

THE INFO AGE MARCONIGRAPH

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www.infoage.org

September 10, 2007

Chairman's Corner:

Since this past spring, InfoAge has been nothing but a hub of activity. We started in May with the NJHDA Shipwreck Symposium. June 2nd saw our Second Annual Wall of Honor Fundraiser where Mr. Max Adler (electronic warfare pioneer), Mr. Harold (radar systems engineer) and Mary (mathematician) Tate, and Dr. Harold Zahl (radar pioneer) were enshrined. On the 9th and 10th, MARCH held its Vintage Computer Festival East 4.0 where the keynote speaker video conferenced the event from Sri Lanka; a vintage car show on the 16th; and on June 23rd and 24th we had the NJARC Crystal Set Seminar and OMARC held its American Radio Relay League Field Day. In the first two weeks of July we hosted the Landmark Volunteers who did many upgrades of our facilities; on the 28th, NJARC had its Antique Radio Club Swap Meet; and we rented the Hotel for a few private parties. And back in September, 2006, guests at our Annual WWII Dance and Canteen were transformed back to the 1940's complete with a swing band, soldiers, Coke in bottles, and spam sandwiches!

Think of all this activity and then go back two years when the only thing happening at the hotel was paint peeling off the walls. Thanks to our volunteers and those of you who support our events, we have come a long way!

But we still have a long way to go, so check our calendar, support our events, volunteer a few hours a month, give a little and gain a lot. Whether your dollars or your time, we need your support to keep this great National Historic Site alive and well!

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MIRACLE IN WALL

A miracle has been and is occurring in Wall Township. Camp Evans has a future, a future honoring the accomplishments of those who helped win WWII. This is no ordinary miracle. This miracle started in August of 1958 on the pages of Readers Digest.

Dr. Harold Zahl, a radar pioneer, won the 1958 Readers Digest First Persons account contest. He told the tale of the first day Army radar saved American lives in a 1938 test gone wrong. The \$2,500 award inspired him to write two books revealing the once secret history of Camp Evans and Fort Monmouth.

How close did this miracle come to not happening? An article published in a 1993 headline read, "Evans Likely to Fade into Oblivion." Professional engineers developed estimates on the cost to demolish the buildings as part of a 1995 site study.

What happened? You happened. The members of InfoAge who read Dr. Zahl's books knew there was too much history, so much personal sacrifice, and so many possibilities to just level the site.

How did it happen and how is it happening? The Wall Township Committee and the Marconi Park Reuse Committee set the stage which enabled caring volunteers to use their talents and expertise to preserve the site. InfoAge members, veterans of Camp Evans and Wall Kiwanis Club provided the seed monies for the initial materials.

This miracle has super-heroes who stepped in when the miracle was threatened. The Wall Township Committee lead by Township Attorney Roger McLaughlin took on the largest bureaucracy in the nation. When repeated threats came, Mr. McLaughlin got help and council from Congressman Chris Smith and Betsy Merritt of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The miracle is not complete. It is a work in progress. Was it Steve Jobs who said "The journey is the reward?" In our case the miracle is our reward. Within this miracle are new friends, a sense of accomplishment and knowing you are part of a good thing that bridges the past with the future.

Keep painting, repairing, writing grant applications, researching history, giving tours and all those tasks that are making our miracle happen. If you have not yet done so, join InfoAge and share in the miracle.

Thank you,
Fred Carl, InfoAge Director
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The National Broadcasters Hall of Fame
at InfoAge

The National Broadcasters Hall Of Fame What Is It and Where Did It Come From?

Written by Ray Chase

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Many of you are aware that InfoAge is the current home of the National Broadcasters Hall of Fame under the custodianship of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club (NJARC). But what is the National Broadcasters Hall of Fame (NBHF), where did it originate, and what is its history?

There is quite a bit of information on the subject on the InfoAge website (www.infoage.org) but I'll try to summarize and add to it here. Based on some of the material now at InfoAge and a review of the information on the website, the following is a brief summary.

The National Broadcasters Hall of Fame represents a dedication to preserving the history of radio and TV broadcasting in this country. Arthur S. Schreiber a native of Freehold who was the publisher of the Freehold Transcript and Colonial News, created the Hall of Fame on May 1st, 1977 in response to suggestions from his son Josh who enjoyed hearing about old time radio and its star performers. The Schreiber family wanted to ensure that the importance of the radio pioneers and this communications media to our nation is neither lost nor forgotten, but rather remembered and honored. They collected artifacts, including physical equipment as well as program material, advertising and anything else related to broadcasting. Many of the older radio items came from Ed Raser of Trenton who amassed a large collection of early radios and related equipment. The Schreibers placed much emphasis on programming so that visitors could hear and relive the experience of famous broadcasts including many of the dramatic and entertainment shows of the Golden Age of Radio. Fred Shay of Mt. Arlington, NJ was also instrumental in the Hall of Fame as he has collected more than 45,000 radio and TV shows, some in script form but most on tape. The Schreibers housed the collection in an 1864 former bank building in Freehold where the high ceilings and the marble wainscoting made a distinguished setting for the radio artifacts. Listening stations were set up to enable visitors to relive the early days of radio programming. The Hall of Fame operated and expanded in Freehold until 1984 when Schreiber lost his lease to the museum building.

For a time, some of the collection was on loan for display in an Asbury Park hotel. When that hotel went bankrupt, the Hall of Fame had to go to court to reclaim their property, and that took several years.

After searching for a new location for the collection, a site at the Anaheim Baseball Stadium in California became available in 1994 with sponsorship from Disney and others. Extensive plans were made and the collection moved to California in anticipation of a grand opening in new quarters. Unfortunately, about that time the baseball strike occurred and the political winds in California shifted and the museum was suddenly without a home.

The collection languished in storage through several other unsuccessful attempts to find a home for it and then in 2001 it was offered to InfoAge. The New Jersey Broadcasters Association (NJBA) paid for the shipping to bring the collection back to New Jersey and store it at the former Belmar Marconi Station now known as Camp Evans. Founder Arthur Schreiber felt it appropriate the NBHF should be located at the site built by the “Father of Wireless and Radio,” Guglielmo Marconi. It is very appropriate to have the Hall of Fame in New Jersey, home of much of the history of radio and television, from the exploits of Marconi back to 1898 and through many radio and television research laboratories and manufacturing plants established in this state. Unfortunately some of the NBHF artifacts were lost, misplaced, or damaged in all the trials and tribulations since their original home was lost in Freehold, but a great deal of the collection has been saved. NJARC inventoried the collection and took steps to preserve and protect it. When NJARC was offered the use of Marconi cottage number 2 in 2005, we took some of the items from the collection and put them on display there along with pieces on loan from members and attempted to show the early days of radio, 1910 through the 1920’s – and the Golden Age of radio, the 30’s & 40’s. NJARC members loaned other radio paraphernalia to round out the small display in the cottage that was then opened to the public on Sunday afternoons.

Over the years, the Hall of Fame has held elaborate induction ceremonies to induct 89 pioneers and celebrities from the broadcasting field. Induction ceremonies from 1977 to 1993 were conducted in New York and New Jersey. For example, the 1993 induction ceremonies were held at the Friends of Old Time Radio convention at the Holiday Inn North in Newark. Induction ceremonies in 1994 and 1995 were held in Beverly Hills and Anaheim, CA, but returned to New Jersey in 1996. The list of past inductees is truly notable and represents a veritable “who’s who” of the broadcasting and entertainment industry.

With the turnover of major parts of the Camp Evans site to InfoAge in 2006, including the Marconi hotel, and with major refurbishment efforts expended there, it now seemed feasible to revive the Broadcasters Hall of Fame custom of holding induction ceremonies to honor radio and television broadcasting pioneers and dignitaries. NJARC was challenged to expand the museum from the Marconi cottage to the “D” section of the “L” building behind the hotel. This was accomplished in mid-2006 and made use of more of the NBHF visual displays. Many NJARC members consigned additional items from their personal collections for long term loan to the museum in order to round out the display and balance the exhibits. Also added were hands-on exhibits in keeping with our InfoAge charter of operating a learning center for young people and school groups.

The first NBHF induction ceremony in 10 years was held on Saturday afternoon September 16th 2006, in the newly restored dining room of the Marconi hotel. Inductees were Charles Osgood, Arthur Anderson and Les Paul. This was a momentous event in the evolving life of InfoAge and certainly marks a significant starting point for future events in the resurrection of the National Broadcasters Hall of Fame. As they used to say in radioland, “stay tuned” for more events related to the history of radio and television broadcasting. Plan to visit our Radio Technology museum at InfoAge that houses the National Broadcasters Hall of Fame displays and memorabilia.



Early televisions and pictures of performers at the radio museum at InfoAge



Early radios and tubes on display in the National Broadcasters Hall of Fame at InfoAge

The Garden State Central Model Railroad at InfoAge

Written by Bob Judge

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What is a model railroad doing at an historic Marconi science center? The fact is the advances of the information age were used by, and sometimes invented for, the railroad industry. Marconi himself had a long standing relationship with America's railroads that took root right here in New Jersey when he demonstrated a radio tower at the Lackawanna Railroad's Hoboken Terminal (yes, the same terminal used by NJ Transit riders today).

When the InfoAge Science Center first met the Garden State Central Model Railroad Club, Inc. the organizations found that they shared an interest in the railroads around Scranton, PA. The science center was particularly interested in David Sarnoff's wireless radio demonstration on behalf of Marconi on the Lackawanna Railroad in 1917. Radio towers were erected in Binghamton, NY and on top of the Scranton, PA railroad station – a building already being modeled by the railroad club in HO scale!

The interest between the groups grew as they researched how Marconi's efforts, and railroad communications in general, were pioneered in New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. As a result, the railroad club will build a permanent railroad exhibit in Infoage building #9034. An HO scale layout will represent the area between Binghamton, NY and Jersey City, NJ as it was in the 1950's – even Marconi's tower in "Bingo" will be modeled.

The exhibit will teach children and adults how a real railroad works and how the daily rhythm is supplied by the communications technology pioneered by Marconi and his peers. Radio, lineside signals, automated traffic control and scores of other communications had revolutionized railroading. Even the little red caboose was eventually replaced by wireless technology! Today, small boxes the size of a laptop computer hang on the rear of the train telling the engineer, and the whole railroad via satellite, how the train is doing. Not even the best caboose could do that!

As a partner and permanent display of the Information Age Science Center, the Garden State Central Model Railroad Club, Inc. will foster an understanding of how railroading and science are intertwined locally, nationally, and globally.

The Shipwreck Museum at InfoAge

Written by Dan Lieb

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Introduction

NJHDA has worked since its inception in 1992 to establish a shipwreck museum that would not only serve as a platform to showcase our investigations, but also serve as a venue for others to present the findings of their investigations. On April 1, 2006, we opened our museum display for the first time to the public at InfoAge at Camp Evans. Our hours of operation are irregular at this time, but will stabilize as we develop our staff of volunteers.

InfoAge Learning Center

For more than 12 years, Wall resident Fred Carl has worked tirelessly to get permission, in the form of a lease, to convert the now-decommissioned Camp Evans into a learning center that would feature exhibits on science and engineering, and the history of their development and application to everyday life. One of the goals of InfoAge is to “inspire kids to learn.”

Although famous for many landmark discoveries, breakthroughs and accomplishments in scientific and technological fields for both civilian and military applications, Camp Evans is perhaps most famous as the site Marconi selected to set up his laboratory for the further development of wireless transmission of telegraphy. Marconi’s wireless telegraph was not only instrumental in effecting the largest rescue at sea during the 1909 sinking of the *S.S. Republic*, it was also used in effecting the rescue of survivors during and after the sinking of the *R.M.S. Titanic* in 1912. Both events proved the importance of wireless communication and catapulted Marconi to fame. The original Marconi Belmar Station which Camp Evans was built upon was constructed in 1913-14 with the profits the Marconi Wireless Corporation earned after Congress enacted the Radio Act of 1912. The main building is often referred to as the “Marconi Hotel” and served as a home for the unmarried researchers that stayed there. The nearby Allgor/Barkalow homestead, which now serves as the museum and meeting place of the Old Wall Historical Society, was once the home of James L. Allgor, wreck master from the Shark River to the Manasquan River. Between Marconi and Allgor, the historical tie-ins are significant, and make the InfoAge Learning Center an ideal venue for our shipwreck museum.



The helm from a tugboat is on display in the NJHDA Shipwreck Museum.



An interesting artifact on display in the museum is this cage lamp encrusted with barnacles.



An odd artifact on display is this wooden bottle from an unspecified wreck.

Various groups make up the active member organizations of InfoAge. In 2004, we moved to Camp Evans from Sandy Hook because we saw an opportunity for our museum project to take root. On April 1, 2005, InfoAge received the long-awaited lease enabling Fred Carl to make his vision a reality. The member groups belonging to InfoAge, including NJHDA, also have a chance to make their visions become reality.

Keys to Success

One of the keys to InfoAge's success is its ability to remain flexible within its substantial but finite space. All of the organizations that sign on with InfoAge and make a presence there in the form of a museum or display will need to perform some sort of demonstration of science and offer some classroom space for learning. The ultimate goal is to establish a balance between permanent and floating exhibits, in addition to classroom space.

Another key to success is the ability of InfoAge and its member organizations to draw school systems throughout the state into the classroom space provided at the learning center. What InfoAge offers is a facility that is an extension of the classroom, making available classes, workshops and programs either not available in the current education system, or not within the financial reach of local school systems and centers of higher learning. Colleges and universities will also be able to make use of the learning experiences offered here.

InfoAge will also attract tourist to the region. Science and learning centers are very popular and provide a much needed alternative to sports-oriented after school activities. Between symposiums, colloquiums, science fairs, re-enactments, etc., the variety of regular and special events that can be held here equate to a regular income that will help make InfoAge self-sustaining.

Marketing is the ultimate key to success. InfoAge must be able to reach the public through various means. Member organizations must also do their own marketing. For every dollar that comes through the door via visitor is one less dollar InfoAge needs to solicit from grants and foundations, and another dollar it can claim it has earned on its own. The long line of yellow buses InfoAge envisions streaming through its gates will be a mainstay of revenue, but by far not the only revenue available. Visits by family groups and other interested parties will add significant dollars to what is earned at the gate.

A Full-Function Museum

NJHDA always planned on creating a full-function museum including display spaces, our archives, a research facility, a conservation lab, and a presentation space – all under one roof. Currently, our archives, presentation space and display space is up and running. In the near future we will have our conservation lab and research facility completed.

Between the display space, conservation lab, research area, and archives, we will have about 1,200 square feet for our use to start with. This amount may increase as need and available space dictate. Our hope is to expand into a larger facility on premises that will allow us to display some of NJHDA's larger artifacts in an indoor setting where they will be safe from the elements.

Schedule

The hours of operation for InfoAge will help influence the regular hours our displays will be open. Our museum is open Sundays from 1 to 4 PM, being closed on New Year's, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Sundays. We expect the Sundays for Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends to be particularly busy days, especially the Memorial Day and Fourth of July weekends owing to the military nature of Camp Evans and its significance to U.S. military history. Likewise, the Sunday near Veterans Day will also be scheduled with events.

While InfoAge is starting with Sunday hours, it will open for user groups (particularly school groups) by appointment. It will open daily as soon as it develops a sizable staff of volunteers. It will be 2 to 3 years before this happens, but time will pass quickly. InfoAge will need to start thinking about this soon.

The Future

For the foreseeable future, NJHDA will have its New Jersey Shipwreck Museum at InfoAge. We may be able to open a satellite location nearby in 3 to 5 years, expanding our total footprint throughout the area. Whether this happens or not, we will certainly lend material to other museums in the region. There are several maritime museums throughout the state, but ours is New Jersey's first shipwreck museum.



The Molly Gun One of three cannons in our collection, NJHDA considers this piece to be one of its prized attractions. This cannon is on permanent display in the shipwreck museum.



InfoAge

Science/History Center
at Camp Evans, Wall, NJ

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The Newsletter of the InfoAge Science/History Center

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The National Broadcaster's Hall of Fame
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND ITS

2007 Induction Ceremony Luncheon

HONORING

CELESTE HOLM,
JANE POWELL,
MARGARET WHITING,
ANDY WILLIAMS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2007

Twelve o'clock noon

The Marconi Hotel

Located at InfoAge Science & History Learning Center

\$65 per person

Call 732-299-0894 for information or reservations.

Calendar of Events

September 15, 2007

WWII USO Dance & Canteen

- \$30 per person • Abbott and Costello Revival • Live Orchestra • 50-50 Raffle
- Cocktails & Refreshments

September 29, 2007

The National Broadcasters Hall of Fame
Induction Ceremony and Luncheon

- \$65 per person • Buffet Lunch
- Cocktails & Refreshments • 50-50 Raffle

October 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27, 2007

Haunted Hotel and Hayride

- \$10 per person (\$5 children under 10)
- Hayrides & Graveyards
- Spiders, Ghouls & Spooks

October 6, 2007

OMARC Tailgate Hamfest

- \$3 per car for buyers
- \$10 per space for seller

November 3, 2007

Members Spaghetti Dinner

- \$10 per person • 50-50 Raffle

December 7-9, 14-16, 21-23, 2007

Holiday Train Express

- Model Train Exhibits
- Holiday Decorations

Call 732-280-3000 for reservations and
more information.