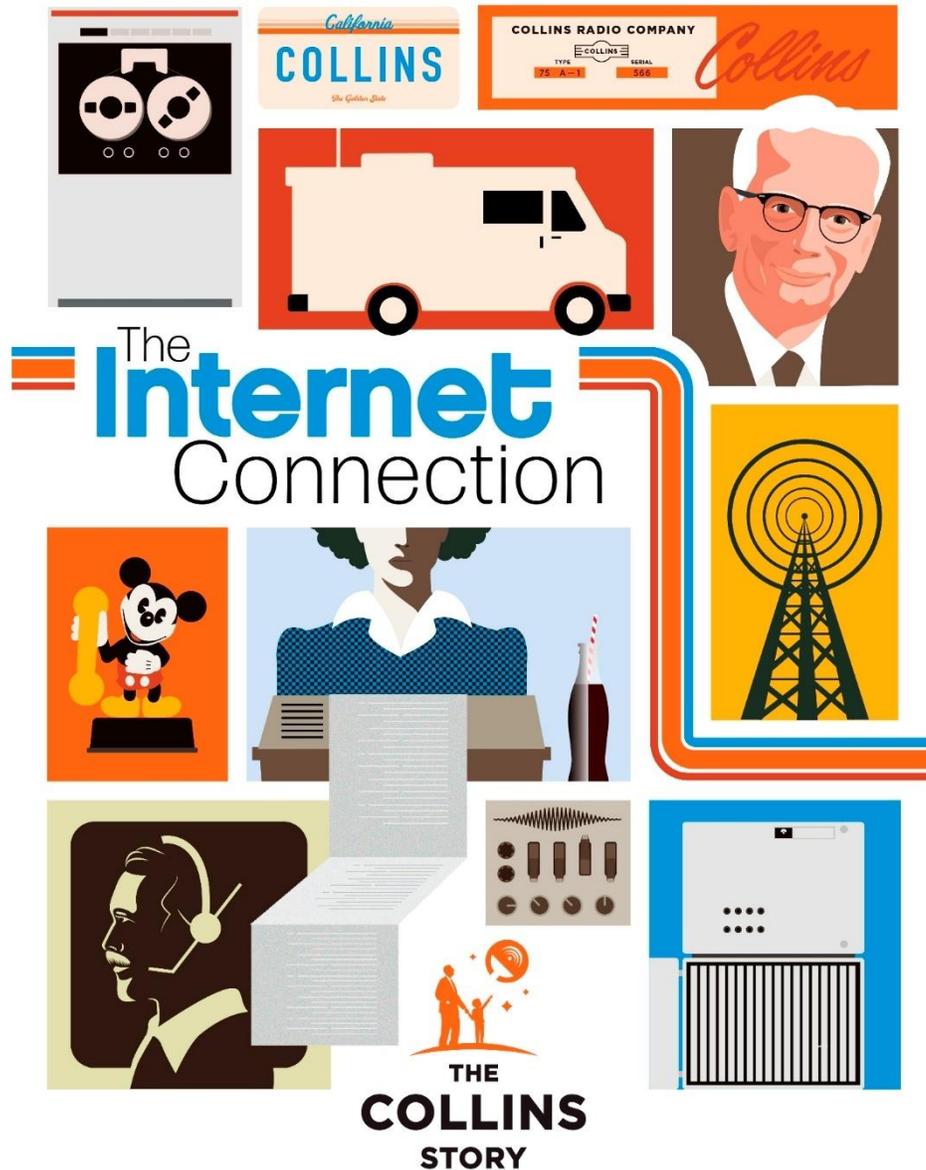


Arthur A. Collins Legacy Association

2025 Annual Report



NOVEMBER 2025

AN ARTHUR A. COLLINS LEGACY ASSOCIATION DOCUMENTARY POSTER DESIGN BY FUEL
PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH BUSBEE CREATIVE MEDIA AND WIRED PRODUCTION GROUP

© 2025 ARTHUR A. COLLINS LEGACY ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Arthur A Collins Legacy Association FY-2025 Annual Report

AACLA President's Letter

November 25, 2025

To: AACLA Volunteers and Collins Radio History Enthusiasts

The Arthur A. Collins Legacy Association (AACLA) is pleased to provide this annual report for our Fiscal Year 2025 (ended September 30, 2025). This Annual Report provides an overview and status of the various projects AACLA has performed, and the current financial status.

It has been an exhilarating few years for our Documentary Film Team and for our Museum Historians. We have:

- * continued the implementation of our new brand, **The Collins Story**
- * completed the three (3) year film project, **The Collins Story: The Internet Connection**
- * conducted Collins Aerospace Museum tours for 800 to 1200 patrons per year
- * added three (3) new exhibits to the Museum, including the 100 Year MacMillan Arctic Expedition, an enhanced Avionics Museum Room (Harry Passman Room), and Collins Broadcast era exhibit
- * responded to numerous significant requests from visitors to our websites

The Internet Connection documentary celebrates the 48th year of the rise of the internet, which documentary premiered November 2025 in Cedar Rapids in the Collins Road Theatres, the Cedar Rapids Library Whipple Auditorium, and in Richardson, Texas. Encouraged by Mr. Donald R. Beall (Rockwell International Chairman & CEO), the Arthur A. Collins Legacy Association took on this 3-year documentary project that explains the integral role that Collins played with DARPA and Stanford Research Institute, resulting in the first internet message transmitted November 22, 1977 (Collins was there, in the mobile van). In 2023, Mr. Beall introduced us to the Fathers of the Internet, Dr. Robert (Bob) Kahn and Dr. Vincent (Vint) Cert, resulting in 5 hours of raw video footage, most of it in-person in Virginia. It also led us to northern California and an extensive interview with the Father of DSL, Dr. John Cioffi; and others. The documentary explains how Collins Radio's 1950's Kineplex technology provided key technologies used in the Internet development, including connections to the current day 5G network.

Collins Aerospace Museum tours were recently provided to many significant groups including, but not limited to:

- Former executives of Collins Aerospace
- Collins Advanced Technology Center
- Collins Aerospace employees from non-legacy Collins businesses anxious to learn about the Collins name
- IP Attorneys from non-legacy Collins businesses
- STEM: Students from various school districts, including High School Robotics, 5th grade, and 3rd grade students
- STEM: A Children's book author investigated doing a book re Arthur at a young age
- STEM Families: Many parents bring their young children (tours are tailored)
- Professional orgs: Astronomy Observatory, NCRAL (North Central Region of Astronomical League)
- Professional orgs: NCMA, etc.
- Employee Loyalty: New employees and Interns brought their families to the Museum
- Employee Loyalty: Collins Aero Supply Chain Quarterly Presentations
- Employee Loyalty: Global Technology Solutions Dept brought a large group
- General Public: Various Retirement Homes bring dozens: Emery Place, Cottage Grove, etc.
- General Public: Women in Aviation: Coe, Kirkwood, Fly CID, Signature Aviation
- General Public: Connecting the World & The Heartland (regional Chamber of Commerce)
- Media: Cedar Rapids Gazette television interview
- Media: KCKK and Des Moines Radio Stations
- Media: Cedar Rapids Gazette newspaper articles
- Collins Retirees: Group of 100-200 interested
- Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation

Financial Status: AACLA has completely exhausted our available monetary funds primarily in the production of the above-mentioned Internet Connection documentary. This documentary is our most extensive to date and required 3 years of research, travel costs to interview Drs. Kahn, Cerf and Cioffi, plus obtaining support from our key Script Writer & Producer, Videographer, Music Composer and Graphics Animator. The AACLA film team personnel provided 1,000+ hours of effort on a voluntary/no cost basis.

We would very much appreciate consideration of the Arthur A. Collins Legacy Association in your charitable giving ... for us to reload to do the next feature length history presentation. In the interim, the AACLA film team will work on short documentaries that are produced at lower cost (in-house production). The next documentaries **may include:**

- **Arthur Collins leadership tree (recommended by Rod Blocksome & Mr. Beall)**
- **Collins' role in the WW2 Battle of the Atlantic (Direction Finders re sinking German U-Boats = mandatory support to war effort in Europe, North Africa. Our ancestors fought there)**

- **Collins role in Voyager - outside solar system communications**
- **Arctic and Antarctic Explorations (more than just the two (2) famous expeditions)**
- **Collins role in record breaking flights**
- **Collins role in the search for Amelia Earhart**
- **Comm Central Radio Station**
- **TACAMO, Verdin, VLF Communications**

Going Forward

AACLA is dedicated to the heritage of Collins Radio Company and its founder. We are also dedicated to preserving, honoring, and interpreting the legacy and memory of Arthur A. Collins and Collins Radio and the profound contributions that shaped world events in communications, navigation, aerospace, avionics, and defense technologies. This heritage is important to inspire the youth of today to “build a more meaningful and decent world.” In addition to inspiring students in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math, our work consistently promotes the message of optimism, doing your best, and the rewards of working together during difficult times.

Volunteers Needed

* AACLA needs to preserve/document the stories of hundreds of artifacts in AACLA storage. There are white papers to be written, and short videos created for streaming on YouTube, and public presentations.

* We need additional Museum Historians. The Collins Museum remains open to employees, families, and the general public - Wednesdays 11:30-1:00 pm; tours will continue to be available by appointment.

* STEM activities and teacher training modules need to be created for uploading to the website.

*** We would appreciate you including in your regular email signature block the references to the websites, YouTube channel, Facebook and Linked-In (see below).**

We thank each of you for your support of time, energy, and your nonprofit, tax-deductible monetary donations.

The AACLA Board of Directors invites you to be a part of this great work. As you can see, we have exciting plans. You might consider including your family in this historical research, to serve with you, side by side.

Come join us!!

Mike Dupree
President, AACLA
319/651-4666

Rod Blocksome
Vice President, AACLA
Information Officer, AACLA

Becky Woodward
Corporate Secretary

Frank Wilson
Treasurer

Website: TheCollinsStory.org – current and past annual reports are available at this website.

Website: CollinsAerospaceMuseum.org

YouTube Channel: [@TheCollinsStory](https://www.youtube.com/@TheCollinsStory)

Facebook: [The Collins Story](https://www.facebook.com/TheCollinsStory)

Linked-In: [The Collins Story](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-collins-story)

AACLA Purpose

The purpose of the Arthur A. Collins Legacy Association (AACLA) is to preserve, honor, and interpret the legacy and memory of Arthur A. Collins and the significant contributions he and Collins Radio Co. made in the world of communications, aerospace, and defense technologies. In carrying out this purpose, the AACLA has a special focus on education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The organization works to inspire and teach future generations by the preservation, interpretation, and display of artifacts, conducting educational events, and by producing historical documentaries in various media.

This report documents for our donors and volunteers the activities and accomplishments of AACLA during fiscal year 2025 (October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025). AACLA was incorporated nearly 11 years ago in the State of Iowa (on January 3, 2014) and became a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in October of 2014.

AACLA Personnel

The organization consists of a Board of Directors, who elect the officers, who in turn lead a cadre of dedicated volunteers. The Board meets quarterly: its Annual Meeting is each November.

AACLA Officers and Board of Directors – AACLA Bylaws authorize up to eleven (11) Directors. The Directors and Officers support AACLA without compensation.

The FY 2025 Officers and Board of Directors are:

Mike Dupree, President/Director – Retired Rockwell Collins (1975-2019)

Rod Blocksome, VP/Director & Information Officer - Retired Rockwell Collins (1968-2010)

Rebecca Woodward, Secretary/Director – Retired Rockwell Collins (2005 – 2020)

M. Frank Wilson, Treasurer – Retired Rockwell Collins (1974 - 1998)

H. Keith Erickson, Director – Retired, Head of Linn County Public Health (1980-2008)

Jim Stitzinger, Director - Businessman, Director Collins Collectors Association

Don Stulken, Director – Retired Rockwell Collins (1975 - 2015)

Larry Tjaden, Director – Retired Rockwell Collins (1973 - 2003)

Dave Nieuwsma, Director – Retired Rockwell Collins (1991 - 2022)

Paul Veenstra, Director – Retired Rockwell Collins (1977 - 2021)

Emily Schindler, Director – Current Collins Aerospace

Steve Tyson, Director – Retired Rockwell Collins (1995 - 2017)

The AACLA Annual Meeting was held on November 19, 2025.

AACLA Volunteers and Their Primary Work:

The AACLA recognizes the following (in alphabetical order) for their continued volunteer work this year: **Retired Rockwell Collins

- ** Rod Blocksome – Information Officer; Documentary research & artifacts, Museum Historian
- Michael Collins (Collins Radio, Arthur Collins' son) – Public relations, research, consultant
- ** Mike Dupree – General AACLA business ops, including Contracts; Museum Historian
- ** Alan Erickson – E-book project, Museum Historian
- Keith Erickson (Retired Linn County Health) – Documentary research
- ** Gordon Fabian – Indexing Collins publications
- ** Jim Jones – Collins 233D transmitter restoration
- ** Carol Kean – Book *The Radio Wizard*, 2nd edition
- Eric Miles – Facilitator on the Echo Hill monument project
- ** Bob Ocken – Documentation support & VIMEO archiving
- ** Larry Pinkston – Museum artifact restoration & Museum Historian
- ** Jim Pruitt – Documentary research & video editing
- ** Charley Snodgrass – Museum Historian
- ** Don Stulken – Documentary research & donations
- ** Larry Tjaden – Websites content, documentary research & Museum Historian
- ** Steve Tyson – Documentary research, public relations
- ** M. Frank Wilson – Treasurer and advisor
- ** Becky Woodward – Secretary, legal advice, & Museum Coordinator

Documentary Film Team:

Annette Busbee, Rod Blocksome, Don Stulken, Jim Pruitt, Steve Tyson, Larry Tjaden, Mike Dupree, Eric Freese, Myron Blocksome

1. AACLA Accomplishments in FY2025

“**The Collins Story – The Internet Connection**” is very close to completion after three long years of dedicated work by the film group (many of which were volunteers).

This project started in 2022 at the urging of Don Beall by documenting Collins' role in the birth of the internet. Historians point to a demonstration held in the San Francisco Bay area in November 1977 as the beginning of the Internet. This event interconnected three existing, but much different, data networks together for the first time and digital messages were successfully exchanged between distant users across these different networks. One network was a mobile packet radio data network using equipment designed and developed at Collins' Richardson, Texas facilities.

Mr. Beall introduced us to Dr. Bob Kahn and Dr. Vint Cerf, the widely acknowledged “Fathers of the Internet” which enabled the AACLA film team to conduct exclusive

interviews with them. Also, interviews and other key individuals included Don Nielson and Ron Kunzelman, both SRI retirees, John Cioffi, Stanford University Professor, and Marc Weber, Curator at the Computer History Museum.

We are proud to be so close in showing the importance of Collins Radio in the creation of the internet.

Dedicated Museum Avionics Room

A Dedicated Avionics Room was started last year to better balance the museum displays of historical Collins' equipment. Work has continued this year with Steve Tyson, retired avionics engineer, leading the effort to more comprehensively tell the story. The room is now full of displays consisting of equipment artifacts organized cohesively. Work continues to create signage to more fully tell the story as well as planning for expansion into more space needed nearby. Additional volunteers, familiar with Collins Avionics, are also needed as this effort continues to grow.

First Collins Laboratory Exhibit (Ham Shack)

The First Collins Laboratory Exhibit shows the pivotal role in radio communications with the 1925 MacMillan arctic expedition in 1925 played by Arthur Collins when only 15-years old. Recognizing this was the 100th anniversary of an event that eventually led to the creation of the Collins Radio Company, a team of AACLA volunteers were given a large conference room in Building 120 to produce a museum display to tell the story behind this event.

The objective was to create an engaging exhibit, designed to inspire today's youth, by showcasing how 15-year-old Arthur Collins, working in his parent's attic, was able to maintain radio communications with his older friend, John Reinartz. Reinartz was a radio operator with the MacMillan expedition in northern Greenland at a time when the US Navy was unable to maintain contact due to a choice of frequency and an understanding of radio propagation over long distances at high latitudes.

The exhibit first leads visitors to displays showing how you communicated with your friends in the year 1925. Then they receive some background on the new emergence of radio broadcasting, amateur radio, and the components required to engage in this fascinating "new" technology. Then on to see what specifically Arthur was able to accomplish by building his own, very sophisticated, amateur radio station. This is dramatically illustrated by a full-size replica of his attic room and station based on an extraordinary photograph taken 100-years ago. (Both are shown at the end of this report.)

To end this tour, visitors are shown small exhibits featuring two following events that shaped the future of the beginning of the Collins Radio Company. The first took place two years later when, then 17-year-old Arthur and two friends, outfitted a brand new delivery panel truck with a portable amateur radio station. They drove to California

and then back to Iowa while researching radio propagation on a very arduous trip that lasted 5 weeks.

The second event took place in the opening months of the fledgling Collins Radio Company in 1933 when Admiral Richard E. Byrd ordered two 100 Watt and one 1,000 Watt Transmitters that would survive a year in Antarctica. He wanted to make live radio broadcasts from “the bottom of the world” - something that had never been done before. The success and publicity generated from this event launched Collins Radio Company into the broadcast market in addition to its Amateur Radio products.

Broadcast Transmitter Exhibit

A Broadcast Transmitter Exhibit plan was initiated late this fiscal year. Earlier in the year, the AACLA’s collection of Collins artifacts was moved from its previous storage area into a large open area of Building 120 at the Collins Aerospace complex. Our collection includes several large Collins Broadcast Transmitters. Most have never been on public display even though the Collins Broadcast business spanned 50 years. The plan is to move these large transmitters into a line across the open area storage. This display arrangement would simultaneously “hide” the remaining stored artifacts while showcasing the technology and breadth of Collins Radio in the world of AM, FM, and Shortwave Broadcasting. The plan is to have this exhibit completed and part of the museum tours in early 2026.

2. Collins Historical Exhibits

Collins Aerospace Museum – The members of AACLA are integral in the preservation of the artifacts in the Company Museum in Building 120 of Collins Aerospace and in the education of Collins Aerospace employees, its customers and the community at large. Those artifacts date from 1924 to the late 1980’s. All of this is achieved by the extensive effort of volunteer museum historians (or Docents) conducting tours (which average 1 ½ hours in length) and through behind the scenes preservation of artifacts, documents, and photographs and the work required to organize, label and otherwise prepare the Museum for visitors.

The museum is open every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for tours for employees and the public (noting that public visitors must provide notice of a tour request to enable securing a Visitor’s badge). AACLA board member, Becky Woodward, coordinates this activity as well as arrangements for group tours of employees and/or visitors by appointment at other times.

During recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of visitors to the museum. In FY-2025, we had over 1,200 visitors to the Museum. We are proud to be a part of educating folks on the importance of Arthur Collins and Collins Radio.

In fact, since 2021, there have been between 800 to 1,000 patrons each year visiting the Museum.

3. Artifact Collection and Preservation

The AACLA collection of artifacts and documentation continues in protected storage at a Collins Aerospace building separate from the Museum. Collins Aerospace is donating this climate-controlled storage space to the AACLA.

Bill Sheka Estate Donation – In Sept. 2024, AACLA received a Collins 75A-4 Receiver and KWS-1 Transmitter from the estate. This equipment was the first commercial Collins HF SSB and was used on the historic SAC demo flights in 1957.

This artifacts donation is just one of many large and small donations that arrive monthly, or at least bi-monthly at AACLA or the Museum. Past annual reports list significant artifacts donations in past years.

4. Public Events and Presentations

AACLA Volunteer Docents at Collins Aerospace Museum – AACLA Volunteers do double duty working on AACLA projects and as volunteer museum Historians at the Collins Aerospace Museum located in Building 120. The museum has artifacts dating from the very beginning of Collins Radio (1933) to 1983. The museum website is www.CollinsAerospaceMuseum.org which includes many stories, documents, and photos. One of the unique and outstanding features of this website is the high-resolution scans of Collins Radio’s magazines, with a search tool that allows anyone to search at no cost all the publications by any of the following criteria:

- A Person’s Name
- Collins Equipment Type Number
- Events and Places

There are currently over **93,534** entries in this online searchable database of Collins historical library; this is thanks to many years of dedicated volunteer work by Collins retirees Gordon Fabian and Larry Tjaden. This library of Collins Publications includes the following publications:

Publication	Time Period	No. Issues on Website	No. Issues Missing
The Collins Signal	1933 – 1971	70	None
The Collins Column	1943 – 1957	138	None
The Collins Pulse	1961 – 1975	139	13
The Collins Personnel Services	1975 – 1977	20	1
The Rockwell Pride	1977 – 1985	7	29
The Rockwell News (CR Edition)	1974 – 1990	245	48
The Rockwell Contact	1981 – 1985	17	3
The Rockwell Vision	1995 – 1996	5	None
The Rockwell Millennium	1997 – 2001	14	None
The Rockwell Collins Horizons	2001 – 2015	63	None

Efforts continue to locate, scan, and index the missing issues. This collection and database are a great resource for those researching a family member and/or the company's history.

AACLA Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Report

The AACLA fiscal year is Oct. 1, 2024 to Sept. 30, 2025.
 AACLA Balance Sheet as of Sept. 30, 2025:

ASSETS

Savings Account	\$2,255.19
Checking Account	\$28,355.62
PayPal Account	\$8.93
CCU Business Account	\$930.20
CUNA Brokerage Account	\$17,638.07
Other Assets	\$800.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$49,988.01

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Internet Documentary	\$35,278.00	Videographer \$29k, Producer \$6.3k
Museum Designated	\$15,000.00	
Retained Earnings	(\$298.99)	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$49,988.01	

AACLA Income Statement for FY2025 (Oct 1, 2024 to Sept 30, 2025):

INCOME	
Direct Public Support (donations)	\$35,400.00
Investment	\$605.00
Sales (DVD's)	\$1,046.01
Misc. Revenue	\$119.20
TOTAL INCOME	\$37,170.21
EXPENSE	
Documentaries	\$19,117.00
Artifacts	\$0.00
Facilities & Equipment	\$0.00
Operations	\$400.00
Other Expenses	\$49,018.89
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$68,535.89
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(\$31,365.68)

AACLA Development (Funding) – The AACLA relies primarily on monetary donations, and also on sales of DVDs, posters, and books for operating funds.

AACLA Donations of cash and/or Collins’ artifacts during fiscal year 2025 were received from the following (in alphabetical order):

Beall Family Foundation Rod & Elizabeth Blocksome Tom Brennom Barry & Nancy Brown Barry & Pattie Buelow Donna Butikofer Katelin M. Ritcher Davis Mike & Debby Dupree Alan & Barbara Erickson Bob Erlandson Don & Marjorie Grimm	Philip Jasper G. Richard & Jacqueline Johnson Robert Kazimore David Knuth Mike & Melanie Moseley Dave Nieuwsma Steven & Lulu Rowe Paul & Gail Shanley William Sheka (family of)	Terry & Gail Smith Charles Snodgrass Don Stulken John Thedens Larry & Jane Tjaden Stephen & Debbie Tyson Solveig Walstrom Paul & Gail Williams Mike & Esther Wilson (in Memory of) Rebecca Woodward
---	---	--

The AACLA officers and Board of Directors sincerely thank all our past donors who have enabled our accomplishments to date. We would also like to thank the dedicated volunteers who have put in countless hours, the individuals and companies who did considerable pro-bono work, and Collins Aerospace for their continued support for providing facilities for our use.

We are thankful to Collins Aerospace for providing Museum space in Building 120 at the Main Campus and for entrusting us to care for the historic artifacts contained within the Museum.

We also recognize and thank FUEL, Inc., of Hiawatha, Iowa who has worked closely with AACLA providing pro-bono professional services in developing an improved brand identity for our organization.

Meeting room accommodations are generously provided by Noelridge Christian Church in Cedar Rapids.

The AACLA officers and Board of Directors operate without pay and rely on donations and in-kind goods and services to accomplish our goals and objectives. AACLA Board Members are also monetary donors to the organization. AACLA encourages donations of Collins Radio artifacts such as equipment, documents, photographs, and other media per our collection policy found on our website: www.thecollinsstory.org

Your contribution will be gratefully accepted by contacting:

AACLA President, Mike Dupree mike.dupree.aacla@gmail.com (319) 651-4666

or

AACLA Vice President, Rod Blocksome rod.blocksome@gmail.com (319) 329-7676



Drs. Kahn and Cerf with the ACLA interview film team



The interview set in Reston, Virginia

Arthur Collins Radio Laboratory

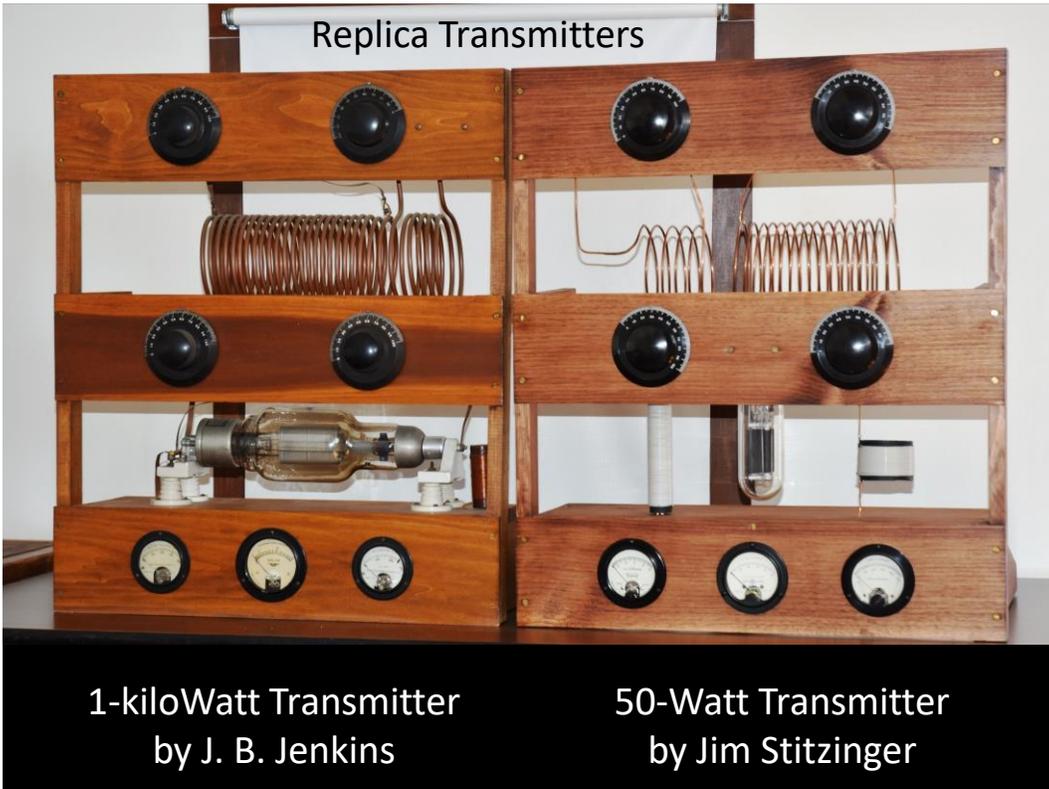
June 1925



Arthur Collins Radio Laboratory

Replica June 2025





THE COLLINS STORY