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## 86 August 2004 QSTZ

most important to better understand the motivating forces which carried him to his goal. As a Michigan farm boy he was eternally curious about things mechanical and electrical, particularly aircraft and electronics. At the age of twelve he built and flew his own airplane. In his early twenties he was attracted to the nearby Heath Company, located in Niles, Michigan, then engaged entirely in the aircraft business. Incidentally, this was the same company that designed and sold the famous Heath Parasol kit form airplane, in the mid-twenties.

Keen interest in electronics was responsible for Howard Anthony's operation of a radio sales, service and custom design shop during the period of 1932-35. This practical experience developed a vital appreciation of the radio serviceman's problems and directly influenced his efforts in later years.

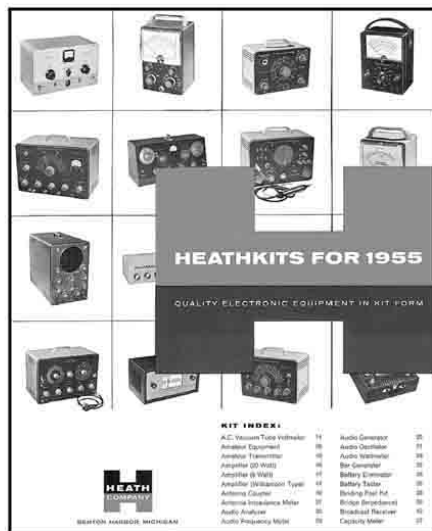
In 1935 business circumstances permitted Howard Anthony and his wife, Helen, to purchase the Heath Company and under their guidance a new Heath Company era was launched. In 1936 the Heath Company moved to Benton Harbor and manufacturing proceeded from aircraft parts, first for civilian use and later for wartime contracts, to aircraft radio equipment, and finally to the famous Heathkit electronic instruments.

Oscilloscopes had always attracted Howard Anthony and the principle of their operation was exceedingly fascinating to him. Early in his radio career he had built his own Scope because commercially available models were too costly. This particular instrument always remained his favorite and in a few years he achieved the distinction of having been responsible for the production of more oscilloscopes than any other man in history—well over 100,000 instruments. His present Model 0-10 represents his greatest accomplishment and final contribution to kit oscilloscope design.

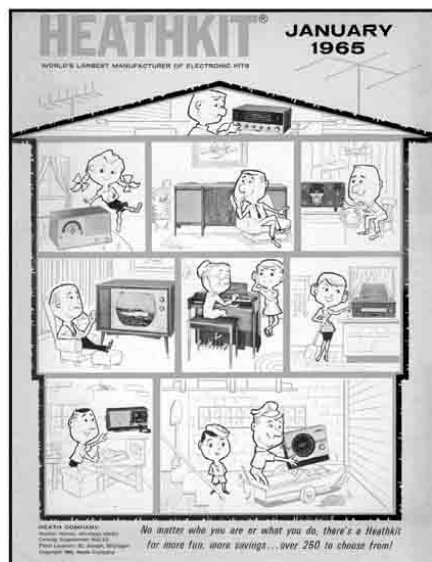
In his acquisition of surplus material, Howard Anthony had accumulated many cathode ray tubes, which represented the most expensive oscilloscope component. He was convinced that a definite service could be performed by offering a low-cost kit form Scope. The idea was considered fantastic by many and was freely scoffed at. An initial trial run of 100 Scope kits was offered to Heath Company customers at \$39.50. Response was tremendous and furnished all of the encouragement needed to further pursue this phase of operation. Thus were Heathkits born.

Heath Company progress, from the production of Howard Anthony's first kit, is one of amazing development and pioneering. Other kits rapidly made their appearance. Additional engineering talent was trained, production facilities were enlarged and improved. Art and Editorial Departments were added for efficient manual preparation. Kit packing technique was improved and, in effect, new trails were blazed through all phases of an infant industry. The kit instrument genie from Howard Anthony's magic cathode ray lamp grew and grew.

This is basically the story of Howard Anthony's success in the kit instrument



1955 Heathkit catalog showing a wide selection of ham radio kits.



1965 Heathkit catalog showing color TV and expanded home electronics line.



One of the last Heathkit catalogs, showing modern ham radio products.

business: Sheer courage to do what many said could not be done, engineering genius, and resourcefulness to provide real service to his fellowman.

Who can measure the stimulus that Howard Anthony gave to electronics? Who can say how much dissemination of electronic knowledge was made possible through availability of Heathkits to various educational institutions? Certainly radio and T.V. service shops were more complete because Heathkits represented an opportunity for a serviceman to purchase a wide variety of kit instruments for the same amount that would normally be spent for a single factory-built item. This kit instrument availability was further reflected in better and faster service and increased profit to the serviceman and of course a better standard of living. The amateur radio enthusiast and high fidelity fan too have reaped the benefits of Howard Anthony's pioneering.

The only way all of these things can be measured is in Howard Anthony's pride that he had brought the electronic instrument field within the reach of the common man. His reward was the friendly, sincere encouragement he received from you, "his family" of customers.

Heath Company operation will carry on in the Howard Anthony tradition. The pattern has been set and the future program is virtually endless. Whatever the Heath Company may accomplish in future years can be directly attributed to the leadership of Howard Anthony, a man who earned the respect, friendship and admiration of all who knew him. His was the satisfaction of a job well done.

## Catalogs

I have included images of several Heath mail order catalog covers so you can see how they grew over time. The earliest one I have is dated March 1950. It shows the new kits for sale and still listed war surplus radios. By 1952 it was almost all kits, with some electronic parts. They had a short-wave receiver kit, but had not yet started to build ham radio kits, per se.

By their 1955 catalog, you could purchase a complete ham radio station. They featured the Heathkit VFO, the AT-1 transmitter, the AC-1 antenna coupler and an improved short-wave receiver kit, the AR-2. They also offered several pieces of ham radio related test equipment. The rest was history.

The number of products and the size of their catalogs continued to grow until the 1990s, when they decided to end the kit and ham radio business. During these 40-plus years, most of us who were active in ham radio owned at least one Heathkit.

There is much more to the Heathkit story. For some interesting Internet sites about Heath, please check my Web page: [www.eht.com/oldradio/arrl/index.html](http://www.eht.com/oldradio/arrl/index.html). —K2TQN