

# DRAFT

## The Bendix E-Beam

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

© BRF 2002

---

Issue Number 9 – July 15, 2003

### **World War II Honor Roll and Other Activities Related to Employees in Service** *by Ken Kidd*

During the war years the staff of the *Bendix Beam* maintained a list of employees who had entered military service and published many news items about them in each issue of the magazine. Copies of the *Beam* were mailed to all who were in service. There was also a monthly drawing of names of service men and women to receive war bonds, and at Christmas time “Buddy Boxes” were sent to all employees in service.

1. **The Honor Roll** In the second issue of the *Bendix Beam* (September 1942), the names of 273 men from the Radio Division were listed under the heading “Bendix Honor Roll – We Salute The Following Men Who Now Serve With The Armed Forces Of Our Country.” Thereafter, in just about every new issue of the *Bendix Beam* through September 1945, more names of men and women who entered service were listed. A cumulative total of names was included after each list, reaching a final total in September 1945 of 1440. (Some discrepancies in this total are being investigated.) In addition, news items about some of the men and women in service were included in each issue of the magazine, and in reviewing these articles, 98 more names were noted. Further, in the February, March, April, and June 1946 issues of the *Bendix Beam*, “Welcome Back” lists were published giving the names of 506 returning men and women and their branch of service. Of these, 72 names had not appeared previously.

**[Ken Kidd has researched these three sources and compiled an Honor Roll of over 1600 men and women who left the employ of the Bendix Radio Division and entered the armed forces during World War II. This compilation is available for archival review at the BMI.]**

2. **News Items** Each month, the *Bendix Beam* was mailed to all former employees serving in the armed forces, and a page or more was usually devoted to news items of their activities. This information was obtained during visits to the plants while on leave, or from letters mailed to the company, or from information passed on by family and friends. Often, photographs were included showing the men and women in uniform, and details such as branch of service, rank, training being taken, promotions, duty stations, and more, were given. Inevitably, there were also notices of injuries, Purple Heart awards, and fatalities. Many of the letters were thank-you notes for the *Beam* itself which arrived month after month in even the most remote locations and for Christmas Buddy Boxes and War Bond Awards (see below). Another frequent subject was pride in the excellent quality of the Bendix Radio equipment that was serving such an important role in the war effort and in having been an employee of the company.

3. **War Bond Drawings** The monthly drawing of names for award of \$25 war bonds was instituted in March, 1943 as an aid to keeping the service mailing list up to date. Each copy of the *Beam* mailed out included an address card which the service person was asked to send back with his or her current address. Each month, the newly received cards were accumulated and three were randomly drawn to declare winners of the war bonds. Letters were sent to the winners advising them of their good luck and requesting them to designate a co-owner or beneficiary. Upon receipt of that information, the bond would be issued. Various issues of the *Beam* note that as many as 500, 600, and even up to 750 cards were included in a monthly drawing!

4. **Christmas Buddy Boxes** The Buddy Box project is described in the following article taken from the September 30, 1943 supplement to the *Bendix Beam*, and headlined **“Buddy Box Drive Opens Next Week.”**

*“Employees in the plants and offices at Bendix Radio will have an opportunity to do at least a part of their Christmas shopping early this year when the Bendix Buddy Box Drive gets under way next week. Most of the employees are familiar with this project as a similar drive for Christmas boxes for the Bendix people in the service of the Armed Forces was conducted last year.*

*The Drive is being held this year to conform with early mailing regulations issued by the United States Post Office officials together with officers of the various branches of the Armed Forces, who find it necessary to do this so that the millions of gifts which will be mailed to the service people can be distributed before December 25th.*

*In general the plan will be conducted along the same lines as last year. The joint Labor-Management Committee who is sponsoring the project will have representatives in each department who will contact all members of their respective groups to obtain contributions towards buying the gifts. Each employee will be given a small envelope in which to place his or her contribution. The envelope will then be returned to the departmental representative who will forward it to the Committee in charge.*

*Because of the limited time available, employees are asked to make contributions promptly and to return the envelopes immediately to the proper person. No specific amount is being asked from each employee but the Committee feels that all of them will want to give liberally in making the 1943 Christmas for their Bendix Buddies as "merry" as they possibly can.*

*Last year, Bendix Radio's employees were quite generous and contributed not only a sufficient amount for Christmas boxes, but, also a surplus which allowed cartons of cigarettes to be sent to the boys at various times during the year. In making donations this year, employees are asked to keep in mind that it will be necessary to provide for 1,000 Buddy Boxes, which is more than double the amount sent out last year, and to make their donations accordingly.”*

#### **Bendix Retirees Annual Luncheon** by Bill Scott

The Bendix Retirees Annual Luncheon was held on June 12, 2003 at Pappas Restaurant in Towson with approximately 130 persons in attendance. If you would like to attend this annual gathering next June 2004 contact Pauline Doda, [pinkydk@aol.com](mailto:pinkydk@aol.com). The Bendix Radio Foundation displayed several artifacts, reformatted listings of telephone books, a listing of the Honor Roll (see Ken Kidd's article), a slide computer show of the BRF Exhibit opening August

2002, and a collage of photos of the BRF Exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. Several new annual memberships were received for the BRF / BMI combination.

**Wine and Cheese Party** *by Jack Shagena*

A BRF / BMI Members Wine and Cheese Party is being planned for October 2003. This party will be open only for those Bendix Retirees who have joined as annual members of the BRF / BMI. A separate mailing will be sent inviting the members to this party providing the great details as to date, time, and place. If you have not yet joined, please do so by completing the information given in the article "**Joint Foundation/Museum Membership** *by Jack Shagena*" at the end of this E-Beam issue.

**Oral Histories** *by Angelo DelNegro*

Oral histories are the interesting things a person remembers which can add "flavor" to a researched written history of Bendix Radio at some time in the future. Plans are continuing for the BRF to obtain oral histories from as many former Bendix employees as possible. A long list of candidates has been identified and they will be contacted in the months ahead.

The writer and George Sauthoff will be conducting the first group of interviews, but other people are needed to capture the thoughts of a fairly large group of candidates. If you would like to help, please give me a call or email. Thanks.

**Artifacts, Papers, Personal Item Donations Received** *by Bill Mackey*

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.

**Personal Histories Wanted** *by Jim Dalmas*

The Foundation is very interested in having Bendix Radio employees, or friends of Bendix, to write recollections about events that occurred during their careers. Memoirs meeting the guidelines found at the web site will be posted if they are about 35-thousand words or less. For longer memoirs a summary can be posted and the full document will be archived at the Baltimore Museum of Industry in the Foundation's collection.

**Mailing List** *by Bill Scott*

Our mailing list consists of over 900 names of former Bendix Radio employees or friends but it is still incomplete. 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 email (if available) to our Membership Secretary, Bill Scott. Thanks for your help.

=====

**Bendix Radio Foundation**      Baltimore Museum of Industry  
1415 Key Highway      Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Jim Dalmas	<a href="mailto:samlad@aol.com">samlad@aol.com</a>
Orlando DeFelice	<a href="mailto:rmdord@aol.com">rmdord@aol.com</a>
Ken Kidd	<a href="mailto:kwkidd@worldnet.att.net">kwkidd@worldnet.att.net</a>
Bill Mackey	<a href="mailto:wmackey615@aol.com">wmackey615@aol.com</a>
Joe McCormick	<a href="mailto:jlmccorm@erols.com">jlmccorm@erols.com</a>
Luke Paskalakis	<a href="mailto:lukepask@bcpl.net">lukepask@bcpl.net</a>
George Sauthoff	<a href="mailto:gsthoff@erols.com">gsthoff@erols.com</a>
Bill Scott	<a href="mailto:wilomae@comcast.net">wilomae@comcast.net</a>

Jack Shagena	<a href="mailto:shagena@charm.net">shagena@charm.net</a>
Bob Stefan	<a href="mailto:shologon@comcast.net">shologon@comcast.net</a>
Bill Stotz	<a href="mailto:bstotz@toadmail.com">bstotz@toadmail.com</a>
Guil Vogt	<a href="mailto:fredylou@maxinter.net">fredylou@maxinter.net</a>
Jerry Woodall	<a href="mailto:jwoodall@pjwse.com">jwoodall@pjwse.com</a>

*To subscribe or unsubscribe, send name & address & E-mail info to Bill Scott  
[wilomae@comcast.net](mailto:wilomae@comcast.net)*

**Joint Foundation/Museum Membership** *by Jack Shagena*

The Bendix Radio Foundation and Paul Cypher, Executive Director of the Baltimore Museum of Industry, have announced an agreement for joint group membership. For a single annual fee you can support the important work of the Foundation in preserving and presenting the documents and artifacts of Bendix Radio as well as becoming a member of the Museum. With the membership you will receive the Foundation's annual newsletter, periodic email updates of progress, and invitations to special Foundation gatherings.

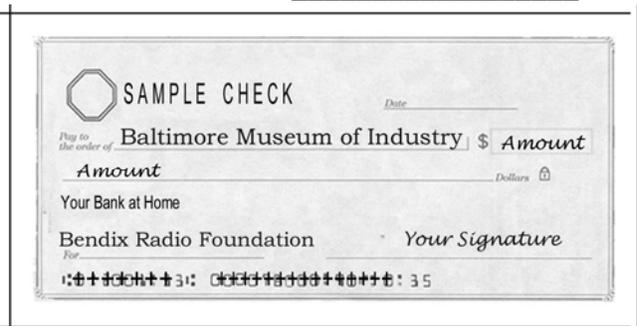
From the Museum you will receive a one-year annual pass to the Museum, invitations to special Museum events, a subscription to the quarterly newsletter, *Nuts and Bolts*, and a 10% discount at *theEmporium* gift shop. You will be supporting two organizations for only \$25.00 knowing the history of Bendix is being preserved, and the future of the Museum is being supported.

Additional funds, in any amount you may choose to give beyond the \$25.00, will go directly into an account exclusively for use by the Bendix Radio Foundation to document Bendix Radio history for the generations of the future. All donations are tax deductible as the Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization. You will receive a letter of acknowledgement from the Museum for your donation.

We are encouraging past Bendix employees and friends of Bendix to join and support the activities of the Bendix Radio Foundation. Without your personal support and membership the Bendix Radio Foundation will not be able to continue documenting the history of Bendix Radio. Your funds will be applied to the archiving, sorting, indexing and preserving of materials (paper, artifacts, photos, etc) related to Bendix Radio accomplishments in Baltimore from 1937 to 1998.

Please provide the following type of information and return with your membership check.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date started at Bendix \_\_\_\_\_ Date Left Bendix \_\_\_\_\_



Make out your check as shown here.

Be sure "BENDIX RADIO FOUNDATION" is in the **FOR** Location.

Mail to **Orlando DeFelice,**  
**1216 Malbay Dr.**  
**Lutherville, MD. 21093**