



Broadcast News

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

Our next meeting will be at Swadley's BBQ in Bethany, just south of 39th Street on Rockwell. The meeting officially starts at 7 PM with dinner preceding. This month's topic will be "new in the box". Hopefully we will have some new in the box receivers displayed, but these are fairly rare, except for maybe later sets like transistor radios. But radios with their original boxes are discovered where they were probably used for some time period, and then put away in the original box. These are of course included. We also need to include accessory items that go along with radio, as these are more commonly found. But we are not including tubes, electronic components, and items of this nature which are not normally seen as they are mounted under the chassis. An exception may be components like transformers and coils fused in battery sets of the 1920's as these can have interesting graphics on their boxes. In this area the most common sets with an original box that are found are farm sets. These were of course designed to run from batteries, and when rural electrification came, listeners put these away, in favor of AC sets. In some cases sets are found that the dealer was never able to sell. So, this should be an interesting meeting. Of course anything else you would like to bring to talk about will be welcomed. Thanks to Frank Karner for leading the program at our last meeting. Bring an item for the donation auction!

Last Saturday was the Summer Sizzler put on by the Tulsa club, HLARA. It was at a different location than in the past, and I believe it is nicer. Also it is closer for OK collectors to attend. Julie and I went on Friday evening and were able to unload all of our items, and then enjoy a nice dinner out, after unloading. On Saturday morning the turnout was a little poorer than last year, but there were a few new faces and more swap tables for additional vendors. I sold only a few things, but ended up coming home with the car full. Frank and I helped the locals with the contest judging. There were some nice items, and a couple of difficult choices where displays were of fairly equal quality. The Best of Show Award was won by Eric Coon's rare 1939 RCA television which we saw at our meet in Midwest City a couple years ago. We did not stay for the bulk of the donation auction, as most was available earlier in the meet. We left some donations. It was a good meet, and I'll be looking forward to next year's.

See you at our meeting!

Report for the OKVRC Meeting 06/08/2013

June is here! As I write this, it's in the high eighties outside, and it feels like July. As practically everyone in the country knows, the last month hasn't been kind to Oklahoma, with two monster tornados within two weeks, and some torrential rains too. But our state is used to this, and will as always, persevere. Homes will be rebuilt, and the scars will fade, but the tragic loss of life that took

place reminds us of the fragility of our existence, and how our families and friends are worth so much more than any material things

We had a decent turnout of about sixteen OKVRC members for our monthly meeting and dinner at Swadley's Barbeque restaurant in Bethany, about the same as last month. The new meeting room being built at Swadley's is not ready yet, so we met same room as last month. The restaurant was busy and we had to share our meeting room with a couple tables of non-radio collector folks, but they cleared out before we started our evening's program.

We enjoyed dinner from about 5:30 to 7:00 PM, before Club President Jim Collings called the meeting to order. He then turned the meeting over to Frank Karner, who then gave us a program on not one but two topics of interest to radio collectors: radios built by the same manufacturer but sold under different names, and how to identify mystery tubes

Our first topic was radios sold under different names but built by the same manufacturers. Some radio companies made radios that were sold under several names, often the "house brand" of department store chains or mail order companies. The radios often had different cabinet styling, different knobs and a different dial, but had the same or a slightly different chassis inside. Two companies in particular, Wells-Gardner and Belmont, built many radios for other companies, to sell under their brand name.

Frank displayed for us two large tombstone radios, an American Bosch WR204 and a Westinghouse 575F, with similar cabinets but almost identical insides. We also got to see three similar rectangular models, two Montgomery Ward's Airline (one with a chrome plated chassis), and one True Tone. All were built by the same company, Wells-Gardner, and the differences between them were mostly cosmetic. Frank also gave us an interesting account of the story behind the Bosch Company and how it became American Bosch and later United American Bosch.

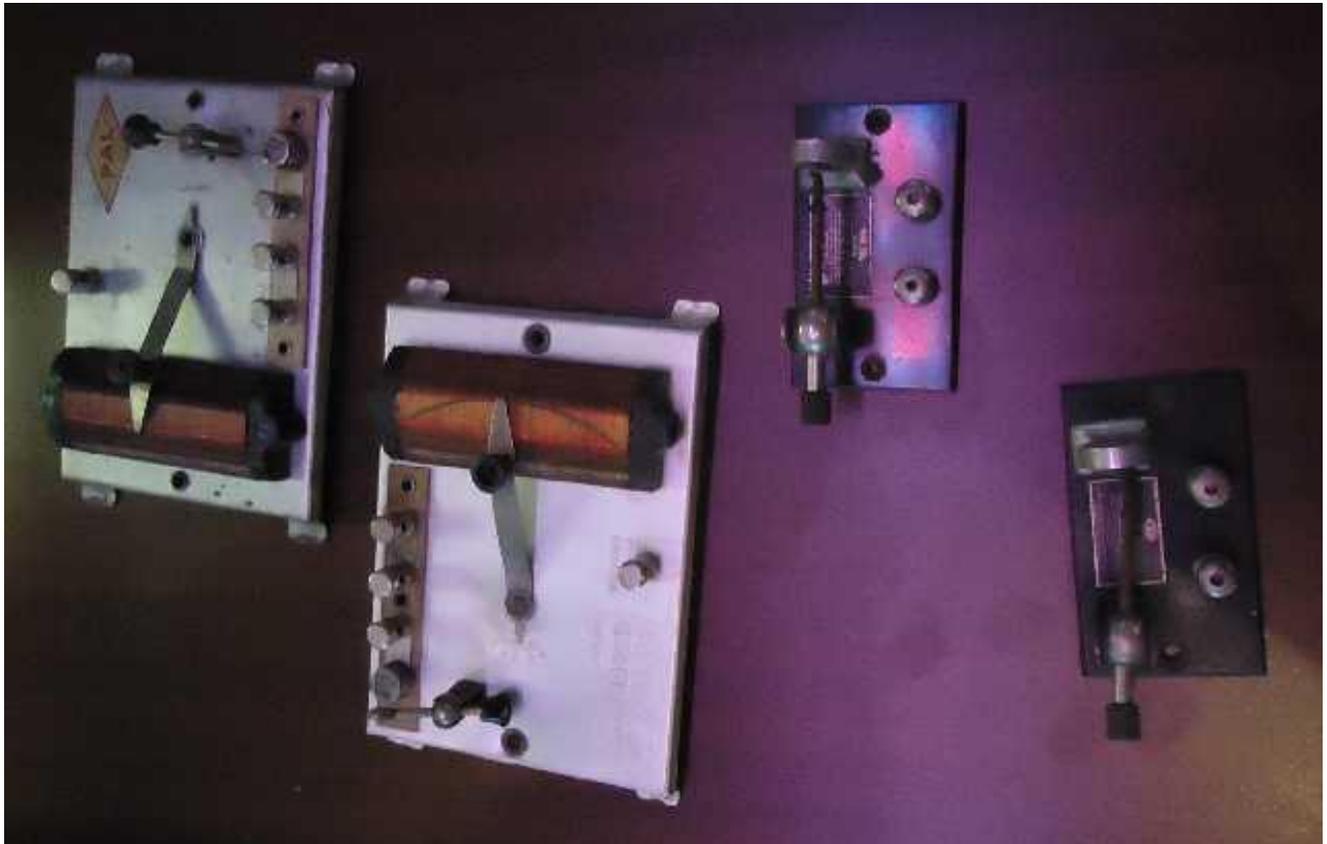
Jim Collings brought in a collection of three early crystal cat's whisker detectors. These were identical except the names. They were all built around 1921 by the Wireless Specialty Company but bore three different brand names. We also got to examine two late twenties crystal sets, a Metro Electric and a Pal, also identical except for the names. Your club secretary brought in two contemporary seven-band Chinese pocket radios. The first, with Chinese writing on it, a "Kaide", clearly built for the overseas market, the other, identical except for the labeling, built for the American market, bearing the venerable name of Bell & Howell. Neither of these pocket radios picks up much more than static on their shortwave bands!

On the second topic: Who has not found a tube where seemingly every bit of the identifying number has disappeared, from the slow action of time or the over enthusiastic use of glass cleaner by some well-meaning restorer? Frank showed us some tricks for identifying the tube when the markings are seemingly invisible. First, it helps to know where to look. On most four pin tubes the part number is on the glass envelope above the two thick (filament) pins. On a five-pin tube the number can be found above the center two pins. And on an octal based tube the part number can be found facing the keying pin. OK, you have looked in the right area and still can't make it out? We discussed some trick collectors use to make the faded numbers show up. A bright LED flashlight shined onto the glass may help. Another method is to place the tube in the freezer for a few minutes, then look for the number when the tube is brought back into a warm environment and starts to fog up on the outside. Frank also explained some ways you can use a tube checker to identify a tube using a process of elimination, also some things inside the tube which might identify the general type of tube if not the exact part number. I'm looking into using some of these techniques to identify some mystery tubes I have that I can't ID but have not had the heart to throw out.

We finished up the night with our usual donation auction. Normally, I say "most items went for a buck or two", but tonight we had some better than average items to bid on. A large box of quality tubes generously donated by Frank, brought over twenty dollars. Also, there were several other flats of tubes and components, a Hickok tube tester (minus cabinet), a Philco VTVM, a child's phonograph, A Simpson AC voltmeter, a Wells Scientific power supply, an Atwater Kent Speaker, a capacitor checker

in a wood case, an RCA beat frequency oscillator, and a metal case, some NOS silk line cord, and an Emerson tube-type portable radio. All went home with new owners.

Thanks to Frank for bringing your radios and expertise to share with us. See you next month at Swadley's!







A beautiful 1939 Montgomery-Wards Airline model 93BR-715B unrestored radio was donated to the club. It will be refurbished by Dale McLellan and presented at the Fall Swap Meet to be raffled off at the end Meeting. The raffle ticket price will be determined and be offered before and during the Swap Meet.



A LUCKY FIND *Philco 38-1*
By Art Hoch

In October 2010, I received a telephone call from my friend Alan who has been a building contractor with his brother for many years. In this instance they were doing some remodeling inside a house that was constructed in the 1920s. This was a home donated to the college I graduated from. It was built by a physician whose heirs gave the house to the college after their parents were deceased. It has been occupied by various McPherson College presidents since the 1950s.

The subject of the phone call was "radio!" My friend was calling me to see if I was interested in an old radio which had its chassis and speaker built-in to some base cabinets lining the outside walls of the living room. The cabinets were being removed and were going to be hauled to the dump. *Well of course I was interested!* Where was the radio's cabinet? Who knew? It was long gone.

This was the second instance of such a call. Seven years before I had received a phone call from the same friend about another radio that had been built into a wall in the same house. Of course the answer then was "yes" to his question---are you interested in it?

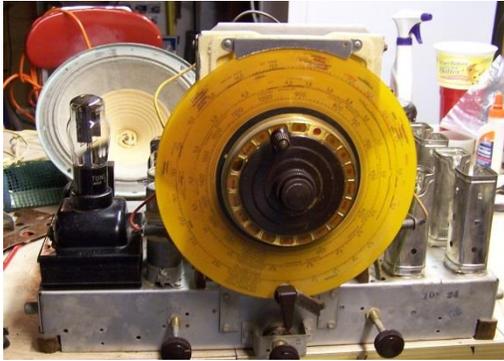
In the first instance, it was a Philco 16B. Its cabinet was missing also, but otherwise the radio was complete, including knobs. It turned out to be a fine radio and I found the cabinet for it. An OKVRC member in Texas supplied me with one, solid but in need of refinishing.

Fast forward a few years and a second call from Alan. Was I interested?!

This 2nd radio chassis and speaker turned out to be a Philco 38-1. Apparently the good doctor was a "Philco Phan" because that brand was chosen a second time to be installed in the home. Why would the radios be missing their cabinets? One could assume the answer was to save floor space. Even though this is a large house, these radios were removed from their large cabinets and installed so the floor space wouldn't be encroached upon.

When I received the chassis, the speaker wasn't with it. Alan said he didn't know where it was but would look for it. Luckily he found it, wiring harness included, before the debris was hauled to the dump. The chassis was missing 6 of its 12 tubes but otherwise appeared to be complete and without corrosion. Of course a sufficient layer of dust had accumulated while residing in the built-ins. I found 5 of the 6 missing tubes in my inventory and acquired the 6th one from a hobbyist in Arizona.

After cleaning and some lubrication, I replaced the power cord and brought the radio up on my variac just to see if there was going to be any sound from it. To my amazement, the radio began playing well--on all three bands, broadcast and two short wave. Not wanting to push my luck, I stopped playing it, cleaned some more and put it on a shelf.



The Philco 38-1 chassis and speaker.

What To Do Next

Now the question arose---what do I do with a chassis and speaker from a very good radio? Without the cabinet, it's like a sandwich without bread---incomplete but too good to throw away.

After thinking about it for a month or two, I decided I would try to find an original cabinet. But that would prove to be a daunting task. One of the first ideas I tried was to put an ad in the "OKVRC Broadcast News." Several---no, many---months passed by with nary a nibble. I was beginning to feel this was going to be a futile search.

I had researched on the Internet and found that only 7500 of these sets were manufactured and that the asking price in 1937-1938 was \$175. That would have been beyond the reach of most people during the Great Depression. So I assumed there would not be very many of these cabinets in existence 70+ years later, especially in my "neck of the woods."

By accident I discovered that a complete model 38-1 was for sale in Pennsylvania. By the looks of its picture, it was in very nice condition. But the problem was, I only wanted the cabinet. I got in contact with the seller who was trying to liquidate some of his parents' possessions because they were moving to smaller living quarters. He didn't want to separate the chassis and speaker from the cabinet and I couldn't blame him for that.

Another problem was it was a considerable distance from my home to his home and not on a route I travel. After learning of his asking price, which probably was fair, I couldn't justify the gasoline and other expense for a long trip to buy one radio. And besides, I didn't want an extra chassis and speaker. So I declined, realizing I might never own the coveted cabinet.

Next time: another one comes available!

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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MEMBERSHIP:

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:

John Q. Collector
1234 SW 56th Street
Choctaw, OK 73123-1234

Expires 10/11

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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Advertising policy: Member's ads are FREE. Small donations will be accepted for non-member's ads.

- WANTED:** Zenith 12"/14" speakers, part numbers 49-149 and 49-150. These are used in the Zenith models 12-U-158 and 12-U-149 consoles. . These speakers used the "Acoustic adapters" or mache type "Beehive" over the back of the speakers. I will buy the speakers with or without the "beehive covers" , or will buy a "Beehive" cover by itself. THANKS! Frank Karner fkarner@cox.net . (405) 769-4656
- WANTED:** Tube Testers! Interested in models from Hickok, Triplett, Sencore, B&K, Heathkit, Mercury, Jackson, Precise, Stark, Marconi, Realistic (Radio Shack). Contact Jim Ray, email jabray71@hotmail.com or call 405-514-8046.
- 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.
- WANTED:** Briggs & Stratton (BASCO) radio items: Crystal radio, tube sockets, A-B-C power supplies, boxed parts, radio advertising and promotional items. Dale Boyce (414)353-0734 or radioman@wi.rr.com
- FOR SALE:** A friend has two radios for sale, as I recall they are both very nice condition and I went thru them 4-6 years ago. (1) Grundig-Majestic 7000 series, plays well, and (2) a 1960 Magnavox AM-FM Stereo with 4 speed player. This was from the Golden days of Magnovox stereos. Ad submitted by frank karner. Please Contact Forest musyka, cell: 405-117-1020, e-mail is obmuzyka@yahoo.com
- FOR SALE:** Magnet wire sizes 10 ga to 40 ga. Coaxial cables and antenna wire. Mike LaPuzza, Clear Signal Products, Inc. 405-745-9473 email: wire@coaxman.com
- FOR SALE:** Radio Chassis Holders. These maintenance stands hold a chassis while work on it. Small stand - \$37.50, and Brackets - \$2.50 Plus Shipping. Large stand - \$55.00 and brackets - \$2.50 Plus Shipping. Contact Steve Strong at (405) 634-7547 or e-mail Scstrong1@cox.net.
- 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
- SERVICE:** *FIELDING ELECTRONICS, INC. We restore old radios both electronically and refinishing.* Radios must be complete, with knobs and dial glass/escutcheons. Fielding Electronics, Inc PO Box 2601, Ardmore, OK 73402, Phone # 580-222-9408
- SERVICE:** Old Radio Restoration and Servicing: Dale McLellan, rxradio@aol.com or 405-330-1802, Edmond, OK

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