



OK Vintage Radio Collectors

BROADCAST NEWS

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About OKVRC

Oklahoma Vintage Radio Collectors (OKVRC) publishes *Broadcast News* monthly for the presentation of historical information and enjoyment of club members and friends.

Broadcast News always welcomes submissions of articles on subjects of interest to radio collectors and restorers, and club activities news.

Send Articles to:

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OKVRC MEMBERSHIP

You are invited to join us in our celebration of Vintage Radio by sending your \$15 annual membership fee by check to:

OKVRC
PO BOX 50625
Midwest City, OK, 73140-5625.

Membership payment also accepted at any of our monthly meetings and our semi-annual club swap meets.

If your membership has expired, you are in jeopardy of being dropped from the *Broadcast News* distribution list, so please send in your dues today.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Jim Collings

Our Fall Swap Meet last month was a success. Attendance was better than I expected, and we had a few collectors from out-of-state. There was a lot of equipment for sale, and much of it changed hands. The silent auction was not very full, but most items sold. Unfortunately, the auction at the end of the meet was fairly poor. Everything was donated, and there were not many nice items. We did well on the raffle of the Kolster battery set, so overall we covered the expenses of renting the building. I believe everyone found something of interest. I spent more than at any of our other meets. Thanks to all who helped by making donations.

November's meeting begins at 7 PM, Sonoma Lake clubhouse, [1712 NW 159th St., Edmond, OK](#). Pizza dinner begins at 6 PM, costs will be allocated to participants. We met here in September, where Dorothy and Ray organized the food. The topic will be "Sets and Equipment made by Sears Roebuck or Montgomery Ward" mail order houses. Bring your Silvertones and Airlines. These companies were excluded from the September meeting of Chicago manufacturers. Everyone should have something

in their collection to bring and show. Of course you can bring anything else to show or talk about. I picked up a load of donated radio junk, mostly test equipment for our auction.

On another note, mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 9th, for our annual Christmas party**. Raymond and Dorothy Cady have volunteered to host the party at their home, beginning at 6 PM, including our typical catered meal (cost will be somewhat subsidized by the club), and the Dirty Santa gift exchange followed by a guitar and singing jam fest. I'm looking forward to this!

The VRPS annual convention will be November 17th to 19th at [Comfort Inn, 700 Central Parkway East, Plano, TX, 75074](#), a new location from previous years. It's 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. The contest theme is Magnavox, main events are auctions on Friday evening and Saturday. You can learn a lot from this big event, and there is a lot of equipment to view. If you need details on the meet, drop me a line. I hope to see many of you there.

*Airline is to Montgomery Ward as Silvertone is to . . .**Dorothy Cady, M.Ed., MFA, Editor*

If you said *Sears, Roebuck*, you were right. Montgomery Ward and Sears, Roebuck were big sellers of radios, having established themselves as major retail catalog sales companies. By 1939, nearly ten-and-one-half-million receivers were selling each year. It became too profitable for such large retailers not to participate. By 1950, nearly 95% of all American homes owned a radio. For many rural families, these catalogs were their access to the world outside their rural life, just as the radio eventually came to be. Both companies, due in part to their size, offered competitive prices because selling directly through the mail reduced their sales costs and their huge sales volumes allowed them to strike special deals with manufacturers for custom-made items at bulk rates. Sears and Ward decided to produce receivers under their own house brands—Sears sold Silvertone and Wards sold Airline. The components and circuit designs used were nearly the same as those used in the name brand radios. [Abstracted from Craig, S., *Mail Order Radios: Receiver Evolution in the Pages of the Sears, Roebuck and Montgomery Ward Catalogs, 1920-1950.*]

Since our topic for this next meeting is these radios, you may be interested in reading the full paper. This abstract was retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/301552080_Mail_Order_Radios_Receiver_Evolution_in_the_Pages_of_the_Sears_Roebuck_and_Montgomery_Ward_Catalogs_1920-1950. Hope you enjoy reading it.

Photos from the OKVRC Fall 2017 Swap Meet

*Report for the OKVRC Meeting October 14, 2017**Jim Tyrrell*

We held our Fall Convention and Swap Meet on Saturday October 14th. The weather was sunny and pleasant, and the turnout was pretty good too. Not only did many of our Oklahoma City metro members make it, but so too did a few from outlying areas, some as far away as Tulsa.

Members and guests began arriving at the Midwest Community Center before the building opened at eight, and we had plenty of donuts and coffee for everyone to enjoy while waiting for sellers to arrive and set up. There were three to four rows of tables; it was a respectable turn out for a fall meet.

There were a fair number of table model radios: battery sets and early AC sets from the twenties, a few cathedrals and tombstones from the thirties and a few plastic and Bakelite sets from the forties and fifties. There also were a few floor models, including a nice radio-phonograph from the nineteen forties that I would have grabbed except for the later-model, four-speed record changer it had installed. Our friends from Wichita Falls, TX, had some awesome wind-up, horn-style phonographs, but they were out of my price range. There were also plenty of other radio-related items for sale, such as tubes, knobs, speakers, magazines, manuals, and test equipment.

The silent auction had mostly parts, but there were a few radios also. I sold a few items, which mostly paid for the one item I brought home, a General Radio Power Meter from the nineteen thirties. With its mahogany case and shiny black front panel and knobs, it resembles an early twenties one-tube or crystal set. What exactly I'll do with it remains to be seen, but it sure looks nice!

After the silent auction was over, we moved on to the regular auction. Many interesting items were donated, mostly junk radios and assorted parts, but there was nothing I

personally bid on. Everything sold, though, and brought in revenue for our club that paid for the facility rental.

We have raffled off a radio at all of our meets for the last couple of years. I actually won the prize a year ago. It was a 1924 Freed-Eisemann NR-7 Neutrodyne receiver, minus the tubes. This time we raffled off a 1926 Kolster model 6D six-tube receiver. One of our members from outside the Oklahoma City area had the lucky ticket and took home the Kolster.

For those who made it to the Swap Meet, thanks for coming! It was good to see old and new friends and antique radio lovers alike.

We hope all our club members will make it to the November dinner and meeting at the Sonoma Lake housing subdivision clubhouse in Edmond. We had a great time at our September meeting there, and the pizza, brownies, and beverages were great. We had room to spread out and still had the ability to chat with each other. It felt more like being in our own clubhouse rather than at a place shared by so many other people. The program for November will be on Silvertone (Sears) and Airline (Montgomery Wards) radios, so look through your collection for one or more to bring and share.

Speaking of the Sonoma Lake Subdivision . . . Ray and Dorothy Cady will be our hosts for this year's Christmas party. Usually it has been at Jim and Julie's home, which is just about three miles from Ray and Dorothy's home, so the difference shouldn't be any big deal. The Christmas party will be held at the Cady home in the Sonoma Lake subdivision, so you might want to make sure you see the club house and how to get to there from your place to make it easier for you in December. Members will receive the details about the Christmas party when the email goes out for confirmation of attendance.

More Photos from the OKVRC Fall 2017 Swap Meet





OKVRC Classified Ads



Wanted

Collections of tubes, parts, radios, and related items.

Jim Collings, jrcradio@cox.net | 405-755-4139

Briggs & Stratton (BASCO) radio items

Crystal radio, tube sockets, A-B-C power supplies, boxed parts, radio advertising and promotional items. Email Dale Boyce at radioman@wi.rr.com or call (414) 840-4146.

Old comics

Send lists to Dan Giddings, PO Box 3961 Glendale, CA 91221-3961.

For Sale

Edison Laboratory Model Diamond Disc Phonograph, oak, with 20 thick records. \$175. Contact Jim Collings (405)-755-4139.

Radio Chassis stands \$37.50 small / \$55 large. These maintenance stands hold a chassis while working on it. Prices do not include brackets at \$2.50 or shipping. Contact Steve Strong at (405) 634-7547 or e-mail scstrong1@cox.net.

Magnet Wire. Sizes and price vary. Contact Mike at orders@coaxman.com or call (405) 376-9473.

Electronic components. Price varies by item. We sell capacitors, dial lamps, vintage cassette and reel to reel belt kits with instructions, and more for antique and

Magnet Wire. Sizes and price vary. Contact Mike at orders@coaxman.com or call (405) 376-9473.

Quilted Radio Covers \$10 Tabletop/\$20 console
Protect your antique radio from dust, water, and other damage, and show off your radio pride. Contact Dorothy Cady (405) 206-9985.

AM Transmitter \$85 with Bluetooth, \$75 without. Play your digital music collection on your antique radios with an AM transmitter. Comes with USB and SD card connections and built-in FM tuner. Bluetooth option lets you connect to a smartphone or tablet. Contact Raymond Cady (405) 820-8014 / cadyraymond1@gmail.com.

Services

Antique Radio Restoration and Servicing
Edmond, Oklahoma. *Let me make it look and run like new again.* Contact me at:

Email: cadyraymond1@gmail.com

Phone: (405) 820-8014

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"Millions still tune in to the radio, but not without serious competition from TV's and the internet, which some would say evolved from mass broadcasting started by the radio." *A History of the World*. Retrieved from: http://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/objects/y8H8RvWPRt6Aw1-bp_HXxQ.



**Happy November Birthday
to Members:**

Jim Tyrrell & Dorothy Cady



On the Air with OKVRC Member Mike Swinney

Give Mike a perfectly grilled steak and a New England Patriots game to watch and he will be almost as happy as he is when he's collecting radios. Not sure if it's because he doesn't want to admit how long he has been an antique radio collector or, if like the rest of us, it doesn't matter; he will tell you he's been collecting for a long time. His first radio love was a WWII Scott Allwave 19. Mike says it is a "very very rare" radio. It has 19 tubes, and was manufactured in Chicago, IL. Mike's favorite color is blue. Would that be the Patriots' Nautical blue, Mike?

OKVRC EDITOR

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