

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

"45" phono enthusiasts meet at AWA Conference!

All the news that fits, we print

contributions to the development of



THE WORK BENCH

yearly conference in Rochester N.Y. Four days of flea marketing, interesting technical talks, and the chance to visit a fine Museum. On top of this, the weather was perfect most of the time with no precipitation and moderate temperatures that only required a jacket at times. What more could a radio and phono collector ask for? Well some of us diehard 45 phono collectors met face to face at the conference and had a grand old time. We managed to borrow one of the Marriot Hotel's conference rooms and had a showing of the original 16mm film "Your Surest Selling Job". For those of you who have not yet seen this film, it is a 1949 RCA Victor promotional film designed to show RCA dealers how to sell the "new" RCA Victor 45 RPM record and playing system.



Here are the lucky phono enthusiasts who viewed the film. Since most of us only had phone contact until we met, it was a riot placing the face with the voice. Many of you who regularly read the gazette have talked to some or all of these people. See if you can match up the faces to the names. Answers are on page 2.
 Scrambled names;
 Phil Vourtsis, Doug Houston, Bob Havalack, Dan Saporito, Ray Tyner, Joe Bentrovato

The theme of the Conference was "television". There were numerous talks and demonstrations during the afternoons. I observed the CBS Color wheel TV system and the Jergens Screw type television system. Both were impressive. There was a film discussing Philo Farnsworth and his

television.

On Wednesday night we visited the AWA Museum in nearby Bloomfield. Although there were interesting displays of wireless apparatus, what caught my eye was the television display. Along with prewar and post war sets, there was a Dumont Console with a 32 inch picture tube! It was awesome to see a screen this big on a 1952 television. The Phonograph display was "incomplete" at best, in that there was no mention of the 45 RPM record or the machines to play them.

Let's get back to the flea market. You might wonder how the bunch of us could enter the same flea market area and not end up choking each other over the find of the day. Well it worked out beautifully with most of us having the opportunity to buy at least one phonograph. Prices were high at first. Wednesday morning there were a pair of RP193's for \$50 and \$30. The cheaper one had no bottom and a hairline crack in the bakelite. There were a bunch of 45ey3's in fair to poor condition for around \$35 each. Some attachments for \$35 and a couple of 34EY2's with busted cabinets for \$35 each. There was a 45EY in nice shape for \$50 and a nice 45EY2 with carrying case for \$75. Not one of these pieces was sold until the late afternoon when the pricing dropped. The 45EY sold for \$30, the cheaper RP193 for \$25. There were some bargains though. A pair of decent 45EY3's was sold for \$15 each, a mint condition RP190 went for \$7 and a 7EY2 sold for \$10 (small chunk missing at back left of plastic cabinet).

The most exciting event of the day for me was my dealings with a Korean gentleman who had acquired something I wanted. It all started the night before when a bunch of us had gotten together at our motel room to meet for the first time. We were telling stories, when I indicated that we should all be on the lookout for a multi speed RCA Victor New Orthophonic High Fidelity model which has the same case as the 7HF45P. Sure enough the next morning Dan Saporito comes running over to me and tells me he spotted the unit under a table at the flea market. (continued on page 3)



NOS Parts, International Models

Over the last few years I have managed to get some new old stock parts. Included here are idler wheels, cam wheels, tonearms, a motor, assorted spindle caps, shelves and separators, grommets, etc. Pictured with the NOS stuff is a 6EY1 International model. For those of you who don't know, international models were not permitted to display "Nipper" or "RCA". In its place is either the word "Victrola" or "RCA". On the 6EY1 the emblem on the tonearm which would usually show "Nipper" says "RCA". In my collection I have 3 international models, the 6EY1 shown here, a 45EY3 and an 8EY4FQ. These models also have a voltage switch under the turntable which permits 115 or 220 volt operation.

Speaker Problems

When servicing these machines, sometimes the speaker is a problem. If the sound seems fine at moderate to loud volume, but seems distorted at lower volume, the speaker voice coil is the problem. It is probably out of alignment and not free to move at the lower volumes. Although the speaker could be fixed by a pro, I opt for replacing it. Speakers are still readily available but the oval types used on some models are more difficult to replace because the new speakers have much bigger magnets than the old ones. I actually did fit a Radio Shack oval speaker into a 45EY2 after repositioning some of the components in the amplifier. The 45EY3 is another story. The only solution if a NOS replacement is not available is to use a 4 inch speaker (not very elegant). (continued on page 3)

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

PROFILE



Part of John's Phono and Radio Collection. It really dazzles the eye to see the 7EY series and the "skippers" together

Answers to face quiz (left to right, top to bottom).

1. Bob Havalack from Rochester, New York
2. Dan Saporito from Forked River, New Jersey
3. Doug Houston from Ortonville, Michigan
4. Joe Bentrovato from Dover, New Jersey
5. Ray Tyner from Columbus, Ohio
6. Phil Vourtsis from Manalapan, New Jersey

45 RPM Phono Gazette is a non profit publication produced Four times a year.

Phil Vourtsis
13 Cornell Place
Manalapan, NJ 07726
732-446-2427

John Lee from Ontario, California

As a kid I was fascinated with the 45 players. I remember having a 45EY2 or 45J when I was about 5 but it didn't work. My cousins had a 45EY3 that I remember listening to in the early 60s.

When I was a teenager I bought a large Bakelite RCA with a gray plastic front, but it got badly cracked, so I sold it. I wish I had started collecting them back then (late 60s), as they were very common at the local drive-in swapmeet. I remember going into the Salvation Army thrift store in about 1970 and seeing a red and white Skipper and thinking "That's weird, a single play 45 player!" and walking away and leaving it! It was probably only a dollar or less, and I didn't see another one for 20 years. When I was about 18, I found a 9JY at the swap meet for 50 cents. I mounted a stereo magnetic cartridge in the arm and used it for many years with my stereo. About that time, I started picking them up if they were unusual. When I bought my house 10 years ago, I finally had room to display the half dozen or so I had, and I became fascinated with them again and started collecting them in earnest. I now have about 40 in my collection and am always looking for more. Like everybody else, I'm looking for the Roy Rogers, early Disney, and Ding Dong School, as well as blonde or maple 7HF45s, Emerson, Zenith, and other unusual brands and models. I like to display my collection with the early colored vinyl RCA 45s on the turntables, so am always looking for these as well, especially the orange blues and r&b records, as that's my favorite music. The red classical records are pretty common, but I'm always looking for the others.

My favorites are the 7EY series, the Skippers, and unusual models such as the Crosley 10-145M and the Zenith Twin Seven. For sound quality, nothing makes old beat up 50s 45's sound better than the 7HF45.

I also collect records, from the turn of the century through the early 60s, jukeboxes, antique phonographs and radios, and early TVs from the 30s and 40s.

The 45rpm Phono Gazette



“Skippers” with power supply and the rare Crosley radio/phono . Courtesy of John Lee Collection.

Rochester continued

But as he approached the table another man beat him there and was examining it. The phono was in mint condition. When the man noticed Dan looking at the same item, he immediately yelled, “How much, how much? I buy, I buy!” Dan pointed out the gentleman to me and I introduced myself. It turned out he only knew a handful of English words and was Korean. He did have an associate with him who acted as a translator for me. I told him that I had been looking for that model phonograph for a long time and would he be willing to sell it to me? Through the interpreter he said he had a Museum in Korea and was buying pieces to put on display there. He would not sell the phono for any price! Sorry Mark! I’m still lookin!

On the second day a couple more phonos arrived. A slide-O-matic in nice condition was priced at \$50. It sat the whole day and finally sold for \$20. A yellow “Ryder” truck pulled up about 9AM and a feeding frenzy ensued when it turned out the

truck had many valuable old tubes, microphones and other stuff. Eagle eye Ray Tyner spotted a 7HF45P (portable hifi unit) on the truck and was able to purchase it for \$10. Later a 45EY3 emerged from a box on the truck and was quickly gobbled up by Bruce Meger (Waves) for \$5. Towards the end of the day the other RP193 sold for \$35.

On Thursday night three of us were lucky enough to visit Bob Havalock’s 3rd floor attic and see his collection of 45 rpm phonos. There were neatly stacked boxes along two of the attic walls filled with 50 to 75 machines in various states. Each machine contained a summary of where the piece was purchased, what repairs were needed and what repairs had been done. The four of us opened every box and felt like kids under the Christmas tree. There will a separate article coming soon covering what we found in Bob’s attic! Friday morning the big news was the auction. It was divided into different categories, communications equipment,

tubes, etc. There really wasn’t anything there to excite a phono collector, so we started our trek back home by 9am that morning. Would I do it again? Yes I would, it was a great time!

Workbench continued

The 4 incher doesn’t sound much different than the original oval speaker by the way. Another symptom of a bad speaker is vibration or distortion when the sound is turned up. First check to see that it isn’t something else vibrating loose. I usually remove the amp and speaker from the cabinet and test again. If the vibration is still there, then the speaker is the culprit.

The strangest speaker repair I ever saw was when I couldn’t get any bass out of a 7hf45. I removed the speaker to find cardboard had been wedged between the speaker and the baffle! I removed the cardboard and the bass was back!