

The Bendix E-Beam

*News from the Bendix Radio Foundation
working for the Preservation and Presentation
of the History of the Bendix Radio Division*

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Sinsky Collection Received

Allen Sinsky, longtime Bendix engineer who made contributions to Radar, TCAS, and to many other of the Divisions development and production projects, has delivered to the Baltimore Museum of Industry 20 boxes of Bendix historical material. Certainly as important as the material itself is Al's agreeing to help sort the information onto the various product areas, see **Volunteers**, below. Museum curator Nancy Perlman was delighted to receive the collection and continues to be very enthusiastic about the Bendix project.

Index for Collection Designed

There are some general and accepted rules for cataloging historical collections and the archivist of the Baltimore Museum of Industry has been very helpful in providing the Foundation hands-on guidance. Eventually, however, to be most effective and user-friendly the cataloging approach must be tailored to the specific collection. With this in mind the Foundation's ad hoc committee first formulated tentative guidelines based on proven practices then tested them against several boxes of the donated material. After several iterations this evolved into a two-dimensional matrix approach that expands and changes to track Bendix Radio as it grew, occupied new locations, spawned new products and absorbed companies and spun off new Divisions.

To provide an accurate time-event baseline against which the matrix is correlated, the source historical documents have been researched to establish significant events and dates. One principle source of this information is the *Bendix Beam* that began publication in 1942 and continued for many years. Other documents such as *Bendix Today*, the *Communicator* and Allied-Signal's *Horizons* provide a reasonable continuum of news throughout the life of the Division.

Augmenting this information with numerous additional sources such as advertisements, proposals and reports, a Bendix Radio timeline document has been initiated. Entries start prior to the formation of the division in 1936 and continue for over six decades to after 1998, the time the division was sold to Raytheon. Folding the timeline into the matrix yields an accurate cataloging system, which can be used to properly archive the collection. At this time, over 600 timeline entries have been recorded to use as a master reference.

Volunteers Needed for Identifying and Cataloging

To date the committee has been pouring through the over 50 boxes of material received prior to Al's collection, identifying their contents and in some cases arranging information into appropriate categories. As the Division had a large number of diverse programs, departments and functional units, it is clearly not possible for the current small committee to make informed cataloging decision in all areas. As an example the Radar collection is bulging with information about the dozens of equipment Bendix produced over about five or its nearly six decade existence. To obtain quality results, it needs the informed input of many individuals who can not only properly catalog the received material but also identify gaps and supplement collection material with personal recollections, etc., to move toward the complete Bendix Radio history. Obviously, the Radar example applies to all the other major product lines of Communication in its several forms, Air Traffic Control, Avionics, Identification Friend or Foe, Fuzing, etc., and the various functional Departments of the Division, Departments that became Divisions, and the list just goes on.

We urge you to consider becoming actively involved in this interesting and enjoyable process by contacting one of the members below and suggest areas where you would favor contributing. Your participation can be one day a week, one day a month or just one time. Many of you have very specific knowledge about programs and activities that with the passage of time and without a small amount of action may not be recorded. If you are attending the Retiree's Annual Luncheon on the 14th, see us there at the Bendix Radio Foundation table and discuss with us how you might become actively involved. In any event, please contact a member of the committee below to discuss participation. In the next E-Beam we plan to publish a tentative list of Subcommittees covering particular areas of concentration, such as Microelectronics, Secure Communications, etc., along with the list of volunteers who have signed up by then to help. Also, don't forget our Website at www.bendixradiofoundation.org where we will continue to expand the information content. We very much look forward to seeing or hearing from you and thank you in advance for your interest.

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