

DVHRC OSCILLATOR

Official Newsletter of the
DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO CLUB

Vol. 2 No. 10, November 1994

Editor: Ludwell Sibley

DVHRC AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

Mike Koste

For many members, the radio auction following the monthly meeting of the DVHRC is the highlight of the evening. Since the club's formation, we've seen everything from early home-brews to cathedrals; from tombstones to consoles; from bakelites to transistors; and a wealth of tubes, parts, paper, and testgear.

Statistically, dating from September 1993, of 408 lots up for bid, 217 were sold, netting the club treasury nearly \$300 in commissions. Our .500 batting average continued at the October meeting, where 34 of 63 lots sold (not including the "side deals" which transpired afterwards). Among the highlights:

- A Zenith L-600 Transoceanic, in working condition, for \$40.
- A light-blue Spica ST-600 transistor radio for \$50.
- A Hallicrafters TW-1000 "Transoceanic-style" multiband portable, less tubes, \$22.
- An early Philco pocket transistor with lots of chrome, \$26.
- A very early Dictaphone wax-cylinder dictating machine, as-is, \$9.
- A pair of early-'60s Webcor microphones, \$11.
- A nice Nordmende (German) table radio, working, \$20.
- An early Westclox transistor radio with wind-up clock, \$20.
- A nice late-model Variac, \$16.
- A variety of late tube-model radios, \$2-14.
- Numerous common transistor sets, \$2-9.

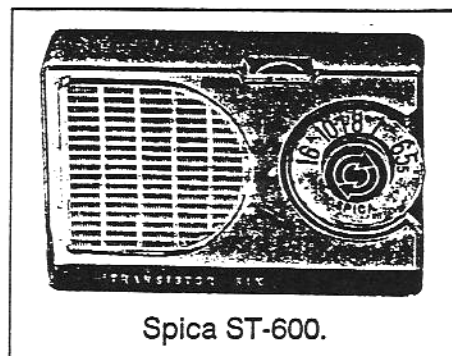
If your basement or garage is bulging and it's imperative that you do some collection-thinning, DVHRC auctions are the right time and place. The inventory is only as good as members make it, and the club benefits from all sales, charging a 10% commission

on items up to \$50, and a flat \$5 for items over \$50. And, as previously stated, if your item doesn't meet your reserve, chances are very good that you can find a buyer in the club after the fact.

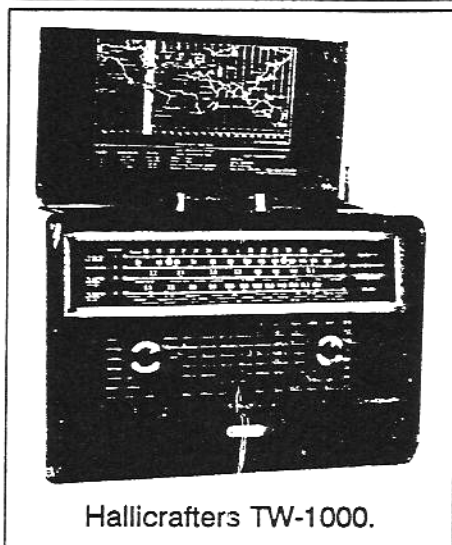
ABOUT THE EXTRA TUBE IN YOUR ANTIQUE RADIO

Ted Sowirka

The kinship of vacuum tubes and incandescent lamps is close. Evolution of the vacuum tube was by accident at first, and by purpose later on. The miniature incandescent lamp that lights up the dial scale in a radio is a single-element vacuum tube. It contains a filament of tungsten wire like that of an 01A tube. When power is applied, the current flow is impeded by the resistance of the wire, causing it to get so hot that it glows brightly. This action takes place in an evacuated and sealed glass bulb. There is no other element inside



Spica ST-600.



Hallicrafters TW-1000.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, Nov. 8, 7:30 PM, at North
Penn Amusements, 113 Main St.
(AKA Rte. 113), Souderton.

JOINING UP

To join the club: just send \$5 to
DVHRC, Box 624, Lansdale, PA
19446.

ADS & SUCH

Please send ads, articles, etc., to
Ludwell Sibley, 44 E. Main St.,
Flemington, NJ 08822-1224,
(908) 782-4894.

ON THE HORIZON

Nov. 13	DVHRC Swapmeet, Tyro Grange Hall, PA 413 & US 202, Buckingham Contact: Mike Koste, (215) 646-6488
March 4	NJARC indoor meet, Hightstown "Country Club," Hightstown (tentative) Contact: Ludwell Sibley, (908) 782-4894

this tube.

When Thomas Edison was developing the incandescent lamp, it was noted that a black deposit formed on the inside surface after a few hours of operation. During experiments conducted to solve this problem, a metal shield plate was installed in a test lamp. Edison connected a meter between the plate support wire and one side of the filament. A DC current was indicated and duly noted in the experiment logbook - a phenomenon dubbed the "Edison Effect." Although receiving a patent on the device, Edison did not pursue any serious application. Years later the English scientist Fleming put the diode to use as an RF detector, replacing the Branly coherer. Along came De Forest in 1906, who inserted another element, the "grid," between the filament and the plate. Named the Audion, the amplifying vacuum tube was born.

RCA was formed in December 1919 with the help of the U. S. government and controlled in part by lamp manufacturer General Electric. During the early '20s GE, Westinghouse, AT&T, and United Fruit Co. (Wireless Specialty Apparatus) pooled patents, leading to vacuum-tube manufacture at the "Edison Lamp Works" of GE. Located at Harrison, NJ, this early incandescent-lamp factory had the necessary vacuum pumps, glass-sealing, and wire-drawing machines to make tubes.

When the radio is turned on, the lamp lights up the dial scale. If it is burned out, lamp access is through the back or top of the set. Chassis removal is usually unnecessary, as the lamp socket is held in place by a spring clip and the twisted leads are long enough to permit removal and replacement. There are endless combinations of bulbs, bases, voltages, and currents. The type is defined by the number on the base or, for most lamps used in old radios, the color of the glass bead below the filament. This is usually the only way to choose a replacement - manufacturers' service data (Rider's, etc.) rarely specified the bulb, or gave only the maker's private part number. The table covers most of these old-time bulbs.

DECODER FOR RADIO BULBS

Base	Bead	Type	Volts	mA	Hours	Typical User
Tubular bulb, 13/32" dia. (T-3¼, or 3¼/32")						
Bayonet	Brown	47	6.3@	150	3000	"every" All-American Five
Bayonet	White	43	2.5	500	3000	
Bayonet	Blue	44	6.3@	250	3000	Belmont 542
Bayonet	Green	45	3.2	350*	3000	
Bayonet	Pink	49	2.0	60	1000	Marine Corps TBY transceiver
Screw	Brown	40	6.3@	150	3000	Radiola 18, 50
Screw	White	41	2.5	500	3000	Stromberg-Carlson 641, 642
Screw	Blue	46	6.3@	250	3000	
Screw	Green	42	3.2	350*	3000	
Screw	Pink	48	2.0	60	1000	2-volt battery radios
Globe bulb, 7/16" dia. (G-3½, or 3½/32")						
Bayonet	White	51	6.3@	200	1000	Scott All-Wave 23
Screw	White	50	6.3@	200	1000	

@ Listed as 6-8 V in some tables.

* Listed as 500 mA in some tables.

BOOK REVIEW

Mike Koste

The Collector's Guide to Antique Radios, 3rd Ed., by Marty and Sue Bunis (Collector Books, 1994)

The vintage-radio collectors of the world have fallen victim to supply and demand. No one can deny that our hobby is booming, but let's face fact: as more and more people get into the act, choice pieces become fewer and farther between.

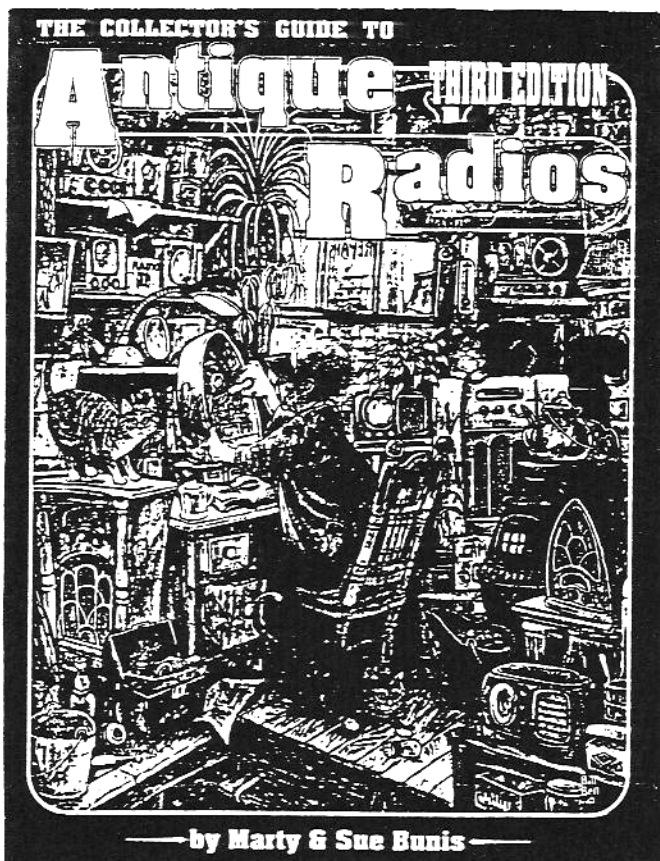
Perhaps that's what Marty and Sue Bunis realized when they began to prepare the new edition of The Collector's Guide to Antique Radios, choosing to include a multitude of listings for fairly plain and uninteresting

mass-produced radios of the 1950s and 1960s. Take, for instance, the white plastic Westinghouse clock radio pictured on p. 249. Most purists and old-time collectors would never give that set a second look and it will probably never be worth more than the \$15 the book calls for. Yet, to the novice collector on a small budget, radios such as this are about the only ones you'll find at yard sales and flea markets these days.

In the introduction to *TCGtAR3*, the Bunises make some worthwhile, though somewhat painful, observations on the Economic State of the Hobby. Many prime items, particularly cathedrals from the '30s, are either the same or have gone *down* in value in the past couple of years. But price guides can be dangerous. Books like this in the hands of the uneducated and unscrupulous tend to drive price-tags skyward, benefitting only the profiteers. Marty and Sue would be wise to consider a scarcity or rarity scale in future books, similar to the one in Ron Ramirez' fine volume on Philco radios (*Oscillator*, 2-94).

The authors have maintained the familiar design and formula of the earlier editions and have taken steps to fatten-up the third. The 1987 debut (now out of print) checked in with 174 pages, as compared with 276 in the new one, despite elimination of all listings for transistor radios. (Obviously they're working on a follow-up to their popular guide to the three-legged creatures.)

Though far from being the 100% complete encyclopedia that's measured in pounds instead of pages that we all dream of, Bunises' latest is as close to being *the* standard reference as we can expect, at least for now. And at \$18.95, it's not just a bargain - it's essential.



MEMBER'S COLLECTION WRITTEN UP

DVHRC member Dan Schwartzman is to be congratulated on having his collection written up as the front-page story in *Antique Week* for Sept. 5. Illustrated with seven large-sized photos, the article by Johanna Billings covered Schwartzman's well diversified collection, from '30s consoles to Zenith Royal 500s. A choice piece is the "Red Star 54," a Soviet-made AM-SW table set with cabinet styled as a sort of exaggerated version of the classic Grundig and other German sets of the period, with, sure enough, a big red star on the panel top. Much better written than other pieces of this type, the article covers the radio-collecting hobby in some detail, touching on the availability of parts and documentation, and citing the best known books in this area.

This kind of coverage can't help but increase public awareness of, and respect for, antique radios. - LAS

WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS

Jon Spevack, Norristown

Storm Phillips, Bryn Mawr

Tom Seaman, Warminster

MEET REPORT: HARPS - MIDDLETOWN NY

The Hudson Valley Antique Radio & Phonograph Society presented its annual indoor swapmeet at the Holiday Inn in Middletown on Oct. 22. The site was conveniently available off NY 17, a main route. A total of 55 vendors from six states filled the hall - space had sold out a couple of weeks earlier. The event was packed with buyers, including many from Long Island and Staten Island, until late morning, and was essentially over by noon. The club collected an admission charge of \$2. Material on sale was perhaps 60% radio, 40% phonograph, plus booksellers and disc/cylinder dealers. The local cable channel and business journal provided media coverage.

The club has had vigorous growth with this event - this was the "expanded quarters" of two years ago - and a larger Hudson Valley site is under investigation for the 1995 event. It will be on the same weekend. Thanks to Linda Gramm of HARPS and attender Lauren Peckham for "the facts." - LAS

CHAMBERSBURG AUCTION REVIEW

Mike Koste

The Jack Hortman Collection, Gateway Gallery Auctions, Chambersburg, PA, Oct. 15

Given the size of the inventory and all the advance publicity, it came as a surprise that fewer than 50 bidders made the trek to Central Pennsylvania. Once you review the results, you'll surely agree that the high bids were also considerably less than expected. Auctioneer John F. Kohler did a remarkable job, when you consider the size of his task. Literally hundreds of radios, ranging from "fully restored" to "parts sets," a wealth of test gear, a mountain of paper, and scores of boxed goods made up the 512-lot auction.

Although this reporter did not stay to the very end, the high bids included here represent about 2/3 of the best of what hit the auction block. Items of note included a restored Philco 90 cathedral for \$250, a set of Rider's Manuals 1-23 for \$375, a Philco 71 cathedral for \$175, four file cabinets of Sams Photofacts 1-1140 (some missing) for \$110, and a very fine Grebe MU-1 with original papers for \$130. Items listed below with a * were said to be recapped and working.

CONSOLES

Numerous other consoles in condition from "fair" to basket case* sold between \$1 and \$17.50.

American Bosch 670C, 1937*	80	RCA 19K, 1940*	60
Atwater Kent 52 metal cabinet, 1928*	65	RCA 19K, 1940* needs cabinet work	40
General Electric H51 lowboy, 1930*	65	RCA K80, 1940*	50
Grunow 1291 Teledial, 1936*	55	RCA R35, 1930 *	55
Majestic 92, 1929*	75	Wurlitzer Lyric SA-120 lowboy, 1933*	95
Majestic 130A highboy, 1930*	65	Zenith 10S464, 1940 *	120
Philco 86 Neutrodyne Plus lowboy, 1929 (plays)	100	Zenith 10S669, 1942 *	35
RCA C-153, 1935 *	90		

TABLE SETS

There were easily 100 other table radios not listed here, of various vintages and conditions, which sold between \$1 and \$10.

American Bosch Amberola, 1925*	90	Philco 80-B Jr. cathedral, 1932, working	80
American Bosch 38, 25 Hz, 1928, untested	25	Philco 90, 1931, restored, wrong cloth	250
Arvin 402, metal, 1940, needs paint	40	Philco 116-121 tombstone, 1935, working	50
Atwater Kent 20, 1926, w/working E3 speaker	35	Philco 514, 1928, brown metal w/matching speaker	75
Crosley 601 Bandbox w/Magnavox speaker, home-made case, 1927	13	Philco 620 tombstone, 1937*	65
Crosley 7H4 tombstone, 1934, very fine, working	120	Radiola 17 w/o tubes, 1927, untested	18
Emerson BA-199 bakelite, 1936, repro back, working	60	Radiola 18 w/tubes, 1927, untested	33
Freshman 525, small wood, 1933, working	50	Sonora WJV-252, small white plastic, 1948, working	60
Hallicrafters TW1000 portable, 1953, plays	38	Westinghouse WR274 wood w/tuning eye, 1941, works	35
Philco 71 cathedral, 1932*	170	Zenith 8G500Y Transoceanic, 1946*	43

SPEAKERS & HORNS

Atwater Kent E, good, working	40	Sundar Senior parchment, fair	35
Atwater Kent L horn, no driver	8	Utah wood-case speaker, interesting design	23
Magnavox Dynamic 80	28	Western Electric 540AW parchment, fair	40

PAPER

Again, the items below barely scratch the surface as far as paper is concerned.

Allied catalog, 1957	7	Radio Amateur's Handbook, 1940	12
Allied catalog, 1960	5	Radio News Radio Data Handbook, 1936	4
Aunt Sammy's Radio Recipes, 1927	18	Radio Troubleshooter's Handbook, Ghirardi, 1943	15
Citizen's Radio Callbook, 3, 1928	20	RCA advertising fans (2), framed	70
Citizen's Radio Callbook, 3, 1930	10	RCA "Radio Enters the Home," 1922 original	26
Citizen's Radio Callbook, 4, 1928-29	25	Rider's Automatic Record Changers & Records, 1940	10
Oscilloscope Techniques, Gernsback, 1954/1961	6	Rider's Manual, 1931, like Vol. 1 but not identical	25
Radio Amateur's Handbook, 1936	12	Walter Ashe Radio Co. catalog, 1954	7

MEET REPORT: NFWA - AMHERST MUSEUM

The Niagara Frontier Wireless Association held its annual swapmeet in late August, at the Amherst Museum outside Buffalo. This turned out to be a relaxed, enjoyable event in a rustic setting. Flea-market spaces were on a broad expanse of lawn on the museum grounds. The usual hustle to get set up and scrounging was absent: the gates didn't open until 8:30. The weather was initially threatening, and then made good on its threat -

the same storm system that got Woodstock took on NFWA. As a result, attendance was down somewhat this year, at 33 vendors and about 75 collectors. Even so, the ambiance was pretty jolly, with club members cooking hot dogs in a roofed picnic area. An talk indoors in the museum covered Tesla coils, and the club's permanent-but-rotated exhibit (written up in *A. R. C.* and the *OTB*) was fun to tour. For making 1995 plans, I'd recommend this as a pleasant change from more pressured meets. Transit Road, the main route from the New York State Thruway toward the Museum, is "motel row," so it's easy to up the night before. - LAS

MEET REPORT - MAARC PICNIC

The Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club held its annual picnic at founder Ed Lyon's farm outside rural Myersville, Maryland on October 2. This event has gotten "good press" in, for example, the *Old Timer's Bulletin* of last February, so I attended for the first time. Opening at 9:30 AM, the activities included a busy flea market of about 40 vendors, a multi-entree picnic lunch, tours of Lyon's excellent collection, and an afternoon auction of about 2-½ hours' duration. The club's tube program had its wares available. Several DVHRC members were present, including a couple of heroic strivers who had attended the Warrington Drive-In hamfest and then set out at high speed for Maryland. As always, there were some treasures in the trading and auction. The scenery is charming (early Fall color) and the ambiance relaxed and pleasant. The \$6 admission (\$10 for a couple) covers the lunch, and tailgating is only \$3 extra. I recommend this event!

Of course, there's no harm in joining MAARC - for \$20 a year, it delivers a 20-page issue of *Radio Age* each month. Checks go to MAARC, PO Box 1362, Washington Grove, MD 20880. - LAS

A RADIO BONFIRE

Radio News, March 1930

Witnessed by city officials, a squadron of police and members of the fire department, the biggest burning of obsolete radios in the history of the industry was held near City Hall, in Philadelphia, under the auspices of Philco's local dealers, recently.

One thousand radio receivers, adjudged obsolete, went up in flames, after scores of other sets had been saved for the hospitals and poor of the city. J. C. Marden arranged the big bonfire, with the idea of boosting business in new sets. Also, he said, sale of more new sets would be in keeping with the Hoover prosperity plea.

A representative of the Mayor's office presided at the bon-fire, which attracted thousands of spectators during the afternoon of the spectacle, held four blocks from the Municipal Building.

As 90% of a radio receiving set is metal, a large quantity of parts which remained after the fire was sold for junk and the money realized in this manner was turned over to the Philadelphia Christmas Seal Relief Fund.

Hmmm . . . let's see . . . if you burn 1000 radios that were "obsolete" in 1930, you wipe out maybe 25 AK breadboards, ten Crosley Pups, half a dozen Grebe CR-9s, five De Forest D-10s, etc. The charred ruins contain the remains of maybe 4000 201As and perhaps another 1200 UV-199s. Of course, burning all those bakelite panels releases a couple of hundred pounds of phenol compounds and formaldehyde vapor in Center City. Any more good ideas, Mr. Marden?



"Fourteen years ago this coming Tuesday, he took the tubes from his amplifier and went looking for a drugstore with a tube tester, and that's the last I've seen or heard of him . . ."

From the Lewis Newhard collection.



"Philco dealers make a bonfire of obsolete radio receivers."

NEW CLUB IN PA

As reported last month, two active collectors in the Williamsport area are attacking the need for radio-activity in the central part of the state. Their goal is to run two or more swapmeets per year. Contacts for the Central PA Radio Collectors Club are Frank Hagenbuch, 1440 Lafayette Parkway, Williamsport 17701, (717) 326-0932; or Mike Heffner, 501 S. Market St., Muncy 17756, (717) 323-3647.

A TUBE STORY

I was offering some flea-market wares at a meet, well outside of DVHRC's territory, not long ago. A buyer came up and asked if I had any Type 80 tubes for his radio. I proudly pointed out that tested 80s from four different makers were available. So he went off to his car and returned with a National Union 80, caked with dirt on the outside and lightly blackened on the inside.

As you've probably noticed, each manufacturer of a popular tube like the 80 made its version a bit different inside, even though the electrical specs were the same. So he started opening the cartons, looking for another with construction identical to the National Union. Inspecting an RCA, he declared "nope . . . won't work. Looking at a Sylvania, he delivered the same verdict. Summoning a reasonable foundation in the technical aspects of tubes and 40 years' experience with 80s, I offered the view that "gee - an 80 is an 80." Not so, "it won't work," he rejoindered, still looking through the boxes. Not finding an identical construction in other tubes by Raytheon or Sylvania, he shuffled off unsatisfied.

I didn't offer any discussion as to how frequently the various makers produced unmarked tubes, to be branded and distributed by their nominal competitors. More fundamentally, the 80 occupies the one position in the radio that is *least* critical as to tube characteristics. And, yes, an 80 is an 80! - LAS

WANT ADS

Unless requested otherwise, ads may be interchanged with NJARC for increased coverage.

FOR SALE: Brunswick Panatrope model 288 phonograph with multiband radio. Also, Majestic model 92 walnut highboy ca. 1929. Best offer. Russ DiRico, 206 Beechwood Ct., Mt. Laurel NJ 08054, (609) 235-3773.

WANTED: 15GP22 color picture tube for RCA CT-100. Dave Abramson, (610) 827-9757.

WANTED: Data chart roll for Hickok type 533AS g_m tube tester (URGENT!). A chassis, data or any information on an Emerson AX239 radio. All types of RCA memorabilia. Old, old, old RCA test equipment from the '30s. Cable-operated car radios - parts, literature, boxes, antennas, controls. Any condition. Bryan Hodgson, (609) 424-0312 (home), 722-2886 (work).

FOR SALE: "RADIO USA" 16 inch tall microphone AM-FM AC-DC radio, transistor, metal construction. Special NJARC price, \$20. 10-band transistor, the "WORLD IN YOUR POCKET," the smallest short-wave AM/FM radio ever made, \$25 (reg. \$80). Only six left. "Racing Car" radio. Red Toyota or Dodge Shadow, AM/FM with clock built into sun roof. Excellent and rare, \$15. Richard Brill, PO Box 5361, Old Bridge, NJ 08857, (908) 679-8026; fax (908) 579-8523.

WANTED: Precision Tube Master (Precision Apparatus Co.) users manual model 10-12 tube/battery tester - 1952(?) vintage and associated tube test manual. Tom Fallon, (908) 545-0417.

WANTED: Predicta parts. Looking for picture-tube shroud back cover, tuning knobs, stand. Thanks, Dave Sica, 1549 St. Georges Ave., Rahway, NJ 07065-2718, (908) 392-0618.

WANTED: Radio Boys books: Lost Atlantis, With the Border Patrol, Soldiers of Fortune, and Air Patrol (all by Breckinridge). First Wireless, On the Pacific, and To the Rescue (by Chapman), Under the Seas and Flying Service (by Duffield); Cronies and Loyalty (by Aaron & Whipple). Have dupes to trade. Mike Koste, (215) 646-6488. See you at Buckingham 11-13.

WANTED: Working Army field telephone set. Schematics needed for Eico model 322 signal generator, RCA 96T2 2-band receiver and Emerson 560A portable radio. Photocopies OK. Marty Friedman, 48 Green Acres Ave., East Brunswick NJ 08816, (908) 238-1047.

REMEMBER - BUCKINGHAM MEET, NOV. 13!