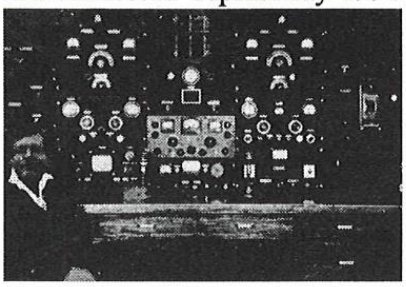
ISSUE No.11 April/May 1996



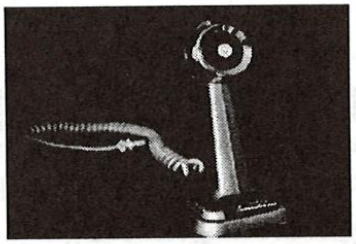
The WoodyWorld CB Gazette

P.O. Box 137 Sealy, TX 77474

In this Exciting Issue...

The expanded "Browning Story"
PART II
REVIEW: Grant XL
More Zafonte

We are, the CBer's CB Magazine!!



THE EDITORS PAGE....

With: Brian Woodbury

Anywhere you go there is one constant controversy: HAM vs. CB. You'll see it in Magazines, On the Internet, Fidonet, on the airwaves or coffee breaks (maybe even between stalls in the restroom). So what gives? Well, Ham ops don't like the fact that some 11 meter ops use high power and talk dx. Others don't like it because of the big "Move" in the 50's when the 11 meter Citizens Band was started (or, as they mutter under their breath...."Stolen"). Many new Hams get this attitude from their elmers as opposed to any negative personal experience.

On the other side of the coin, and for the most part, CBer's are quite the opposite, and regard hams (and their knowledge) with respect. I'll concede that the CB Band is a wide-open/anything goes band, where you'll find a variety of characters, some who use profane language, throw carriers on others, and kill t.v. reception for miles around their QTH. You will also find responsible operators that use AM locally to sit around and chat, or REACT teams that monitor channel 9 and save lives, or Sideband op's that sound more like ham operators than some ham operators do on their respective frequencies!

Ham operators like to gripe (at least a segment of them do) about almost anything. CB was their big target for years, then, in the mid- 80's the Novice Enhancement became a hot topic on the airwaves, only to be dropped for the NO-CODE hams several years later. As a matter of record, and for your information, more than 60% of WoodyWorld's subscribers are Ham operators now, AND many still use 11 meters. I've talked with many of them and found them to be wonderful, responsible individuals, and as I tend to take notes, many of the "problems" on the 11 meter band can be found on 2 meters, and several popular HF Bands (80 meters to name just one). So....for you the undecided, the one who wants to know:"Which is the BEST?" my answer is - neither. Both services can bring worlds of enjoyment. If you're a CBer now and have an interest in Ham Radio, GO FOR IT!! But don't forsake your first love, 11 meters. The more responsible operators we keep, the cleaner the band will be. REMEMBER - Radio is RADIO, no matter which frequency you are on, and whatever you do.....ENJOY THE HECK OUT OF IT!!

73 *Woody*

Charlie's Golden Eagle is part of the family

The day Charlie brought home his Golden Eagle base station, a new member joined the family circle. Like the arrival of his first child, there had been months of waiting—dealer backlogs were long even then! In the years that followed, Charlie's entire family came to know and love their Golden Eagle. The pride of showing it off to friends—that time when their neighbor had an accident and help was summoned in time. The story of Charlie's Golden Eagle is a never-ending tale that is typical of the deep affection given every Golden Eagle Mark III —it's a deserved love because, for a CBer, family life is a richer experience when a Golden Eagle is there!

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CQ.. CQ.. Welcome to..... The Lower Side

Welcome to another exciting column with WWC-001, here at the helm! Letter's are pouring in daily with various DX reports (Tnx guys!), and even some great QSL cards (Thanks Crazy Bear!). It's these cards that always jog my sometimes foggy memory.....back to my heyday in 11 meters, when I had cards made up for myself and sent them out almost daily!

Of course, I had to order the QSL card holders which hung on the wall, from the classified section in the back of good 'ol S9. At one point in time I had at least three walls covered with these plastic wall hangings (the fourth wall was reserved for my "Lost-In-Space/Man-From-U.N.C.L.E." posters. In those days, many operators had TWO log books. One for Uncle Charlie (in case he came visiting), and the other one had whatever DX contacts the guy had made, along with some sort of an address for QSL card exchanging.

Generally, Uncle Charlie's copy read something like this: 8p.m. to 8:05 pm, made brief contact with Joe (Call letters) about tomorrow's fishing trip departure time, or, 5:15 - 5:20 called our mobile unit (Call letters) and told him to pick up bread on the way home. The "Other" log book was filled with contacts made overseas or across the border into Canada....

Today, whenever the band is open (and it's been kinda dead lately) you'll hear hundreds of voices cramped on channels 37 and 38 calling out for a QSO. So, now I wonder...what happened to channel 35,36, and 39? What about the lower side of 16? Are these frequencies still being used for sideband operation? Sure, when the band is open, I hear a "few" stations on 39, and maybe on 36, but it seems (from down here in Texas), that everyone prefers to get in a pile-up on 37 and 38. Maybe it's time we spread back out again, eh?

Last but not least: WWC numbers. Not only have we been deluged with subscriptions, and requests for sample issues, but I've had quite a few five dollar checks arrive for the WoodyWorld Club or "Whiskey-Whiskey-Charlie" numbers and certificates. If you haven't rec'd yours yet, there's no need to be alarmed....I haven't flown off to some tropical island....I'm just swamped, but you'll be getting them shortly! I guess that covers it for this issue, so - May your DX "listening" be enjoyable!

73

Woody/WWC-001

P.S.- Let's keep SSB going on LSB channel 16!!

A Woody World Special - "Me and the Bald Eagle"

The Browning issue brought back memories of my former nemesis, the "Bald Eagle". Being only 100 yards or so away from each other put us at constant odds with each other, and of course a 50+ year age difference didn't help either...

Our first encounter came when my dad took me over to his house one night so that the Bald Eagle could prep me on the proper protocol to use on the airwaves. The towering man met us at the side door which led into the kitchen, and from there we followed him up the creaky stairs which led to his small but cozy "shack". While my dad and the Bald Eagle talked my eyes darted back and forth across the cramped area, and the first thing that caught my attention was the two-wall section of QSL cards, all neatly displayed in several bands of lengthy plastic holders.

While there seemed to be a draft at the doorway, I seemed to detect a source of heat over in the corner. Glancing in that direction I saw the biggest CB rig I'd ever seen sitting on the desk - in fact, it was so big that it came in two pieces!

Slowly, but surely (and somewhat steadfastly), I edged my way over to the desk and as I got closer the warmth intensified until I could see the warm glow off the tubes from underneath the vents in the case. On the left hand side of one of the "pieces" was a golden eagle figure, and as I squinted at the darker half I could make out the lettering: *Golden Eagle Mark III.*

"So", I thought to myself, "This is a Browning...."

My future opponent of the airwaves noticed my attention to his radio and walked over to where I stood.

"That's the finest radio money can buy", he crowed. "In fact, that's how I got my handle - I operate an Eagle and I'm bald".

He then began to demonstrate the Browning's capabilities, as well as show off some of his other goodies, along with mentioning the PDL II which he had just bought from Avanti. I was in awe at the sight of all of his equipment, but soon found out we would be having...er, bleedover problems. While he used either channel 2 or 8, I was up around 20, and there wasn't too much of a problem until he talked to his favorite radio "bud", who was Southwest of my house, thus putting me in a direct line with the Bald Eagles PDL II...but, somehow we managed to survive - at least for a few months.

That is when I discovered sideband, and traded up to a sideband radio. Being a youth, with limited funds, I couldn't be to selective, and ended up with a monterous looking Midland Base Station (complete with a CLOCK!!), but a rig that lacked any selectivity at all. When I was on the lower side of 16 my receiver would shut down when my neighbor keyed his mike.....CONT'D

"SPECIAL" cont'd....

While a Browning "Ping" is a wonderous sound to hear, when it comes from 10 or more channels down, it somehow loses it's luster. Of course, now that I had sideband my signal was a tad stronger and it didn't take long for him to jump up to 16 and chew me out for bleeding over on him!

And so it went, year after year, until one day we moved to Texas. Occasionally from time to time, I would wonder about the Bald Eagle, and after the 80's hit, I figured he probably was no longer with us....a silent "Ping" if you will. But, not too long ago I replied to an ad in the Antique Radio Classified about a Tram, and it just happened to be from my old home town, Enfield CT. Well, we got to talking about this and that, and who we might have known, and after several strikes I decided to ask about the Bald Eagle. "Yes", he remembered him too! In fact, I learned that the Bald Eagle still kicking, or at least was about a year ago when this fellow last saw him. So...Bald Eagle....If you're reading this.....Howdy from Lil Abner!

Vintage CB Collecting!!

With Charles Zafonte....

Hello out there in radio land! This time, I am going to cover a rather dry but critical concept - NEUTRALIZATION! (No, this is not the same as getting your CB spayed like your cat!). Because of the "Crispiness" of this topic, I will try to make it as interesting and relevant as possible! Especially, you owners of Tram D201's and D201-A's need to neutralize the 5881 RF final when it is replaced. The whole point of neutralization is to reduce parasitics (no, not tapeworms, but they have the same effect, gorging power from your tube finals.....).

These parasitic oscillations cause power loss, signal splatter, modulation distortion, and stray capacitance and inductance inside your CB. What neutralization does is create a "Counterfeedback" voltage which cancels out the parasitics. Well boys and girls, there are several ways to accomplish this when necessary - and it is only usually necessary when replacing a final in a radio which does not use *ground-grid* tube configuration.

Most tube CB's and linears do not need neutralization (some notable exceptions are the aformentioned Trams and Siltronix LA-650 linear, among others). Anyhow, the ways to accomplish this are as follows: 1). Losser resistors; 2). Plate neutralization; 3).Grid neutralization; 4).Inductive neutralization; 5).Direct neutralization and 6).Use of parasitic chokes in the anode lead.....Whew! are you thoroughly confused yet??

PARASITIC CHOKES are the carbon 1 or 2 watt resistors you often see connected to the top plate caps of linear amp output tubes. The wire coiled around the body of the resistor acts as a shunt. The losser resistor is connected in series with the grid of the power amp tube, and reduces the gain slightly. It generates negative feedback which lowers the tendancy of the radio or amp to oscillate. I will briefly describe the other types of neutralization before we get into the tricky (but fun) area of the actual technique.

PLATE NEUTRALIZATION uses a feedback capacitor and a center-tapped inductor which puts out a voltage 180 degrees out-of-phase to the anode voltage, which cancels the parasitics. **GRID NEUTRALIZATION** (are you still with me??), used mainly in tetrode tube circuits, uses disc or vacuum variable capacitors to generate negative feedback. Some circuits using the common 6146 tube merely use a short piece of wire connected to the grid circuit to do the job! **INDUCTIVE NEUTRALIZATION** is done using a tapped coil which sets up a magnetic field to cancel the parasitics. **DIRECT NEUTRALIZATION** also uses an inductor (coil) and a capacitor to block parasitics.

CONTINUED UNDER: **NEUTRALIZATION**

Review...

WOODYWORLD REVIEWS: UNIDEN GRANT

Even though CB is growing in sales once again, it gets harder and harder to find decent, type-accepted SSB equipment. Cobra ditched the 142 base station, then they cut their throats by stopping production on the Cobra 2000 base, which was a favorite of many. Midland? I haven't seen a sideband unit by Midland in years. What do we have in mobiles? Well, there's the Cobra 146, 148, and 148F models (which look like a uniden under the hood), and then there's the real thing, Uniden, which makes the PC-122xl and the famous Grant-XL. Of course, our review is on the Grant....so take it away -

I get several questions a day either by mail, or internet about the Grant and it's features, so let's start with those: The controls lined along the bottom are as follows (from left-to-right): Mic Gain, Vol/Squelch, RF Gain/SWR CAL, S/rf-CAL-SWR, LSB-AM-USB, Clarifier, and Channel Selector. Above the channel selector is the digital channel display (yea, I'm working back right to left now) RX/TX light, 4 switches: BRT/DIM, HI/LOW, CB/PA, and NB/ANL, and finally...a real S/RF meter (I don't care for the digital "bar graph" type of meters). I ran the Grant in the Woody Van for a couple of months and here's the scoop:

1). The Mic gain gives you all the volume you need, however I did change out the stock mic (which tended to be overly bassey) with another one that fit my voice pattern better.

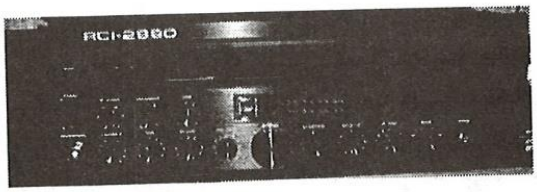
2). The SWR feature is a good selling point, however I always use an external in-line meter for this.

3). The Clarifier works on receive only, but as most of you know, that can be modified for the hobbyist-at-large. Keep in mind, it's illegal here in the USA to do this.

4). The bright/Dim switch is for the channel display, and it never left the "BRT" position.

5). The Hi/Low switch is a tone switch for your receiving pleasure, and in a high noise environment, the high selection was welcome. I also found that the Noise Blanker worked exceptionally well (as have any Uniden radio I've tried).

CONTINUED UNDER: GRANT



Freebanding in the 90's....

Hello again, and...CQ, you're back with Xray-2001 and I believe that I left you wondering about what made "Freebanding" so popular in last months issue, so let's pick up where we left off!

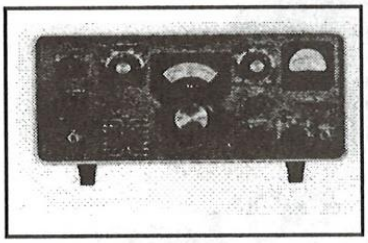
While you will find a variety of PLL CB rigs with toggle switches and crystal kits installed "UP" above channel 40, quite a bit of the SSB operation is with export, or modified ham gear. If you've ever tried to do a SSB QSO while the band is open on the usual CB channels (16, 31-40), I'll bet that you found it very crowded (Ed.- to say the least). If you happen to have a general coverage receiver, try tuning in above 27.405 and take a listen....

Suddenly, the frantic calls that push your meter up towards 20, and make your ears wish that they had built-in passband tuning disappear into a relatively quiet, conservitive world. Most QSO's are conducted in an orderly fashion, and in some cases, you may even hear an area's local "Net". And, while some folks creep past 27.600, most of the ones I've heard tend to limit themselves to 27.500 and below, because they don't want to disturb the 10 meter ham band....they just want a quiet frequency away from all the distractions and bleedover on the regular 40 channels.

Sure, once in awhile there's going to be someone who modifies a rig just to agitate the regular users of these frequencies, but as a rule, you'll find it quite a bit more civil than certain parts of the 80 and 20 meter ham bands! Personally, I like to use my shortwave receiver to tune in a conversation or two and just leave it in the background while I'm working. Yes, frequencies below channel 1 are also called "Freeband" channels, but instead of SSB, you'll typically find AM or FM transmissions. From what I've heard (and read in other periodicals), lot's of long distance truckers like to frequent this area too.

Are these people criminals? Well, by FCC definition, yes. But by those who challenge anyone to proclaim "Rights" to airwaves, no....which means YES, there is lot's of controversy surrounding this subject. But, for those of you who like to tune around and listen in with your general coverage receivers, you'll probably find many interesting people, and some very interesting conversations.....which leads me to next's months issue, where I'll write about some of the more popular "Freebanding" rigs!

'Til the next issue ...X-Ray2001



The Ham Page

QSK.... and welcome back to the "Ham Page"! In last month's column I was talking/writing about first QSO's, and promised to continue with my first CW attempts, and looking back at things, whether it be your first CB contact, or Ham Phone or CW contact, the jitters are just about the same. Let's pick up where I left off....

Dave, who was my "Elmer" (and Doug's too), kept up with our code testing and before you know it, we had our 5 wpm. I managed to pick up a later model Heathkit (the HW-5400), which had superb CW tone, and built my shack inside of a small closet. Each night after work I'd hustle through supper and then get on 15 meters before it would begin to die down. I'm not sure how many nights I just listened to the CW chatter before I finally got the nerve to send out a shakey "CQ".

As luck would have it, I got an immediate response but for some reason, my fist was frozen, millimeters away from the straight key. My mouth got very dry, and the quiet was broken by a loud BAM-BAM-BAM!!

"Had someone fired a gun in the neighborhood?" I thought.

No.....it was my heart slamming against my chest.

"Sheeez", I thought to myself, *"They never stated in the manual that you should have a doctor present for your first QSO....."*.

I could hear the guy calling for me again, yet still remained in a frozen state until finally his signal died into oblivion.

After a several minutes had passed, and my heart rate returned to normal I bit the bullet and pounded out my call again.....

This procedure repeated itself (from "Sheez-to-pounded-out-my-call-again) for several evenings until finally, either I got over the "Frozen key" method of CQ'ing or someone slower than me responded (I'm not sure which one it was), but in anycase I made my first CW contact! It lasted about 45 minutes, my wrist hurt, and I was bathed in sweat, but it sure was fun....

I found CW to be much like a Computer BBS, or even packet, only you used your ears to hear the words instead of letting the eyes do the reading. Being CW, you have no idea of this person other than what msg's you communicate, thus, there are no pre-conceived attitudes about your contact (unlike SSB, where an accent, or slang, might get in your way). I almost got my speed up to General Class when an untimely divorce got in the way. Time gone by, and carpal tunnel, has kept any further CW operations in the background.

Well, that's it for this month....next month I'm veering off into the world of VHF, and all the fun you can have there....and I'm not talking about repeaters either!

73

THE BROWNING STORY
PART II

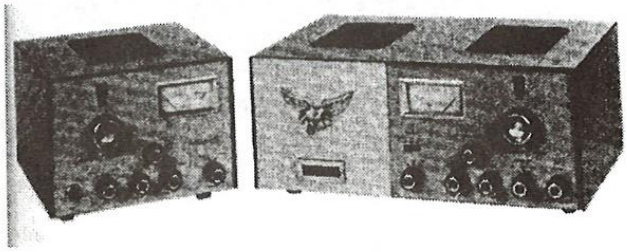
Well, here we are! I left you hanging in the last issue just when the story was getting good! (ED.- for those of you who DON'T remember, Bob had just broken the ice on the first set of Browning's to be called an "Eagle") These Eagles were also the very first to be an actual factory designed set of radios. There were two series of R27 and S23 - the first series had a 7558 final and a 6AQ5 modulator. And here's some interesting tidbits about the R27 receiver: It was the first Browning receiver with the cascode nuvister front end, for less noise and it was the only receiver Browning offered with a broad and narrow switch for choice of selectivity! And, last-but-not-least, the R27 was also the first receiver with channel lock for fixed tuned receiving, WITHOUT crystals.

At the same time Browning was producing the Eagle, they also introduced the Drake mobile radio. The Drake was a more compact radio and was primarily marketed for mobile use. They made two models of this radio, the model 506, which was a 6 channel set, and the model 523, which was a 23 channel radio. Browning offered an outside mounted S-meter, rear deck speaker and AC power supply as well.

In 1966 Browning introduced the "Raven", which featured a built-in speech compressor, a theft deterring mounting, 23 channels, and a triple diode limiter. Browning didn't make any changes in their offerings until around late 1967 and early 1968 when they produced the R68 and T68 Golden Eagle Base station. This was the first set of Brownings with the Golden Eagle name, which could have been called (Ed.- and is by many...'nuff said) the "MARK I". The T68 transmitter, like the first "Eagle" used a 5763 final and 6B05 modulator. The early T68 had the "Spot" switch lamp but in the later model that lamp was used as the "ON THE AIR" light. The R68 was the first Browning receiver to use the Collins mechanical filter for greater selectivity. The only other change in the Golden Eagle was the dust cover paint - The early models had a gloss color brown while the later set had a textured brown, just like the MARK II series.

One accessory that was already being produced outside the Browning factory for Browning was the MARK 100 amplifier. This unit was produced for the R27 and the S23 series which had black knobs. They also produced a MARK 100 for the Golden Eagle which had brown knobs. The next radio off the production line was definitely one of the most popular base stations that Browning produced, yes, I am talking about the Golden Eagle MARK II. These radios were produced around late 1968 and early 1969.

THE
BROWNING
MARK II - 2pc

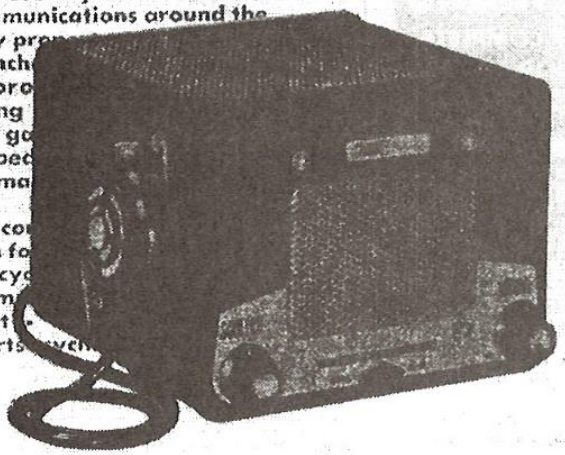


GONSET'S NEW G-11 . . .

Citizens' Communicator

a complete 2-way radio station for use in the new Class "D" service on 11 meters

Hundreds of uses for the new Citizens' Communicator: Carry in your car or use in your home or office • sporting events • fishing • hunting • camping • boating • auto racing • skiing • hiking • on golf carts • club activities • spectator sports • football games • country estates • baseball games • communications around the home or country pr... use on farm • ranch... • construction pro... mapping • mining ... patrols • oil and g... • geological expe... forestry • park ma... • lumbering • dispatching and co... fork lifts • use on fo... • warehousing • cy... emergency comm... law enforcement ... railroads • airports ...



WHY? Now . . . F.C.C. assigns 22 channels in 27 mc range . . . virtually without restriction as to legitimate usage . . . can be business or pleasure. Any U.S. Citizen is eligible for license. No difficulty. Merely complete Form 505-D, (packed with equipment) and submit to F.C.C. No tests . . . no special skills . . . no examination

27 mc range offers better, more reliable 2-way communications posibilities than existing 450 mc Citizens Band...latter is essentially for "line of sight" operation.

G-11 equipment is precision, rugged, foolproof, dependable! Gonset G-11 meets every field and F.C.C. requirement, is a member of famed Gonset 2 and 6 meter Communicator family.

COMPARE THESE FEATURES WHEN SELECTING EQUIPMENT!

FULL CRYSTAL CONTROL . . . STABLE! NO TUNING!

G-11 offers highest stability . . . crystal tolerance .005% (F.C.C. requirement) both transmitter and receiver. No tuning — no drifting off channel. Adjustable squelch for muted standby operation. Full press-to-talk operation controlled by button on hand-held microphone.

POWER INPUT: Transmitter rated at 5 watts input, (maximum for Class "D" service) AM modulated.

OPERATING POWER: Two models available, 12 volts DC only and 115 volts AC only. Power supplies are built in.

COMPACT: 6¾" wide, 5¼" high, 6¾" deep.

G-11 CITIZENS COMMUNICATOR. Complete with press-to-talk microphone and transmitter/receiver crystals for one channel. Less antenna. 115 volts AC operation. . . . . Model 3303 . . . . . 149.50

Same as above except 12 volts DC. . . . . Model 3304 . . . . . 149.50

GROUND PLANE ANTENNA FOR BASE OPERATION Model 3296 . . . . . 39.95

Includes 50' transmission line, guy wires, screw eyes etc., read for installation.

BEAM ANTENNA FOR POINT-TO-POINT OPERATION Model 3302 . . . . . 39.95

3-element beam, forward gain 8 db. Front to back ratio 20 db.

MOBILE ANTENNAS . . . several suitable types are available at your jobbers.

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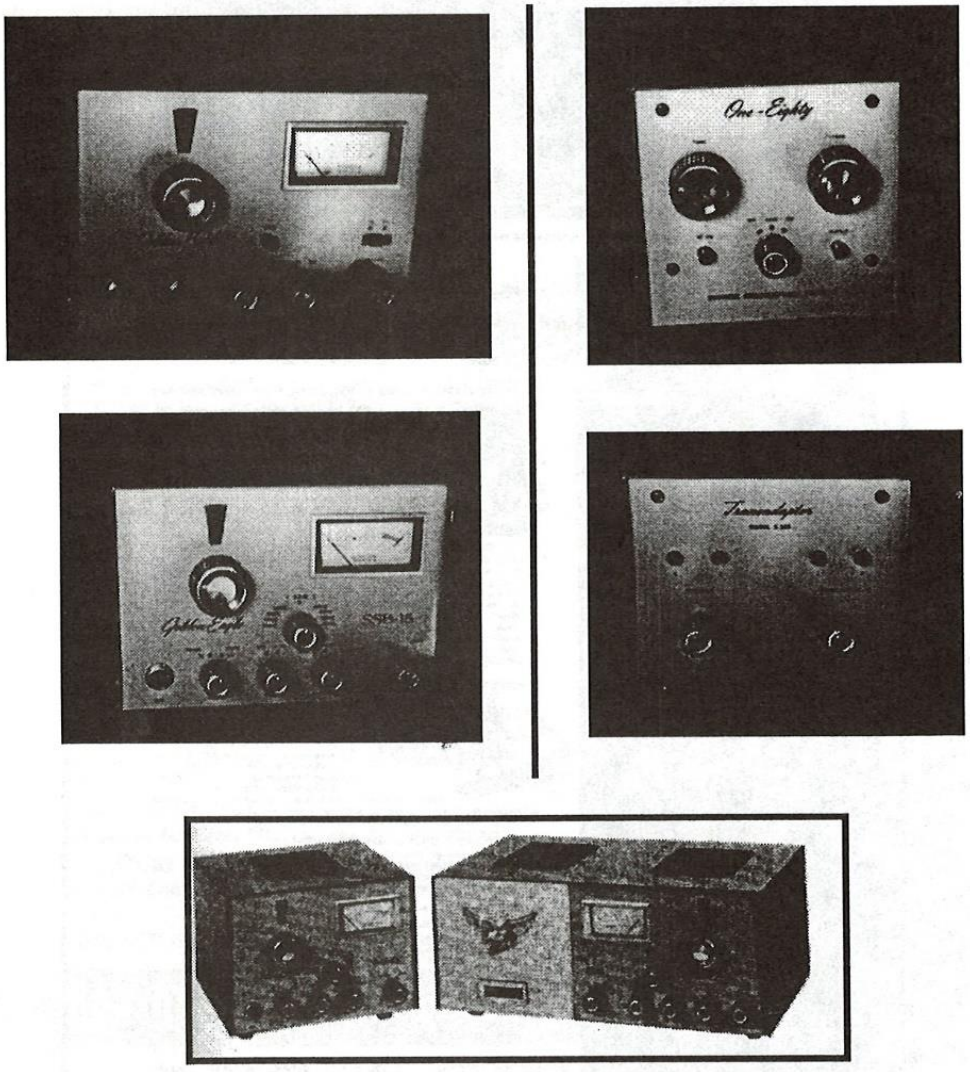
Write for free booklet, G-II FOR BUSINESS, OR PLEASURE.

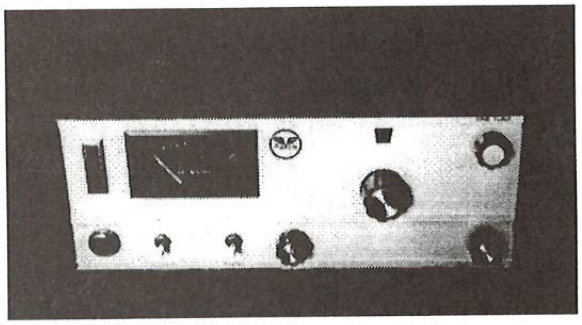
The Browning Golden Eagle Mark II was a true masterpiece. In it's basic form, you got an AM/SSB receiver and and AM transmitter. From this you could add: The business band amplifier (Model 180;pictured below), a business band AM transmitter (which had a higher wattage output), the SSB-15 single-sideband transmitter (pictured below), and the X-100 "Transadapter" (also pictured below), which made it easier to switch between your AM and SSB transmitters. If you were one of the lucky dogs to own a complete setup, you were certainly the envy of the town (much less the county!).

[Photo's courtesy of the WoodyWorld CB Museum/Digital Archives]

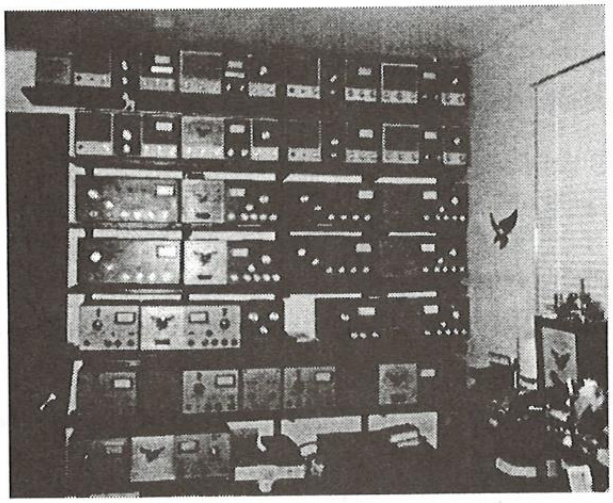


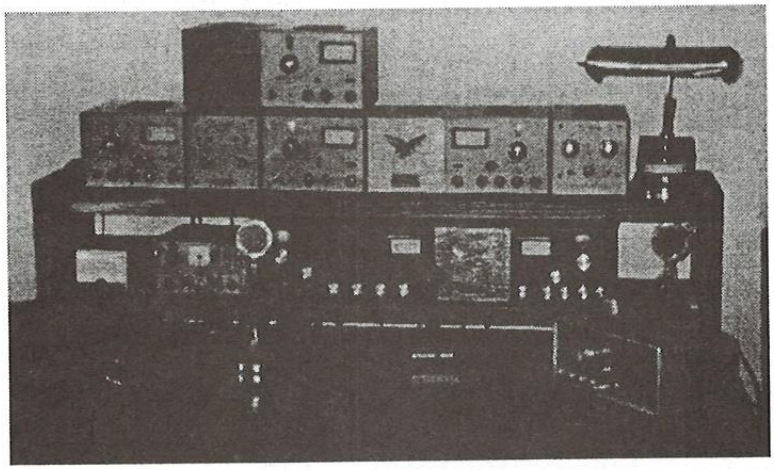
Browning Golden Eagle MARK II

This Browning mobile is relatively scarce. It's the Browning "Raven", which departs from the usual Brown-gold color scheme with it's chrome face and black cabinet.



Browning collectors are an avid bunch, and as the pictures below indicate some operators have quite a few for.... sore eyes.





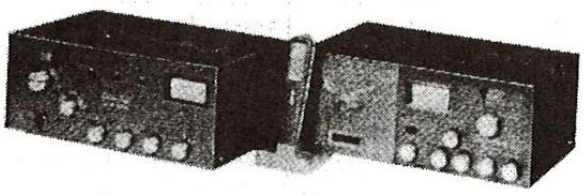
The MARK II was the first base station to have SSB incorporated in the receiver and a separate SSB transmitter. The major change in the MARK II was only to the receiver. When Rockwell bought out Collins they raised the price of consumer products to industrial prices which made the filter in the MARK II (and other brands of CB's) too high for these manufacturers to use. So, they changed the receiver circuit to add two additional IF cans and dropped the Collins mechanical filter. The receiver, without the Collins filter was called the "Series II".

But, the Browning MARK II had all kinds of attachments and goodies! Along with the R69-T69 Transmitter and receiver you could buy the SSB15 sideband transmitter. And, to makes switching between AM and SSB easier, Browning offered the TX100 "Transadapter". Both the AM and SSB transmitters plugged into the transadapter, then one connection was made to the AM/SSB receiver. The unit matched the MARK II series and had two knobs: 1). For switching between the transmitters, and 2). For switching between two different antenna's! So now we're up to 4 components, let's see what else you could get.....

Well, there was the Browning "One-Eighty" business band amplifier (keep in mind that the business band was very close to 11meters at that time), which was the same size as the TX100 Transadapter. The 180 had two large knobs (Tune and Load), a three position switch (off-stby-on), and a couple of lights, one for AC "ON", and the other for "Output". The other component was the BB30 Business Band Transmitter which had 30 to 40 watts of output. In my collection I have a 5 piece MARK II, with the BB30 transmitter....a RARE set for sure! (Ed.- And thanks to Bob, the WoodyWorld CB Museum has a complete set two!).

The next Browning radio in line was and is the most popular rig of it's time, and even our time- The MARK III. This radio was the most widely known Browning and was produced for sale from 1971 thru mid-1976 (Ed.- see my related nostalgic article "The Bald Eagle" later in this issue). The early model had no ALC in the transmitter and had the two piece receiver panel like the MARK II. Throughout the run of MARK III's a few changes occurred, like the one piece receiver panel, the HF receiver that would receive up to channel 59, and different colored speaker grills. The model with the extended receiver was and is a particular favorite amongst those who like to venture into uncharted waters. All it took was a VFO hooked into the transmitter off you went! The early receiver had the undefined Eagle like the Mark II, and the later receiver had the more defined Eagle. Of course the MARK III was the first Browning to have both AM and SSB in the transmitter and receiver, and it was also the first with wood grain cabinets.

The Browning
MARK III



Around the middle of 1976 Browning introduced the 23 channel MARK IV and by January of 1977, they started to produce the 40 channel MARK IV. This radio was not too successful because of the PLL unit. As some of you have probably realized, when buying a MARK IV for more than $100, you must check it out to make
sure the transmitter works. 93% of the existing Browning MARK IV's are only good as parts radios because of this. There is a transistor located in the receiver that, when it
goes "out", blows your PLL prom, and finding a replacement for a blown PLL chip today is almost impossible. It's very easy to get "taken" at a hamfest on one of these units because in many cases, the receiver will still work, and the transmitter will produce a carrier (but no matter where the channel selector is set, it generally transmits on only one frequency!). So, make sure you check it out completely, use a watt meter and frequency counter.

The MARK IV was the first Browning with multi-colored, one piece front panels. It had a single power supply in the receiver to power both the transmitter and receiver, and it was also the first Browning with IC chips and circuit boards.

The very last Browning base station to be produced was the replacement radio for the MARK IV, the MARK IV-A. The IV-A had a new PLL unit that really worked. Browning was using the MARK IV panels and putting metal plates over the MARK IV letters to indicate the change in model number. Other than the PLL and ID plate, there were no additional changes in the MARK IV-A.

All other radios that Browning marketed were produced from Japan for sale in the United States, except for the Eaglette which was made by the PACE Corp. of California.

Whew! This was a lot of information for one article, but it should come in handy for rag chews and coffee breaks. I hope you have as much fun collecting Brownings as I do.....

GOOD LUCK BROWNING HUNTING!!

(Ed.- Thanks again Bob for a GREAT article! Even though this is the second printing, I never tire of reading about the Browning Story.

Since the first printing, last year, many of my faithful readers have become avid Browning Collectors, probably the biggest fan being the "Night Eagle". There isn't a week that goes by where I don't get either postal mail or internet e-mail [cbgazette@aol.com] from someone looking for a particular Browning piece or at least a lead on how to get started.

I've heard of many clubs around the country that are strictly Browning MARK III's, and in one case, you have to own a MARK III just to get in the club!! When the Shack-O-Rama issue comes out in May or June, you'll find that almost everyone owns at least one Browning.....'Nuff Said...Da Editor)

GRANT cont'd

The Grant, for you historical buffs goes back into the the 70's when a small startup company called "President" began to crank out radios which were named after....well....Presidents! (Adams, Andrew J., Dwight D., "Honest Abe", Madison, Washington, and Grant to name a few). These rigs caught on like wildfire with the CB buying public, and a legend was born.....

Of course, the chassis inside was made by Uniden, and after several years went by, Uniden emerged under their own name, using many of the same names that were used with the President radio line. But enough of that, let's see how it performs:

As I mentioned earlier, the noise blanker/ Automatic noise limiter work great, and if any radio can limit the noise many rigs pick up, this one can do it! Power output was as expected - within the FCC guidelines, and modulation was loud enough, but I suggest finding an aftermarket microphone that suits you voice characteristics better. Using the stock hand mic, AM was slightly muddled, but Sideband sounded great (or at least that's what my contacts told me).

The Grant is sensitive enough to pick up weak signals, and yet it's selectivity is one of the best around. And being mobile, you need all the selectivity you can get to knock out that Ch.19 bleedover. Although, in my area there's one stretch on I-10 near Katy that uses channel 30 and it comes in handy there as these guys seem to find enjoyment in running "Noise Toys" one after another, through mis-adjusted echo mic's, and in some cases high power. Needless to say....1). They are hard to understand, and 2). Bleedover like a red shirt washed in hot water!

Can this rig be modified? Yes, and it's one of the easiest. I have many letters from overseas asking me about this, but of course, it's illegal here in the states! [ed.- At this juncture, I'll put in my two cents regarding the locked clarifier on transmit....The FCC should change that rule and allow the clarifier to be un-locked. If you have more than two guys talking SSB in a group, it's hell to tune 'em in all the time].

Cobra 148 or Grant? Another favorite question. My answer is: The Grant! If you open 'em up they both look identical, and at one time, they were both made in the same country. Cobra has moved several times in recent years, and in my opinion, the Grant remains more reliable. The one thing that I'd like to see changed though is the channel selector knob - I'd like to see one like they use on the Cobra.

Hope this review helps, and have fun on Sideband!!

73, from the "*Old-timer*".

NEUTRALIZATION cont'd

Okay, now here's how you do it! (Stay with me; it's not as hard as it sounds). First, be sure the B+ voltage is disconnected from the anode or there will be too much signal interference. Then, hookup a wattmeter (or even a coil of wire connected to a flashlight bulb!) to the plate circuit. The schematic will tell you which pin on the tube socket is the anode, plate, etc. and the location of the tuneable neutralization capacitor in the circuit. Turn on the radio (or amp) and let the tubes warm up. Key the transmitter. The wattmeter or flashlight bulb will show some output. Fiddle with the adjustable capacitor until you reach a "null" (low dip) on the wattmeter, or dimmest light on the bulb. Of course, an oscilloscope works best, but who needs fancy gear when a 49 cent bulb works almost as well?

The Tram D201 and D201A radios have a bit more complicated procedure to follow (14 separate steps), only because you are also adjusting the AM and SSB bias and calibrating the radios wattmeter at the same time....

So, there you are - that didn't hurt did it?

Next time, I will discuss causes and cures for RFI (Radio Frequency Interference), the little gremlins that strain relations with neighbors and could result in Uncle Charlie paying you a visit. Anyhow, my ears are telling me there's a "Mayday" call coming in from a 40 foot sloop sinking on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, so I better see if I can help!

See you next issue!

C. Zafonte
