



# Broadcast News

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

Our fall swap meet last month turned out to be a good one. We were very short on sellers, but there were plenty of buyers. What saved the meet was the large volume of nice items where were donated for the auction at the end. The auction had a lot of lively bidding, and I believe most everyone ended up with something from the auction. Attendance was fairly good considering the OU/Texas game conflicted. We had some collectors from out of town, but not as many as usual. Early on, we had coordinated with the Tulsa club so that they would not have their meet at the same time, like last year, but eventually they scheduled a repair session on the same day. I came away with a lot different of stuff, and got rid of most of the unwanted items I brought. I believe everyone had a good time. Thanks to all who attended, helped, and/or donated items.

This month's meeting will be on November 14<sup>th</sup> at Spencer's Smokehouse & Barbeque, at 9900 NE 23rd St., beginning at 7 PM with dinner at 6 PM. If it is not raining, I will present as program on horn speakers with wooden bells. Horns with wooden bells were regarded as better sounding than the typical metal type, and also were more esthetically pleasing. Some manufacturers even produced horns with faux wood grain paint on the bells. If anyone has one of these, please bring it. And of course you can bring anything else you would like to show, or talk about. Don't forget the donation auction! I know that I have a lot of interesting items to donate.

On another note, mark your calendars for Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, for our annual Christmas party. We have not had any volunteers to host this event at their home yet, so if there are no volunteers, we can have it at my home, again. We will have the traditional white elephant/dirty Santa gift exchange. If it is at my home, we will likely have a sing along jam session at the end, so plan to bring your instrument.

The VRPS annual convention will be on November 20<sup>th</sup> thru 22<sup>th</sup> in Mesquite, TX, at the Hampton Inn Convention Center. (The same location as previous years). This is one of the largest radio meets in the country, and it's right here in our area, so everyone should try to

attend. In the past, I've given you a big write-up of all the events, but they are fairly similar every year, so I won't repeat myself. But the theme this year is Emerson Radio. Of course the main events are auctions on Friday evening and Saturday. The Saturday evening banquet will feature Joe Herrington, a novelist, cowboy poet, and western story teller. If you have never been to a large event like this, you can learn a lot, as there is a lot of equipment to view. Everyone should at least try to attend the Saturday auction which begins at 11 AM, and ends around 5 to 6 PM. If you need details drop me a line. I hope to see many of you there.

### **Report for the OKVRC Convention and Swap Meet 10/11/2015**

Our Fall 2015 Convention and Swap Meet was held Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup>. The weather was beautiful, and the turnout was fairly good, but I won't call this particular meet one of our most successful. Read on and I'll tell you why!

Member and guests were arriving at the Midwest Community Center before the building opened at eight, and there was plenty of donuts and coffee for everyone to enjoy while waiting for sellers to arrive and set up. There were five rows of tables set up by the event center staff, waiting to be filled with radios and related items, but few sellers showed up. There were barely enough sellers to fill one row. I always bring along \$300 hoping to score something nice for my collection, but ended up spending a whopping two dollars on a couple of pieces of grill cloth. There were a few 1920's battery sets, a few thirties and later AC sets, and some parts, but nothing else that caught my fancy enough to buy. I saw a nice art deco Philco floor model from around 1937 head out the door with a lucky buyer, but I didn't see who it was. The only other floor model I saw sold was a very unusual late thirties-early forties Stromberg-Carlson radio-phonograph in a Chippendale cabinet that completely disguises its function as a radio. A very interesting set! I thought of getting it myself, but I'm running out of room for consoles in my house. There were also a number radio related books, manuals, magazines, and novelty items for sale as well.

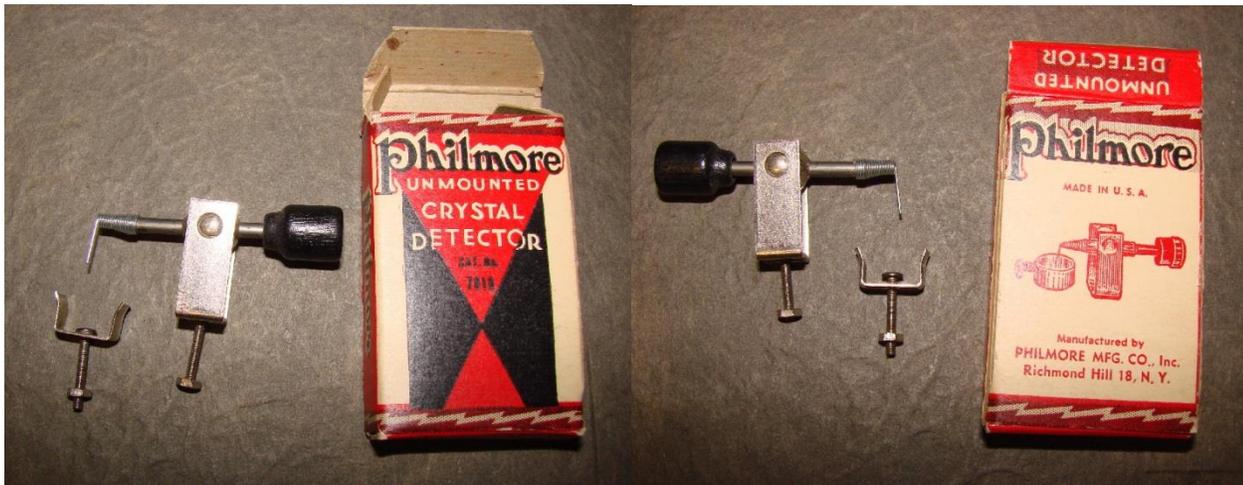
There were some decent items in the silent auction, and they all sold. What really saved this meet however was the regular auction. Thanks to a generous donation of auction items by several club members, we had an excellent selection of items up for grabs. There were radios, televisions, lots of parts, tubes and other items. One item of particular interest was a couple of mid-sixties Sony miniature black and white portable televisions. These were probably the smallest TVs in the world at the time they were made, and both of them came with the little suitcase style carrying cases they were sold with. These cases are almost always missing from surviving examples. The auction was a big success, perhaps because there was not much for sale at the regular tables. It also raised badly needed funds for the club. And I struck a deal with a fellow club member to purchase from him a 1926 Grebe Syncrophase Seven radio, which I plan to pick up at the November club meeting. So I will be getting something new for my collection as a result of the Fall Meet after all!

The Spring Meet is always our best meet of the year because of the contest. So while you are working on your radios this winter once the lawn mower and related tools are parked for the season, look around for things you might like to sell in the Spring 2016 Meet. There was no shortage of buyers this fall, as the auction proved, we just need more sellers.

Hope to see you at Spencer's Barbeque in Mid-West city for our regular November meeting. As you know, we have been working our way through radio history for the last few months. Our July meeting program was on three-knob mid-twenties battery sets, August was on single-knob (1926-1927) battery sets, and in September we covered early (1928-1989) AC sets. For November, we will cover early thirties (1930-1933) radios. So dust off that favorite Cathedral or other early thirties set, and bring it to the November meeting. Hope to see you there!

## Accessory Corner by Jim Collings

### Philmore Unmounted Crystal Detector



This month's featured item is the Philmore Crystal Detector Stand. Philmore made and sold parts for crystal detectors from the 1920's up thru the 1970's. Most were very cheaply made, but useable, and sold for prices that undercut any competition. The example of an unmounted detector shown here is from about the late 1950's. Earlier versions actually included the crystal, which was Galena, and had an actual cup as shown in the photo on the box. They always had a good cat's whisker, which could be used on a more substantial detector if desired. Mounted detectors were also available with a black pressed paper base. A large percentage of homemade crystal detectors found today will have a Philmore detector. I believe the one pictured here sold for about a dollar, but many went unsold and turn up in small groups at radio meets. New in the box examples like this can be had for \$10 to \$15, currently. It is a nice little item to add to your collection.

## Pictures from October Swap Meet





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](mailto: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:** Briggs & Stratton (BASCO) radio items: Crystal radio, tube sockets, A-B-C power supplies, boxed parts, radio advertising and promotional items. Dale Boyce (414) 840-4146 or [radioman@wirr.com](mailto:radioman@wirr.com).
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- SERVICE:** Old Radio Restoration and Servicing by Raymond Cady. Let me make it like new again. Email: [cadyraymond1@gmail.com](mailto:cadyraymond1@gmail.com) or call (405) 820-8014. Edmond, OK.
- WANTED:** Old comics wanted. Send lists to Dan Giddings, PO Box 3961 Glendale, CA 91221-3961
- FOR SALE:** Giant Zenith 12S370 console, original finish, \$600; Atwater Kent 10C (4700) breadboard, nice working, \$800; Crosley 50, \$75, Crosley 52, \$75; Burns black celluloid horn, perfect, \$300; RCA Aeriola Sr, \$100; Paragon RA-10/DA-2, \$800; Get these before they go to the VRPS auction! Jim Collings, 14704 Carlingford Way, Edmond, OK 73013 (405)-755-4139.
- FOR SALE:** Seven different vintage keys (Morse Code) mounted on 2 display boards with Telegraph Collectors Guide. Won blue ribbon in 2008 with OKVRC. I am asking \$300.00 for these vintage keys. Call 580 223-6072.
- FOR SALE:** Rare military version (olive drab in color) Zenith Transoceanic Radio, Model R-520/URR. Has "USA" stamped on one end. Identification plate has been removed and radio is in good condition. I have an instruction book (157 pages) for this receiver. I am asking \$1200 but will consider a reasonable offer for this radio. Call 580 223-6072.



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