



November 2012



NOTE FROM PRESIDENT DEE

Hi Folks!

One of the many good things about our group, The Alabama Historical Radio Society, is our contribution to church, civic, and senior groups with our presentations about the history of radio. Dave Cisco and I have been doing this for quite a few years now. Last week, we did our show at the Bluff Park United Methodist Church, and Friday, November 9, we performed for the Etowah County Historical Society in Gadsden. Both shows were lots of fun, especially the show in Gadsden. Their meetings are held in the Elliott Community Center on Megan Blvd., which also houses their museum. If you have a trip scheduled to Gadsden, please drop by for a visit. Here is their web site:

<http://www.etowahhistory.com/>

I hope to have this link to their Society on our web site soon.

On another subject:

Do you remember Ivan Ditmars? Believe it or not, I can remember him when I was young and listening to the radio. Before you read any further, see if you remember him. Ivan Ditmars played the piano and the organ. Just about every show you heard back then that used the organ had Ivan as the organist--The Shadow, Suspense, Escape, Dr Christian, Orson Wells, The Whistler, and on and on. There is a very good interview on the internet in which Chuck Schaden interviewed Ivan Ditmars back in 1991 when Ivan was 84 years old. He died at age 90. Click on the link below for 15 minutes of listening enjoyment.

<http://www.speakingofradio.com/interviews/ivan-ditmars/>

Dee Haynes

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LARRY'S OLD TIME RADIO BITS

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan." This sentence is the beginning of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's address to the joint session of Congress on December 8th. These words immediately echoed around the world and started the United States on a path that would forever change the world. However, consider the part that radio played in getting these words to the world only one day after the attack. For all wars in which the US was involved before World War II, word traveled relatively slowly. A war could begin and the citizens might not even know it. A war could end and the armies might not even know it. In fact, the Battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812 occurred after the official end of the war.

The beginning of the United States participation in World War II was known very quickly. The first bombs were actually dropped on Pearl Harbor at about 7:55 a.m. Hawaiian time (around 1:25 p.m. Eastern Time). Within an hour the President released a statement about the attacks and radio bulletins were immediately issued by the networks. The first bulletin lasting only 20 seconds was broadcast by the NBC Red network at 2:28 p.m. CBS followed with its announcement at 2:30 p.m.

Comparing these times with today's immediate world, and commentators who don't know the meaning of short statements, the 20-second bulletin an hour after the attack seems strange. But in 1941 that news was considered almost immediate and the impact was astounding. Within 24 hours after the bombing began, FDR signed the Declaration of War.

There are several radio broadcasts that were preserved from December 7- 8, many of which I have in my OTR collection. These recordings are posted at <http://otronmp3.com/OTR/Day%20OF%20Infamy/>. The first recording on the page is the CBS World News today from December 6 and deals with the state of the world on the day before the bombing occurred. Following that show are the many bulletins and radio broadcasts that occurred on December 7. The last recording on the page is FDR's address to the Congress from December 8, 1941. If you click on any link, your browser should play the recording. If you want to save any of the recordings, just right click and save it.

As old radio enthusiasts, I encourage you to take some time to listen to the news and shows that were broadcast on these old radios. I also would hope that you thank those who fought for the country that we have today.

Larry Lokey

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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

Dwight Crider has taken over Robert's classes, and the first Saturday of the month, will teach 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 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.

WHO TO CONTACT

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