

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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The Bendix Beam

In addition to this e-mail newsletter, a print media annual newsletter publication has also been initiated. The first annual issue of *The Bendix Beam*, (Volume 1, Number 1, Fall 2001), was sent to everyone on the Foundation's mailing list during the first week of January 2002. This issue summarized the BRF activities during the year 2001. If you did not receive this issue, please contact Bill Scott. (address below)

BMI Exhibit: *Communications before Star Trek - Bendix Radio – Six Decades in Baltimore*

The Baltimore Museum of Industry (BMI) has agreed to make the "Galley" – an area off the main entrance used for limited-time exhibitions (one to several months) – available to the Bendix Radio Foundation for an exhibit featuring the people, products and history of Bendix Radio. The Foundation's (active membership) began specific work on this project in January 2002 and it is scheduled to open in late summer or early fall. Everyone on the Foundation's mailing list will receive an invitation announcing the exhibit's opening. Currently, the plans are to have 17 display panels/sections covering 70 feet of wall space plus glass showcases to house physical items. The content of each display panel is now being prepared using materials received to date. The Bendix Radio Foundation wants to include every significant activity of the company, so if you have materials or artifacts that could contribute to this effort please contact Acquisition Chairman, Bill Mackey wmackey615@aol.com and arrange for delivery/pickup. The Foundation is in need of information on the Railroad and Mobile Radio activities in the 1950s and on Avionics during the Baltimore years.. If you have such information or know of someone who can help, please contact Jack Shagena. A permanent exhibit is one of the Foundation's future objectives.

Individual Histories

Individual histories, as remembered by the authors, have been received. Palmer Arnold has written: "Bendix York Division, Bendix Fuzing Devices Division, York Plant of Bendix Communications Division" and George Lotz has written: "A Brief History of the Bendix Graphics Arts Department 975." Also, Arthur McComas has written: "Recollections about Bendix Radio." Charlie Smearman, Al Moeller and Jack Shagena interviewed Malcolm Taylor and documented this interview in the article: "A Brief Look at the Early Days of Bendix Radio as Experienced by Malcolm Taylor." You are encouraged to write your personal history of your time at Bendix. Send it to Jack Shagena.

Logo Items Now Available

Caps and Tote Bags with the Bendix Radio Foundation logo embroidered on them are now available for purchase by everyone. Caps come either in Blue with a white logo or White with a blue logo. The tote bags are White with a blue logo and blue straps. Price is \$15.00 each. Buying an item supports the Foundation. They are available at the BMI gift shop, at the Engineer's Monthly Luncheon or contact Ken Kidd

Mailing List Activity

Membership Database Chairman Bill Scott undertook the task of sending everyone on the existing Bendix Radio Foundation (BRF) mailing list a request for a verification or update of this information. This went out by either E-mail or US Postal service during the first week of January 2002. Follow-up E-mails were sent the first week of March 2002.

Responses: A total of 453 requests for name, address, phone and e-mail verifications, plus personal history of time at Bendix Radio, were sent. Of the 453 requests, e-mail addresses totaled 187 and standard US Postal service was 266. A total of 148 persons have responded by returning the survey form with the requested information (e-mail 72, US mail 30, US mail address incorrect 31, deceased 15). Of those responding, 46 former employees stated they have artifacts to contribute to the museum and 19 have made monetary donations to support the BRF efforts.

Help: We need your continuing support to update and add additional contacts to our BRF mailing list. If you know of someone who would like to receive future issues of this newsletter please provide his or her name, address, telephone number, and e-mail to our Membership Secretary, Bill Scott, e-mail wilomae@comcast.net. When you have any changes, please e-mail them to Bill Scott.

Donations Received

Donations of various types of artifacts have been received from 45 former Bendix Radio employees. Their generosity has enriched the archives of the Bendix Radio Foundation. Typical items received include: aerial photo of the 1949 plant, retirement pictures, service pins, E Award pin, Zero Defect pin, cuff links, equipment and personal photos, written summaries of personal work experiences, examples of home and car radios, examples of hardware manufactured, Bendix advertisements, pens, mugs, sales brochures, equipment hardware, research papers, memos, specifications, manuals, share-seminar papers, Bendix Beam magazines, company organization charts, telephone books, proposals, log books, etc. Search through your papers, etc., for what you may have, no matter what, and let us determine its importance to the museum. In this case, the whole is greater than the sum of its individual parts, and duplicates are always welcomed. John Hieber has volunteered to be our “Eyes-on-eBay” looking for Bendix items placed up for auction. Finally, as mentioned above, a total of 19 former employees have made monetary donations to support the BRF efforts

Cataloging and Storing of Artifacts

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.

The Major Groupings, with their second digit of the series, are:

- (.0) Corporate (House Organs, etc)
- (.1) Divisional (House Organs, Marketing, Org Charts/Personnel, Engineering, Tech Notes, etc)
- (.2) Communications
- (.3) Radar
- (.4) Radio/TV/RR/Mobile/Marine
- (.5) Air Traffic Control

- (.6) Identification Friend or Foe
- (.7) COMSEC
- (.8) Proximity Fuze
- (.9) Automotive
- (.10) Avionics
- (.11) Field Engineering
- (.12) Navigation
- (.50) Unidentified
- (.60) Reference Material

Believe It or Not

Recently several COMSEC related items (all unclassified) were auctioned on eBay. These included KY-57 flex cables, KY-65 interconnecting cables to PRC radios, and a KG-84 front panel with attached flex cables. You never know what will be auctioned on eBay!

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