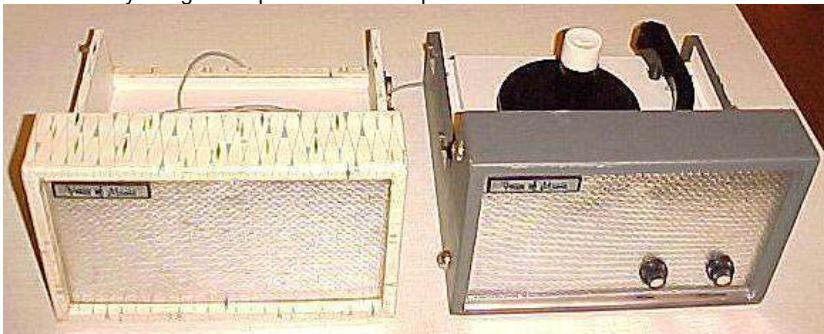


# The 45rpm Phono Gazette

## Rare Stereo 45 phonos were spinning disks in Rochester



For the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year, Rochester New York was the meeting place for hundreds of radio and phono enthusiasts. While this year's radio theme was "Crosley", our phono theme was "Stereo". Two unusual stereo 45 machines were displayed and played at the Microtel on Tuesday night and Bob Havalack's place on Wednesday night. The changer is made by VM (Voice of Music) and is designed to play 45's and 16 rpm records. The VM model 301 shown below was the only stereo 45 machine made by VM. The other player is made by Arvin and uses the same VM record changer. A nice feature with this machine is the record storage available next to the left speaker. VM built in the automatic shutoff feature after playing the last record. The tonearm searches for records on the top of the spindle to determine whether to shut off or not. Vintage stereo 45's manufactured by RCA Victor in 1958 were also displayed and played. Another unusual custom made phono was displayed that sports two rp-190 record changers mounted in a suitcase. It was obviously designed to provide music at parties or dances.



Voice of Music Model 301 Stereo Phonograph with two speeds 45rpm and 16 rpm  
(Phil Vourtsis Collection)



Arvin Stereo Phonograph with two speeds 45rpm and 16rpm. Changer is VM. Early stereo 45 record from 1958

OK it's Tuesday night and time to get some sleep because the flea market starts at 6am and there are nuts out there with flashlights at 5am. That first night I was sleeping at the Marriott. At exactly 12:30am the fire alarms start going off. We are told to go down to the lobby. The fire department arrives and determines it is a false alarm. Back under the covers just before 1am. At 1:10am the alarms start going off again! I roll over and go to sleep. By 5:30 I'm out in the flea market and there is plenty of activity.

(continued on page 3 and 4)

## The Workbench

### Slow Motor Syndrome Part Two

I received a couple of interesting responses to last issue's Workbench regarding the slow motor problem, which I'm sure you will find worthwhile. Bill Jones from Texas called to tell me that 3 different companies provided the motors, Alliance, GI, and the 'toy' motor. Bill couldn't remember the company name but it does look much smaller and like a toy. RCA would only use the toy motor if they were out of stock with the other two. He indicated that most repairmen had a set procedure to line up the bearing cups when reassembling the motor. The mounting screws would be snugged up and then the motor would be rapped with a hammer. This would free up and align the bearing caps. The mounting screws would be tightened a little more and the windings would be rapped again. This procedure would be repeated about four times or until the mounting screws were adequately tightened. Bill also indicated that when reinserting the armature shaft in the lower bearing, if it creates suction and tries to force the shaft partly out of the bearing, you would have trouble after reassembly. Clean the bearing and shaft thoroughly and place just one drop of oil on the shaft. Once the shaft goes in without suction, add oil to the cap. Nick Cvetanovich and Dan Saporito both said they use CRC 226 spray cleaner when cleaning up the motors. Nick said as a last resort he has used CRC LectraClean but this is a very strong and toxic cleaner, which should only be used outside and with caution. It virtually melts plastic and another one of our readers is convinced it contributed toward a friend's skin cancer after regular use. Make sure you wear gloves! Thanks for sharing this useful information with the group.

# *The 45rpm Phono Gazette*

## Picture of Jim Apthorpe and article from Waterman Village Voice

Sorry, Picture and article have been lost.

**This article appeared in the Waterman Village Voice, Florida. James is planning on talking on this subject and other antique appliance subjects in the future. Some local groups have already shown an interest in hearing about them.**

On August 28<sup>th</sup> I called James and talked to him in depth about the changes and improvements made to the 45 rpm by RCA Victor. It is amazing the details he remembers.

When the 45 was introduced on March 31, 1949 the inner rim had a depressed area and the labels were shiny. Very quickly it became evident that some of the records were tending to slip as the stylus was tracking the groove. Quickly RCA Victor changed the depressed area to a gradual slope toward the inner rim. In the Fall of 1949 RCA changed from a shiny label to a dull one. This alleviated the slipping problem but now the labels were harder to read. In the Spring of 1950 RCA realigned the numbers so the 78 and 45 rpm would have the same number. The run off groove was also made more abrupt so that the reject mechanisms would be more reliable. In September 1950 gold lettering was changed to silver lettering making the labels easier to read. In the Fall of 1950 RCA Victor no longer offered colored vinyl except for classical (red) and children's records (yellow). See through colored vinyl required virgin vinyl while black records could use some percentage of recycled vinyl.

The RCA Victor black label was introduced in early 1952 and New Orthophonic High Fidelity was introduced in the Spring of 1953. You can really hear the improvement in sound quality at this time. The colored Nipper on black label was introduced in January of 1954.

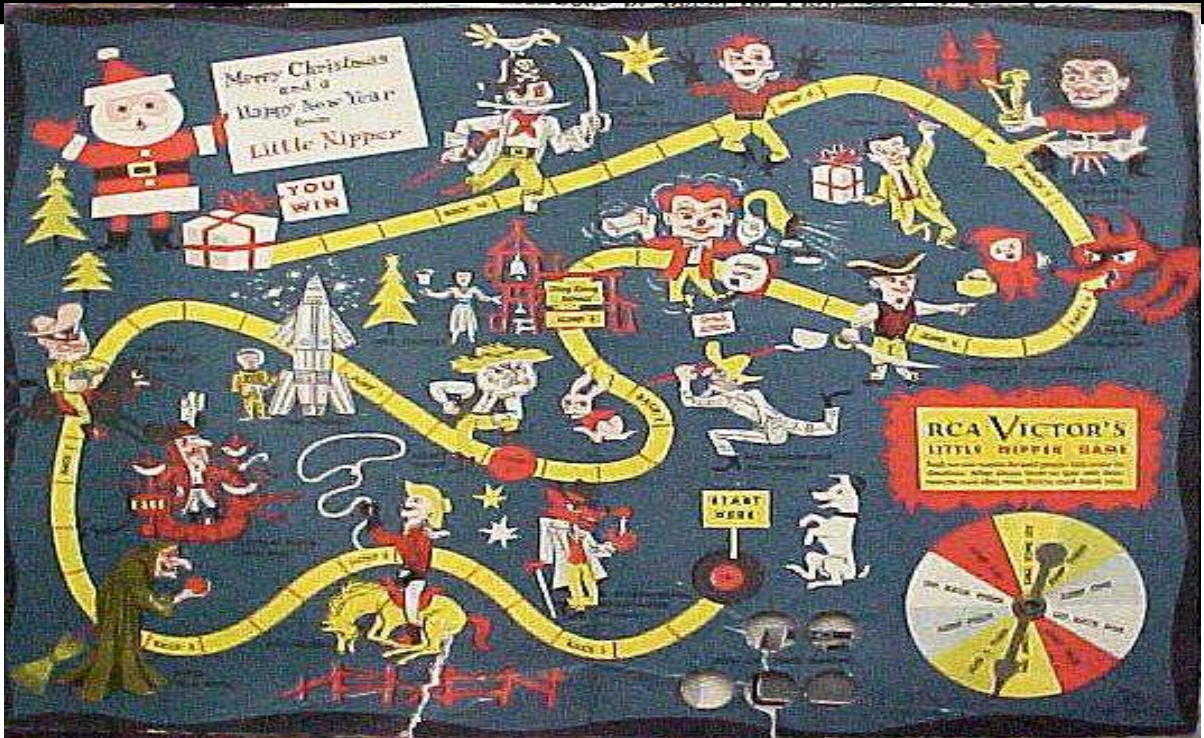
#### Other Interesting Facts

- Some other record manufacturers used styrene plastic instead of vinyl (Columbia).
- Capital Records introduced the "OC" Center in 1952 giving you a choice of large hole or small hole with no adaptors needed.
- In 1958 some companies introduced Stereo 45's (Roulette, RCA Victor). They did not catch on at that time. Ten years later they became common place.
- Voice of Music (VM) was the first phonograph manufacturer to automatically shut off the phonograph and amplifier at the end of playing the records. They called it the "Siesta" switch. They also introduced the "Lazy Light" rejecting switch which was mounted on the front of the cabinet. The machine could be rejected without opening the lid.



# The 45rpm Phono Gazette

## Rochester 2000 Continued



Little Nipper Board Game from early 50's (Ray Tyner Collection)



Custom made turntable setup for parties. Built in lights have 2 settings bright and dim. (Phil Vourtsis collection)



Hard to find Berkshire attachment in maple or oak wood. (Ray Tyner collection)



# The 45rpm Phono Gazette

## A visit to Radio Daze

Every time a Vendor opens up the back of his van there is a swarm of activity like bees to honey watching each item come out of the van. I observed a vendor placing a few 45 phonos on his table. Most were the usual Bakelite fare but there was one Zenith radio/phono. with the rp-190 changer and an attachment with the Truetone logo on the motorboard. I purchased the Truetone but hesitated on the Zenith because of the unusual stain on the lid and the asking price of \$75. Just then another phono type appeared, Ray Tyner. He did not hesitate and paid the \$75. Next I found a Sears Manumatic portable for \$5 but it needs a lot of work. Ray then came upon the best catch of the day. A Canadian made RCA Victor model 9Y5 radio/phono in very good condition. The radio has regular broadcast and short wave bands. The 9Y5 was only produced for Canada while the US sold the 9Y7 model. The wooden cases are completely different with the 9Y5 winning in the looks department.

At 10am we met Anne and Nick Cvetanovich from Youngstown, New York. This was their first time at the Rochester meet and they went home with an arm full of 45 phonographs. Originally collectors of windup type phonographs; they are now enjoying the '45' era. I was also expecting to meet Russell Hall from Hancock, New York but as far as I can remember our paths did not cross. All together there were 9 45-gazette members there Wednesday morning. Myself, Tom Paruta, Joe Centanni, Ray Tyner, Bob Havalack, Frank and Anne Cvetanovich Joe Betrovato and Doug Houston.

Wednesday afternoon the President of the Delaware Valley Antique Radio Club, opened up a table full of record changer parts from a sold out store. I managed to get some NOS VM idler wheels, 45 spindle caps and other assorted 45 changer parts. Unfortunately there were no RCA 45 idlers or cams. If you needed Garrard idlers there were close to a hundred of them! Wednesday night a bunch of us headed to Bob Havalack's place in Rochester. After enjoying our annual pizza we discussed the latest happenings with the hobby including Ebay's influence. After demonstrating the stereo 45 machines we watched a video that I had prepared showing interesting pieces I had picked up since the last conference. Bob showed us the latest literature he had picked up and Ray showed us his maple "Berkshire". The evening was topped off with another visit to Bob's attic, which contains the bulk of his 45 phono collection. As always we reluctantly left about 3am in the morning.

We were up and at the flea market the next morning about 6:30am. The consequence of this behavior caught up with us on Thursday afternoon when we were so tired we had to decline an invitation to Tom Paruta's place. Next year we will plan better Tom! After resting on Thursday evening we checked out the auction on Friday morning and headed home. Not far from Rochester (maybe 10 miles) there is an establishment called Radio Daze. There are at least a hundred radios on display and many are refurbished and offered for sale. My ride to Rochester this year, Harvey Reiff bought 3 radios including the unusual console with slide in Cathedral shown to the right. This was a great way to end the week of Radio and Phonograph activities. We'll be back next year for sure.



Radio Daze Antique Radio Museum and Store



Unique console with slide in Cathedral Radio



Large Showroom displays Radios, TV's, and Phono's