



Broadcast News

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

It's been a busy summer with vacations and radio meets. Our August meeting is coming up already. It's August 14th at the Hometown Buffet on NW Expressway near 63rd Street. The actual meeting starts at 7PM, preceded by dinner at about 6. I missed the last meeting, so I'm looking forward to this one. The topic picked was radios with manufacturers that begin with C, D, or E. I believe we had a Crosley night not too long ago, so let's leave out Crosley. Here are brands that I can think of: Chelsea, Clapp-Eastham, Columbia, Cutting & Washington, Deforest, Duck, DU-WA, Edison, Electro Importing Company, EICO, Electro Voice, Erla, and Emerson. So there is a wide variety covering all eras. Also, this meeting is the only meeting where we conduct much business, as it's time for our annual election of officers. I believe all of the current officers have consented to serve another term, but nominations are taken from the floor if someone else would like to serve. See you at the meeting, and don't forget to bring something for the donation auction!

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, as well as everything else, so I did not detect improvement or any deficiency from last year. We set up at a table under the tent for a change, but there was no rain, so that was not a factor. It was a little inconvenient to put purchased items under the table until they could be moved to the car, but may have had more lookers at what we had to offer. It was nice not to have to take a table and chair along, saving more room for purchases. We used the space, as we found quite a few items on the trip up, as we were in Michigan early to visit my son, so had a couple days before the meet to see northern Michigan. The flea market officially opens at 7 AM, and restrictions on earlier selling are enforced. I did not see any violations. I found a variety of things, but noticeably absent was the large lot of tubes by a vendor under the tent.

Apparently he had sold everything to one buyer prior to the meet. There were a lot of nice items, but prices were high on many of them, but others were priced fairly. Early 1920's items were not common, but there were plenty of offerings from later years. The women of the club had coffee, soft drinks, donuts, and cookies available for donations all thru the meet, which was very convenient. At lunch, the Hotel had lunch grilled items available for purchase. A change was the availability of beer to purchase. The temperature was unseasonably warm and humid for the area, so this was a welcome addition for some.

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. We had decided to eat a full meal instead of the hors d'oeuvres, so missed most of the presentation of awards and contest winners. Music was provided by a group of 5 talented musicians who could play any requests from the audience. Instrumentation was Guitar, Violin, String

Bass, Hammer Dulcimer, Banjo and Trumpet. (several played several instruments). It was very good and we stayed until the end, 11PM.

Saturday morning, the flea market was up and going again by about 8:00, I made some last minute deals, took some stuff to the donation auction, and we were packed up by about 11:30. The main auction was to begin at 2 PM, and the plan was to see what was available and decide whether to stay for it. Apparently viewing did not start until 1, so we did not stay and headed back toward Oklahoma. We had a good time, and hope to attend again next year.

Last weekend was an auction in the Dallas area (Mesquite) by Jim Sargent. Featured were many items that were John Bryant's, and quite a few phonographs and items from several other estates. There were many interesting and unusual Zeniths, as a book on Zenith's later offerings had been planned by John. Most of these, and most of the other radio items sold at very fair prices. But it was not a large sale, only running from 9AM to about 3 PM. Several buyers from the internet were winners, but almost everything sold in the room. It was a good sale!

See you at the August meeting. We should have a lot of Emersons!

Report for the OKVRC Meeting of July 10th 2010

We are in the midst of a rather unusual July here in Oklahoma City, record rain and humidity. But today was sunny and pleasant, so perhaps club members that were trapped indoors by last week's storms decided to get away to the lake or whatever. So, it was a smaller than average group of twelve OKVRC members, spouses, and guests that met for our usual second Saturday of the month meeting at the Hometown Buffet restaurant in Oklahoma City. But we got to welcome one new member! Members began arriving before 6:00PM to eat dinner, and we enjoyed our meal as always in our private dining room.

Club President Jim Collings was out of town on business, so the two other Jim's (Club Treasurer Jim Ray and Club Secretary Jim Tyrrell) filled in for Jim Collings. (We do have a lot of Jims!) Tonight's program was: Radios whose manufacturer's names begin with "B". You may recall that last month's program was on radios whose brand name began with "A".

Perhaps everyone thought someone else was going to bring in radios to share, because we only had two radios brought in for the "B" category. Your club secretary brought in a Brunswick model 5KR TRF receiver. This radio uses a Radiola model 18 chassis provided to Brunswick by RCA. What is an RCA radio doing in a Brunswick cabinet? It goes back to a time when the RCA Corporation supplied radio chassis assemblies to both the Victor Talking Machine company and the Brunswick-Blake-Colander company, starting around 1924. Victor and Brunswick were two of the largest home phonograph manufacturers in the country at that time, and were determined rivals. But by 1924, they were both facing an even tougher competitor- the new technology of radio. In response, Victor and Brunswick purchased RCA radio units to install into their large phonographs, giving the customer a chance to obtain two forms of home entertainment in one package. Many of the most popular Radiola models can be found in these units: the Radiola 20, 25, 28, IIIA, Regenoflex, 16, 17, 18 and 60. RCA also provided chassis assemblies for use in standalone radios sold by Brunswick and Victor. The 5KR was one of the most popular. RCA and Brunswick eventually parted company, and as we all know RCA merged with Victor in 1928.

Jim Ray brought a real nice "B" radio for us to enjoy, a Blaupunkt Florenz model 20353. This is one of those classic German radios from the late fifties-early sixties era, with multiple speakers. This unit has five speakers, a woofer and two electrostatic tweeters in front, along with two midrange speakers in the sides. It also has the cool piano key controls and tuning eye. Most of all, it sounds as wonderful as it looks! One of the really great things about these German sets is they kept their international shortwave bands long after US manufacturers had dropped them. And the quality of these

sets is beyond compare, a far cry from today's cheap, mass-produced, "use-it-for-three-years then junk it".

One of the fun things about getting together at our regular meetings is the chance to learn tips for restoration that other club members have learned. Member John Reynolds showed us a way to repair open potentiometers with a simple compound made from graphite powder and Elmer's glue. The mixture is applied to a break in the resistance surface, and when the glue dries it leaves behind a bridge of resistance material to fill the "open".

We finished up the evening with a discussion on how to calibrate tube testers. There was no donation auction this month. Next month we are going to have a program on radios beginning with the letters C, D, and E. Everyone should have at least one set beginning with one of those letters to bring in!

Our next regular meeting will be at 6:00 PM, August 14th at the Hometown Buffet as usual. See you there!





A P R I L 1931

HUGO GERNSBACK *Editor*

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FOR THE SERVICE MAN – DEALER - RADIOTRICIAN

..Takes the Resistance Out of Radio ..

Radio Gadgets, By Hugo Gernsback

IT would be most interesting, if someone of a philanthropic nature should erect a radio museum in which would be displayed all of the different radio appliances which, during the course of the years, have been put out by enterprising and hopeful manufacturers. For one thing, it would be most interesting from a historical standpoint and, from many other standpoints, it would afford a good deal of amusement, aside from the instructive value.

Those who have had occasion to leaf through back-numbers of our radio publications, going back over a stretch of ten years or more, will be amazed at the tremendous amount of radio material that has been put out, and so much of which became obsolete very quickly. Of course, in an art that advances as rapidly as radio, this is a necessary evil; yet it is surprising how many radio accessories, that we could not do without at one time, are never heard of today. The newcomer, who is just starting in radio, often has not the slightest idea what the old gadgets were all about. A large catalog could be made of all of these obsolete items, many of which can no longer even be bought; while others, though obsolete so far as the experimenter is concerned, are built into a radio set as a regular thing. Very often it will be found that what once was an accessory, thought necessary to a radio set, is today no longer an accessory; for the manufacturer of the set builds it into the radio set as a matter of course.

Of the many gadgets that come to mind, only a few may be mentioned here. For instance, there was the adjustable loud speaker. No one, some few years back, wanted to buy a loud speaker unless he could regulate it himself by means of an adjusting screw. Where can you buy an adjustable loud speaker today?

Then there was an epidemic of vernier dials. Fortunes were made and lost by a number of manufacturers, in just this one item alone. Yet a vernier dial today is almost obsolete, except in short-wave sets. Manufacturers of radio sets prefer to build their vernier arrangements, if they use any, right into the set.

Then we had the tube protectors, and there were a good many of these. Vacuum tubes were at that time fearfully expensive (costing as much as six and seven dollars apiece) and it was quite the thing to have a special fuse attached to every socket, to prevent the tube from blowing out, if the "B" battery should be actually shorted across the filament.

No radio set, six or seven years ago, could be sold unless it had anywhere from one to three jacks, into which you plug in not only your loud speaker but your telephone receivers as well. We could plug into the detector circuit, if we wanted to, or into the first or second stage of the amplifier; and no set was considered complete without such gadgets. Where are the radio jacks today, and where do you plug in your telephone receiver, even you wanted to, except perhaps in a few shortwave sets?

Then there was an outburst of adjustable grid leaks. A grid leak was considered so much junk unless you could adjust it to your heart's content. Dozens of manufacturers made grid leaks, from the simplest to the most complicated types, to take care of the demand. It is doubtful whether the new radio experimenter will be able to buy an adjustable grid leak today.

Then we had our tuned radio-frequency transformers. Some of the best tuned radio-frequency sets had to have tuned transformers, in order to get the last ounce of efficiency from the set. Today the tuned radio-frequency transformer is a museum attraction.

Then for a while we had a number of multiple tubes. The detector, radio-frequency and audio-frequency tubes were all incorporated into a single bulb. It was proposed to do away with all the other tubes in the set, and have just one. The idea did not go over, principally because of the great cost of

such a tube; although it is inherently sound. I do believe that, in the future, we may have some of these multiple tubes again, provided they can be manufactured cheap enough.

At about the same time, we had a huge crop of tube rejuvenators. This was an interesting gadget; mainly for the reason that tubes were at that time very expensive and they could actually be somewhat rejuvenated by means of one of which these appliances. Such electric tube rejuvenators sold from \$5.00 upwards. Go Into a radio store today and ask for a radio tube rejuvenator, and the clerk will, most likely not have the slightest idea of what it is all about.

Then we had the tube-howl arrestor, which was also an interesting little gadget at which we laugh, or at least smile, these days. Tubes were not as efficient then as they are today, and they were mostly microphonic. In those days it would have been impossible to manufacture a midget set; for the sample reason that the feedback of the loud speaker would have made radio reception Impossible. Even five feet away from the set, a loud speaker produced enough audio feedback to start the tubes to howl. The tubes in those days were almost universally microphonic; hence the howl-arrestor gadget. It is doubtful whether there are any in the market today. For the same reason, we had an epidemic of cushioned sockets, for these tubes; these were supposed to cure the howl evil and, incidentally, prevent filament breakage. The cushioned socket today is also an anachronism, for the reason that the modern tube no longer requires it. Then there was the fad of wavetraps. Hundreds of thousands of these gadgets were sold; the most interesting points about them being the advertising claims, most of which were unwarranted. There was hardly a wavetraps manufacturer who did not make claims that his contraption also reduced or could eliminated static. In some cases, this contention might have been true; because some of these wavetraps eliminated the signal as well, so you could hear neither static nor radio program. While there is still a limited market for wavetraps, the modern set has practically eliminated the wavetraps entirely. What is the moral of all this? Simply that no one knows, ahead of time, what will or will not be successful in the radio art; and there is no way to find out except by the hit-and- miss system. No art can progress without this experience; and it is to be doubted that the radio industry would have achieved its present position had it not been for the activities of our inventors, big and little. There is always a market for a good gadget, and we have them today as we had them years ago. The future alone will tell which of these accessories will prevail. . (Thanks to John L Reynolds)

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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OKVRC Membership is \$15.00 per year. You are invited to join us in our celebration of Vintage Radio by sending your check to OKVRC, PO BOX 50625, Midwest City, OK, 73140-5625.

As a service to OKVRC members, the month of your membership expiration date is printed on the mailing label. Below is a sample label:

<p>John Q. Collector 1234 SW 56th Street Choctaw, OK 73123-1234</p> <p>Expires 10/10</p>
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If your expiration date is highlighted, your membership has expired and you are in jeopardy of being dropped from the Broadcast News distribution list.

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- WANTED:** 1946 Philco, model 46-420, complete, unrestored (doesn't have to be working, but no cracks or broken areas in the case). John Reynolds @ jhreynolds8787@yahoo.com
- 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.
- WANTED:** Dial bezel and dial pointer for a E. H. Scott Receiver, Model SLR-H or Navy RBO-2. Also, need metal Identification plate for a Navy RBO-2 receiver. Contact Tom Laszynski at either k8jrm@arrl.net or 405.741.1176.
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