



Vol. 2 No. 8
September 1994

Outgoing Editor: Mike Koste
Incoming Editor: Ludwell Sibley

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Mike Koste

When publication of the *Oscillator* began last October, the goal was simple: provide a fun-to-read newsletter to communicate with club members, both active and inactive, and to promote participation in club activities.

As you examine the *Oscillator* one year later, it's obvious that we've accomplished our mission. Member contributions have made the only monthly club newsletter of its kind an unqualified success, leading to increased attendance at our monthly meetings and swapmeets, and nearly doubling DVHRC membership.

Enter LUDWELL SIBLEY.

Anyone who's ever read the *AWA Old Timer's Bulletin* or *Review* is probably familiar with Ludwell's work, he having served as correspondent and editor of these fine publications for the past five years.

The DVHRC is happy to welcome Ludwell to the organization, but, more importantly, for assuming the role of new editor of the *Oscillator*. A long-time electrical engineer for Pacific Bell, AT&T, and Bell Communications Research, Sibley is preparing to "hang up the receiver" to devote full time to the care and feeding of a Victorian house in Flemington, NJ, and his passion for antique radio collecting.

We are proud and privileged to have Lud at the helm of the *Oscillator* and are confident that his care and expertise will take the newsletter to even greater heights. If you have items of interest, contributions, or advertisements, you can send them to Ludwell at 44 E. Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822-1224 or phone (908) 782-4894.

Proud to serve . . . send those newsletter items in! - LAS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Jay Daveler

I would like to welcome the new editor of the *Oscillator*, Ludwell Sibley. You have read above about his qualifications. We're fortunate to have him aboard. I would also like to take this time to thank MIKE KOSTE for his excellent work as editor. We all owe Mike thanks for starting the newsletter and bringing it to this level. The *Oscillator* is now at the point where Mike and I agree that Ludwell can take the ball and run with it. Again, a big thank-you from the membership and me to Mike.

Don't forget the upcoming swapmeet in November. In a meeting with Mike we agreed on having a radio show and also another Club Radio to be raffled off in conjunction with the swapmeet. Anyone who can help on the Raffle Restoration Project, please contact me. Let's get behind Mike and make this last swapmeet of '94 a big success.

I'm asking all members to make it a point to attend the Sept. 13 meeting. This meeting is very important for the future of the club. There will be three important issues on which I will be asking for action to be taken:

- A charter for the club. The club has grown to the size that I feel a charter is a MUST!
- Liability insurance to protect the officers and individual members of the organization. This again is a must. We are now running swapmeets, renting buildings, holding auctions, raffling off radios which club members are jointly working on, etc.
- Our tax position: exempt - tax-free, non-tax-free, or no-tax-applicable. I've asked club member and attorney CHARLES MARKOFSKI to be present, make a presentation, and be available to answer members' questions on the above. I'll present a budget to show how we will pay for this. Looking forward to seeing you at the September meeting!

ON THE HORIZON

- Sept. 21-24 Antique Wireless Association Conference, Thruway Marriott, Rochester
Contact: Joyce Peckham, (607) 739-5443
- Oct. 2 Pack Rats Hamfest, Bucks County Drive-In, PA 611, Warrington
(QST, Sept. 1994) (A long-term good producer with a bit of antique-radio content - LAS)
- Oct. 22 Hudson Valley Antique Radio & Phonograph Society Show, Holiday Inn, Middletown, NY
Contacts: John or Linda Gramm (HARPS), (914) 427-2602
- Nov. 5 NJARC Catalog Auction & Swapmeet, Hightstown "Country Club," Hightstown
Contacts: Marv Beeferman, (609) 693-9430 or L. Lowell Sibley, (908) 782-4894
- Nov. 13 DVHRC Swapmeet, Tyro Grange Hall, PA 413 & US 202, Buckingham
Contact: Mike Koste, (215) 646-6488

VOLUMES OF VOLUMES

Mike Koste

With the impending release of the third edition of Marty and Sue Bunis' Collector's Guide to Antique Radios, their new book about novelty radios and Lane's Transistor Radios: A Collector's Encyclopedia and Price Guide, you may be asking yourself "What! More books? Who needs 'em?"

Simply put, the answer is "You do" . . . and I'll tell you why. It all began a couple of months ago in a small antique shop in Charleston, West Virginia.

The moment I saw it, I knew I had to have it. "And it works great," so said the shopkeeper, a kind lady willing to negotiate. Five minutes later I was walking out the door with this latest treasure under my arm, confident I'd unearthed a real gem at a bargain-basement price.

On a one-to-ten scale, this late '30s plastic table set was an easy eight point five . . . no cracks, chips or scratches. In fact, if it had any measurable flaws, there were only two that I could see. First, the back was missing. (No big deal. Cardboard backs can be fabricated easily.) Second, and more significantly, the radio had no name. (If collecting old radios didn't come with a challenge, it wouldn't be any fun.) Nonetheless, I knew I wouldn't be able to sleep until I found out what I had. The 4-½ hour drive back to Pennsylvania was spent wondering . . . is it a Coronado? a Belmont? a Mantola? I couldn't wait to dig into the library to start researching.

Once home, the process began with a lazy thumbing through Bunis I and II and Evolution I and II, hoping to find a photo of my mystery set, or at least something that looked similar. No luck . . . no picture. The Baby Boom books were no help, since they cover only 1946-60, and I was confident this radio was older than that.

Setting the books aside for the time being, I gave the outrageously deco-curved cabinet another hard look. Although there were no visible markings on the front, bottom or back of the cabinet, perhaps the name and model were printed inside or stamped on the chassis. Removing the loop antenna, I found what I was looking for. Stamped on the chassis, though barely legible, was the word "Model," followed by an even less legible combination of letters and numbers. Below that was printed "CR&TC." Assuming that the last three letters stood for "Radio & Television Company (or Corporation), I reached for my copy of The Radio Collector's Directory & Price Guide, which contains an excellent cross reference to brand names and manufacturers . . . and there it was: Continental Radio & Television Corporation!

Continental was responsible for a number of really obscure nameplates like Fearnola, Oriole, Slagle,

Star Raider, Sunbeam, and Wondertone. Knowing I'd never find any information on these brands in the books I had, I continued the quest assuming this was one of CR&TC's big labels: Admiral.

Removing my copy of Radio: A Blast from the Past from the bookcase, the index listed a number of Admiral radios, which I checked one-by-one. Half-way through, I hit paydirt. Though most of the pictures in this book were reprinted from old trade-magazine ads, there was no question about it. Staring me in the face on page 273 was the exact radio I'd purchased earlier in the day: the Admiral Model 21A6, vintage 1940. (Even though the picture in Blast was the version in brown bakelite, they provided the number for my similar model in ivory.)

Looking back at Bunis for a ballpark value, I discovered that I'd not only added a premium set to my collection, it also sported a premium price tag.

So, what's the point? When a new edition related to our hobby is published, buy it! What's more, keep in mind that, once these books are no longer in print (some of the forementioned already are), even though some of the information may be out of date, there will be occasions, like mine, where they're the only place to find answers.

In conclusion, remember: *too much is never enough!* Please send me Made in Japan for Christmas.

TUNE IN TO RADIO LIKE IT USED TO BE

Ted Sowirka

To relive the Golden Days of Radio, listen to any of the records or tapes of preserved programs that were popular during the Thirties and Forties. These programs are entertaining, but do not really convey how radio affected our daily listening habits.

Those of you too young to have heard such programs then, and you who *do* remember, can now listen to a real radio program for two hours each week. Tune in to the American Public Radio presentation with Garrison Keillor on WHY, 90.9 MHz, Saturday evening at 6 PM (rerun on Sunday, 10 AM to noon).

Loaded with outlandish commercials and Tom Keith's sound effects, musical presentations using regular and guest talent with plenty of interesting skits and entertaining dialog, your imagination is turned on because this is skillfully done radio.

The highlight of the show is a monologue narrated by Garrison about what has happened in his pretend hometown of Lake Wobegone. Each week the stories include friends, neighbors, relatives and other inhabitants in various incidents, all fictitious of course.

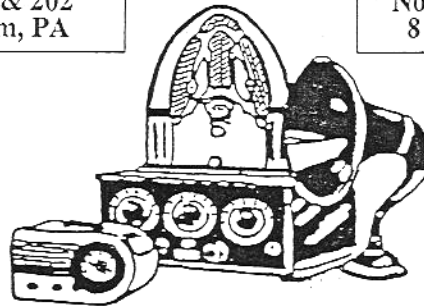
Starting in 1974 as The Prairie Home Companion, this St. Paul, Minnesota, broadcast is now in its 20th year and going strong. Turn on and listen to a couple of shows or record them for later listening. You may become a regular listener as I and many others have done. I have been recording the programs for years and have over 300 shows on cassette tape. The program material is ageless and I enjoy playing the tapes in the car as I commute to work.

To listen on your antique radio, use an FM converter fed through the phono input or of the type that has output on the AM band.

ANTIQUA RADIO SWAPMEET

TYRO GRANGE HALL
Routes 413 & 202
Buckingham, PA

Sunday
November 13th
8 AM - 1 PM



Presented by
THE DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO CLUB
PO Box 524
Lansdale, PA 19446
(215) 368-2520

For dealer registration, call (215) 483-8900, ext. 273.

RADIO MANUFACTURERS OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Ludwell Sibley

Most radio-collector clubs take great interest in the manufacturers that made sets in their areas. In the Buffalo area, the Niagara Frontier Wireless Association sets up museum displays, runs old-equipment contests, and publishes newsletter articles on local makers; the Indiana Historical Radio Society has done a lot to commemorate Indiana producers; the Antique Radio Collectors of Ohio is starting to focus on its local radio industry; and so on. For DVHRC purposes, eastern Pennsylvania shared in the burst of radio production in the mid-'20s, not just via Atwater Kent and (later) Philco, but through the usual host of smaller companies.

Here are those local companies and their tradenames, for insight or just enjoyment. Better yet, look at your radios - maybe you have an Astral or Recepton or U-Flex that would be a good topic for an article.

The list is based primarily on 1924-25 industry trade directories, although some of the larger makers are covered in today's collector literature. The firms listed were primarily manufacturers rather than distributors, although it is impossible to separate the two precisely today.

An oddity here is the scarcity of radio firms in the Lehigh Valley. One would think that this area, with its large manufacturing base, would have had more of a radio industry than the Bethlehem Radio Corp.'s crystal sets or Fleetwood's four tube models. The Allentown Works of Western Electric got into tube production only about 1948. Maybe there were companies in, say, Easton too small to get into the national media? Of course, there were young radio enthusiasts *everywhere* custom-building big superhets and neutrodyne for wealthy individuals who wanted high-performance, impressive sets.

TUBE RADIOS

Dallastown (near York)

Elgin Radio & Television Corp. (1931-32) - "Elgin"

Fleetwood

Fleetwood Radio Corp. (1932) - "Fleetwood"

Grove City

H. W. Harmon & Sons - "Harmonson"

Hughesville (near Williamsport)

Equitable Radio Corp. - "Claratone"

Kingston (near Wilkes-Barre)

Brown Radio Mfg. Co., 675 Wyoming Ave. - "Thoroboro"

General Television & Radio Corp. (1932) - "General"

Lancaster

Earnest S. Frey, 114 E. Vine St. - "Frey Deluxe" (set seen in the August 21 MAARC auction)

Philadelphia

Appleby Radio Co., 1134 S. Cecil St.

Astral Radio Corp., 1237 N. Broad St.

Atwater Kent Mfg. Co., 4700 Wissahickon Ave.*

Foreign & Domestic Commodities, Inc., 121 N. 8th St. - "Electra-Dyne"

Gled Radio Co., 1212 Arch St.

Heteroplex Mfg. Co., 423 Market St. - "Worner"

Mack Co., 1940 W. Delancey St. - "Sincroflex"

Music Master Corp., 128 N. 10th St. - "Ware**"

Norden, Hauck, and Co., 1617 Chestnut St.

Pearl Radio Corp. 1033 Race St.

Philco Radio & Television Corp., Tioga and C Sts. (1928 and later)*

Portola Radio Corp., 508 (later 440) Market St.

Quaker City Paper Box Co., 12th & Down Sts. - "Pyrodyne" (*don't let this one overheat!*)

Recepton Radio Corp., 17th & Woods Sts.

George H. Rich, 6503 N. Uber St.

Simplex Radio Co., 1013 Ridge Ave. (*SR8 model in Everyman's Guide to Radio, Vol. III, 1924*)

Star Radio Mfgs., 808 South St.

Taylor Radio Co., 1218 Chestnut St.

U-Flex Mfg. Co., 1 S. 39th St.

Waynesboro

A. J. Gardenhour, Arcade Bldg - "Gar-Shear-Dyne"

* Covered in Alan Douglas' Radio Manufacturers of the 1920s.

RADIO KITS

Philadelphia

Keystone Radio & Electric Service, 6237 Haverford Ave.

Moskowitz & Herbach, 512 Market St. (*surely a predecessor of Herbach and Rademan, famous electronic-surplus dealer of postwar years!*)

Norden, Hauck, and Co., address as above

Radiophone Equipment Co., 1409 W. York St. - "Airkore"

Wildermuth & Co., 4927 Locust St. - "Rubicon"

CRYSTAL SETS

There were *numerous* crystal-set makers in the Pittsburgh area, stimulated by the early success of KDKA, but few in eastern PA or NJ. The following makers are listed in Maurice Sievers' Crystal Clear, except Multi-Point, and trade directories.

Bethlehem

Bethlehem Radio Corp. - "Crystal-Dyne," "World"

Philadelphia

Atwater Kent, address as above

F. B. Chambers & Co., 2046 Arch St. (pre-WW I)

Eastern Specialty Co., 352 N. 5th St. - "Tesco"
 Heinemann Electric Co. - "Sensory"
 Multi-Point H. P. Co. - "Unger"
 Premier Dental Mfg. Co. - PRAMCO
 Simplex Radio Co., address as above - "Basub,"
 "Simplex"
 Snellenburgs (retailer) - "Eastern type"

HEADSETS, SPEAKERS

Germantown

Timmons Radio Products Corp., 339 E. Tulpehocken - "Timmons Talkers"+

Lebanon

North Lebanon Foundry - "Supertone"

Philadelphia

Astral, address as above+
 Atwater Kent, address as above+
 Del Marmol Radio-Phono Co., 3522 Frankford Ave.
 Dexter Metal Mfg. Co., 10 S. 18th St.+
 Music Master, address as above+
 Portola, address as above+
 Joseph A. Ryder, 1506 Green St.
 Thompson-Levering Co., 351-61 N. 57th St.
 + In Floyd Paul's Radio Horn Speaker Encyclopedia.

TUBES

Emporium

Sylvania Products. Co. (after 1931, Hygrade Sylvania)

Lansdale

Lansdale Tube Co. (later a division of Philco), Church Rd. (1928)

Philadelphia

Aberdeen Specialty Co., 1640 N. Hutchinson St. - "Sea Gull"

C. A. W. Laboratories, 608 Chestnut St. - "Nu-Tro"
 Lewis Radio Jobbers, 2326 Columbia Ave. - "Lewis" (blue glass)

Music Master, address as above

Philadelphia Radio Mfg. Co., 3040 W. Stiles St. - "Philotron" (regular and rectifier types)

Puratron Sales Co., 1026 Drexel Bldg. - "Puratron" (regular and rectifier types)

Radio Requirements Co., 5th & Market Sts. - "Thermionic" (1926)

Weatherly (near Hazleton)

Tung-Sol (satellite plant in the '50s)

All but "Philotron" are on Bro. Patrick Dowd's list of 460+ observed tradenames of 201A tubes (AWA *Old Timer's Bulletin*, Oct. 1991).

TUNERS, TUNING COILS

Drexel Hill

L. W. Goodman, 436 Forrest Ave.

Philadelphia

B. S. M. Radio Co., 29 N. 13th St.
 Foote Radio Corp., 115 N. 19th St., later 1609 Summer St. - "Coast Coil"
 Klingenhafer Bros., 125 N. 52nd. St.
 Majestic Radio Coil Mfg. Co., 713 Race St.
 Perfection Radio Mfg. Co., 24th & Race Sts.
 Royal Radio Products Co., 628 Callowhill St.
 Simplex Radio Co., address as above - "D-X"
 Syco Radio Products Corp., Drexel Bldg. - "Kelcoil"
Sharon Hill
 A. E. Ireland, 27 W. Elmwood Ave. - "Wonder"

LIGHTNING ARRESTERS

Harrisburg

D-X Instrument Co. - "Fil-Ko"


Philadelphia

Electric Service Supplies Co., 17th & Cambria Sts. - "Keystone"
 D. E. Flower, 1217 Spring Garden St.
 Heinemann Electric Co., address as above - "Sensory"
 Simplex Radio Co., address as above

CRYSTALS, CRYSTAL DETECTORS

Philadelphia

Chelton Electric Co.
 E-Z-Y Crystal Co., 521 Arch St.
 Foote Radio Corp., address as above - "F," "Variotector"
 Westville Mfg. Co., 705 Chestnut St. - "W. C."
 Pacific Radio Specialty Co., 17 S. Orianna St. - "Death Valley," "Permatect"



"Death Valley Crystals" "New Death Valley Permatect"

2 DEATH VALLEY PRODUCTS
 which increase the efficiency of all radio sets
 Death Valley Crystals Sells for 30c.
 (fixed detector) Recommended by radio engineers for
 reflex circuits.
 Death Valley Permatect Sell for \$1.25
 Entire surface is sensitive. Cannot be damaged by
 handling. Sold in sealed packages only.
 Liberal discounts allowed thru your jobber or write us direct!
PACIFIC RADIO SPECIALTY CO.
 17 So. Orianna St., Philadelphia

INFORMATION SOURCES NOT CITED ABOVE

The Radio Trade Directory (New York: McGraw-Hill, Nov. 1924 and Aug. 1925).

M. E. McMahon, Radio Collector's Guide 1921-1932, rev. ed. (Palos Verdes, CA: Vintage Radio, 1981)

G. F. J. Tyne, Saga of the Vacuum Tube (Indianapolis: Sams, 1977), pp. 351-365.

ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED

Pretty pink plastic radios for my five-year-old daughter. McIntosh tube power amps, Mercury "Living Presence" and RCA "Living Stereo" records (classical only), J. C. Penney transistor model 7TM-285-S, green Hitachi TH667, Motorola X-14, Standard SR-F25, back for Global GR-712. '50s and '60s German transistor sets, micro- and watch-type transistors, early Sonys for parts (models TR55, TR63, TR86, TR610, TR620). Two pushbutton skirts and dial indicator assembly for Silvertone 3461, Universal name tag for 8-transistor vertical model PTR-81B, Rider's Vols. 20-23. Bill Overbeck, (610) 789-8199.

Check your junk box! Desperately seeking solid plastic handle for Zenith H725 as pictured in Evolution of Radio II. Odd-ball pilot lamp, shaped like a Christmas-tree bulb w/bayonet mount for Grandma's GE model 410. Mike Koste, (215) 646-6488.

The following Toshiba transistor radios: models 6P35, 6TC485, 6TP309Y, 7TP21, 7TP30, 8TH428R, 10TLF655F, 10TM631F, Young Mate, 6TP304, 6TR186, 6TR92, 8TP90, and 3WX. Broken Toshibas for parts, any transistor literature or advertising, and 'most any transistor radio pictured in Made in Japan. Bill Overbeck, (610) 789-8199.

Radio Boys - have all the Breckinridges. Need (6) Chapmans and (3) Honeywells to complete collection. Also The Radio Girls of Roselawn and The Radio Girls on the Program. Have duplicate Chapmans to trade. Mike Koste, (215) 646-6488.

A few dead 01A, 00, 01, 01B tubes. Need only ones with good glass, base, and pins. Larry Hilgner, (215) 361-1676.

Wood radios. Evan Hestis, Rural Route 5, Box 259, Devils Lake, ND 58301.

Wood table radios, by new collector: Prewar Zenith, RCA, Grundig 5000-series, Telefunken Sonora. Chris Johnson, 5262 Eucaiyptus Hill Rd., Yorba Linda, CA 92686, (714) 779-7797.

Info on an RCA Victor, 3 bands, glass tubes, 5 knobs, wood cabinet 4" H x 24" W x 12" D. George & Joan Reed, (610) 696-9846.

FOR SALE

Auction: Sat., Oct. 15, 10:30 AM at Gateway Gallery, 643 Kriner Rd., Chambersburg, PA. Over 500 lots from the Jack Hortman collection, including radios, tubes, test gear. Catalog available in early Sept. See the Oct. Oscillator for partial list. For info, call Kay Collier, (717) 263-6512.

Westinghouse radio-phonograph combination, "1930" model WR7 (same equipment as in RCA Radiola 86); has home recording, original mic included. Also instruc-

tions and letter from factory describing how to achieve the best results when home recording. Exc. sound quality. Patrick Shannon, (215) 855-2818.

One copy radio's The Golden Age by Philip Collins. New \$14, list \$14.95. Larry Hilgner, (215) 361-1676.

RCA Radiola 17, in attractive Highboy-style floor-model cabinet. A very unusual piece, nice original finish, works fine. Dial hood missing. Patrick Shannon, (215) 855-2818.

Cathedral table radio - cabinet badly damaged but may have some good parts inside. Frank Donovan, (215) 438-2613.

Masco Concerto wall-mounted AM-FM clock radio, working. Mike Zoglio, (215) 348-4939.

Stromberg-Carlson ivory plastic, 1947, in fair condition. Theresa Capriotti, 325 Bondoville Rd., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Emerson Model 524. Lee Grewell, 1214 Balaton Circle, West Chester, PA 19380, (610) 696-4185.

Emerson table model from 1940s. Zenith table-model AM-FM from '50s. Henry A. Richards, Box 272, Lenover Hill Rd., Parkesburg, PA 19365 or (610) 857-9865 any night.

New/old tubes: 24s, 27s, up to 117Z3s; 422 Howard Sams packets, #1 up to #1836. Three-band RCA console; RTI correspondence course; TV tubes. Dick Williams, PO Box 116, Kintnersville, PA 18930, (215) 847-5231.

RCA Victor radio and record players combined, ca. 1951. Ellis H. Lawrence, 1216 W. 36th St., L. A. CA 90007.

Philco Transitone model 46-2501, ivory color. Maude L. Hensel, 1502 Stouff Rd., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Atwater Kent all-steel. Rudy Rudnicki, (215) 828-7344.

Zenith plastic-handled flip-screen display. Ken Sitkowski, 424 Chesterfield Dr., Downingtown, PA 19335, (610) 269-6272.

Misc. radio literature. John C. Coll, 403 Colonial Drive, Fostoria, OH 44830, (419) 435-0785.

Antique radios belonging to the late Kenneth Keiter. AKs, RCA Radiolas, Westinghouse, Crosley, Freed-Eisemann, Selectodyne, Cunningham, Garod Type V, Stewart-Warner, Grebe Synchrophase, Zenith, Majestic, Magnavox, Sparton, Kolster, Airline, American Bosch, General Electric, Air Castle, Silvertone, Philco, and misc. speakers. Mrs. Eileen C. Keiter, eves. only, (215) 828-2027.

Tube CBs: Pearce-Simpson Guardian, Polycomm 23, Lafayette HE-20C, Sonar model "G," Demco (Sampson) Satellite. Charles Zafonte, N1FRX, RR # 1, Box 75, Fort Kent, ME 047743, (207) 834-6273 eves.