Kilbourne & Clark kit box Transmitter & Receiver No. 6 boxtop restoration for museum display

Herewith some wood and paper preservation techniques; "Your mileage may vary..."



A century ago, Killbourne and Clark of Seattle sold enormous amounts of wireless gear up through World War One. By 1922 it was out of business.

In about 1919 it entered the market for kits of parts to be assembled into a low power wireless telegraphy outfit for boys (whose parents could afford it).

This is a quick story about restoring a labeled box top from kit no. 6 for possible display of parts and interpretive materials in the CHRS Radio Central museum in Alameda.

By Bart Lee, K6VK, a CHRS Fellow in History (2017)

Kilbourne & Clark kit box Transmitter & Receiver No. 6 boxtop restoration



<< As Found by Richard Watts, who asked: Can anything be done with this?

Note: Seattle and San Francisco [c. 1919]

The compartmented box in which the kit came



Cleaning the grunge of a century off the fragile paper label:



This is an "artist's
Eraser" very
carefully applied. It
does remove dirt
and some stain,
and brightens
color.

Taking grunge off the wood, working carefully around the label:



Restoring some color to the original old stain on the wood:



The idea here is NOT to refinish the wood. It should show its age.

The idea is to respect the wood after all it's been though in nearly a century.

Tibet Almond Stick applies a liquid that "amalgamates" what's left of the original finish. This liquefies it some, thus filling some scratches, and it brightens up the original finish considerably. Use in a ventilated area...

A final touch-up by Magic Marker:



The boxtop restored:



(Here drying in direct sunlight after application of the Tibet Almond Stick)

Before and After:



A clear glass or plastic shield should go over the label, on stand-offs ...



Kit No. 6 advertisement

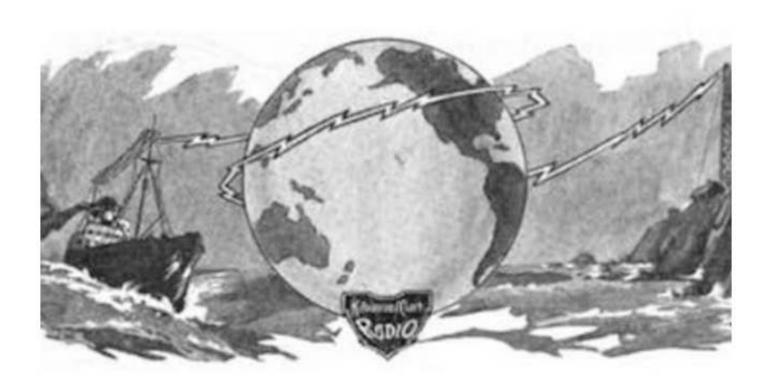
From Richard Watts, Saturday Evening Post, 1919

The kit and its parts:



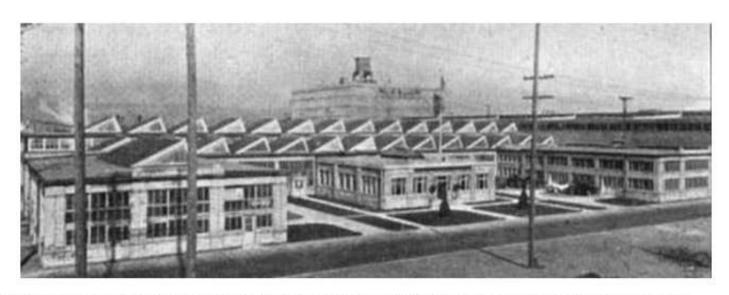
From Richard Watts

The Marine Wireless Logo of Kilbourne and Clark



Kilbourne Clark -the Big Word in the Wireless World

Walter Clark organized the company about 1899, which turned to wireless shortly thereafter. Charles Kilbourne, as president, focused on marine wireless.



"During the war, the Kilbourne & Clark Company established an enviable reputation in the manufacture, distribution and maintenance of radio sets for the U. S. Shipping Board and the Emergency Fleet Corporation. Since the war, the company has continued the manufacture of radio sets, amplifiers, high voltage sets, generators, amateur radio equipment, and a general line of electrical supplies. The company was established in Seattle about 1900, maintaining [a] factory and offices [in Seattle]." (Journal of Electricity and Western Industry, Vo. 47, no. 10, page 400, c. 1922)

The creditors sold the plant to Westinghouse. Kilbourne and Clark, one of the great wireless companies of the 20th century, was kaput.

73 de K6VK ##