

Be A Radio Expert! -- Study with N.R.I., circa 1939

By Bart Lee, K6VK, CHRS Fellow in History

The National Radio Institute (and others) offered correspondence courses in Radio; for NRI, from 1914 to 2002. Pictured are parts of a NRI brochure from about 1939.



Students worked from tens of small pamphlet “volumes,” as many as 90 in later years. TV inventor Philo Farnsworth studied with NRI as a college student in Utah. NRI provided kits to its students, including a mechanical TV kit before World War Two. The wiki has a good article: [https \(colon\) //en.wikipedia \(dot\) org/wiki/National_Radio_Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Radio_Institute). Google-images presents many of the books etc. available to students and some of the kits.

CHRS’s senior member, Bruno Zucconi (age 95) could easily, in the 1930s, have become a radio service man. But he knew his economics as well as his technology: electricians made a lot more money than radiomen. So he says, he became an electrician (among other things) instead.

A social dimension appears in the NRI brochure. Jim and Mary can't get married until Jim starts to make some money. NRI is their salvation.



Part of the brochure deals with various possible radio careers. Pursuit of this sort of education before World War Two probably kept many a man out of the infantry.

The collage features several black and white photographs: a television studio, a police officer with a radio, an airplane cockpit, a radio dealer, a loud speaker system, a manufacturer, a radio station, a photoelectric cell, and an automobile radio.

Television is a coming field of many opportunities. I'll get you ready now so you can get in on the ground floor of this industry.

Police Radio. Hundreds of Police Departments are Radio equipped, and this type of service is being rapidly expanded in all localities.

Aviation Radio is advancing fast. Airports and planes are being Radio-equipped. Get ready for one of these fascinating jobs on land or in the air.

Radio Dealers—there are over 61,000—many employ servicemen, salesmen, store and service managers.

Loud Speaker Systems—installing, servicing, building them pays trained men well.

Manufacturers employ assemblers, engineers, designers. Salaries high as \$6,000.

A Business of Your Own is probably easier to organize in Radio than any other field. I train you to do it—to be your own boss.

Commercial Radio Stations—inter-city and trans-oceanic service—use many trained men.

Photoelectric Cells and Electronic Devices already have range of uses from measuring speed of bullets to sorting eggs. An opportunity field with a future.


Automobile Radio—5,000,000 now in use. They are installed and serviced by Radio Experts. This big field is growing fast.

Enclosed Card brings this 64 page book FREE

RICH

But even before the War, Television was on the mind of all forward looking radiomen.

**Radio Operator
Sees Future
in Television**



"I am operator at Coast Radio Station WMW. My earnings now are about \$140 a month. Present day Radio, however, is nothing compared to what it will be in the future. The man who is properly trained and prepared will make big money, just as soon as Television breaks."

ORVILLE P. KEISTER,
1410 Washington St.,
Manitowoc, Wisc.

The CHRS library has at least one full set of NRI instructional materials. This brochure and the like will go into the Archive. (de K6VK)

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