

Four Decades of Radio, Television
and Electronics

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unique Canadian design and manufacture. Although special breakthroughs of circuitry, developed in the labs at Chicago were employed, some deluxe models were copies, as designed in the U.S.; because of limited volume.

During this period, Stewart-Warner Canada employed a large staff of engineers and sales people at Belleville. Many new innovations and trends were developed at the Belleville Plant, such as portable sets which were engineered and built here for a very discriminating and changing buying public. By 1932 there was a growing interest in short-wave reception. This created a demand for "short-wave converters" that could be wired into or attached to existing sets to bring in the short-wave bands. Stewart-Warner was in the forefront of this "demand" and quickly produced converters in large quantities. At the same time, the Company developed all-wave console sets, and mantle types, which had the short-wave band indications on one dial and achieved by "switching" from one band to another. A very famous byword at this time was the Stewart-Warner "Magic Dial" radios.

There developed in the mid-thirties a penchant for trying to tune in far-away places such as Australia or Europe, and this helped to create the market for the all-band radios. Besides, the clarity of short-wave was much better than the regular AM bands because the latter were subject to interference from many sources, such as automobiles, appliances and other radio sets. The new trends of the mid and late thirties never seemed to end. The phonograph had become redundant with the advance of radio. In 1930 and again in 1935-39 in new form, it played an important role, "joined" in a radio console model so that a customer could have a "combination" set and switch to records if and when desired. As the war clouds seemed to get closer, the phono. record became more and more popular, especially in places where armed-forces personnel gathered, as did the combination radio/phonographs. These devices, by channelling the record sound through the radio circuitry, permitted clearer sound with tone and volume control, not previously achieved in phonographs. In addition, the quality of records was improving.

As early as 1932, Stewart-Warner Canada had experimented with a car radio. The antenna of this prototype was mounted under the running board (remember those!) to try to get the signal pick-up as far away from the engine (with its spark plug interference) as possible. From this early model, no great production developed, although a line of Stewart-Warner car radios was built