

When TV Came to Radio Supply Co. by Don Killips



I worked at Radio Supply as a radio technician. The company paid for a TV correspondence course by RCA Victor Co. This was in 1951 and it took 1 year to finish all the lessons. Now I was a TV Technician. One day Mr Ted Sacker, the owner of Radio Supply, came upstairs to where the service shop was and he said asked to me to go downstairs to his office. I wondered what he wanted me for and I soon found out. This was in May 1952 and he said to me, "You know, I am a Radio amateur (Ham)" and I said, "Yes, I know". A lot of his business was with Hams, as they built a lot of their own equipment, and purchased parts from him. Lately he was working the 10 meter band as it works very well with long hours of daylight. June 21'st, the longest day of the year, is the peak of reception on 10 Meters and from 4 PM to 8 PM was the best time of the day for reception. "You know" he said "reception wasn't nearly as good this year as years in the past". I wondered and asked if he knew why. "Oh sure, its that darn TV interference". Well, I said that there aren't any TV stations

broadcasting in Alberta and anyway, TV signals become very weak when you are 50 to 100 miles from the transmitter, because they won't follow the curvature of the earth. "Where does this interference come from?" He replied that it originates in the USA about 1000 miles from here. They have TV down there in Salt Lake City, Seattle, Denver and other cities some how it skips off the upper atmosphere and comes down around here. This gave Ted an Idea. "I am going to order a TV from the Philips Company as we deal with them". He told me to get a large TV Yagi 10 bar antenna for channel 3 to 6 and put it up on the roof near the center of our store. "Put it up 20 feet high and run the twin lead down into our store". This was done. About 2 weeks later, the TV arrived. We unpacked and hooked up the TV. He checked out TVI on his radio receiver and said he'd call me when the TVI started. About 4:30 PM he called me and he said to turn the TV on. "Try channel 2 or 3". Pretty soon some black bars floated across the screen. I set the Horizontal Hold and Vertical Hold and adjusted the fine tuning and lo and behold a picture came in. I turned up the sound and audio was there. Everybody in the store was totally amazed. We were receiving Salt Lake City Utah and Denver Colorado 2 full years before there was TV in Edmonton. "Well", he said, "lets move the TV to the front of the store so people on the street can use it". In no time there were over 200 to 300 people watching it, even from across the avenue. We were located on the North side of 101A Ave. between 100 and 100A streets, across and to the east of us was the Macleod Building. We ran the TV every afternoon for all of June and the first ½ of July. After that it became too weak to make a picture. Anyway I'll never forget the looks on people's faces as they had never seen TV before. This TVI used to give trouble to people in poorer reception areas. For CFRN (channel 3). It made bars float through the picture and sometimes the TVI picture would dominate the screen. When cable TV arrived, this put an end to this problem.

T h e

M a g i c

B a s e m e n t

Rodger Henly

An authors note regarding this article that appeared "Radio Waves" now Canadian Vintage Radios. I wrote this in April of 1999 and received a great response from the members and readers. I have made a few small changes but it is very close to the original. Hope you enjoy.

After a few years collecting and repairing antique radios I have never tired of the thrill in finding a collectable radio. Though I must admit, not all my finds have been really great acquisitions. There are a few duds hidden away in the dark end of the Magic

Basement that I don't like to show or even talk about. Sometimes we can be fooled by what appears to be a nice old radio and it turns out to be a nightmare to repair. I have a few RCA's, GE's, Philco's, a Kolster and an old Victor that I would rather forget. But for now they live safely in the gloom waiting for future attention. I have had a recurring dream. I pick up the classified ads in the paper and read this advertisement "For sale. Zenith "Stratosphere" model console radio owned by an older lady who only used it on Sundays to listen to church services, \$17.50" and when I get there she has just sold it to a dealer for 6 bucks. I told my analyst about it but he thinks radio collecting is weird anyway. On a more positive note, a few years ago I was at a flea market looking for old radios and a man I had struck up a conversation with told me of an old radio he had seen in a second hand store up island. Now I must explain "up island". I live in Victoria BC on the southern end of Vancouver Island so every thing north is, you guessed it, "up island". The next day I drove to this shop and there, dirty, scratched, missing the dial



lamp hood, but complete, was an RCA Radiola 18 from 1928. The shopkeeper assured me that he had the speaker for it around somewhere and when he found it he would call me. He did find it exactly one year later, and yes he did call and now I have a great looking Radiola 18 with matching speaker in a prominent place in the Magic Basement. If you specialise in a certain type or make of radio you can be more focused in your search but the frustration level can also be very high. I started out collecting old communications receivers such as Hallicrafters, Nationals and Hammarlunds and this led me to old wood and plastic sets and to many different makes and models. I now have cross section from Atwater-Kent to Zenith and lots in between residing here in the Magic Basement. If I have any advice for a new collector it is to learn every thing you can about that radio you have just found and this new found knowledge will help immensely as you collect more radios.

A very interesting collectable arrived at the Magic Basement courtesy of Ken Allison, our esteemed editor. It is a Zenith model 75 hearing aid from 1947 that uses peanut tubes. Compared to the modern hearing aid it is quite large and clumsy. Zenith started making these in 1943 and continued throughout the war. It was their expertise in this technology that lead to the transistor hearing aid (the "Royal T") and then ultimately to their first and probably their finest

transistor radio, the Royal 500, that continued in the line until 1963.

We have just survived a rotten wet, and miserable winter and with the summer sun here at last I got to thinking about portable radios. The first real battery radio was made by Zenith in 1923 and called the "Companion". This was a truly portable radio that could be tuned without opening the case and was completely self contained. It was used by Commander Donald B. Macmillan during his famous Arctic expedition in 1923 and released to the public in 1924. There were many portable radios manufactured during the 1920's to the 50's and I have a few examples in the Magic Basement. There is are some Zenith Transoceanics, a Royal 1000, an L600, and my favourite the A600. And I almost forgot, a large Zenith model L-507 bc band only portable I have some nice plastic portable from the 50's including a CGE model C-607 "Minstrel" with 4 tubes. A similar 4tube Silvertone plastic model, and an old (1946) Motorola model HS-7 in a wooden case with cloth covering. RCA is represented by a BP61X bc/ sw radio in a beautiful red plastic case. I have included some photos of some of these "nice old radios". I hope you have enjoyed your visit to the Magic Basement and if you have any comments, or questions I am always happy to hear from you all. **I can be reached at (250) 595-6358 here in Victoria or by Email <rhenly@pacificcoast.net.**



The Magic Basement
by Rodger Henly

Saskatchewan Spring Show and Sale in Regina

Back in the prior century, really just the early months of 1997, CVRS Saskatchewan rep Roy Sawley along with his side-kick Stan Marlin decided that perhaps it was time to arrange a Saskatchewan get-together for vintage radio buffs. To create that first show a loose union was formed with the Regina Antique Auto Association, a group who had already staged many shows featuring vintage automotive equipment. Stan and Roy convinced two other radio hobbyists, namely Joe Veeder from Moose Jaw and Bob Grocholski from Regina to bring material to add to the show line. That first meet went off with enough success to warrant a similar effort the next year and on and on it went, up to the 2004 meet recently held the final weekend of April.

This year's meet, the 8th. consecutive Spring gathering in Regina, was deemed a tremendous success. Roy, Joe and Stan set up their wares on Friday but Bob, the other founding member, unfortunately was able to make only a brief appearance Saturday morning. Other spots were taken by Sid Swedenski from Rocanville (his third consecutive appearance) and newcomer, CVRS member John Reitmeier from Lumsden which filled out the list of vendors for this year.

Traffic started slowly on Saturday but by mid-morning most of the SK hobbyists had arrived and radio storytelling, gear swapping and buying from the tables was in full swing. Joe showed a vintage Westinghouse RC unit built into a tall cabinet, a rare sight at any radio show and it ultimately went to a new home. Older sets were readily available as on other tables were found a Westinghouse 57 Special, an RCA Radiola III and quite a number of battery operated Atwater Kents. By strange coincidence, there were enough Marconiphone model 8 parts sets among the vendors to make one complete unit.

Dale Jensen from Redvers added some material to Roy's table and included was the most beautiful Mercury Super 10 that this province has ever seen. I'll enclose a digital photo of the set and hope there is enough space available so all can view this delight. Newcomer John brought a wealth of large consoles to the event plus a number of boat anchor sized drug store tube testers so extra space was allotted to him for the Sunday show. Sid's table featured many NOS vintage parts while Roy and Dale mainly showed sets from the late '20s. A beautiful Philco 20 from that table is now

delighting its new owner.

Members Bob Tomlinson and Al Deeg journeyed to the meet that morning from the Shaunavon-Swift Current areas (a 4 ½ hour drive) while Norm Smythe from Birtle (MB) and the Ashwicks from Medicine Hat (AB) made their usual interprovincial treks. Many members averaged from 3 to 4 hours travel time to attend the meet. As is typical of our unpredictable late April weather, we were surprised by winds gusting from the West up to 100 km/h Saturday afternoon and the city of Regina was locked in a severe dust storm by midafternoon.

Many contacts were made and trap lines set. Some of the newer collectors in the province are showing up regularly at the Regina show as it seems to be the main attraction for the province's hobbyists. This year's success guarantees a continuation of the April meet for 2005.

Events come and go, some run their course while some always seem to be able to find that second wind. The feeling is that the Regina meet has had a great run and will be a much anticipated event well into the future.

Such was not the case for the Fall meet, the combined SK-MB venture did not get off the ground in 2003 but a smaller one-day affair arranged by SK members Dale Jensen and Ken Parr was held at Estevan in the SE corner of the province last September to accommodate interested hobbyists from Manitoba and Eastern Saskatchewan.

Perhaps members from each province should study the CVRS calendar of events and see if there is a possibility of arranging some type of interprovincial exchange to the mutual benefit of all chapters. One idea that I can suggest is car-pooling to an out of province event. Maybe a distant club could contribute material that one or more members could transport to and vend at a "new to them" event.

I believe that the key is to keep personal involvement at the forefront and exchange materials, cultivate ideas and create friendships among members of this great hobby. As a club member said to me at the Regina show: "Meeting the individuals face to face and having this personal contact is much more important to me than simply buying a set thru' the sterility of the internet". I rest my case plus those empty tombstones I didn't sell at Regina! —*Stan Marlin*

Saskatchewan Spring Show and Sale in Regina



Clockwise from top left:
Joe Veeder cranks, Bob Tomlinson
& Al Deeg, Stan tunes Stewart Warner,
New vendor John Reitmeier, Sid
Swedenski with Bosch speaker, Norm
Smyth and Stan duel over Baby Champ

VICTOR 140 by Bill West-Sells

I had bought four radios from Kevin Gulewich of Port Alberni, and having restored the three,

it was now time to tackle the monstrous Victor, the worst job but the most potential. In 1976 I sold one like it for \$35.00 that was in good condition. I confess I paid \$100 for this, finish looking like a sunburn, no veneer on a loose top, a "Pig in a poke". I began with a sigh, and the realization of what Beethoven meant when he said that he did dread the beginning of a great work. "But once into it, it goes." First the Electronics. The capacitors weren't bad. A brittle grid cap wire to an RF amp had shorted to ground. The loudspeaker had an open field coil-uh-oh you say. But this one is not a series choke, it's a wasteful drain on the B+ so a trip to the local stereo store got me a pair of trade-in 10 "PM speakers for \$40, and now it's less work for the power supply too. A disconnected chassis link on rear and two burnt out

power resistors were all else, and the tune up was a breeze-everything is so neatly in order there. The 4th tuning gang, a 2nd RF amp, is used only for band "D". There is an extra audio amp-and a low pass filter to boost bass, that's an iron core choke in series with the audio signal. As for the boom boxes on either side of the speaker, is there anything new under the sun? But the real work was in the wood. After a day with Circa 1850 the beauty emerged and I felt sick. I'm thinking that welding shed with it's fans would make a **get**

finishing shop, and the cat doesn't go there. I invested in some lacquer and toner this time, shellaced the legs, and lacquered over everything including the shellac. During this process a winter storm blew out our Sayward power, right in the middle of the final lacquering and I'm feeding air to my tank with a bicycle pump! Would you believe, this happened again on the next radio. A final comment, about 6 months later, something went wrong. My lacquer job is looking like Mars- tiny cracks like scratches are forming. Ah, but it is looking more authentic!

Bill West Sells

Wanted & for Sale & Trade

As a member of the CVRS you may place up to 5 free ads in each publication of "Radio Waves". Up to 20 words are allowed per ad. Please include your name and address along with your phone # and or E-mail.

Advertising is accepted for Item's related to radio Communication Etc. only.

All Items must be described fairly; any reproduction, reprints and not original Items must be so identified. Advertisers must agree to respond promptly to inquires and orders, to resolve problems promptly if the buyer is not satisfied and to comply to a buyer refund request or unaltered...

Tube testers are like people.

Some are optimistic, some are pessimistic.

When you ask a single one for advice, you will generally get a consistent answer.

If you ask five of them the same question, you will get five widely differing answers. Not one of them can give you "THE answer" because in the beginning, they are all calibrated to start with, against a "known" "good" tube... They are a fun part of our hobby, but like the rest of the universe, the more you know, the more you realise you do not know...

Darryl Clarke

Take your old AC radio camping this summer:

Honda EM500 ac/dc generator, \$225.00 **Darryl Clarke 156—9080 198th st. Langley, B.C V1M3A4 604 513 9441**

For Sale: High voltage film (Orange Dip and Tubular Axial), silver mica, ceramic disc and electrolytic (both axial and radial) capacitors for tube radios. For price list and product info, please contact **Dave Cantelon, 42 Clematis Rd., North York, Ontario, Canada, M2J 4X2 ; phone 416-502-9128; Email: justradios@yahoo.com or visit our WebSite: www.justradios.com**



A Perfect "Ten"

For Sale: 1948 Chisholm Radio 10" speaker in good condition asking \$20.00<http://members.shaw.ca/panel56/fs/speaker1.jpg><http://members.shaw.ca/panel56/fs/speaker2.jpg>

For Sale: 1948 Chisholm Floor model radio turntable(for parts?) \$5 <http://members.shaw.ca/panel56/fs/turntabletop.jpg> <http://members.shaw.ca/panel56/fs/turntablebottom.jpg>

For Sale: 1948 Chisholm Chassis C/W tubes, dial, id tag etc \$10 <http://members.shaw.ca/panel56/fs/chisholmdial.jpg> <http://members.shaw.ca/panel56/fs/chisholmface.jpg> <http://members.shaw.ca/panel56/fs/chisholmtag.jpg> <http://members.shaw.ca/panel56/fs/chishomback.jpg> **Call Paul**

MacDonald Langley BC (604)533-3567 or email panel56@shaw.ca

Wanted: information concerning Mason H1 bedside radio, made in Vancouver, miniature 5 tube design contact

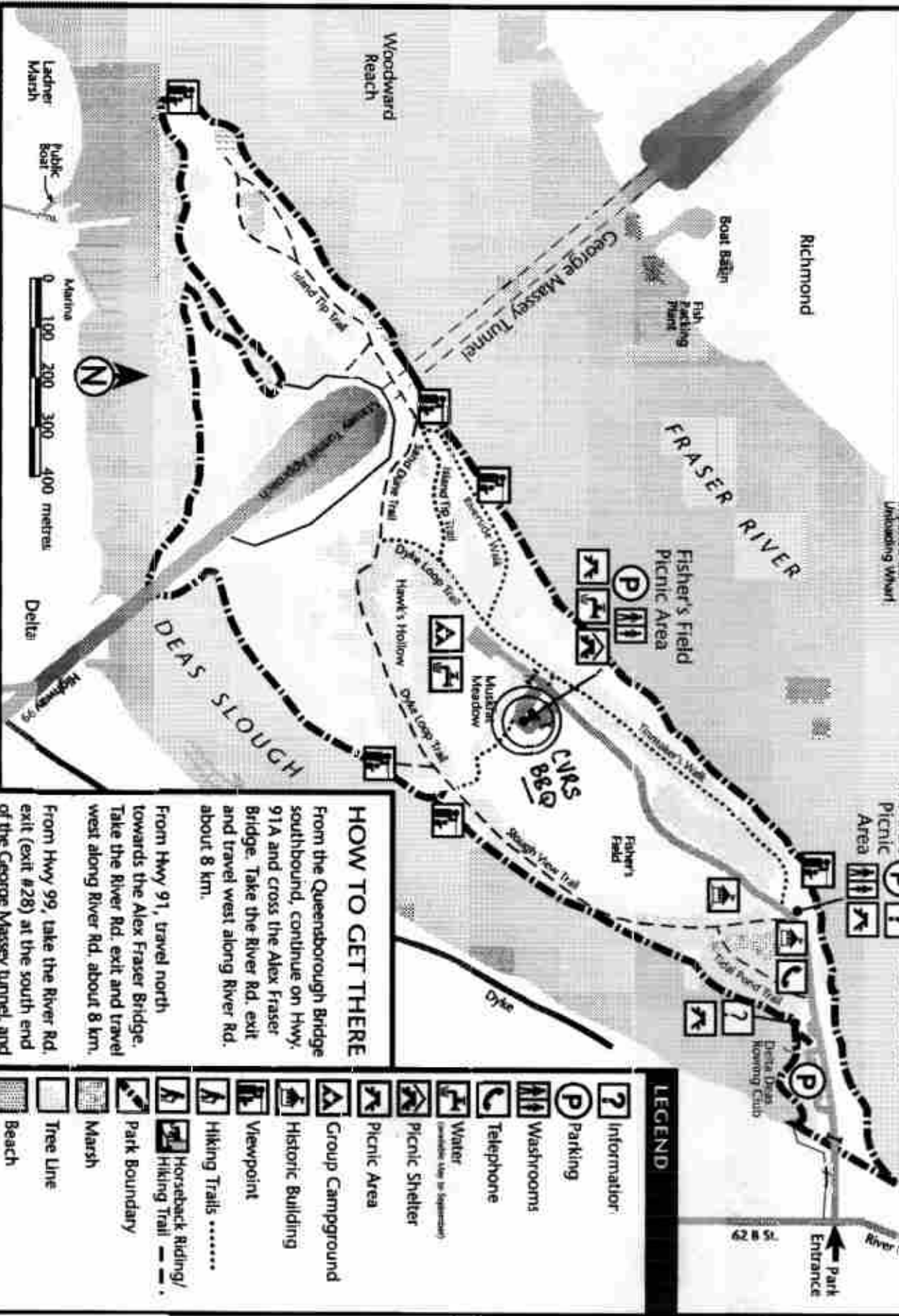
James Jamieson 604 528 0453 teradio83@telus.net

An Imperfect "Twenty"



"Please Mr., Can you fix my Dad's radio? I didn't mean to drop it"

DEAS ISLAND REGIONAL PARK



HOW TO GET THERE

From the Queensborough Bridge southbound, continue on Hwy. 91A and cross the Alex Fraser Bridge. Take the River Rd. exit and travel west along River Rd. about 8 km.

From Hwy 91, travel north towards the Alex Fraser Bridge. Take the River Rd. exit and travel west along River Rd. about 8 km.

From Hwy 99, take the River Rd. exit (exit #28) at the south end of the George Massey tunnel, and travel 2.5 km east to the park.

LEGEND

	Information
	Parking
	Washrooms
	Telephone
	Water (sometimes may be dependent)
	Picnic Shelter
	Picnic Area
	Group Campground
	Historic Building
	Viewpoint
	Hiking Trails
	Horseback Riding/ Hiking Trail
	Park Boundary
	Marsh
	Tree Line
	Beach
	Gate