



OSCILLATOR

DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO CLUB

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

Vol. 4 No. 4, April 1996

ANTIQUA RADIO SWAPMEET & AUCTION SATURDAY APRIL 20th

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
Business Route 30 next to Tabas Hotel, Downingtown, PA
(Convenient to Route 202 and PA Turnpike Exit 23)
**SWAPMEET 7AM-Until
AUCTION at 10am**

Unlimited swapmeet vendor space is available at \$15 per table.
For reservations, call Dave Abramson (610) 827-9757

**FOOD & FACILITIES ON SITE. FREE PARKING,
FREE ADMISSION**

For radio auction information, call Harold Smith Auction Co.
(610) 269-1036. Catalog available.

Presented by the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club, Downingtown Farmers Market,
and Harold Smith Auction Company with the help and support of other area antique
radio organizations.

SHOW SPECIAL !!

DOWNTOWN VISITORS -

SEE PAGE 9

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.

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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: April 9, May 14

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUB

by Mike Koste

It would appear that the Spring Swapmeet is shaping up to become the most monumental event in club history. Word has already spread far beyond the Delaware Valley that Downingtown is the place to be on April 20th. Much of the anticipation is based on the array of quality pieces the Smith Auction Company will be putting on the block. (Details elsewhere in this issue). Pair the radio auction with an enthusiastic group of meet vendors, the built-in crowd of browsers the Downingtown Market regularly attracts, and a great club raffle item (an unusual Victor tombstone radio that's not an RCA), it should be a fun and profitable day for everybody. **RESERVE YOUR SWAPMEET SPACE TODAY** by calling DAVE ABRAMSON at (610) 827-9757.

The Unofficial Beginning of Antique Radio Season was ushered in by our companion club on Saturday March 16th at Hightstown Country Club. Buying, selling, and trading were going on at break-neck speed from beginning to end. Blessed with a relatively pleasant day, the volume of winter-weary radiophiles produced as many tailgaters as there were inside sellers. NJARC's TONY FLANAGAN and MARV BEEFERMAN should be commended for assembling a much needed ice-breaker for the entire East Coast radio collecting community. *[Was Elvis sighted there? Well, no, but the usual DVHRC stalwarts made their appearance, both buying and selling. For comedic purposes, BILL OVERBECK made sure that a group photo was taken with fellow club presidents TONY FLANAGAN (NJARC) and SAM CANNAN (MAARC). To avoid any super-early-bird effect, Flanagan had tried out the tactic of allowing only vendors in the building at 7 AM, then opening the place to everyone at 8:00; this seems to have been successful. - Ed.]* Interesting to note a couple of items in major abundance at the Jersey meet: communications gear (including an IP-501A, FB-7, and BC-15) and literally hundreds of transistors!

QUICK FLASHES . . . Alderfer Auctions in Hatfield, PA will be conducting an antique-radio auction on April 4th . . . sad to report the demise of *Transistor Network*, a newsletter and classified publication that simply became too overwhelming a project for founders MARTY and SUE BUNIS. Final issue next month . . . The DVHRC has obtained the new Bunis transistor book, restocked Bunis III, and still has a few copies of the Lane transistor book available. Bring your library up-to-date at the April 9th meeting at the customary club discount . . . Oscillator Editor LUDWELL SIBLEY is now partially uncast and starting to get around on a walker. Continued wishes for a speedy recovery from everyone in the club . . . Finally, we acknowledge JIM LEY of Springfield, PA; RALPH WILLIAMS of Orient, NY; and STAN LIPSKI of San Francisco, CA - the newest members of The Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club.

WELCOME TO APRIL:

RESTORATION HINTS AND "UN"CLASSIFIEDS

To replace knobs missing from a radio: if using the wrong style, be sure to use a matched set. . . **Save the glass tips** from broken tubes - with Super Glue, you can make new-style tubes look just like the real thing! . . . **Dried Jello** makes great replacement dial windows, in a variety of sparkling colors. . . **To dress up a drab Catalin:** replace the grille cloth with stained glass, and put a brightness control on the tube heaters.

Radio Contest idea: try to find an "untested" radio that works (1 to 50 entries per person).

WANTED: Emerson Mae West console. Reply by e-mail to sadie@http/www.altsex.bondage.philcos.

FOR SALE: Phono stylus-pressure gauge, reads 0-50 grams, new in box, with spare marble weights. Ideal for improving tracking on oldie phonos. C. D. Romm, 43 Victrola Terr., Camden, NJ 08967.

FOR SALE: Power your radios the old-fashioned way. \$19.95 kit includes kite, wire, key, and converter. Developed right here in Philly. Call Ben at (215) 555-2368.

NEW BOOKS: Learn Your A-B-Cs with new release Hooked on Power Supplies, and companion volume Voltage Reading Is Fundamental. Professor Radio, General Delivery, Gullible, NJ 08893.

NOVEL: Convert your RCA 100A speaker into a mantel clock. Free instructions. Send SASE to Eddie Current, Tioga & C Sts., Philadelphia.

FOR SALE: Rare Sony TR-55, \$19.95, available only with set of four AA cells at \$650 each. Victoria Secretsky, see me at next club meeting.

ON THE HORIZON

- April 4** Auction, 9 AM, Alderfer's, 501 Fairgrounds Rd., Hatfield - 600-item collection. (215) 393-3000 for details; 393-3036 for list (preview Apr. 3, 5-7 PM).
- April 20** DVHRC swapmeet at Downingtown radio auction (see below).
- April 20-21** Trenton Computer Festival, Mercer Community College, Old Trenton Rd., Trenton.
- May 5** Warminster ARC Hamfest '96, Wrightstown (details next month).
- May 18** Central PA Radio Collectors Club meet, Williamsport - Trinity Episcopal Church, 844 W. 4th St., Maynard St. freeway exit (more details next month).
- June 14-16** MAARC RADIOACTIVITY, Timonium, MD (finalized date; more next month).

THE DOWNINGTOWN AUCTION

Sat., April 20, 10:00 AM

Preview: Friday, April 19th, 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM; Sat. 20th, 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM.

Antique radios, battery, early electric, '40s and '50s table models, floor consoles, commercial, new and old meters and test equip., speakers, microphones, tubes, parts, literature, etc.

Battery sets: Federal DX-58, AK 10C BB, AK 12 BB, Westinghouse RC, Radiola III, National shortwave rec., Dayfan 5, AC Dayton XL-30 mint, Stewart-Warner Mod. 300, Eagle Neutrodyne Type B, Bosch Mod. 29, Sky Ranger crystal set.

Early Electric: Stewart-Warner Type 900, Radiola 18 on iron stand, Radiola 17, Airline SW converter, Silvertone Low-boy Mod. III.

Speakers and Horns: Magnavox M-1 horn, AK Type M horn, AK Type E, RCA Mod. 100 and 100A, Temple drum speaker, RCA speaker on stand.

Table Models: Blue Crosley Mod. 11-119-U, Philco PT-25, Emerson Catalin Mod. AU-190, Zenith 8H023 (both FM bands), Philco drop-leaf table, Airline movie-dial, Crosley book radio.

Transoceanic Types: Silvertone, Capehart, RCA; Signal Corps suitcase spy/DF receiver BC-792A. Blaupunkt Florenz, Vienna, Verona, Sultan, Olympic Opta, Mega 809-1.

Many turntables incl. Rek-O-Kut Mod. TR43H.

Cathedrals: Philco 90, Lyric; tombstones: Zenith black-dial, Grunow 660, Westinghouse WR-22, Philco 37-620 and 37-640, GE A-64.

Consoles: Sparton 867, Philco 90, Silvertone 70-71, Zenith 12H670, Spartan 1076, GE A-87, Zenith 8S563, Sparton, Radiola 17 Highboy, RCA 711V2, Stromberg-Carlson 1121 - PS, several nice cabinets.

Commercial: Hallicrafters Sky Buddy, S-38E, SX-28, REL Mod. 461-C phone-CW transmitter, Navy direction finder loop Mod. DU-1, aircraft direction finder Mod. DZ-2.

Hi-Fi: 2 large Altec horns, McIntosh record compensator Mod. D8A, Realistic tuner, Knight amp., Knight speakers.

Other: Several late '40s / early '50s TVs, loads of meters and test equip., transistor and novelty radios.

Auctioneer's Note: This is a very partial listing with hundreds of lots still to arrive! We always have 600-plus lots by saletime.

Terms: Cash or PA local check. Out of state checks with current bank letter of credit unless known to us. 10% buyer's premium.

Location: Business Rt. 30, Downingtown Marketplace, Downingtown, PA, 10 minutes from PA Turnpike Exit 23, 45 minutes from Phila. or Wilmington.

For information about this sale, future sales, and consignments, call 610-269-1036.

Catalogue available, \$5.00 by mail, \$3.00 at door.

Smith Auction Company: Harold Smith (AU-002163-L), Annette Smith (AU-002706-L), Dennis Childers (AA-002303-L)

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: Philmore #400 "Sky Rover" crystal set; NIB a plus. Emerson 790B in black, blue, or red. Frank Feczko, (201) 437-6895 (3/4-96)

FOR SALE: Thousands of DX QSL cards dating back to the 1930s - Russians, etc. 20 cents each, or less in quantity. Gene Reynolds, W3EAN, 53 Marple Rd., Havertown, PA 19041. (3-4-96)

FOR SALE: "Radio USA" mike-style radio, 16" tall, AM-FM ("Radio USA lights when mike is on), \$35. Novelty radios: red racing car, AM-FM with clock in sun roof, \$20; Simplex 1912 car, AM, \$20; 1828 locomotive, AM, \$20; Ferrari red car, AM-FM, \$25; Ferrari white or black car, \$20. Many other unusual novelty radios from '50s, '60s, etc. Prices include postage and insurance! All NIB, listed in Bunis/Breed. Richard Brill, PO Box 5367, Old Bridge, NJ 08857, (908) 679-8026; fax -8524. (3/4-96)

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. (3-4-96)


FOR SALE: 1958 Grundig model M1 SO US "Musical Instrument." AM-FM-SW lowboy console. Varied light wood cabinet has stereo phono with separate amp. for second channel. Works well, looks good. First \$20 takes it. Marty Friedman, (908) 238-1047 (eves.) (2-3-96)

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
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Souderton, PA 18964

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BOOK REVIEW

COLLECTOR'S GUIDE TO TRANSISTOR RADIOS - IDENTIFICATION AND VALUES

By Marty and Sue Bunis. 5-1/2" x 8-1/2", softbound, 320 pp., 355 color photos, no ISBN, \$16.95 + 2.00 P + H, from the authors at 32 W. Main St., Bradford, NH 03221 or the usual vendors.

This new edition of the Bunises' popular guide updates their original product. It's expanded considerably - for a buck more you get 26% more pages - and now covers about 2600 models under 438 brand names. The focus is "radios," as opposed to "novelty sets." Despite the large number of models covered, some editorial thinning was clearly necessary: for example, one Spica model is included, but Sams lists six more. The time span is the year 1 AR (*Anno Regenciae*), or 1954, to about 15 AR - or the era of US- and Japanese-made sets before both nationalities were pushed out of the market by Southeast Asian competition. A substantial addition is a wide variety of German (and East German) transistor sets, via contributions from a collector there (of course, once you add the Germans, can the British and French be far behind?). There are well over a hundred two-transistor sets of the "Boy's Radio" genre (few actually carry that name; girls are authorized to use them too). DVHRC's Bill Overbeck is cited as one of 33 contributors to the new issue. From our territory, the obvious Philcos and RCAs are there in force. But new in this edition is a little Acopian solar-powered set from Phillipsburg, NJ - Acopian being far better known for industrial power supplies.

The format is the same as in the first edition - heavier on the "identification and values" aspect than on the "collector's guide" angle. This is not a serious problem today: the "literature" of transistor collecting has matured a lot

since the first edition was begun, and there's ample collector-guide insight to be found in print today (for example, the Bunises' *Transistor Network* monthly, the introductory chapters in the Lane book *Transistor Radios*, and the six-article "Transistorland" series in the *OTB*).

In the "rare and precious" area, new versions of the Regency TR-1 are listed (clear-cased versions, or in a "Mike Todd" presentation box). However, the TR-1 has lost its Holy Grail status to the Sony TR-55. New Sonys are added: TR-72, -75, and -33. The TR-33, cited as a 1955 three-transistor earphone-only product, is so obscure as not to be even mentioned in Akio Morita's history of Sony.

Don't discard your old edition: the photos, reduced by about 70, are new and cover different sets. In adding the new brands the photo coverage of Zeniths has dropped from 27 shots to three, wiping out the Royal 500s and T-Os. Raytheon went from five pix to one. But the pictures are supplied generously despite the high cost of color printing and are of good quality. The "year" given for a set may be approximate; I bought a "1965" Spica in mid-1960. The book includes an long updated list of U. S. collector clubs.

Prices are now cited, wisely, as ranges rather than as single figures. The wild run-up of a couple of years ago seems to have moderated; some examples (for "very good" sets with restorable innards, but not with boxes or papers) are as follows:

This is in addition to a raft of less "important" sets in the single and double digits. Lest anybody get too absolutist about *any* price guide, the prices quoted from the Lane guide show that experts may differ, and that a guide is a *guide*. Defining "values" of things is a flak-prone enterprise subject to lots of variables - a fairly straightforward task on the heavily traded sets, a riskier business with all those German sets that "never" appear here. Still, these figures seem basically plausible.

To sum up, this guide offers general utility, consistent format, and good value. - LAS

LONG LEGS AND BIG HAIR

	Bunis, 1994	Bunis, 1996	Lane, 1994
Bulova 250, black	\$350	\$300-350	\$350
Bulova 250, white	350	400-450	350
Dumont [sic] 900	30	30-40	20
GE P807A	20	10-20	17
Magnavox AM-2	125	125-150	75-110
Magnavox AM-5	-	75-100	75
Raytheon 8TP-4	125	150-175	400
RCA (Victor) 7-BT-9J	200	175-200	70
Regency TR-1, red	350	400-450	550
Sony TR-55	600+	1500+	2750
Sony TR-63	300	400-500	450-750
Sony TR-84	35	30-40	60
Spica ST-600	35	40-50	75
Toshiba 5TR-193	200	350-400	200
Zenith Royal 500D	75	65-75	60
Zenith Royal 1000D T-O	100	75-100	150
Zenith Royal 3000 T-O	145	100-125	135

BARBIE RADIO AT AUCTION

"A Vanity Fair Transistor Barbie Radio with case, dated 1962, brought heated bidding and sold for a top bid of \$1,500." - *The Auction News*, Missouri Auction School, March 1996, describing an auction of Barbie doll paraphernalia held in Columbus, Ohio.

NEW TIMES

EIMAC DIVESTED

Ever since the mid-'60s, the classic transmitting-tube maker Eitel-McCullough (Eimac) has been a part of Varian Associates, which itself was formed 50 or so years ago to make the klystron tube invented by the Varian brothers. Eimac even took over the Machlett line of transmitting tubes a few years ago when Raytheon disposed of its holdings in Machlett Laboratories. Now comes word that Eimac and Varian's tube operation are divisions of Communications & Power Industries. Result: Varian may have started out making tubes, but it doesn't anymore!

CLUB NEWS

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

American collector clubs seem to run long on arm-waving and short on formal codes when it comes to the ethics of their members. AWA has an obscure provision in its by-laws to the effect that a member can be thrown out for willfully misrepresenting the age, etc., of an item in trade. (This, I believe, in honor of some fake Audions offered from the New York area a few years ago.) Various clubs try to restrain their members' natural tendency to make early deals at flea markets - witness Tony Flanagan's "clear the hall before 8:00" approach at Hightstown, or the Carolinas AWA chapter with its disciplined approach to an opening time. But, as far as I know, no U. S. club has an explicit policy like that of the British Vintage Wireless Society. Here's how they put it:

The BVWS Code

It is a condition of membership of the British Vintage Wireless Society that members support our objectives in a spirit of mutual co-operation and observe the code set out below. Our objectives are to encourage the preser-

vation and communication of technical and historical data, and to preserve or restore vintage equipment.

Membership of the Society must not be exploited for purely commercial advantage. Similarly, members must take care not to knowingly misrepresent or allow misunderstanding of authenticity, condition or age of item offered in a transaction. Members must observe the Society's rules relating to the conduct of meetings and auctions, as advertised in connection with specific events. In particular, ad hoc transactions prior to official opening of a meeting, or withdrawal of catalogued auction items in favour of a private deal, are not acceptable.

Finally, members must not compromise the good standing of the Society by associating it with any dishonest or unethical activity.

Perhaps something like this would be appropriate for use here. - LAS

CHANNEL MASTER 9745: AN ELECTRIC TRAIN!

Channel Master is a familiar name from the early '60s: a vendor of TV antennas, distributor of a line of replacement tubes made by others but packaged in a distinctive blue-and-white carton design, and importer of Japanese-made transistor radios under its own name. These models were generally numbered in the range 6201 to 6647. Channel Master even distributed CB radios and TV sets for a time.

There is, however, a "Channel Master" set that is of interest, not to radio enthusiasts but to collectors of "tinplate" electric trains. This is a custom-packaged train made by the Lionel Corporation and labeled, in the distinctive script used by Channel Master, "Channel Master Promotion No. 9745." There are actually four slightly varying versions of this 1960-vintage set. One includes a No. 243 steam locomotive, 1130T streamlined tender, 6162 gondola, 3376 "operating" giraffe-transport car, 6812 track-maintenance car, 3512 fireman-and-ladder car, and 6017 caboose. Lionel enthusiasts will recognize the locomotive as relatively "blah," but some of the cars as rather collectible. This reflects Lionel's practice of using low-priced special sets to clear out low-runner or obsolete factory inventory.

The set includes accessories, among them a plastic model billboard reading "Channel Master/Working Wonders in Sight and Sound/Antennas - Radios - Hi-Fi - Tubes."

The Channel Master sets are described and pictured in the collector guide Greenberg's Guide to Lionel Trains 1945-61, Vol. IV, Uncataloged Sets (by P. V. Ambrose and J. P. Algozzini, 1992; now distributed by the venerable Kalmbach Publishing Co. of Milwaukee). Among the collectors of the more rarified Lionel sets, these sets are rather valuable *if complete with the original packing box* - the book cites values of \$425 if "very good" and \$800 if "like new." This is quite a bit more than expected for, say, a Channel Master radio within "our" hobby. - LAS



more than expected for, say, a Channel

AIRWAVES

"This Month in Radio History"



TIMELINE

Compiled by Mike Koste

1912, April 14 The sinking of the SS Titanic proves the value of wireless at sea.

1929, April WPEN, Phila., signs on, now on 950 kHz with 5 kW, directional at night.

1930, April 30 WRAK, Williamsport, signs on, now on 1400 kHz with 1 kW day, 250 W directional nights.

1932, April 29 Premiere of history's longest running radio soap opera, "One Man's Family."

1932, April 1 WFLA and WSUN, Clearwater, Florida, install the country's first directional AM broadcast antenna system.

1936, April 1 CBS buys KNX, Los Angeles for \$1.3M, the biggest station deal to date.

1941, April 1 Premiere of the long running comedy "Duffy's Tavern."

1941, April 8 Earle Graser, radio's "Lone Ranger," killed in an auto wreck. (For a period of several broadcasts, the Ranger was supposedly very ill and wasn't heard except for heavy breathing. After sufficient time had passed, Brace Beemer, the show's narrator, assumed the role through the final broadcast in 1954.)

1942, April 20 WMMR, Phila., signs on, now on 93.3

MHz with 29 kW ERP @ 670'.

1945, April 16 Radio voluntarily suspends all commercial announcements during coverage of FDR's funeral.

1946, April 11 50 years ago: Official "release date" of the first Photofact set from the new Howard W. Sams Co. of Indianapolis. Full details coming up in *Radio Age* this month (1996!).

1947, April 7 A. C. Nielsen reports that 93% of all US homes have radio and listen for a total of 150.8 mil-

lion hours a day.

1956, April 23 Ampex Corporation's new video tape recorder steals the show at the NARTB Convention in Chicago.

1957, April WXPB, Phila. signs on, now on 88.9 MHz with 1.9 kW @ 280'.

1958, April 14 Television is now in 83% of American homes.

1961, April 3 Inventor, industrialist and radio manufacturer Powel Crosley Jr. dies at age 74.

TUBE SCOOP FOR INSIDERS, PART II

INVASION OF THE SCHLOCKERS

Marv Beeferman's *Jersey Broadcaster* recently printed the complaint, obviously originated by RCA, in a Federal Trade Commission proceeding of 1949, Docket 5725. The Continental Radio Tube Co. of Chicago (AKA Concert Master and the Premier Radio Tube Co.) was accused as follows:

In the course and conduct of their business as aforesaid, and in promoting the sale of their products, the respondents have engaged in various deceptive and misleading practices. Among those practices, respondents purchase radio tubes from various sources, remove therefrom the identification number or symbol placed on the tubes by the manufacturer thereof, and substitute . . . another . . . signifying a more expensive tube or a tube of current manufacture. Respondents purchase

war surplus tubes, buff away the service marking thereon, and substitute therefor a commercial or symbol, and stamp thereon the legend "Made in U. S. A., CC." The cartons in which respondents package their aforesaid tubes for shipment to the purchasers thereof, are marked . . . "Licensed by Radio Corporation of America," or "Licensed by RCA," [although] never licensed by the Radio Corporation of America.

Sylvania, as a "stuckee" for dud tubes returned for replacement under fake guarantee dates, ran a campaign to suppress the backstreet operators in the '50s via the *Sylvania News*. Its efforts included the offer of a \$1000 award "for arrest and conviction . . ." It printed a photo of a crushing machine in the Emporium plant where returned tubes were eliminated. The Jan. 1955 issue proudly reported that the Rackets Division of the Brooklyn District Attorney's office had busted a rebranding operation. It was said to be selling tubes locally and by national advertising and to have taken in a couple of million bucks in today's dollars. In April, the *Sylvania News* trumpeted:

Two Convicted of T-V-Tube Counterfeiting in N. Y.

Radio and television tube counterfeiters were dealt their heaviest blow recently, when Barrack Electronics Co., 2612 Nostrand Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. and two officers were convicted in Brooklyn Special Sessions Court of violating the provisions of Section 2354 of the New York State Penal Law which make the counterfeiting of trade marks illegal.

The company and the individual defendants, Isidore Barrack, 31, and Bernard Wasserman, 30, who conducted Barrack Electronics, were found to have washed the trade marks and warranty codes from receiving tubes of well known manufacture and, after testing the tubes, to have rebranded them with both their own trade marks and [those] of large tube manufacturers.

Sylvania offered some interesting hints for identifying suspicious tubes in the Sept. 1955 *News*. To quote:

[H]ere are five ways in which to find out if the tubes are unused:

1. Turn on your tube tester, make the correct settings for one of the "bargain" tubes, insert the tube in the socket and immediately depress the "Merit" button. In this way you will have a picture of the emission as it builds up. If the tube is not brand new, the swing of the needle will be erratic. It will swing up rapidly, then hesitate at one or several points, then continue moving up again. If you want a comparison, try a brand new tube. You will see that the deflection with the old tube is irregular by comparison. That is because the cathode has been damaged; as the temperature increases, additional areas are activated.

2. Look for the presence of particles in the glass envelope. If

At the same time, they affixed codes indicating current warranty dates.

Barrack and Wasserman were continued free in \$5000 bail each for sentencing April 29. The maximum penalty is a year in prison, a \$500 fine, or both.

In an 11-count information which had been handed up by the Brooklyn rackets grand jury, the defendants were charged with buying used tubes for five to 25 cents, rebranding them with the counterfeit trade marks, and selling them for up to \$3.

This is the first such conviction *Sylvania News* has recorded. It is featuring the case because it believes wide publicity is one effective method of eradicating the tube counterfeiting racket.

a counterfeiter "reprocesses" parts of the tube, elements are often flaked off.

3. Look for a burned mica spacer. This quite commonly results from the heating of the glass envelope to remove "burn" marks of an old tube. To recognize burned mica, check the appearance of a new, undamaged mica in a brand new tube.

4. Discolored pins are a good tip-off that the tube is not brand new. There is no reason for the pins of a brand new tube to show signs of wear.

5. If the tube designation is barely legible, and you are supposedly buying an unused tube, you should immediately become suspicious. The only reason for faded print is constant use.

I've seen the lumpy rise of emission, per Test No. 1 above, on oldie tubes. Of course, if the tester reading eventually stabilizes in the "good" area, and the tube isn't gassy, it's probably still usable. And the comment about clear markings is valid, except that several insertions and removals from a tight carton often scrape long streaks off the ID markings of a new-old-stock tube. Today, with radio restorers running on yesterday's leftovers, there's little opportunity to be prissy about tubes.

Of course, it's hard to tell how much of the anti-counterfeiter campaign was just posturing. If the tube makers had really been in a bind over rebranding, they could have made *all* their original marks as durable as etched tube numbers. They went the other way, often marking a tube with an indelible brand name, and washable type numbers and date code - a gift to the rebranders, and the curse of miniature tubes today.

But nothing changes. The tube-audio world is currently on the alert because the market for their prized Telefunken 12AX7 is under attack by Eastern European tubes that someone has rebranded "Telefunken." And the semiconductor business has its own gray market, in which stolen or otherwise suspicious 486 processor chips and the like get rebranded and sold as legitimate product. Meanwhile, does anyone need 10,000 4JC6s, new-old-stock, in the maker's bulk packs? They're in an active collector's basement, leftovers from a stock buyout! Any takers? - LAS

OSCILLATOR NEWS FLASH

MAGNETIC DETECTOR SOLD

We have late news from a, um, field agent of the sale of another Marconi magnetic detector. One heard-of previously, sold by an East Coast collector, went for about \$9500. Then the Ford Museum auction last year had two more. One, less lid, went for \$11,000; the other, in exceptionally fine condition (refinished but with beveled-glass lid) sold for \$25,500. Now there's news of a West Coast collector disposing of his, in not-exemplary shape, for \$8000.

TUBE SCOOP

THE WLS TUBES

The latest issue of the *Arizona Antique Radio Club News* has an interesting story by Dennis Craft on "WLS" tubes - those now-rare house-brand tubes that Sears sold in the late '20s. Sears Roebuck, the "World's Largest Store," owned WLS Radio in Chicago, and apparently decided to promote tube sales with the name.

WLS tubes are quite scarce around here. DVHRC territory contains tube-making sites like Lansdale, and is surrounded by Emporium (Sylvania) and Newark-Bloomfield-Harrison (GE, RCA, Westinghouse, "everybody else"), so Sears must have had a far bigger market share away from the East Coast - and all I've ever seen was the WLS UX-201A. Yet the article has a fine photo of four different WLS types collected together.

Author Craft researched '20s Sears catalogs at the main library in Phoenix. It seems that the company originally sold the usual RCA and Cunningham tubes. But with the Fall '25 catalog came a UV-201A-oid, brass-based, marked only with "WLS," and catalogued as 57D2964. The next Spring, the tube had become bakelite-based and catalogued 57E2964, amid the RCA and Cunningham types. In the Fall 1926 catalog, a "WLS Power Tube" 57F2977 appeared, seemingly an equivalent of the UX-171, and the previous UV-201A equivalent was replaced by a UX-based one, 57F2976. There was also a low-priced "Solartron" tube.

A year later, RCA and Cunningham were gone, in favor of a full line of WLS offerings, some of them numbered semi-conventionally as WLS 512 and WLS 571.

In the Fall of 1928, the "29xx" numbers became "46xx." There was a "WLS Multivalve" (57N4613) used in a one-tube set they were selling - this sounds a lot like the Emerson/Cleartron Multivalve, a triple-triode popularized in 1927 or so. The following Spring, among other new types was the "WLS Shielded Grid Tube": a four-pin, top-cap tetrode with 3.3-V, 1/8-A filament sounding like RCA's UX-222.

On the rare occasion when one of these tubes turns up, its only identification is "WLS" plus the four-digit number. Since many of these tubes look alike, Craft provides a handy table, adapted on the right. This gives the industry equivalent and hints at the vintage of the tube. These WLS specials didn't last long; by the mid-'30s tubes came from Sears under the "Silvertone" brand.

Sears Cat. No.	RCA (etc.) No.	First Catalog
2950	UX-200	Fall 1927
2951	UV-199	Fall 1927
2952	UX-199	Fall 1927
2953	CX-12	Fall 1927
2964	UV-201A Brass	Fall 1925
2964	UV-201A Bklt	Spring 1926
2968 / WLS 571	UX-171	Fall 1927
2969 Hi-Mu	*	Fall 1927
2976	UX-201A	Fall 1926
2977 / WLS 512	UV-112	Fall 1926
4600	UX-201A	Fall 1928
4602	UX-200	Fall 1928
4603	UY-224	
4610	UV-199	Fall 1928
4611	UX-199	Fall 1928
4612	CX-12	Fall 1928
4613	Multi-Valve	Fall 1928
4615	UX-112	Fall 1928
4616	UX-171	Fall 1928
4617 / WLS 550	UX-250	Fall 1928
4618 / WLS 510	UX-210	Spring 1929
4619 / WLS 581	UX-281	Spring 1929
4620 / WLS 580	UX-280	Fall 1928
4621	Raytheon BH	Fall 1928
4630 / WLS 526	UX-226	Fall 1928
4631 / WLS 527	UY-227	Fall 1928
WLS Shielded Grid	@	Spring 1929
* Probably UX-240. @ Probably UX-222.		

"SHOW SPECIAL"

Epecially for Downingtown meet visitors

Here's hoping you enjoy your visit to the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club's Spring Swapmeet and Flea Market. A look around at the variety of old radios and related apparatus for sale, and offered in the auction, shows the diversity of our members' collecting interests.

This special edition of the monthly *Oscillator* will familiarize you with who we are and what we do.

Founded in 1992, the DVHRC now has 100+ members, not only in the Philadelphia metropolitan area, but extending to the Lehigh Valley, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and New York (not to mention California and Japan!).

Membership is open to anyone with a passion for vintage radios. Annual dues is \$10, entitling you to the *Oscillator* to keep up-to-date on activities of the DVHRC and neighboring clubs. Classified-ad space is free to all members. Your dues helps pay postage and other basic club expenses. Contributions to the newsletter - stories, "lessons learned," reports on distant meets attended, etc. - are always welcome.

MEETINGS are conducted the second Tuesday of every month, except July, at 7:30 PM at North Penn Amusements, 117 Main St. (Route 113) in Souderton, PA. Next meetings: April 9, **May 14**. Attenders are welcome to "show and tell," and take part in informal "tech talks." Meetings feature renovation/restoration seminars, troubleshooting demos, and networking with other members. Whether you're a veteran antique radiophile, or are new to the hobby, DVHRC meetings are interesting, informative, and fun. Meetings conclude with an auction of all kinds of old radios, parts, paper, tubes, and test gear. The club collects a 10% commission from sellers on all auction sales, or a flat \$5 for items over \$50. To keep up with what's hot and what's not, auction highlights are listed in the *Oscillator*.

SWAPMEETS are held twice a year. They are the ideal time to "thin out," pick up a bargain, or track down that hard-to-find part for an unfinished project. The club performs a total restoration of an antique radio for raffling. DVHRC swapmeets have become highly anticipated events among East Coast antique-radio enthusiasts, attracting sellers and visitors from as far away as Ohio.

If you'd like to become a member and be added to our mailing list, see the representative at the DVHRC table before leaving today, or simply join us for the next meeting. For more information, contact DVHRC secretary Mike Koste, PO Box 41031, Philadelphia, PA 19127-0031, or call (215) 646-6488.

RADIO COLLECTING IN GENERAL

Antique-radio enthusiasts enjoy a variety of topic areas. In terms of home radios, major specialties are:

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| • '20s battery-operated sets | • '20s-'30s sets - cathedrals, tombstones, consoles | • Transistor radios |
| • '30s-'60s bakelite- and plastic-cased sets | • '30s-'40s Catalin and deco-styled sets | • Novelty sets |

Smaller but important specialties are:

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| • '20s loudspeakers | • Vacuum tubes and their cartons | • Microphones |
| • Television sets | • Communications transmitters and receivers | • Military radios |
| • "Wireless" (spark-vintage) equipment | • Telegraph equipment and keys | • Literature |
| | • Tube-based audio equipment | |

As with any antique-collecting hobby (old cars, trains, toys, etc), there is a regular network of publications, parts sources, and museums. There are also yearly national meets covering several days.

PUBLICATIONS. The biggest magazine in this field is *Antique Radio Classified* (A. R. C.), which appears monthly. It provides over 100 pages of articles, news of upcoming events, reports of past events, buy-and-sell ads, and display advertising for services and literature. Subscription: \$36.95 per year by second-class mail, from PO Box 2, Carlisle, MA 01741, 508-371-0512. Sample copy, free on request.

There is a whole spectrum of books in print on antique radios - histories, price guides, reproductions of makers' catalogs, restoration information, etc. Specific items are available from A. R. C. and its advertisers, and from Antique Electronic Supply (see below). DVHRC makes selected books available at discount prices.

TUBES and PARTS. DVHRC members operate a club tube program, which offers tested, boxed tubes at meetings at highly affordable prices. The largest commercial supplier of new tubes, capacitors, grille cloth, books, and other necessities is Antique Electronic Supply, 6221 S. Maple Ave, Tempe, AZ 85283, 602-820-5411. Their catalog runs to 36 pages, and their service is speedy. Another established source for tubes is Electron Tube Enterprises, Box 8311, Essex, VT 05451, 802-879-0611. Their 12-page catalog is 100% tubes.

REPAIR INFORMATION. Servicing information is obtainable on almost any radio. It is available in "Rider's binders"

covering 1925-52 sets, and in "Sams' Photofacts" on 1946 and later receivers. Several DVHRC members have this information and can xerocopy it; also, suppliers of copies advertise in A. R. C. Reproductions of two useful books - the Official Radio Service Manual, 1930, and Most Often Needed 1926-1938 Radio Diagrams - are available from A. R. C. and other booksellers.

MUSEUMS. Several museums within driving range focus on the history of communications-electronics.

The **Historical Electronics Museum** outside Baltimore covers mainly military electronics, especially radars, made by its sponsor Westinghouse. However, it has a general section dealing with home radios, phonos, etc. It is open year-around, weekdays plus the first Saturday of the month, at West Nursery & Elkridge Landing Rds. (next to BWI Marriott), Linthicum, MD 21090. Contact number: 410-765-3803.

The **U. S. Army Communications-Electronics Museum** at Ft. Monmouth, NJ (near Red Bank) has good displays of radio, telephone, telegraph, radar, and other equipment ranging from the Civil War to the Gulf War. It includes captured "enemy" gear. It is located in Kaplan Hall (Bldg. 275), and is open Monday-Thursday, 12:00-4:00. Contact number: 908-532-2445.

The **Antique Wireless Association Museum** at Bloomfield, NY (off US 20 south of Rochester) offers fine displays of early "wireless" stations, home entertainment radios-phonos-TVs, telegraph keys and other gear, broadcasting equipment, amateur-radio material, etc. It is open May through October, Sunday afternoons; with added openings, June through August, on Wednesday evenings. Contact number: 716-657-7489.

The **National Museum of American History**, part of the Smithsonian in Washington, offers a huge "Information Age" exhibit. It is a superbly presented display of communications and its effect on society, including, of course, heavy representation of radio. It is open seven days a week, year-round. Contact number: 202-357-2700.

NATIONAL EVENTS. Four annual multi-day events are: the Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club "RADIOACTIVITY" (Baltimore area, June), the Antique Radio Club of Illinois "Radiofest" (Elgin, Illinois, August), the Antique Wireless Association conference (Rochester, September) and the AWA Carolinas Chapter annual Spring meet (Charlotte area, late March). Details on these are available through A. R. C. or the *Oscillator*.

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