



OSCILLATOR

DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO CLUB

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

Vol. 4 No. 5, May 1996

DOWNINGTOWN MEET A CROWD-PLEASER

All reports point to our Downingtown swapmeet of April 20 having been a winner. According to Mike Koste and meet organizer Dave Abramson, a total of 26 vendor spots were sold. Goods changing hands included an RCA 77 broadcast microphone. Mike Pilotti of Phoenixville won the donated and restored Raffle Radio. Business was brisk up to the start of the auction, whose attractions drew 150 or so bidders. A summary of auction results is inside this *Oscillator*.

WHO'S ON FIRST AND WHAT'S ON THE AIR?

Mike Koste

Throw a couple of dogs on the grill, uncap a cold one, and hook up a long wire to your favorite old radio. It's baseball season again. And, as the weather gets warmer, atmospheric conditions become ideal for dialing in across the country to hear what's going on at the Major League ballparks.

Even if you're not a big sports fan, it can still be a lot of fun to burn the midnight oil and see how many games you can DX on the same night . . . especially those West Coast signals which occasionally manage to skip back to our side of the planet.

Some teams have jumped from one radio station to another since the *Oscillator* published this chart in April, 1994, so here's an updated version derived from *Broadcasting & Cable*, March 25, 1996. Should you be so lucky to catch an earful of long distance play-by-play but can't stay locked onto the signal long enough to hear a station ID, use your local newspaper to check the schedule to see who's playing whom, and using an approximate dial position, you should be able to figure out what station you're listening to.

Stations marked with a (*) are either local signals, or strong out-of-towners that you should be able to pull in without an overly powerful receiver or sophisticated antenna system. You may be surprised at the reception you can get with a simple All-American Five without any external aerial at all. Good luck!

NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST		St Louis Cardinals	KMOX, 1120*	AMERICAN LEAGUE CENTRAL	
Atlanta Braves	WSB, 720 kHz*	NATIONAL LEAGUE WEST		Chicago White Sox	WMVP, 1000
Florida Marlins	WQAM, 560	Colorado Rockies	KOA, 850	Cleveland Indians	WKNR, 1220
Montreal Expos (English)	CICQ, 940	Los Angeles Dodgers	KABC, 790	Kansas City Royals	WIBW, 580
Montreal Expos (French)	CKAC, 730	San Diego Padres	KFMB, 760	Milwaukee Brewers	WTMJ, 620
New York Mets	WFAN, 660*	San Francisco Giants	KNBR, 680	Minnesota Twins	WCCO, 830*
Philadelphia Phillies	WGMP, 1210*	AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST		AMERICAN LEAGUE WEST	
NATIONAL LEAGUE CENTRAL		Baltimore Orioles	WBAL, 1090*	California Angels	KMPC, 710
Chicago Cubs	WGN, 720*	Boston Red Sox	WRKO, 680*	Oakland Athletics	KFRC, 610
Cincinnati Reds	WLW, 700*	Detroit Tigers	WJR, 760*	Seattle Mariners	KIRO, 710
Houston Astros	KILT, 610	New York Yankees	WABC, 770*	Texas Rangers	KRLD, 1080
Pittsburgh Pirates	KDKA, 1020*	Toronto Blue Jays	CJCL, 590		

ABRAMSON ELECTED

Our congratulations go to TV collector and independent video producer Dave Abramson for his election as president of the Philadelphia chapter of the Society of Broadcast Pioneers. (Dave got a burst of goodwill within the chapter last year by designing a set of trophies for the annual history award winners: each trophy featured a brass-based, tipped UV-201A tube!)

Dave reports, by the way, that membership in the group is open to anyone with 20 years in or around the broadcast business, including advertising people, etc. - not just air talent or operators. Interested parties can reach him on (610) 827-9757.

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 indicated otherwise, attributed reproduction for nonprofit purposes of any material in this publication is welcome. (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.

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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: May 14, June 11

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: 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. (4-5/96)

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.

WANTED: AC Dayton Model XL-60 chassis. Can be a junker but speaker and cabinet must be in better shape. A picture would be helpful. Stanley Thompson, 43 Cozy Corner, Avenel, NJ 07001-1122, (908) 636-3630. (5-6/96)

WANTED: Schematic for Stromberg-Carlson Model 60 DC farm set [not in *Rider's!*]; 10" speaker for Philco 38-7. Tony Flanagan, 92 Joysan Terrace, Freehold, NJ 07728, (908) 462-6638. (5-6/96)

FOR SALE: The DVHRC tube program offers clean, tested, boxed tubes at very reasonable prices with availability at any club meeting. Proceeds go to the club. About 300 types are currently in stock. Of course, donations of radio-type tubes in any condition are welcome. See Charlie Class at any monthly meeting to obtain or donate tubes.

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.

684 Forman Road
Building 'B'
Souderton, PA 18964

(215) 721-3990



Deborah S. Froshour
Proprietor

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

CENTRAL PA MEET, WILLIAMSPORT - MAY 18

This season's Central Pennsylvania Radio Collectors Club swapmeet will take place outdoors at Trinity Episcopal Church, 844 W. 4th St., from 8 AM to noon. Sale spaces \$5; lots of parking. (Use the Maynard St. exit from I-180). The site is close to the Lycoming County Museum with its *mind-boggling* [trust me, folks - Ed.] display of Lionel and other tinplate trains. For details: Frank Hagenbuch, (717) 326-0932, or Mike Heffner, (717) 546-2907.

ON THE HORIZON

May 5	Warminster ARC Hamfest '96, Middletown Grange, Wrightstown, PA.
May 11	AWA Schooley's Mtn. meet, Rte. 517, 2 mi. N of Long Valley, NJ.
May 17-19	Dayton Hamvention (see QST); has oldie stuff too.
May 18	Central PA Radio Collectors Club meet, Williamsport (see above).
June 14-16	MAARC RADIOACTIVITY, Timonium, MD.
June 15	Raritan Valley (ex-W2QW) Hamfest, Columbia Park, Dunellen, NJ.
June 21-11	SPARK RadioRama '96, Cincinnati (at the Signature Inn, Florence, KY).
July 12-14	MARC EXTRAVAGANZA, Lansing, MI.
July 20	Cherryville hamfest, Warren Co. Fairgrounds, Warren Co., NJ.

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS, SMITH AUCTION CO., DOWNINGTOWN

The sale featured 600 or so lots, including tubes (pulls and new-in-box), some literature, boxlots of parts, etc. The following highlights are based on inputs from John Dilks, Pete Grave, John Kelly, and Sylvia Moletierre. Dilks, auction buff, capsulized the event: "Too much there for one auction - could have been divided with boxlots outside and a separate auctioneer there. The Smiths run a good auction and treat all fairly - no 'bumping' detected. . . [not crazy about] 10% buyer's fee."

COMM GEAR			
BC-792A suitcase direction finder	250	Victrola cabinet w/ AK 55	35
CRV-69085 DF loop (Navy)	55	Rek-O-Kut TR43H cutter.....	13
DF loop (Navy)	80	Seeburg Juke Box, 1938 ("huge: 6' high, 4' wide, 3' deep, lifetime project to re- store; mostly there but apart").....	400
EMC xmtr, '30s commercial (?), 5' high, 812s, mod. to 80 meters.....	150	Victor talking-machine cabinet.....	10
Halicrafters		RADIOS, GENERAL	
S-19R Sky Buddy, bad dial.....	30	AC Dayton XL-30, nice	550
SX-28.....	100	Acratune 89 battery set.....	10
S-38E.....	23	Admiral 6T11-5B1 AM-FM.....	15
S-40B.....	15	Admiral 8C11-UL TV-radio-phonos	10
SX-71.....	60	Air King "Perfect" SW adapter	100
S-95 Civic Patrol.....	18, 20	Airline 14BR-521A.....	45
Spkr.....	23	Atwater Kent	
Heathkit QF-1 Q-multiplier.....	10	10 breadboard	775
Homebuilt rcvr, National & S-M parts....	38	12 breadboard	1000
Multi-Elmac AF-67 xmtrs	13, 28	20.....	30, 40, 45, 65
National NC-183D w/ spkr.....	110	33.....	40
RME VHF-126 converter	23	35.....	35
TCS rcvr, CMX-46159.....	45	American Bosch	
HI-FI		430.....	110
Arkey A-12 amp.....	5	818, poor.....	35
Dynaco AM-FM tuner	85	Unident.....	30
Dynaco PAT4 preamp.....	40	Arborphone 45.....	50
Heathkit AR-15 AM-FM rcvr.....	30	Arborphone electric.....	65
McIntosh C8 record compensator.....	120	Arvin 35PL.....	75
Sherwood SEL 300 digital FM tuner.....	45	Arvin Hopalong Cassidy, no decal.....	90
MICROPHONES		Baldwin battery, homebuilt.....	30
Amperite, on stand	90	Battery set, HB, parquet inlaid cab.	100
Argonne	55	Blaupunkt	
Astatic D-104.....	23	3D Sultan.....	23
Electro-Voice 635	18	Florenz	45
Parts, 5 Unidynes	80	Verona.....	25
"Radio mic.", WHUC.....	70	Vienna.....	30
MISCELLANEOUS		Brunswick 5NO, no PS.....	40
Fans, small elect. 5 (3), 10 (2), 18, 23, 28		Bulova 100	18
Magnetos, telephone.....	5, 8, 28	Capehart Trans-Oceanic-oid.....	45
Sears microscope	25	Cathedral case-only, nice.....	15
Stromberg-Carlson lighted sign, '70s..	120	Crosley	
PHONOS		106CS radio-phonos console.....	5
Brunswick low-boy crank phono w/ dual- head reproducer.....	12	11-112U.....	28
Sonora cabinet	10	11-119U.....	33
		127.....	23
		5N355.....	100
		"World of Music" hybrid book set.....	80
		Day-Fan 5.....	55
		Eagle Type B neutrodyne.....	95
		Emerson	
		157.....	50
		517.....	18
		744.....	190
		805.....	8
		870.....	75
		AU-190 Catalin, ex-white, no back	1000
		Emud.....	30
		Esquire 5-50U.....	16
		Fada 148	70
		Farnsworth CT50	45
		Federal DX-58, 2 knobs changed	900
		Freshman	
		A-B-C supply	10
		Masterpiece Model K, rough.....	2
		Pwr. supp., AC set.....	16
		General Electric	
		46F	15
		115.....	35
		140.....	25
		400.....	15
		402.....	35
		516F	40
		A-64 6-V farm set.....	160
		A-87.....	5
		K-107 console.....	130
		M-61	90
		1950 10" portable TV	95
		Grunow 660	65
		Howard 482 FM converter.....	8
		Lyric 565 cathedral	285
		Magnavox 44A radio-phonos console	23
		Majestic	
		3C-2.....	40
		461.....	210
		Master "B" Supply	10
		Meissner 9-1091C.....	20
		Mickey Mouse.....	100
		Motorola port. TV, blue-white, nice.....	75

Motorola suitcase radio.....	45	Silvertone		SPEAKERS, HI-FI	
Opta Olympic.....	23	11 console	95	Altec 291-16A, pair.....	55
Panasonic RF-2200.....	17	2014.....	25	Altec floor units, pair.....	275
Philco		Wayfarer Trans-oceanic-oid.....	70	Dymistatic amplified, pair.....	225
(xx)-397.....	20	Sky Ranger xtal set.....	40	Knights, pair.....	300
37-620.....	90	Sleeper No. 60.....	30	University systems, pair.....	30
38-10.....	110	Slide-coil xtal set, homebuilt.....	45	SPEAKERS, OLD-TIME	
39-7.....	45	Sparton		AK "M" horn.....	60
39-36 console.....	10	89 console	40	AK cone speakers	20, 25
41-95 chassis.....	22	506.....	10	Audette.....	35
42-327.....	13	867 ("best console").....	240	Brunswick.....	65
46-131.....	18	931 console	120	Dictogrand horn.....	25
46-420.....	28, 45	1076PA radio-phono console.....	20	Horn, unident.....	35
48-482.....	25	Splitdorf R-500.....	40	Magnavox M-1 horn.....	150
50-522.....	45	Steinitz AC set.....	38	Master horn.....	120
41KR "refrigerator".....	45	Stewart-Warner		Peerless.....	80
77 console.....	80	07-511H.....	140	RCA Radiola 100.....	20, 25, 25
80B cathedral.....	100	900-series.....	65	RCA Radiola 100 on stand.....	25
90.....	45, 190	Unident. ("next-best console").....	225	RCA Radiola 103.....	75
Chairside radio-phono.....	55	Stromberg-Carlson 1210H.....	50	RCA Victor.....	75
"Socket power" B supp.....	10	Temple G418.....	50	Temple drum.....	8
Transitone 53-5-62.....	35	Trav-Ler white portable.....	65	Western Electric 555 driver.....	200
RCA Radiola		Wega 809-1.....	18	TELEGRAPH	
17.....	45	Westinghouse		Bunnell key & sounder.....	15, 35
18.....	35, 40, 40	"Refrigerator" (green).....	55	Foote key & sounder.....	45
18 on iron stand.....	80	Chairside.....	60	Keys, 2 unident.....	25
60.....	70	H-161 AM-FM.....	40	Morse register.....	275
III, fair.....	55	Zenith		TESTGEAR	
III, fair w/ book.....	60	4V31.....	140	Bendix 847S Fact-O-Meter.....	32
RC.....	140	5R312.....	100	Dytronic 718 bandpass filter.....	30
RCA Victor		6D510.....	25	Elliott Shaw & Co. voltmeter.....	30
25014 radio-phono console.....	220	8A02 console.....	90	Galvanometer, Japanese.....	60
3RF91.....	15	8G005 Trans-Oceanic.....	85	Oscilloscopes	
4RC84 AM-FM "spice chest".....	25	8H034.....	40	AN/USM-22.....	2
5X564.....	15	K725.....	8, 30	Bell & Howell 34.....	31
8X71.....	13	T825.....	30	H-P 120B.....	2
9X64.....	35	Y723.....	45	Tektronix 465B.....	275
9X572.....	15	Y724.....	20	Sprague TO-4 Tel-Ohmike.....	15
B-274.....	25	Royal 500 transistor.....	55	Tube Testers	
T-80.....	30	Trans-Oceanic, unspec.....	130	Accurate Model 151.....	8
Trans-Oceanic simulation.....	50	Wood 6-V farm sets.....	95, 140	Mercury 1100.....	10
Cabinet, unident.	85			Superior TV-11.....	10

FCC RELEASES FINAL "ABOVE 1600" PLAN

The Federal Communications Commission has now put out what it hopes is the "last" version of its plan for populating the expanded AM broadcast band above 1600 kHz. A total of 76 stations are expected to move to new channels over the next five years. Here is the FCC's list of new and old frequencies, as given recently in *Radio World* but listed by state. This plan will relieve some of the worst cases of mutual interference in the AM band, and let some daytimers upgrade to fulltime operation. It does not try to improve life for the Class C kilowatters on "local" channels (1230, 1240, 1340, 1400, 1450, 1490), which always expect to have their service areas limited by interference.

These frequency changes will offer an unprecedented opportunity for AM DXers, as many stations will be "the only guy on the channel" for some time. WJDM, for example, puts a rather good, interference-free signal into Hunterdon County, and has been heard on the West Coast despite having only a kilowatt at night. There's a special twist, too: since these stations will be simulcasting on their old and new channels during the transition, a special challenge will be to log them on *both* frequencies.

Radio collectors, with their assortment of oldie sets with "police call" coverage, are in a better position to tune in the new channels than the general public. Only the newer digital radios will handle the above-1600 assignments, and most analog transistor sets fizzle above about 1630. Too, we collectors can always go in on a chosen oldie set and gently misalign the oscillator to let the radio tune up to 1700, at the cost of coverage at the bottom of the band.

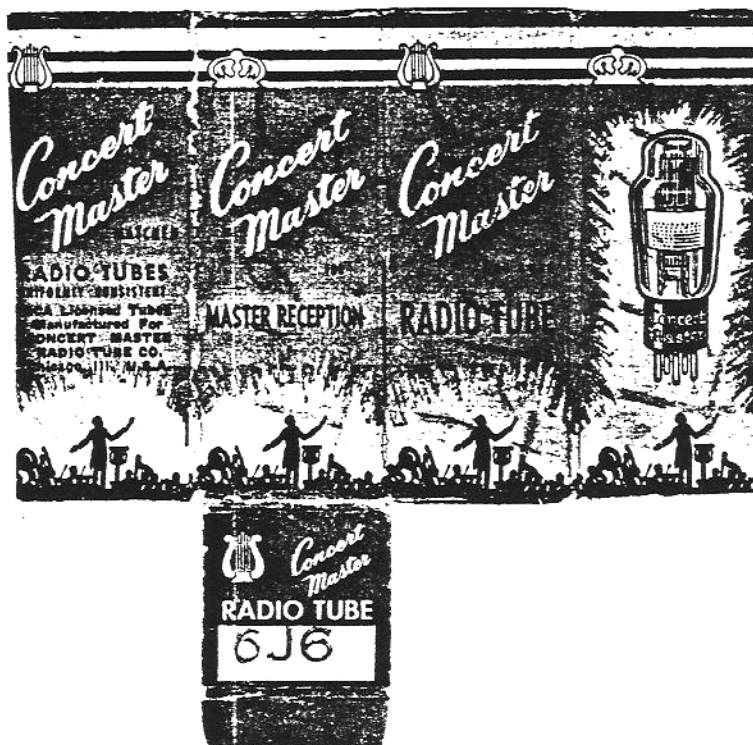
Of these stations, WJDM has been in operation since December; KXBT (Vallejo, CA), since March. We can expect the others to come on in rapid sequence now that the "move" plan is final. (LAS)

AL	WEUP, Huntsville	1700 (now 1600)	IA	KCFI, Cedar Falls	1650 (now 1250)	NY	WTRY, Troy	1640 (now 980)
AL	WGYJ, Atmore	1620 (now 1590)	IA	KCJJ, Iowa City	1630 (now 1560)	OK	KCRC, Enid	1640 (now 1390)
AL	WKRG, Mobile	1660 (now 710)	ID	KECN, Blackfoot	1620 (now 690)	OR	KAST, Astoria	1700 (now 1370)
AR	KWHN, Ft. Smith	1650 (now 1320)	IL	WDDD, Johnson City	1690 (now 810)	OR	KPHP, Lake Oswego	1640 (now 1290)
AZ	KAPR, Douglas	1690 (now 930)	IL	WONX, Evanston	1700 (now 1590)	OR	KSLM, Salem	1680 (now 1390)
AZ	KBLU, Yuma	1660 (now 560)	IN	WAMJ, South Bend	1620 (now 1580)	OR	KTMT, Phoenix	1650 (now 880)
AZ	KIDR, Phoenix	1700 (now 740)	KS	KJCK, Junction City	1620 (now 1420)	PR	WCHQ, Camuy	1660 (now 1360)
AZ	KWFM, Tucson	1640 (now 940)	KS	WREN, Topeka	1660 (now 1250)	SC	WKZQ, Myrtle Beach	1620 (now 1520)
CA	KAHI, Auburn	1700 (now 950)	LA	KMLB, Monroe	1680 (now 1440)	SD	KKLS, Rapid City	1650 (now 920)
CA	KFVR, Crescent City	1690 (now 1310)	MD	WLWV, Salisbury	1670 (now 960)	TN	WKTP, Jonesborough	1680 (now 1590)
CA	KHPY, Moreno Valley	1670 (now 1530)	MD	WPTX, Lexington Park	1690 (now 920)	TX	KALT, Atlanta	1610 (now 900)
CA	KHTE, Redding	1670 (now 600)	MI	WQSN, Kalamazoo	1660 (now 1470)	TX	KBNA, El Paso	1680 (now 920)
CA	KLOQ, Merced	1680 (now 1580)	MI	WSFN, Muskegon	1680 (now 1600)	TX	KHVN, Ft. Worth	1630 (now 970)
CA	KOJY, Costa Mesa	1650 (now 540)	MN	KBRF, Fergus Falls	1680 (now 1250)	TX	KNRB, Ft. Worth	1700 (now 1360)
CA	KOQO, Clovis	1640 (now 790)	MO	KBTN, Neosho	1670 (now 1420)	TX	KRZI, Waco	1660 (now 1580)
CA	KRCX, Roseville	1660 (now 1110)	MS	WVMI, Biloxi	1640 (now 570)	TX	KSVE, El Paso	1630 (now 1150)
CA	KXBT, Vallejo	1630 (now 1190)	NC	WGIV, Charlotte	1660 (now 1600)	TX	KURV, Edinburg	1640 (now 710)
CA	WQKE, Soledad	1620 (now 700)	NC	WSYD, Mt. Airy	1640 (now 1300)	TX	WTAW, College Station	1620 (now 1150)
CO	KCOL, Ft. Collins	1680 (1410)	ND	KDDR, Oakes	1700 (now 1220)	UT	KSOS, Brigham City	1670 (now 800)
CO	KRKS, Denver	1660 (now 990)	ND	KHRT, Minot	1620 (now 1320)	UT	KTKK, Sandy	1650 (now 630)
CO	KSTR, Grand Junction	1690 (now 620)	ND	KLXX, Bismarck	1640 (now 1270)	VA	WPMH, Portsmouth	1650 (now 1010)
FL	WCMQ, Miami Springs	1700 (now 1210)	ND	KQWB, Fargo	1660 (now 1550)	VA	WSVA, Harrisonburg	1700 (now 550)
FL	WMIB, Marco Island	1660 (now 1480)	NE	KRGI, Grand Island	1690 (now 1430)	VI	WGOD, St. Thomas	1640 (now 1090)
FL	WWHL, Cocoa	1640 (now 1350)	NH	WZNN, Rochester	1700 (now 930)	VI	WRRR, Frederiksted	1620 (now 1290)
FL	WXTO, Winter Garden	1680 (now 1600)	NJ	WHWH, Princeton	1680 (now 1350)	WA	KRIZ, Renton	1620 (now 1420)
GA	WAOK, Atlanta	1650 (now 1380)	NJ	WJDM, Elizabeth	1660 (now 1530)	WA	KZOK, Seattle	1660 (now 1590)
GA	WBIT, Adel	1690 (now 1470)	NJ	WJRZ, Toms River	1620 (now 1550)	WI	WKSH, Sussex	1640 (now 1370)
GA	WRCC, Warner-Robbins	1670 (now 1600)	NM	KKEL, Hobbs	1670 (now 1480)	WI	WTDY, Madison	1670 (now 1480)
GA	WRDW, Augusta	1630 (now 1480)	NM	KSVP, Artesia	1650 (now 990)	WY	KSHY, Fox Farm	1630 (now 1530)

SMALL WORLD

CONCERT MASTER REVISITED

In the last *Oscillator* we had the story of the Concert Master Tube Co. and its run-in with the Feds over fraudulent tube sales. Well, look what's just arrived in a bunch of oldie tubes: a Concert Master carton, ca. 1950, that once held a 6J6 but now has "short[ed]" written on it. It's rather like a much earlier Concert Master carton on hand that once held a UX-199 - the 1950 colors are red/white/blue, vs. blue/blue-green, but the artwork with the maestro leading the orchestra is the same. The 6J6 is said to give "master reception," whereas the UX-199 was claimed to be "superior for 'DX'." Both boxes are labeled "uniformly consistent"; neither has the company's address.



AIRWAVES



TIMELINE

"This Month in Radio History"

Compiled by Mike Koste

1901, May 21 S. S. Lake Champlain, first British merchant vessel equipped with wireless, leaves Liverpool.

1915, May 12 The German high-power wireless station at Windhoek is captured by a South African force. The medium-power stations at Swakopmund and Luderitzbucht had been dismantled and abandoned early in WW I. Meanwhile, the mayor of New York City unveils the Veteran Wireless Operators Association monument in Battery Park, in memory of radio operators who had lost their lives at the post of duty.

1923, May 24 WSAN, Allentown, signs on. Like most early AMs, it changed frequencies and raised power: originally with 100 watts on 1310 kHz (229 meters), by 1933 it had raised power to 250 watts on 1440 kHz, then to 500 watts by 1936. By 1942 the frequency was its present figure of 1470 kHz, probably the result of the general shift in 1941 required by the now-obsolete North American Regional Broadcast Agreement. The station now operates with 5 kW, directional nights. The callsign lasted for 60+ years, only recently changing to WKAP.

1933, May 1 Opening ceremonies of the New York World's Fair begins regularly scheduled TV broadcasting by RCA/NBC. FDR is the first president to appear on television.

1933, May 15 The Supreme Court verifies the Federal Radio Commission's absolute power to distribute and license radio facilities.

1931, May 2 *New York Graphic* columnist Ed Sullivan makes his radio debut on CBS. Ironically, his first guest is Jack Benny, who is also making his first radio appearance.

1944, May 16 WCAU-FM, Phila., signs on; now WOGL on 98.1 MHz with 12.5 kW ERP @ 100'. The date quoted

is the "official" one; as of 1941 there was a predecessor, W69PH, licensed to the WCAU Broadcasting Co., on 46.9 MHz. Why "W69PH"? Well, the FCC went through a spell of assigning FM callsigns based on frequency and city name. Thus New York had W31NY, W35NY, and W51NY. And a TV or FM translator still uses a callsign like "K07AB" and "W221BK" with the channel number built in. Incidentally, Philadelphia got off to a slow start with FM: the 1941 station list shows two FM's in Pittsburgh, six in Chicago, eleven in New York, but only one each in Los Angeles and Philly.

1946, May 20 Census Bureau reports 90.4% of American homes have radio, up 17.9% from 1940.

1948, May 10 FCC gives FM stations in the 44-50 MHz band until the end of the year to move to 88-108 MHz. In addition, TV channel 1 (48-54 MHz) is eliminated, assigning those frequencies to non-government fixed and mobile services.

1949, May 9 Radio's top wage earner is Arthur Godfrey, at \$258,450 a year.

1958, May 19 Zenith board chairman Eugene McDonald dies at age 72.

1960, May 16 San Francisco's KFAX becomes the first (U. S.) all-news radio station (as distinguished from Tijuana's news border-blasters XETRA).

1963, May 13 WEAZ, Phila., signs on, now on 101.1 MHz with 12.5 kW ERP @ 101'.

1965, May 3 Legendary CBS newscaster Edward R. Murrow dies.

1973, May 3 WLVR-FM, Bethlehem signs on as a Class D (10-watt) station, now on 91.3 MHz with 183 W ERP @ 60'.

CAVEAT EMPTOR DEPT.

There's always something new in the marketplace. To wit: new "wonder solder ultraclear" is an "audibly superior solder" [giving] "significant sonic improvements over identical components assembled with [conventional] solders . . . [it] will provide greater transparency without the glare and brightness often associated with silver bearing solders . . . stunning ultra transparency . . . hear the subtle inner detail that brings music to life; even stereo imaging improves . . . other solders obscure information at every solder joint. This lost music is rescued . . . clean purity . . . without the grundgy distortion, smudging, and smearing of other solders . . . [it] lets music sound naturally sweet, liquid, delicate, and warm. Other silver solders put an artificial glaze on music, sounding unnaturally hard, cold, bright, and fatiguing . . . [T]heir hard clog . . . blocks music's subtle natural textures . . . [F]or mere pennies you can solder (or reflow) a whole amp or speaker, and make it sound like one twice as expensive." (Ad in latest issue of *Glass Audio*. Does it give better DX too? - Ed.)

Background: A while ago we ran Alan Douglas' analysis of the "history" chapter in the current Trans-Oceanic book ("Gods and Mythology at Zenith," February Oscillator). Douglas suggested that there were perhaps certain problems of fact in the book. In response, the authors - the "Radio Professors" - went out with a "semi-confidential" letter to various club officers nationally. They fumed that "no reputable organization would publish such a clearly vituperative and malicious article," hoping that other clubs would avoid republishing it "for the good of the hobby and Mr. Douglas himself." They requested newsletter space for an official rebuttal in case anyone chose to do so. They did admit having "naively" swallowed some of Zenith's propaganda about its various "firsts," even though historians are supposed to be a bit skeptical and detached about what they find. Meanwhile, the official retort of the "Professors" has become available. It's basically the letter, warmed-over. Your not-so-reputable Oscillator presents it verbatim:

Authors Response to a Review by Alan Douglas of

The Zenith Trans-Oceanic, The Royalty of Radio by John H. Bryant, AIA and Harold N. Cones, Ph. D.

Review published in the February 1996 *Oscillator*, newsletter of the Delaware Valley Historical [sic] Radio Club.

We would like to thank the DVHRC for the opportunity to respond to Alan Douglas' "review" of our book. We have been aware of his review since he first began submitting it for publication over a year ago. During the spring and early summer of 1995, Mr. Douglas submitted his review to the three most prestigious publications in the vintage radio hobby. Each decided not to print the article. Since these journals had no way of judging whether Mr. Douglas was being fair or truthful, we presume that they refused to publish the review because of its caustic and sophomoric tone. We certainly don't feel that "attack journalism" like Douglas' review has any place in the hobby.

BACKGROUND:

As we were writing the Trans-Oceanic book, we were very well aware that we were finding data in the Zenith archives *and elsewhere* that cast real doubt on the Douglas version of Zenith history. This is a view which he has promulgated so enthusiastically in the radio hobbies for the last decade. In our Trans-Oceanic book, rather than embarrass Mr. Douglas by pointing out these discrepancies in print, we chose to tell the truth as we found it and carefully footnoted our sources, something that Douglas did not do in his books. As we began our research for a second book, *Zenith Radio Corporation, The Foundation Years, 1919-1935*, we related to Mr. Douglas several times that we had found and were still finding much new information never before seen, which would radically change hobbyists' view of Zenith founder E. F. McDonald, Jr., and which put the early days of Zenith in a new light. Then and later, Mr. Douglas has seemed to be completely unable to accept the idea that ANY important new information might come to light. Why? Further, though we related to him in May 1995 that we felt that the conflicting views of early Zenith history would best be worked out initially in private, he angrily rejected that possibility and pressed forward to find a publisher for his review of the Trans-Oceanic book. Why? We deeply regret that this kind of conflict has to be worked out in the pages of a hobby publication, but we believe that Mr. Douglas and DVHRC have left us no other choice.

Were it not for the fact that DVHRC sent a copy of their newsletter containing this review to most if not all of the other clubs in the country, suggesting an exchange of articles, we would simply have continued to ignore Mr. Douglas' remarks. However, since the review has been given a national audience by DVHRC and since Mr. Douglas has strayed rather far from the truth, we feel that we must set the record straight. We assume that officials of DVHRC will make every effort to see that this issue of the newsletter receives the same mass mailing as did the February issue containing the Douglas review.

Zenith is slowly uncovering more of its own past as some of the outdated facilities in the Chicago area are closed. We have benefited from this slow accrual of data. However, much of our new information has come from our discovery of 154 file drawers of records and correspondence which were sealed soon after Commander McDonald's death in 1958, and which were eventually misplaced. The discovery of these files will eventually add to all of our knowledge of the early days of radio. Along with working rather frantically to meet our publisher's deadline for the 1920s Zenith book, we are spending a great deal of time, gratis, cataloging these files. We believe that this effort will, in years to come, lead to these files being made accessible to other scholars and, we hope, to serious radio enthusiasts.

We would strongly recommend rereading the Douglas review before reading our response. Since we have been limited by DVHRC to three pages of response, we can only abbreviate Mr. Douglas' allegations and our responses.

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE:

In Mr. Douglas' first sentence, he states that our book is "a book on (gasp!) Transistor Radios." That simply is not true. More than half of our book is about the tube era and tube model Trans-Oceanics. Douglas does not let his readers know that our book is about tube radios, too, until much later in his review. WHY? His further allegation that "the first chapter reads like a historical novel" is addressed by the remainder of this document.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Douglas states that "the prices in this book ARE inflated." The price guide was

placed in our book, at the insistence of the publisher, so that neophytes and members of the general public would not fall prey to the very few unscrupulous hobbyists or antique dealers. The prices represent a three year study of nationally published prices, along with attendance at numerous auctions and flea markets in the central US, the Northwest (Professor Bryant) and the Mid-Atlantic states (Dr. Cones.) Since our book was written for sale to the general public as well as to the radio hobbies, the listed price ranges also factor in prices, usually higher, that we have observed in numerous antique stores from coast to coast. Mr. Douglas' *stated* expertise in T-O pricing was the acquisition of three radios at prices lower than we list. If you compare the prices listed in published hobby price guides and those found in antique stores with those found in our book, we are confident that you will see how ill-considered are Mr. Douglas' remarks.

In the first few paragraphs of his review, Mr. Douglas also explains to his readers that *"most corporate archives are one-sided, preserving the company's view, and containing primarily company written promotional material."* Where does he get that information? Most of the company archives that we have seen contain correspondence, both internal and external and other detritus that record the minutiae of corporate life. The *"company written promotional materials"* are generally relegated to the files of the P. R. or Sales departments where they belong. Douglas continued: *"Zenith is even worse, since for its first 35 years of existence it was totally controlled by one man, one not shy about Stalinizing the past."* He also stated that we fell into the trap set for us when McDonald so adroitly *"Stalinized the past"* (referring to the contents of the Zenith archives.) The force and clarity of this charge shocked us, **since Mr. Douglas has never examined the Zenith archives or the sealed files at all!** As usual, Douglas does not give his sources for these charges, and as usual, he counts on gullible readers believing that no one would **dare** make such charges publicly without direct evidence. We are dumbfounded that anyone would so offhandedly practice character assassination based on no direct evidence. We are further dumbfounded that anyone would else would *[sic]* publish such unsupported charges.

Douglas is so confident of his long distance x-ray vision, and of the lack of need for facts that he also stated the following about the Zenith archives: *"I will wager that nowhere in the archives does the name Tom Pletcher survive, yet without him and his QRS piano roll factory, Zenith would never have existed."* Well, **Mr. Douglas loses that wager**, for there is at least one thick file labeled "Pletcher" in every annual set of files for almost 30 years! Further, though Mr. Pletcher played an important role in Zenith history, no one without a crystal ball to look at alternate timelines can possibly state, as Douglas so confidently does, that Zenith would not have existed without Pletcher's assistance. We are also sad to report

that Mr. Douglas has managed to convince some members of the Pletcher family that McDonald and Pletcher were enemies in later life. The long and voluminous correspondence between McDonald and Pletcher indicates the exact opposite: They were very close friends throughout their lives, often exchanging friendly wagers on the outcome various public events.

Douglas also takes a great deal of space in his review discussing a single paragraph of our book related to Zenith "firsts." Much of his discussion was covered in our book, though Mr. Douglas implies that it was not. Anyone familiar with the early history of commercial radio in the US knows that many companies, including Zenith, made enthusiastic claims of various "firsts." Most of these were and are highly debatable, including those repeated in our book. In that instance, we accepted those Zenith "firsts" quoted in several sources, including the citation which accompanied McDonald's posthumous induction into the Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame. As with most "firsts," most of those in radio depend on the shared definition of terms; it now appears that both we and Mr. Douglas were mixing apples with oranges. Since completing the Trans-Oceanic book, we have gathered much more information on these "firsts" and we are discussing them in detail in our forthcoming book.

As the most serious charge in his review, Mr. Douglas used over a page "proving" that the famous broadcast between McDonald and MacMillan on their 1925 expedition to Northern Greenland and Admiral Koontz on the *U. S. S. Seattle* "in waters off Tasmania" could not have happened. Frankly, it is an act of supreme hubris to imply, as Douglas so clearly does, that three Lieutenant Commanders (MacMillan, McDonald and Richard Evelyn Byrd) would conspire with the senior admiral in the Navy to create a worldwide hoax to garner publicity for Zenith! Douglas' "proof" of this hoax rests on the fact that the *Seattle* was in New Zealand on the day *that Douglas believes* the transmission took place and on the fact that Zenith is not even mentioned in *200 Meters and Down*, a wonderful history of early amateur radio, or in Howeth's history of communications in the Navy. Douglas assures us that these sources contain "the full story of that cruise."

There are several sources *outside* the Zenith archives that show conclusively that the logs of the expedition radio operators were very incomplete on both the 1923 and, especially, the 1925 MacMillan Arctic Expeditions. In the latter case, there was not one but *at least three additional entertainment broadcasts* (four total broadcasts over a two-month period) and many other business and scientific communications which *were not reported* in the sources Mr. Douglas so smugly believes contain "the full story of that cruise." It is fairly easy to understand that the radio operators' logs would focus primarily on amateur communications. All three radio operators were volunteers selected from the world of amateur radio

and all knew that their logs would be later used to issue QSL cards. MacMillan's personal diaries, as well as the journals and papers of other expedition members, make clear that the logs of the radio operators are simply quite incomplete. So do official communications between the expeditions and the National Geographic Society. Communication transcripts from 1925 indicate numerous contacts between the *S. S. Peary* and New Zealand. In later years (1940 onwards) in letters between MacMillan and McDonald, both refer to the *U. S. S. Seattle* being in "Tasmanian waters" which was not the case. The American fleet was, however, certainly in the Tasman Sea, the name of the waters around New Zealand. Finally, the Ford Foundation sponsored portions of the 1950s CBS program, OMNIBUS. In one of the Ford Foundation copyright segments (1955), then Admiral MacMillan describes the famous Eskimo broadcast in detail. Copies of that broadcast are available from several sources.

In discussing ARRL Traffic Manager Schnell's cruise on the *U. S. S. Seattle* and the Navy's shortwave experiments of 1925, Douglas also states that there *"is not a shred of evidence that Zenith had anything to do with it, that Schnell ever met McDonald or that the Navy ever bought any Zenith shortwave gear as a result."* What a strong statement to make! Mr. Douglas is again accusing McDonald, Admiral MacMillan, Admiral Byrd and the Admiral of the Fleet of participating in a thirty year long hoax. Douglas bases this accusation, entirely, on the fact that no evidence of this one broadcast was found in his four sources. How can anyone take this seriously? There are photos of McDonald, Schnell, K. B. Warner (QST editor) and Hiram Percy Maxim, President of ARRL, standing together, from as early as the spring of 1923. Zenith archival material shows clearly that Schnell and McDonald were lifelong friends and the weight of the evidence is that McDonald did arrange to put Schnell aboard the *Seattle*. In 1925, Zenith and McDonald stated publicly that they had no desire to sell anyone shortwave gear as they pushed both the radio amateur world and the Navy toward the shortwave spectrum. Their motives? All three founders of Zenith were Navy men, the Commander passionately so. Karl Hassel and especially R. H. G. Mathews, Zenith's other two founders, were leaders in amateur radio. Zenith and McDonald were operating out of a sense of exploration and, especially McDonald, out of a sense of patriotism and love for the Navy. Douglas found *"not a shred of evidence."* Why? Mr. Douglas seems to believe that he has all of the facts that the needs, from only four sources, one of which is the Readers Digest. We are currently preparing a book-length manuscript which will, for the first time, tell the full story of the 1925 MacMillan Arctic Expedition. The details are drawn from nearly 100 source documents, 96 more than Douglas needed to *"tell the whole story of that cruise."*

Finally, early in his review, Mr. Douglas created a fic-

tional biography for the two of us in an apparent attempt to trivialize us and our ability to do this kind of work. Douglas stated: *The authors apparently became intrigued with Trans-Oceanics in a roundabout way beginning with a strong interest in shortwave listening and modern receivers, the transistorized Trans-Oceanics, then the older tube models."* His sketch of us is only apparent to Mr. Douglas and certainly not based on anything in the book. Professor Bryant began in the radio hobbies in 1952 as a medium-wave DXer with, of course, tube-type radios. He has written extensively in several of the radio hobbies about tube gear, propagation and has reviewed two solid-state receivers, as well. Dr. Cones has been in the radio hobbies almost as long as Prof. Bryant and worked for a number of years in the tube era as a radio technician. For many years, Dr. Cones was president of The Great Circle Shortwave Association, an international group exclusively dedicated to tube type communications gear, especially receivers. More relevantly: between us, our backgrounds include more than 60 years of academic and scientific research experience and Professor Bryant is a former Senior Fulbright Research Scholar in history. Further, in the past year we have presented two scholarly papers, one nationally, one internationally, on Mr. McDonald and Zenith; both were well received by the other historians and scholars present.

Although there are other charges and innuendos in Mr. Douglas' review, we feel that the above discussions outline the most serious instances of Mr. Douglas' unprovoked attack on Zenith, Mr. McDonald, ourselves and, most importantly, on history. We regret that we have had to compose this response and hope that, in the future, we can make further contributions to these pages which are more positive.

We should also point out that, though officials at Zenith have been cooperative with our efforts, we have received no financial support from that organization in the past and expect none in the future. We also have an understanding with Zenith that we will print the truth as we find it.

In closing, we want each of you to know how impressed we have been at the general level of scholarship and stewardship shown in the vintage radio hobbies. The history of technology and, indeed, the understanding of the early days of radio by future generations have been well served by most people in these wonderful hobbies. It is unfortunate that the behavior of a few hobbyists casts a such *[sic]* pall over the careful and conscientious work of the vast majority of the vintage radio community.

Professor Bryant and Dr. Cones are currently completing the manuscript of their next book, *Zenith Radio Corporation, 1919-1935: The Foundation Years*. It will be published by Schiffer Publications in the spring of 1997. All material in this book will be documented and will more fully detail the topics which were in this response.

The Oscillator is a forum for discussion of radio history, even on topics that may be politically "hot." As the authors declared in the introduction to their T-O book, information in the book "may be either controversial or in conflict with previously held beliefs." We'll have some reply comments from Douglas next month. At that point each side will have been at bat twice: the "Professors" via the book and the above, Douglas twice via the Oscillator. That ought to terminate the matter.

Marv Beeferman ran a strongly worded editorial in his Jersey Broadcaster on the value of free interchange of ideas. That's a central point in this process.

Of course, controversy doesn't exactly harm the sales of books, and the "Professors" rebuttal makes it clear that we'll all have another purchase opportunity next year.

Those who re-read Douglas' critique will notice several "gotchas" that receive no response above. Likewise with other hiccups in the book, noted in reviews elsewhere. For example, both the book and one of the "scholarly" papers plug the T-O as "the first all band portable" or "the world's first battery-powered all-wave portable radio," a claim that evaporates when one considers, at minimum, the Hallicrafters S-29 of 1940.

Douglas expressed a lack of faith in the T-O prices in the book. The book cites "average" prices of \$100 to \$170 for '50s T-Os of common models. Walking around a collector event like RADIOACTIVITY, and viewing results from collector auctions, support lower figures. Some auction results on tube T-Os support an average of about \$49:

Downingtown, PA, 1996	\$85, 135
Hightstown, NJ, 1995 (3)	45, 48, 50
Pittstown, NJ, 1994	2 for \$23
Pittstown, NJ, 1995	28
Rochester, NY, 1993	65
Rochester, NY, 1994 (4)	33, 33, 43, 110
Rochester, NY, 1995 (4)	28, 35, 35, 43
Timonium, MD, 1995	43

Meanwhile, no "officials of DVHRC" have made any effort to get the same "mass" (?) mailing as the February issue; it's being done as a matter of course.

As ugly and unsatisfying as this process has been, it is yielding positive results. We understand that some of the problems in the T-O book are being fixed in the second printing. It is easy to imagine that greater check-the-facts care will go into next year's book as well.

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