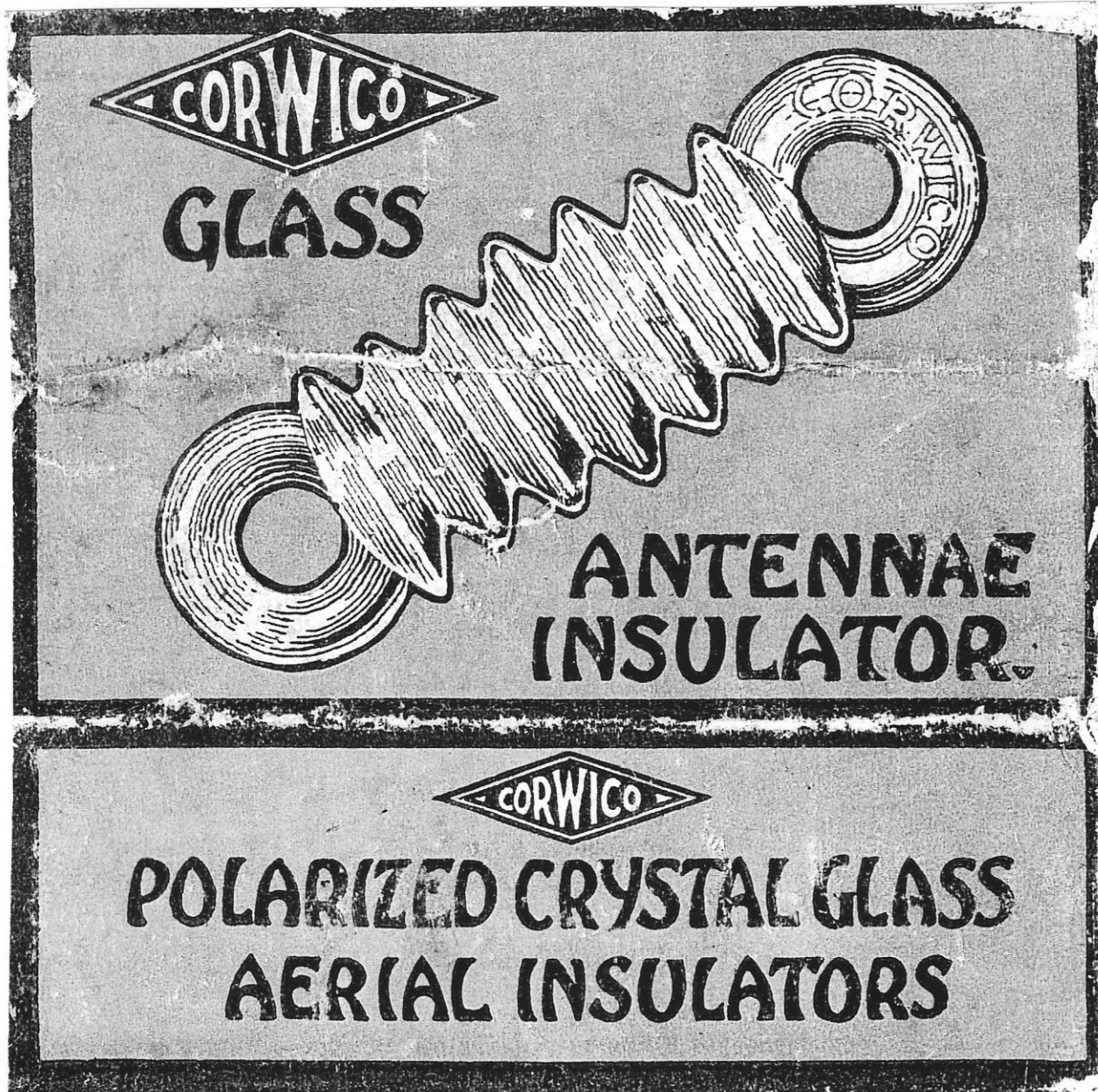


2016 PDF edition

Old Familiar Strains

a newsletter for collectors of radio strain insulators and related items
Volume 8 No. 6

December, 2001



Statement of Purpose

Old Familiar Strains is a newsletter designed to further the exchange of information of interest to antenna insulator collectors and to promote the hobby.

The newsletter is currently in hiatus. No new subscriptions are being solicited or accepted. Production may resume at a future yet-to-be-determined date.

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Website: www.oldfamiliarstrains.com

This month's lead article is a tribute to our Wire Connector - Cornish

Cumulative Index
A cumulative index of *Old Familiar Strains* is included in this issue.

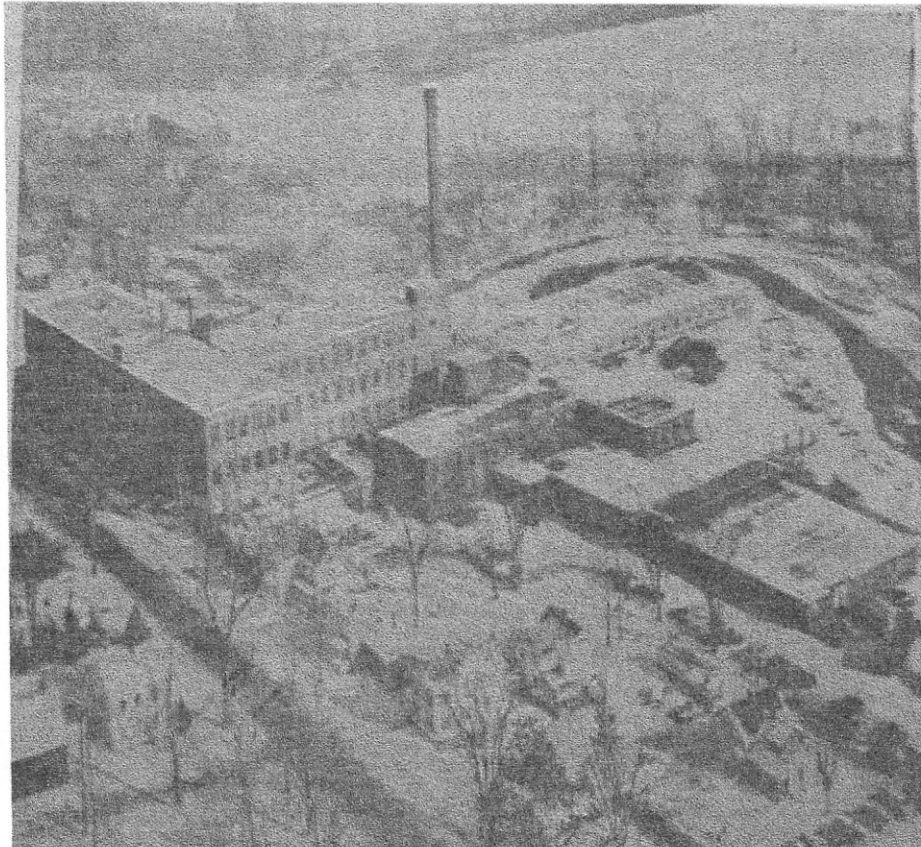
Willamette Valley Insulator Swap Salem, OR October 13, 2001 reported by Dan Howard

Once again I enjoyed visiting with the collectors at Nathan Lamkey's annual fall swap on his family's farm in Salem. The beautiful autumn weather encouraged the swapping to spill out of the barn and into the adjacent grass-paved pasture.

A few strains were available, however my only acquisition was a bird bath. Mid Norris and I were talking at my show in August and he agreed to come up with a post insulator and glass suspension to accommodate an idea I had for building a birdbath. With the help of fellow collectors, we determined that the inverted suspension disk would easily bolt to the top of the porcelain post (which was made by the Lapp plant that Dad and I visited in Leroy, NY). It now stands in the corner of a flowerbed here at the house.

After the show, my daughter and I had a terrific father-daughter country drive back up the Willamette Valley, a drive that included cow spotting and visits to several road-side pumpkin patches.

Gil and Robin were down from Seattle and Gil got a terrific deal on a Johnson strain with metal ends. Tim Woods was also there looking at strains and pin insulators to add to his collection.



Williamstown plant – This is an air view of Cornish Wire Co.'s Williamstown plant, site of its original operation in this area. Rubber covered products are turned out in that shop. The company's Blockington plant is used to produce cord sets and conductors that have plastic coatings

Corwico – Cornish Wire Company

By Dan Howard

Little published information is available on the corporate history of The Cornish Wire Company. However the found objects – the insulators, the lightning arresters, and wire - are seen quite often and speak volumes. Adding in the clues that are revealed through Corwico's ads, an image develops, and an article is more than warranted. So, based mainly on what has been found and what can be learned from the company's many ads, here is a look at the history of Corwico.

The Cornish Wire Company,

“Corwico,” was originally a manufacturer of wire and wiring products. Like Birnbach and many others, they found that selling insulators and lightning arresters was a great way to promote their brand and to sell more wire. Corwico's porcelain and glass products were likely made by others and “privately-labeled” on their behalf.

According to several sources, Corwico's wire manufacturing facilities were based in Williamstown, MA, in the far northwest corner of the

"From the Ground Up"





Radio Wires



A complete line of Quality Radio Wires for the Jobber and Manufacturer carefully made to meet all demands of the Radio Industry.

ANTENNA WIRE	BUS BAR WIRE
MAGNET WIRE	ANNUNCIATOR WIRE
LITZ WIRE	LOOP AERIAL WIRE
LEAD-IN WIRE	GUY WIRE
FLEXIBLE SILK WIRE	DETECTOR WIRE

"CORWICO" ANTENNA WIRES are made Stranded, Braided and Solid, of plain, tinned and enameled Copper Wire.

"CORWICO" LITZ and LOOP AERIAL WIRES are made in sizes and colors to meet manufacturers' specifications.

JOBBERS! Write for Our Dealers' Proposition

CORNISH WIRE CO.
30 Church St., New York, N. Y.

"From the Ground Up"

Use



Radio Wires

A complete line of Quality Radio Wires for the Jobber and Manufacturer carefully made to meet all demands of the Radio Industry.

ANTENNA WIRE	BUS BAR WIRE
MAGNET WIRE	ANNUNCIATOR WIRE
LITZ WIRE	LOOP AERIAL WIRE
LEAD-IN WIRE	GUY WIRE
FLEXIBLE SILK WIRE	DETECTOR WIRE

And the New Fast Seller

Corwico Braided Ribbon Antenna
Plain, Tinned, or Enameled

Counter Display Cartons FREE to Jobbers.
Write for details.

JOBBERS! Write for Our Distributor's Proposition

CORNISH WIRE CO.
30 Church St., New York, N. Y.

Commonwealth. Apparently Corwico was a large and important employer in the area. The 1930's-vintage aerial photograph and caption, is from *The North Adams Transcript*.

The company's Williamstown facility is known locally as the Water St. Mill. The mill was constructed in 1873 by A. Loop and Co, a company that made twine.⁽¹⁾ Over time, the plant was enlarged out into a peninsula on the Green River, shown in the background. "The 1873 mill was a relatively small structure, two stories; it may lie buried within the many wings at the rear of the complex."⁽¹⁾ "The twine factory soon failed, and in 1892, the mill was bought by a fabric company, and then by another fabric company, the Boyd Corduroy Co., which added to the building after 1912. Cornish Wire took over the plant in 1836(sic)¹ and used it for finishing electrical wiring, applying rubber coatings to cables....⁽¹⁾

The company's advertising refers to addresses in New York City² exclusively³. On this basis, I assume that New York was the location of their central sales and or administrative facility.

The earliest information that I have on Corwico dates from late 1924, but I believe that the company was in business prior to that time. In the mid 1920's, the company was only advertising radio wires.

¹ I am sure that the actual purchase dates to 1936.

² Addresses include 30 Church St., 50 Church St., and 15 Park Row.

³ Williamstown is listed only as a location of a company representative.

Their product line included wires both internal and external to the sets.

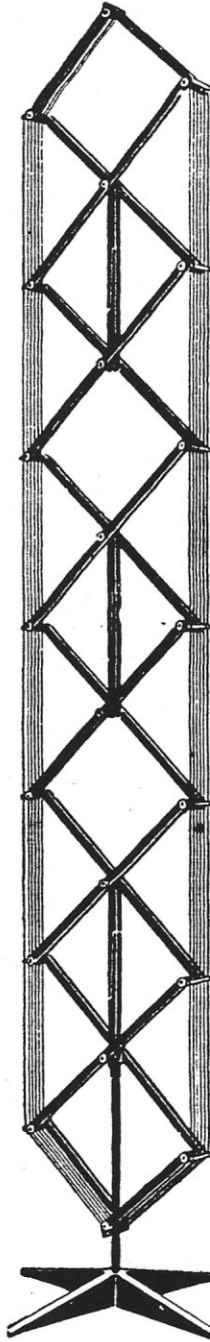
In the 1920's many manufacturers of radio accessories sold loop-style antennas – providing an important market for Corwico wire. Wound on open wooden frames ranging in size from 6" to 7', loop antennas were often swivel-mounted so that they could be turned to maximize signal strength. Wire for such antennas was typically covered in cotton or silk woven insulation that was stained brown or black. The Volumax loop antenna shown here was sold in the mid 1920's. At 7'9" tall, this is the largest antenna of the type that I've seen (discounting the huge direction-finding loops used commercially and in military service).

During the 1920's radio boom, other markets for Corwico wire would have been headphone cords and wiring harnesses necessary to the battery-operated radios. Birnbach (OFS 10/97) was another competitor in these markets.

In addition to the fabric-insulated wire products, Corwico sold wire insulated with varnish for outdoor antennas, for winding transformers, and for other applications.

The company's first "complete" antenna products were probably the ribbon-style antennas that were sold in the mid-1920's. Such antennas are woven from very fine wires, making a conductive ribbon. Ribbon antennas were typically tacked up around the ceiling of the living room (and probably taken down just as soon as there was a viable

A Remarkable Loop Improvement



Here's a loop as startling in its advantages as it is in construction. It gives a volume, selectivity and distance never before attained in loop reception.

"The height does the trick." The Volumax stands on the floor and is 7' 9" high. Yet it swings in a radius of only 7½". You have never seen a loop so downright convenient. In just a few seconds it can be collapsed into a box 7½"x3½"x20".

The Volumax is as big an advance over ordinary loop aerials as the "Super-Het" is over the old time crystal set. There's no other like it. No other can offer its marked advantages.

If your dealer hasn't the Volumax in stock, write direct to us and we will see that you are supplied. Price \$17.50.

The Scott & Fetzer Co.
Radio Division
Cleveland, Ohio

DEALERS—If you don't already carry the Volumax, write us for complete information and our dealer proposition. It is one of the biggest radio improvements of the year and by far the most important of its kind.

VOLUMAX LOOP

alternative available). I had the good fortune to purchase several examples of ribbon antennas recently, the first that I've seen outside of old magazine ads. Although ribbon antennas come in various styles, they usually resemble woven metallic Christmas tinsel, or narrow lawn chair webbing. Because of their fragile (and disposable) nature, any original Corwico examples should be considered rare and desirable.

In 1925, the National Board of Fire Underwriters promulgated regulations that required the use of lightning arresters for all outdoor antennas⁴. This requirement spawned huge growth in the sales of lightning arresters and for antenna kits. By 1927, Corwico was advertising complete outdoor antenna kits, but lightning arresters and insulators were not advertised separately until later.

The Corwico Vulcan glass arresters were probably Corwico's first lightning arresters. We pictured some of the L.S. Brach-made glass arresters in the June 2000 issue. The glass Vulcan was a two-post style. Since the previous article, I've had the opportunity to study more

Corwico Lightning Arrester

As a safeguard for radio receivers, Cornish Wire Company, Inc., of New York City, offer the Corwico Vulcan Lightning Arrester. This lightning arrester (Fig. 5), according to the manufacturer, is designed not only to protect the radio receiver against damage from lightning but also to dissipate static charges accumulated in the

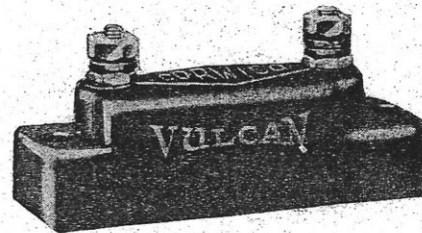


Fig. 5

antenna. To accomplish this, materials are used which result in minimum voltage breakdown and at the same time offer maximum resistance under operating conditions. The Cornish Wire Company, Inc., include with the arrester a guarantee up to \$100 for a receiver damaged by lightning when protected by a Vulcan Arrester.

⁴ Article 3702 b "Each Lead-in conductor shall be provided with an approved protective device (lightning arrester) which will operate at voltage of 500 volts or less, properly connected and located either inside the building at some point between the entrance and the set which is convenient to a ground, or outside the building as near as practicable to the point of entrance. The protector shall not be placed in the immediate vicinity of easily ignitable stuff, or where exposed to inflammable gases or dust or flyings of combustible materials.

examples of the glass arresters. The two-post neon arresters used a simple two-wire neon lamp as a gap. The doublet style arresters used, what is to me, an unusual three-wire neon lamp. Interestingly, the nearly identical Kantstrike arrester uses a more conventional resistance-type gap in place of the neon tube. I don't know which type of gap the glass Vulcan used.

Corwico introduced the porcelain No. 800 Vulcan lightning arrester in 1929. The two-post porcelain arrester was glazed in a very unusual dark green finish. I don't believe that I've seen any other arresters or insulators glazed in that color.


The very-common blue-glazed No. 825 (two-post) and No. 827 (doublet) Corwico arresters replaced the Vulcan.

By the late 1920's, the company was selling its own brand of glass insulators. I believe that the same house that made glass insulators for the Knox Porcelain Company manufactured Corwico's glass insulators. The glass insulator boxes exactly match Knox's own products (except for the name). Examples of glass insulators embossed with the KNOX name are commonly found. Since no embossed Corwicos are known, I have to assume that the Corwico examples either bore the KNOX name or were unmarked.

Though I have seen several Corwico boxes, the insulators were always unmarked, and I have no way of



Servisints
FOR
SERVICE MEN




"No radio . . . can be any better than the antenna which brings in its programs." O. H. CALDWELL

Recommend
NOISE-MASTER
ALL-WAVE ANTENNA

Installation of this great A. A. & K. licensed antenna solves the householder's reception problem! No more man-made static! On broadcast as well as on shortwave lengths, "NOISE-MASTER" eliminates interference and improves "listening" in ANY location. Good money in it for YOU, too.

No. 14—Illustrated above; for broadcast and short-wave frequency; easily installed; fits ANY radio. List \$6.75

Gornish Wire Co., Inc.
30 CHURCH STREET
NEW YORK CITY



telling if they were original to the boxes.

Advertising from the 1940's mentions the No. 790 glazed porcelain insulator. Unfortunately there are no pictures of the item and I have no examples of an embossed Corwico porcelain strain.

The company's later lightning arresters were cobalt-glazed porcelain. It would be reasonable to expect that the company's strains, often sold with the cobalt arresters as parts of antenna kits, would have been glazed to match. In addition to the oft-seen large, blue, FEDCO strains, small, unmarked, blue porcelain strains are commonly found. Perhaps some of them are Corwicos. I believe that it is quite likely that either Federal Porcelain (FEDCO) or Knox Porcelain were the source of Corwico's insulators and arresters. Both products are typical of the companies' production.

In the mid 1930's, Corwico began producing doublet-style antennas under a licensing agreement with Amy, Aceves, and King. AAK⁵ patented a design for an antenna transformer that improved the efficiency of dipole-style antennas and eliminated electrical interference to a great degree. During the short-wave listening craze of the later 1930's Corwico cataloged a series of doublet-style antenna kits, many of which are illustrated later in this issue.

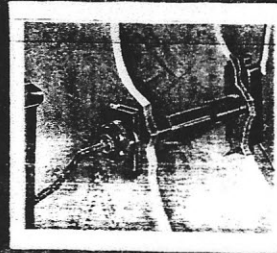
⁵ Amy, Aceves, and King also produced other private label items and sold antennas under their own Technical Appliance Co (TACO) trademark.

Corwico sold an unusual antenna lead-in called a Cor-nex connector in the late 1930's. I believe that Woodruff and Company of Meridian, MS made the Cor-nex for Corwico. Lead-in straps (which Corwico also sold) called for placing a small flat wire across the sill of a double-hung window. The Cor-nex connector placed a plug connection on the inside of the wall that was coupled to a lightning arrester on the outside. Drilling a hole in the wall and passing wires through made the connection between the inside and outside. The Cor-nex connector might create a more reliable connection, however I question the wisdom of trading a temporary, portable, under-the-window connection for drilling a hole through your wall to accommodate a Cor-nex. Apparently many consumers were dubious as well because the Cor-nex connectors are almost non-existent today.

There is ample evidence that Corwico produced wire products for the military during World War II and an ad about post-war reconversion appears on the back cover of this issue. Since they were a value-added producer of insulators and arresters, it is doubtful that Corwico made either product under military contract. I've been unable to find a military manufacturer's symbol for the company.

By the late 1940's, Corwico had returned to its core business of manufacturing wire and cables. In fact, although the doublet antennas continued to be advertised during the War years, the shift to military wire

Servisints
FOR
SERVICE MEN



There's SWEET Profit in
COR-NEX
DeLuxe Aerial-Receiver
CONNECTOR
Here is that amazing, easily installed device that has taken the Service world by storm . . . and one of the most profitable jobs in your kit! Seven simple steps, COR-NEX is on the job . . . and messy window strips and straggling wires are gone forever. How housewives will THANK you, when you install COR-NEX!
COMPLETE—with doublet lightning arrester, decorative inside plate with leads and polarized plug with cord. List . . . \$2.50
Cornish Wire Co., Inc.
30 CHURCH STREET
NEW YORK CITY



production for World War II may have spelled the end of Corwico's radio antenna business. The company's wire and cable business continued to thrive into the 1950's.

According to a *Wall St. Journal* article, in December 1958, General Bronze, the company that had purchased L.S. Brach in 1951, bought out The Cornish Wire Company. The *Water St. Mill* article goes on to say that a company named General Cable purchased Corwico (date unknown). Today, General Cable's website provides no information on Corwico and the list of North American locations does not include Williamstown, MA. One must assume that Corwico's assets have long-since been dispersed.

End Notes

1. from the internet:
http://adr.millinfo.org/mills/water_st_mill.shtml

Sources

- "Aerial Equipment" *Radio News* 6/32 pg. 1031.
Catalog No. 27, The Electric Corporation Los Angeles, 1926.
Cornish Wire Co ad *Service* 7/38 pg. 27.
Puttre, Bob lightning arrester list 12/99.
Radio's Master United Publishers, New York 1943 10th edition.
Radio's Master United Publishers New York 1945 11th edition.
Radio Trade Directory 11/24.
Radio Trade Directory 4/25.
The Wall Street Journal 12/10/58.
Woodruff and Company ad, *Radio Craft* 7/32 pg. 53.

Photo Credits

- Front Cover: Corwico Box
Pg. 3 aerial photo (from the internet)
http://adr.millinfo.org/mills/photos/water_st/
Pg. 4: (a) *Radio Trade Directory* 11/24 pg. 112 (b) *Radio Trade Directory* 8/25 pg. 181.
Pg. 5: *Radio News* 4/25 pg. 1918.
Pg. 6: *Radio News* 11/29 pg. 449.
Pg. 7: Corwico & Knox boxes.
Pg. 8: *Service* 12/38 pg. 23.
Pg. 9: *Service* 12/38 pg. 23.
Pg. 10: *Citizens Radio Call Book Magazine* 9/29 pg. 118.
Pg. 11: *Radio's Master* 1943 10th edition.
Pg. 12: (a) *Radio Broadcast* 7/29 pg. 126. (b) ebay (c) *Radio's Master* 1943 10th edition.
Pg. 13: (a) *Radio News* 2/35 pg. 524. (b) *Radiolek* 1937 Catalog
Pg. 14: *Radio's Master* 1943 10th edition.
Back Cover: *Radio & TV Retailing* 4/45 pg. 110.

CORWICO ANTENNA KIT

PRICE
\$2.50



This is the time of the year you should overhaul your radio to get ready for the new fall and winter programs. There is no part of a radio installation more important and conducive to clear and uninterrupted reception than the aerial lead-in wires, etc. At very little expense and within a few minutes time, you can have complete new aerial equipment. Buy the Corwico Antenna Kit No. 4. It contains everything necessary for a complete antenna equipment, including a Corwico Vulcan Lightning Arrester.

At Your Dealers or Direct
Upon Receipt of Price

CORNISH WIRE CO.
30 Church St., New York

MAKERS OF
CORWICO BRAIDITE HOOK UP WIRE

Corwico Checklist

Insulators - Strain

No. 775 (No. 1) Glass 3"

No. 2 Glass 3-3/4"

No. 790 Porcelain



GLASS INSULATORS

Substantially made of non-brittle crystal glass.

No. 1—3" length, 100 per carton.....List per C \$6.00
 No. 2—3 3/4" length, 25 per carton.....List per C 6.50

PORCELAIN INSULATORS

Made of high grade glazed porcelain for long and short wave antennas.
 No. 790.....List per C \$3.90

Insulators - Standoff

No. 795 porcelain eye 3"

No. 796 porcelain eye 6"

No. 797 bakelite eye 3"

No. 798 bakelite eye 6"



SCREW EYE INSULATORS

Packed 50 to a Carton

No.	List per C
795—Porcelain Eye, 3".....	\$3.90
796—Porcelain Eye, 6".....	4.50
797—Bakelite Eye, 3".....	4.70
798—Bakelite Eye, 6".....	5.70

Lead-in Strips

CORWICO LEAD-IN STRIPS

All Strips 12" Long—Packed 50 to a Carton

No.	List per C
760—1/2" Zinc, High Gloss, Soldered Terminals.....	\$5.85
761—1/2" Zinc, High Gloss, not Soldered Terminals.....	5.35
770—1/2" Zinc, Dull Finish, not Soldered Terminals.....	4.50
771—1/2" Zinc, Dull Finish, Soldered Terminals.....	5.00
750—1/2" Copper, High Gloss, Soldered Terminals.....	6.75
751—1/2" Copper, High Gloss, not Soldered Terminals.....	6.25

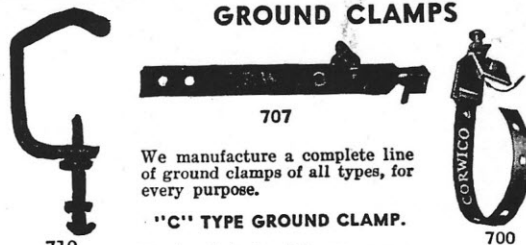
SCREW END LEAD-IN STRIPS



Equipped with screw-type terminals, insuring positive and lasting contact. Length 12"—Packed 50 to a Carton.
 No. 780—Copper, High Gloss.....List per C \$7.00
 No. 781—Zinc, High Gloss.....List per C 6.40
 No. 755—Doublet, Copper, High Gloss.....List per C 18.00

Ground Clamps & Rods

GROUND CLAMPS



We manufacture a complete line of ground clamps of all types, for every purpose.

"C" TYPE GROUND CLAMP.

710 Hardened steel point, assures positive ground connection. Opening 1 3/4". Packed 50 to a carton.
 No. 710—Cadmium PlatedList per C \$6.00
 No. 713—Plain FinishList per C 4.80

SADDLE TYPE GROUND CLAMP. Hardened steel point assures positive contact. Easily applied to any pipe or rod from 1/2" to 2 1/2" in diameter. Cadmium Plated. Packed 50 to a carton.
 No. 700—Saddle TypeList per C \$5.50

STRAP TYPE GROUND CLAMP. Packed 50 to a carton. The No. 708 Clamps have a copper finish.
 No. 707—Copper Strap ClampList per C \$4.25
 No. 708—Steel Strap ClampList per C 3.80



GROUND RODS No. 785 Made of 3/8" coppered steel, 4 ft. long. Has adjustable saddle with pointed screw for positive ground connection. Packed—12. Weight 20 lbs. Each.....50



RADIO WIRE *products*

Lightning Arresters

Vulcan, 2 pole, glass, 4-1/2", PAT
PEND VULCAN CORNISH WIRE
CO ANT GRD (top).

No. 800, Vulcan 2 pole, dark green
glaze porcelain, 4-1/2" long,
embossing CORWICO VULCAN
RADIO LIGHTNING ARRESTER
ANT GND (top) 800 (bottom).

No. 825, 2 pole, blue glaze
porcelain, boat shaped, 3-3/4"
long, embossing ANT CORWICO
GND (top), plain bottom, Corwico
is in large font.

No. 825, 2 pole, blue glaze
porcelain, boat shaped, 3-3/4"
long, embossing ANT CORWICO
GND (top) 825 (bottom), Corwico
is in small font.

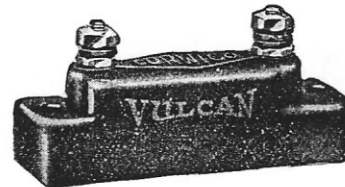
No. 825, 2 pole, blue glaze
porcelain, boat shaped, 3-3/4"
long, embossing ANT CORWICO
GND (top) 825 U.S.A. (bottom),
Corwico is in small font.

No. 825, 2 pole, blue glaze
porcelain, rectangular, 3-3/4"
long, embossing CORWICO NO.
825 RADIO LIGHTNING
ARRESTERS GND ANT (top),
825 (bottom).

No. 827, 3 pole, (doublet), blue glaze
porcelain, boat shaped, 4-1/16"
long, embossing CORWICO ---
DOUBLET ANT GND ANT
LIGHTNING ARRESTER (top),
827 (bottom)

A Good
SUMMER SELLER!

CORWICO
VULCAN
Lightning Arrester



List \$1.00

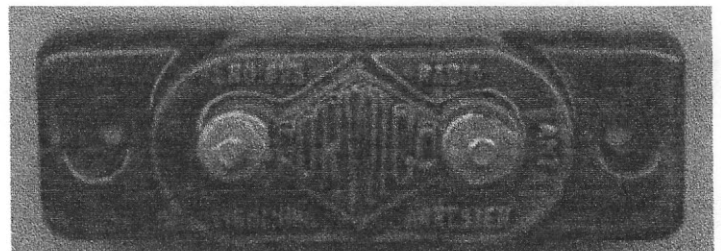
The CORWICO VULCAN LIGHTNING AR-
RESTER not only protects a radio receiver
against lightning but it also dissipates accumu-
lated static charges. Corwico Vulcan is the best
value lightning arrester on the market. It is big
—it is colorful, an attractive dark green shade,
and it is packed in an eye-catching, two-color
box.

\$100 GUARANTEE

Inclosed in every box is a guarantee to repair
up to a cost of \$100, any radio set protected by
a CORWICO VULCAN LIGHTNING AR-
RESTER that is damaged by lightning. Stock
this item now for quick sales and profits.

*If Your Jobber Cannot Supply
You, Order A Sample Direct.*

CORNISH WIRE COMPANY
30 Church Street, New York City
*Makers of
Corwico BRAIDITE Hook-Up Wire*



ANTENNA ACCESSORIES

LIGHTNING ARRESTERS

Extreme care has been given to the
design of these arresters to produce
low-priced products of greatest possi-
ble value.

	List Price
No. 825—2 Pole	25c
No. 827—3 Pole (Doublet)	35c



Aerial Kits

Corwico Ribbon Antenna

No. 3 The Major

No. 4 Vulcan

No. 4 The Captain

No. 5 The Lieutenant

No. 11 Explorer

No. 12 Conqueror

No. 14 Noise Master (early)

No. 14 Noise Master (later)

No. 18 Noise Master

No. 19 Noise Master

?? Standard Kit

?? Special Kit

"NOISE MASTER"

Antenna by



Insures perfect reception



Eliminates "man-made" noises over both short-wave and broadcast bands. Licensed under Amy, Aceves & King Patents. The last word in radio engineering, assuring highest possible antenna efficiency. With NOISE MASTER, one aerial acts electrically as two or more perfect antennas, permitting operation of more than one set from the same aerial. An ideal store-demonstration kit.

Cat. No. 14

LIST PRICE

\$6.75

Also CONQUEROR, Cat. No. 12, List Price..... \$3.40
And EXPLORER, Cat. No. 11, List Price..... \$3.70

This company for many years famous for highest type antennas and radio wire products, offers to service organizations a really helpful antenna counsel.

WRITE US FOR LATEST DATA

CORNISH WIRE CO.

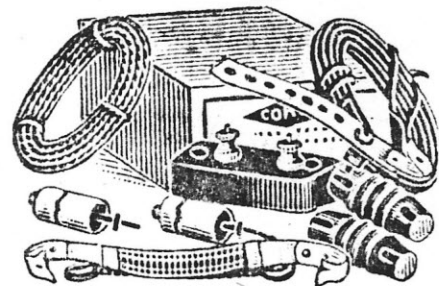
30 Church Street, New York City

Aerial Kits - Priced Right

STANDARD KIT CONTAINS:

50 ft. No. 7/26 stranded aerial wire; 25 ft. rubber covered lead-in wire; 1 approved lightning arrester; 2 porcelain insulators; 1 ground clamp; 1 window lead-in; 2 porcelain nail knobs.

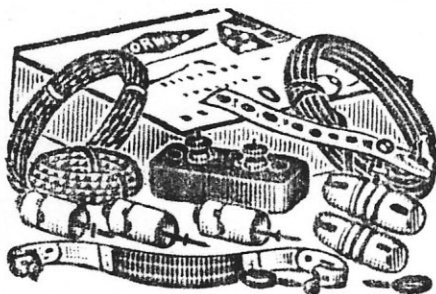
K4945—YOUR PRICE 37¢



SPECIAL KIT CONTAINS:

75 ft. No. 7/26 stranded aerial wire; 50 ft. rubber covered lead-in wire; 25 ft. ground wire; 1 standard approved lightning arrester; 2 porcelain insulators; 3 porcelain nail knobs; 2 galvanized screw eyes; 1 window lead-in strip; 1 ground clamp; 1 instruction sheet.

K4946—YOUR PRICE 63¢





NOISE-MASTER

ALL-WAVE ANTENNA

FOR EVERY SET AND LOCATION

Eliminates "man-made" static on broadcast as well as short wave bands.

There is a correct "NOISE-MASTER" antenna for every set and location. Radio reception is enjoyed to its fullest extent by installing one of these competent units. "NOISE-MASTER" is scientifically engineered to filter out the innumerable nuisance noises caused by electrical devices . . . assuring perfect reception over broadcast as well as short-wave frequency.

No. 14 "NOISE-MASTER"

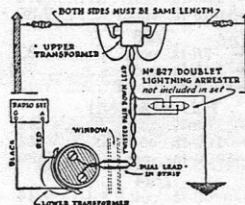
\$6.75 LIST. Code: CORAL, Wt. 2 lbs. 12 oz.

Recommended where there are sufficient "man-made" noises to interfere with radio reception over both the short-wave and broadcast bands. Licensed under Amy, Aceves & King patent No. Re. 19854. A highly engineered product which makes one aerial act electrically as two perfect

antennas. Two or more sets (preferably not more than 4) can be operated at the same time on the same antenna by using an additional lower transformer unit on each additional set. Assures highest efficiency over the entire receiving band.

CONTENTS:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 2—30 foot coils of stranded copper antenna wire | 3—6" screw eye insulators |
| 1 upper transformer assembly | 1 No. 755 dual lead-in strip |
| 2 glass insulators | 1 lower transformer unit |
| 75 feet twisted pair down lead | 1—4" porcelain tube |
| No. 14a (Code: CUTAT)—Kit containing upper and lower transformers only.....List \$5.00 | 1 instruction sheet |
| No. 127 (Code: CYTAT)—Extra lower transformers, each.....List 2.25 | |
| No. 14b (Code: CATAW)—"EUROPEAN NOISE-MASTER." Same as No. 14 except that transformers are designed to operate on 15 to 2100 meters.....List 7.00 | |
| No. 128 (Code: CYTAR)—European type lower transformer.....List 2.50 | |



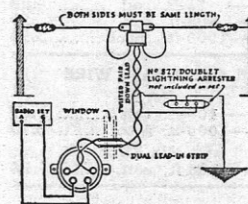
No. 14

No. 19 "NOISE-MASTER" . . \$4.95 LIST. Code: CYRAX. Wt. 3 lbs. 13 ozs.

This antenna is a deluxe doublet employing an Amy, Aceves & King licensed Self-Selecting matching transformer and a junction box in the antenna line. Easy to install and factory fabricated. When properly erected it assures excellent all-wave reception.

CONTENTS:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2—30 ft. coils 7/23 aerial wire | 1 No. 755 dual lead-in strip |
| 2—No. 1 porcelain insulators | 1—4" porcelain tube |
| 1 junction-box assembly | 1 No. 129 Self-Selecting transformer |
| 75 ft. No. 123 twisted pair down lead | 1 instruction sheet. |
| 8—6" screw eye insulators | |



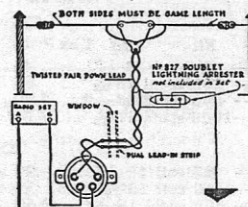
No. 19

No. 18 "NOISE-MASTER" . . \$3.75 LIST. Code: CIRAM. Wt. 3 lbs. 12 ozs.

A licensed Amy, Aceves & King antenna at a popular price! Simple doublet type, featuring a high-grade Self-Selecting licensed matching transformer. Easy to install and completely factory fabricated. Recommended for locations where "man-made" static interferes with short-wave but not with ordinary broadcast reception.

CONTENTS:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2—30 ft. coils 7/24 "TRI-COR" all-wave aerial wire. | 10 ft. coil stranded twisted pair brown inside lead-in wire |
| 2 No. 2 glass insulators | 3—6" screw eye insulators |
| 1 triangular porcelain center insulator | 1 No. 755 dual lead-in strip |
| 60 ft. No. 117 stranded twisted "TU KOLOR" down lead (connected at our factory to the two coils of aerial wire at center insulator) | 1—4" porcelain tube |
| | 1 No. 129 Self-Selecting transformer |
| | 1 instruction sheet |



No. 18

BROADCAST ANTENNA KITS

These are popular priced broadcast kits of the "L" type. Each kit contains the necessary parts for the installation of the complete antenna. They are furnished in an attractive two-color box.

Kit No. 3 THE MAJOR

Code: CYTAM. Wt. 3 lbs.

CONTENTS:

- 75 ft. No. 15 stranded aerial wire; 35 ft. rubber-covered lead-in wire; 1 No. 825 lightning arrester; 2 glass insulators; 2 glazed porcelain nail knobs; 1—3" screw eye stand-off insulator; 1 No. 760 high gloss lead-in strip; 1 No. 710 "C" type ground clamp; 15 ft. flexible rubber-covered wire; 6 insulated staples; 2 wood screws.

\$1.55 List

Kit No. 4 THE CAPTAIN

Code: CYTON. Wt. 2 1/2 lbs.

CONTENTS:

- 75 ft. 7/24 stranded aerial wire; 25 ft. rubber-covered lead-in wire; 1 No. 825 lightning arrester; 2 porcelain insulators; 2 glazed porcelain nail knobs; 1 No. 760 high gloss lead-in strip; 1 No. 712 "C" type ground clamp; 15 ft. flexible rubber-covered wire; 2 wood screws.

\$1.25 List

Kit No. 5 THE LIEUTENANT

Code: CYTAA. Wt. 2 lbs.

CONTENTS:

- 75 ft. 7/27 stranded aerial wire; 25 ft. rubber-covered lead in wire; 1 No. 825 lightning arrester; 2 porcelain insulators; 2 nail knobs; 1 No. 707 strap type ground clamp; 1 No. 770 lead-in strip; 2 wood screws.

95c List



Cumulative Subject Index to Old Familiar Strains Thru 12/01

<u>Subject</u>	<u>date</u>	<u>pg.</u>			
Accumet Engineering Corp	Dec-97	9	Birnbach	Jul-94	10
Aeolus Corp.	Apr-99	4	Birnbach	Oct-97	
air gap insulators	Jun-01	3	Birnbach	Oct-98	30
air pocket insulators (see W.B. Mfg. Co)			Birnbach	Oct-99	10
airplane insulators	Dec-98		Birnbach	Jun-00	6
airplane insulators	Feb-99	13	black light	Jul-94	3
airplane insulators	Apr-01	16	black light	Feb-99	13
Ajax Electric Specialty Co.	Apr-99	4	bottle stopper insulators	Apr-96	10
Akron Porcelain	Oct-98	30	Brach, LS Mfg. Co	Jul-94	5
Akron Porcelain and Plastics Co.	Dec-97	9	Brach, LS Mfg. Co	Jul-94	10
AlSiMag Technical Ceramics Inc. (see Am. Lava)			Brach, LS Mfg. Co	Oct-95	
American Lava (AlSiMag)	Dec-97	9	Brach, LS Mfg. Co	Oct-97	3
American Lava (AlSiMag)	Oct-98	30	Brach, LS Mfg. Co	Jun-98	10
American Lava (AlSiMag)	Oct-00	45	Brach, LS Mfg. Co	Oct-98	12
American Lava (AlSiMag)	Oct-00	51	Brach, LS Mfg. Co	Oct-98	22
Amy, Aceves & King	Dec-01	8	Brach, LS Mfg. Co	Oct-98	30
Anderson, J.M. & Albert Mfg. Co.	Feb-00	3	Brach, LS Mfg. Co	Dec-98	15
antenna cleaner	Dec-94	10	Brach, LS Mfg. Co	Feb-99	3
antenna - doublet	Jun-01	1	Brach, LS Mfg. Co	Oct-99	15
antenna - loop	Dec-01	5	Brach, LS Mfg. Co	Jun-00	6
antenna - odd	Oct-01	47	Brach, LS Mfg. Co	Jun-00	8
Antenna - ribbon	Dec-01	5	Brach, LS Mfg. Co	Jun-00	13
antennas	Oct-01		Brach, LS Mfg. Co	12-01	6
Architectural Tiling Co., Inc.	Dec-97	9	Brach, LS Mfg. Co	12-01	10
Associated Ceramics	Dec-97	9	Brilliant Glass Company	Apr-96	1
awning rings	Dec-98	16	Bud Radio	Jul-94	10
ball antennas	Apr-97	4	Bud Radio	Apr-95	10
ball antennas	Apr-01	8	Bud Radio	Oct-98	30
ball antennas	Oct-01	56	Budwig Mfg	Dec-94	4
Barkeley Electric Mfg Company	Apr-01	9	Budwig Mfg	Apr-95	3
Barkeley Electric Mfg Company	Jun-01	16	Budwig Mfg	Oct-98	14
Barker & Williamson Co.	Oct-98	30	Budwig Mfg	Oct-98	30
Belden Mfg. Co.	Jul-94	10	Buffington	Jul-94	8
Belden Mfg. Co.	Oct-98	30	Buffington	Jun-95	1
Belden Mfg. Co.	Feb-99	13	Buffington	Oct-98	14
Belknap Hardware & Mfg. Co.	Feb-97	6	Buffington	Oct-98	30
Bendix	Jul-94	4	Bullers Co.	Dec-99	15
Bendix	Jun-95	1	C F I Corp	Dec-97	9
Bendix	Dec-98	10	car antennas	Jun-01	6
Bendix	Apr-99	7	carnival glass	Jun-98	16
Birnbach	Jul-94	5	carnival glass	Feb-01	33

cataloging antenna insulators I	Feb-95		Corwico (see Cornish Wire Co.)		
cataloging antenna insulators II	Apr-95		Cotronix Corp	Dec-97	9
cataloging antenna insulators III	Jun-95	1	Crowley & Co. Inc.	Dec-97	9
cataloging antenna insulators IV	Apr-96	7	Dayton Aircraft Products	Dec-98	7
cataloging insulators V	Jun-97	4	DeJur lightning arresters	Apr-01	3
Centerflex Technologies Corp.	Dec-97	9	Deutschmann, Tobe C.	Feb-98	14
Centralab	Dec-97	4	Deutschmann, Tobe C.	Apr-98	14
Centralab	Dec-97	9	Doelter, Otto	Oct-01	50
Centralab	Oct-98	30	Dubilier	Jun-00	9
Ceramic Allied Products	Dec-96	7	Du-Co Ceramics Co.	Dec-97	9
Ceram-Tek	Dec-97	9	DX Instrument Company (see Fil-Ko)		
Circle F Manufacturing Co.	Dec-96	7	Edward Hines Lumber Co.	Dec-97	9
Clarksburg Glass Co.	Jun-99	16	Elan Technology	Dec-97	9
cleaning insulators	Dec-95	5	Electrad	Apr-99	5
cleaning insulators	Apr-97	11	Electric Service Supplies Co. (see ESSCO)		
Consolidated	Jul-94	4	Electrose Insulator Co.	Jul-94	10
Consolidated	Dec-00	15	Electrose Insulator Co.	Jun-97	4
Cook Ceramic Co.	Dec-96	7	Electrose Insulator Co.	Oct-98	30
Cook Ceramic Co.	Dec-97	9	Electrose Insulator Co.	Apr-99	5
Cook Electric Co.	Oct-98	30	English insulators	Dec-95	4
Cook Electric Co.	Oct-99	16	English insulators	Dec-00	13
Cook Electric Co.	Dec-99	16	ESSCO	Dec-99	
Cook Pottery	Dec-96	6	ESSCO	Feb-00	33
Cook Pottery	Jun-01	7	ESSCO	Jun-00	16
corkscrew insulators	Jun-01	8	Everett	Feb-99	13
Corning Glass	Jul-94	10	F C M (see Mesa, Fernando C)		
Corning Glass	Oct-94	7	Fairmount Elec. & Mfg. Co.	Jul-94	5
Corning Glass	Apr-95	8	fake radio strains	Oct-97	24
Corning Glass	Feb-96	13	fake radio strains	Jun-00	3
Corning Glass	Feb-98		Fansteel Products Co. Inc.	Apr-99	6
Corning Glass	Apr-98		Fansteel Products Co. Inc.	Oct-99	8
Corning Glass	Jun-98	16	Federal Porcelain Co	Dec-01	8
Corning Glass	Oct-98	30	Fil-Ko	Jun-01	4
Corning Glass	Dec-98	14	Findlay	Jul-94	5
Corning Glass	Jun-99	5	Fleron, M.M & Sons	Oct-96	
Corning Glass	Jun-99	15	Fleron, M.M & Sons	Dec-96	1
Corning Glass	Oct-99	4	Fleron, M.M & Sons	Feb-97	11
Corning Glass	Apr-00	19	Fleron, M.M & Sons	Feb-99	13
Corning Glass	Jun-00	4	Fleron, M.M & Sons	Apr-99	1
Corning Glass	Jun-00	13	Fleron, M.M & Sons	Apr-99	10
Corning Glass	Oct-00	31	Fleron, M.M & Sons	Oct-00	41
Corning Glass	Feb-01		Freeman, E.H.	Dec-96	7
Cornish Wire Co.	Oct-94	7	Freeman, E.H.	Apr-99	5
Cornish Wire Co.	Oct-95	6	fluorescent insulators (see black light)		
Cornish Wire Co.	Jun-99	6	G-line communications	Jun-01	14
Cornish Wire Co.	Jun-00	6	G B (see Gustin-Bacon)		
Cornish Wire Co.	Dec-01	3	G B C Materials Corp	Dec-97	9

G T E Corp	Dec-97	9	Isolontite, Inc	Oct-98	30
Gartron-Daniels (see ESSCO)			Isolontite, Inc	Dec-98	1
Gem Clay Products	Dec-97	9	Isolontite, Inc	Dec-98	9
General Bronze	Oct-95	4	Isolontite, Inc	Feb-99	
General Bronze	Dec-01	10	Isolontite, Inc	Jun-99	13
General Cable	Dec-01	10	J F D Mfg. Co	Jul-94	10
General Ceramic & Steatite Corp.	Dec-97	9	J F D Mfg. Co	Oct-98	30
General Ceramics	Jul-94	10	J F D Mfg. Co	Apr-00	4
General Ceramics	Dec-97	2	J F D Mfg. Co	Jun-01	8
General Ceramics	Oct-98	30	J F D Mfg. Co	Jun-01	11
General Electric	Apr-99	5	J F D Mfg. Co	Jun-01	16
General Porcelain Co.	Jul-94	4	Jacobs, Charles F	Feb-96	10
General Porcelain Co.	Jul-94	5	Jacobs, Charles F	Dec-96	15
General Porcelain Co.	Feb-97	12	Jacobs, Charles F	Dec-98	16
General Radio Co.	Dec-96	5	Jacobs, Charles F	Apr-99	14
General Radio Co.	Apr-98	16	Japanese insulators	Jun-96	5
German insulators	Feb-98	14	Jenkins, D.C. Glass Company	Feb-96	4
German insulators	Apr-98	14	Jewell Electrical Instrument Co.	Jun-98	8
German insulators	Oct-99	24	Johnson, E F Co	Jul-94	10
golf ball insulators	Jun-97	16	Johnson, E F Co	Oct-98	30
golf ball insulators	Dec-97	16	Johnson, E F Co	Oct-00	
golf ball insulators	Dec-00	16	Johnson, E F Co	Dec-00	4
Greene Insulators	Dec-97	11	Johnson, E F Co	Apr-01	16
Greene Insulators	Apr-01	16	Johnson, E F Co	Jun-01	14
Gustin-Bacon Manufacturing Co.	Apr-01	5	Johnson, E F Co	Jun-01	15
Heinemann Electric Co.	Jul-94	4	Kadco Ceramics	Dec-97	9
Heinemann Electric Co.	Apr-99		Kantstrike (see Quam-Nichols Co.)		
Heinemann Electric Co.	Feb-00	33	Kellogg Switchboard & Supply Co.	Dec-00	1
Heinemann Electric Co.	Dec-00	8	Keystone (see ESSCO)		
Heinemann Electric Co.	Dec-00	15	Kirchberger, M. & Co. Inc.	Dec-97	9
Heinemann Electric Co.	Apr-01	13	Knox Porcelain Co.	Jul-94	4
Hercules (see Hull, S.W. & Co)			Knox Porcelain Co.	Feb-97	12
Hewlett	Oct-98	9	Knox Porcelain Co.	Dec-98	8
Hipple, S.R. (see Fil-Ko)			Knox Porcelain Co.	Oct-99	22
Hoechst Ceramic N. America Inc.	Dec-97	9	Knox Porcelain Co.	Dec-99	16
Hopewell	Jun-01	3	Knox Porcelain Co.	Dec-01	7
Hull, S.W. & Co.	Apr-99	5	Koran	Jun-99	15
Hy-gain	Jun-95	1	Lapp Insulator Co.	Dec-97	10
Iden Industris Inc.	Dec-97	9	Lapp Insulator Co.	Jun-98	4
Illinois Electric Porcelain	Oct-98	30	Lapp Insulator Co.	Oct-98	11
Illinois Electric Porcelain	Oct-99	1	Lapp Insulator Co.	Oct-98	30
Illinois Electric Porcelain	Oct-00	42	Lapp Insulator Co.	Dec-98	3
Insulaglas	Jul-94	4	Lapp Insulator Co.	Jun-99	13
Insuline Corp. of America	Oct-98	30	Lapp Insulator Co.	Feb-00	
Isolontite, Inc	Jul-94	10	Lapp Insulator Co.	Apr-00	18
Isolontite, Inc	Dec-97	7	Lapp Insulator Co.	Apr-00	22
Isolontite, Inc	Dec-97	9	Lapp Insulator Co.	Apr-01	16

Lenox China Co.	Dec-97	10	Morris Collapsible Ball Antennas	Oct-97	22
lightning rod "insulators"	Apr-01	4	Mykroy/Mycalex Ceramics	Dec-97	10
lightning rod "insulators"	Jun-01	14	National Ceramic Co.	Dec-97	10
lightning rods	Oct-01	56	National Company	Dec-97	6
Locke Insulator Co.	Jul-94	10	National Company	Oct-98	31
Locke Insulator Co.	Dec-97	10	National Porcelain Co.	Jul-94	10
Locke Insulator Co.	Dec-97	15	National Porcelain Co.	Dec-97	10
Locke Insulator Co.	Jun-98	11	National Porcelain Co.	Oct-98	31
Locke Insulator Co.	Oct-98	9	National Tile Co.	Dec-97	10
Locke Insulator Co.	Oct-98	15	New Haven Porcelain Co.	Dec-99	14
Locke Insulator Co.	Oct-98	31	Nu-Blac (See Fleron)		
Locke Insulator Co.	Jun-00	13	Ohio Brass Company	Oct-98	31
Locke Insulator Co.	Feb-01	12	Ohio Insulator Co.	Oct-98	10
Louthan Mfg. Corp.	Dec-97	10	opalescent glass	Apr-94	2
Loveless Antenna Inc.	Feb-98	13	opalescent glass	Jul-94	3
Mackiewicz, Dick (obituary)	Feb-98	3	Pacific Clay Products	Dec-97	10
Majestic (Grigsby-Gruno)	Apr-01	8	Pass & Seymour Inc.	Dec-97	10
Marks Products Co.	Apr-00	13	patents	Jul-94	7
Maryland Ceramic and Steatite Co. Inc.	Dec-97	10	patents	Oct-94	7
Maryland Lava Company	Dec-97	10	Peru Electric Manufacturing Company	Jun-98	8
measuring insulators	Jun-95	6	Philco	Apr-01	14
measuring insulators	Dec-95	5	Philco	Jun-01	
Mesa, Fernando C. Company	Jun-01	14	Philmore Mfg.	Oct-94	4
milk glass	Apr-94	2	Philmore Mfg.	Oct-94	8
milk glass	Jun-00	4	pin insulators	Oct-01	57
milk glass	Feb-01	42	Plastic Insulator Co.	Dec-97	10
military insulators	Jul-94	8	Porcelain Insulator Co.	Oct-98	31
military insulators	Jul-94	10	Porcelain Products Co.	Jul-94	5
military insulators	Dec-94	4	Porcelain Products Co.	Jul-94	10
military insulators	Jun-98	11	Porcelain Products Co.	Feb-97	12
military insulators	Oct-98		Porcelain Products Co.	Oct-98	31
military insulators	Dec-98	14	Prather Brothers	Oct-01	50
military insulators	Apr-99	14	Pyrex (see Corning)		
military insulators	Jun-99	11	Quam-Nichols Co.	Jun-00	6
military insulators	Apr-00	18	Quam-Nichols Co.	Dec-01	7
military insulators	Jun-00	13	Radio Central	Apr-97	8
military insulators	Feb-01	24	Radio Receptor Co.	Jul-94	4
military insulators	Feb-01	33	rubber insulators (aircraft)	Dec-96	15
military insulators	Feb-01	37	rubber insulators (aircraft)	Feb-97	13
military insulators	Apr-01	16	rubber insulators (aircraft)	Jun-97	14
military insulators	Oct-01	48	rubber insulators (aircraft)	Dec-98	7
military insulators	Oct-01	52	S F Radio	Jun-01	14
military insulators	Oct-01	58	S & S (see Smith & Stone Ltd.)		
Mindrum Precision Products	Dec-97	10	Saxonburg Potteries	Dec-97	10
molded composition insulators	Jun-97	4	Schaffler, Oscar	Oct-01	50
Morris Collapsible Ball Antennas	Apr-97	4	Scott & Fetzer Co.	Dec-01	5
Morris Collapsible Ball Antennas	Oct-97	3	Semiconductor Mfg. Corp.	Dec-97	10

Sensory (see Heinemann)			Trumbull Radio Insulators	Oct-99	24
shell insulators	Dec-95	4	Twin Towers	Dec-96	13
shield insulators	Oct-01	50	Twin Towers	Feb-97	14
Shinn, W.C.	Dec-00	6	Twin Towers	Jun-97	13
ship (boat) antennas	Apr-01	1	U.S. Stoneware Co.	Dec-97	10
shipwreck insulators	Jun-96		Valley Design Corp.	Dec-97	10
Silvertone	Dec-97	16	value	Apr-94	2
Silvertone	Jun-00	6	Victor Insulators	Jul-94	10
Smith & Stone Ltd.	Dec-99	15	Victor Insulators	Oct-98	31
Southern Porcelain Inc.	Dec-97	10	Victor-Bernard Industries Inc.	Dec-97	10
Square D	Jul-94	4	Voice of America - Bethany Relay	Jun-98	4
Square D	Jun-98	9	Voice of America - Bethany Relay	Jun-99	12
Square D	Apr-01	9	Volumax (see Scott & Fetzer Co.)		
Standard Electrical Products	Oct-98	31	Vulcan (see Cornish Wire Co.)		
standoff insulators - 4 wire	Oct-99	13	W.B. Mfg. Co (air pocket insulators)	Apr-96	12
Star Porcelain Co.	Dec-96	1	W.B. Mfg. Co (air pocket insulators)	Jun-96	12
Star Porcelain Co.	Dec-97	10	W.B. Mfg. Co (air pocket insulators)	Oct-99	19
Star Porcelain Co.	Apr-98	16	W.B. Mfg. Co (air pocket insulators)	Jun-01	14
Star Porcelain Co.	Oct-98	31	W4FXQ (see Buffington)		
Star Porcelain Co.	Jun-01	7	Ward Products Corp	Apr-01	6
steatite insulators	Dec-97		weather vane antennas	Apr-01	4
steatite insulators	Oct-98	13	Wireman Inc., The	Feb-97	10
steatite insulators	Oct-98	21	Wisconsin Ceramic Products	Dec-97	10
steatite insulators	Feb-99		Wisconsin Porcelain Co.	Dec-97	10
steatite insulators	Oct-00	45	Wisconsin Porcelain Co.	Oct-00	56
steatite insulators	Oct-00	54	Woodruff & Company	Dec-01	9
Steward, D M Mfg. Co.	Dec-97	10	Yahr-Lange Inc.	Apr-97	6
Steward, D M Mfg. Co.	Oct-00	54	Yahr-Lange Inc.	Apr-01	4
Stupakoff Ceramic & Mfg Co.	Jul-94	10	Yahr-Lange Inc.	Apr-01	8
Stupakoff Ceramic & Mfg Co.	Dec-97	10			
Stupakoff Ceramic & Mfg Co.	Oct-98	31			
Stupakoff Ceramic & Mfg Co.	Oct-98	40			
Superior Aerials	Apr-97	7			
Superior Steatite & Ceramic Corp.	Dec-97	10			
Superior Technical Ceramics Corp.	Dec-97	10			
Swan-Haverstick Inc	Apr-99	6			
Tantalum (See Fansteel Products)					
Thomas & Sons Co.	Jul-94	5			
Thomas & Sons Co.	Oct-98	26			
Thomas & Sons Co.	Oct-98	31			
Thor Ceramics Inc.	Dec-97	10			
Titan insulators	Apr-99	6			
trademarks	Jul-94	4			
trademarks on glass strains	Jun-97	14			
trademarks on glass strains	Oct-97	3			
Trenton Elec. & Conduit Co.	Jul-94	4			
Trenton Porcelain	Dec-96	7			

Reflections on *Old Familiar Strains*

How We Got Started

After corresponding with other collectors over the course of several years, Keith Roloson sent an open letter to a mailing list of 14 to see what interest there might be in starting a newsletter. Of the core group, six are still readers. In addition to these, we've built up to a rolling average of about 60 readers for each issue. If all of the people that had sent for samples, or tried the magazine and didn't renew, were still with us, we'd be "huge."

I was truly surprised and honored when Keith Roloson called and asked me to be the editor of his yet unnamed insulator magazine. Like many of you, I had been collecting "in a vacuum" for many years. I knew no other collectors with the exception of Jim Singleton in Massachusetts. I'd never heard of the National Insulator Association (despite the fact that the national convention had been here in Portland only a year or so before I joined). Jim got me in touch with Keith and I quickly subscribed.

Keith forwarded "the fund" and his best wishes and we were off.

The Name

When the newsletter came my way, it was nameless. I came up with the name "Old Familiar Strains" while visiting my brother early in the summer of 1994. I figured that the title not only named the insulators, but captured the essence of receiving strains of music on your old radio with its backyard antenna.

The Articles

I've never been burdened with large volumes of reader-supplied articles to sift through, so nearly every issue has been filled with articles that I wrote because they were of interest to me. Perhaps the most popular issue (in terms of feedback) was the October 1998 Military Insulator issue. The magazine, as a whole, was nominated for a N.R. Woodward excellence in writing award. I'm told that that was the first time that an article from a source other than *Crown Jewels* was so honored. Again, I usually write about things that I like so it is hard to point out other issues that are "favorites," but I would be remiss in not mentioning the October 2000 E F Johnson issue, the February 2000 Lapp issue, and the October 1996 Fleron issue. There are other favorites too. What makes these three special to me is the fact that in all three cases I got to correspond with people close to the companies. That meant a lot to me.

The Readers

There are a half-dozen folks who were there at the beginning and stuck with us all the way through. Steve & Lois Blair, Gene Condon, Charles Crews, Keith Roloson, and Jim Singleton all received that fateful letter way back when and have made significant contributions to the success of *Old Familiar Strains*. We've lost several members – Jim Overstreet and Dick Mackiewicz come immediately to mind.

I've met some of you through the mails and phone. Others I've had the pleasure of meeting in person. I hope to see you at shows and welcome your calls and letters as we continue on with our hobbies.

The Value

Keith was able to get printing for next-to-nothing so he simply asked for contributions enough to cover his postage. I never was able to match or beat Keith's price. Beginning in 1995, I set the suggested annual donation at \$10.00.

We've always run the newsletter on a not-for-profit basis with all monies being used for printing and mailing. And it has been my pleasure to operate in that fashion.

During the course of the run we weathered several postage increases and the price of printing tripled. Despite that, the number of pages printed each year increased steadily and the suggested donation only increased once.

	# of pages printed
1994	34
1995	60
1996	82
1997	86
1998	102
1999	84
2000	148
2001	166

The Future

After mulling over the options, I've decided to place *Old Familiar Strains* in hiatus. This will be the last issue until further notice. I've not ruled out a return when (if) my other commitments moderate. But, who knows? There may or may not be a future for printed periodicals. I must say that the monthly volume of contributions from our readers to on-line forums such as ICON probably exceeds the sum total of correspondence received during our 8-year run. Perhaps the publication of a book, collector's guide, or numbering system will spark additional interest in our hobby and will provide the critical mass to revive the newsletter. Maybe a website with static historical information and an accompanying bulletin board/chat room for strains information would be more appropriate? It will be interesting to see exactly what the future holds.

To the best of my ability I've endeavored to reconcile my records and provide appropriate refunds to the readers. If there is no refund letter with this issue, my records indicate that your subscription has expired and no refund is due. If I've erred, please contact me.

Please do not send renewals or new subscriptions. I have everyone's info on file and will endeavor to make sure that all collectors receive notice should *Old Familiar Strains* resume publication.

I thank you for joining me in this endeavor.

2016 PDF edition



is another phase of

WAR . . .

THEY call it LOGISTICS in war . . . the difficult science of getting supplies to the fronts where they can be used. Post-War Reconversion will involve the same problems . . . just another phase of war itself.

CORWICO Wires, so long practically non-existent for American industry because of our national emergency, will figure importantly in the new Logistics of Reconversion. Soon you will be able to get these scientific strands for peacetime uses . . . and the world will stride into a new era of construction and expansion in which you'll no longer be *doing without* . . .



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