

Information copy – Dale Barnes
W. I. A. Tas.

Sunday, 22 December 2002

Mike Simpson
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Dear Mike,

Well we are a long way from the US, and we are called the Bass Strait triangle (read Bermuda) as in the 1800's the ships from England were ending up on the rocky shores of King Island, however today it is peaceful highly productive Island centred around beef cattle and milking and of course the island's world famous for its cheeses, we also few sheep here but as they say the grass is greener, grows so tall, what they call a drought here is really a good season in the outback.

I have lived here for four years after a retiring from Victoria, as I lived there from the age of 14. I was born at Hobart Tasmania and you shall see from the extract that I have enclosed, my father died when I was just six years old.

The story of THE Midwest radio began with the trip my father took to America and early 1934 ordered the set to be shipped to Tasmania. I don't have the exact date he purchased the Radio from Midwest radio Corporation as he was into all types of radio's, my memory goes back to about 1936 when he used to set up the phonogram pickup unit in which he invented a unit to accept the records as they were played, the method employed in those days was the records were stacked, I think about 10 high 78x10" + 78x12" and they were played from the top and when finished they were then lifted off and went down a special shoot at the pickup would then go to the next record until the stack was played.

I know that he had some trouble with speed of the motor in the governing section, I think were spring loaded and hence a letter went back to America for the information to solve the problem, but unfortunately the next two years his health slowly deteriorated and a lot are things just got put aside, but I must note that one radio kit set 6 volt was in my position up to 1972 this was passed on to Earl's old friend of many years who still

still alive at the age of 93, up a few years ago he was running six ham radio sets from his backyard, he is one of the old school that uses valve radio and was never interested in the transistor style unfortunately at age 93 he has lost interest and in no longer holds an operator's licence.

Now the story on the wireless it was a 16 valve, 1934 model set in a tall free standing cabinet and was quite a nice piece of furniture and way ahead of its time, it was in our possession in Melbourne when I gave it to my uncle as he did not have a radio and I was living in a rather small place

Unfortunately through the many shifts that we had, I never reclaim the set and when my uncle died it was placed out of the garage for pickup, unfortunately nobody told me at the time and years later I went back to the new owners but they had disposed of it.

I was advised by my uncle's wife that the radio had failed we don't know why but having spoken to Laurie some years ago he suggested that the only problem was dried out condensers which was common of radio in that style.

Most unfortunate when you look back over the years of things we take for granted and this comes valuable in the years ahead I know because I owned a Marmon Straight 8 single seater, it was the American Rolls-Royce because its inventor Howard Marmon was an engineer 50 years ahead of his time, the innovations that he created were still were still being invented in the 70's and 80's.

List of items enclosed

1. Letter from General Industries Co. 26/3/1936
2. Rebalancing instructions 16 V 1934 Model
3. Instructions for connecting Phonograph
4. Amateur Operators licence 6/12/1928 No 470
5. Experimental licence 7 ET 23/9/1930 No 1018
6. Wireless Listeners League of Tasmania notes 25/1/1927
7. Extract- Pioneers of Tasmania. by Earl G. Howard

These are all from my father's files, hope you enjoy, I'm a mechanical engineer and have never been very good with electronics.

Regards

Earl G Howard