



The Oscillator



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

The Official newsletter of the DVHRC

SUMMER 2016

KUTZTOWN XXXIV A SUCCESS

As we look summer straight in the eye, we can all reflect on another great K-town event. Again, club members pitched in with their successful programs which have been enhanced over the years. The club table area hummed with activity, beginning early Friday, with the early birds scoring on reasonably priced tubes, capacitors and of course the mighty-fine treasures of "Buy It Now". Peter's radio service table served many with the best trouble-shooting money can't buy. Radio Free Kutztown was tuned in to many a radio throughout. Many thanks to the club members who manage and assist with these programs and to Lewie, Jarret, Dave and others for organization of this event.

A bit of rain on Friday did not dampen spirits and may have kept customers under cover and in a buying mood. Friday was a good day with much sales activity. The Friday night auction did not disappoint with some nice higher-end items fetching great bids. Thanks to Pete Grave who led the marathon and kept the pace brisk along with the club runners who hoisted the items high for all to see. After the race was run, the

numbers provided proof of this successful auction. Also, special thanks to Dave, Stan and Greg for their clerking efforts.

Just Grillin made special accommodations for the weather and provided good grub for all. The Friday showers rolled back to allow a late night bonfire with the spirit of radio seen rising from the glow of those flames. For those who commuted home on Friday night, there was witness of some spectacular lightning displays to the east reported, thankfully far from our activities. Although sales activity was a bit lower Saturday, the camaraderie was never higher.

We thank John Hagman for providing an excellent pictorial review now posted on our website. Every picture tells a story and several are included below. If you have any comments on Kutztown XXXIV, please submit them to gdottor@yahoo.com.



Above: Lewie Newhard holds court in the main pavilion. Photo courtesy of John Hagman



Above: "Not so Little" Nipper looks on to activities under the big top.



Above: Peter Wieck probes for the problem.



Above: A newly introduced product, comparatively displayed to the original, is a hit!



Delaware Valley Historic
Radio Club
PO Box 5053
New Britain, PA 18901
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 25th of month prior to quarterly issue dates of April, July, October and January to the editor at 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 2nd Tuesday of each month at Telford Community Center.

DVHRC Board of Directors

President:

Jarret Brown / 610-704-0803

jpb205@lehigh.edu

Vice President:

Tom Spiegel

Adxymox62@netzero.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Dave Snellman / 267-328-8857

dsnellman@comcast.com

At Large members:

Fred Saul / 610-704-0803

fsantiqueradio@dejazzd.com



Above: Sales were brisk at the table of Wilbur Gilroy who moved many items at Ktz-XXIV.



Above: JUST GRILLIN at your service and Grande Radio Shop also at your service.



Above: Expert product display and marketing techniques used at "Buy It Now" table (or floor) with offerings on the low end and later that night testing the high end with a Western Electric double cone 560-AW speaker up for bid.



Above: Usual lineup of suspects which, after scavenged for veneer and other parts, become "spiritual" memories of the past.

MEETING OF MAY 10, 2016 The theme of our May meeting was *non-traditional cabinets*. Following are some fine examples.



Above: Stan Saeger shows off a Stewart Warner model 9008A Porto-Baradio complete with glassware and cardboard spillage barrier.



Above: Another dual purpose radio- the Automatic Tom Thumb Cameradio, front and back.



Above: Fred Saul displays Viking 599 utilizing a pressed cardboard cabinet. Lewie has researched and found it to be a Warwick chassis design.



Above: RCA AM, FM, UHF-TV, VHF-TV receiver with braille-character dial references.



Above: Chuck Azar shows us a revolutionary development in video cassettes with the first disposable cassette marketed by Philmax available for \$1.30/unit on orders of 100,000+ including program duplication and 4-color printing.

THEMES FOR UPCOMING 2016 DVHRC MEETINGS

July 12-Tailgate (7 PM)

August 9- Farm Radios

September 13-Kutztown Preparation

October 11- 1960's

Nov 8- Radio/TV Station Items

Dec 13- X-mas party

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENT

MAARC (Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club) RADIOACTIVITY 2016 and the TUBE COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATION

Annual Meet Thursday to Saturday, 6.23-25.2016. MAARC is teaming with the Tube Collectors Association (TCA) to make this year's meet even better than usual! Seminar on new developments on tube collecting by Ludwell Sibley, Ed Lyon's repair clinic, banquet talk on Wurlitzer by Dave Harris, and Auction on Saturday. The theme is *Western Electric*. Paste club link below into your browser and click on download link for detailed flyer and entry blank:

<http://www.maarc.org/>

COLD WAR RADIO AT RAF CHICKSANDS, BEDFORDSHIRE, UK

Here is a great story from a very good friend of mine who served in the US Air Force. His name happens to be Roger, a perfect name for a radio story. Here now is that story as told by Roger. ed.



Years ago, few Americans, including myself knew about the National Security Agency (NSA) and its Cold War mission. However, I was about to find out in 1970 when I enlisted in the Air Force.

Like every enlistee I was sent to Lackland AFB, TX for basic training. It was a whirlwind six

weeks of marching, classroom instruction, inoculations and following orders we did not understand. One thing that stood out was the number and types of tests I took and the strange class session where we were ordered to write down very specific directions, including local landmarks, to our home towns.

After Basic I was assigned to an Air Training Command school at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, MS where I spent 12 weeks learning to copy Morse code and abuse the keys of a manual typewriter. The training forever ruined my ability to touch-type.

Fortunately I couldn't pass the 14+ WPM requirement for advancement to the next training level of Morse code. Instead, our group of "wash outs" was sent to an Air Force Security Service school at Goodfellow AFB, Texas for something more mysterious. We spent 12 weeks in remote West Texas, training in a windowless building, not knowing the purpose of our efforts. When we asked our instructors for an explanation they told us we would find out when we arrived at our field assignments.

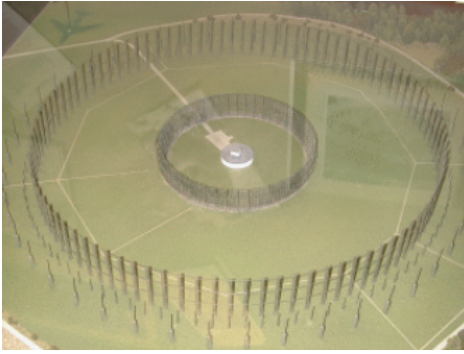
Seven from our class received assignments to Karamursel Common Defense Installation (KCDI) in Turkey. Located on the Sea of Marmara, Karamursel was a small base two hours by ferry boat from Istanbul, but light years away from the world we were accustomed to.

Our mission was intercepting wireless communications from the Soviet Union and its allies. I operated a rack of electronic equipment including four high-frequency receivers, digitizers and teletype printers. Signals were copied on teleprinters and recorded on digital tape and a backup analog tape recorder. The large antenna array used for intercepting signals and radio direction finding was called a Flare 9 high-frequency system, fondly called the "elephant cage" to mask its actual purpose.

We worked in shifts 24/7 and never adjusted to a sleep/wake pattern. My classified job description was Non-Morse Intercept Operator, which included everything except Morse code or voice. I also performed signal identification and analysis and worked with linguists on digital voice intercepts.

After my tour in Turkey I was sent to the Army Security Agency School at Ft. Devens, MA for more advanced training and then assigned to the 6950th Security Group, Air Force Security Service, at RAF Chicksands, Bedfordshire, UK. Chicksands was unique, it had no runway and was named after a 12th century priory located within the base. The elephant cage antenna system, located in a 40 acre field on the top of a hill, was quite obvious to anyone passing through the area. The receiver I

used was a Rockwell Collins R390A.



Note: An excellent feature in MAARC's Radio Age, Volume 38, September, 2013, is Ed Lyon's article entitled "HRO versus HRO", relating how this antenna was an original design by the German Luftwaffe named the "Wullenwever". It was used to detect Allied aircraft enroute from British bases to Europe. If you subscribed to Radio Age in 2013, this would be a good time to dig it out for more details. If you did not subscribe and want to find out the HRO receiver angle to this story, MAARC can send copies of this issue for a nominal fee when you request it via their website.

Roger continues: When I was discharged in February, 1974 I couldn't tell anyone what I really did in the Air Force. Unless I wanted to work for the NSA, my training and Top Secret clearance couldn't be used in civilian life and I couldn't list specific work experience in an employment application or resume. Nevertheless I found a job at Air Products and had a satisfying 30 + year career.

Today anyone can Google RAF Chick-sands and find plenty of photos of the antenna system, the priory and the base. But during the Cold War all of this information was strictly classified.



Above: Rockwell Collins R390A

If you have your own Cold War radio story, please contact the editor!

YOUR RADIO DISPLAY OR MUSEUM PIECE HERE

The Oscillator would like to show off your favorite radio displays as they appear in your residence or other public display. A digital picture to show off the radio(s) and a brief caption is all that's needed. Send your images to gdottor@yahoo.com

Speaking of museum pieces, I recently visited the Eastern Penitentiary noting that Al Capone's cell was outfitted with luxury items including a radio but the floor model seemed to be out-of-period. The story from early June that follows proves this! *ed.*

Below: The radio displayed back in April did not match Big Al's date of incarceration- 1929.



PHILADELPHIA — A sharp-eyed boy who collects antique radios is taking umbrage with the vintage radio on display inside gangster Al



Capone's cell at a historic Philadelphia prison.

Eastern State Penitentiary closed in 1971 and now operates as a museum and national historic landmark. Thirteen-year-old Joey Warchal took a tour and noticed the radio in Capone's cell was wrong.

The Prohibition-era mobster spent time at Eastern State in 1929 and 1930. The radio was made in 1942.

The seventh-grader offered to find the prison a historically accurate radio. The prison gladly accepted his help. The Philadelphia Daily News reports the teen has located

a 1929 model and will deliver it to Eastern State next week.

Joey began collecting at age 8. His mom says while most kids want toys "he wants antiques."
<http://westhawaii.com/news/wire-features/al-capone-s-radio-wrong-vintage>

Below: A sampling of Mark Hilliard's research on the local Coilton division of Polymet, Easton, PA. (requires increasing % sizing on your pdf viewer).

EASTON EXPRESS 1/4/1929 Page 1

favoritism in commutation of sen- during a night boat ride on Lake tence. Palourde.

Coilton Electric Sold; Force To Be Doubled; Output \$2,000,000

Polymet Corporation Buys Local Concern and Announces Big Program for 1929; Operating Personnel Remains

The Coilton Electric Manufacturing Company, located at Walters, north of Bushkill Park, has been sold to the Polymet Manufacturing Corporation, of New York, a Delaware corporation. The consideration involved will not be made public until the sale is formally approved at a meeting of the stockholders of the Coilton Company which will be held on February 11, next.

Otto Paschkes, president of the Polymet Corporation, the new owners announced that the plant will be known as the Coilton division of the Polymet Manufacturing Company and there will be no change in the operating personnel.

"Plans are already being drawn," Mr. Paschkes said, "to triple the size of the Coilton plant. At present 200 hands are employed, but in a short time at least 500 more will be added. The output of the plant now is about \$750,000 a month and at the end of 1929, this will be increased to over \$2,000,000 a year."

W. C. Harter, of 327 Spring Garden street, Easton, at present secretary of the Coilton, will remain as sales manager, according to Mr. Paschkes. Harry L. Sams, of 1806 Northampton street, Wilson, will remain as chief engineer, and Charles F. Hawk, of Phillipsburg, will retain his position as plant superintendent. Carl Grossman, of New York City, now connected with the Polymet Company in New York, formerly with the Ingersoll-Rand Company, in Phillipsburg, will be works manager of the Coilton plant.

The Coilton Company, which was formerly the Doyle-Dacosta Company, has been one of the community's industrial plants for 12 years. Its products are principally coils making supplies for radios, telephones, automobile ignition systems, switches, pipe organs and other electrical control appliances. The present officers are George B. Sherry, president; W. H. Sydeman, vice president; C. J. Montague, treasurer, and Mr. Harter, secretary.

The Polymet Manufacturing Corporation has a plant in New York City whose products are principally radio appliances. Associated with Mr. Paschkes in the New York plant is Nat C. Greene, general sales manager and treasurer of the corporation. Both will spend considerable time in Easton after the sale of Coilton has been approved. The New York plant employs 500 people and has a gross output of \$1,000,000. Mr. Paschkes

Coilton Electrical Manufacturing was originally Doyle-Dacosta Mfg., makers of solenoids and spark coils. One model of spark coil was called "The Bushkill". The next attachments are from Radio Engineering magazine I found on the American Radio History website. They basically are some articles about Polymet buying the Coilton Plant and making it Coilton Division of Polymet. Forecasts for increased growth and how they now have three plants manufacturing three main radio components, Condensers, coils and resistors. I particularly like the mention of the memory of the "coil situation" of 1928. — Mark Hilliard

Radio Engineering, February, 1929

POLYMET smashes the neck of the bottle



THE coil situation of 1928! Remember it, or don't you like to? It was the wrench in the spokes, the neck of the bottle for 1928 radio and speaker production.

And now Polymet, the same Polymet long famous for Polymet Condensers and Resistances, smashes the neck with a crash which will be heard throughout coil-using industries.

POLYMET MAKES COILS!

The high Quality, quick Service and absolute Dependability, long associated with Polymet Condensers and Resistances are now carried into the coil industry. The Coilton Electric Manufacturing Company of Easton, Pa., coil-makers for over eleven years, has been acquired. From this date it is a Polymet plant, under Polymet management, making Poly-Coils, to Polymet specifications.

Polymet is ready to, and can, end your coil problems, whatever they may be. Blue prints of manufacturers' requirements are especially solicited and will receive immediate attention.

POLY-COILS

every size, every type, every purpose including
 Audio Transformers, Power Transformers, Chokes, Field Coils for Dynamic Speakers.
 Polymet Manufacturing Corp.
 601 Broadway, New York

POLYMET PRODUCTS



THAT three-fold Polymet policy—Quality, Service, and Dependability—which appeals to 80% of the RCA licensees, will prove equally advantageous to you.

The Coilton Division of Polymet is a modern expansion of the oldest exclusive coil-winding plant in the electrical industry. New buildings, machinery and equipment, with close engineering supervision of production, insure an exactness of coil performance justifying the designs of engineers and the judgment of purchasing agents.

Coil specifications, submitted to Polymet, have prompt attention, careful fabrication, dependable delivery.

Coilton Division (Coil Windings exclusively)
 Easton, Pa.
 Strand & Sweet Division (Magnet Wire exclusively)
 Winsted, Conn.

Polymet Manufacturing Corporation

839-C E. 134th St. New York City

World's Largest Manufacturers of Radio Essentials

Coils • Resistors • Condensers
 Magnet Wire • Transformers
 Volume Controls

COILS FOR

Power Transformers
 Audio Transformers
 Magnetic Speakers
 Dynamic Speakers
 Speaker Filters
 Magnetic Actions
 Ignition Devices
 X-ray Apparatus
 Small Armatures
 Chokes, Horns, etc.

THREE OF A KIND



that beat everything!
 The Three New Plants of
POLYMET

(Ace of Hearts)—COILTON DIVISION, Easton, Pa., the home of Poly-Coils.
 (Ace of Spades)—NEW YORK PLANT, 829-839 East 134th St., where Polymet Condensers and Resistances are made.
 (Ace of Diamonds)—STRAND & SWEET DIVISION—Winsted, Conn.—where Polymet enameled magnet wire is manufactured.

We Preach— Quality —and Practice it.
 Service —and Practice it.
 Dependability



The Seal of good radio set essentials

POLYMET MANUFACTURING CORPORATION



Radio Engineering, February, 1929

POLYMET PURCHASES COIL PLANT

The Polymet Manufacturing Corporation announces its entrance into the coil field with the acquisition of the Coilton Electric Manufacturing Company of Easton, Pa.

The absorption, under the Polymet name of this large and well-known coil plant will undoubtedly prove of great interest to the radio, speaker, and other coil-using industries. Polymet, through this acquisition, will be even more closely tied to manufacturers and users of radio parts by adding Power Transformer Coils, Audio Transformer Coils, Transformers, Coils for Dynamics, and Power Packs to its present line of Filter Blocks, Condensers and Resistances.

The Coilton Electric Manufacturing Company's windings have been established for over eleven years, and have established a reputation for quality which has warranted their incorporation in leading radio receivers, dynamic speakers, and many other coil-using products. Under Polymet direction it is planned to increase the size of the plant by 25,000 to 30,000 square feet of floor space; fifty to a hundred new multiple-winding machines are to be added to present equipment; and the factory force is to be augmented in proportion, so that production may be kept in line with orders.

STATEMENT ON RCA-VICTOR MERCER

The recently announced unification of the Radio Corporation of America and the Victor Talking Machine Company which was approved by the respective boards of these two companies on January 4th of this year, contemplates, according to a statement just issued by J. L. Ray, Vice-President and General Sales Manager of the Radio Corporation of America, no alteration in RCA's present distributing and merchandising methods and no immediate change in the Radiola line.

Mr. Ray further states that he is very optimistic as to the benefits which will accrue to both the RCA and the Victor line of merchandise through the now unified laboratory and factory facilities of the two companies. The mutuality of interest of these two companies make this step an important milepost in their respective and now mutual progress.

Radio Engineering, July, 1929

Polymet Manufacturing Co.

N. C. Greene, vice-president of Polymet Manufacturing Corporation, announces that sales in May amounted to \$315,300 compared with \$36,475 in May of last year. This is a new high monthly sales record. Orders on hand amount to over two million dollars. The addition to the Coilton plant at Easton, Pa., will triple the output of the Coilton Division.