WARCI News

Wisconsin Antique Radio Club, Inc.

Happy New Year! **January, 2010**

Empire Model Five – Beaver Dam WI

A nice looking (if I do say so myself – it's in my collection!) 1926 three dialer made by Empire Electric Mfg. Co. of Beaver Dam (factory) and Milwaukee. See page 15 for a look at Empire.

Next WARCI Meet!

	Sunday, January 24; 8:00 – 11:00 AM See Winter Meet Ground Rules, page 5
	The Terminal, 5917 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee (near the Airport)
	Features: Annual Business Meeting, 9:30-10:00 AM, Election of Officers and Board for 2010

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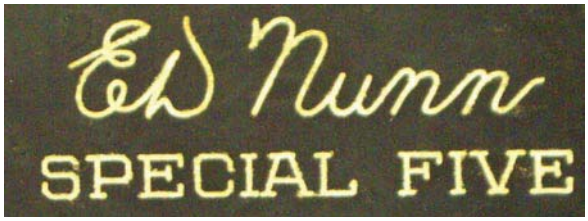
Ewing Nunn, Radio Manufacturer by Ralph Larsen

[Editor's Note: An earlier version of this article originally appeared in the January 2001 WARCI Newsletter.]

Nunn radios were made in Milwaukee for more years than any other local manufacturer. The Nunn-Landon Company successfully made the transition from battery sets to AC power. Nunn-Landon sets included floor models, large number tube sets, superhets, tombstones, and even cathedrals.

The Nunn-Landon Company was formed in 1925 and ended in 1930. It seems likely that Ewing Nunn was making radios before the company was formed, as some early radios were simply marked "ED Nunn". See Figure 1, the ED Nunn Special Five for an example.

Figure 1 – ED Nunn Special 5



Others are labeled ED Nunn but also have a Nunn-Landon tag, and Figure 2 is an example of such a set, the model N4A. It also bears a label saying it was distributed by the Hansen Storage Company of Milwaukee, and probably dates from 1925.

Nunn-Landon later adopted the trade name "Cascade". Figure 3 shows an example of a Cascade set, probably a 1926 model, that is marked ED Nunn on the front panel but also has a Nunn-Landon sticker.

Figure 2 – Nunn Model N4A

Figure 3 – Nunn-Landon 1926 Cascade

In 1927 Nunn-Landon produced the elaborate battery powered console Cascade model V-27, shown in Figure 4, complete with matching piano stool. Figure 5 shows the similar table model

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Cascade V-28. (See page 6.)

Figure 4 - Nunn-Landon Model V-27 Cascade Console, 1927

Figure 5 – Nunn-Landon Cascade V-28

In the WRTA Broadcaster in October 1928 Nunn-Landon advertised (see Figure 6) a group of sets under the Cascade name, 1929 models including the Niagara (5 tube) and Victoria (6 tube) for DC or AC operation, and the Yellowstone (7 tube) AC model and the Yosemite console AC console shown in the ad. The ad lists seven dealers for Nunn-Landon sets, including Flanner-Hafsoos Co., Federal Tire and Supply Co., Held and Held, J. Mandelker & Co., Bates Radio Co., Milwaukee Radio Supply Co., and Kappelman Radio Co.

Figure 6 – Nunn-Landon Ad, October 1928

Wisconsin Radio Trade Association

CASCADE

Again THE OUTSTANDING IN RADIO RECEPTION in the FIELD OF BETTER SETS

CONSISTENTLY, for five years, the Nunn-Landon Company has built Radio Instruments that excel, and the Models for 1929 are still the standard of comparison in performance and workmanship.

Niagara (Five Tube) and Victoria (Six Tube) Model Cascades are built for both AC and DC operation.
Yellowstone (Seven Tube, Push-Pull) and Yosemite (Power Amplifier) Models with Dynamic Speakers are for AC operation.
The striking beauty of Cascade cabinets are exclusive in design, and are constructed of carefully selected Figured Walnut and Bird's Eye Maple.
Visit Cascade Exhibits at the Dealers listed below.

Yosemite Model

A very attractive Dealer Proposition may be had by communicating with the NUNN-LANDON COMPANY, Inc.

Yosemite Model

NUNN-LANDON COMPANY, Inc.
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Milwaukee Dealers

Flanner-Hafsoos Company—Booth No. 146 Kilbourn Hall
Federal Tire & Supply Co.—Booth No. 77 Main Arena
Held & Held—Booth No. 147-148 Kilbourn Hall
J. Mandelker & Co.—Booth No. 19-20 Main Arena
Bates Radio Co.—Booth No. 1 Main Arena
Milwaukee Radio Supply Co.—1025 Third St.
Kappelman Radio Co.—3820 Vliet St.

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Ewing Nunn - continued from Page 6

Editor's Note:

The WARCI News is your newsletter!

Your comments and suggestions for the newsletter are most welcome.

Your contributions of articles or other material are urgently needed. Your help is needed to make the WARCI News a success and to ensure that it covers the full scope of the interests of WARCI members.

You may submit complete articles, but information from which an article can be developed is also welcome. Don't agonize over format, etc., as the editor will have to adapt your submission to the newsletter. Simple text is best. PC format (e.g. MS Word, jpegs by email) is preferred but hardcopy text and photos are accepted.

In this issue we feature an article by Dennis Schrank profiling WARCI member and broadcaster Richard Hagerty. The series of articles on Wisconsin radio companies and Wisconsin radio history continues with an article by Ralph Larsen on Ewing Nunn, a Milwaukee radio manufacturing pioneer, and on Empire Electric Mfg. Co. of Beaver Dam and a follow-up on Klitzen.

Thanks go to Dennis and Ralph for their articles!

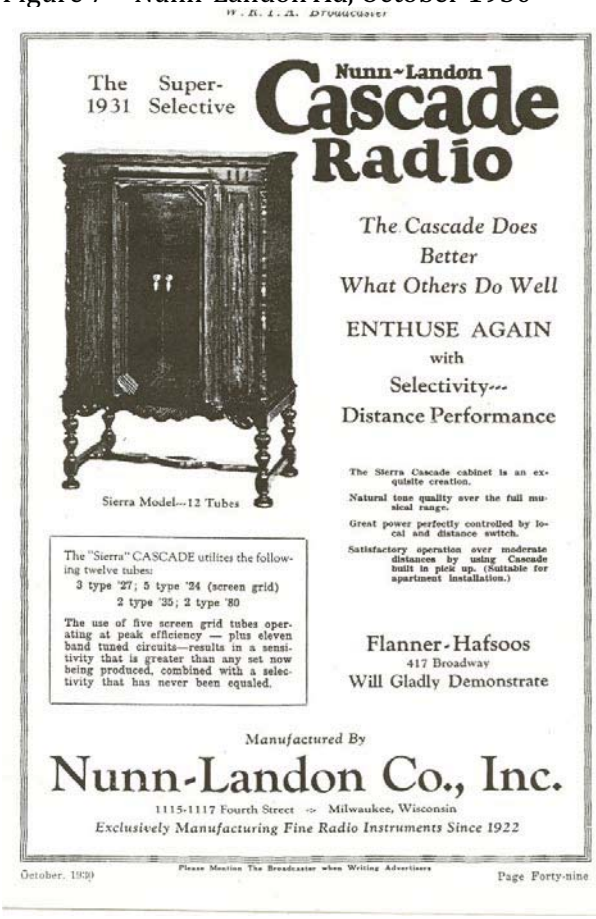
We will also cover tube audio and television and other member interests – but we need your contributions!

We will add classified ads as soon as you send them in. Another "Odd Bits" appears in this issue, but your 'odd bits' are needed!

Thank you,
- Greg Hunolt, Editor, WARCI News

In the WRTA Broadcaster for October 1930 Nunn-Landon advertised (see Figure 7, page 7) the 1931 model Cascade Sierra AC console (12 tubes). In this ad Nunn-Landon claimed to have made radios as early as 1922. That date appears to be an exaggeration. Nunn apparently continued to use the "Cascade" name for sets made in the early 1930's, but it is most likely they were made in Chicago. By 1935 Ewing Nunn was using a Chicago address for his business.

Figure 7 – Nunn-Landon Ad, October 1930



The Milwaukee factory address for the Nunn-Landon Company was listed as 1115 North 4th Street. That would place it just north of the Bradley Center building. Was it a showroom too? Possibly, but hard to say. As shown above an early Nunn-Landon set, the N-4A, indicated that it was distributed by the Hansen Storage Company, who did have a showroom for their own

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radios. As we've seen, later advertisements indicate that they were being distributed by Flanner-Hafsoos and others.

Ewing Nunn was the son of Henry L. Nunn, the President of Nunn-Bush Shoes. Early on his father was an officer in the Nunn-Landon Company. Henry Nunn was a well known Milwaukee figure. In 1936, the Milwaukee Journal made him its "Man of the Year". Henry Nunn wrote two books; his first was a popular book on labor relations. Henry advocated a profit sharing system for employment, a system later adopted by the Milwaukee Journal. The Journal adopted the system, by its own account, to prevent a hostile takeover.

Ewing Nunn apparently maintained his business in Chicago until 1937. He returned to the Milwaukee area about that time. He started Audiophile Records in the 1940's and primarily recorded Dixieland music. He continued his recording business until the 1960's and would do primarily vanity pressings and folk music. At least one pressing of folk music, "Blues, Rags, and Hollers", is still sought by collectors and has been reissued on a CD. Nunn's studio was located in Saukville, but many of his recordings were done on location. According to musicians who worked for him, he was a hard and demanding taskmaster. I have one of his recordings. Not only is the recording well done, but the commentary on the music is very professional.

Nunn had other businesses too. He owned Northern Signal Company which made light signals for railroads and flashing lights for construction sites. Northern Signal Company was located in Saukville. He also owned a company down south called Southern Signal Company.
Readers are invited to contribute any additional information they may have on Ewing Nunn or the Nunn-Landon company, and photos of their Nunn-Landon sets to add to the Nunn-Landon section of the Wisconsin radio gallery on the WARCI website. (30)

More On Klitzen by Greg Hunolt

This is a brief follow-up on my article "On Klitzen!" that appeared in the October 2009 issue of WARCI News. More information on some early Klitzen receivers has come to light!

Glenn Trischan showed me an early Klitzen receiver from his collection. It is a regenerative tuner-detector strapped to a two-stage AF amplifier, anticipating the model 525. The Klitzen tag with "manufactured in Racine, Wisconsin" is on the chassis at the far right in the chassis photo, figure 2, next to the porcelain tube socket. Figure 1 shows the front panel.

Figure 1 – Early Klitzen, front panel

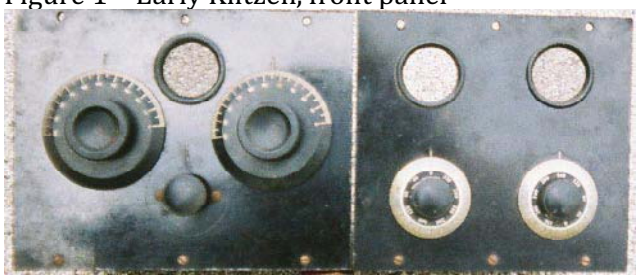

Figure 2 – Early Klitzen, chassis

Ordean Christianson of Mora, Minnesota sent me photos of his Klitzen model 500 Regenerative Amplifying Receiver. It is a two tube model, with a regenerative detector and AF amplifier stage. It is very similar to the Klitzen 525 which included two AF stages. Ordean's set took a first prize in the Northland Antique Radio Club (NARC) Radio Daze 2006 '1920's Radios' contest and was pictured in the Fall 2006 NARC Newsletter.

More on Klitzen - continued on Page 9