



# The Oscillator



"All the Electrons that are Fit to Flow . . . "

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DVHRC

DECEMBER 2020

## During a Challenging 2020, DVHRC Remains Thankful.

As we began this year, we had no idea it would turn out this way. However, we adopted methods to continue on and are thankful for the following:

1) DVHRC was able to hold monthly video meetings via the Zoom application. There has been good participation even seeing those from other regional clubs as participants.



We thank Jarret for establishing these meetings online and meetings in the near-term will continue via the link distributed before each meeting via the DVHRC Reflector. Please check the Q2 newsletter for Zoom protocol or contact one of us for assistance. You may elect to use a phone audio-only connection if unable to download the Zoom application.

2) Within the pandemic dip this summer, the club held a tailgate on August 1<sup>st</sup> as an icebreaker leading up to a much needed

Kutztown XLII Radio Show on September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.



Good weather and high participation led to many sales and great deals on Friday with pent up demand due to the spring cancellation and perhaps the postponement of the Friday night auction for safety reasons. DVHRC has heard favorable comments and the club table held their own during a busy few days. Many thanks to Renningers to permit the event and to John Hagaman for his excellent photo essay seen at:

<https://john-h.smugmug.com/Kutztown-Antique-Audio-Meet-2020/>



**See important, recent club news under the caption of December Zoom meeting on page 5!**

3) We want all of you to remain safe during this rough patch in the Covid battle and really want to see you soon. We are sometimes reminded of what a gift each day is. Some of us may be distanced or isolated depending on our circumstances so it is important to reach out to our fellow members with encouragement. Recently we were reminded of the fragility of life with the sudden loss of our fellow DVHRC member Michael Lombardo. Sadly, Mike passed in late November. Mike was very appreciative of our expertise and tutelage. He was an accomplished saxophonist and loving caregiver to his parents. We came to know Mike as a kind and gentle soul and he will be greatly missed. He often complemented this very publication and I am sure many of you have a similar story to tell. Rest in peace, good friend.



Here is a link to Mike's obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/timesherald/obituary.aspx?pid=197167110>



**Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club**

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New Britain, PA 18901  
[www.dvhrc.com](http://www.dvhrc.com)

*The Oscillator* is the quarterly newsletter of the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club.

Articles on radio and television history or collecting can be submitted by the 25<sup>th</sup> of month prior to quarterly issue dates of April, July, October and January to the editor at [gdottor@yahoo.com](mailto:gdottor@yahoo.com).

Personal views, opinions and technical advice do not necessarily reflect those of members, officers or Board of Directors of the DVHRC, nor is the DVHRC responsible for any buying or selling transactions.

Dues are \$20 per year and can be paid at a meeting or mailed to the above address. Meetings held 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at Telford Community Center.

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**Meeting of May 12, 2020**

*The theme of our first ZOOM online meeting was "FM only radios". Since a summer newsletter was not published, please open yourself up to a major flashback (just like in the movies) as we attempt to catch up on a time when the weather was warm.*

DVHRC's Mark Thierbach disclosed an excellent source of information on FM only radios where you may see the author's definition of an FM only radio. <http://mwsherman.com/fmonly/>

The FM only site is managed by Mark W. Sherman who welcomes more examples, observations, images and input on some unresolved issues. Images of many models, insights and background on FM and Edwin Armstrong make this an excellent site to explore!

Mark Thierbach was also able to provide discernment and contributed an image of his Granco model 605. He is credited as a contributor as well.



He's pretty sure it's the ONLY FM-only tube clock radio ever made in the US. The picture of it on the website shown above is actually of the radio which Mark showed on Zoom, before cleaned up and correct knobs added. Since then Mark found one in coral and white.

The question the club pondered was why FM only? Could it be they were betting on a more immediate replacement of AM as the most accessible, programmed and popular band? Did they believe the additional cost of an FM receiver would be borne by the buyer? Were they marketing to the more discerning metropolitan jazz and classical listeners?



Did these companies want to differentiate as higher end manufacturers of units as a gateway to higher end high fidelity equipment? Granco is a fairly typical electronics company of the time, one of many clustered in NYC and Long Island area. According to his daughter, Lee Chinalai, Seymour Napolin was the main founder of Granco Products Inc. One of his engineers was Leopold Harwood and presumably Henry Fogel was responsible for the business end of Granco. He hadn't renewed the insurance which is why the fire from ca. 1963 ended the company. It also sounds as if the marketing staff may have been under Fogel. Emerson purchased the bankrupt company to utilize design, patents and engineering they would use on their units in the 60's. After the fire, Seymour Napolin started his new company, called Melsey Corporation to use his over a dozen patents to develop and manufacture VHF and UHF oscillators and a grid-dip meter.

At our May meeting, other showings were made on Zoom that fit into the definition of FM only. Dave Snellman showed the Zenith ZH918 FM radio which has a matching AM only counterpart, Darren Hoffman, a Pilot T601 FM Tuner, John Tyminski, a Browning RV10 tuner. You can find images of these models on the FM only website. An outlier not shown on the FM only site was presented by Steve Johnson who had joined our Zoom meeting back in May. He gave mention of a FM only Non Linear Systems FM receiver which I found on his own website!



**Above:** Steve Johnson says Non Linear systems made a FM stereo receiver, the "Modular Stereophonic Receiver 1" for a short period in the late 60's built with a clean modular design like the test equipment they manufactured as their main product line. **Below Open Chassis:**



Check out Steve's extensive site for much more on vintage electronics including his collection!

<https://www.stevenjohnson.com/index.html>

## Tubes Needed for DVHRC Kutztown Inventory



After Kutztown XLII, we can say the sales of tubes at the club table lagged a bit, due in part to the lack of audio tubes such as the 12AX7. With some time on our hands, let's appraise our excess collections and donate! Be generous by donating to DVHRC's tube program! Following are a list of the tubes the club is looking for. *Dave Dean* tests tube stock on his military grade tester for maximum QC. Dave and the DVHRC will be grateful for your efforts.

Any and all Globe tubes,

Any high end audio tubes ,

Any "unusual" transmitting tubes.

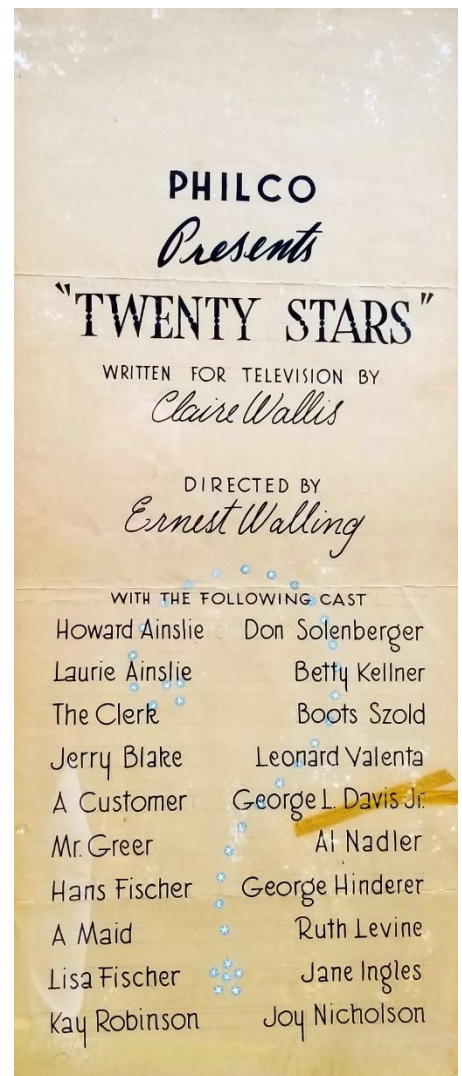
5751	10
5842	12A7
6AQ8	2A3
6AZ8	45
6BD8	6Q7G
6DC8	6U7G
6BK8	85
396A	12AX7
417A	83
6072A	6SN7GT
EL37	1L6
6A3	50A1
6F5	6L6GC
6F6	6L6GAY
6L6GA	6L6GB

## Some Housekeeping Notes

This catchup edition is the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual issue in this strangest of years. We are always looking for stories to publish, especially projects and technical. Forward them to:

[gdotto@yahoo.com](mailto:gdotto@yahoo.com)

**Meeting of June 9, 2020** *The theme of our May ZOOM online meeting was "Books and Paper".*

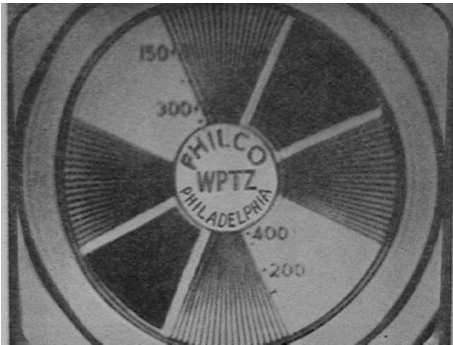


**Above:** Dave Abramson exhibited and explained early camera card in the following essay:

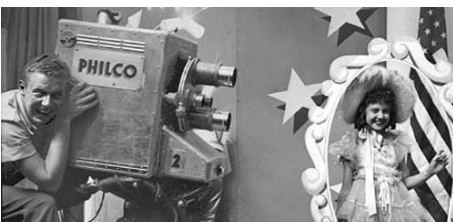
What you are looking at is an original camera card that was used as the opening shot on many TV productions from the 1940s to

the 1960's before computer graphics became available. It was an artist's banner list of the show title, producer, director and actors. Sponsors were yet to come.

At the start of the show the music would swell and a camera (usually one of two available) would aim at the title and tilt down through the players and then swing to an assignment on the minimal stage. It would be repeated at the end of the program. In this case it was a Philco TV production from December, 1941.



Philco had been granted a true commercial license in September, 1941 and left their 1932 experimental station W3XE behind to become WPTZ broadcasting from the Philco plant at C and Tioga Sts. in Philadelphia. It was now an NBC affiliate with WNBC.



The card (on the previous page) came to me around 1992 via a family friendship with Don Solenberger who is listed as one of the lead actors. He had saved it for 51 years. Don was also familiar with my career in local

television as a director and later an engineer. I was at the house for a dinner and Don came in to the den carrying a pair of interlocked paper grocery store bags folded flat and said I should have it. I opened it and unfolded the card to see what you see. It was so special of Don to think of me but that is his Quaker way. And Don is still around at 97 years old. I had it framed and it hangs in the house today.



From there I started to learn the history of it from Don. He was at first a bit cloudy on the time line but as time passed he did get the time line together. I also searched the Philadelphia Inquirer microfiche for the era but found nothing on WPTZ. Perhaps because Walter Annenberg, the owner of the Inquirer also owned WIP AM radio and wanted nothing to do with television in his newspaper.

Don was enrolled at Penn and member of Penn Players, a college acting community. W3XE/WPTZ was active in the day with early productions being broadcast to mostly station engineers to monitor the shows at home. Philo Farnsworth had long left the station. Maybe 200 TV sets all around Philadelphia at the time. Wallis in the credits was the writer and had already put on what is believed the first "soap opera" called "Last Year's Nest" in the previous few months. Wallis vanishes in to history after her early years as I can find. Twenty Diamonds was a one-off program to fill time on a Friday night and never serialized. The listed director, Earnest Walling was a WPTZ staffer recruited to direct the production. Walling continued after as a long time WPTZ staffer and executive. Len Valenta went on to NYC to direct multiple 40's to 60's soap operas. The other actors have gone their way. It was Walling that went around Philadelphia recruiting college theater players to act in Philco productions. At Penn he found Don, Betty Kellner and most of the cast. I believe Len Valenta came from Temple University. In later years I reintroduced Betty to Don at a Broadcast Pioneers luncheon, and talked to Len on the phone. Betty and Len have both now passed.

Don remembers the week of the program as he would take the subway from Penn to Philco and rehearse at night after classes. Other notes suggest that the

largish cast for a 45 minute show was to keep memorizing lines to a minimum.



PHILCO TELEVISION  
WPTZ Philadelphia's Pioneer Television Station  
A scene from a program transmitted by WPTZ, Philadelphia's Pioneer Television Station

Twenty Diamonds was a mystery with the antagonist hiding twenty stolen diamonds embedded in his teeth. Don remembers Walling taking the cast to an ice cream shop after and receiving a Philco radio as payment. Don remembered all of this after realizing it happened just after Pearl Harbor in 1941. In January 1942, Don was drafted and being Quaker he was assigned to an ambulance corps in Europe. Home after the war, Don was a successful insurance executive, a great friend, and an important part of television history. *Many thanks to Dave A. for providing!*



*Also shown that night were an exhibitor's ticket for the 1876 International Exposition held in Philadelphia which was a valuable barn find of Dave Dean (facsimile shown). Other items of interest were various tube signage, catalogs, calendars and ephemera. Darren Hoffman reminded us of the treasure trove of published archives to view at: <https://worldradiohistory.com/>*

### Upcoming Regional Events

*An historic snapshot of the 2020 held and more frequently cancelled events can be seen by viewing: [n2lvi Delaware valley area hamfests](#) This page is maintained by N2LVI, of Victor Amateur Radio Association, Camden, NJ. Announcements for DVHRC and NJARC have been included for which we give thanks! We are hopeful many more events will be restored in 2021!*

**NJARC Meeting** Friday, 12.11.20, at 7:30 P.M. The meeting will be conducted "on-line" via the video conferencing app Zoom. Information may be found at the club's website <http://www.njarc.org>. Many of us have visited other clubs' Zoom meetings during the pandemic and NJARC is fantastic club to visit. A newsletter archive can be found at: <http://njarc.org/broadcaster/>  
**NJARC BCB DX Contest** Runs from January 15th through January 24<sup>th</sup>. **You must become a member of NJARC to participate** and there is still time to do so. In the 1920's and 1930's some radio listeners would compete with each other for the reception of the most distant stations using the same receivers that that we now restore and cherish. Contest rules at: <http://www.njarc.ar88.net/contest.html>.

**Kutztown Radio Show XLIII (43)** Friday, 05.07.21 through Saturday, 05.08.21 opens 7AM on those days; Vendor setup starts 12 noon Thursday. **Early buyers will not be permitted on Thursday without a dealer tag.** Free parking and free admission for shoppers. Where: Renningers Farmer's Market, 740 Noble St., Kutztown, PA 19530. Antique radios, parts, and related items. Audio and Ham welcome. Tables, electric available. Dealer spaces 10' x 10' incl table \$45.  
**Auction 6 PM Fri. 05.07.** Exhibitor reservation advised: Phone M-Th 570.385.0104; F-S 610.683.6848. See links at: [www.dvhrc.org](http://www.dvhrc.org) to download or [facebook.com/renningerskutztown](https://facebook.com/renningerskutztown)  
*We'll update this list of events next year as things open up. Consult the websites of your favorite regional clubs, even ones outside the mid-atlantic to participate in meetings via ZOOM.*

### DVHRC Meeting of Dec 8, 2020

DVHRC's Xmas meeting was convenient but not as tasty as in the past. The folks that did enter the Zoom meeting had a good holiday chat and we were joined by Steve Touzalin from the Colorado Radio Collector Club <http://coloradoradiocollectors.com/CRC/> and Charlie Brown of MAARC- thanks guys, you added a lot to the meeting!

The business items discussed included a waiver of the \$20 member fee for 2021 if you are a paid member in good standing for 2020 since we did not pay rent to Telford Borough for most of the year.

The next item was about future meetings beginning as early as 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in January or 01/09/2021. 2021 kind of has a ring to it. The plan would be to begin at 10 AM and since we have access to the Renningers K'town white room for the whole day, we could add programming into the early afternoon including a swap meet for members, etc. Capacitors, which are being restocked will also be available for sale. Stay tuned to the DVHRC website and the reflector as the arrangements are finalized.

Sadly, we need to inform you that a former member and friend of our hobby, Bill Wade, has passed away recently. Bill was a Philly area collector that many of us knew over the years.

We will need a candidate for a Kutztown raffle radio for May. Jarret will look to see what is available in the K-town storage trailer or someone may also have an idea for a good set to restore for this upcoming meet; let Jarret know.

Jarret Brown is working on the first DVHRC radio podcast feature of a fellow member over the holidays. Using the Anchor FM free podcast application, these audio features will be posted to the link on the DVHRC website.

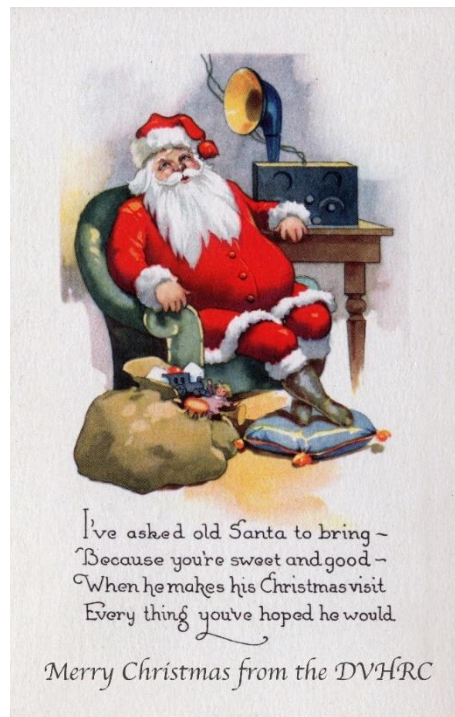


We look forward to this new initiative and Jarret will seek out

those of us who would like to participate. This will become a perpetual audio archive for many to enjoy into the future featuring our club expertise, stories and history.

Regarding some missed meeting themes this year, the editor will circle back to past meetings of August through November and create those stories. This editor may ask you to supply images and content as necessary.

Here is a blast from the past- the holiday card crafted back in 2016, a memory of happy times which will come again. Speaking of happy times, the theme for our Zoom was what radio Xmas gift we are desiring.



Some who already have awesome collections are looking for that most amazing piece. Jarret is hunting down either an Emerson AX-212 Bullseye or Stradivarius CL-256 radio with their stunning

Ingraham cabinets from the 1938-39 time frame. Obviously, these are rare and extremely collectible but if anyone knows of one for sale, contact Jarret or Santa.



Dave Snellman is always looking out for that unique or rare transistor set from the 50's or 60's. Greg Dottor is looking to make improvements on his shop area with some enhanced lighting and visual aids. Mark Hilliard is looking for a better in-house AM transmitter. Whatever it is you need, we hope Santa will be kind and we'll share those stories of what we got for Christmas at our next meeting.

**FCC Chairman Ajit Pai Statement: FCC Provides AM Stations with All-Digital Broadcast Option**

10.28.2020, FCC 20-154, MB Docket No. 19-311; Revitalization of the AM Radio Service, MB Docket No. 13-249

Freddie Mercury memorably sang in Queen's 1984 hit *Radio Ga Ga*, "radio, someone still loves you." 36 years later, that remains true; I love radio, as do millions of my fellow Americans. And that love extends to the AM band.

Some may think of AM radio as quaint, but AM stations are vital to the communities they serve. I've seen it for myself at KZPA in Fort Yukon, Alaska, WRDN in Durand, Wisconsin, WAGG in Birmingham,

Alabama, and many other stations across the country. AM broadcasters cover local events and our favorite sports teams. They provide a forum for public discourse. They offer foreign-language programming. And in emergencies, they are a life-saving source of information—like during the wildfires our nation has been battling in the West, or the hurricanes that have hit our coasts.

Under my leadership, the Commission has taken a series of steps to help AM broadcasters confront the economic and technical challenges they face. For example, as part of our AM Radio Revitalization Initiative, over 2,800 AM broadcasters have been able to obtain authorizations to build FM translators, and 2,100 are already licensed and on the air. Countless AM broadcasters have told me that their FM translators have given their stations a new lease on life. We've also eliminated and modified a number of rules to reduce unnecessary regulatory costs on AM broadcasters.

But to better ensure the future of AM radio, we need to squarely confront the band's problems, foremost among them poor signal quality and listening experience. And confront them we do today, allowing AM broadcasters in an increasingly digital age to voluntarily move to all-digital broadcasting.

Making the transition to all-digital service presents a singular opportunity to preserve the AM

service for future listeners. All-digital signals offer better audio quality, with greater coverage, than existing AM stations—whether analog or hybrid. The decision to convert to all-digital will ultimately be up to each AM broadcaster. And by requiring AM broadcasters to give their listeners advance notice if a station will no longer be available on analog receivers, we ensure that any transition will be consumer-friendly. We also clarify a number of technical specifications for digital broadcasting to ensure clear signals with minimal interference. In short, what we're doing today is enabling commercial AM radio—which will turn 100 years old next week—to compete in a digital media landscape, hopefully presaging another century of AM radio.

My gratitude to Commission staff that prepared this item: from the Media Bureau, James Bradshaw, Michelle Carey, Christine Goepf, Thomas Horan, Jerry Manarchuck, Holly Saurer, and Lisa Scanlan; from the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Christine Clearwater and Austin Randazzo; from the Office of Communications Business Opportunities, Belford Lawson; from the Office of Economics and Analytics, Eugene Kiselev, Emily Talaga, and Andrew Wise; and from the Office of General Counsel, Susan Aaron, David Konczal, and Royce Sherlock. I also want to thank my friend Ben Downs of Bryan Broadcasting. He hosted me at his AM station in College Station, Texas many

years ago and planted a bug in my ear about this idea. I'm glad he and other dedicated advocates like him have so ably advocated for this cause. He firmly believes of AM radio, as Freddie Mercury aptly put it in *Radio Ga Ga*, "You had your time, you had the power / You've yet to have your finest hour." I hope so, too.

## BEGINNERZ

**What's the Buzz?** Here is an update to the (Spring Oscillator page 4) regarding major RFI of HF/AM reception in my neighborhood. I had isolated the pole where a weak AM radio peaked the RFI. It was actually connected to a pole across the street in a private lane that was causing the problem, a jumper barely touching the crossing line was arcing!



Our local electric utility was immediate in responding back in May and the buzz I had detecting in my car and home radios was gone. Now I could listen to AM DX and get back to my radio hobbies, a very happy ending for me!



Gary says a few more months stuck in this studio and all should be better. Is it Spring yet?