



Broadcast News

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

Our August meeting is coming up, August 8th at the Hometown Buffet on NW Expressway near 63rd Street. The actual meeting starts at 7PM, preceded by dinner at about 6. I'm looking forward to this meeting, as the topic is tube testers. There is a lot variety in testers. And most have some attribute that is good, possibly with others that are drawbacks. Everyone is asked to bring a tester or two so that we can compare. A few tubes to test to compare readings should also be fun, especially tubes that test good on one type tester, but have no emission on another. I'm hoping that some members can offer tips on repair of testers, and calibration. Other questions that can hopefully be answered are: Are Hickok testers really better? What is so great about a military TV7/D?

I picked up a trunk load of items for the donation auction in Moore, but additional items are always welcome to help support the club. I've been advised that a group from the Tulsa club will be in attendance. It should be a great meeting!

I missed last month's meeting, as we went to the MARC Extravaganza meet in Lansing, Michigan. It was a good meet! Attendance seemed to be about the same as last year, and my flea market spot was almost in the same place, and at a good location. The format is somewhat different than other meets. There were some activities and presentations on Thursday afternoon, but we did not get there soon enough to attend them. The flea market officially opens at 7 AM, and restrictions on earlier selling are enforced. I did not see any violations. After the opening, I could not find anything to purchase for about an hour, so super deals were probably few. Julie sold a few of my items right away. I purchased mainly tubes, later on in the day. There was a lack of brass based tipped tubes, and I saw very few available. There were a lot of nice items, but prices were high on them. Early 1920's items were not common, but there were plenty of offerings from later years. It was a nice day with a threat of rain, but none materialized. The club officials manning the PA system were great at keeping us informed. The women of the club had coffee, soft drinks, donuts, and cookies available for donations all thru the meet.

Friday evening instead of a formal banquet, they had an informal program with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The contest items were on display on the side of the same room...some interesting items. The program included the presentation of awards and contest winners, and was improved to be shorter than previous years. Alan Jespersion and his group performed, as well as Jeff Conley with his Johnny Cash offerings.

Saturday morning it began to rain lightly at about 7AM, but the correct forecast from the PA was that it was moving thru and would clear up soon. So the flea market was up and going again by about 8:15, and there was a large tent with many booths that was unaffected by the rain. The auction was to begin

at 2 PM. There were some nice offerings from an estate, but we did not stay and headed back toward Oklahoma. We hope to attend again next year.
See you at the August meeting.

Report for the OKVRC Meeting of July 11th 2009

It was a hot time in the Old Town last weekend as the thermometer reached a record 109 degrees in Oklahoma City. Apparently it was too hot for most of our membership as only nine OKVRC members managed to attend our second Saturday of the month meeting at the Hometown Buffet restaurant in Oklahoma City. I guess I can't blame them, but after mowing my yard that day in the blazing heat, the cool AC of the restaurant was a good place to recover and spend the evening with the hardy souls who made it out. Club President Jim Collings was out of town on business that night, so Roger Knopf and I offered a program on the repair of plastic cabinet radios. We were unable to locate an expert on the subject to speak to the club, so we relied on an expert on a DVD: Brett Manassa of Brett's Old Radios. Brett offers four excellent videos on the subject of old radio restoration. Volume One covers basic electronic and cosmetic restoration of radios, and Volume Two features more advanced electronic repair and troubleshooting. Volume Three covers restoration of plastic cabinet radio cabinets, while Volume Four covers restoration of wood radio cabinets. All four of these videos are available for loan to our club members, if you want to borrow one, just let your club secretary know and I'll bring it to the next monthly meeting for you.

Almost all radios built in the early to mid twenties had wood cabinets. In the late twenties, sturdy but heavy metal sets were turned out in great numbers by such makers as Atwater-Kent and Crosley. In the early thirties, a few small sets were even made with cabinets made of pressed cardboard, in an effort to produce a very inexpensive set for Depression battered consumers. By the mid-late thirties, plastic appeared on the scene and soon became the preferred material for small, low cost table sets. Plastic's popularity grew through the forties, fifties, and sixties, so that by the early seventies wood cabinet radios were but a small part of the market. So there are several decades' worth of collectable plastic radios out there for collectors of all budgets, they don't take up much space and are a great way to introduce younger collectors to the hobby. Much of the fun of collecting plastic radios is the nearly infinite variety of shapes plastic can be fashioned into.

As explained in the number three video, there are actually several different types of plastic that have been used down through the years. The first and most commonly used was Bakelite, which consists of phenol formaldehyde mixed with as much as 80% filler material. Plascon radios used a urea formaldehyde mix with less filler, about 20 to 40%. Beetle plastic radios used a urea formaldehyde mix that provided a swirl effect. The rare and desirable Catalin radios used a pure colored phenol formaldehyde formula without filler, which provides the translucent appearance that make the radios so beautiful. By the nineteen fifties, more modern plastics came into use, which made it possible to make plastic cabinets thinner and lighter, as well as offer more color choices.

Brett's video gave many tips on how to restore plastic cabinets. For cabinets that are undamaged except for surface wear and discoloration, a finish similar to the original can be restored by careful washing in warm soapy water, followed by polishing with products like Novus #2 Plastic Polish or brass polish, and finally by applying a hard paste wax finish to really bring out the finish. Ordinary shoe polish can also be used to restore color to faded sets. The steps are fairly simple and most of the materials you need you probably already have lying around the house.

Where the video gets really interesting is where the host teaches you how to repair damaged plastic cabinets. The sort of damage can be as simple as a small crack, to as major as a cabinet being in pieces, perhaps due to inadequate packing or rough handling of that little Art Deco gem you found on EBay. Also covered are how to cast, using resins, missing cabinet pieces and trim, and how to repaint painted plastic sets. The steps are more than I can explain in this brief article, but well worth learning

about, given a damaged set can be often obtained for a fraction of the cost of an intact one. Plus, you will have the satisfaction every restorer obtains from transforming a junker into a jewel.

Since we had a light turnout, the amount of stuff in the monthly donation auction was small. Two 13" color TVs, some satellite TV parts, and a few odds and ends found new homes for a buck each.

Next month's subject: Tube Testers! Bring yours in to share with the club. See you then!

Article series for OKVRC newsletter by member Art Hoch

“DR.” JOHN R. BRINKLEY, GOAT GLANDS AND RADIO



“Now ladies and gentlemen, before I proceed with my discussion of your health---or your funeral--- I want to again urge you, if you have not already done so, to get in your order for my large free book that is mailed to everybody absolutely free and without obligation upon request. All I can do is to put this information in your hands free without obligation, and leave it to your own good judgment as to whether you will take the advice given or leave it alone. This book tells you how to be examined, tells you the symptoms and treatment of many diseases common to men and women. And it is born of many years of experience, nearly 25 years in the study of human ailments. And I'm glad to place this literature in your hands and it doesn't cost you anything, and it doesn't obligate you [in] any way. And when I've done this, I have done my duty, and my conscience is clear, and I leave it to your own good judgment whether you are going to take the advice given or leave it alone. All I can do is tell you what to do and then leave it to you to make the decision.”

And so began one of “Doctor” J. R. Brinkley's radio talks which prompted thousands of men over several years to send for his free “Doctor Book.” It graphically related the problems related to “the old cocklebur,” the male prostate. John Richard Brinkley's hypnotic voice filtered through radio headphones and speakers into thousands (perhaps millions) of homes, and convinced men, who probably were good insurance risks when Brinkley's broadcast began, that they were near death by the time he signed off.

John R. Brinkley understood the power of radio and used it to become one of the richest men in the United States during the 1920s and 1930s. He performed surgery mostly on older men, convincing them their sagging libido could be restored and they could enjoy the “fruits” of their old age. At \$750 a pop --- upfront with NO exceptions --- he surgically transplanted slivers of young goat “glands” (testicles) into men—in the same anatomical space. Brinkley's premise was the human male would absorb the glands and increase his patient's sexual vigor. While Brinkley couldn't explain it scientifically or medically, that was of no concern to thousands of people who *wanted to believe it would “take.”* And that included wives, who often had matching goat ovaries implanted into their

bodies. For his efforts, the American Medical Association, particularly its secretary, Morris Fishbein, labeled Brinkley "*persona non grata*," charlatan, quack, and some other names better not used here.

But I get ahead of myself.

John Romulus Brinkley was born the illegitimate son of John Richard Brinkley and his 5th wife, Sarah Candace Burnett. Brinkley Sr. was a Civil War confederate veteran from North Carolina. He was a "read" doctor, meaning he simply read about medicine, and then began to practice on those who would grant him the privilege. No formal medical training was needed in the late 1800's in many areas, and anyone could "hang out his shingle" which Brinkley did. It was a common practice; all that was probably required was a strong stomach and the desire for income.

J. R. was born July 8, 1885, to John Sr. and Sarah, supposedly in Beta, N. C., but when he was baptized, his middle name was changed to Richard because his Methodist mother felt "Romulus" was heathen. When J. R. was six, his mother died of tuberculosis. At the age of eleven, his father also passed on, that occurring when he was called back into the mountains several miles to attend a sick woman. There, resting by the fireplace and chewing a plug of tobacco, he suffered a heart attack and died at the age of 68.

Now an orphan, his mother's aunt, Sally Mingus, a poor soul who occasionally would earn \$3 as a midwife, took in J. R. To say he wasn't "dressed to the heels" would be an understatement. He and Aunt Sally somehow kept body and soul together. But by the time he had "graduated" from Tuckaseegee High School (although no record of the school's existence could be found later), he secured a job with the Southern Railroad as a relief agent. There he learned to be a "keyer" which later would open some telegraphic doors for employment. He carried a mail route on Saturdays, riding by horseback 14 miles to where he picked up the pieces for delivery. Eventually he gained employment as a regular railroad agent and telegrapher.

To suggest he wanted to escape the hardscrabble life would be another understatement. J. R. related that "after my father died, why, it was a case of root, pig, or die, and there wasn't much soil to root in. We were poor. Oftentimes in winter I had to walk to school three miles, barefooted, with nothing to eat but a piece of cold corn bread. When we got molasses to sop the bread in, we had a feast."

After "Aunt" Sally died in December 1907, J. R., 22, with newly found freedom and a new suit of clothes married Sally Wicke, the daughter of a well-to-do landowner. Venturing out in a horse-drawn covered wagon, they roamed the countryside, sang and danced, sold tonic, and as itinerant entertainers, showed up "...in about all these little towns," Miles Parker would later relate in Sylva, North Carolina.

Brinkley wanted to be a doctor, as his father was, and he and Sally eventually found their way to Chicago, where J. R. enrolled in the Bennett Medical College (not perceived by many to be a legitimate school of medicine), paying for his education and living expenses with a night job at Western Union. This proved to be a strain on his marriage, particularly after their first child, Wanda, was born. Sally would often leave him when he was having trouble with "the bottle," but they would eventually patch up their relationship. However, at one point, J. R. actually "kidnapped" Wanda, according to his estranged wife, and took her to Canada. Convinced his best interests would be served by returning to Chicago, he acquiesced.

J. R. never graduated from the medical school, but while in Chicago he met one-armed James Crawford. They would determine to go into business together and made their way to Greenville, South Carolina, where they began a "medical practice." However, they skipped town a month later with 30

or 40 merchants left holding hot checks. This professional alliance wasn't to last, and Brinkley and Crawford eventually were returned on arrest warrants, serving time in the local hoosegow.

By the spring of 1911, J. R.'s second daughter Maxine arrived. Now with this added responsibility, Brinkley actually tried to practice medicine, and established his own business in Dandridge, Tennessee. Two years later, he became the father of a third daughter, Beryl (an infant son did not survive.) Invited to a farewell party for a friend leaving for the Orient, Brinkley attended it in Memphis, Tennessee.

While in Memphis, he met Minerva "Minnie" Telitha Jones, and 4 days later married her in the Peabody Hotel in Memphis. The problem was, he was still married to Sally. Perhaps he didn't know that it wasn't legal to be married to two women---at the same time. At any rate, "Minnie," daughter of a legitimate doctor, and J. R. were to remain in legal wedded bliss for the rest of his life. As an afterthought, divorce would cure the bitter marriage to Sally. Stay tuned!

Bibliography: *The Life of a Man*, by Clement Wood; *The Bizarre Careers of Dr. Brinkley* by R. Alton Lee; *The Roguish World of Doctor Brinkley* by Gerald Carson; *Quacks and Crusaders* by Erick S. Juhnke; *Charlatan* by Brock Pope; the *Brinkley Papers* from the Kansas State Historical Society Library in Topeka, Kansas.

(To be continued)

THE ARVIN - MODEL 422

By Bill Jones

While there is no shortage of Arvins, a particular model may, at times, be difficult to find. I have been looking for an Arvin 422 for some time. I finally found an ivory colored one. I did not care if it was brown or ivory since I plan to restore one of each. The brown is the - 422 and the ivory is the 422A. The electronics are much the same for all of the four-tube Arvin's, but there are minor changes. The 422A that I just restored had the I.F. transformer under the chassis and the transformer was not shielded. Most four-tube Arvins that I have seen had the I.F. on the upper chassis in a shield. In restoring the chassis of this Arvin I found an oscillation at the low end of the dial. I have noted this type of oscillation before with other radios. I paid little attention since it could be removed by a slight adjustment of the I.F. While checking this Arvin I began to wonder why this was happening. The oscillation was of the motor-boating sort. After some investigation it was found that the I.F. transformer leads were radiating to the antenna input. That is, it was being picked up by the antenna lead – from the I.F. transformer. It only occurred at the low end of the band because the I.F. tuned frequency is very close to the R.F. input frequency at the low end of the dial. Again, while not serious, it is interesting. It is easy to stop the oscillation by using a one to two foot shielded lead (shield to ground) connected to the antenna coil and then connecting the real antenna to the center of the shielded lead. If you have ever worked on TRF radios that have a high gain you will remember the oscillation problem. In the TRF case it is a true RF oscillation and you will hear a whistle from the set when tuning to a station. In some cases shielding the antenna lead to where the real antenna connection input is a few feet from the set can cure this.

Some manufacturers were very conscientious about shielding. They used covers for the variable condenser, the tubes of course, and a cover for the bottom of the chassis. I am thinking of the TRF Majestics in particular. This shielding was done to keep radiation from the wires inside the set from getting back into the antenna. Most manufacturers had low gain sets and did little in the way of shielding. Some did not understand the problem. The oscillation could be cured by low gain R.F. Stages – or often by slightly detuning the RF stages. In such case, the manufacturer would usually

advise the customer to use a good antenna. Arvin makes such a suggestion, but not for the same reason. The Arvin actually has a good performance considering its simplicity.

The Arvin does not have a large gain in the R.F. section but it is better than you might think. The antenna coil has a gain of greater than ten. Note that it has an iron core in the antenna coil. An “Iron core” was the beginning of Ferrite, while then called an iron core, it was still Ferrite. This could be considered “High Tech” at the time the Arvin was produced. The Arvin I.F. stage has a gain of better than ten, but to the primary of the transformer it will be greater than that. The primary of the I.F. stage then radiates to the antenna and causes the oscillation. It actually “motor boats” because the A.G.C. causes the gain of the 12SA7 to drop – thus stopping the oscillation momentarily.

One reason the Arvin has sensitivity better than one would think possible is because it has a high audio gain. Note that there is no resistor in the cathode of the 12SQ7, thus omitting a large audio bypass. It has a very large resistor in the grid circuit of the 12SQ7. This supplies the grid bias for the 12SQ7 audio – a grid leak resistor. The “grid leak” was common in the early days of radio. Also note that the Volume control is two megohms. In most sets this control is usually in the order of K-ohms so as to reduce hum problems. The plate resistor of the 12SQ7 is also quite large – all these together give a high audio gain but also contribute to a high Q for the I.F. transformer secondary since it is so lightly loaded. This then improves the selectivity. One final note - the tuning condenser has the oscillator plates of the shaped type with a variable trimmer, but the R.F. condenser has no trimmer. It saves a padder and a trimmer. The padder will contribute a lower R.F. gain even if correctly aligned as compared to the shaped plates. The alignment of the R.F. stage is then accomplished by varying the oscillator trimmer (at the high end of the dial) until the strength of a small signal is maximized. The set is inexpensive and well designed. The set has a reasonable performance with few components – it was cheap, but that was the idea.

I was somewhat disappointed that my set had no label. It is often difficult to remove labels before restoration. If it does have a label I will scan the label before restoration. If it is not possible to successfully remove the label it can be restored by use of a Photo Software program. I found a picture of a 422 on E-bay and it had a picture of the label that was just readable. I was able to copy the picture and use it to make a good label for my Arvin. The “after” label should be usable by some who restore the 422. Feel free to use it. (Please request Editor to email copy of label)

NEW*NEW*NEW* The OKVRC Monthly Breakfast will be held at 8:30 AM, Wednesday morning, August 5, 2009, at Cattleman's, 1309 South Agnew, Oklahoma City. This new location is on the right of the first stop light South of I-40 on Agnew.**

The Oklahoma Vintage Radio Collectors (OKVRC) publishes the Broadcast News monthly for the presentation of historical information and enjoyment of club members and friends. Articles on subjects of interest to radio collectors, news of club activities, and restoration information are always welcome. Articles should be sent to the Broadcast News Editor, c/o OKVRC, PO BOX 50625, Midwest City, OK 73140-5625 or e-mailed RXRADIO@AOL.COM. Unless otherwise noted, articles can be reprinted freely, as long as proper credit and reference is given. Electronic copy of articles can be obtained from the editor of Broadcast News.

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- WANTED:** Transmitters, Receivers, Ham gear, Boat Anchors Radio, Test Equipment, Tubes, Parts, you name it. Call Tom Laszynski at (405) 741-1176 or e-mail me at k8jrm@arrl.net.
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- WANTED:** Any radio related German items. Especially WWII radios, tubes, and accessories. I'm a buyer also for Grundig, Telefunken radios and tubes from the 1950-1965 era. Frank Karner (405) 769-4656 fkarner@cox.net
- WANTED:** Tubes for my German repair business. need a quantity of these tubes, either good used or NOS please: EF89 = 6DA6; EABC80= 6AK8; EM34 = 6CD7; ECC808 = 6KX8, EM80 =6BR5 EL34 = 6CA7; EF86 = 6267; Frank Karner, e-mail: fkarner@cox.net (405) 769-4656
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- WANTED:** Bakelite case for Philco Boomerang model 49-501 deco radio. Cracked, nice or restorable...whatever condition you have! Frank Karner, 12432 Elizabeth Cove, Midwest City, OK. 73130. E-mail: fkarner@cox.net (405) 769-4656
- WANTED:** Parts for a 1925 SUPER ZENITH 27. This is similar to the Super Zenith VII, except for the AC power supply, meter. I need the AC power supply (Maybe there are 2 used?) and perhaps some small parts. THANKS! Frank Karner (405) 769-4656 fkarner@cox.net
- WANTED:** RESTORED Philco model 90, good condition and "reasonably" priced. Rod Higgins, (405) 329-3013, hotrod808@sbcglobal.net
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- FOR SALE:** House wiring antenna networks, "Aircore" choke Baluns, Balun Isolation transformers and amateur 1KW "Aircore" 1 to 1, 1 to 4 and 1 to 9 "pigtail" weatherproof Baluns. L.W. Rousseau (405)842-0125
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"Motivated seller wants to clear large garage full of consoles! Also many chassis, table radios, books, literature, parts, etc. Located in Meade Kansas, just north of the Oklahoma Kansas line. Contact Mark Minks for photos, and to arrange time for viewing. Mark Minks, E-mail: ak768@yahoo.com. Mark has a number of good photos of the contents, very reasonable prices. I estimate he may 25 consoles alone... Philcos to Atwater Kents. Just wanted club members to know...I believe that's the idea of a club. Frank Karner"

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