

The 45rpm Phono Gazette



*RCA Victor Historical Literature
Available for Viewing at
Camden County Historical Society*

*Restoring that Beat Up
Alice in Wonderland
By Paul Childress*

It's no secret that Camden New Jersey was the focal point of RCA Victor's phonograph manufacturing during the 1950's. Any domestically made 45 player will show under the model Number, the manufacturing address Camden, New Jersey U.S.A. Phono enthusiast Nick Domenico has been volunteering some of his time to help sort paper documents that have been donated to the Camden County Historical Society. To his surprise, he came across loads of advertising literature covering RCA Victor radio, television, and phonographs. There are many original proposals for advertisements from 1950 and 1951 covering the 45 RPM record and playing system. The advertisements name the publications that they were to appear in and when they would appear. Some of the ads give a price of \$00 indicating that the price was not yet available. Other ads include blocks of space which were left blank so that a store could include whatever additional ads they desired. The most interesting documents were four spiral bound books which were given to RCA Distributors either monthly or bi-monthly. The book included a daily calendar showing what RCA products were being advertised in what publication. The books were from 1950 so there was a heavy emphasis on selling the 45 RPM products.

All of this interesting stuff is available for viewing at the Camden County Historical Society Library in New Jersey. The Executive Director, Paul W. Schopp was very cordial and helpful when we were searching through the literature during our visit. The Camden County Historical Society was founded in 1899 and is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the collection preservation and dissemination of Camden County history. This is accomplished by maintaining a research library and museum at its headquarters. The society also operates and maintains Pomona Hall, one of the finest examples of Georgian-style architecture in New Jersey today. The society can easily be reached by car from Philadelphia or New York City. For more information you can call 609.964.3333. **(Continued on page 2)**

Being an RCA 45 collector I managed to find a couple of Alice in Wonderland models. While one was in nice condition, the other was pretty beat. The mechanism was in fair shape but the cabinet was pretty far gone. My brainstorm, to make this unit presentable, consisted of repainting the case antique white and reapplying the four decals. This is where my computer and scanner came to the rescue.

I took the better Alice player and just plopped it up onto the scanner. I made an individual scan on each of the four decals, then saved them to a temporary file. Mind you, the decals on the player I just scanned were far from perfect. With the help of Adobe Photo Deluxe, I could enlarge the decal up to three times its size and remove a long scratch along Alice's dress. I did this by sampling a portion of the dress and filling it in with little dots. This way when the picture is brought down to normal size, the patchwork will be undetectable. **(Continued on page 2)**



New decals applied to freshly painted Alice in Wonderland model

**Join us at the Rochester
AWA Meet this Sept. 2th
through 5th.**

Make your plans now to join us at the annual AWA meet at the Thruway Marriott in Rochester, NY. This year the theme of the conference will be "Zenith". During the day we will be searching for phonos and listening to the interesting tech talks. In the evening we are planning to have at least two workshops specifically for the 45 phonographs. Ray Tyner will be showing us how to clean the "yellow" out of those old decals, and I am planning a session where we will discuss the different methods of lubing up that refurbished phono. We really enjoyed ourselves last year and are looking forward to meeting each other again. Call 888.225.5048 toll free to find out more.



The Workbench

A pretty common problem you encounter when testing an old tube amplifier is noise and static. Even after you have recapped the amp it can still persist. Many times it is caused by bad connections at the tube pins and socket. While you hear the noise, gently rock each tube side to side. If the noise gets worse as you doing this, then the connections are bad. Remove each tube and after they have cooled down, spray the pins with contact cleaner. Then insert the tube and pull it in out of the socket a few times. This will clean the pins and sockets. Now your amp should be nice and quiet.

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Camden County Historical Society (continued)

If you would like to write, the address is Camden County Historical Society Park Boulevard & Euclid Avenue Camden, New Jersey 08103 We had a very enjoyable afternoon at the museum and suggest that you include it in your plans if you are visiting the northeast in the future.

Alice in Wonderland Decals (continued)

I made scans a little on the light side of the contrast. For this reason, when you wet the printout, the clear will darken it up a bit. I used Canon high resolution printer paper for the printout. Then I taped the four corners of the paper to a board to prevent the paper from wrinkling while being sprayed with clear spray. I found "Mirical" clear spray (No. 16014) works great. The printout will need at least four coats of clear spray to give it a new decal look. I would suggest letting someone with nerves of steel do the cutting. Once you have completed the decals, the next step is to apply them to the cabinet. I used a glue stick made just for paper. I covered the back of the decal generously and made sure that all the outer parts were done the same to prevent it from becoming "dog eared".

Now we need to get volunteers willing to scan in the other cartoon machines. The older style machines with the rp-168 changer will be more difficult to scan with a flat bed scanner. It would require taking the changer out of the cabinet in order to scan the decal on the top front. Anybody interested in trying this? Interested volunteers give us a call!

← 9EY31 Portable Phonograph

RCA Victor's first portable 45 phono was the boxy, vinyl covered 9EY31, in red or brown vinyl. Available in 1949, (introductory year for the 45 RPM System) the sound quality was surprisingly good. Record storage is provided on each side of the record changer but removing the records is difficult. Everything is connectorized underneath for easy disassembly. This was true for all 1949 models.

Tuneful
... up to 50 minutes of music
at one touch of a button

Terrific

RCA VICTOR
Portable "45"

• Because it's the "45", it's the perfect travelling companion wherever you go. Records are non-breakable and distortion-free. Only 7 inches in diameter . . . you can carry 2 complete albums or 12 singles. The record player is completely automatic. Just plug it into an AC outlet, and it plays up to 10 records for up to 50 minutes of recorded music.

Compact and smartly styled as is possible only with the new "45" system of recorded music—the only system in which record and changer were designed especially for each other. See it today. AC operation.

RCA Victor 9EY31 in brown . . . RCA Victor 9EY32 in red.

\$00.00

45 rpm records are low-cost. Red Seal classics only 95¢, other records 65¢. Bluebird 40¢ (plus excise tax).

HUNTINGTON'S
YOUR NAME HERE

Prototype Ad for RCA Victor portable model 9EY31 courtesy of Camden County Historical Society Collection



Push one button once —
for over 50 minutes of
distortion-free music with the **NEW**



RCA VICTOR

1950 Ad courtesy of Camden County Historical Society Collection



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Phil Vourtsis
13 Cornell Place
Manalapan, NJ 07726
732-208-4284