

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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Bendix Radio Exhibit Coming to an End.....by Bill Scott

Your time to visit the Bendix Radio Exhibit, *Communications Before Star Trek, Bendix Radio, Six Decades in Baltimore*, at the Baltimore Museum of Industry is coming to an end. The exhibit is **scheduled to be removed April 1st** of this year to make room for a new BMI exhibit. BRF volunteers are working with the BMI display committee to establish a smaller exhibit area within the museum. Many a visitor has enjoyed the Bendix history and the response has been outstanding. Some have even asked for copies of the printed material relating to their family history. Our agreement with the BMI for the Bendix exhibit to be on display was initially planned for a temporary 9 month period and as of April 1, 2006 will have been on display for 3 years and 7 months. The original exhibit opening date was August 28, 2002.

Archive Sorting.....by Bill Mackey

With the addition of the items acquired from the Raytheon / Bendix Vault our Archive is filling up fast. Sorting has continued as our top priority, even with the large influx of material from the Joppa Rd. facility old Bendix Vault. We acquired from Raytheon and BMI flat files needed to store the selected drawing originals. Containers and tubes were also obtained for the rolled drawings. The acquired original drawings are currently being indexed and sorted by size.

Just last week we achieved a major milestone with all boxes of Print and Audio/Visual material sorted into their respective folders and labeled. All of this data has been entered into the Bendix Collection Database for searching per topic and key words. Our next major sort effort will be the Artifacts and the Drawings. We are now in the process of a complete physical rearrangement of all boxes on their respective shelves to be more user friendly. This entails the reorganizing of the metal shelving to maximize the amount of boxes we can store.

Additional help in a lot of different capacities is needed to write brief descriptions for each of the identified programs, sorting photos and negatives, identifying personnel in photos, sorting and identifying artifacts. The BRF Archives can be accessed any day of the week with previous contact to one of the volunteers; otherwise the group meets every Thursday from 10AM to 3:30PM at 1414 Key Highway. All are welcome to stop by and see your Archive in action.

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

A new BRF Board term of office was adopted in 2005 and Directors were elected last June. Per the 2004 revised rules, "The BRF Board shall be composed of five members elected for two year terms, two of whom shall be elected in even numbered years and three of whom shall be elected in odd numbered years." The 2005-2006 BRF Board of Directors are: Bill Mackey (1 year), Ken Kidd (1 year), Joe McCormick (2 years), Len Bosse (2 years), and Bill Stotz (2 years).

Acquisition of Drawings from the Raytheon / Bendix Vault....by Ken Kidd

Examination and selection of old drawings was one of the main goals of the Foundation's access to the vault on Joppa Road, since we had permission to take possession of any old Bendix drawings we considered of historical value. During the sessions at the vault in February and March, some of the Foundation research-team members processed some of the engineering drawings by leafing through flat folders of drawings one-by-one and selecting those of interest. A fairly large quantity of drawings was taken to the Foundation's facility at the BMI at that time. Then, when arrangements were made to continue with further work at the vault in August, lists of drawing numbers were developed prior to re-visiting the vault by reviewing drawing titles on 3 x 5 release cards in the Foundation's possession. Upon returning to the vault, we then had these lists for guidance in searching through the drawing stacks. As a result of these efforts, the Foundation now has over 3600 drawings in all sizes A through E in flat files and over 700 oversized, rolled drawings of various lengths, some longer than 12 feet. Some of the oldest drawings are of historical interest simply because they are drawn on format sheets of the predecessor companies to Bendix Radio such as the Radio Research Company in Washington DC. W. P. Hilliard Company in Chicago and Jenkins and Adair in Chicago. Other early drawings are related to pre-World War II equipment such as the TA-2 transmitter and RA-1 receiver, which were later adopted directly for military use without Government specs because of their ruggedness, reliability and performance, and were built by the thousands for the war effort.

A few samples of interesting early drawings obtained by the Foundation include:

Dwg. No. 891 Radio Research Co., Inc; Washington, DC 10/5/33 Broadcast Station, Frequency Control Unit
Dwg. No. 2217 Radio Research Co., Inc; Washington, 8/3/36 Patrol Plane Direction Finder, General Arrangement
Dwg. No. 1634 W.P. Hilliard Co., Inc; Chicago 1/18/37 IF and AF Unit, Wiring Diagram
Dwg. No. 40103 Audio Research, Inc; New York City 3/2/37 A-133 Radio Compass, Schematic
Dwg. No. 9398 Bendix Radio Corporation; Chicago 10/12/37 Radio Systems Connections on KLM Lockheed 14
Dwg. No. 8221 Bendix Radio Corporation; Washington, DC 10/11/37 Remote Control Unit, Type MR-7A
Dwg. No. 9447 Bendix Radio Corporation; Baltimore, MD. 12/2/37 Outline of Type MN-5B Direction Finder
Dwg. No. 70034 Bendix Radio Corporation, Baltimore, MD. 1/7/38 Installation of radio equipment in a Martin B-10 bomber for the Argentine Air Force

Bendix Radio also produced extensive ground communications and navigation systems, which we know from drawings, not from any text references. The SCS-3 mobile (trucks) communications and direction finding system that was the complete fighter command and control system in Europe. It worked at VHF with the King George (SCR-522) VHF aircraft radio installed on almost all fighters and many bombers. This was some find and explains all the photos of Army trucks in various Bendix Radio publications. They didn't say much because it was secret. Unfortunately, all SCR-522 drawings were lost due to Bendix reusing drawing numbers.

Many of the drawings look to be of lesser interest, but include information that will be extracted from the title block and entered into our master database so we can understand and document the full scope of what Bendix Radio actually built.

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

The following persons have recently contributed items for the BRF archival storage. 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. Recent Donations: W. Hedeman – Employee & Special Badges; George Wend – Radio and Record Player Model 1519; David Kehne – Radio AM Model 753WX; Robert Durling – Tech Notes on FPS85, Cobra Dane, Adaptive Tracking; J. Shagena – View Graph Projector, Microfiche Reader, Automobile Radios; Raytheon Electronic Combat Systems – Microfiche reader, File Cabinets, Step Ladder, Books, Drawings, Purchase Specs, Flat File; Phil Cowett – Radio AM – Shortwave Model 626C; Len Bosse – Various Bendix Radio Model Ads.

The BRF Database.....*by Bill Stotz*

The work of sorting continues. We have gone through the first level of sorting, to the folder level as opposed to the document level, for 24 A/V boxes containing 259 folders, and 101 Print boxes containing 1885 folders. All this material is in the database. Another dozen or so boxes have been sorted and the data will be entered shortly. As mentioned elsewhere in this E-Beam, we have several thousand drawings to catalog. For the time being, they have been simply listed by drawing number, but we hope to enter more detailed title block information and classify them by product line as other documents have been sorted. In addition to the A/V and Print material, we have 43 boxes of artifacts plus the contents of the Museum exhibit. We hope to be able to begin soon on the classification and recording of these. Here is a chance for any of you who like to work with "things" as opposed to paper to help us out!

With the generous assistance of Aaron Mall, another database file has been started with data on home entertainment products (radio and TV). The Bendix Home Radio Database lists and identifies the various home radios made by Bendix Radio. We have also done the same for the various television sets made by Bendix Radio. We currently are adding photos of each radio and television to the database as they become available. Thus, we are looking for Photos of as many models as we can find to produce an illustrated database. We have information on about 150 models with pictures of 25.

Did You Know?.....*by Angelo DelNegro*

In 1937 Bendix Radio developed an Aircraft Approach System (GCA - Ground Control Array) that was later installed and operational at eight major airports around the country. For more information come visit "your" BRF archives at the Baltimore Museum of Industry.

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

The 2005 joint BRF and BMI Museum Membership totals 172 persons: 37 Family Memberships and 98 Individual Memberships plus an additional 21 persons who made monetary donations. Our mailing list consists of over 1500 names of former Bendix Radio, Communications, and AlliedSignal in Baltimore employees or friends.

If your mailing address or email address should change, please send that information to Bill Scott. We are sure there are others who should be included in our mailing list. 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!

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