

June 13, 2012

Douglas, Susan. "Early Radio." *Communication in History*. Ed. David Crowley and Ed. Paul Hyer. 6th. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, INC., publishing as Allyn & Bacon, 2011. Print.

Susan Douglas discusses in her chapter "Early Radio" the establishment of Radio. Beginning as a primitive form of the modern notion of a radio, old wire antennas and crystal black boxes were powered by batteries. These were the first radio devices, and the assembly of these systems was the sole responsibility of the owner. In fact, boys and men introduced the device in a similar manner to what they would later do with computing technology as computers were invented. In the early 1920's, radios helped to form a more genuine sense of national identity. Listeners could communicate across vast areas through physical obstructions, and communication advanced in a similar sense to the development of journalism; however, this was not exactly like the newspaper.

The three initial steps of listening created a basic foundation for radio. First, Dxing was common since buying a radio meant ownership over expression and national information. HAM radio clubs and fraternities encompassing the concept of radio 'pride' were created. Second, music listening became common, and the ability to do so was improved in 1925 with loudspeakers. It was no longer an absolute necessity to use headphones. Third, network listening began and radio series' like 'Amos 'n Andy' attracted the attention of a regular audience. This audience would routinely tune their radio dial at the same time every week, day, or hour. With these initial steps, 'wireless telegraphy' was a common term to describe radio.

HAM radio fraternity clubs formed and took upon amateur radio. The ingenuity of these clubs was apparent to observers. In lifting anything from Model T ignition coils to telephones

from public phone booths, these parts were used to create their radio projects. In fact, with this development, new rules and regulations were created. The Radio Act of 1912 limited amateurs in their usage of radio. Later, the FCC would be created, and tension as a result. A new found responsibility was placed on society, thus creating new social norms and institutions.