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Crosley<sup>1</sup>

A biography of Powel Jr and Lewis Crosley. Two brothers that created the Crosley Pup And Gembox radios. The 500 kilowatt The Nation’s Station, WLW, the Shelvador refrigerator, and the Crosley automobiles. There were other Crosley inventions or manufactured items along the way such as the Mark 53 proximity fuze (fuse) during World War II.

Powel Jr just wanted to build and sell his own automobile but it appears that so may other wonderful things got in the way. Powel Jr was the inspiration and Lewis was the perspiration. Powel Jr had most of the business savvy and Lewis the engineering and management savvy.

1    Crosley, Rusty McClure, Group West, ISBN-13 978-1-57860-291-0



Figure 1: The Pup



Figure 2: The Gembox Radio



Figure 3: Shelvador, First Refrigerator With in Door Shelves

The book starts off with the birth of the brothers and their early entrepreneurial days as auto accessories producers, the boom days of radio, the battle days of the Voice of America and World War II, and the bust period post World War II. WLW incremented up in 10 dB from 5 watts (7 dBw), to 50 watts (17 dBw), to 500 watts (27 dBw), to 5 kilowatts (37 dBw), to 50 kilowatt (47 dBw), to 500

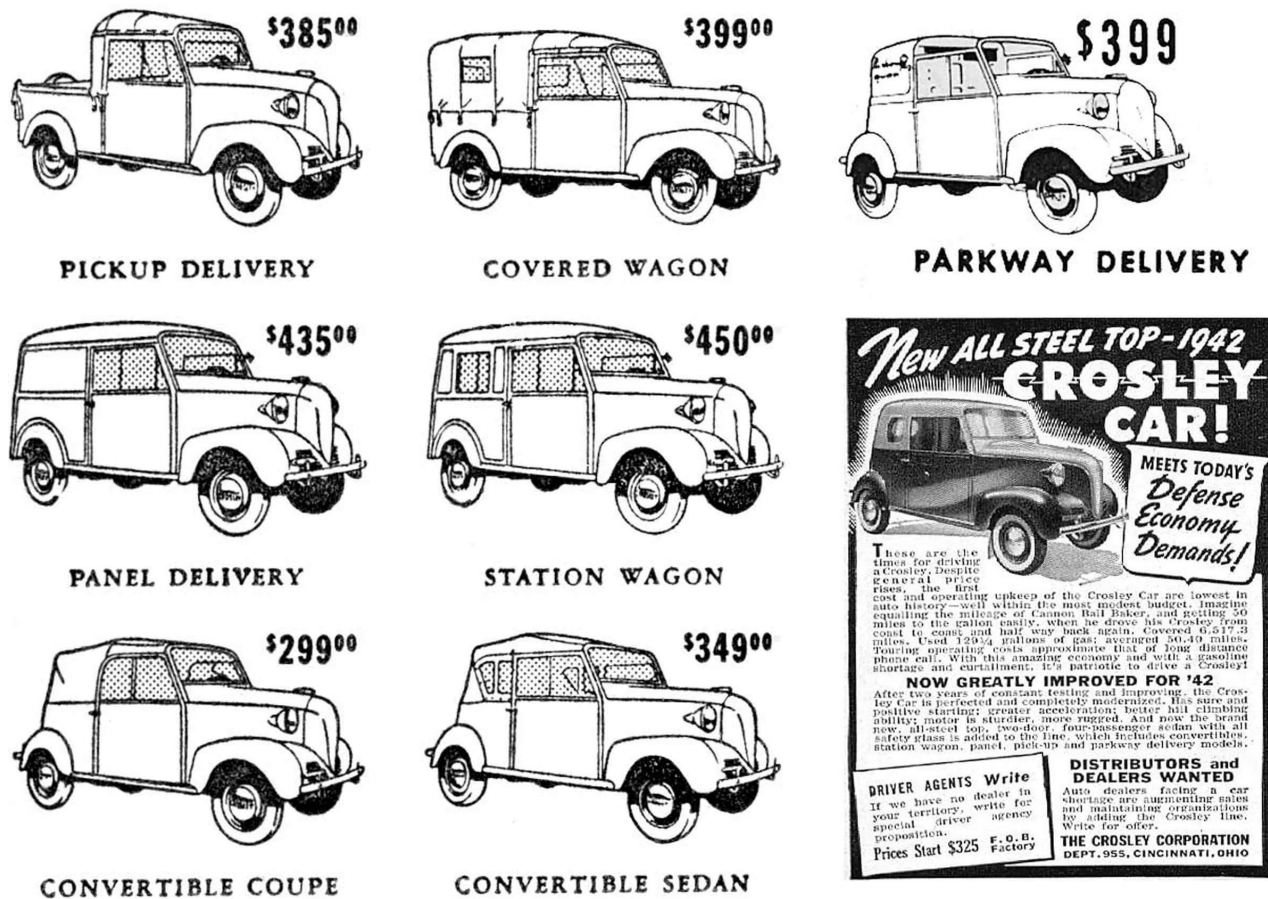
kilowatts (57dBw). Occasionally at night after-midnight they would increase to power to 600 kilowatts (58 dBw). At 500 kilowatts the superpower station could be received on the west coast. To prevent interference in Canada a second tower was erected to make the pattern directional. In 1939 the FCC forced WLW back to 50 kilowatts.

The book is an easy read with many familiar names around each turn of the page. For a loan of the book see N8PZL. Available at 7 library systems in Ohio. Request via Search Ohio.

Crosley electronics and furniture still exists today, see [crosleybrands.com](http://crosleybrands.com). While the Crosley automobiles are no longer manufactures, there are many collector clubs and automobile show that feature the Crosley.



*Figure 4: 1948 Crosley Station Wagon*



The image displays six different models of the 1942 Crosley car, each with its price listed above it:

- PICKUP DELIVERY**: \$385<sup>00</sup>
- COVERED WAGON**: \$399<sup>00</sup>
- PARKWAY DELIVERY**: \$399
- PANEL DELIVERY**: \$435<sup>00</sup>
- STATION WAGON**: \$450<sup>00</sup>
- CONVERTIBLE COUPE**: \$299<sup>00</sup>
- CONVERTIBLE SEDAN**: \$349<sup>00</sup>

To the right of these models is a full-page advertisement for the 1942 Crosley Car. The ad features a large headline: "New ALL STEEL TOP-1942 CROSELY CAR!". Below this, it states "MEETS TODAY'S Defense Economy Demands!". The ad includes a testimonial from Cannon Ball Baker, a touring record of 6,517.3 miles on 129 1/4 gallons of gas, and a list of improvements for 1942. At the bottom, it lists "DRIVER AGENTS Write" and "DISTRIBUTORS and DEALERS WANTED".

Figure 5: 1942 Crosley Advertisement (\$450 in 1942 is \$8,220 in 2022)

## Hamvention History<sup>2</sup>

Where it all started...Since 1952 Hamvention® has been sponsored by Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA). For many years it has been the world's largest amateur radio gathering, attracting hams from throughout the globe.

About 1950, John Willig, W8ACE, had asked the Dayton Amateur Radio Association to sponsor a HAM Convention but was turned down. John wanted to have a quality affair. Speakers and prizes would be a drawing point. John finally found a champion in Frank Schwab, W8YCP (W8OK), the newly elected president of the club. A meeting was held and the DARA Board allocated \$100 to get started.

<sup>2</sup> <https://hamvention.org/about/history/>

The first organizational meeting was held in January 1952. The Southwestern Ohio Hamvention was born. The first committee consisted of: John Willig, W8ACE, General Chairman Al Dinsmore, W8AUN, Arrangements Bob Siff, W8QDI (K4AMG), Prizes and Exhibits Frank Schwab, W8YCP (W8OK), Publicity Bob Montgomery, W8CUJ, Finance Clem Welford, W8ENH, Program Ellie Haburton, W8GJP (W4ZVW), Women's Committee.

The next year the name became "Dayton Hamvention®" and was registered as a trademark. April was determined to be the best time but the Biltmore Hotel, in downtown Dayton was booked. March 22 was the chosen date, causing a short lead time. How far did \$100 go? Not far! A 12" TV was raffled off to help raise funds. The FCC agreed to give license exams and Phil Rand, W1BDM, a pioneer in TVI elimination was on the program. First prize, a Collins 75A2, was purchased locally. Hoping for 300 visitors, the committee was amazed that over 600 showed up! There were 7 exhibitors and 6 forums. The ladies program was successful with a luncheon at the Biltmore and a trip to a local TV station.

In 1955 the Awards Program began with the "Amateur of the Year." The Flea Market has grown from 200 to more than 2000 spaces. In 1964 the Hamvention® moved to Hara Arena. Shuttle buses and handicapped parking were added in 1969. In 1973 it became a 2 day event with Sundays added in 1974. The program has grown to a "Souvenir Program" and in 1976 the dimensions changed from 6"x 9" to the current 8-1/2"x11". The growth of the Dayton Hamvention® can be attributed to caring, energetic people who enjoy being on a winning team.

## **Newsletter Articles**

The newsletter needs a few authors to write a short article to be included in the quarterly newsletters. The article should relate to amateur radio either completely or tangentially. Pictures are encouraged. Email them to [N8PZL@arrl.net](mailto:N8PZL@arrl.net). Grab that keyboard or pen and write away.



## Upcoming Event

Anthony Luscre will talk about FT8 and FT4, the new digital mode sweeping through amateur radio.

**Time:** Feb 11, 12:00 AM (Noon)

**Place:** Michael D's, 1411 ½ Whipple Avenue NW, Canton OH 44708.

Please RSVP by 9 February via email to [virginislesun@yahoo.com](mailto:virginislesun@yahoo.com), Tom Price  
Hope to see you on the 11<sup>th</sup>.



## Ragchew

**D**on't forget the monthly ragchew at Tim's Tavern at Noon on the last Wednesday of the month. The address is 3323 Parkway Street NW, Canton Ohio 44708. All are invited. For you information that is Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 29, Apr 26, May 31. Add these dates to your calendar.

## Local Dues

**T**he first of August 2023 was the beginning of the QCWA Chapter 21 fiscal year. If you have not already done so, please pay your local dues at the next meeting or rag-chew. National dues are collected via the QCWA.org web site.



## Treasurer's Report

The cash balance is \$1,037 as of 1/01/23 9:01 AM – Huntington Bank.

## Some Local Hamfests

**C**heck to make sure event has not been canceled due to the 2019 COVID Pandemic.

### **01/22/2023 - HPARC Swap**

Location: Royal Oak, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://HPARC.org>

### **02/18/2023 - Livonia Amateur Radio Club 52nd Annual Swap & Shop**

**Location: Livonia, MI**

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://livoniaarc.com/larc-annual-swap-and-shop/>

### **02/26/2023 - Wireless Association of the South Hills A.R.C.**

Location: South Park Township, PA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Wireless Assoc. of the South Hills A.R.C.

Website: <http://n3sh.org>

### **03/26/2023 - U.S.E.C.A. Hamfest Swap & Shop 2023**

Location: Troy, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: none

Website: <http://usecaarc.org>

### **04/15/2023 - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 67th Hamfest**

Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Website: <http://www.cfarc.org>

**04/16/2023 - TRARC 51st Hamfest/Computer Show**

Location: Elizabeth, PA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.trarc.net>

**04/22/2023 – Tusco Amateur Radio Club’s Hamfest**

Location Tuscarawas County Fairgrounds

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tusco Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://www.w8zx.net>

**05/13/2023 - 05/17/2023**

RV Radio Network

Location: Berlin, Ohio, OH

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: RV Radio Network

**05/19-21/2023 Dayton Hamvention**

Location: Green County Fairgrounds, OH

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <https://hamvention.org/>

**07/08/2023 - Mansfield Trunkfest 2023**

Location: Mansfield, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://iarc.club>

**08/12/2023 - Uniontown Amateur Radio Club 73rd Annual Gabfest**

Location: Uniontown, PA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Uniontown ARC



## **Chapter 21 Quarterly Newsletter**

**Jan 15, 2023**

Website: <http://w3pie.org>