

Four Decades of Radio, Television
and Electronics

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By 1932, the radio line was extended so that there were many models and variations of chassis and cabinets to suit various price and preference levels.

During 1933, the line included many battery sets, along with the highly-successful "converters" which permitted a battery-operated set to convert the DC (direct current) power of the batteries into AC (alternating current), permitting better reception, longer battery life and more power output between battery charges. These battery sets permitted many houses in Western Canada and Northern Ontario to enjoy radio reception, where no hydro lines existed. A familiar sight in the C.N.R. yards at Belleville, in those days, was a box car with a big banner on it stating that it contained Stewart-Warner radios and to where it was destined. An adroit way of advertising! In the 30's long-distance trucking had not developed to the state in which it operates now; large quantities of radios were sent via carload on the railroad to an area distributing point, and then re-dispatched from there to the small cities and towns.

At about this same time, in 1932 - 33, Stewart-Warner started to make its own electro-dynamic speakers for A.C. operated radios and magnetic types for battery-operated types, which principle lasted until the advent of W.W.II. After the war, speaker design, manufacture and testing became highly sophisticated, so that special companies were set up to just do this work exclusively.

During these same two years, Stewart-Warner developed, designed and produced a wind-operated generator device for charging batteries which ran radio sets and operated from wind when placed on the roof of a house. Many of the purchasers of battery-operated sets were in remote areas, and could not easily and quickly reach stores for recharging their batteries or buying new ones. This charger-generator, known as "Wincharger" also permitted the use of some electric light bulbs and small electrical appliances.

The period of 1934-39 was one of continued growth in the radio business. From 1934 onward, the entire line of sets was of