



When in doubt
Build it stout.
Make it of things
You know about.

OSCILLATOR

DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO CLUB

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

Vol. 5 No. 3, March 1997

MARCONI AUCTION HITS THE FAN

The proposed auction of Marconi artifacts and records has been unceremoniously cancelled, the result of vivid complaints on the part of British radio historians and even Marconi people. Marconi's surviving daughter Elettra flew from Rome to express her views to the chairman of GEC-Marconi before the decision was announced; the whole show has been termed "a PR disaster." Reportedly an announcement is due in the next week or so to the effect that the collection will be preserved in either the local town museum in Chelmsford or in the Science Museum in London, the latter being seen as more likely. Meanwhile, Marconi's daughter is to be the guest of honor at a lunch in Chelmsford on April 26, to be given by the Marconi Veterans' Association. Some views expressed in the *Times of London*:

I learn with surprise and shock [of the auction] . . . this vitally important collection is a national as well as a corporate asset and should be preserved as such . . . [otherwise] these wonderful treasures are to be split up into many lots, thereby losing the integrity and uniqueness of the archive, removing it from public access and risking many items being lost to overseas buyers . . . I am sure I speak for many thousands of "Marconi men" in asking the company most earnestly to reconsider its far-reaching action (John Sutherland, former managing director for Marconi Radar, Feb. 5).

. . . Part of the tragedy . . . of the Christie's auction is that the collection has been so little studied, and that no attempt was made to display it during the Marconi Centenary year . . . dispersal abroad is likely . . . where were the national museums and professional institutions who should . . . have been exercising a watching brief? (T. C. H. Going, Feb. 5).

GEC shouldn't be destroying their heritage and ours . . . we should be proud of the role Britain played, not dispersing it to the four corners of the world (Gerry Wells, Vintage Wireless Museum, London, Feb. 10).

I'm horrified to see it come under the hammer . . . we shall see a lot of heavyweight foreign buyers and it will be dispersed all over the world (Rod Burman, tube collector-historian, Feb. 10).

Shocked and heartbroken . . . appalled . . . many people have contacted me to express their great disappointment that the GEC-Marconi organization is selling its history which . . . is part of the English heritage . . . [A]t all costs these archives should remain in the UK and preferably in the town of Chelmsford . . . (Princess Elettra Marconi-Giovanelli, Feb. 10).

The exciting news of the Marconi archive sale is accompanied by predictable bleating from those . . . who always lament public dispersal . . . If they knew how few national museums and professional institutions properly care for, study and display their

massive holdings, such correspondents would be embarrassed . . . Let the archive be dispersed with vigour . . . I and numerous other grateful parties will be at Christie's - or on the telephone - to buy and research further these enthralling historical treasures (Gavin Littaur, Feb. 10).

. . . Gavin Littaur's enthusiasm for the dispersal of the Marconi archive is misguided. If one were talking about a library, he would not be misguided; indeed, many collectors in this field are generous to make deliberate provision in their wills for their collections to be dispersed after they have gone, in order to give other collectors the chance to acquire items which, if the library had been willed elsewhere . . . would have been forever out of their reach . . . However, hiving-off a collection embodying the embryos of the greatest innovation of the century merely for the sake of a little filthy lucre is another matter - particularly in the case of a man who initiated its wonder in this country, rather than in his own . . . Can we now imagine a future when the Royal Institution is privatised and the cost of the renovation of the roof . . . and the provision of a hospitality suite for visiting foreigners means that Faraday's endearingly tatty coils and Davy's miners' lamps find their way to the auction rooms, on their way to the Smithsonian? . . . (Bernard Kaukas, Feb. 12).

The . . . auction of the unique Marconi archive seems a strange way for a great company to celebrate a centenary of world importance. It is . . . thoroughly irresponsible to propose that it should be dispersed in lots. The unity of the collection, including the ephemera in it, is its great strength . . . In the past the riches of this archive were treated with proper respect within the company, which was proud of them and commissioned scholarly research concerning them. As Marconi himself knew, business archives are particularly interesting when, like the Edison archives, they have a scientific and technological component. (Asa Briggs, BBC historian, Feb. 10).

Part of the problem seems to be political: the British Science Museum failed to hold a Marconi commemoration last year, even though groups like the British Vintage Wireless Association did so with great enthusiasm and even did a special reprinting of a vintage Marconi equipment for its members. Thanks for source material to our Midwest agent, to Bengt Swensson in the *Oscillator*, um, Stockholm bureau, and to Jim Troe. Now back to the Delaware Valley . . .

THE OSCILLATOR

Newsletter of the
Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club
Post Office Box 41031,
Philadelphia, PA 19127

The *Oscillator* is published monthly by members of the non-profit DVHRC. Its purpose is to provide a forum to educate, inform, entertain, and communicate with collectors and preservers of vintage radio technology.

We welcome and solicit information relating to radio history or collecting. Submissions should be carefully researched, typed and accompanied with clear photographs or diagrams. Material on-disc (3-1/2" or 5-1/4" DOS) is particularly welcome.

Unless copyrighted by the author or indicated otherwise, material in this publication is available for attributed reproduction for nonprofit purposes. (Contact the editor to obtain copy on-disc.)

Personal views, opinions and technical advice offered in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the members, officers or Board of Directors of the DVHRC, nor is the organization responsible for any buying or selling transaction incurred.

To join: DVHRC dues is \$10 per year. The membership year runs January-through-December. Please mail to the club PO box above.

DVHRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pete Grave Mike Koste Tony Molettiere
Bill Overbeck Ludwell Sibley

FOUNDING PRESIDENT

Jay Daveler

1997 DVHRC OFFICERS

President	Bill Overbeck	(610) 789-8199
Vice-President	Tony Molettiere	(215) 723-7459
Treasurer	John Kern	(215) 538-2128
Secretary	Mike Koste	(215) 646-6488

OSCILLATOR EDITOR

Ludwell ("Scoop") Sibley

OSCILLATOR CONTRIBUTORS

John Dilks, K2TQN	Alan Douglas
Alton DuBois, Jr	Mike Koste
Bob Thomas, W3NE	Ted Sowirka

DVHRC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Jim Amici	Ned Borger
Lewis Newhard	Ted Sowirka

FLEA MARKET & AUCTION COMMITTEE

Pete Grave Dave Abramson

LIBRARIAN & TUBE PROGRAM

Charlie Class

MEMBERSHIPS

Mike Koste

ARTICLES & MEMBER ADS

may be sent to the editor at 44 E. Main St, Flemington,
NJ 08822, (908) 782-4894.

COPY DEADLINE: The 20th of each month.

NEXT MEETINGS: March 11, April 8.

*** SOLD OUT! ***

Bill Overbeck

On Feb. 15, DVHRC orchestrated a swapmeet, auction, equipment contest, book sale, membership drive, and bake sale at Havertown . . . Members spent weeks tuning-up and played to a sold-out hall without a single sour note. Much like a fine orchestra, the total event depends on conductor, members, and the hall. Our audience responded with overwhelming applause and "bravos"; also repeated requests for an encore.

It is my pleasure to introduce some of the players and to offer my deepest appreciation for a magnificent performance:

Dave Abramson - Table sales and telephone information; also donated a substantial phone bill.

Jim Amici - Estate-hauling and raffle-radio chassis restoration, donating the parts.

Jay Daveler - Completion of the raffle radio, and promotion.

John Dilks - Internet promotion/responses (hundreds of "hits!").

Dingman & James Auction Co. - For a fine auction.

Pete Grave - Table setup; set up the auction and kept it moving.

Lucille Johnson - Club table.

John Kern - Watched over the money and handled auction finances. Now living in Switzerland.

Mike Koste - Promotion (another substantial phone bill); table setup, estate hauling, etc.

Jim Ley - In charge of weather. Was reportedly seen at over 30 churches as the five-day forecast vacillated.

MAARC and NJARC - Timely help with promotion.

Sylvia Molettiere - Bake table, club table.

Tony Molettiere - Books, pair for raffle-radio cabinet restoration.

Don Rector - Tables, etc.

Lud Sibley - Promotion, mailing, and much more.

Ed Skilton - Estate hauling, table setup. Freed up my time for other tasks.

Ted Sowirka - Estate hauling, setup, etc.

Alice Tannenbaum - Club table, bake sale, promotion.

Special thanks to two non-collectors, my friends, who gave their time to help: **Mark Dwyer** - someone who appreciates our enthusiasm, and **George Swartz**, former radio instructor.

To anyone I may have missed and our vendors and buyers: Thanks! - you're on a winning team.

(Let's not forget to credit the good Overbeck also - he was up to his eyeballs in organizing this event - Ed.)

DVHRC GOES ON THE ROAD

Bill Overbeck

Our regular meeting for February was anything but regular: members were treated to a tour of the radio collection of founding president Jay Daveler in Lansdale. This array of treasures gives one that "gotta have one of those . . . and one of these" feeling. There is something of interest for everyone.

We then traveled a short distance to Jay's retail store, Nostalgic Collectibles, at 7 W. Main St., also in Lansdale. The store features a wide variety of collectibles, including juke boxes and radios of all types. The boyish look on Mike Tannenbaum's face as he played an old pinball machine related the feeling that this was a special treat. Thank you, Jay!

Nostalgic Collectibles



7 W. MAIN STREET
LANSDALE, PA. 19446

PHONE 215-362-2545
FAX 215-362-0350

HOURS: TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 6:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. OR CALL FOR AN APPONTMENT

**WE BUY-SELL-TRADE OR TAKE YOUR COLLECTION
ON CONSIGNMENT**

**WE SELL JUKEBOXES, ARCADE GAMES, SLOT MACHINES, COKE /PEPSI
COOLERS, RADIOS, TOYS, AND HAVE AISLES AND SHELVES LOADED
WITH ITEMS FROM THE "GOOD OLD DAYS"**



REPAIR RESTORE RADIOS / JUKEBOXES

REFINISH RADIOS

TUBE SALES

PARTS SALES

RADIO DIAL BELTS FOR SALE

SCHEMATICS AVAIALBLE

WE'LL HELP LOCATE HARD TO FIND PARTS



BRING IN YOUR VACUUM TUBES AND TEST THEM YOURSELF - FREE!

WE SELL GUMBALL MACHINE CANDY



**WE RENT JUKEBOXES FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS / PARTIES!!!!
THE JUKEBOX CAN EVEN BE LOADED WITH MUSIC
FROM THE ERA OF YOUR CHOICE.**

**ASK TO SEE OUR PICTURE INVENTORY
OF OTHER AVAILABLE COLLECTIBLES**



PARKING - JUST A FEW DOORS DOWN IN THE WALNUT ST. PARKING LOT

ON THE HORIZON

March 1	NJARC indoors swapmeet, Hightstown "Country Club," Hightstown NJ (see below).
March 21-22	AWA Carolinas Chapter spring meet, Charlotte (see March A. R. C., p. 27).
March 29	PARS/AWA-WV "Spring Fever" meet, Washington, PA (see below).
April 26	Major catalogued estate auction, Smith Auction Co., Downingtown (details next month).
May 4	Warminster hamfest, Middletown Grange, Wrightstown.
May 31	Central PA Radio Collectors swapmeet, Cloverleaf Antique Barn, Danville.
June 12-14	MAARC RADIOACTIVITY, Best Western Maryland Inn, Laurel, MD.

NJARC SWAPMEET, MARCH 1

Bill Overbeck

The "Jersey club" will host its winter meet at 8 AM at the Hightstown "Country Club." Let's remember all the help they gave with our swapmeet and pitch in wherever we can. The hall is sold out or very close to it, so there should be lots of action. Don't forget to bring an entry for the equipment contest. See the address page for directions.

SPRING FEVER MEET, MARCH 29

Indoor "drive-in" flea market at the Washington, PA Fairgrounds, auction at 1 PM; motels and hotels nearby; trolley museum; food on-site; check-in at 7 AM; sponsored by PARS, AWA West Virginia Chapter, Museum of Radio & Technology, and Buckeye Radio & Phono Club. See March A. R. C., p. 58. Written information available from Spring Fever 5, 4204 Thorn Apple Ln., Charleston, WV 25313.

AUCTION RESULTS FROM HAVERTOWN

The auction comprised material from two estates, plus bring-ins and club donations, and totaled \$5500. Highlights are as follows:

Admiral 19A11 bklt TV set, scratched....20	(920).....40	Triplett tube tester.....5
AK 37 w/ E3 speaker in Pooley highboy cabinet.....35	Horn speaker, Music Master base and unident. horn, VG cond. (927).....55	Tube testers, SigC I-177B, good (2) 35, 50
AK 40, good (923).....23	Johnson xmtr.....55	Tubes, big-pin types, boxlot of tested good - 2A5s, etc. (932).....45
AK 46, good (921).....40	Lafayette AC table set, ca. 1934, claimed to be working, good (925).....190	Tubes, big-pin types, boxlot of tested good (933).....20
AK 60 chassis w/ 2-45s.....20	Light bulbs, 12 tipped, most OK.....125	Tubes: 50s (pair) (944).....105
AK 70.....40	Magnavox R3 Model D horn (916).....110	Tubes: BA & BH (946).....5
AK 84 cathedral; front exc., some blistering on sides (902).....275	Meissner 8C FM tuner, VG (908).....18	Tubes: KT66s (pair) (943).....135
AK Model E cone speaker, VG (918).....55	Meters, 8" dia. (5).....10	Tubes: tested 345s (pair) (938).....25
Arvin 441T "Hopalong Cassidy," foil exc., light paint scarring on top (929).....370	Music Master 100A battery three-dialer, w/ 2 tubes having OK fils., VG cond. (928).....40	Tubes: tested 6B4Gs (pair) (934).....20
Batteries, oldie: No. 6 dry cells, 2 "B" batts., 1 "C" batt.; plus Radiola 16 cabinet (922, 930).....7	National NC-57.....25	Tubes: tested 6L6s (3) (936).....20
Bendix direction finder.....40	Philco 54-C.....55	Tubes: tested 6L6s (5) (935).....25
Bosch 87.....60	Philco 60 cathedral, exc. from front, some rust on chassis (911).....75	WE 10D horn speaker; horn VG, base rusty but restorable (nameplate OK) (931).....100
Box lot, oldie phone parts (ringers).....4	Philco 96 chassis.....1	Wehrmacht test adapter, hakenkreuz logo.....22
Crosley 51, VG, tube fils. OK (913).....85	Photofacts, 7 lots..... 5 (3), 2 (4)	Westinghouse Aeriola Sr., w/ BBT WD-11, fil. OK. (919).....130
Crosley 51, VG, w/ type 30 tubes, fils. OK (914).....70	RCA 9TC247 TV set.....10	Zenith 10S669 console, good cond.100
Emerson 561.....80	RCA 74B microphone, w/ stand, VG (917).....150	Zenith 6S203 chairside R-P.....100
Emerson 625s (pair) (909-910).....13	RCA Radiola III w/ WD-11s, fils. OK, copy of book (903).....125	
Emerson BY233, VG (924).....295	RCA Radiola III w/ WD-11s, fils. OK, light rust on dial pointer (912).....85	
Film projector.....25	Rider's vol. 12.....19	
Fisher receiver.....55	Scott 348 receiver.....20	
Ford spark coils (pair) (926).....10	Signal Corps BC-223 xcvs (2, 1 less meter).....10	
Freshman 5-F-5 Masterpiece three-dialer, built-in speaker; good; tube fils. OK (901).....95	Silvertone 4500A AC table TRF set, ivory, VG (905).....50	
Freshman Masterpiece, prob. kit-built, fils. OK on 3 tubes (907).....30	Silvertone 6046 battery TRF (906).....20	
GE L-660.....40	Silvertone 7024, brown bakelite (904).....50	
Hallicrafters S-38s (2).....13, 20	Silvertone Model 1 metal midget radio (1950).....30	
Heathkit 14-watt amp.....15	Spartan 69.....25	
Homebuilt battery TRF; unusual square coils; in Sleeper cabinet; tube fils. OK		

*Warning: Auction prices are related to, but are not identical to, up-to-date "values." An auction price is set, under conditions of passion and fervor, by the individual with the most money in his/her jeans for the specific item. Auction prices are affected by factors ranging from mild disinterest to desire ("this one'll complete the set!") to outright blood lust ("I'm gonna bid that *#!*%* up!"). Use these results for insight, not gospel.*

GBARC "RADIO XXVIII" A SUCCESS

Our roving agents John Dilks and Bill Overbeck attended this year's Greater Boston Radio Collectors meet and reported a successful event: the hall was Havertown-sized and essentially sold-out at about 100 tables, the parking lot was slightly more than full, and a nice variety of goods were for sale. This included at least four vendors of transistor radios. Catalogs were scarce, but there was a lively variety of paper and radios in general. Names of others familiar to DVHRC members who were there include Alan Douglas, Bill Wade, and of course John Terrey.

The sale floor was packed, and underwent "the run of the bulls" when the doors were opened. Hotel rooms were of good quality and reasonably priced.

WANT ADS

Free exposure for your desired or excess stuff! Unless requested otherwise, we'll run each ad for two months, and will send ads to NJARC's *Jersey Broadcaster* for double coverage.

WANTED: Photos, and video of Channel 10 news coverage, of Havertown swapmeet from Feb. 15. Bill Overbeck, (610) 789-8199.

FOR SALE: Complete Instructions for Adjusting All Philco Radio Receivers, a reproduction of a 1934 Philco Service Department publication, 3.50 ppd. H. W. Petersen, 5214 120th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA 98006. (3-4/97)

WANTED: Schematic for a Hallicrafters Sky rider Jr. Ralph Berglund, 109 Box Hill, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003, (609) 429-2138. (2-3/97)

WANTED: Phonograph-related items - top dollar paid immediately for Vogue Picture Records, wax-cylinder records, needle tins, Nipper, record cleaners, puzzles, advertising mirrors, pins, phonograph toys, posters, original advertising from Edison and Victor. Thanks! Bernie Seinberg, 714 Moredon Rd., Meadowbrook, PA 19046-1907, (215) 886-6124. (3-4/97)

INFO WANTED: On SCR-838 radar set, the last known Signal Corps SCR-designator. Also need info on AN/GRR-4 clandestine receiver, and AN/PRR-1 through -10 receivers. Fred Chesson, 144 Fiske St., Waterbury, CT 06710, 203-754-4764. (3-4/97)

INVITATION: Browse our informative Web page, www.voicenet.com/~k2bn. A. G. Tannenbaum, PO Box 386, Ambler, PA 19002, (215) 540-8055. (2-3/97)

FOR SALE: The ever-handy reference Tube Lore gives 186 pages of insightful scoop on pretty near every kind of North American tube there is. Latest review covering it is by Eric Barbour in the Winter issue of *Vacuum Tube Valley*. The book's available from the following hip

sources: (A) the DVHRC book program; (B) our own A. G. Tannenbaum - see above for address; (C) W7FG Vintage Manuals, (800) 807-6146; (D) Antique Electronic Supply, (602) 820-5411; and (E) Antique Radio Classified, (508) 371-0512. Or, in a pinch, it's available from Ludwell Sibley, 44 E. Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822 for \$19.95 postpaid in the U. S. and Canada, \$24.95 by air overseas. Clubs can Get A Deal on multiple copies. (2-3/97)

FOR SALE: Booklet of 64 pages describes Federal Tel. & Tel's radio operation from the beginning in 1921 to its demise in 1929. Over 60 illustrations, including pictures of early Federal RF and audio amps, all early radios, and many Federal parts. The article and NFWA presentation by Dick Schamberger, Federal expert, are included. All Federal models are listed with the year/month introduced, price new, and brief description. Buffalo's first broadcast station, Federal's WGR, is covered. There are two pages of references for more info. This is more about Federal than exists in any other spot! Good-quality printing. Send \$4.95 + 1.00 S & H to Larry Babcock, 8095 Centre Ln., East Amherst, NY 14051.

FOR SALE: Panasonic RF4900 AM-FM 10-band receiver with service manual. Excellent condition, \$375 OBO. Ralph Berglund, 109 Box Hill, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003, (609) 429-2138. (2-3/97)

FOOD & DRINK: a good place to join fellow collectors for dinner before meetings is the Hillside Tavern, half a block uphill from the meeting site.

FROM THE WORKBENCH

Ted Sowirka

Recently at one of the club auctions I purchased a VTVM. After inspection and cleanup, I noticed that the meter needle was reading about a third of the way up-scale. With the power off and no input, the needle should naturally rest at zero. By brushing my finger across the plastic meter cover in a horizontal and then a vertical direction, I could cause the needle to move up and down the scale. The meter needle was reacting to an electrostatic charge that was created when I cleaned the meter cover.

At the plastic molding plant when case and cover are made, de-ionized air is used to remove any charge on the parts so that chips and dirt will not cling to the parts prior to wrapping and packing. When the meter is assembled, an anti-static coating is applied and will last for some years.

To restore the coating, apply a few drops of liquid dishwashing detergent, such as Dawn, Dove, Joy, Palmolive, etc., to a soft cloth and gently wipe the front of the meter cover so that a thin, invisible coating remains. The same treatment can be used on glass meter covers and plastic radio cases. The subject of electrostatic charges and discharges with respect to radio and electronic gear will be covered in a future article.



New Jersey Antique Radio Club Antique Radio Swap Meet



Saturday, March 1, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM*
Hightstown Country Club, Hightstown, NJ

NJARC presents its Spring indoor swap meet with vendors displaying a spectrum of collectible old-time radios, military and civilian communication equipment, audio equipment, phonographs, and associated parts and literature. Ample on-site parking is available. Admission/parking is \$2.00 to help defer rental fee. Everyone is welcome! An old-time equipment contest is also planned. **Reservations are required to guarantee an indoor table; spaces are limited.**

Location: The Hightstown Country Club, near Exit 8 of the NJ Turnpike and just off Route 33. From the Turnpike, go east on Rte. 33 about 200 yards (past "Mom's Peppermill" restaurant); continue 1/4 mile to the first jughandle, and then come back west. After the first traffic light, bear right onto Monmouth St. (watch for sign), then 300 yards to the Country Club on the left. There is a Ramada Inn across the street.

Rates: NJARC members \$15/table; non-members \$20/table. Weather permitting, overflow vendors may purchase outdoor tables for \$15 (\$12 for NJARC members). Outdoor deposits will not be refunded due to bad weather.

Contacts: Marv Beeferman, 2265 Emerald Park Drive, Forked River, NJ 08731 (609-693-9430). Bill Overbeck, 29 Campbell Ave., Havertown, PA 19083-2424 (610-789-8199). Send a large self-

Accommodations: Town House Motel on Rte. 33 (800-922-0622 or 609-448-2400); there is also a Ramada Inn across the street (609-448-7000).

For more information about NJARC, please contact Jim Whartenby at (908) 271-7701

**Vendors set up at 7:00; no early admittance!*

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DVHRC
Box 41031
Philadelphia, PA 19127-0031

MARCONI SALE CANCELED (P. 1)

SUCCESS AT HAVERTOWN (P. 2)

HIGHTSTOWN MEET, MARCH 1

