



OK Vintage Radio Collectors BROADCAST NEWS

Online at www.okvrc.org

Volume XXXIII, Issue 6

June 2023



President's Column - Jim Collings

Contents

President's Column	1
May 2023 Meeting Report . .	2
Jim Collings' Presentation on Paragon Receivers	3
Classifieds	4
There Was More to the Man Than Just Paragon Radios. .	5
Finding the Production Date of a Vintage Receiver.	7
Birthday Wishes.	7
About OKVRC.	8
Website & Meeting Info	8
OKVRC Board Members	8

This month's regular meeting will be on June 10th at the Golden Corral, 1501 S Sooner Road, Del City, OK 73110. We gather at 6 PM for food and fellowship with the meeting beginning around 7. The topic for the meeting will be aligning AM receivers, presentation by Mark McClellan. We seldom have a technical electronic topic, so this will be a welcome change. If you have an AM set that needs to be aligned, bring it. At the end of the meeting we will have our usual donation auction. At present, I do not have anything significant to bring, so hopefully others will donate some items to have a successful auction.

Julie and I decided not to attend any of the multiple radio meets last month. We find it harder to get excited about a long drive to attend a day-and-a-half, or two-day meet. There are very few items that I wish to add to my collection, and it is seldom I find anything I plan to retain. But we do

miss meeting with our collector friends, and catching up with their activities. June is a sparse month for meets, with nothing nearby scheduled. However, July improves. The next meet will be the HLARA Summer Sizzler swap meet in Tulsa. It is being held on Saturday July 15th at the typical location of the Asbury Church in Tulsa, beginning at 9 AM. It is always a fun meet; you get to see friends you have not seen in a while and greet new ones, and see a wide selection of purchaseable radios and related items. I encourage everyone to plan to attend. Too long of a drive or too costly? Consider carpooling with another club member. You can start your meet and greet sooner and save some money to buy more items for your collection. Hope to see everyone at our meeting this Saturday.

Jim Collings, President

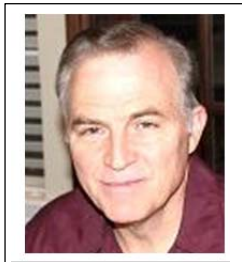


HLARA is based in Tulsa. Its objective is to promote the preservation of history, technology, and equipment of the early days of radio.

The Summer Sizzler is the annual HLARA contest and swap meet held every year usually in June; however, the 2023 Sizzler will be held on July 15th at [Asbury Church, 6767 S Mingo Rd, Tulsa, OK](#). The event is FREE and open to the public. Doors open at 8:00 A.M. for setup. Event opens to the public at 9:00 A.M. FREE coffee, soft drinks, snacks, and free hot dogs at Noon. Auction begins at 12:30. Early setup on Friday from 3:00-6:00. There will be a raffle drawing for a fully restored radio. Anyone may enter an unlimited number of items in [the contest](#). For more information, choose the link or visit: <https://www.hlara.org/sizzler.html>.

May 2023 Meeting Report

Jim Tyrrell



I often begin my report for our monthly OKVRC Meeting with some comment on our notoriously wild Oklahoma weather; this time will be no exception. I take pride in almost never missing an OKVRC club meeting, but I almost stayed home this time. In the few hours before our Saturday evening meeting, we had some of the most torrential rains that I can remember. I turned on the TV and they showed the streets in Edmond where I live with water over the curbs, just blocks

from me. I called Jim Collings to see if he was still planning to go, and he replied that he had his car loaded with Adams-Morgan radios from the early twenties and was ready to go. Fortunately, the rain let up and I ventured out. I'm glad I did! But, the rainy weather kept some of our members' home; only seven of us made it to the Golden Corral Buffet for our monthly meeting. As always, I skipped lunch so I could save space to enjoy numerous helpings of the vast array of dishes they offer. When you offer all-you-can-eat shrimp, who can resist?

Our small group was very well fed by the time Jim Collings called the meeting to order and began the night's program. We discussed last month's Club Convention at the Midwest City Community Center; all agreed it was a success for the club despite the modest turnout. We also discussed starting a club Facebook page, one of our members, Mark McClellan offered to set it up for us.

The subject of tonight's program was Adams-Morgan "Paragon" receivers. If you don't collect early battery sets, you may never have heard of Paragon. This company was started by two partners, Alfred Morgan and Paul Godley. The section in this newsletter from Jim Collings' presentation describes the company and its history, so I'll just give you a quick description of the rare and early Paragon sets that those of us who braved the rain got to see up close and personal. We saw a Paragon RA10 from 1921, which is just a front-end tuner, but without a detector or amplifier. We also saw the matching DA2 detector-amp (1922). Later models Jim showed to us included the RD5 (a RA10 with detector), the A2 (a two-tube amplifier), and the 10R (a one-tube RF amplifier that goes in front of the tuner). Later, Paragon brought out the 3A, which is a three-tube compete set in a cabinet with doors, and Jim had one without the cabinet. By 1924 they had some sets that were similar to some of the Crosley sets, including: the Type 2 (detector and single tube amp), the Paragon 3 (detector and dual amp, rare), and the Type 3, a four-tube set. Paragon stuck to regenerative designs long after their competitors had gone to TRFs, which may have been why Paragon had exited the receiver market early. The company was bought out in 1928. All Paragon equipment is rare; it was a real treat to see so many at once.

We finished up our evening with our usual donation auction. Thanks to a generous donation of tubes and parts, there were lots of boxes and flats of tubes, plenty of parts, some small radios, and a 1921 radio magazine. Everyone went home with something. It was a great meeting. Thanks to Jim for his Adams-Morgan Paragon presentation, and thanks to all who donated items for the auction. See you in June!

Jim Tyrrell, Secretary

Jim Collings' Presentation on Paragon Receivers

Alfred P. Morgan was an original founder of the Adams-Morgan company that came to be known as Paragon. He was born in 1886, and sold wireless components by mail order beginning in about 1910. He also wrote several early Wireless construction books. Little is known about Adams, a silent partner who likely provided funding.

In 1915, Morgan met Paul Godley, another wireless pioneer who had been installing government stations in Brazil. When Godley met Armstrong, he remarked that he had heard the Brazilian stations. This was, of course, using the Armstrong Regenerative Circuit, but Armstrong was interested in commercial applications, not the amateur bands; his circuit did not work well at those frequencies. Godley adopted the circuit to work on the short wave bands; his tuner was called the RA-6. In 1915, Godley became the third partner in the Adams-Morgan Company, and in 1916 the company began producing and selling the RA-6. Chicago Radio Labs (Zenith) also produced them, and was eventually sued by Adams-Morgan. It was a popular set used by the best ham stations.

After WW I, Godley designed the RA-10, a re-packaged version of the same circuit, late 1920. Adams-Morgan produced them but had Continental Radio and Electronics, a New York distributor, market them, as they had an RCA franchise. The RA-10 was a tuner only, and it wasn't until March, 1922 when the companion DA-2 detector amplifier was introduced. This was a very popular set, and eventually was reconfigured by adding the detector tube to the RA-10, becoming the Paragon RD5, leaving the two-stage amplifier as the A2, a more conventional arrangement at that time.

As the regenerative circuit became outdated, Paragon never upgraded, sticking to the circuit as it became obsolete. They did produce the 10-R, a 1 tube RF stage unit which helped beef up the circuit when used in front of the RA10 or RD5. A Transmitter using a 202 tube known as the 2-U-5 was introduced in late 1921. Additional receivers were re-workings of the RD5 with no new technology, like the RB2, and III-A. The III-A was a double-decker version in a taller more



ALFRED POWELL MORGAN
Author, Inventor, Manufacturer
1889-1972

1. Alfred Powell "Skippy" Morgan.



2. Jim Collings' Paragon RA-10 tuner.



3. A look inside Jim Collings' Paragon DA-2 detector amplifier.



4. Jim Collings' Paragon RD5-A2.

Paragon Receivers Presentation (Continued)

Jim Collings, President

decorative mahogany cabinet with doors. These were the last sets produced before Paul Godley left the company.

Later sets produced were more cheaply made to compete with Crosley, but did not sell well. The Model II was equivalent to a Crosley 51, and the Model III was equivalent to a Crosley 52, but in a nicer cabinet.

The Model Four added an extra output tube, without an additional audio transformer.

Because they never abandoning the regenerative circuit, the company's sets became unpopular; the company went into receivership in 1926. They were purchased and renamed Paragon Electric Corporation, but never produced receivers, and became a testing lab.

All of this data is from publications authored by Alan Douglas, and except for the image of Alfred Powell "Skippy" Morgan, which comes from the website URL of worldradiohistory.org, the included photos are some of the Paragons from Jim Collings' collection.



This is a Crosley 51 included here for comparison. The image comes from https://antiqradio.com/post_crosley-51-restoration.html



Crosley 52 for comparison. Photo from <https://www.ebay.com/itm/266276994078?hash=item3dff587c1e:g:dNcAAOSwtvNkdUPn&amd>



5. Jim Collings' Paragon 111-A.



6. Jim Collings' Paragon Model III.



7 Jim Collings' Paragon Model Four.

CLASSIFIEDS

Services

Custom Laser Cutting

Need felt for a platen, a wood speaker grill, an escutcheon? Contact Rick for information at Black85vette@gmail.com.

Radio Repair/Restoration

Quality work. Reasonable prices. For chassis repair and cabinet restoration contact Ray and Dorothy Cady at cadyraymond1@gmail.com or 405-820-8014.

Wanted

Tubes & Tube-type Amplifiers

Contact Jim Collings at (405) 755-4139 or jrcradio@cox.net. Meet me by appointment at 14704 Carlingford Way, Edmond, OK. 73013

Briggs & Stratton (BASCO) radio items

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

For Sale

AM Transmitter

Play anything wirelessly on any AM radio with only one plug-and-play AM transmitter. Bluetooth, flash drive and SD card slots, and built-in FM tuner included. Contact Ray at cadyraymond1@gmail.com.

Wanted

We Buy Old Comics

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

There Was More to The Man Than Paragon Radios

Dorothy Cady, Vice-president

Do you recall the rush of getting your first radio? Maybe you found it at a swap meet, or received it as a birthday gift. Perhaps it wasn't even yours, but belonged to your family, yet you were just as excited about it as your parents and siblings when it arrived. Alfred P. Morgan, who at the age of 20 attempted but did not succeed at test-flying his own homemade aircraft, must have felt that excitement right up until the end of that first test. He never gave up, though. In 1919, just ten years later, Mr. Morgan published the first book he wrote; it was titled, "How to Build a 20-foot Bi-Plane Glider," which you can read on the Project Gutenberg website. (You also can download a PDF copy at no charge from [Dorothy L. Cady's](#) website.)

From a young man, Morgan was interested in flight, along with just about everyone else in the early decades of the 20th Century. It was a time of great achievement, not only in flight, but also in many ways, including wireless communications. Alfred P. Morgan soon became interested in—some would say even fascinated by—the emerging technology. ARRL.org's article titled "Alfred Powell Morgan: the Eternal Boy Turns 120" states that, "According to a brief autobiographical sketch, the young Morgan struggled to find publications appropriate for his age. As an adult, he vowed to create those publications, which he had lacked as an adolescent" (WorldRadioHistory.org, Sept., 2009). And create he did. Not only did he publish books for young men, but he went on to also publish books for young women and adults who were interested in the same wireless communications that had captured his attention and become his career over the years.

The Boys' First Book of Radio and Electronics, the first of four books in the series, was "published by Charles Scribner's Sons, [in 1954 and] these titles were staples of elementary school libraries" (WorldRadioHistory.org, Sept, 2009). [Wikipedia](#) includes the following information about him:

Morgan wrote many books on radio and electronics. He wrote a series of books on the subject for young people, including the Boys First, Second, Third & Fourth Book Of Radio And Electronics. Morgan had four sons, which is why his books were originally written for boys, but editions from the 1970s were edited for boys and girls. Some of the projects described in his books cannot be built easily today because the parts are difficult to find, but many are based on simple parts and hand tools that can be found at a hardware or electronic supply store. Safety standards have also improved in the last hundred years, so some of the projects described would now be considered risky.

In addition, Wikipedia credits Morgan with 8,808 U.S. Patents for Design for an instrument-mount for radio panel (August 30, 1921), 60,362 U.S. Patents for Design for an instrument-mount for radio panel (February 7, 1922), and 1,459,070 U.S. Patents for Rheostat (June 19, 1923). He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and published books and articles in the categories of: Chemistry; Electronics; Pets; Tools; and Miscellaneous, which is the category into which *How to Build a 20-foot Bi-plane Glider: a practical handbook on the construction of a bi-plane gliding machine* (New York: Spon & Chamberlain, 1909) falls. His last published work

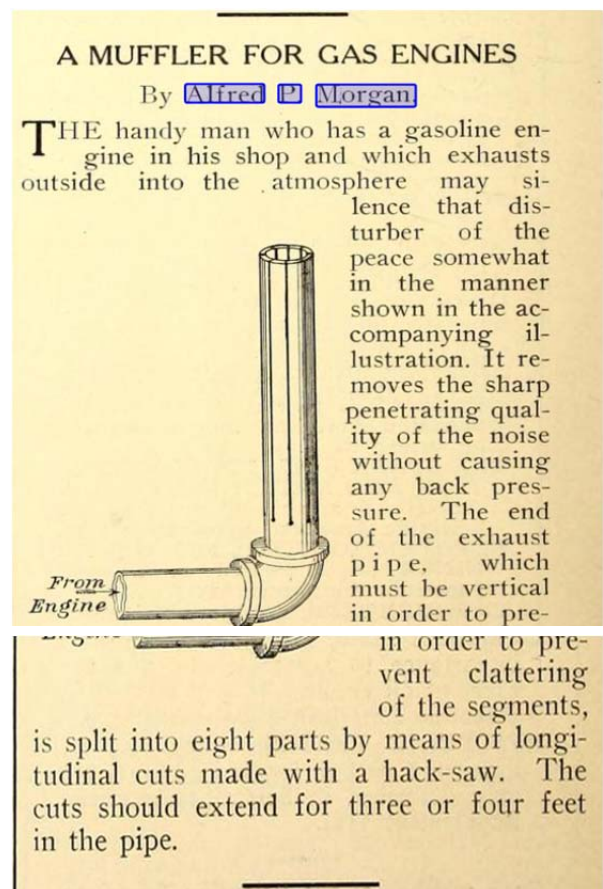
There Was More to The Man ... (Cont'd)

was the *First Book of Radio and Electronics*, which was released in New York in 1977 by Scribner. While most of Morgan's writings were scientific and educational, they also were taken seriously by their readers and those who reviewed his publications, with one exception. His book titled *The Boy Electrician* (1913) was described and intended as a practical introduction to electricity and magnetism. However, one review stated that "this book was originally reviewed tongue-in-cheek as 'a menace to the business of neighbourhood electrician, for it strives to teach the average boy all sorts of things his mother would like to have done about the house' (Wikipedia).

If you would prefer a little lighter reading by A. P. Morgan, you can check out [ebay](#) for a copy of his "An aquarium book for boys and girls", if it's still available by the time you read this.

Research is wonderful thing. It's fascinating to see what you can find out about a topic or an individual, and even inspiring to go from a little knowledge about someone to end up seeing that individual as a bit of a hero. That is especially true in Alfred P. Morgan's case. While the published articles and webpages, like Wikipedia, that were written about Alfred P. Morgan provided interesting information on him, it did not take much more digging to find and include some of his other useful writings. Perhaps other authors did not have the luxury of space to point out Morgan's less well-know works, but here I do. Thanks to Archive.org, I found a very brief article that Mr. Morgan wrote for the July 1910 issue of *American Home and Gardens*. I have copied it to the right here so that you can read it for yourself; it's still scientific but also relative to the "handy man" who might well be running a gasoline engine in his shop and need to pipe the exhaust outside. (Hey, maybe some of us could use this to remove the exhaust from our gas generators that we should never run in our garage, even though the power has been out for days from one of our awesome winter storms.)

A. P. Morgan was a well-educated, inventive, and practical man who sought and succeeded at sharing his knowledge with the world. Now that you know more about him, I hope that, like me, you have come to see that there was more to this man than just his association with Paragon radios. Although, we do appreciate his contributions on that topic as well.



The above article written by A. P. Morgan and published in *American Homes and Gardens* was reproduced here in sections from Archive.org. The two sections were necessary in order to copy the entire article. I have overlapped it as close as possible to ensure you miss none of the article.

Finding the Production Date of a Vintage Receiver

Raymond Cady

Why should you care about the actual production date of a vintage receiver? For many collectors and new purchasers of vintage receivers, knowing a receiver's production date helps you to determine a receiver's value. In addition, knowing the date:

- Simplifies the search for schematics needed to restore a receiver
- Helps you to validate the authenticity of a receiver.
- Let's you start a collection for personal reasons, such as buying only receivers from the 1950's because that was your favorite decade.
- Helps you maintain your reputation as someone who is a trusted and knowledgeable buyer or seller.

According to Vintage Radio & Television (an Australian discussion forum), the following methods are some ways of dating sets:

- Shape of a receiver.
- Size of the dial glass.
- Number of pins on the valves.
- Serial number on the licence transfer.
- Material a cabinet is made of.



Vintage Radio & Television's article explains some things most collectors do know and some things they may not know. For example, "In the 1920's there was no such thing as a tuning dial . . . often done using several adjustments relying on calibrated scale markings. . ." Also, "During the 1930's there was a big change on tuning dials - the introduction of station listings." This article titled *How to date vintage radios* is one worth reading., so I wanted to introduce you to it. You can read it on archive.org at:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20230301151352/https://vintage-radio.com.au/default.aspx?id=9>

So, enjoy and learn more about ways to find the production date of vintage receivers.

Happy Birthday to our June B'day Members



June is the month for wildflowers in Oklahoma. It's also the month for:

- Lawton's Chautauqua: World War I, 6/10-14
- Lake Eufaula B.A.S.S. Nation Division Tournament , 6/4-6
- Elk City Route 66 Days, 6/5-8
- AND lots more

Visit the This Land Press website for a complete list of fun things to do.

<https://thislandpress.com/2014/06/01/guide-the-best-things-to-do-in-oklahoma-in-june/>

About OKVRC

Oklahoma Vintage Radio Collectors (OKVRC) publishes the *Broadcast News* to share historical information, and provide enjoyment for club members and friends.

We like to keep up with our members and always welcome submissions of articles on subjects of interest to radio collectors and restorers, and club activities news.

Please send articles to:

OKVRC News Editor

PO BOX 50625

Midwest City, OK 73140

or email to:

cadyraymond1@gmail.com

Unless otherwise noted, articles may be reprinted freely, as long as proper credit and reference is given. An electronic copy of most articles can be obtained from the editor of the *Broadcast News*.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

You're invited to join us in our celebration of Vintage Radio by attending and signing up at a meeting or swap meet, or by mailing your \$15 annual membership fee check to: OKVRC, PO BOX 50625, Midwest City, OK, 73140.

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

OKVRC BOARD MEMBERS

President:

Jim Collings: jrcradio@cox.net

Vice-President & Webmaster

Dorothy Cady: dcady1@gmail.com

Secretary:

Jim Tyrrell jptyrrell@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Jim Ray: jabray71@hotmail.com

BROADCAST NEWS STAFF

Editors:

Raymond & Dorothy Cady:

cadyraymond1@gmail.com

WEBSITE & MEETING INFO

www.OKVRC.org

Meetings are at 6 PM on the second Saturday of each month (except April and Oct.) at Golden Corral,

[1501 S. Sooner Rd. OKC 73110](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1501+S.+Sooner+Rd.+OKC+73110)

We hold Swap Meets in April and October, currently in MidWest City, but we will move to Mustang in 2024.