



February 2012



NOTE FROM PRESIDENT DEE

Time sure is flying. It's February already, and we have Hamfest coming up this March 3rd and 4th, followed closely by the AHRs's first annual swap meet on April 21st. Plus, we have the WSY anniversary the week leading up to the swap meet. I don't think we can squeeze anything else in this spring.

Please show your support for our club. Don't wait around to be asked to help. Come forward and say, "I'm ready to help out. What can I do?" Time is running out. There won't be another newsletter till after Hamfest. Let's shoot for the best one yet.

Ever wonder why we collect so much junk? Well, that's a part of what we are at the Alabama Historical Radio Society. We have beautiful and very expensive radios in our collection; we also have phonograph records and cylinders, pictures from past events, tapes and videos of interviews with people who have long since passed on. Oh, and we have books--lots of books in our library, some of which are probably priceless. There are also things that you may find worthless, but we still have them. Maybe someday those worthless items and publications will be priceless, possibly not in our lifetime. Please read the article below and then feel free to go by and visit Jim Reed at his bookstore at 2021 Third Ave. North in Birmingham. His place is called "Reed Books, The Museum of Fond Memories." This place will blow you away!

LOST IN SPACE

By Jim Reed

Granddaughter Jessica hands me her brand-new Kindle Fire (later to become Kindle Kindling?) and proudly notes that the first book thereon is Dracula by Bram Stoker. Being the book nerd that I am, I look to the first page for Stoker's dedication to his friend Hommy-Beg (novelist Hall Caine) and it's not there! Whoever scanned the novel simply missed the dedication that helps set the stage for the serial details that build the book's mysterious sense of foreboding.

It's kind of like tearing out a page before gifting a friend. My mistrust of hasty reprints begins to build my own sense of foreboding. Down all the centuries of publishing, each time a new technology kicks in, errors increase. When librarians began tossing original copies of periodicals once they were microfilmed, we started losing words and image quality. Print columns were truncated, unnoticed till it was too late, illustrations and

photographs lost their resolution.

When 15th-century manuscripts were copied by hand, mistakes occurred and were repeated once published in book form. When Twitter insisted that sentences be squeezed down, depth of thought rang shallow. When graduate assistants photo-copy or scan a book chapter for re-distribution, a page is inadvertently dropped and seldom noticed till the volume is remaindered or de-acquisitioned. And so on. There are advantages to electronic transmission/storage of words and pictures, but there are casualties, too. That's why I embrace the concept of retaining original works as backup, lest we lose things and fail to realize it.

I also urgently try to keep all those works that will never, ever be placed on the internet or archived: hand-written notes, personal diaries, postcards, century-old love letters, 19th-century invoices, crayoned refrigerator messages, etc. We can scan them into a computer, but we cannot reproduce the texture, fragrance, friction sound, signs of ink absorption, envelope mucilage, raised edges of stamps, cracking wax-seal shards, embossed letterheads, oils from skin rubbed against paper during composition, and on and on.

Go forth into the cosmos and reduce the sum total of our knowledge into a flash drive, but at the same time, do me this one big favor: leave room for those of us who are frantically rescuing, adopting, saving and passing forward the three-dimensional relics of our lives, the evidences that we were once a tactile, feeling, emoting and empathizing species who knew how to imagine and dream and postulate, who knew how to say "what if" instead of just "what is." We are the archivists, the antiquarians, the hoarders, the collectors, the accumulators who want to appreciate the real thing, not just its thousandth virtual—thus ethereal—disembodiment.

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LISTEN TO THE RADIO!!

I was talking to Dave the other day after his trip to Branson Mo. I asked Dave if he checked out the Roy Rogers Museum. Sadly, he told me that the museum had been closed and all the contents had been auctioned off. I would guess that anyone younger than 50 years old probably has never heard of Roy Rogers. Thanks to the internet, you can still bring back memories of your childhood sitting by the old Philco and tuning in the Roy Rogers Show. Click the link below:

<http://www.myoldradio.com/old-radio-shows/roy-rogers>

You have your choice of over 60 shows to listen to. That could keep you busy for a week or so. Why not rest your weary bones as well as your eyes. Tune in a show, pull up your easy chair, close your eyes and remember what it was like when you were a kid.

Dee Haynes

243-4630 or k4hfx@bellsouth.net

MEETING TIMES

We meet nearly every Saturday of the month at 09:00 AM in the one-story building at the corner of 8th Avenue North and 18th Street (1801 8th Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203). Use the rear (Southeast) entrance.

It has also been decided to open the shop on Tuesday, as well as Saturday. We have a lot of projects going on and need the extra day to get it all done. So, until further notice, we will be open Tuesdays from 9am till...and on Saturday morning. Note that parking could be a problem on Tuesdays, because it is a business day, and the lot is usually filled, so you might have to find street parking occasionally.

Come to the Monday Night Meetings, TOO, on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 PM!

FREE ELECTRONICS CLASSES

The first Saturday of the month, there are electronics classes free to members. Topics include test equipment, Resistors and Capacitance testing, Inductors and coil winding, to name only a few subjects!

We hope to see you there!



DUES ARE NOW DUE

Membership dues are \$25 a year, payable beginning in January. If you have questions about your dues, you can contact Tom at 205-967-7000.

Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham AL 35213.

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