



# The Phonographic Record

*The Journal of The Vintage Phonograph Society of New Zealand*

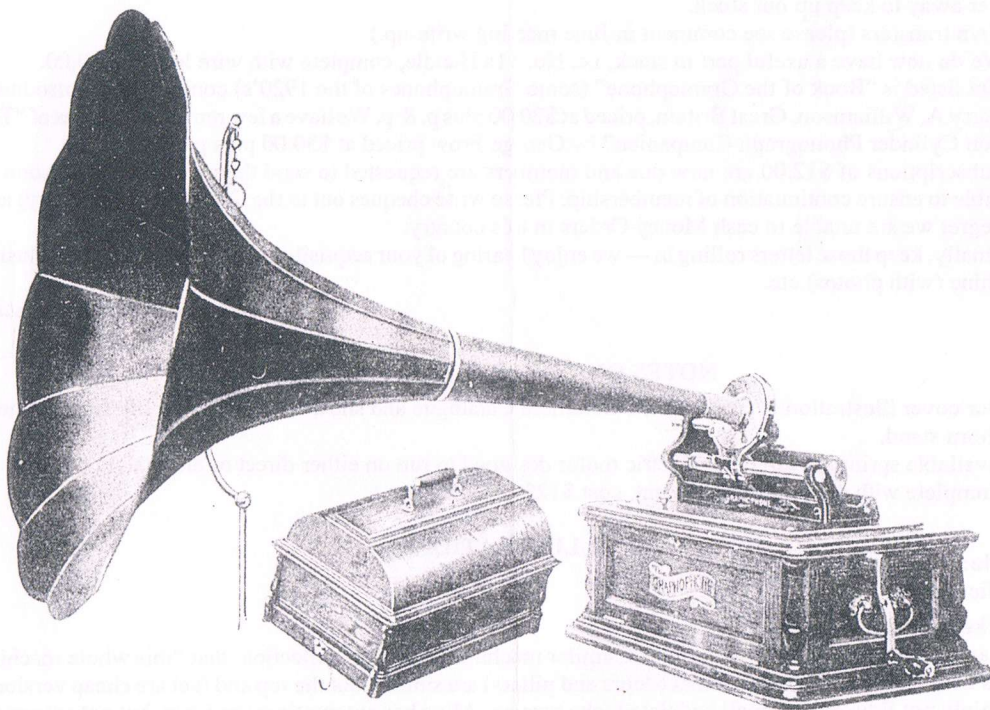
A Society formed for the preservation of Recorded Sound

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NEW ZEALAND.



*The "Twentieth Century" Columbia  
Graphophone Type BC*

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Time is marching on, and so must we, there seems so much to do and so little time. Winter now in New Zealand — snow on the ground this year — however our meetings have been well attended. We have been able to maintain our parts supplies, thanks to Tony, and others. Larry Schlick again this year attended Donley's Swap Meet, and has sent us photographs which he took there where quite a few odd and unusual machines turn up.

We also have photographs taken by other collectors included in this issue.

As promised, we have more on Shorty Ranger — whose real name is Edwin Haberfield — he is best known for the songs he has composed.

In the last Issue of the magazine, February/April, on page 18 we illustrated a Language Machine discovered in Christchurch. This was followed on page 22 with an article by the owner, David Peterson. We have since discovered a very good illustration on page 169 of "An Illustrated History of Gramophones and Phonographs" by David Marty.

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

We are appreciative of the mail received from our members in praise of both the magazine and quality of parts etc. we have available for sale. Regarding the latter, requests for items have increased over the past couple of months and whilst we have been able to fulfill all orders, members are asked to bear with us — Peter and company do their very best to pack and despatch as soon as practicable, whilst Tony and others beaver away to keep up our stock.

Gem transfers (please see comment in June meeting write-up.)

We do now have a useful part in stock, i.e. No. 31a Handle, complete with wire loop at \$10.00.

Not listed is "Book of the Gramophone" (some Gramophones of the 1920's) compiled and introduced by Barry A. Williamson, Great Britain, priced at \$20.00 plus p. & p. We have a few remaining copies of "The Edison Cylinder Phonograph Companion" by George Frow priced at \$50.00 plus p. & p.

Subscriptions of \$12.00 are now due and members are requested to send their remittances as soon as possible to ensure continuation of membership. Please write cheques out to the Society (not Secretary) and we regret we are unable to cash Money Orders in this country.

Finally, keep those letters rolling in — we enjoy hearing of your acquisitions, how you found that elusive machine (with photos) etc.

*Lyndsey Drummond, Secretary*

## NOTES ON COVER ILLUSTRATION

Our cover illustration is taken from a Columbia Catalogue and shows the B.C. with silk finished horn and horn stand.

Available spring driven or an electric motor designed to run on either direct or alternating current.

Complete with repeating attachment, cost \$125 U.S. Dollars.

## ILLUSTRATIONS

### Radio:

Nice case.

### Mickey Mouse Works:

Larry comments, in comparing it to a similar machine in his own collection, that "this whole machine looks a little crude, the main cabinet (doors and pillars) are similar, but the top and feet are cheap versions. Certainly not Edison, the small bedplate looks strange. Mine has automatic reproducer, but not automatic reproducer carrier."

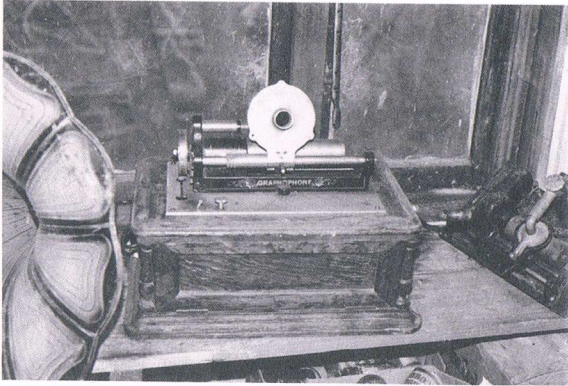
### Multi Cylinder Player:

Works of a machine designed to play ten phonograph cylinders, one after the other. We have no name or information about this machine, can anyone help.



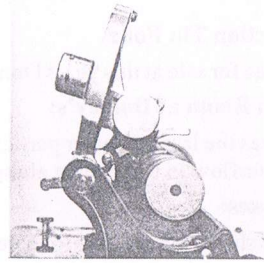
...THE...

# "TWENTIETH CENTURY"

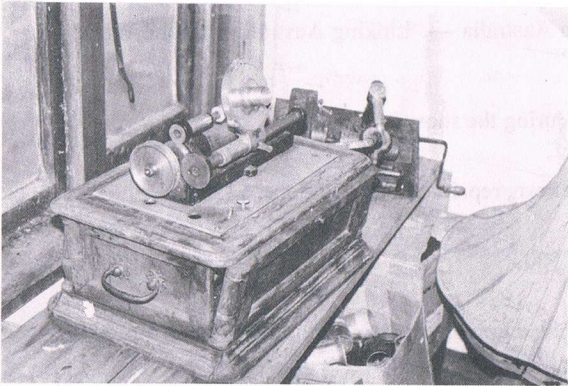


Columbia B.C.

Tony Airs Photo



End View



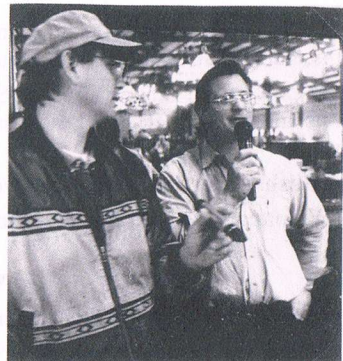
Top Works



Shorty Ranger



Telegraph Centenary



Randy Donley

**Reproduction Tin Foil:**

This was for sale at this years Donley's Swap Meet. Priced at \$895.00 each, an exact copy of the original.

**The Main Room at Donley's:**

Here was the largest dealer participation in 150 Dealers present. Held in two main rooms inside the hall, and the overflow in three tents alongside.

**Music Boxes:**

Picture shows a selection for sale.

**Columbia Model BC Graphophone:**

- (1) Top Works.
- (2) Side View.

**Early Radio:**

A 1923 Radio Instruments (RI) Type V4A owned by Tony Airs, who would appreciate any information on this set, and its manufacturers.

**Shorty Ranger:**

In younger days, taken from the cover of his 33-1/3 rpm Vintage recording.

**Stamp Cover:**

Centenary of the opening of overland telegraph in Australia — "Linking Australia with the World — 1872-1972.

**Swap Meet Again:**

Randy Donley constantly makes announcements during the show...

**Edison Standard:**

2/4 minute with a metal woodgrain painted signet horn, repainted but well done. \$1205.

**Player Organ:**

A very rare model, asking price believed to be \$6,500.

**Eclipse Edison:**

Plain version of an Eclipse Edison coin in the slot phonograph, has plain moulding on glass top. Asking price \$12,500, sold for unknown amount.

**Barrel Organ:**

This model has a wooden cylinder with steel pins. Asking price \$6,500, and was sold.

**Radio:**

**Edison Cylinder Machine:** Has reproduction horn, price was \$400. 550 Mikiphone, this is what Larry thinks it is, but it is different from the round case ones we are familiar with.

**Don Lang Collection:** Edison Fireside, Senora Table Model (Fireside on the top), Cheney Gramophone, with lamps and an early electric heater on top. Amberola 30 - a fine original example as obtained, plays perfectly.

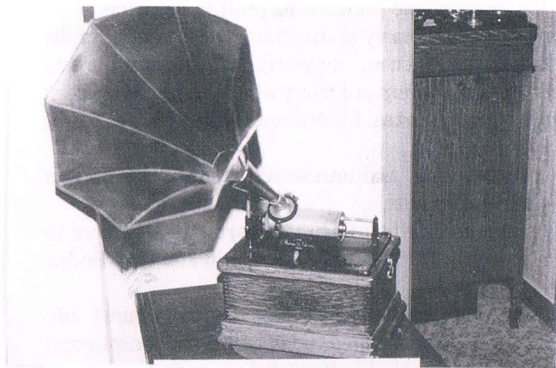
**Mill and Bush Collection:** A saw for every occasion! Note the two pit saws in the foreground.

**Visit to Waipapa:** Group of Society members at Walter Norris's museum, May 5, 1996.

### VISIT TO WAIPAPA

On a cloudy, mild autumn afternoon, nine society members gathered at the home of Walter Norris to view his collection. Some had been members for many years, others recently joined, all had heard so much, and at last had come to see! Much of Walters' collection is housed in a part of the original homestead, which





Don Lang Collection



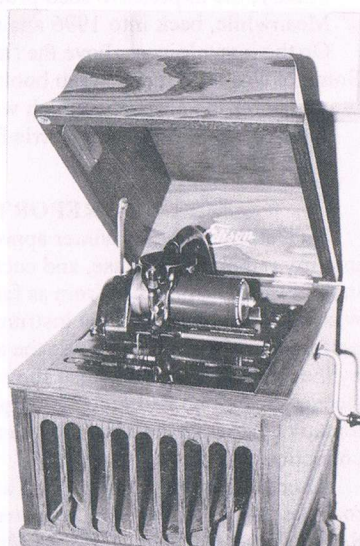
Visit to Waipapa



Sonora



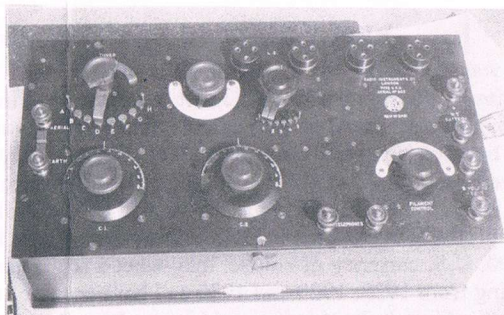
Photographs by Don Lang Cheney



Edison Amberola 30



Mill and Bush Collection



Early Radio



was literally hauled aside from its foundation to allow the present fine home to be built in its place.

On entering, one leaves this world of 1996 to confront an array of early gramophones and phonographs and accessories that begin with a tinfoil machine, still in its original case, and go right through to the late 1920s. A huge collection of disc records adorn the walls, and cylinders are everywhere. There is also an interesting selection of early radios, telephones, pianolas and music boxes. I was thankful that I had brought my camera.

The key feature is that almost all of the machines are in original and unrestored condition, so I was immediately able to verify correct details for some of my own projects.

An adjoining shed contained a mass of radio and TV sets, ranging from a breadboard Atwater Kent to the quite recent. Here a small work bench and test equipment attest to Walter's interest in and knowledge of radio and electronics.

Next, the main workshop, a typical country machine shop, well equipped to handle almost any breakdown and repair. A huge 400amp welder, and large flat bed lathe with overhead belt drive compliment a range of smaller equipment, together with stocks of every imaginable likely useful necessity.

Finally, the impressive seed processing building, with all its fascinating machinery.

Meanwhile, back into 1996 again, Hilda had prepared a fine afternoon tea for us.

On the mantelpiece, above the fire, a very early Berliner like the one on the front page of this magazine. Some of Walter's many scrap books were studied, and we were also able to view the original landscape drawings for the property, which were done in 1909. Some of the original trees still stand.

Thank you, Mr and Mrs Norris for a wonderful afternoon. The memories linger.

*Tony Airs*

#### **REPORT ON APRIL MEETING AT MY HOME**

On a chilly night, as winter approaches, a good turnout of 14 members somehow managed to squeeze into my rather small house, and occupy every available chair. After the formal business finished, and this included correspondence from as far afield as Norway, Dick Hills produced a 'Tanzibar' accordion which was made about 1909. This instrument has a lever at one end, the operation of which feeds the selected perforated paper roll to provide the tune required — which Walter Norris ably demonstrated. It was owned by the late Bill Dini. Dick also showed us some early Pathe's discs, still complete with their original paper sleeves, which he had recently acquired and a first edition copy of the book "From tinfoil to stereo". A tentative date for a group of local members to visit Walter Norris on Sunday afternoon, 5th May to view his collection was made.

After supper, the menfolk had a look around my garage and workshop, where my 1922 Alvis sports roadster and 1914 Vauxhall roadster are in the process of restoration. The workshop is where some of the Society's parts are manufactured. On returning to the house Hilda Norris and Lyndsey Drummond had done all the supper dishes for me — a lovely surprise, many thanks!

*Report by Tony Airs*

#### **REPORT ON THE MAY 1996 MEETING OF THE SOCIETY**

This was held Joffre Marshall's home in Rangiora on Monday the 27th May. Twelve members attended and although the night was cold Joffre's large open fire soon dispelled the barbs of early winter and animation soon set in. After the general business was concluded Walter Norris produced a large selection of early booklets on a wide range of subjects, but generally appertaining to phonographs and gramophones. There were record catalogues of 1914 Edison Blue Amberols plus a first edition of Blue Amberols for export.

One very interesting catalogue was issued by the Berkley-Ralston Company of Chicago, Illinois, for H.M.V. products in November 1902. Prices of the Victor Royal at \$15.00 through to the Monarch Special at \$45.00, U.S. currency of course, may whet a few appetites. I found the Zonophone record catalogues interesting from 1925, 1929 and 1930 as I have many of the records listed therein.

A musical interlude of Joffre and his two friends on accordions, harmonica and autoharp was warmly received.



The evening concluded with friendly and animated chatter over a savoury supper. Thanks are heartily accorded to Joffre and his helpers. Few were eager to leave that friendly open fire.

*Report by B. A. Bisphan*

### JUNE MEETING

Although the usual winter ills and chills tool their toll, nine members met at Bill and Lyndsey Drummond's home on Monday, 24th June, Neil Johnson called in briefly en route to another appointment.

Included in the business was discussion regarding our GEM transfers. It has come to our attention that instead of gold lettering on a black background, ours are the reverse. Walter Norris has undertaken to look into, and rectify the problem. Members affected will be contacted. Correspondence included a letter from Robert Ludovici, Auckland, commenting on the expensive price tag of cylinders available and Mal Horfall, Australia now has a large basement to house his collection since changing address.

Joffre showed members his electronic tuning device and had spent many hours restoring and tuning his harmonica. Gavin brought along a Nicollete Music Box (c. 1860) and explained the work needed to restore this lovely piece.

Supper and discussion on what is available round the city concluded the evening.

*Lyndsey Drummond*

### REPORT ON PHONOGRAPH MACHINES

Over the past couple of years Cheryl my wife, and myself have spent much time travelling New Zealand exploring antique and collectible shops. During this time we have found several machines and items of interest which I am listing below, together with the prices paid. Members in other countries may be keen to compare prices they are paying.

Edison Diamond Disc (table top model), in working order, no handle and broken wire on stylus, \$80.00.

30" Mega Phono Horn, 11 panel cardboard, decorated with roses, in distressed condition, \$30.00, now looks fabulous with a bit of T.L.C.

Edison Standard, Model B with large carrier arm, no reproducer or horn, in working order, spare motor, \$250.00.

Black Gem, flat key wind, Model A, no reproducer, key or horn, \$600.00.

Edison Model B, 2 min, Standard with horn, distressed condition, no reproducer, \$700.00.

Edison Fireside with fluted horn, \$1,500.00, sold for \$1,250.00.

Edison Model C stylus, Standard, complete, 30" Morning Glory horn and crane, 50 x 4min cylinders (unable to be played on this machine), \$1,200.00.

Bingophone, working order, \$600.00.

*Dion Tornquist, Palmerston North*

### DON LANG COLLECTION

We have five children, eleven grand-children and four great-grand-children. I own a very nice Hi-Ace campervan and I travel to Wellington every couple of months, down through Levin going south and back through the Wairarapa. I call at every antique and second-hand shop in every town and pick up quite a lot that way. I also advertise in two free publications - the Trade and Exchange, which covers all of Hawke's Bay, Manawatu, Wanganui, New Plymouth and Wellington. I save up my replies from the south and I call on them when I travel there. The other paper is just local but still brings in a few things. And I go to garage sales! If they have nothing I still ask people (any old wind-up gramophones or bits of them, same goes for lamps. as in fact, any thing old). I get quite a lot of things like that. So, I don't have many idle hours in a day as once I have obtained these bits then I have to restore them and so life goes on.

A mammoth machine, Hazeltorn calls it, saying it was the first of the 'B' series of graphophones. This model first appeared in a case designed for the model GG. The company built an oak case with a fold down panel in the front, and like the Opera, brass handles were fitted to each end. A mammoth motor with three large springs was supplied to drive this unusual machine. The following is from a leaflet we have acquired.

# THE Columbia Graphophone

Grand Prize,  
Paris,  
1900.

Double  
Grand Prize,  
Three  
Gold Medals,  
St. Louis,  
1904.



The  
World's  
Best  
Talking  
Machines.

**Plays, Sings, Talks.**

**An Inexhaustible Programme.**

**An Endless Source of Entertainment.**

**Twentieth Century Sound**

**Magnifying Graphophone**

TYPE "BC."

Price, complete with 54in. Brass  
Horn and Nickelled Stand ... **£35**

With Large Silk-finish Floral  
Horn and Nickelled Stand ... **£33**

Suitable for all ordinary Cylinder Records and Special Six-inch Records. Has Light-Running Triple-Spring Motor, Highly-Polished Ornamental Cabinet, Sound-Magnifying Friction Device, and Four-inch Diaphragm.



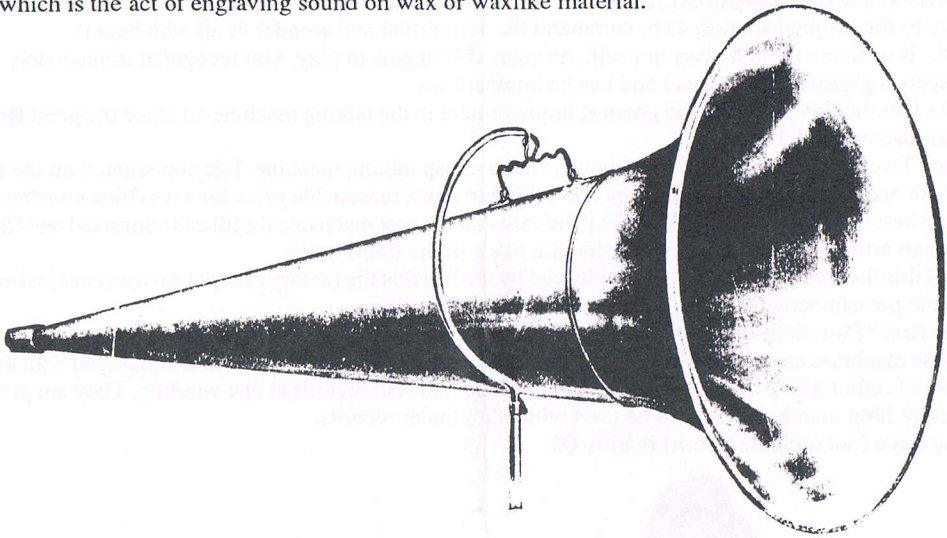
The Most Wonderful  
**TALKING MACHINE**  
ever Invented

The reproduction of this marvellous instrument is astonishing in volume and distinctness, and we guarantee it to reproduce the human voice with all the power of the original. It reproduces the ordinary Standard-sized Gold-moulded Record sixteen times louder than any phonograph.



With the invention of the graphophone in the Volta Laboratory, Washington, D.C., in 1886, dates the birth of the talking machine industry. Before that time no talking machine business existed.

To Prof. Alexander Graham Bell of telephone fame his brother Dr Chichester Bell and Prof. Charles Sumner Tainter, a scientist, the world is indebted for the discovery of the principle upon which the industry rests, which is the act of engraving sound on wax or waxlike material.



**Hammered Brass Horn, Length 54 inches, Diameter of Bell, 23<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches. Price \$15.00**

Upon the patents granted to Messrs. Bell and Tainter a great industry has been built. To the men, who starting with only an interesting scientific discovery, have created the enormous world wide business of the American Graphophone Company and its sole sales agent The Columbia Phonograph Company, is due the credit for the commercial development of the industry.

Wherever in competition, the product of the American Graphophone Company has received the highest awards over all competitors. At Paris, in 1900, it received the GRAND PRIX. At St. Louis, in 1904, A DOUBLE GRAND PRIZE AND THREE GOLD MEDALS, more awards than were given to all other competitors combined.

All modern talking machines use the principles embodied in Bell and Tainter's discovery, and every great advance in the art has been made by the use of the graphophone patents or by experts in the employ of the American Graphophone factory.

Since the Bell and Tainter discovery of 1886, there has been a marvellous improvement in the construction of sound reproducing machines and of sound records for use in connection with them; but each successive step in the development of the art has been along the lines conceived by the original inventors.

To Daniel Higham, of Boston, Mass., be all praise for breaking away from every known and beaten path and laying the foundation for a new era in the talking machine business.

The "Twentieth Century" Graphophone is revolutionary! It is unique; and is unlike every talking machine ever before constructed. The inventor has taken advantage of a new principle as applied to sound reproduction, and the finished machine triumphant in its matchless tones is one of the best monuments to years of patient, persistent, persevering, pluck and ever abiding confidence in the correctness of his theories that the world has ever seen.

A technical description of the "Twentieth Century" Graphophone will not be attempted. The new principle referred to is the re-laying or re-inforcement of sound. Its indirect rather than direct transmission, by a very ingenious, yet simple arrangement of levers and the use of some of the machine's motive power to increase the amplification of the diaphragm producing heretofore impossible effects.

The following claims are made for The "Twentieth Century" Graphophone.

1st. It reproduces the human voice with all the volume of the original sound.

2nd. It reproduces the human voice and all other sounds more naturally than any other talking machine ever constructed. The tones are louder, the words spoken or sung are reproduced more clearly and distinctly, and every shade and nicety of expression, both vocal and instrumental, is reproduced with such marvellous fidelity to the original sounds, as to command the admiration and wonder of all who hear it.

3rd. It is distinctly in a class to itself. As soon as it begins to play, you recognize immediately that it represents a gigantic stride ahead and has no competitors.

4th. It embodies the latest and greatest improvement in the talking machine art since the great Bell and Tainter discovery of 1886.

The "Twentieth Century" Graphophone is not a cheap talking machine. It is constructed on the theory that there are thousands of people, who are willing to pay a reasonable price for a machine constructed of the very best materials, assembled with all the care that the best mechanical skill can command and finished in such an artistic manner as to be worthy of a place in the finest home.

That this theory is well founded is evidenced by the fact that the factory cannot turn them out fast enough to fill the present demand and orders are constantly increasing.

The first "Twentieth Century" Graphophone will be known as Style "Premier".

These machines are encased in a highly ornamental quartered oak cabinet and are equipped with a motor capable of running five of the regular and three of the half foot records at one winding. They are provided with extra long mandrels, and can be used with all cylinder records.

The price (not including horn) is \$100.00.



**Silk Finish Floral Horn, Length 36 inches, Diameter of Bell,  $24\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Price 10.00**

Several horns of different shape and material have been manufactured for use with the "Twentieth Century" Graphophone. The following are especially recommended for the use indicated:

Hammered Brass Horn, length 54 inches; diameter of bell  $23\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Price \$15.00. Especially adapted for public entertainments and dancing parties where the loudest effects are desired.

Silk Finish Floral Horn, length, 36 inches; diameter of bell,  $24\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Price \$10.00. A beautiful horn, as ornament in the home and appropriate for home use on the "Twentieth Century" Graphophone.



A horn-support is required for all horns used with the "Twentieth Century" Graphophone. Tripod for hammered brass horn, \$2.00. Crane for floral horn, \$2.50.

The "Twentieth Century" Graphophone is designed to play the famous Columbia Gold Moulded Cylinder Records. These are universally conceded to be the loudest, sweetest, longest wearing and best cylinder records on the market. Price twenty-five cents (25c) each.

Catalogues in all languages can be had for the asking and supplements containing the latest popular vocal and instrumental successes are issued monthly.

The very best results are obtained on the "Twentieth Century" Graphophone by the use of Columbia records. Other records can be used if desired, and are much better than ever before when played on the "Twentieth Century" Graphophone. We invite comparisons: you will be astonished at the results.

Columbia "Twentieth Century" Cylinder Records (Half Foot Long). For a long time there has been a demand for a cylinder record of sufficient length to permit of the reproduction of the whole of a song or composition, the limitation of the ordinary normal cylinder making it frequently impossible to reproduce more than one verse and a chorus of a song.

In order to supply this demand a new line of records, half a foot long, has been added to the product of the Columbia Phonograph Company. These will be known as Columbia "Twentieth Century" Cylinder Records.

A select assortment of "Twentieth Century" cylinder records has already been prepared, and the records can be obtained at any of our stores. Announcement will be made from time to time as new selections are added.

### COLUMBIA SOUND MAGNIFIER

The following section was taken out of "Gramophones and Phonographs" by B. Clements-Henry and has been included because we believe it clearly explains how the Columbia Sound Magnifier works.

Columbia Sound Magnifier — This device is not readily adaptable to an ordinary phonograph, as its construction entails additional gearing to operate revolving mechanism within the body of the reproducer itself. Few phonographs lend themselves to the necessary alterations and additions; however, the following brief description may be given. In Fig. 9, A represents the diaphragm, to the centre of which is attached the link B hinged at each end this is connected to the shoe C, which resembles a two-part band brake extending more than halfway round the grooved pulley D, which revolves regularly in the direction indicated by the arrow. At the opposite termination of the jointed brake is hinged the link E, connected to the lever G, which is pivoted at F, and provided with a stylus at the other end. The sapphire is cemented to a hinged lever in a similar way to that of the Edison C reproducer. The diaphragm is of mica, 4 in. in diameter; the lever G is supported by the swinging frame which carries the disc, etc. Vibrations imparted by the record H are

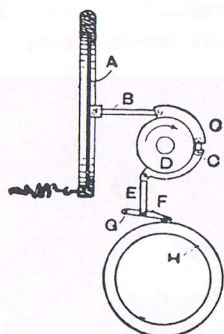


Fig. 9. — Sound-magnifying Device for Phonograph.

transmitted to the shoe C, which consequently exerts a rapidly varying braking effect on the pulley D. The pulley, however, maintains its speed, and the normal friction existing between the wheel and the brake is modified by the movements of the lever G, actuated by the stylus, and consequently the brake clings to, or releases its hold on, the wheel in proportion to the varying tensions set up by the record. Hence the effort at the diaphragm will equal the rise and fall of the stylus, plus the torque of friction between the surfaces in contact. The pulley is usually of amber, and the shoe of stiff rubber, but other materials are available. Fig. 9 is, of course, diagrammatic only. The friction disc may be  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. in diameter and  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide; it may revolve at eighty revolutions per minute (half the mandrel speed). It may be belted to, or cog-driven from, the mandrel gear by means of a telescopic tube having a lateral slot of length sufficient to permit extension to the required limit of the record. The spindle of the friction disc may be connected with the telescopic tube by a universal joint.





Edison Cylinder Machine



Player Organ



Edison Eclipse

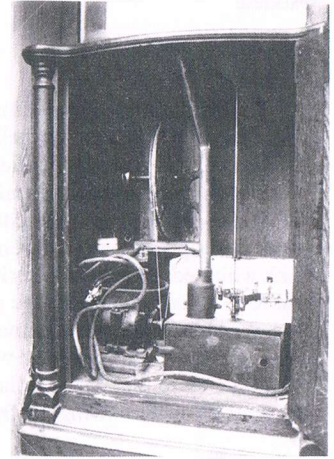


Barrel Organ Schlick Photos



Nice Radio

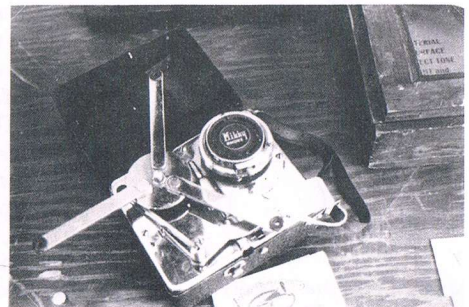
Radio



Mickey Mouse Works



reproduction from Asking \$400-550



Mikky Phone



## SHORTY RANGER

During Easter 1996 Shorty made a visit to Christchurch, New Zealand to renew friendships and perform at the Country and Western weekend. He brought with him a few tapes and CDs which were sold during the weekend. His records, tapes and CDs do not appear in New Zealand, so if you would like to obtain any of these we suggest you write to him direct. His address is "Winter Winds", Kempsey, New South Wales 2440, Australia. We purchased the CD "The Best Country" — Shorty Ranger the singing wanderer, recorded for CASTLE, COYCD121.

Shorty Ranger — The Singing Wanderer — Born: Edwin Haberfield in Kempsey 9/10/1925. He lived with his parents, 3 brothers and 2 sisters and went to school at Nulla Nulla Creek. At an early age "Bobby", as he was called, developed an interest in the early Hillbilly music from the old 78's played on wind up gramophones. His favourites included Jimmie Rodgers, The Carter Family, Tex Morton and Buddy Williams. Biggest favourite of all was Wilf Carter. Soon the lad was writing songs of his own and even poems, such as The Snake That Did The Trick, The Gallant AIF, The Lonely Hillbilly's Home, however none of these were recorded.

Shorty learned to play the guitar from listening to the old records and later he travelled around with school mate Gordon Kirkpatrick, now known as Slim Dusty. It wasn't long before he decided to try his luck in Sydney and entered "Australia's Amateur Hour" in 1944. The success on the show resulted in his recording "It's All Over Now Over You" the same year. Shorty sang on the "Showboat" and around several other places before catching the North Coast Mail home.

The bright lights called again in 1950 when he returned to Sydney to appear in Tim McNamara's show on 2SM, winning his heat and into the finals at Sydney Town Hall and was runner up to Reg Lindsay. Both singers received a cup and recording contract from "Rodeo" Records, Shorty making 10 sides on 78's. He worked around Sydney for a while before the bush and Nulla Nulla lured him home again. One night a mate convinced him to sing a few songs at the hall dance in Burrupine, and on that night he met the girl of his dreams.

### Ruby and Shorty

Ruby Jane McGree came from Taylor's Arm and was 23 when she met and fell in love with the 27 year old Shorty. They lived in a little cottage at Nulla Nulla and have 6 children, 4 boys and twin girls. After 42 years they are still happily married and live on "Winter Winds", a 3 acre ranch on the edge of Kempsey.

### Recording Life

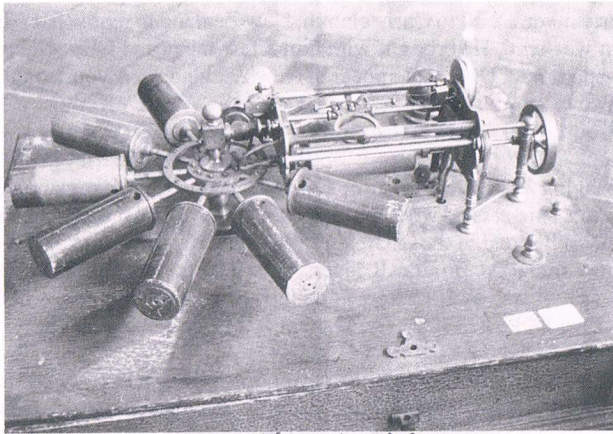
Shorty Ranger has written and co-written over 400 songs, some of which have been recorded over the years by some of the big country music names. These include Buddy Williams, Slim Dusty, Reg Lindsay, Reg Poole, Gordon Parsons, Rick & Thel, The Singing Kettles, Dusty Rankin, Ray Kernaghan and New Nicholls. Shorty has recorded over 250 of his own songs, the most famous of which is "Winter Winds", recorded many times, even released as an instrumental by several artists including Lindsay Butler and Barry Thornton. In 1977 Shorty was one of the first 10 artists in the "Hands Of Fame" in Tamworth. In 1989 he was named Songmaker of the Year. In 1993 he was included on the legendary Tamworth "Roll of Renown" and is considered one of the best bush balladeer songwriters in Australia. Shorty has recorded 20 albums, countless EP's and singles and is still recording to this day.

## WILL MAGNETIC TAPE LAST

Contributed by Bryan Blanchard, 18 Roxburgh Street, Timaru, New Zealand.

The New Scientist Magazine (March 5) carried an item predicting the soon decay of all data storage magnetic tapes.

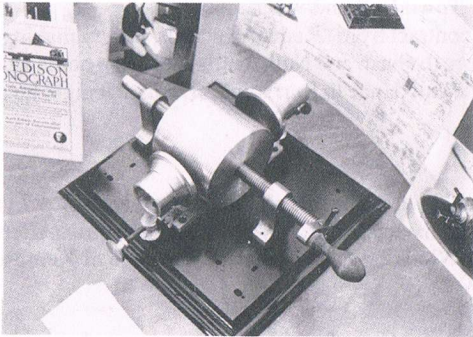
As I understand it, all video tapes will be useless within about 12 years from date of manufacture. The article didn't differentiate between blank tapes, or pre-recorded tapes, so I presume both they and perhaps their smaller cousins the audio tapes are all included.



*Have no idlen- Neither chil' burred-*

Multi Cylinder Works

Photos courtesy Larry Schlick



Reproduction Tinfoil



The Main Room



any size

*Take your pick*

Music Boxes



If this is so, I think it is reasonable to ask some questions:

1. Are retailers selling pre-recorded tapes knowing that very soon all these tapes will be rendered useless and unplayable. If the shops do know the brief lifespan of these tapes, then they are raking in the money in a dishonest manner.

2. Are those people who are recording their home-movies on video going to be bitterly disappointed with the results in only a few years? By the time the children are teenagers, their baby videos will be sticky, useless rubbish.

3. Are people unwittingly recording a lot of valuable material on extremely perishable tape? A tremendous amount of useful historical material will be lost.

4. Are the new methods of storing data (laser disks and CDs) being introduced by companies who know full well that their earlier products are about to self-destruct? Are they anticipating kick-back from betrayed consumers? Billions of dollars have been spent by consumers on tapes and the equipment used to play tapes. Why have they never been told that they are wasting their money on short-lived items?

I would appreciate some comments on these matters from a qualified person.

Richard Gunther  
Pareora

Footnote: Dave Ritchie, product manager of the Monaco corporation (which provides TDK audio and video tapes) in Auckland, replied: I have not seen the article referred to by Mr Gunther.

However, I know from personal experience that video tapes I have that are 13-years-old are just the same quality as when I took them. With video tape and audio tape the main difference is the way they are recorded. Audio tape has been used as a domestic product for more than 30 years, and before that there was reel-to-reel which goes back to about the Second World War. All the recordings of Winston Churchill and those sort of people — most of these were done on reel-to-reel.

Like most things, if you look after them, the tapes will last. For example, if you put videos on top of stereo speakers they may be affected. They should ideally be stored upright in a dry environment, away from magnetic fields.

The move to laser disks is just the way technology is moving. In a few years it is likely stereo, video, television, computer, telephone and facsimile functions would all be provided by a single unit.

*From The Timaru Herald*

### SAME SIZE AS POSTAGE STAMP

Sony Corp. has announced it has developed a new, ultra-compact digital recorder that uses tapes the size of a postage stamp.

Despite their small size, the tapes will allow two hours of digital stereo recording and playback, the company said.

Current digital audio tape recorders use a spinning head that records helically across a tape, like those in videotape recorders. It requires very high-precision tracking and accurate alignment between the tape and head.

The new Sony digital recorder also uses a spinning head, but the head rotates twice as fast during playback as during recording, Sony said.

The digital information picked up by several tracings then is combined in a semiconductor memory to provide complete data for playback, it said.

Because the machine doesn't need high precision tracking the tape does not need to be pulled out of the miniature cassette mechanically with special guides and be wrapped around the head, greatly simplifying the tape mechanism, a company official said.

The machine's frequency response is 10,000 to 15,000 hertz, and its dynamic range is 80 decibels, the company said.

Both figures are inferior to current digital audio tape recorders, and Sony says it envisions the machine being used for recording conferences or news events or other portable uses.

Sony hopes to commercialise the product within a year.

Prices have not been determined, "but, since it is to be used as a digital recorder of meetings, et cetera, it will need to be priced competitively for that market," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Sony said it has applied for 178 patents related to the recorder.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

### Can you help me?

I require an HMV back bracket and tone arm to complete the restoration of a Monarch Intermediate. I have a Monarch Senior back bracket and tone arm to exchange, or I can purchase for cash. If you can help please contact David Peterson, 10 Cephas Close, Christchurch 4, New Zealand, Phone (03) 348-4009.

### Wanted:

Edison Fireside reproducer carriage assembly to hold Model C or Model H type reproducer. Any condition considered. If you have one please contact David Peterson, 10 Cephas Close, Christchurch, 4, New Zealand. Phone (03) 348-4009.

### Wanted to Buy:

Columbia Graphonola disc reproducer.

### Wanted to Sell:

Diamond disc mahogany cabinet table model no horn. Diamond disc motor and wood grained horn for Edison (I think), plus motor. Paul Ehrlicks Ariston cardboard discs for mechanical reed organette, 33mm or 13" for sale or exchange. Leon Clements, Melody Farm, Pukerua, New Zealand.

### For Sale:

Three CD's, (1) Spike Jones and his City Slickers. (2) Movie Memories (Paul Whiteman and his Orchestra), (Louis Levy and Gaumont British Symphony). (3) Hawaiian Memories. All new and come from 78r.p.m. records. \$15.00 each or three for \$30.00. Please reply to: David Dalley, 11 Pembroke Street, Papatoetoe, Auckland, New Zealand.

### Wanted:

Off-air broadcasts of the pianist Ignaz Friedman, particularly from Radio 2YA, Wellington; Dunedin Radio and Radio NZBS, Christchurch between 1940 and 1942. I am researching un-published recordings of this artist and would welcome any information. Jonathan Summers, 16 Fishbourne Lane, Near Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 4EZ England.

### Wanted to Purchase:

Help needed. I would like to purchase the following: Elbow for my old German HMV type gramophone. Description - the outer diameter on the crane end is 1 1/2 inches or 3.8cm including a rim and on the horn end it has a slot fitting the small knob on the wooden horn. (Turning the horn slightly will secure it). It has a metal rim on the crane end, and this rim is shaped so that you can swing the horn a bit from side to side but not all the way around. (Stopped by the Y-shaped metal clamp). I would also like to obtain the Y-shaped metal clamp and scrw. Please reply to: Kjell Duna, Stokkanhaugen 110 7048 Trondheim, Norway. Internet address: kjelld@oslonett.no.

### Wanted to Purchase:

I am looking for a Sonora gold coloured pick-up arm. Please reply to: Rod Osborne, P.O. Box 2098, Tauranga, New Zealand.

### Phonograph Society of South Australia:

An organisation of enthusiasts interested in the collection and preservation of the artifacts of sound recording and reproduction; and research into their evolution. The PSSA Newsletter, containing interesting articles and news, appears eleven times a year. Relevant books and reprints are also sold. Annual dues (Australian currency): N.Z. \$28.00; Canada and U.S.A. \$32.00; U.K. and elsewhere \$34.00. Write to: The Secretary, PSSA, P.O. Box 235, Kent Town, S.A., 5071, Australia.