

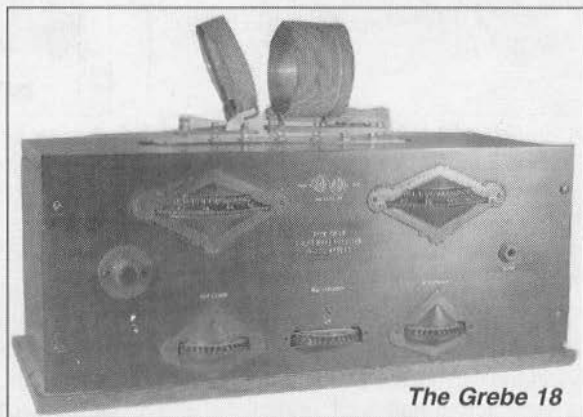
THE GREBE 18 SHORTWAVE RECEIVER

By Bruce Kelley
W2ICE

Some collectors call the period between the Grebe 18 and the National HRO-500 the classic era of American-made shortwave receivers. Both sets are rare and highly collectible. The A.H. Grebe Company released the two-tube CR-18 in early 1926. Although *QST* and other magazines had earlier published a receiver designed with plug-in coils, the CR-18 was one of the first available commercially. Aero came out with a kit about this time, and a year later Pilot marketed the three-tube Wasp followed by Silver-Marshall with its Round-the-World 411 with the new UX-222 screen grid tube.

The early '30s saw two modern design receivers using a stage of shielded tuned-grid RF, the Pilot Super-Wasp and the National SW-3. The AWA Museum has all the sets mentioned, with the SW-3 heading the list for stability, band spread,

ease in tuning and smoothness in regeneration. I've used the SW-3 in several AWA OT Contests, but I confess there was a need to reduce the antenna to six feet be-

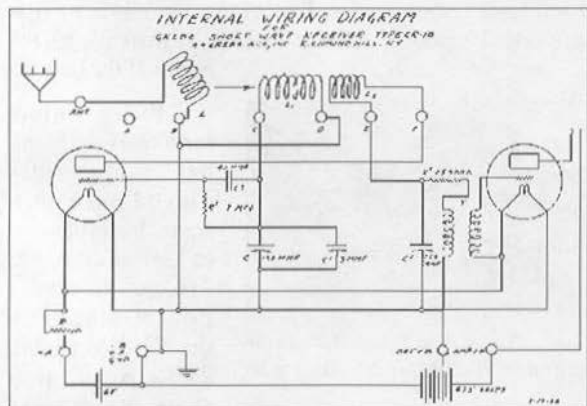


The Grebe 18

cause of heavy signal blocking.

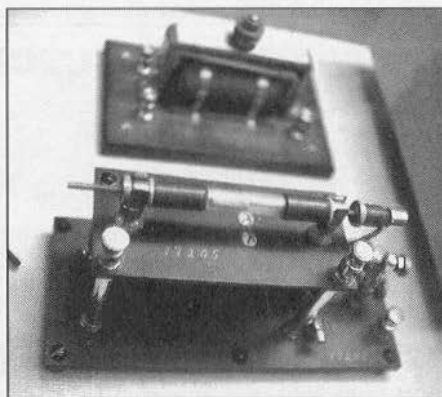
The CR-18 covers 8.5 to 216 meters with five plug-in coils. Frankly, I found the set a poor performer in the 10 meter band since tuning in the few stations heard was difficult. Both the tuning dial and regeneration control had to be held while copying most signals. On the lower bands the set performed well. Fortunately, the designer included a small variable condenser (C_1) for fine tuning.

I question the long leads to the coil pins, possibly acceptable on 80 and 160 meters, but inefficient on 10 and 20 meters. The tuning condensers and dials are mounted vertically as on the



\$10.50 for seniors. Don't let the price deter you. The museum is well worth the cost. While there you may find the phonograph exhibit interesting, as well as the early radio phonographs. If you are ever near Dearborn, you should not miss this museum.

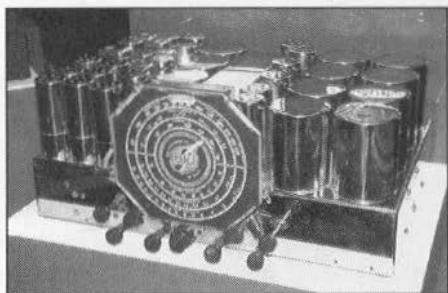
The Marc Meet opened for buyers at 8 a.m. There were some 100 cars parked in the lot and 75 tables set up inside the Armenian Community Center on Alter Road. The building was nearly filled with flea market items. There were not many



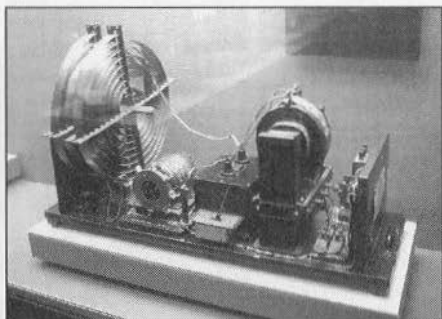
An early coherer detector and stand.

radios that did not plug in except for the newer transistor stuff. Not much in the line of historical, vintage equipment was offered. Still, you could have bought a very nice Paragon Type Two set for \$400. There was also a Grebe CR9 for sale. The star attraction item ready for purchase

was an RCA Radiotron doll, the one with a tube for a hat. It was in beautiful condition and in a nice display case. The asking price was \$1,200. It was still on the table when I left.



An E.H. Scott receiver.



A very early spark-gap wireless station.

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contemporary Grebe Synchrophase. A feature not often found in receiver design is the 25,000 ohm resistor in series with the detector plate lead to the AFT for minimizing non-oscillating points, which frequently occur when a RF choke is used. The variable antenna coupling is a desirable feature, one not found in conventional plug-in coil forms.

The CR-18 was short-lived with the advent of the UX-222 screen-grid tube which offered a stage of RF isolating the detector from the antenna. The set is highly prized by collectors, and like later National receivers, owners pay a premium for extra or missing plug-in coils.