

# 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 16 – February 1, 2007

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.

## **Bendix Radio Exhibit Now at the Historical Electronics Museum.....by Bill Stotz**

The Bendix Radio Foundation exhibit from the BMI is traveling again! Beginning in mid-December, seven panels from the original exhibit, dealing primarily with military electronics, and two new panels about Division history and product lines, were placed on display in a twelve-by-twelve-foot area at the **Historical Electronics Museum** in Linthicum (near the Marriott at the Airport). There are 8 display cases with artifacts from our collection as well as some from HEM's holdings. We were pleased to learn that the HEM also had some Bendix Radio artifacts. We expect the exhibit to be there until sometime next summer. There is no admission charge to visit the **Historical Electronics Museum**.

**COME SEE IT AT THE HEM !!!** (See Photos on Page 4)

## **Bendix Radio New Bismarck Exhibit at BMI.....by Jerry Woodall & Bill Stotz**

Sixty Five years ago from last May, war was raging in Europe with the Nazi's having conquered the continent leaving only England fighting on alone and barely holding out. While the US remained neutral, **Bendix Radio was in the fight** supplying England with high-performance and reliable avionics equipment. Then the Nazi battleship "Bismarck" sailed out into the Atlantic intent on destroying the convoys of ships that were keeping England supplied with food and war materials. This historic event is the subject of the new BRF exhibit at the BMI. It includes a TA-10 transmitter of the type used to signal the location of the Bismarck to the British Navy who were then able to "Sink the Bismarck." The new exhibit consists of a reproduction of the cablegram from the British Government thanking Bendix Radio for producing the radio equipment on the PBY "Catalina" that did the sighting along with other documents, models and explanatory information on Bendix and the Bismarck saga. This is the first of BRF's new 'rotating' exhibit format at the BMI.

**COME SEE IT AT THE BMI !!!** (See Photos on Page 4)

## **Bendix Radio Exhibit at Raytheon.....by Bill Mackey**

Bill Perich of the Raytheon Electronic Combat Systems plant on E Joppa Rd working with BRF volunteers selected 13 of the original 20 BRF Exhibit panels for display in Raytheon's cafeteria. Our BRF volunteers spent a month refurbishing the panels for its second showing, the first outside BMI. The exhibit at Raytheon was on display from July 27th through September 6th. We were told it was well received by Raytheon employees and visitors. (See Photo on Page 4)

## **Cramer Bacque Interview.....by Guil Vogt**

Last July, three members of the BRF traveled to York, PA to interview Cramer Bacque in our continuing efforts to document the history of Bendix. Over breakfast at a local Denny's, Joe McCormick, Ken Kidd and myself, armed with tape recorders, had the pleasure of learning about the early history of the company. Cramer was in excellent form and our talks filled almost 4 hours of tape. These recordings are being transcribed, edited and indexed in a text document by Bill Stotz. Through Bill's efforts we have

about fifty typed pages. The final document will be made available in a form which is yet to be determined. The digitized audio files will be on CD's at the museum.

Cramer had access to the material for the book "*Call Me Pat*" about Pat Hyland as a result of participating in the editing process. He also researched company contract files long stored in various files and the vault. Listening to Cramer, I was struck with the realization that early company efforts were really the efforts of a few very intelligent men, but also that it was a very fragile organization subject to government spending availability in depression times.

### **The Joppa Road Plant per Newspaper Articles.....by Ken Kidd**

Several months ago, I visited the main branch of the Enoch Pratt library to look at a Bendix Corporation item listed on the Ephemera index posted on their website. The librarian who retrieved the item I requested asked if I would also like to look at the Bendix Radio Division folder in their vertical files, and I readily accepted her offer. The contents of the folder were primarily a collection of newspaper clippings starting in 1939 and continuing into the 1960s.

The earliest article, in The Sun of January 15, 1939, announced the forthcoming construction of a facility on Joppa Road east of Towson , but the surprising fact is that the plans were for "new and larger laboratories and weather observatory for Julien P. Friez & Sons, division of the Bendix Aviation Corporation." (At that time, the company location was called Belfort Observatory situated at Baltimore Street and Central Avenue.) The article noted that the approximately eighteen-acre site had been purchased from Walter C. Mylander and was "chosen because it was considered one of the highest available points in Baltimore County." (A later clipping indicates that another 10½ acres was acquired in 1940.) A March 12, 1939 article includes an architect's sketch of the new laboratory planned for the Friez Division and is described as a brick and steel structure having a length of 380 feet with a width from 200 to 100 feet. Construction was expected to start in April with a completion in about four months.

The next clipping, from The Evening Sun of December 13, 1940 reflects the significant changes brought about by the onset of World War II and the destruction of the British electronics industry in Coventry in November 1940. This article states that the new plant being "rapidly pushed toward completion on Joppa Road between Towson and Baynesville by the Bendix Radio Corporation a subsidiary of the Bendix Aviation Corporation" is for assembling aircraft radios and radio equipment for national defense. "The plant is being erected with government money and will be the property of the Defense Plant Corporation, one of the Federal Government defense agencies. Upon completion, the plant will be leased and occupied by Bendix Radio." A photograph shows the almost completed steel structure and masonry work underway. An article in the December 20, 1940 Jeffersonian states that construction began on October 25<sup>th</sup> and continued day, night, and Sunday to be completed as soon as possible. "The speed with which it has sprung up has amazed local residents and visitors alike." The approximate cost of the 565- by 220-foot building was \$600,000. A photograph in The Evening Sun of March 10, 1941 shows the nearly complete building with the notation that "machinery is being installed and operation will begin shortly." Later additions to the Joppa Road plant are described in other newspaper clippings.

After operating under the lease arrangement for more than four years, The Evening Sun of November 2, 1945 reported that general manager W. P. Hilliard announced the division intended to exercise an option in the lease to purchase the Towson plant from the Defense Plant Corporation for approximately \$1.7M. The Evening Sun of December 5, 1946 reported that final settlement of the purchase was completed "this week".

Other newspaper articles include various employment and financial statistics, information on other Bendix Radio facilities in Baltimore, reports of Army-Navy "E" awards, news of postwar product lines, etc. Copies are on file at the BRF office at the BMI.

**Engineering Projects 1937 to 1953.....by Bill Mackey**

A listing of Engineering Projects from 1937 to 1953, found in the Joppa Road Vault, has recently been posted on our website: <http://home.comcast.net/~bendixradio> .

**Collection Additions.....by Bill Mackey**

We received a large collection of excess artifacts from Honeywell, collected by Brian Wiggins and Mary Quick for the Bendix Avionics book and Redmond, WA display. Unfortunately very few of the items have any relationship to Bendix Radio.

**Employee Names Database.....by Ken Kidd & Angelo DelNegro & Bill Stotz**

We've begun to assemble a database of the names of employees of the Bendix Radio/Communications Division that will cover the period from the formation in 1937 to the sale of the division to Raytheon on September 10, 1998. To date, the following lists are included: the October 1942 phone book (655 names), the January 1944 *Engineering Department* book (412), the January 1945 Service Awards booklet (222), the World War II Honor Roll (1,618), the January 1960 phone book (2,400), the December 1968 Personnel List (5,860), the May 1980 phone book (512), the January 1990 phone book (1,053), names retrieved from various files in the Joppa Rd. vault (1,209), and a final list of employees at the time of the sale to Raytheon (382). At this time the database contains 14,299 entries. Various other lists and publications in our possession are being processed for entry into the database.

**Bendix Home Radio/TV Database.....by Bill Stotz**

Based on extensive information and photographs provided by Aaron Mall, we have created a Bendix Home Radio/TV database. We have listings for 108 radio models, 88 with pictures, and 133 TV models with pictures for 21. The radio listings contain descriptive information about each model including type of radio (AM, AM/FM, Phono, etc.), bands covered, cabinet description, etc. The information about the TV's is similar but much less complete.

**New Computer.....by Bill Mackey**

The BRF replaced its 10 year old PC with a new computer including a LCD monitor, scanner/copier, and a wide format printer capable of producing high quality display panels. Without these items the producing of the various exhibit panels would not have been possible. Our thanks to all past and current BRF/BMI members, and also to those who made donations, for making this upgrade possible.

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

The 2006 BRF and BMI Joint Membership totals 190 persons: 46 Family Memberships and 98 Individual Memberships plus an additional 25 persons who made monetary donations. Our mailing list consists of over 1,500 names of former Bendix Radio, Communications, and AlliedSignal in Baltimore employees or friends.

**BRF Foundation Board of Directors.....by Bill Scott**

The 2006-2007 BRF Board of Directors, elected in June, are: Guil Vogt (2 years), Jerry Woodall (2 years), Joe McCormick (1 year), Len Bosse (1year), and Bill Stotz (1 year).

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## Exhibit at Historical Electronics Museum Dec. 2006



## Exhibit at Raytheon July to Sept 2006 ==>



## Exhibit at BMI June 2006

