

Know Anyone Interested In Vintage Radios?

**Then be sure to sure to tell them about the annual
Antique Radio Swap Meet Contest and Auction!**

**At the Midwest City Community Center
100 N. Midwest Blvd
(North of Tinker AFB)**

FREE ADMISSION!

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Oklahoma Vintage Radio Collectors**



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Broadcast News

Online at www.okvrc.org

September 2016

Volume XXV, Issue 9

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

It's now September and it's time to start thinking about our fall swap meet at the Midwest City Community Center on October 13th. We'll talk about details at the next meeting which is at Spencer's Barbeque on Saturday, September 10th at 7 PM, preceded by dinner about 6. The location is 9900 NE 23rd Street. The most pressing item about the swap meet is that nothing has been donated for the raffle. If you have something to donate, it would be appreciated. Several of our regular attendees have indicated they have conflicting commitments on our meeting date, so I have selected an easy meeting topic. Please bring a newly acquired radio item to talk about and share with our members. I'm sure most of you have gotten something new for your collection over the summer. It can be something nice, a set to be restored or in the middle of restoration, or something you want help or advise with. I know I have added several interesting items to my collection, so it should be an interesting meeting. Don't forget to bring something for the donation auction.

The weekend after our meeting is a busy weekend for radio collectors with many activities. Nearest is the fall swap meet of the HLARA the club in Tulsa. Their meet is on Saturday Sept. 17 at the White House Mansion, 1 W 81st ST., in Tulsa, beginning at 9 AM. I understand there will be many items from an estate, so it should be a good meet.

On the same date is the Tail Gate Swap meet of the VRPS in Irving, Tx. Their swap meets are always well attended and begin at daybreak. It is at the Senter Building Facility where they have most of their activities. Contact me if you need directions.

The Kutztown Radio Meet in PA, officially begins on Friday, Sept. 16, but I'm sure people will be setting up on the Thursday before. It is the largest meet in the US, based on the number of vendors. There is so much available, you can never be disappointed attending this meet!

On Sunday, September 19th, there is an auction in Carlisle, MA, where John Terry, the former publisher of Antique Radio Classified will be selling about half of his extensive collection of early and rare equipment. This, and the second half, probably in November, will be a premier auction event, rivaled only by the Ralph Muchow Estate auction in 2001. I understand that on-line bidding will be available. It appears to be designed so that collectors can leave Kutztown on Saturday afternoon and be in Carlisle for the auction the next day.

I hope that many of you can attend one of these events! See you at our meeting! Bring something for the donation auction.

Report for the OKVRC Meeting 08/13/2016

Summer is at its zenith (where have I heard that word before ?), here in central Oklahoma, and the lawn is struggling to stay green, despite regular sprinkler usage that is leaving me with a water bill that rivals my electric bill with the AC running. What radios we could buy with the money we send to the utility companies every month during summer! Summer is a bit like a Star Wars sequel, eagerly awaited, then about three-fourths the way through you just want it to be over with. Despite the heat, we managed to attract about thirteen OKVRC members for our regular second Saturday of the month dinner and club meeting at Spencer's Bar-be-que in Midwest City. As always, the food was excellent and the AC was as cold as the food was hot and delicious.

Club members began arriving before 6:00 PM, and we all enjoyed dinner until about 7:00, when Club President Jim Collings called the meeting to order. Jim told us about some upcoming radio events, but still no firm date yet on that radio auction in Tulsa coming up in September of this year.

Once the announcements were over, we began the evening's program. This week we covered the last of our decade-by-decade chronological walk through radio history. We had started with the nineteen twenties, last month was the nineteen sixties, and this month, we wrap things up with the nineteen seventies.

The nineteen seventies was the first decade I have really clear memories of, because it is the one I really grew up in. When It started, I was in grade school, when it was over I was old enough to vote. If the sixties were the "decade of tumult and change", according to Life magazine, the seventies were sometimes called the Me Decade, as people looked inward after the turbulent sixties. The early seventies still had its share of tumult, with the resignation of the president, the Energy Crisis, and high inflation, but with Americans finally out of Vietnam, people were ready to unwind a bit. While the seventies brought us some things we would rather forget, (the Leisure Suit, the Chevy Vega, and Jimmy Carter) we also got to enjoy the Bicentennial of our countries founding. I remember there was some sort of Freedom Train that went cross country loaded with historical memorabilia. It stopped in dozens of cities, and was seen by at least a million people, including myself. I have forgotten a lot of what I saw, but distinctly remember that the exhibit included a Radiola IIIA! Was it worth the six dollar admission? That was questionable at the time, but at least I saw it!

The seventies also brought in lots of cool new consumer electronics, particularly in the second half of the decade. These included the first home computers (remember those green screens?), and the first VCRs and big-screen TVs (a movie theatre in your living room!) Tubes had largely disappeared, and by the end of the decade black-and-white TV had vanished except in small portables. Eight track tapes were gradually replaced by cassettes, and everyone had tape players in their car. We saw the very first Walkman style personal stereos, that let you take your music everywhere you went, and the first Boom Boxes that let you annoy people everywhere you went. You might even remember the CB radios that were the rage for a while in the mid-late seventies. They were the closest thing to a social network or cell phone that teens like me enjoyed during those years.

Our club members brought in a few examples of seventies electronics to share. Your club secretary brought in an Onkyo stereo receiver from 1976. I purchased it at an estate sale recently for about forty dollars, because the sellers thought it didn't work (they had hooked it up wrong) What is remarkable about this unit is that it is practically brand new, right down to the lettering around the knobs on the front panel showing no wear. It looks like it just came out of the box, despite being about forty years old! I normally don't bother with anything this recent, but this one was just too nice to resist.

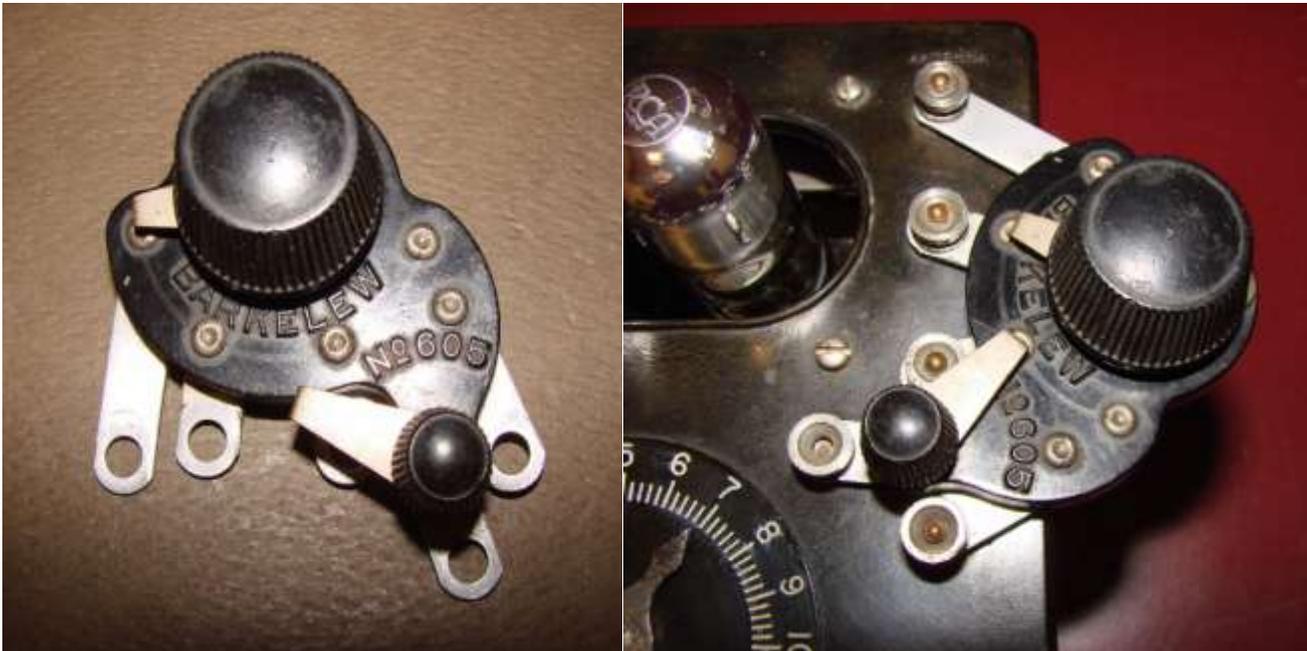
Club member Mike Swinney brought in a couple items made by the Great American Sound Company (GAS for short). These components were US made (unusual for the seventies) and were bought primarily by serious audiophiles, as they were fairly expensive. As a result, they are very collectable today. Mike showed us two GAS items, a Thaedra preamplifier and an Ampzilla amplifier. Mike also brought in a Marantz model 500 cassette recorder / player from the mid-seventies. Marantz was a very popular high end name back then. I remember admiring Marantz equipment at some of my better-off friends' homes. Being poor back then, I had a "Juliet" stereo, a real off-brand, but it worked well enough for the neighbors to angrily call my parents frequently and ask them to make me turn it down!

We finished the meeting with our usual donation auction. Some grill cloth, several boxes of parts and flats of tubes, a Weller soldering gun (just like the one I bought back in 1972 and still have!) a 10" speaker, a box of clock radio replacement knobs, and a rough but restorable 1925 Atwater Kent 20C radio (no kidding!) all went to new homes.

I usually end my report with "See you next month!", but I won't be able to make the September meeting. So have a great time and I'll see you at the October meet in Midwest City!

Accessory Corner by Jim Collings

Barkeley No. 605 Antenna Switch for RCA Radiola



This month's featured item is the Barkeley No. 605 Antenna Switch. This switch was made as an accessory item to match the RCA Radiola III or IIIA receivers made in 1924. These receivers have a series of 5 binding posts with a switchable link between three to make the correct selection for the antenna length. This is very cumbersome. The Barkeley antenna switch fits over all the binding posts, and allows the correct selection to be made easily with two knobs. The antenna connects to the bolt on at the back of the large knob. Please see the photo of the switch mounted on a Radiola III receiver. These switches are seldom seen, but prized among collectors. Barkeley made other accessory items including a unit for the output end of the Radiola III to allow multiple headphones for listening.

Lee de Forest and the Election of 1916

By Eric Coon

This November marks the centennial of the 1916 Presidential Election between Supreme Court Justice Charles Evan Hughes and the incumbent Woodrow Wilson. The event was a milestone because it was the first time in American history that audio broadcast by radio covered the excitement of an election eve instead of Morse Code. Lee de Forest used his experimental radio station 2XG to send election returns to an estimated 7,000 amateurs in the New York City area. The broadcast originated from information received and processed from the fifty extra phone lines installed at the *New York American* newspaper, which served as a hub for disseminating election returns. This information was then sent to 350 theaters and other locations throughout the city in order to provide the latest election data. There was also a link to de Forest's station for transmitting the election results via radio to his small audience.

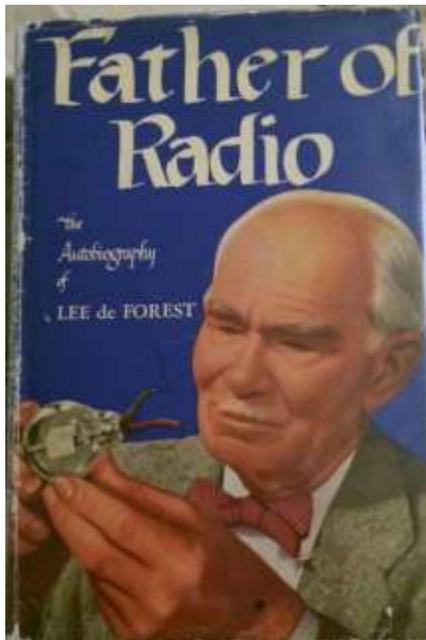
I was fortunate enough to purchase a copy of Lee de Forest's 1950 autobiography, *Father of Radio* ([Figure 1](#)), which has a very historical and timely inscription ([Figure 2](#)):

From Lee de Forest to "Dick" Stoddart, the lone survivor who listened in on the "Greatest Bobble" in radio history Nov 1916—the Hughes-Wilson Election! With my regards & best wishes. Dec 12,51.

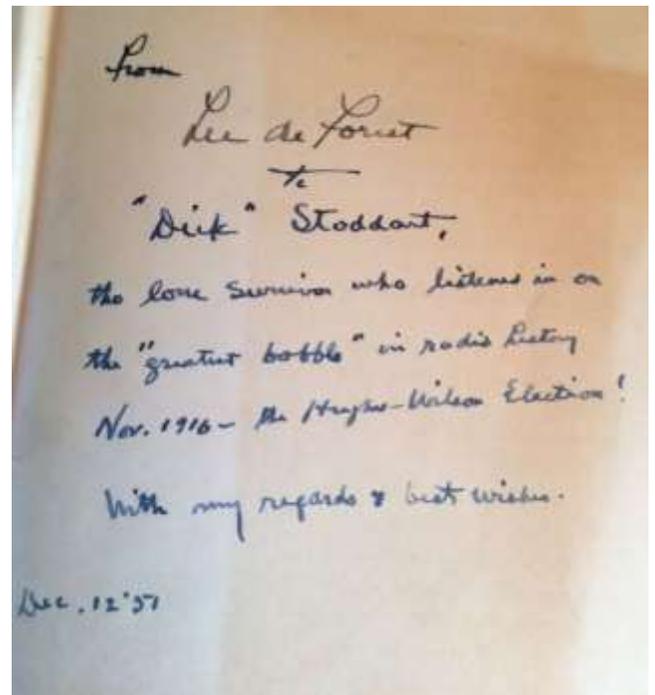
The phrase "Greatest Bobble" has a clear meaning here. De Forest shut down his transmitter around 11:00 p.m. after erroneously declaring Hughes the winner when in reality Wilson had triumphed once the West Coast results had been tallied later that night. Dictionaries define "bobble" as a fumble, and by using that term de Forest was acknowledging his error. I can only speculate as to Richard "Dick" Stoddart's role as the "lone survivor." Perhaps he was the sole living member of an inner circle when de Forest inscribed this book.

Information on Richard Stoddart is possible to obtain. He most likely went to work for de Forest when he was fourteen years old. He was also a pioneer of aerial communication, accompanying Howard Hughes on his 1938 record-breaking flight around the world. Stoddart worked for NBC in the early thirties. In 1940, he founded the Stoddart

Aircraft Company, which designed and built transmitters and receivers for aircraft. Finally, Stoddart did developmental communications work for the Government during WWII.



Father of Radio (Chicago, 1950)



Inscription (1951)

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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