



OK Vintage Radio Collectors

BROADCAST NEWS

Online at www.okvrc.org

Volume XXX, Issue 3

March 2020

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:

Broadcast News Editor, OKVRC
PO BOX 50625
Midwest City, OK 73140-5625

Or via email to:

cadyraymond1@gmail.com.

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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.

Membership payment is due in January for that year. 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 COLUMN

Jim Collings



March 14th is our monthly meeting at the Sonoma Lake Clubhouse, at 1712 NW 159th Street, Edmond, OK 63013. We gather at 6 PM for food and fellowship with the meeting beginning at 7. We will finalize plans for publicity, and brainstorm for other ideas to make our April 12th Annual Swap meet bigger and better.

The topic for the meeting will be Westinghouse. We will explore the contributions of Westinghouse to the radio industry. So bring anything related to Westinghouse.

They made early 1920's sets, (often branded RCA), and later sets into the 1950s. On the menu for the meal at the meeting is beef stew and fruit cobbler! I'm looking forward to this! So this is a meeting you do not want to miss. At the end of the meeting we

donation auction. I will bring a Philco Model 71LZ chairside set which was just donated for the auction. See you at the meeting!

Our Upcoming Swap Meet

On April 12th our OKVRC annual meet will be held at the Midwest City Community Center, beginning at 8:30 AM. This is our big meet with a swap meet, contest, silent auction, and live auction. We have the facility all day. We get in the door officially at 8AM, but we have to set up the tables before the start of the meet. The event will have free admission, but donations for coffee and doughnuts will be appreciated.

The raffle item this year is a restored large General Electric Model J-70 Cathedral radio.



There also will be door prizes, so be sure to sign in.

President's Column (Continued)

Proposed Swap Meet Schedule

8:00–8:30 a.m.- Room, table & vendor setup
 8:30–Noon - Swap Meet opens to the public
 10:00 a.m.- Silent auction ends
 10:00-10:30 a.m.– Contest judging
 10:00-10:30 a.m.– Radio restoration program
 11:00 – Live auction of vintage radios begins
 (We usually have many nice items.)
 11:30 – Lunch (approximate start)
 Noon – Facility cleanup begins

A big Thank You to everyone who helps us to set up and take down for the swap meet.

Current plans include a few new things, the first of which is to have a lunch presented as a fund raiser by a local Boy Scout Troop, a member of whom is also a member of OKVRC. Hot dogs were discussed, but other options are possible. Also available this year will be a vintage radio restoration program about replicating a glass-faced dial scale. And, we are working on having a live presentation of vintage music. Since we have not confirmed all of these swap meet additions, these plans are not yet finalized. Still, coming to see the contest items is worthwhile; we always have interesting items.

About the Contest

Everyone is urged to bring radio and radio-related items to show off for the contest. There will be a brief contest entry form to complete for each entry. You may enter up to two items in each category.

The only restriction is that items that won a first place ribbon last year cannot compete, but can be displayed.

I believe that displaying your favorite pieces is an important part of radio collecting. It makes collecting more enjoyable. It's no fun having a house full of radio items that you never show or share with others.

Contest Categories

- Battery and Crystal Receivers, Pre-1930
- Tombstone and Cathedral Receivers
- Horizontal Wooden Receivers
- Metal Sets after 1926 (includes amateur receivers and transmitters)
- AC/DC Bakelite or Plastic Receivers
- Transistor Radios
- Foreign Made Receivers and Equipment, pre-1957
- Accessory Items (tubes, speakers, antennas, test equipment, etc.)
- Open Category (anything that doesn't fit in another category)
- Best Restoration (can be displayed in any category, but will be judged on restoration quality. Documentation of condition before restoration is encouraged)
- People's Choice (ballot by swap meet attendees of their overall favorite contest display)
- Best of Show (one of the first place winners from the other categories)

On Another Note

Members of the club have made two trips to Wichita Falls to pick up radio items that were **graciously donated by Wes York. We wish to thank him for his support of the club.** Most of his collection was free for the taking, but I retrieved several sets which will be for sale in the Silent Auction at the April meet for the club's benefit.

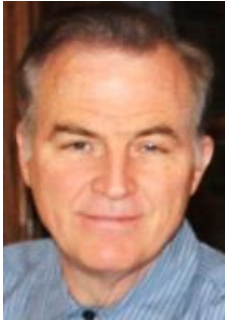
He still has available more sets, especially consoles, if you missed out. If interested, contact me to arrange a visit.

OKVRC Golf Shirts Available

OKVRC Golf shirts will be available for purchase at the Swap Meet at around \$20 (final price not yet set).

(President's Column cont'd on pg. 4.)

Report for February 8, 2020 Meeting



Jim Tyrrell

It's early March here in central Oklahoma, and spring is slowly making its way in. Warmer, longer days are here, and thankfully, there are no storms yet. But the daffodils, the irises, and the hyacinths in my front yard are in full bloom. The trees are starting to bud out, and while the grass isn't green yet, the weeds certainly aren't waiting around. Time to get the sprayer out!

Perhaps the warmer weather had something to do with it, but we managed to attract a fairly good turnout of about fifteen OKVRC members. The dinner was pizza-America's favorite food-along with desserts and other extras for five dollars a person.

After dinner Club President Jim Collings called the meeting to order. We discussed the upcoming April Swap Meet and Club Convention at the Midwest Community Center. This will also be the meet with the contest, so look through your collection and find something to bring to enter. And also look for things to sell, either in the silent auction or at a table. (I'm disappointed when I come home empty handed from a meet, so please bring something good to sell.)

Before starting on the evening's program, we had a brief Show-and-Tell session. Club member Jerry Brown showed to us an RCA electric turntable offered as an accessory so you could play your 78 RPM records through your early radio.



1. Jerry and his RCA turntable.

Also, member Elena showed us a few relics from the WWII era: an aircraft transponder, a military speaker, and an aircraft electronics unit.

The topic for tonight's program was cylinder phonographs. The invention of the phonograph is generally credited to Thomas Edison in 1877, although there were several European inventors at work on similar devices. The first Edison cylinder phonographs for the home came out in 1893. Emile Berliner invented the disk phonograph around 1888 and that format gradually took over in the twentieth century. Those 78 RPM platters ultimately gave way to 33 and 45 RPM records, and later on, to tapes and CDs. With the growing acceptance of MP3s, for the first time in nearly 140 years, recorded music could be played without the use of some sort of a motor and rotating media. It was fun for our members to look back on this earliest format of all, cylinder phonographs.



2. Examples of Edison cylinders From President Collings' collection (held by another OKVRC member for photographing).

Most radio collectors I've met collect all sorts of vintage electronics, including some non-electronic items like music boxes and acoustic phonographs. Cylinder phonographs are particularly rare and thus hard-to-find, but Jim Collings has a great collec-

(February Meeting Report cont'd on page 4)

Feb. Meeting Report (Cont'd)

tion of acoustic phonographs, including many early cylinder types. He brought in a wonderful selection of these early, rare instruments for us to enjoy. We got to see not only Edison machines, but also cylinder phonographs from Columbia, their biggest competitor.



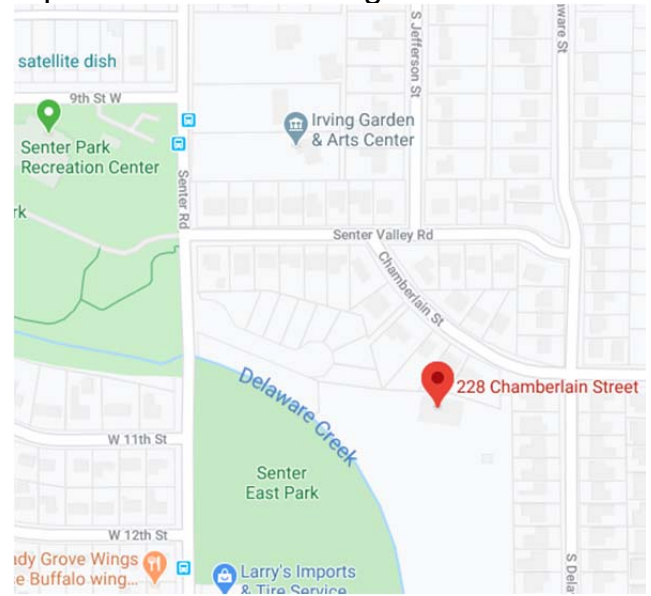
3. Just one of Jim Collings' Edison cylinder-type acoustic phonographs.

Early cylinders were made of wax, later ones were made of celluloid, a much sturdier product. Wax cylinders also have a problem in that they can be attacked by mold, which can spoil the sound quality. Larger diameter "Grand" cylinders were also developed for longer playing time. Many of the early machines featured "witches hat" type horns, but some later machines used bell shaped horns that resemble early radio horn speakers. We were shown a "fireside" model with a large, cygnet horn. Outside horn cylinder machines were made up until 1913, but inside horn cylinder machines were made until 1929.

Special thanks to Jim for bringing in his wonderful collection of rare, early cylinder phonographs to share. See you at the Spring Meet on April 11th. You won't want to miss it!

President's Column (Cont'd)

The VRPS spring auction is coming up. It will be held at the Senter East Building, 228 Chamberlain St., in Irving, TX (Dallas) on Saturday March 28th. The doors open at 7 AM, with the auction start at 9:30. This compliments their annual convention in the fall. It is an auction only, but is worth attending. It's not as large as the auctions during the fall convention, and there are not as many expensive items as in the fall, but there are always a few nice things. There tends to be more parts available and sets for parts or restoration, so it's a good source for getting what might be needed to complete your restoration. The location is a little tricky to find as it is in a residential area, so contact me if you have questions. If you are an early riser you can leave at 3 AM on Saturday morning to drive down. If not, there are motels in the area. It wraps up in the late afternoon, so it can be just a one day trip. It is worth attending.



4. In the email version of this newsletter, you can click on this map to open and print the full Google Map for this location.

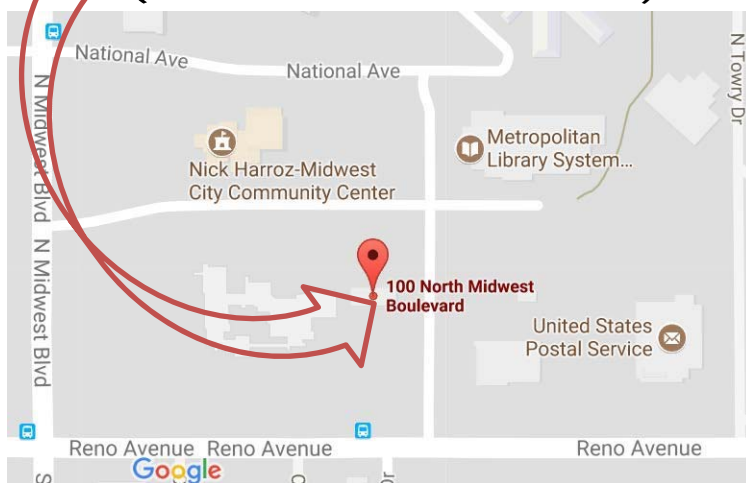
Vintage Radio Swap Meet and Auction **FREE**

Admission, Program,
Radio Appraisals, &
Repair Consultations

Saturday, April 11, 2020, 8:30 a.m.–Noon

Nick-Harroz Midwest City Community Center

100 N. Midwest Blvd., Midwest City, OK
(North of Tinker AFB)



**DONUTS &
FRESH COFFEE**

**LUNCH OPTION
(Supports 4-H)**



Schedule

(Subject to change)

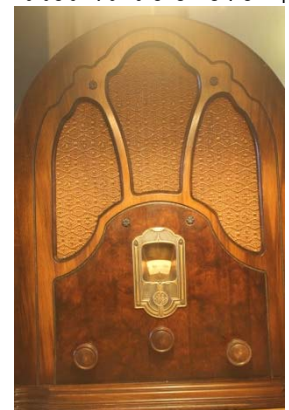
- 8:30 a.m.–Doors open to public, silent auction begins
(Sign in to be entered for the door prize drawing.)
- 10:00 a.m.–Silent auction ends
- 10:00-10:30 a.m.–Contest judging
- 10:00-10:30 a.m.–Radio Restoration program
- 10:30 a.m.–Raffle & door prize drawings
- 10:45–Live auction of vintage radios begins
- 11:00–Lunch (approximate start) supports 4-H
- Noon–Facility cleanup begins

BRING YOUR VINTAGE RADIOS

- ➔ FREE Appraisals (by Jim Collings)
- ➔ FREE Repair Consultations (by Raymond Cady)

*Get your raffle tickets
for a chance to win this
RESTORED G. E. J-70
Cathedral Radio*

Estimated value of over \$500



Event Sponsor:

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For Sale

AM Transmitter
\$95 with Bluetooth. Play your digital music collection on your antique radio with an AM transmitter. Comes with USB and SD card connections and built-in FM tuner. The Bluetooth option lets you connect to a smartphone or tablet. To order or for more information contact Raymond Cady at: cadyraymond1@gmail.com (405) 820-8014



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

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

Services

Own a family heirloom radio or a recent-acquisition vintage radio that you'd love to see restored?

Golden Age Radio Restoration

Provides reasonably-priced, high-quality chassis repair & cabinet restoration services. *We can make it look and play like new again.*

Contact: Raymond Cady at (405) 820-8014, cadyraymond1@gmail.com, or visit our website at: GOLDENAGERADIORESTORATION.COM

Vintage Radio Cabinet Restoration



BEFORE



AFTER

Whether bakelite, plastic, solid wood, or veneer, I've worked with them all. If you have a vintage radio with a cabinet that needs some TLC, call or text **Dorothy** at **405-206-9985** for a free consultation.

Wanted

Old Comics: Send list of available comics to Dan Giddings, PO Box 3961, Glendale, CA 91221-3961.

Tubes and Tube-type Amplifiers: Jim Collings, 14704 Carlingford Way, Edmond, OK 73013. (405)-755-4139 or jrcradio@cox.net.

Restoring or Replicating Dial Scale and Dial Glass: Series Introduction

Dorothy Cady

OKVRC Vice President

Should you pass up or pass off that vintage radio with a broken, damaged, or missing dial scale or dial glass? That's a big decision when you otherwise enjoy the radio. But, replacing the dial scale or dial glass (or both) on a vintage radio can be challenging, both financially and physically. Sometimes you cannot find a replacement. Sometimes you can find a quality replacement from a place like radiodaze.com, which has a great selection, or from ebay or other online resellers. Unfortunately, a used replacement can be either in the same or worse condition as yours, or the cost for a new one may be as much (or nearly so) as the amount the radio cost you to begin with. However, if you have the time and desire to restore or replicate your own dial scale or dial glass, you have the option to do so, and it may not be as challenging as you think.

This article is the first in a series that is designed to familiarize you with options and techniques for restoring or replicating dial scales and dial glasses for your vintage radios. It also will explain some techniques that may aid you in making the job a little bit easier. Since the space in this newsletter generally will be limited to one page per newsletter, each article will concentrate only on the most important aspects of one kind of dial scale and/or dial glass.

Before we can dive into the how-to of restoration and replication of different types of dial faces and dial glasses, you

may find it helpful to be on the same page as me when it comes to some of the key terminology that will be used in these articles. The four terms you will see most often include the following:

- **Restoration** refers to taking an existing dial scale or dial glass and making simple repairs to it. Such an approach lets you use your original dial scale or dial glass while having it look (and perhaps function) much better.
- **Replication** means that you will be starting from scratch (or almost) and creating most or all of the dial scale and/or dial glass because the old one doesn't exist or is too damaged to be restored.
- **Dial scale** refers to the radio frequencies for a particular band. Multiple scales will exist if it is a multi-band radio. Dial scales may also have the radio manufacturer's name, a frequency designation, or other relevant information. The dial scale may be painted or silkscreened onto the back of a piece of glass, or painted or printed onto a metal or plastic plate.
- **Dial glass** refers to the protective cover over a dial scale and dial pointer. Dial glass may be made from glass, an acrylic, or a clear plastic.

Next month, this series will address restoring/replicating dial scales that have been painted or silkscreened onto the back of a piece of glass. It is my hope that you will find this and future series articles both interesting and helpful.

OKVRC BOARD:

President:

Jim Collings
jrcradio@cox.net

Vice-President

Dorothy Cady
dcady1@gmail.com

Secretary:

Jim Tyrrell
jptyrrell@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Jim Ray
jabray71@hotmail.com

Webmaster

Dorothy Cady
dcady1@gmail.com

BROADCAST NEWS STAFF:

Editors/Photographers:

Raymond Cady
cadyraymond1@gmail.com
 Dorothy Cady
dcady1@gmail.com

ANSWERS:to Who's Who
 1. AB, 2. AB, 3. B, 4.A, 5. A, 6.A



Happy Birthday to You!

Happy birthday to all of our March birthday members!

Who's Who – Make Your Guess

As President Jim Collings mentioned in his column this month, OKVRC members were invited to Wes York's home in Witchita Falls, Texas, to go through his garage full of vintage radios and radio parts and select what could be of use to us. (A few of us also brought some of those radios home to donate to the silent and live auctions at the April Swap meet, so you definitely want to be there.) Jim Tyrrell and I carpoled to Witchita Falls and back for the second trip, and that gave us the opportunity to get to know each other a little better. I thought you might find a little fun in trying to figure out which of the following is true about Jim Tyrrell or Dorothy Cady. Circle the letter(s) associated with each numbered truth to make your guess about who it describes.

A. Jim Tyrrell, Treasurer	B. Dorothy Cady, V.P.
1. Lived in Southern California for many years.	A B
2. Enjoys collecting console and table top radios.	A B
3. Reads post-apocalyptic and zombie novels.	A B
4. Brother is a retired District Attorney.	A B
5. Commutes to work at Tinker Air Force base.	A B
6. Enjoys driving.	A B

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