, for your strong financial support that has allowed BRF to achieve the goal of a permanent Bendix Radio First-Class BMI Decker Gallery Exhibit of which all can be proud and also establishment of an outstanding fully documented and searchable Bendix Radio Collection archive of over 400,000 indexed items and over 670 artifacts.

As is often said, “**Time flies when you’re having fun.**” The Bendix Radio Foundation (BRF) Volunteers have indeed had a lot of fun starting in late 1999 and continuing for over 18 years of assembling and creating the “Bendix Radio Collection” at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. That also includes creating (designing and building) a number of major exhibits at BMI, one at the National Electronics Museum, and one at Raytheon (remember E. Joppa Road before the WAWA?). The fun also included attending a few exhibition openings – several that included you, the Bendix Radio Foundation members – and finally having lunch at Rollo’s and Southside Diner, following the weekly meetings.

This “fun” was balanced against the significant amount of work done, particularly during the push to complete the several major exhibitions over the years, and leading up to, during, and following the three major facility relocations – fortunately each time gave us an improved facility to work in while completing the Collection. Then there was the week-after-week work of creating the system that became the Collection, with its indexing system, box and folder numbering system, digital database creation and updating, artifact identification and data entry, and lots of other things all searchable by computer.

The volunteer “crew” has stuck with it and today, that dim light first seen at the end of the tunnel, has become very bright as we have formally and successfully reached the end of that tunnel. We, and we hope you, are very pleased with the accomplishment of the objectives set for this organization, the Bendix Radio Foundation, all those years ago. As you may remember from previous E-Beam’s, your contribution of dues or financial donations, or both, contributions of material to the Collection, and equally important, your show of interest in establishing and maintaining the Bendix Radio Collection not only facilitated accomplishing this objective but has been essential in keeping the “project” going when a few hard spots in the road were encountered. Now, it can be said, “**The Bendix Radio Foundation Members, did it!**”

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. Thank you very much.

BRF ARCHIVAL COLLECTION TURNED OVER TO THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY

Current Status

In summary, the outlook for the future of the Bendix Radio Collection permanency at the BMI looks good and will be supported and maintained by BMI through your continued financial support.

BMI assumed control of the BRF Archival Collection on December 31, 2016. This “turn-over” was the culmination of years of effort to collect, sort, catalog, file, establish a software search routine, and the website development to house the Bendix Radio, Bendix Communications, and AlliedSignal Communications impressive history in the Baltimore Area. The Collection will remain in the Bendix Radio Collection Room located within the BMI Archival Storage Warehouse located at 1919A Annapolis Rd, Baltimore, MD. BMI has assigned personnel to become familiar with the Collection and the Search Software routine so they will be able to respond to researcher’s inquiry data requests. For the near future, the BRF Group will continue to meet on Thursdays to support various tasks associated with the Collection and assist the BMI personnel becoming familiar with the Collection. Your financial support over the years, by being a *Joint BRF/BMI Museum* Member or Donor, has made this Collection and construction and maintenance of the Bendix Radio Archive possible. Your continued financial support to BMI will assure BMI maintains the Bendix Radio Collection for use by future researchers. All future requests for memberships and donations will be solicited by the BMI Membership Office.

Major BRF Objective of a Permanent BMI Exhibit Accomplished

BRF/BMI now has a permanent *Bendix Radio* Exhibit, in the BMI Decker Gallery, opened August 2014 summarizing the history and “Technology Firsts” of *Bendix Radio* in the Baltimore area. Our BRF eighteen year presence at the BMI always had the goal of a permanent Bendix Exhibit in the main BMI Decker Gallery. Through your strong financial support, BRF achieved that goal of a permanent First-Class Exhibit of which all can be proud. With your tax deductible contribution to the BMI, 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 Decker Gallery.

Website Activity

In October 2017 validation of the Bendix Radio Archival Collection was completed and the website updated. [www.bendixradiofoundation.org]. The website information is identical to that in the master BRF Database Computers located at the BMI. The only variation is the structure of the Search engine. The web version searches everything on the BRF Website whereas the BRF Database Computer version searches only the listed major databases: Artifacts, Facilities, Personnel, Audio-Visual, Printed Media, Microfiche, and Drawings. This year BMI will assume full control of the Bendix website and link it to the BMI website. In addition to the individual volunteers working on the Website, Bill Mackey and his son Neil Mackey are recognized here for their major improvements and upgrades made over the last 14 years. A Virginia researcher, searching Television history, located our website, contacted BMI and made three on-the-site visits researching facts for his upcoming slide presentation for the Early Television Museum - Hilliard Ohio. We learned facts about Bendix Radio Television from him and we provided him our information.

Collection Status

The BRF Archival Excel Database provides easy access by BMI personnel and using the BRF designed macros provides easy search and location capability. This Excel Database is available on the BRF Database Computer at the BMI Archival facilities located at 1919A Annapolis Rd. Every entry includes the unique location of that entry within the Bendix Radio Archive. These same Excel data files are in the updated BRF Website for everyone to search from the internet worldwide. All items in the collection are accessible at the BMI location by contacting the BMI Archivist: Contact Matthew Shirko, Archivist, mshirko@thebmi.org , 410.727.4808 x112.

BRF Archival Collection

A listing, presented here, identifies the various quantities of items within the Bendix Radio Collection Database. As new items, documents, etc. are received they will be added to the collection. It is from this collection that the artifacts and photos and technical text was formulated for the permanent Bendix Radio Exhibit in the BMI Decker Gallery. Major collections this year have been received from the Estate of Carl Tresselt and the daughter of Dr. John Morrel and are being added to the Bendix Radio Collection.

BENDIX RADIO COLLECTION

- 677..... Artifacts
- 156..... Print File Boxes
 - 2,680 Folders
 - 292,000 Sheets
- 75..... Titled Periodicals
 - 1,250 Issues
- 79..... Audio Visual File Boxes
 - 30,000 Negatives
 - 8,000 Pictures
 - 3,500 Slides
 - 100 Large Motion Picture Reels
 - 44 Video Tapes
- 2,968..... Drawings
- 190,000..... Drawing Release Cards
- 72,500..... Aperture Cards
- 15,000..... Engineer's Log Book Issue Cards
- 60,000..... Microfiche Cards
- 45,000..... Employee Records
 - 924..... Manufacturing Specs
 - 1,123..... Purchasing Specs



The Future of the Bendix Radio Collection at BMI

Following the Bendix Radio Collection being merged into the BMI organization, informal Bendix Radio volunteer support on the collection for BMI has been and will continue on an as requested basis supporting the Bendix Radio Collection. This arrangement will be continued as can be supported by the Bendix Radio volunteer group: --- Len Bosse, Orlando DeFelice, Angelo DelNegro, Stu Horwitz, Ken Kidd, Bill Mackey, Joe McCormick, Ron Sacker, Bill Scott, Guil Vogt, and Jerry Woodall

As addressed on the Bendix Radio Foundation website, all inquiries for information is being handled directly through the BMI Collections group: BMI Archivist: Matt Shirko, 410.727.4808 x112, email: mshirko@thebmi.org. BMI will be handling all solicitation mailings directly to you. Please continue to support the collection maintenance through your donations.

Baltimore Museum of Industry / Bendix Radio Foundation

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