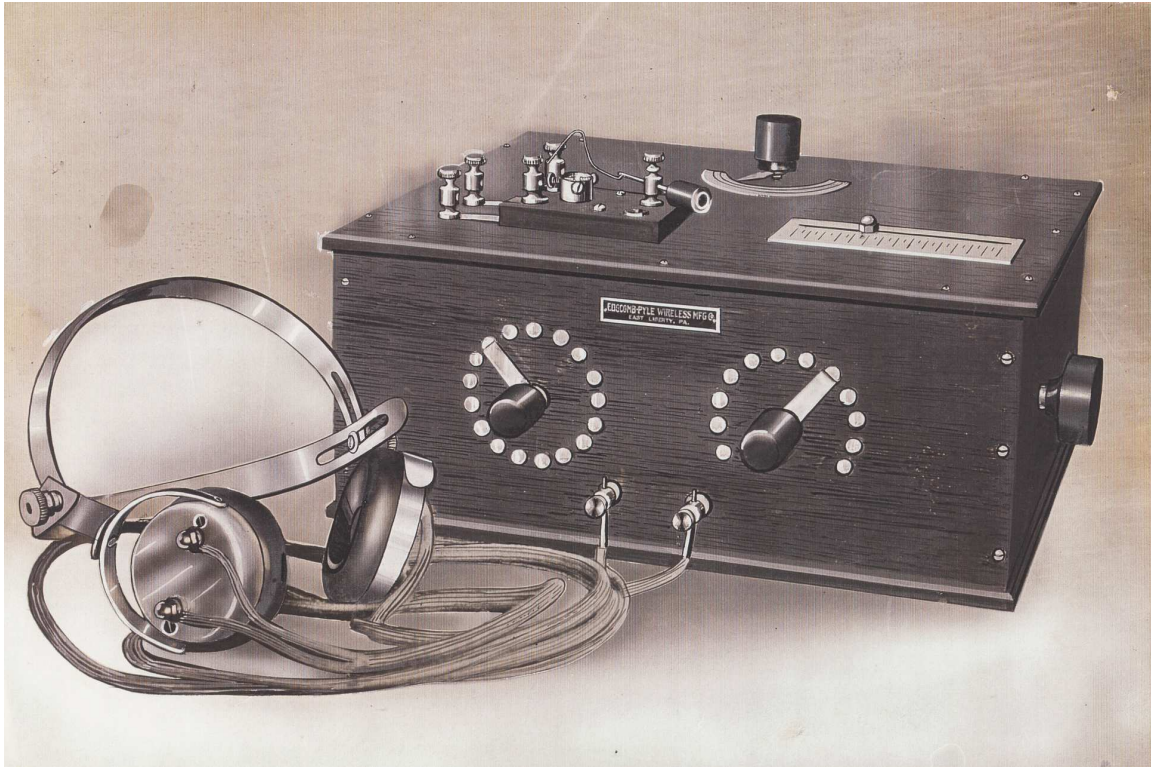


Los Angeles, The Wireless Shop, a Century Ago

An Archivist's Note by Bart Lee, K6VK

A.J. Edgcomb, in about 1919 came to Los Angeles from Pennsylvania. In 1912 he, W.D Pyle and E.B. Adler incorporated the Edgcomb-Pyle Wireless Mfg. Co. with \$10,000 capital, reported *American Machinist*. (A quarter million dollars in today's money). They made state of the art amateur and commercial equipment. An original catalog illustration from about 1914 of a crystal set, and a photo taken in the sales shop, appear nearby (both previously unpublished and from the collection of Adam Schoolsky, CHRS).





Crystal Set Catalog Illustration

By 1919 A.J. Edgcomb advertised in *QST*, doing business in Los Angeles, selling parts at first. An ad appears below.

A REAL DETECTOR

THINK IT OVER. WHEN YOU CAN BUY A COMPLETE AUDION CONTROL UNIT FOR \$5.00, does it pay you to buy the separate instruments and mount them in your set?



The NEW NO. 40 WIRELESS SHOP AUDION CONTROL UNIT is complete in every detail, and includes a socket, filament rheostat, mica grid condenser and mica bypass condenser. It is easily attached to your panel by only two screws, and can be wired into your set in a jiffy.

WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT? Every detail is complete. Each and every part is manufactured by THE WIRELESS SHOP—A GUARANTEE THAT YOU WILL GET A REAL BARGAIN, AND A STRICTLY QUALITY PRODUCT. ASK THE OTHER FELLOWS.

And the Amplifier Unit to Match the Detector

The No. 41 Amplifier unit is identical to the detector in general construction, with the addition of a high grade shell type amplifying transformer, which is mounted directly on the back of the socket shelf. And this unit costs you ONLY \$11.00. We can also furnish the front formica panel, with all holes drilled, parts engraved, and all necessary parts for completing the set, less the case. All of these parts are fully described and listed in our new BULLETIN No. 3, which will be mailed to you upon request. Where shall we send yours?

BRING "WIRELESS SHOP" STANDARD UNITS. YOU CAN BUILD UP A COMPLETE 2-STEP AMPLIFIER, INCLUDING 2 No. 41 AMPLIFIER UNITS, ONE GORTON ENGRAVED PANEL WITH ALL HOLES DRILLED, 2 SPECIAL GORTON ENGRAVED RHEOSTAT DIALS WITH KNOBS, 2 "WIRELESS SHOP" JACKS, and 2 RUBBER TAPPED BINDING POSTS, for the sum of only.....

\$5.00 **\$30.00**

AND REMEMBER—QUALITY WILL ALWAYS PREDOMINATE WITH

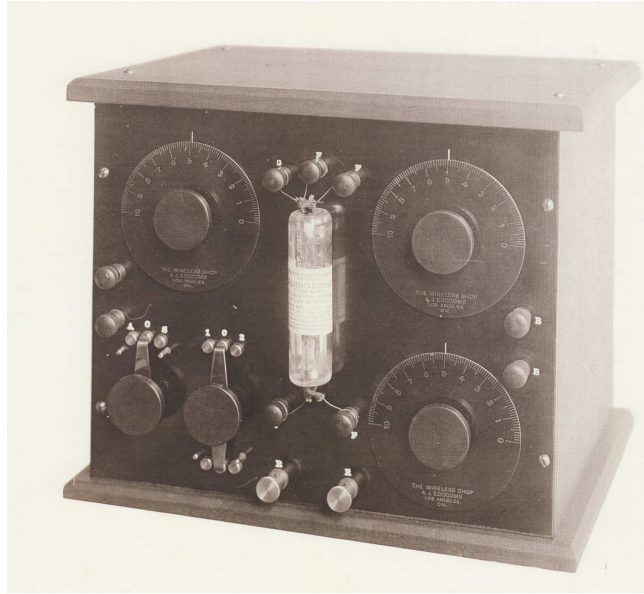
THE WIRELESS SHOP

1262 WEST SECOND STREET A. J. EDGCOMB LOS ANGELES, CAL.

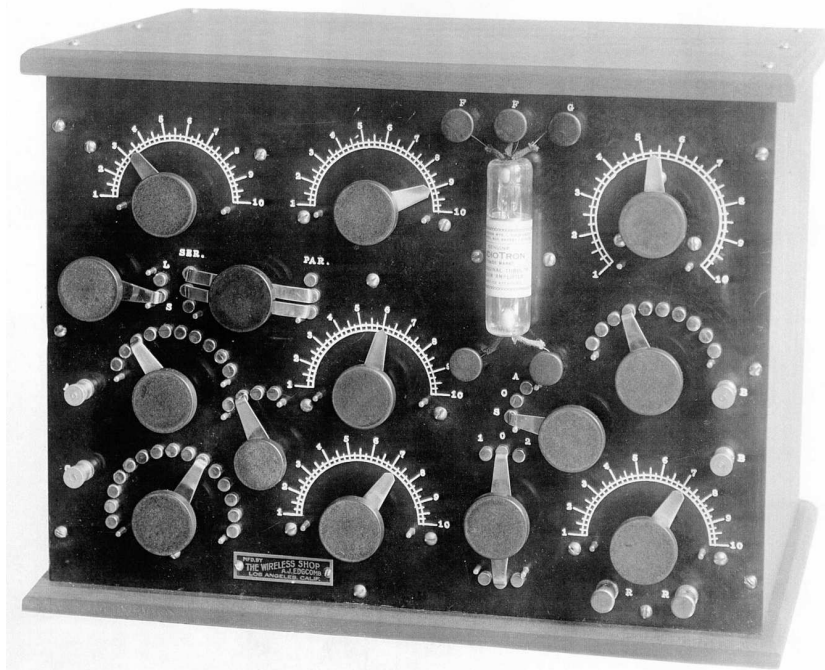
Tell them that you saw it in RADIO

Digitized by Google

Another catalog illustration shows a compact receiver using a California Cunningham Audiotron, about 1919. (Also from the Schoolsky collection).



A larger set was soon in the offing:



RadioMuseum.org reports:

"A.J. Edgcomb, The Wireless Shop; Los Angeles, CA: Probably the first lasting radio maker in California. The company advertised extensively their line of variable condensers in Radio News magazine in the late 1920's.*** 511 West Washington Street, Los Angeles, CA. By November 1921 the company had moved to 1262 West Second Street... The retail showroom was in February 1924 at 698 S. Alvarado and in October 1924 at 150 Glendale Blvd."

(www.radiomuseum.org/) The Wireless Shop derived from Edgcomb-Pyle on the East Coast, *circa* 1912. The company persisted into the 1920s.

220 RADIO for DECEMBER, 1921

MOVED

—and it was some job

Yes—We are now located in that new factory which we told you about last month. And O Boy, it's some nice place. All the light and air we need and lots of space to put things.

Now—We can soon begin to take care of the ever increasing demand for "Wireless Shop Variable Condensers"; the Quality instrument that is made right and stays right. We are not quite settled completely, but we are now running and will be up to full production within a week.

But Remember—We have a lot of orders ahead, and if you want prompt deliveries we cannot urge you too much to place your order at once. We will try hard to keep our shop producing enough condensers to take care of the orders, but the way orders are arriving every day now, it looks as if we would be swamped.

There Must Be a Reason Why "Wireless Shop" Condensers Are So Much in Demand. We know the reason, but perhaps no one has ever let you in on the secret. "Quality"—that's the reason. If you have ever seen one you know, but for those fellows who have never had the opportunity of looking them over, we'll tell you that it's *Quality* that sells "Wireless Shop Condensers." With the fellow who knows, the *Best* is what he wants. If you happen to be one of those who don't know, write us for a copy of Bulletin No. 1, which describes and illustrates the complete line of "Wireless Shop Condensers."

They are made in three types and fourteen sizes—one for every need.

SERIES "T"

Three-inch stationary plate. For receiving circuits. Easy to mount back of your panel. Fitted with knob and pointer.



No. 20, 2-plate Varmer Condenser	\$2.00
No. 10, 1-plate, approximately .0001 m. f. maximum capacity	2.25
No. 130, 15-plate, approximately .0002 m. f. maximum capacity	2.75
No. 150, 17-plate, approximately .0003 m. f. maximum capacity	3.15
No. 210, 23-plate, approximately .0005 m. f. maximum capacity	3.60
No. 310, 31-plate, approximately .0007 m. f. maximum capacity	4.50
No. 410, 41-plate, approximately .001 m. f. maximum capacity	5.25
No. 610, 61-plate, approximately .0015 m. f. maximum capacity	7.50

Include postage for one pound to your postal zone, and insurance.

SERIES "CW"

Four inch stationary plate. Wide spacing for "CW" work. Fitted with knob and pointer. Solid Formica End supporting plates.



No. 1500, 15-plate, approximately .0004 m. f. maximum capacity	\$5.00
No. 2500, 25-plate, approximately .0006 m. f. maximum capacity	7.50
No. 3500, 35-plate, approximately .0008 m. f. maximum capacity	9.00

Include postage for two pounds on No. 1500 condenser, and for three pounds on No. 2500 and 3500, and insurance, to your postal zone.

And, Remember, That Quality Will Always Predominate With

THE WIRELESS SHOP

A.J. EDGCOMB

1262 West Second Street Dept. R Los Angeles, Cal.

Buy Radio to the Advertiser, it will help you.

www.americanradiohistory.com

RadioMuseum.org lists about 15 sets including the “Perflex” of 1925. The company advertisements could be quite florid:

“As the Mission Bell rung by the Padre of Old called the Indians to the Sanctity of their place of worship, so the modern clear tone of the PERFLEX RADIO RECEIVER calls the family to the sanctity of the Home --- and again the contrast of the pure tones of PERFLEX RADIO to the harshness of some receivers is as the comparison of the mellowness of the Mission bell to the blast of the automobile horn.”

(Quoted to make a point about California Missions by James Rawls, *California History*, Vol. 71, No. 3, Indians of California (Fall, 1992), pp. 342-361.)

(de K6VK) ##