

interest. What prompted my choice of this article from June 2006 and its follow-up from July of the same year was a note from Len Arzoomanian in January 2016:

"I came across 2 issues of your club newsletter with articles by you on the India Ivory Company and their crystal clock radio. I am a historian and collector of Rhode Island made radios and parts. I would like permission to post the articles on my website on the page dedicated to the India Ivory Company."

Mr. Arzoomanian was able to supply additional information regarding the history of the India Ivory Company which I added to my original article and offer "the rest of the story."...Ed

I purchased what might be considered one of the first "clock radios" ever made about 15 years ago from Bruce Mager of "Waves." It was displayed at one of our club show-and-tell sessions but it was only until recently that I decided to do a little research regarding its origins.

On the rear of the case is engraved "RADIO CLOCK CASE - INDIA IVORY CO." Printed along the bottom edge of the clock is also found "THE INDIA IVORY CO., PROVIDENCE R.I." The India Ivory Company manufactured miniature mantle, desk and table clocks encased in a celluloid material that was sometimes described as "French ivory" or "ivorine." They are easily recognized and distinguished by their classic design using pillars and columns.

The core business of the India Ivory Company was celluloid buttons and novelty manufacturing. Incorporated in 1920, the company's president and secretary was Joseph Zitowitz. The company was located at 238 Thurber Ave., Rhode Island with facilities also at 163 Thurber Ave. It seems like the end of the line came in June 1925 when the company was appointed a receiver by the Rhode Island Superior Court following suits in October and November 1926 and charges of "attempt to defraud" in 1927 that were dismissed.

The crystal radio set is identical to the Beaver Baby Grand (Beaver Machine & Tool Co., Newark, N.J.) that was manufactured between 1922 and 1924. It came in various styles (seven versions have been identified by collectors) with cases made from oak and molded hard rubber and prices ranging from \$3.40 to \$18.00 depending on accessories.

This "clock radio" is something of a rare bird with limited sightings. One version is said to have brass (or gold) colored hardware. Another example showed up in

**A BLAST FROM
THE PAST!**

**THE FIRST
CLOCK RADIO?**

**By
Marv Beeferman**

Occasionally, I dig back into the Broadcaster archives to feature a past article that might have slipped past member's memory. In any case, new members who have never seen it may find it of

an old equipment contest at Radiofest 1992 in Elgin, Illinois. Variations of the Beaver Baby Grand crystal set are shown in a few versions of the clock radio.

While I was doing research on this article, I came across and purchased offerings for two clocks which were similar in design (without the radio) and made by the same company.



The first "clock radio?"



The Beaver Baby Grand - note its similarity to the set in the "clock radio."



Interior of the 1924 Baby Grand showing its multi-tapped coil. With no antenna tuning, this set was designed to receive only a limited number of nearby stations. The set was available in a handsome gift box, with headphones, for \$6. The set by itself, without headphones, sold for \$3.40.