

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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DeFelice Joins Museum Effort as Treasurer

Orlando DeFelice has joined the Foundation's effort *to preserve and present the history of Bendix Radio* as the group's Treasurer. As you may know, Orlando worked for many years at Bendix as a Staff Engineer, amply qualifying him to handle the Foundation's financial records. What you may not know is that Orlando operated Bendix Radio built radio and radar equipment onboard Navy aircraft during WWII. However, it is not planned to place him on display in the future Bendix display in the Museum! While contributions to the Foundation are actually given to the Baltimore Museum of Industry, a non-profit organization, they are specifically designated to a special account managed by our Treasurer working with the Museum to further the Bendix project. Welcome aboard Orlando!

Open House Well Received

Over 100 enthusiastic former employees and their families attended the **Bendix Radio Reunion Open House** on September 23 at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. There were many smiling faces and much congenial social interactions as individuals fondly recalled their days at Bendix. Many expressed their thanks for the opportunity to see old Bendix Radio documents and artifacts that were on display. Museum Curator of Collections, Nancy Perlman, noted, "The Bendix committee did an outstanding job of organizing a wonderful display which the visitors loved." Most of the attendees took a guided tour of the Museum and commented enthusiastically about the extent and quality of the many industrial displays.

A number of attendees brought material from their private collections, and there were several promised of more documentation to come. This information is a welcomed addition to the over 100 boxes already collected and some of it will be used in planning for a forthcoming Bendix Radio display. In addition it was great to receive from Carole and Aaron Mall a vintage Bendix Phantom Dial radio which becomes part of the artifacts collection, and hopefully some day on display as well.

The organizing committee was especially pleased that a number of individuals volunteered to help with the sorting of already received documents, photographs and literature. They will be call upon when the new archives at the Museum are completed in several months. The day's activities were topped off by Ken Kidd playing on the piano his rendition of *Sentimental Journey*, our unofficial theme song. Many thanks to all those who came and made it such a memorable day.



Bendix Open House Committee: Left to right – Guil Vogt, Bill Mackey, Jack Shagena, Jim Dalmas, Ken Kidd, Bob Stefan, and Orlando DeFelice. Jerry Woodall was present but not available for the picture.

Firsts for Attendees

Early service dates and length of employment for the former Bendix employees attending the open house was collected with the following results:

Earliest Service Date – John Rodgers came in first since he started work at Bendix before the US entered WWII and three others started shortly after Pearl Harbor. In fact, Julia (Engler) Ridgely showed up on Monday, December 8th, “Because I wanted to help – I didn’t know what I would do – but they put me to work!” A traditional American response to “infamous” acts that was again witnessed, sadly but with pride, following September 11th. The ranking:

John Rodgers	July 1940
Julia (Engler) Ridgely	Dec 8, 1941 (easy to remember the date!)
Dutch Jordan	Mar 6, 1941 (what’s Dutch’s memory crutch?)
Fran Driver	Jan 1942

Most Years of Service – Five attendees had 43 or more years of service before retirement. Unfortunately, we didn’t get fractions of a year so the best we can say is there was a three-way tie for first place at 46 years, with 44 and 43 years in close contention:

George Lotz	46 years
Wally Johnson	46 years
John Rodgers	46 years
Edmond Martin	44 years
Dutch Jordan	43 years

Congratulations to these long-term Bendix employees and John, George, and Wally get an IOU for a Bendix Radio Foundation “logo” item to be presented to them when the items become available.

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