

The Bendix E-Beam

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

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New Archival Storage Facility for the BRF Collection.....by Bill Mackey

The dedicated BRF Archival Storage Facility, at 1414 Key Highway, was finished May 2004 and is being used weekly. The archival room comprises approximately 600 square feet (18ft x 33 ft) with 23 shelf units, a conference table, 15 chrome chairs, a desk, 6 file cabinets, a computer with printer and scanner, A/C, and rugs.

Raytheon Communications donated the desk, chrome chairs, and file cabinets to our cause. The Carroll Mansion Museum donated the 23 shelf units (18 inches deep x 7 ft. high x 3 ft wide). BRF members donated the remaining items. Special monetary donations were made by 18 former Bendix employees to defray the cost of construction of this facility.

The shelves now contain many archival acid free boxes filled with archival material donated by former employees. Boxes are organized by product lines: ATC, Communications, Radar, Fuze, COMSEC, Divisional Marketing, Organization / People, etc. The process now is to inventory each box and enter its items into our database for easy future access by subject, contract or key words. Future sorting progress is essentially limited only by the availability of Bendix volunteers to do the work! If you would like to help, contact Bill Mackey or Jerry Woodall. We meet every Thursday at 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at 1414 Key Highway. Come join us.

Raytheon / Bendix Vault Access.....by Bill Mackey

Raytheon has invited the BRF Volunteers to review the contents of the Vault to determine which items may be suitable for the BRF archival collection. The BRF Volunteers will access the Vault during January and February. Those items so identified for the BRF archives will be placed on a list for Raytheon to review and to provide approval for removal by BRF. The Vault contents consists of: Drawing Master Originals going as far back as the mid 1930s, Engineering Log Books, Contracts, Proposals, Technical Manual / Proposal Camera-Ready-Copy, Microfilm, Negatives, Slides, IR&D Plans and Reports, IEEE Proceeding Reports, Technical Books and Reports, etc.

Angelo Del Negro.....Volunteer of the Year.....by Bill Scott

The Baltimore Museum of Industry announced their year 2003 volunteer awards on April 18, 2004. Our own Angelo Del Negro was presented the Museum's highest award for his many services dealing with financial matters that he so expertly performed for the Museum.

Web Site Activity.....by Bill Mackey <http://home.comcast.net/~bendixradio>

We have discontinued our initial web site at www.hometown.aol.com/bendixradio. An intermediate web site has been established at <http://home.comcast.net/~bendixradio> while our new web site is under construction; www.bendixradiofoundation.com. When the new site is available, it will be identified on the intermediate web site.

The BRF Database.....by Bill Stotz

The Bendix Radio foundation has amassed a considerable amount of material documenting the history of the Bendix Radio, Communications, and AlliedSignal in Baltimore. The collection consists of all manner of print material, audio/visual items, and artifacts. But collecting is only the beginning. Somehow, the material must be made accessible to anyone interested in the history of the Divisions. The extent of the collection is such that some sort of formal system of organizing it is essential. A method is needed to sort, catalog and make available the content of the Archive. Maximum accessibility for a collection of this kind is best obtained using a database. This removes the need for complete and accurate sorting of the collection because material can be found regardless of its physical location in the collection. A single search will locate all pertinent material wherever it is archived. Much effort is avoided in the initial sorting, and searches are far faster and more efficient. Also, by putting complete indexing information into a database, reports, lists of material, etc., can be produced easily and quickly using the built-in facilities of the database software.

In order to make the most efficient use of the BRF Archive, a set of databases has been developed. The aims in the design of the databases have been the efficient storage of the data, and the easy retrieval of useful information by BRF members and others. Since the bulk of the material in the collection is paper, that is, printed documents of all types, the major cataloging effort of the Foundation has been devoted to the sorting and organizing of this material. A numbering system has been devised tailored to this part of the collection.

There are five databases in the system at the present time. Others may be added as other needs become apparent. The five are Box, Folder, Document, Artifact, and Program. Each is described in detail below. In addition to a spreadsheet-style view of the data, the database software provides for the creation of other views and forms tailored to the needs of a particular database. The five databases are:

A - Box Database - This is basically a list of all the boxes in the archive with their name, number and type of material.

B - Folder Database - This database identifies each folder within a box. A folder may contain a single document or several, depending on the size of the documents.

C - Document Database - The Document database will contain detailed information about individual documents in the archive.

D - Program Database - The Program database contains a listing of, and information about, all the (primarily paid) programs worked on by the Divisions since its inception (or as many as we could remember).

E - Artifact Database - The BRF Collection includes many physical artifacts representing manufactured equipment, models of various things, memorabilia, and other items of a varied nature. These must be documented along with the rest of the Collection, but their nature requires different information to be recorded. In addition, it is the intention of the museum to incorporate our artifact data into their database. Thus, an Artifact Database has been created to accommodate the diverse nature of this material, and to provide for the transfer of the information to the museum in a form to facilitate the entry into their "Past Perfect" database system.

When the Foundation's new Web Site is up and running, we will put some or all of the database files up on the site in HTML format so that the information will be available to anyone interested. With the Program database, we expect to enlist the help of the membership in adding to the data there by emailing us information about the programs they worked on. So watch for the listing and send us your input.

Sorting all the Stuff.....*by Bill Mackey*

Over 100 boxes, of the 225 total boxes, of Bendix Radio, Communications, and AlliedSignal material plus many cartons filled with artifacts have already undergone a first level and second level sort by Foundation volunteers.

The BRF team has sorted each item received into a set of archival boxes under three key headings: Audio-Visual (2.0.0 series), Print (3.0.0 series), or Artifacts (4.0.0 series) and into Major Groupings under each series. Each Major Grouping has been assigned a cataloging number sequence in each series as follows: Index 1.00.0, Corporate 2.00.0, Divisional: House Organs/Negatives 2.01.1; Marketing 2.01.2, Org Charts & Personnel 2.01.3, Engineering 2.01.4, Financial 3.01.5, Sinsky Chronology files 3.01.6, George Long Collection 3.01.7, Aaron Mall Collection 3.01.8, Communication 2.02.0, Radar 2.03.0, Radio/TF/Mobile/Marine 2.04.0, Air Traffic Control 2.05.0, Ident Friend & Foe 2.06.0, COMSEC 2.07.0, Proximity Fuze 2.08.0, Automotive 2.09.0, Avionics 2.10.0, Field Engineering 2.11.0, Navigation & Landing 2.12.0, Non-Bendix 4.13.0, Excess Matl 2.30.0, BRF Generated 2.40.0, Unidentified 2.50.0, Reference Material 3.60.0, Other Related Collections 2.70.0.

We certainly appreciate your past and future financial support, but we would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we still need “stuff” to place into the archival storage area. There are a number of holes in the BRF Collection that can only be filled by you. Look around and if you find any Company paper, things, etc. please consider sharing your “treasure” with others by donating it to the BRF. Nothing is too minor to be donated. Contact Bill Mackey and he will make arrangements to receive your “treasure” and provide you a receipt that can be used in taking a tax deduction. We need your help!

Foundation Board of Directors.....*by Jerry Woodall*

A new BRF Board term of office was adopted in 2004 and Directors were elected last June. Per the revised rules, “The BRF Board shall be composed of five (5) members elected for two (2) year terms, two (2) of whom shall be elected in even numbered years and three (3) of whom shall be elected in odd numbered years, except in the initial year, 2004, when all five shall be elected with two (2) having two (2) year terms and three (3) having one (1) year terms.” The 2004-2005 BRF Board of Directors are: Bill Mackey (2 years), Ken Kidd (2 years), Jerry Woodall (1 year), Guil Vogt (1 year), and Bill Scott (1 year).

Bendix Radio Exhibit Still Open.....*by Bill Scott*

The Bendix Radio Exhibit, **Communications Before Star Trek, Bendix Radio, Six Decades in Baltimore** remains on display at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. The exhibit originally opened on August 28, 2002 as a temporary exhibit but the visitor’s positive feedback to the BMI has resulted in the exhibit remaining on display. The exhibit recognizes the many accomplishments of Bendix Radio, Bendix Communications, and AlliedSignal in Baltimore as well as the men and women who made them possible.

Twenty 4 ft by 4 ft panels tell the story of Bendix Radio covering the following topics: Introduction -- “Communications Before Star Trek”, Bendix Radio, The World War Years, Avionics Takes Off, Grounded In Radar, Workin’ On The Railroad, Military Communications, Home Radio & TV, Automotive Radio, Fuse and Fuze, Communications Security, Air Traffic Control & Nav., Identification: Friend or Foe?, Divisional Operations, Manufacturing, The Family That Was Bendix, Facilities, Acknowledgements, Bendix Field Engineering, Miscellaneous Photos and Artifacts. Also, there are 6 exhibit cases displaying various Bendix Radio Artifacts. All this was made possible through the donations of artifacts, photos, papers, personal items, etc, by former employees.

Additions to the Collection.....by Bill Mackey

The following persons have recently contributed items for the BRF archival storage: Steve Barnold, Jim Dalmas, Ken Eder, Jim Etzel, Marjorie Fader, Tom Flink, Mrs. Deane Laycock, Bob Maenner, Ken Maenner, Art McComas, Harry Nessel, Howard Resau, Jack Shagena, Bill Sigismondi, Jim Standiford, and John Thompson. We are continuing to look for donations of any items relating to your time at Bendix Radio, Communications, or AlliedSignal. Give us a call or send an Email.

Visit to Elton Oakes.....by Guil Vogt

On April 28, 2004, Wally Johnson, Jake Chapman, and Guil Vogt visited Elton Oakes at his home in Parkville. Elton had contributed two significant items to our archives, the 1942 copy of a Bendix phone book and a December 1968 listing of all personnel. These are the only data we have showing the personnel employed at their respective dates. We wanted to thank Elton for them and see if he had any more gems in his records. It turns out he did, some 1950`s vintage departmental Christmas mailing address lists, a book showing all Bendix home radio and television schematics, and a compilation of transformer assembly processing guides.

We had an enjoyable visit for the better part of the afternoon, and found out how he came to work at Bendix. Elton lived in Springfield Massachusetts and had a friend who had come to Baltimore and was working at Bendix. His friend let him know that Bendix was in need of someone to solve a problem in the manufacture of the coils used in their radios. Elton took a train to Baltimore and hired on the day he arrived. He stayed in the YMCA that night and later found an apartment. He used public transportation until he could buy a car. The year was 1938 and Bendix was located on Fort Ave in two buildings across the street from each other. Elton was born in July 1907 and will soon be 98 years old. He retired in July 1976 and lives with his daughter in the house he and his wife first purchased.

Museum and BRF Membership and the BRF Mailing List.....by Bill Scott

The 2004 joint BMI Museum and BRF Membership totaled 176 persons. Our mailing list consists of over 1500 names of former Bendix Radio, Communications, and AlliedSignal in Baltimore employees or friends. We are sure there are others who should be included. If you know of someone who would or might like to receive future issues of this newsletter please provide his or her name, address, telephone number, and email (if available) to our Membership Secretary, Bill Scott. Thanks for your help in getting the word out!

Remember to become a BRF / BMI joint member and/or make a contribution, send your check to Orlando DeFelice made out to "The Baltimore Museum of Industry" and identified in the FOR check location as "Bendix Radio Foundation."

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