

SOUND WAVES

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VRPS Spring 2021

From the President



Spring is finally arrived....I hardly ever point that out because it leads to summer here in Texas, which is always hot at best and really hot at worst. I reference spring this time because it brings the promise that the freezing -2 degrees of only a month ago are surely behind us...I have never been sooooo cold. But, we fared better than some of our neighbors. At least we had electricity...well most of the time. Moving on... even with the states lifting of some of the restrictions on large group gatherings, our normal meeting facilities in Irving is controlled by the city, not the state. Thus, nothing has really changed regarding our

ability to hold meetings in Irving. We will keep you informed...fingers are crossed that we will all return to what we use to think of as normal...soon.

In the meantime, we have not missed gathering around the computer screens for our monthly meetings. Thanks to Zoom technology, we can still actually continue to see our friends. In fact, we get to see those that we would normally not see because of the travel distance required to make a monthly meeting. Elsewhere in this issue we will see write-ups on the topics and collector homes we have visited. Really pretty neat if you think about it. We are still moving forward with plans to have an annual convention in November. Let's hope our plans come to fruition.

I close this letter with a note of sadness. Last evening, I received word that Ron Daniel's wife, Dee, passed away on March 21st. Dee was a fixture at the VRPS for more than 20 years as she and Ron manned the registration table for our annual convention. They had the process, from mailout to banquet tickets, down to a science. It was a sad day when I was told that Dee would be stepping down because of health reasons. Sadder still when I learned of her passing.

Additionally, I received a call from Julia Sweet, wife of longtime member Royce Sweet, that Royce has been placed on hospice. What they thought was a continuation of his recurring heart issues turned out to be brain cancer. Doctors give him only a short time. For both the Sweet and the Daniel families, we mourn their loss and pending loss, and we offer our prayers.

See you on Zoom and good collecting.

--Jim

Notes from the January 16, 2021 Meeting

The video of this ZOOM club meeting is posted on our club website. Jim Sargent looked on his computer screen to check to see who was logged on and to greet everyone. Howard Stone had come back down to Texas from his stay in Minnesota in order to get away from the typical cold winter up there. Ironically he brought very cold weather with him down to Texas. There were attendees from far and wide – a nice benefit of using ZOOM for a virtual meeting. Jim said that the city of Irving is still not ready to open up venues for meetings, and they have no idea when it will happen. Jim also invited members to consider showing their collections on a club ZOOM meeting. It gives us an opportunity to show off collections that we might otherwise never see. This meeting was a really good example. He said that we are committed for our next convention starting on Saturday, November 20th at the Plano Comfort Inn and Suites. Same theme - history of broadcasting

Jim introduced Bob Diggs as the first of two members who showed their collections. Bob started by telling us how he got interested in collecting radios and related items. His collecting history includes building bigger and bigger houses to accommodate what is truly a radio museum. In 1975 he came across an AK40 house and decided he should have at least one antique radio, since he is an Electronics Engineer. That "one" radio grabbed his interest, and was followed with an AK55 Kiel table that has been the centerpiece of his collection. He showed us the table, which occupies a prominent spot in the so-called "public space" in his house (not in a "radio-room"). These first items led to hundreds more and a great hobby and collection. As his collection grew, he built a new house with a "radio-room", followed by houses with more and more radio rooms. He has a very large (massive?) collection. Bob gave us a tour of several rooms devoted to radio and radio-related items. His collection is mostly limited to earlier sets (prior to the '50's). He started out by showing us a "Wincharger" windmill/generator (also branded Wincharger-Zenith) – first made to produce 6 volts DC for radios and later for 32 volt lights and radios. He bought it at an earlier VRPS convention. There is a set of red drapes (store window?) with the RCA logo in their "public space". Bob has installed many shelves to hold his collection for good viewing and access. They are similar to what is found in libraries. Following are examples of items in various categories:

Crystal sets -- Many simple early ones, some branded ones (same set with various brand names); many novelty giveaways; British sets; parts for sets - such as coils, crystals and detector units; sets that look like books; Philmore models, along with their boxes with color graphics. Bob is especially proud of his "Mother's Oats set with its original shipping box.

Horn speakers – many horn speakers, largely Magnavox.

Early battery sets -- (a big portion of his collection), including: DeForest, Kennedy, Kolster, Grebe, Crosley sets and parts; Michigan, RCA and many other lesser-known and rare brands. Tube-type amplifier units for use with battery sets. A 1918 WWI Aircraft radio in its box - and a receiver for it.

Accessories – microphones, antenna outfits, antenna tuners, test meters, and advertising materials, including sets of playing cards given out by radio manufacturers.

Tubes – branded tubes, mostly in boxes; very early tubes, including tubular Audions; many that were sold by stores with their own trade names applied.

Service manuals – All riders volumes, many Sams folders and Gernsbach publications.

Atwater Kent items - Almost all of the AK breadboard sets; AK automotive parts, including a distributor cap and an ignition coil; Many AK battery sets, as well as their AC sets.

Jim introduced Larry Lindsey for his presentation to our group. Larry is sometimes called "Mr. Console" because his large collection is mostly console radios. He started building his collection only 8 years ago. He enjoys the cabinet work and technical features. Many of them are like beautiful pieces of furniture that just happen to be radios. He said that about 85% of his radios are in good working condition. Larry had taken a series of photos of his sets with placards showing details such as brand, model number, cost new and equivalent cost today. He showed us his series of photos using his computer to display them by sharing his computer screen on the ZOOM system. Larry showed us photos of the following console radios:

- A 1936 Scott, 23-tube console - made with a very rare Tamo wood, having a beautiful grain pattern.

>>>Notes from the Jan 16, 2021 Meeting (cont.)

- A 1938 Scott Philharmonic console -30 tubes, 2 eye-tubes, and a beam-of-light pointer.
- A 1932 Scott console purchased from member Kenny Black with a Tasman cabinet. Zapped the power transformer with high voltage to fix it.
- A Scott 23-tube All-wave, bottom-of-the-line console.
- A Scott console with a "Tasman" cabinet. Larry discussed his use of round mirrors on top of makeshift tube covers - it makes the radio look better, even though not correct.
- A Scott All-wave 23-tube console- he had to reproduce the curved wood decorative pieces on the cabinet. He discussed his method of creating them.
- A high-end 1941 Philco console with remote control (from Cherryholmes collection).
- A 1940 24-tube Scott Phantom Deluxe all-wave console with phonograph.
- A 1937 RCA 812K.
- A 1929 Amrad (American Radio) console, which was already in working condition.
- A Zenith 1930 Model 89 console – Larry paid \$100 for it. It sold originally for \$250 dollars (\$2,835 in today's money).
- AK 1932 Model 188 Door open, door closed.
- A Huge Radiola 32 desk-type superhet, which cost \$895 new (\$11,701 in today's money) - thumb-wheel tuning, another thumb-wheel for rotating the built-in antenna.
- A 1941 Philco 1941 console with covered slanted panel - pushbuttons Repaired with epoxy.
- A 1939 Silvertone console model 6437-A - "Magic Eye Tuning", plastic bezel warped, small crack.
- A 1935 Grunow.
- A 1933 Zenith model 760 – one leg was missing, had to make a new leg
- A 1928 Balkeit console.
- A 1925 Kiel table, acquired from Eric Kirst in trade for helping Eric to restore an antique automobile. The table was originally from Cleo Cherryholmes' collection.
- A 1926 RCA Radiola 28 console with a speaker unit beside it.
- A big battery- type Federal radio on a table, having its antenna inside a large door on one side (Repaired by Mike Grimes and Dave Seymour).
- A floor model RCA Victor phonograph from England.
- An RCA 1938 Model 260.
- Following are mostly-table-top radios, and some phonographs:
- 1027 RCA Radiola 18 with electric phonograph (no crank) - some of this model had a crank.
- A 1928 Radiola 28 with loop antenna on top; a Dulcetto (Italian?) phonograph - Broken spring.
- A Grunow table model radio that was pictured in a photo of an early service station in Fort Worth. It was on a shelf outside (but sheltered).
- A Grunow table model radio – the Shirley Temple model; a 1925 Grebe Synchrophase - chain-drive tuning - sold originally for \$155, battery powered.
- A 1929 Kolster type 6-J; a 1929 Bremmer-Tulley 1929 Model 81 \$164 new (1800 today); a 1924 Freed -Eismann NR-5 battery set; a 1927 Crosley 5-50 battery set; a 1925 Freshman Masterpiece battery set.
- A 1926 Kolster model 6D; a 1927 Arborphone "Grand" battery set; a 1930 Majestic Model 50 - a very heavy early AC set.
- A 1932 Clarion G-470 AC set; a 1925 Federal Model A10 early battery set; a 1924 Rico-Dyne battery set.

>>>Notes from the Jan 16, 2021 Meeting (cont.)

- A 1925 Radiola 25 with loop antenna; a 1926 Freed-Eismann with loop antenna; a Majestic Model 20.
- A 1935 (?) Coronado Model 780; a 1925 Freed Eismann; a 1928 Radiola 60.
- Larry's only antique TV is A 1949 Emerson.

Authors Note: As I was growing up in the late 40's, I did a lot of tinkering with radios from the 20's and 30's that were handed down to me because they had quit playing or become obsolete. I fixed radios for relatives and friends of my mother and dad, including a lot of car radios. I worked at the bench in a radio/TV shop. I became an Electrical Engineer, and during my career, I didn't "tinker" with electronic stuff at home very much, because I was doing that at work every day. My major hobby has been restoring antique clocks, instead. One day I was in an antique mall and there was a nice one-tube home-brew radio on the shelf. I raised its lid and looked inside. The nostalgic feeling I got was overwhelming, so I had to buy it and "bring it back to life." I still like the early (pre-AC) sets best. Growing up, we visited friends at their Indiana farm where they had a 32 Volt windmill-charger, radio, some lighting and a 32 Volt cream-separator.

Bill McKeown

Notes from the February 20 , 2021 Meeting

The video of this ZOOM club meeting is posted on our club website under "events". Club president Jim Sargent opened our ZOOM meeting and named two members to be giving us tours of their collections." Again, there was good, widespread attendance. The two presenters were: Aubrey Brickhouse , Temple TX and Charlie Wright, Saint Joseph, MO. Jim introduced Aubrey, who began his Power-Point presentation.

Presenter Aubrey Brickhouse

First Aubrey told us about some of his background, which was very "electronic". In the USAF he repaired radios, radars, radar altimeters - and thus gained experience in electronic repair and restorations. He also worked for NCR and ran marketing for TI. He has been a member since about 1995, and is a ham (he showed us his "ham shack"). He is also an avid astrophotographer. His wife loves old radios, too, so he can keep the best radios and

integrate them into the home furnishings. Aubrey buys and sells radios, upgrading and keeping the best ones. He showed us a large number of table model tombstone and cathedral radios in his collection, as well as the following examples:

- A Zenith 6S-52 multi-band console; a GE J62 and a large Zenith model 10H20Z radio-phonograph console.
- Several Philco radios, including the "Bing Crosby" record player with a drawer where you insert the record.
- An AK model 70 (first AC console), and a model 71 having shadow tuning. (A Zenith "boomerang" table model sits on the AK 70).
- A high-end 1904 Victor model M table model with "morning-glory" horn – the oldest object in his collection. It cost \$35.00 new.
- A 1939 Stewart Warner model 01664G having a green chassis. With the doors closed, it looks like a nice piece of furniture in the form of a round table.
- His "pride-and-joy" floor-model Victor XVI phonograph – a top-end machine with a gold arm and rare accessories, including a bamboo needle trimmer.
- A Radiola 17 on a Pooley combination table and speaker-cabinet, and a 1925 Radiola 20 superhet with a model 103"tapestry" speaker.
- A beautiful 1934 Philco art-deco model 14MX.
- Most of the Zenith Trans-oceanics and a Zenith promotional photo taken of a TO with G.I.s during the Korean war, "getting news from home".



Aubrey likes reel-to-reel tape machines, and he showed us several, along with a large collection of tapes.

A brown-leather-cased Regency model 1 transistor

>>>Notes from the Feb 20, 2021 Meeting (cont.)

radio, which he bought for \$5.00. It uses a 22 ½ volt battery – surprisingly still available because it's used in some railroad-industry test equipment!

Presenter Charlie Wright

Jim Sargent introduced Charlie Wright, our second presenter. Charlie presented a series of photos of his very large collection. First, he talked a little about his background. He applied for a job at a TV station, but had to get his first-class FCC license before they could (and did) hire him. He especially likes little-known items to add to his collection. He showed and discussed a number of his favorite items, including:



- A rare Radiola 8 console having both woofer and tweeter speakers – it has a place in the living room.
- A DeForest D-10, a D-17, a DT-800 amplifier and other DeForest models; a number of Federal models, and Kennedy models, including a model 141;

Charlie gave us a tour of his basement, or “radio-room” which holds a massive collection of items. He took advantage of the exposed basement floor joists overhead to create a much very convenient shelving. He used threaded rods to suspend door panels from the joists, sometimes stacked four or five high. Some of them are 24 inch wide garage-door panels, others are full size doors. This leaves clear floor space under them to put larger items, such as consoles, and make them easy to move around. Various vertical shelf spacing’s are provided.

- An extremely rare and valuable RCA Radiola 7 B - Charlie’s “highlight of his collection”.
- An AK 12 breadboard.

Charlie showed us and described “phono panels” which were built to add amplification for early mechanical phonographs. In large early console phonographs they could fit into the visible space for which record storage had been provided. Sometimes they were in a separate box, and he showed one of them.

- Crosley and GE grandfather clock radios.
- There are many more examples of RCA models in Charlie’s collection; to name a few – A rare Radiola 4 and II (2), 24, 26, AR-812, 3A Deluxe, 28 with AC converter, 33 with legs, 62 console, He has a Radiola presentation that he might show us in the future.

Continued on p. 7



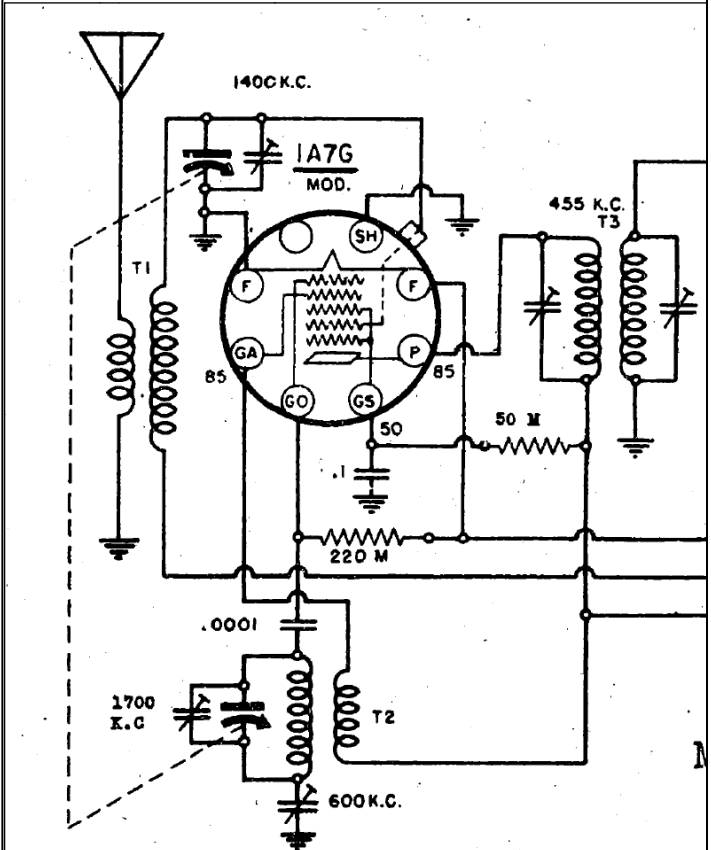
The Case of the Subtle Schematic

By Mike McCarty

This case is about a Watterson battery operated set which has appeared in a previous article (Summer 2019 SoundWaves). As you may recall, I was unable to find service information on this Watterson L-400, but was able to find information on the L-440, which is identical except for having a tone control, which the L-400 lacks. When I found the service literature on the L-400, I could see that it was extremely similar, and wanted to verify just how closely the schematic matched the radio I had. So, I verified every component and connection against the schematic. I only found two differences. The first was the (obvious) lack of a tone control in the radio I had. The other was somewhat more subtle.

What I discovered was a difference in the connections present in the oscillator circuitry surrounding the 1A7G converter tube. The components were the same, but the wiring was subtly different in the schematic. Close perusal of the schematic showed that it had a subtle error in it. I've provided a partial schematic, so stop reading now, and look closely at the schematic, and see whether you can spot the error. I'm going to write a few more sentences, because I know it is difficult just to stop reading. So, stop reading now, and ponder the schematic. Really. The error isn't "in your face", but it shouldn't be too terribly difficult to spot. It is subtle, though.

OK, really stop reading now, because the next paragraph contains the spoiler, and if you don't stop here, the puzzle will be ruined.



Well, now that you've looked it over, I'm sure you spotted the error, though it certainly wasn't obvious, so you don't need me to point it out. However, for those **other** readers who didn't take the time to look it over, I'll show them where it is.

The error is in the connections of the oscillator section of the main tuning condenser. Look closely at the padder condenser, the one with "600K.C." next to it. You see how one end of it is connected to the oscillator coil secondary, and the other end is connected to ground. This is correct. However, the ungrounded end of the padder is also connected to the main tuning condenser. The schematic shows it connected to the curved section, with the arrow head on it. The arrow head indicates "changeable", in this case for purposes of tuning the set. In other words, this is the moving plates, not the stationary ones, the ones connected to the frame of the tuning condenser.

Now look at the antenna section of the tuning condenser, the one next to the top of the schematic on the left, just to the left of the "1A7G/MOD." text. You'll

note that the moving plates of this section, on the same shaft and electrically connected to the moving oscillator plates, is GROUNDED. In other words, the padder is shown as having both sets of plates connected to ground! I corrected my copy of the schematic to show the proper connection. In this case, breaking the connection shown as wired from the oscillator section to the coil and padder, and instead going to ground, as it should be.

The next part of the puzzle is just a thinker. What would happen if someone working on this radio noticed the discrepancy, and modified the radio to match the schematic? You need to stop reading here. I'll insert a little paragraph to give you a chance to stop reading before I give it away.

I worked on a vintage B&W TV which had a difference from the service literature, and in which the schematic was actually correct. However, this model apparently had an Engineering Change Order (ECO), applied only to those sets which experienced a problem, in which vertical retrace lines would appear. When I repaired that set, I made careful note of what was in the set, and changed it to match the schematic. When I turned on the set, I noticed the problem immediately, and after reverting the circuitry (using new components, of course) the problem went away.

Anyway, don't always trust schematics. Remember that, presumably, at one time the equipment was working. If you make changes, always make note of what the circuitry was before hand.

Now, I know that you have figured out by now what the effect on the radio would be if one were to change the wiring to conform to the schematic, but for those *other* readers who aren't quite as astute as you are, I'll give it away.

What would happen would be serious dial tracking errors and loss of sensitivity due to huge tracking errors, and inability to perform an alignment. The padder would, in effect, be completely out of the circuitry, and no adjustment of it would affect the radio. Since the oscillator section of the tuning capacitor and the padder are (as seen from the oscillator coil's point of view) in series, the amount of capacitance would be excessive, and the oscillator would operate (if at all) at a much lower frequency than it should, making all stations appear much higher on the dial than they should. Also, the antenna circuitry, being tuned according to the dial markings, would discriminate against the station being received, reducing sensitivity.

To get more information about doing alignments, may I modestly suggest that the article I wrote about them and which is available on the VRPS web site <http://www.vrps.org/> might provide a start on understanding them?



>>>Notes from the Feb 20, 2021 Meeting (cont.)

- RCA's first color TV – a model CT-100. an RCA projection TV from the '40's, and a Pilot 3" set, as well as other early TV's.

Authors Notes: I have a pocket-sized TI transistor radio, model Royal 50, Chassis 6GT40Z 1. It is entirely made-in-the-USA. It uses TI oval-cased germanium transistors. Because they are germanium, the radio requires only two AA cells, or 3 volts, to operate, instead of the 6 or more volts needed for practical silicon-transistor radios.

It would be interesting to see an inventory list of these very large collections we were shown. They are really "private museums". It is a good thing that their owners are helping to preserve our radio and phonograph heritage.

Bill McKeown

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DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC,
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