

The Phonographic Record

The Journal of The Vintage Phonograph Society of New Zealand

A Society formed for the preservation of Recorded Sound

VOLUME 32, ISSUE 3

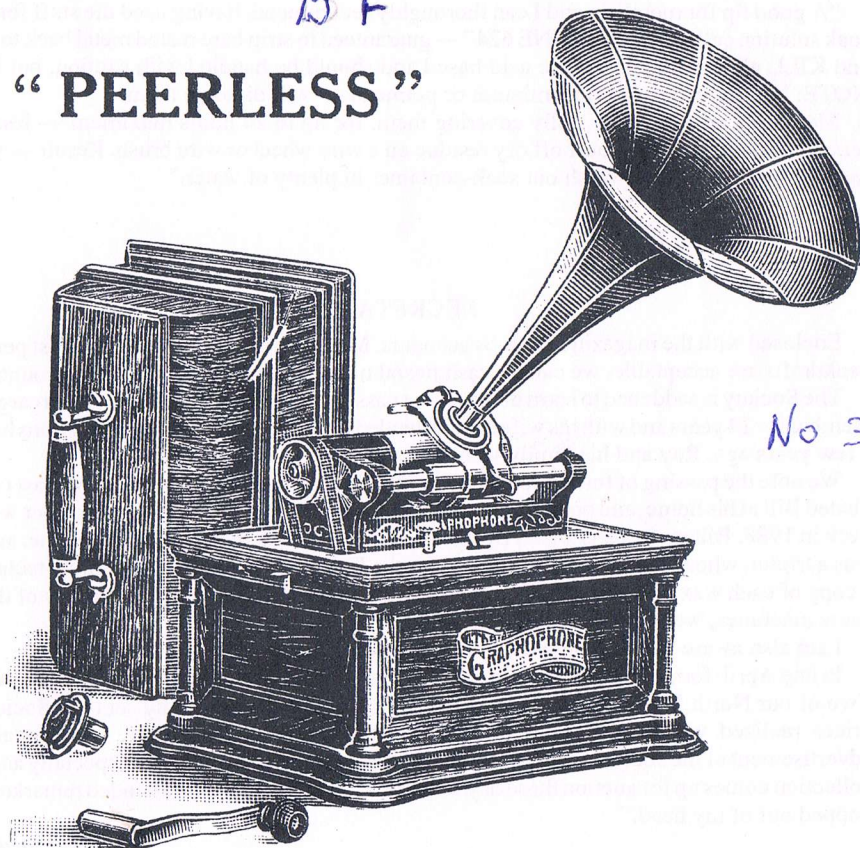
JUNE/AUGUST 1997

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B F

The "PEERLESS"



No 31

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

As usual, a lot of letters with material and pictures for this, your magazine. Among these was a fine array of photographs taken by Larry Schlick at the Annual Music Box Show in Union, Illinois. We have included them in this issue, along with part of Larry's letter. We have also included photographs, stamp and printed material of the Centenary of the first hydro electric power station to be constructed in New Zealand. This was in a small mining town named Reefton on the West Coast. The fact is that this station was built like early Edison steam driven stations, i.e. using DC 110 volt generator and using underground wiring. My wife and I visited this town last April and I took the pictures and obtained all the information (see article).

Since publishing our last magazine we have discovered an article in an Australian Society magazine with a player piano and gramophone built into the left hand front side. This stated you could buy records and rolls which could be played together.

At our last meeting we were able to view a sample of Timothy Fabrizio and George Paul's book "The Talking Machine". We believe it to be the best yet. Every illustration is in living colour, contains 250 pages and costs \$69.95US plus P & P.

Dave Murray of Fielding has sent us the following 'tip' for restoring those rusty machines:

"A good tip for members and I can thoroughly recommend, having used the stuff for years: use a liquid soak solution called "DEOXIDINE 624" — guaranteed to strip bare rusted metal back to bright clean metal, and KILL all rust. Is phosphoric acid based and should be handled with caution, but is highly effective. NOTE: Not for use on/or in aluminium or potmetal — will dissolve them!

Method: You soak parts, fully covering them, for up to 24 hours maximum — less if only light rust; remove and dry, and then buff off dry residue on a wire wheel or wire brush. Result — you're back to bare metal, bright and shiny. Wash out soak-container in plenty of water."

Editor

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Enclosed with the magazine are subs accounts. Members are reminded that whilst personal cheques and bankdrafts are acceptable, we cannot cash postal notes and money orders in this country.

The Society is saddened to learn of the recent passing of member Ray Carter, Invercargill. Ray was a loyal member for 14 years and with his wife June, attended our 25th Anniversary celebrations here in Christchurch a few years ago. Ray and his family were also vintage car enthusiasts.

We note the passing of former long time South African member, Bill Hecht. At least two of our members visited Bill at his home, and one of these members, Alan Cocks of Melbourne, together with his wife, visited back in 1988. Bill owned an Edison Beethoven Diamond disc, spring motor machine, amongst others; Bill was a triplet, whose father actually worked for the Edison Company as a recording technician and Bill had a copy of each wax cylinder that his father was involved with. Unfortunately many of these, together with some machines, were lost in a fire in the late 1950's.

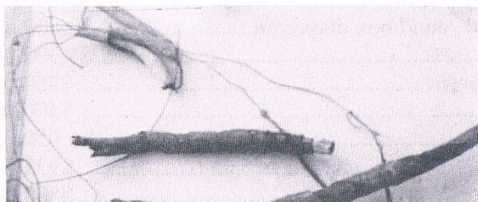
I am also aware that Bill talked on radio regarding his collection in earlier times.

In late April, former member Kevin Shaw, Turangi, sold his collection in Tauranga (see separate report). Two of our North Island members attended the auction and have kindly sent the Society details of some prices realized which will be of interest and these are set out below. I understand the newspaper advertisement of the auction belied the volume and quality of the collection, especially as it is rarely an entire collection comes up for auction these days. As one of the members who attended remarked: "My eyes nearly popped out of my head."

Lyndsey Drummond, Secretary



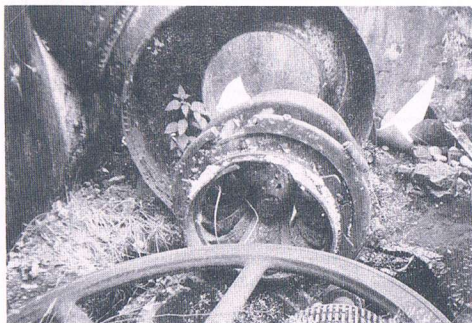
STAMPS



Underground Cable



PHOTO BY D. TAYLOR

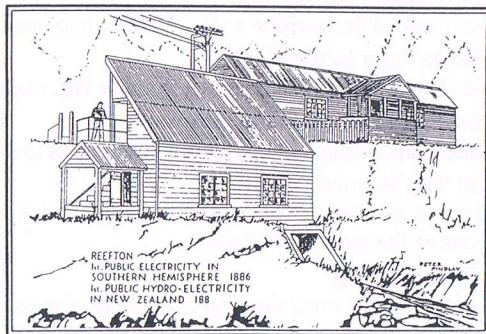


Turbine



Come and visit the MODERN

Dawsons Hotel



REETON
PUBLIC ELECTRICITY IN
SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE 1886
PUBLIC HYDRO-ELECTRICITY
IN NEW ZEALAND 188

Highlights of Kevin Shaw Collection Auction

(Prices subject to a 10% Buyers Premium plus G.S.T. on premium so approx 11.25% to be added)

Box of 56 Edison Blue Amberol Cylinders	\$150.00
Ammunition sized boxes of unboxed cylinders	\$60 to \$90.00
Box of 36 Edison 2' wax cylinders (some cracked)	\$80.00
Box of 20 Edison disc records	\$60.00
Edison 2' recording head	\$90.00
Edison Disc Table Model	\$280.00
Papier Maché H.M.V. dog	\$150.00
H.M.V. Model 5 gramophone with oak overhorn (in good condition)	\$1,800.00
H.M.V. Lumiere cabinet model gramophone with pleated sound box diaphragm	\$2,600.00
H.M.V. Monarch Junior with tin overhorn	\$1,300.00
Edison Fireside with original (slightly battered) Cygnet horn	\$850.00
Edison Amberola 30	\$400.00
Edison Black Gem (key wind) Model B	\$1,050.00
Edison Fireside with straight 8 panel horn	\$975.00
Edison Standard with 3' straight panelled horn	\$800.00
Edison Standard with Gem horn (broken spring)	\$300.00
Edison Fireside with repro 8 panel Fireside horn	\$800.00
Edison Amberola 50	\$700.00
Pixie Grippa Portable	\$250.00
Amberola 30 "works" in home-made case (played well)	\$90.00
Edison Standard with Fireside 8 panel horn	\$800.00
Edison Amberola V in home made case	\$130.00
Pixie Grippa Gramophone	\$240.00
H.M.V. table top gramophone with tin overhorn	\$680.00
Edison Red Gem with 8 panel straight horn	\$900.00
Edison Black crank-wind Gem with witches hat horn	\$600.00
Edison C250 cabinet — no mechanicals	\$90.00
H.M.V. Cabinet model re-entrant	\$320.00
Edison Shaver (in good order)	\$70.00
Edison Home with brass witches hat horn	\$600.00

ILLUSTRATIONS

Large Cylinder Music Box:

Larry calls this machine a train station, it created a lot of interest. A very nice pin cylinder music box.

Columbia Coin in the Slot:

Another fine machine, called a Popular Hit, one cent a tune. Asking price was \$12,000.

Edison Eclipse:

Cuddle up a little, another coin in the slot cylinder phonograph also at a cost of \$12,000.

One of Top Record Dealers:

Kurt Nauck of 6323 Imway Drive, Texas, U.S.A. is one of U.S.A.'s top record dealers. He has catalogue auctions of the records he finds.

Toy Phonographs:

A collection of small disc and cylinder machines. This kind are all in demand and were priced from \$275 to \$500.

Cheney



Statue of Edison

Photo J Radzeicius

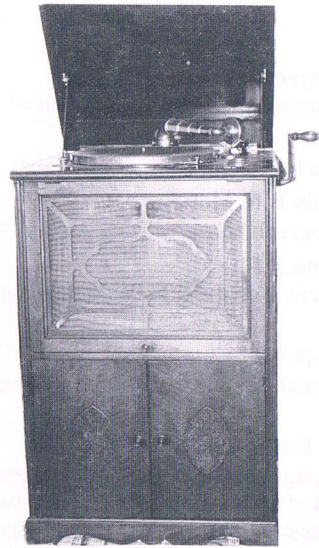
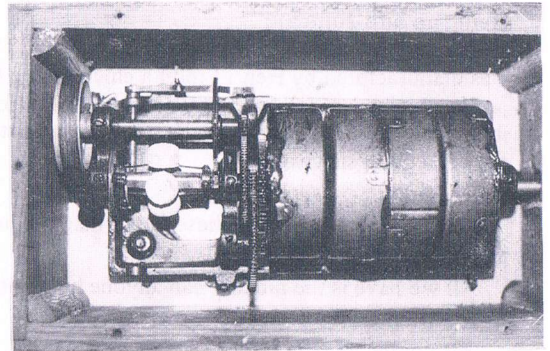


Photo
Bell

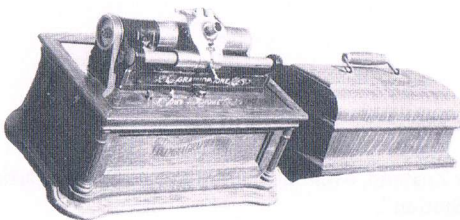


Ft Myers



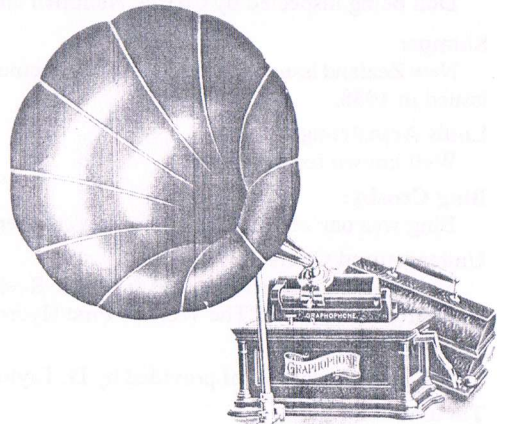
Columbia B F Motor

T Aires Photo



Columbia B F

T Aires Photo



Columbia B F

Catalogue

Fort Meyers:

See letter from John Radzevicius of Australia.

Statue of Edison:

These two pictures taken by John.

Columbia B.F. Motor:

Photograph taken by Tony Aires of the motor of his B.F.

Columbia B.F.:

See article on the B.F. Peerless under Columbia Series. Tony Aires machine and photograph supplied by him.

Columbia B.F. Catalogue:

This picture was taken from a copy of a 1907 catalogue, note the crane which seem very hard to obtain in N.Z.

Record Collectors:

This page contains photographs taken by Larry Schlick at a Collectors and Dealers show in Union Illinois, (see part of his letter elsewhere). First two pictures collector sorting through records. There were four box's of dealers stock (unplayed), Victor Orthophonies \$10.00 each or five for \$45.00. These were in such demand that over half were sold to dealers and collectors before the show opened.

Hendran and Jumeau:

These two dolls on display were for sale, \$500 for the Hendran and \$700 for the Jumeau. The Jumeau was manufactured by Henri Lioret a clock maker born in France 1848.

He obtained a doll made by Emile Jumeau for which he invented a small cylinder works with an interchangeable celluloid cylinder. He took out patents on November 28th 1893 for this talking doll which proved a great success.

Hendran:

Have no information on these, other than the price asked for this one which was \$350.

Music Box:

All we have is the picture, can anyone help with information?

Music Boxes, etc:

Also dolls, singing bird in a cage, automatons, all for sale from \$600 to \$2,000.

Hendran Doll:

Doll being inspected by Charlie Hummell and others.

Stamps:

New Zealand issued four stamps to commemorate the introduction of electric power in 1888, these were issued in 1988.

Louis Armstrong:

Well known for his music.

Bing Crosby:

Bing was one of America's foremost crooners who also made many films.

Underground Cable:

Samples of underground cable as used in Reefton, New Zealand, over one hundred years ago, see article on Reefton's claim to "The World's First Hydro Power Station".

Stinson Record Label:

A Russian record label provided by D. Taylor.

Turbine:

Pictures taken by Walter Norris of what is left of the world's first Hydro Station, December 24th 1886.

Dawson Hotel:

First building in Reefton, New Zealand, to be lit by Edison Lamps.

Reefton Power House:**REEFTON CELEBRATES LIGHTS ANNIVERSARY**

Reefton plans to brighten the Buller this weekend when it celebrates its annual First to See the Light Festival. Reefton turned on street lighting in August 1888, before any other New Zealand town.

Tomorrow the community will commemorate the event. Attractions include a market day, chopping and sawing contests, a fireworks display, and the inaugural Spark in the Dark self-illuminated garment design competition. Tomorrow night residents will attend a Bottled Lighting Bash in Reefton's Community Hall.

Taken from "The Press" 22nd August 1997

REEFTONS CLAIM TO WORLD'S FIRST HYDRO STATION

(Part One)

By W. F. HEINZ

On December 24, 1886, the first electric supply system in the Southern Hemisphere came into being when the Reefton Electric Transmission of Power and Lighting Company was registered. It continued the supply of electric energy until November 11, 1946, when the Grey Electric Power Board took over the assets for £20,000.

This advertisement in the Reefton Centennial Booklet, 1860-1960 was interesting, but so is the plaque on the lawn in front of the Inangahua County Chambers, Reefton; which reads: "The first public hydro-electric plant in N.Z., generating power from the Inangahua River at Reefton, 1888."

I wondered whether these claims were true or false, so here are the facts as disclosed by my research.

The incandescent electric lamp, which made the lighting of buildings possible, was perfected by Thomas Elva Edison in 1879. Previously electric light was only possible by the use of carbon rod arc lamps, which were only suitable because of their great heat, for outdoor use.

Edison formed the Edison Illuminating Company in New York in 1880, and in 1881-1882, the company fitted up a station with a steam-driven dynamo in Pearl Street, New York. It supplied power by underground cables to 2333 lamps. In 1884 this was increased to 11,272 lamps, as well as the lighting of 50 residences.

The following year a Walter C. Prince who was said to have worked at the Brush Dynamo Works in England arrived in New Zealand, and was employed by Fletcher and Company, engineers, Dunedin. We know little of him except that in early 1885 he was supervising the installation of a hydro-electric plant at the Phoenix gold mine on the upper Shotover River, Otago.

Shotover Plant: The following is from the Handbook of New Zealand Mines, 1887: "Some six miles up Skippers Creek from the Shotover River, Bullen Brothers' Phoenix Mine is averaging between 60 and 70 ounces of gold per week; they contracted with Fletchers, electric engineers, Dunedin for the supply and fitting of dynamos and motors to drive their crushing battery. The installation was undertaken by Mr Prince on November 2, 1885. The plant consists of two pelton hurdy gurdy waterwheels to drive two Brush dynamos to transmit 20 horse-power by means of No. 8 B.W. gauge wires to the battery, two miles away, where a Victorian motor drives 30 head stamps, each having an 8in drop and making about 80 blows a minute on the anvils to crush the gold-bearing quartz."

This plant may have been the first hydro-electric plant in the world. The Edison Company proposed to harness Niagara Falls, first suggested in 1885, but the plant was not in operation until 1895.

From the "Grey River Argus," of December 17, 1886, in a republished article: "...Another attempt is to be made in Switzerland to utilise the abundant water in the mountains for the generation of electricity."

Rich Mining Town: But you may say, what has this to do with Reefton, at that time a remote but rich mining town with a population a little over 2000, at the other end of the world. In the 1880s, Reefton was a rip-roaring town in a fever of excitement; its very name, originally Reef Town, came from the rich outcrops of gold-bearing quartz reefs in the district.

Some of the returns of those early mines were fantastic .

To this scene of flowing money and feverish share dealing came Walter C. Prince, with his one kilowatt demonstration dynamo, at the invitation of Thomas Franklin, secretary of the Wallsend Mine.

Prince lectured on the use of electricity at Ross, Reefton and at Greymouth where, at the Public Hall on October 8 1886, he gave a demonstration by lighting the hall with power from his dynamo, which was driven by a steam engine at the nearby Dispatch Foundry.

On December 24 of the same year, at Reefton, he again demonstrated electric light, where he arranged with the management of Edwards Brewery to use its steam engine to drive his dynamo. The power conductors (as Edison did in New York), were carried underground between two laths of timber up Broadway to Dawson's Hotel, and it is believed that this was the first building in the Southern Hemisphere to be permanently illuminated by electricity. Shortly afterwards lights were supplied to the Oddfellows Hall and another two hotels.

(To be continued)

PROGRESS OF ELECTRIC LIGHTING

Taken from the Illustrated London News, December 9th, 1876

The Edison Electric Light Company of Philadelphia is erecting the largest station for lighting in the United States. As this station is to supply the central portion of the city, the land on which it is built is very valuable. It is therefore necessary to limit the area to 70ft by 100ft.

In order to get the required space, the building is carried up 114ft above the pavement and is divided into six storeys. On the ground floor will be located twenty engines. On the second floor will be forty dynamos of 1500 lights each, making the total capacity of the station 60,000 16-c.p. lamps.

The dynamos will weigh about seven tons each, and will run at a speed of 650 revolutions per minute. On the third floor will be the workshops, where wires and conduits are prepared for laying in the streets and making connection with houses. On this floor will also be located the two blast fans, driving 50,000 cubic feet of air per minute into the furnaces. The products of combustion will be discharged by means of two shafts 9ft in diameter, and so built on either side of the house as to resemble huge bow windows starting from the third floor. On the fourth floor will be placed the boilers. Their rated capacity is 5000 h.p. and they are to be of the Abendroth and Root tubular pattern. The smoke will be discharged downward into the flues on the third floor; and the ashes, which will fall into pyramid ash pans, will be discharged into caps on the same floor. On the fifth floor there is storage capacity for 1000 tons of coal. On the sixth or top floor will be the general offices of the company.

The distribution is to be on the three wires system; and there are thirty-five mains leading out of this station.

The company has already expended £40,000 for copper conductors and eleven miles of street mains have been laid leaving about twenty miles more to cover the district. This quantity will be laid during the summer.

Arrangements have already been put in hand to furnish upward of 10,000 lamps and the company intends to furnish power in any quantity which may be desired up to 100 h.p. and there is no doubt that the venture will be a resounding success.

LETTER FROM LARRY SCHLICK

I always give you the dealer's asking price as many dealers/collectors are a little hesitant to tell me what they actually sold a machine for. The buyer is even more unhappy giving out this information. I might add that most of the dealers take back home their expensive machines. Most of what is actually sold are the common Edisons, Victors and lesser machines. The biggest actual and liveliest sales seems to be in records (both cylinders and disc) and reproduction parts. I personally like to believe that many of the "BIG" dealers just like to bring something SHOWY just to liven up the show. I can't imagine there are many "buyers" who would be ready and willing to plunk \$12,000 down on the table for a machine they had just seen for the first time, five minutes ago.

Well, I'll do the best I can from memory. I won't quote a price unless I am fairly certain I can remember it accurately. There may be some mistakes along the way. The prices quoted on the individual pictures should be pretty accurate. I can't remember exactly what the Columbia Baby Grand piano sold for but I think it was around \$2,500.

Edison Standards with reproduction small horns were \$450 to \$550. With morning glory horns and stand \$550 to \$750. Edison Homes about \$100 more and Triumphs \$750 to \$1,500. A maroon Gem, (fair), \$950...repainted horn \$1,000. Victors with matching wood horns were around in goodly quantity from \$2,500 to \$5,500 for a nice Vic. VI. Columbia cylinder machines seemed to keep pace with their Edison competition but the Col. disc machines lagged a little behind the Victors. There were lots of lesser disc makes, Standard, Zon-O-Phone, Aretino, Symphony, Harmony, etc. around \$450 to \$750.

In general, it was a very good show, with plenty of machines for the collector to choose from. There were around 250 dealers from all parts of the country and good crowds both Sat. and Sun. There is talk of reviving the fall show but I don't know if that is for sure or not.

REPORT ON THE APRIL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY HELD ON THE EVENING OF THE 24th AT THE HOME OF BOB AND NU WRIGHT

There were twelve members present in Bob's comfortable living room. The meeting evolved into a very informal one with many asides ensuing from the business matters as they were discussed. These anecdotes from both the president and the members engendered a very congenial atmosphere which everyone entered into and apparently enjoyed.

A 1904 Catalogue of twelve inch Monarch records was produced by a member for perusal as was a reprint of a 1911/12 Beka Record Catalogue as the Talking Machine Review - International Edition, No. 50 reprinted in February 1979 in Bournemouth, England. Both these items were in excellent condition and contained a wealth of information for the record and machine collector.

Bob Wright showed a video account of some of his travels in Asiatic countries of musicians playing solo instruments - stringed, wind and percussion, and a tableau performed by puppets in water controlled by operators behind a screen above, behind and remote from the puppets of birds, buffalo and riders. The music produced by the instruments was unfamiliar, but the artistry was very evident. He then showed a 1930 16mm film of a trip by someone he named through many places in Europe, I found this especially entertaining as I had covered all the places shown in my 1995 four tours of Europe. Not much has changed except my memories and records are in colour whereas his record on film was black and white. I enjoyed it greatly.

A most palatable supper followed to round off a most pleasant evening.

Thank you - the Wrights.

Report by B. A. Bisphan

REPORT ON MAY MEETING

Thirteen members gathered at the home of Joffre Marshall, Rangiora, on Monday 26th May. A large cone fire enticed members to get down to the business of the evening with our future at Ferrymead coming up for discussion, also problems with plating of cranes. Amongst correspondence came news of an auction held recently in Tauranga, when former member Kevin Shaw put his entire collection up for auction prior to moving away (see separate report elsewhere in magazine).

A new book "The Talking Machine" - an illustrated compendium 1877 - 1929 written by member Tim Fabrizio and George Paul, brought forth decided approval and a 'must' by the majority of those present.

Walter and Hilda Norris had recently returned from a short holiday on the West Coast of the south island, and Walter outlined the early days of electricity in Reefton - maybe the first town in New Zealand lit by power - water driven and charged on a yearly basis.

Dick showed a record produced some years ago as a fund raiser and Robert followed on displaying his recently acquired Columbia BE 2 min. machine - in A1 order complete with horn and a box of cylinders. Also with the machine was a recording head. An electrified guard's lamp (railways) completed Robert's

'finds.' To complete the evening, Raelene and Alf (Joffre's music partners) joined with Joffre to give musical items, followed by an excellent supper. The meeting certainly brightened up what had been a spell of damp miserable winter weather.

Lyndsey Drummond, Secretary

REPORT ON JUNE MEETING

The June meeting was held at the home of Walter and Hilda Norris, Swannanoa, on Monday 23rd June. Members, namely 11 hardy souls warmed up quickly in front of a beautiful log fire and business attacked forthwith.

Parts and finances dispensed with, a large pile of correspondence was read out by the Secretary - many requiring help with restoration and as usual, complimentary comments re parts and the magazine were apparent.

Brian Reid reported seeing the 'bones' of a Puck machine at a local antique shop, whilst Robert Sleeman told us about the auction of "Cabbages & Kings", an antique shop in Nelson giving up business. Robert also described a recent trip to Waipara where he obtained a quantity of wax cylinders. Finally, Robert showed us a small china music box with the tune "Daisy Belle" believed to have been made about 1931-35 and now very collectable.

After supper, members lingered, not in any hurry to leave the warmth for the trip back to Christchurch.

Lyndsey Drummond, Secretary

REPORT ON JULY MEETING

Despite the cold weather and winter ills/chills taking their toll, 11 members met at the home of Brian and Margaret Reid, on Monday 28th July last. After the usual business of parts, correspondence, hassles in obtaining the services of a suitable plating firm etc., it was time for members to produce their 'finds' and achievements since our last meeting.

Gavin told us of his recent Australian holiday, including catching up with one or two members in Perth, a city he gave high praise to. Robert recounted his trip to Auckland with plenty of miles travelled but sparse on acquisitions. Brian Reid then produced his beautifully restored Continental horn and was credited with much praise for the hours spent on the very effective result. David Peterson had acquired phonograph material found on the Internet which was of interest, followed by Walter showing us a recent gift, namely a Combination 'S' reproducer. The final item shown was a 'master' for stamping out '78 records which Walter had bought at a local garage sale.

During the evening Gavin, on behalf of local members, presented Walter with a CD and card to show our appreciation of Walter's commitment to the Society over many years, also to mark his forthcoming 70th birthday on 31st July.

Supper concluded a busy and most interesting evening.

Lyndsey Drummond, Secretary

COLUMBIA SERIES

No. 31

1906

THE PEERLESS — or MODEL B.F.

This model appears in our small reprint, 1906 Columbia Catalogue.

Our front cover was taken from this catalogue, a photograph also included was taken by Tony Airs of his model B.F. The other illustration is taken from 1907 Columbia catalogue along with a description of this model which follows:

COLUMBIA PEERLESS CYLINDER GRAPHOPHONE, TYPE BF.

THE COLUMBIA PEERLESS is an exceptionally handsome machine and is especially recommended to customers desiring a very high grade article. The cabinet of this machine is 15½ inches long, 10 inches

deep and 13 inches high and is made of the highest quality quarter-sawed oak, handsomely finished in a golden shade and beautifully polished. It has mitred corners fitted with heavy carved pilasters and broad carved moulding at base, with round, sweeping corners. Is provided with a three ply cross banded bent wood carrying cover with oak handle trimmed with nickel.

THE MOTOR has triple steel barrels fitted with specially tempered springs and can be wound while running. Will play five records at a single winding. It is equipped with best quality heavy solid brass gears which are absolutely noiseless, being carefully, perfectly fitted and cut. All shafts are of solid steel and the motor frame is built of special gray casting. The bed plate is made of silver nickel steel and the oiling is automatic.

THE REPRODUCER is the latest approved patented lyric model with genuine sapphire ball accurately ground and is made of solid brass finished in silver nickel. This reproducer is fully described and illustrated on page 7. We also furnish with this machine an extra sensitive recorder made of solid brass, finished in silver nickel for the purpose of making records at home.

THE FLORAL HORN with which this machine is equipped can be furnished in either red or blue colours with rich gold striping. This horn is 31 inches long with a 22 inch bell, has scalloped edges and 10 petals. The machine is equipped with a silver nickel horn crane which supports the large floral horn. We also furnish with this machine a 14 inch brass horn with spun brass bell which is used in making records.

SHIPPED ON 30 DAYS' FREE TRIAL

OUTFIT No. 47: Columbia Peerless cylinder graphophone, complete as above described, with twelve Columbia XP gold cylinder records. Price, \$46.20; preliminary deposit with order, \$9.20; \$4.30 monthly until paid.

OUTFIT No. 48: Columbia Peerless cylinder graphophone, complete as above described, with six Columbia XP and six Columbia BC gold moulded cylinder records. Price, \$17.70; preliminary deposit with order, \$9.70; \$4.75 monthly until paid.

OUTFIT No. 49: Columbia Peerless cylinder graphophone, complete as above described, with twelve Columbia BC gold moulded cylinder records. Price, \$49.20; preliminary deposit with order, \$10.00; \$4.90 monthly until paid.

OUTFIT No. 50: Columbia Peerless cylinder graphophone, complete as above described, with twenty-four Columbia XP gold moulded cylinder records. Price, \$49.20; preliminary deposit with order, \$10.00; \$4.90 monthly until paid.

OUTFIT No. 51: Columbia Peerless cylinder graphophone, complete as above described, with twelve Columbia XP and twelve Columbia BC gold moulded cylinder records. Price, \$52.50; preliminary deposit with order, \$11.00; \$5.15 monthly until paid.

OUTFIT No. 52: Columbia Peerless cylinder graphophone, complete as above described, with twenty-four Columbia BC gold moulded cylinder records. Price, \$55.20; preliminary deposit with order, \$11.20; \$5.50 monthly until paid.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER received from member Lex Finch, Adelaide

Regarding Edison Oil bottle shown in Volume 32 Issue 1 of the magazine.

This oil was used in lead-acid batteries and was put into the battery so that it floated on top of the acid. This was done to prevent or reduce evaporation of the acid in hot climates. It was used in particular in batteries used to power railway signals in areas remote from mains electricity. These bottles are occasionally found on rubbish dumps near the railway line from Broken Hill to Adelaide, a good deal of which ran through rough country with no mains electricity until relatively recently.



Record Collectors

L. Schlick



Hendran and Jumeau



Hendran



Music Box



Music Boxes etc



Hendran Doll

LETTER FROM JOHN RADZEVICIUS, AUSTRALIA

On my recent trip to the U.S. I was lucky enough to visit the Edison lab and house (Glenmont) in West Orange and then return to Ft Myers in Florida to Edison's winter home.

It was the first time I had been to West Orange, the site at West Orange has a lab which consisted of a library, storeroom which had everything in it (it even had an elephant hide in it), a machine shop in one building. The next was the chemical lab and the next was the phonograph display. This display had about 10 photographs, after a short talk on the history of phonographs it was back to the gift shop where they have some projectors on display and the electric car. They also had a small tin pin for Edison's 150th birthday. His house Glenmont has 29 rooms which are left the way it was, it was something to see.

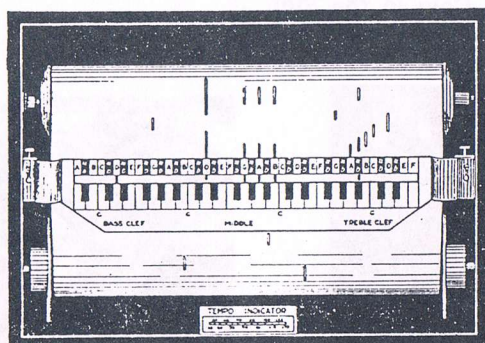
From there we went to Ft Myers Florida to his winter house, they have something like 170 phonographs on display, they also have about 12 or more projectors, a collection of light bulbs, generators, cars, radios and electrical items, if that is not enough they have a very large collection of Edison's own things on display as well. The winter home was given to Ft Myers for \$1 and the condition that it is left the way it was for the people to see the estate. The estate has 13 acres of beautiful grounds that was started by Edison after Mr H. Ford (as in the car) and Mr H. Firestone (as in the tyres) gave him the money to start research into rubber as America did not have a rubber supply of it's own. There are a number of buildings on the grounds, one is the Honeymoon cottage, 2. the main house that was designed by Edison and the mirror image guest house, 3. the light lab, 4. pool and poolhouse, 5. Fords winter house which is next door because they were great friends, 6. the rubber lab and then the museum and gift shop.

While I was there I found my first Columbia m/c which turns out to be a model Q with a wooden base and lid in good condition.

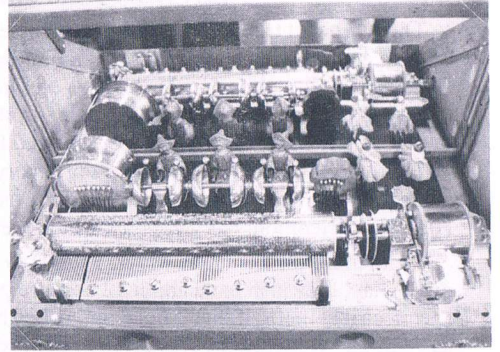
MUSIC TAUGHT BY PIANO ROLL AND LETTERED KEYBOARD

Instruction in vocal or instrumental music is afforded in a paper roll and lettered-keyboard arrangement that fits either player or ordinary pianos. In the mechanical instrument, it fits over the tracker bar; on others, it occupies the usual space for the sheet music and is turned by knobs at the sides. As the perforations on the roll pass through, they slip under corresponding spaces on the keyboard diagram which is marked for the bass, middle and treble clefs. The method is to strike the key with the finger as the perforation slides by to aid in memorizing the note. Melody parts for the voice or for an instrument can be picked out of the record and followed through in this way, slowly at first and then more rapidly. In learning to play the piano, one hand is to be mastered first, then the other, and finally the two together. A special instructor roll and a set of six containing sixty lessons are provided.

Popular Mechanics, 1931

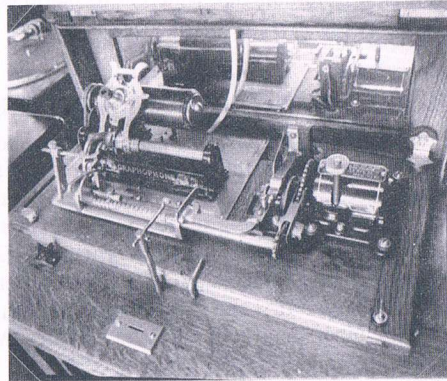


Music-Instructor Roll with Its Lettered Keyboard,
Which Identifies the Notes as They Are Played



Large Cylinder Music Box

L Schlick



Columbia Coin in the Slot

Edison Eclipse



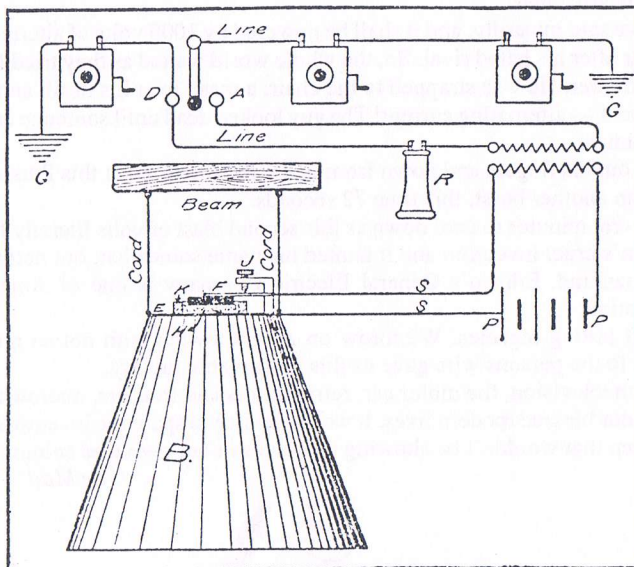
Kurt Nauck



Toy Phonographs

The drawing indicates a method that has been used to send music out on a toll line so that all the parties on the line could hear it. The apparatus is crude but has been found to work well and considering the materials from which it was made, has paid for itself many times, says the American Telephone Journal. The transmitter is shown in section, the rest of the circuit being indicated diagrammatically. It will be noted that the transmitting apparatus is suspended from the ceiling by cords. This is done so that the ordinary vibrations of the room will not affect it and also so that it can be easily moved from place to place. B is a tin funnel, 3 inches in diameter at the top and 14 inches in diameter at the bottom. H is granular carbon and F is a block of carbon attached to a strip of metal which is arranged so that the pressure of the carbon block on the granular carbon can be regulated by the tension screw J. The little standard which holds J (which can be an ordinary wood screw) is of seasoned wood. E is a disk of tin which is the diaphragm on which the granular carbon rests and K is a felt ring to confine the carbon to its proper place. The apparatus has been used to send music 50 miles over a party line. The switch D is used to cut the transmitter into the line or to cut the line straight through as is desired. The tension screw J should be adjusted until the listening party says he can hear best.

Popular Mechanics 1905, Shop Notes



Device for Sending Music Over Party Lines

RE-INVENTING THE WHEEL, MORE OR LESS

I know readers, if they have Sky television, must frequently tune into the marvellous Discovery channel.

On Sunday night, bored with the same dull stuff describing itself as "The News", I flicked over to Sky's Discovery, to Thomas Edison, the extraordinary American genius inventor.

The man who gave us the light bulb and a thousand other inventions including the microphone, the phonograph and kinetoscope — a word my dictionary does not have but I am assuming it is a mechanical means of measuring the study of molecular bodies in movement — was singularly self-believing, as well he had to be, given that in his time in America beginning about 1870, he was inventing the wheel conceptually with virtually every one of his inventions.

He also suffered profound disinterest even when he proved one of his inventions could advance the world.

It was announced that Edison would give the world the light bulb; the problem being the filament and what material and construction would make it work.

He hit the project with a huge team of all sorts, from scientists to mathematicians and a range of laboratory assistants. Six weeks he gave himself, but months passed.

The visionary, the prophet, not being recognised let alone appreciated in his own country, was all too true as the press announced Thomas Edison as a fraud and his investors howled angry doubt.

Unlike revolutionary inventions of today, which have a modern technological system in place to give them the oomph of creation, Edison had no such society at his disposal. He had to invent both the invention and the industry to produce it. His first power generator sold only one small model in Winnipeg in the first year, despite everyone agreeing on its decided advantages and advancements to American society at large.

In that nation where competition has become the Holy Grail, Edison completely dominated the electric power industry and its side-products for some time.

Then along came industrialist Westinghouse who brought his formidable business skills and a superior electric system called alternating current and said "let's compete".

And Edison, the man who had led the way against common resistance and ignorant disbelief in his ideas, fell victim to the same disease. He refused to accept that Westinghouse's alternating current was the better invention. A man of liberal views he was nonetheless so against the alternating current theory which was being put into increasingly successful practice, he seized his chance to forever ruin its image when he was invited to invent the electric chair.

Oh yes, he must have said inwardly, and it shall be powered by 1000 volts of alternating current. Edison wanted to call the chair after his hated rival. So, the whole world waited as they tried Edison's experiment out on a convicted murderer. He was strapped to the chair, a mask over his head, and then they applied a 17 second burst of current — alternating current! The guy looked dead until someone cried out "he moved", which he did several times.

Blood was coming out his fingers and down from under the mask. So at this Pittsburgh penitentiary in 1889 they gave the man another burst, this time 72 seconds.

It took his body several minutes to cool down as this second blast of volts literally fried him. The world was outraged at Edison's cruel invention and it tainted his name somewhat, but nothing could take away from what he gave mankind. Edison's General Electric Company is one of America's largest, so is Westinghouse Corporation.

These two men left lasting legacies. We throw on a light switch with not so much as a thought of appreciation, let alone to the persons who gave us this inestimable facility.

We do the same with television, the motor car, refrigerators and freezers, microwaves and every other electrical appliance in our blessed modern lives. It would be nice to spare the inventors a thought of thanks once in a while, but then that wouldn't be showing ourselves in our own true colours would it?

'The Mail' Christchurch, 8/5/97



"You've been made redundant. I've bought a CD player."

ADVERTISEMENTS

Wanted:

Two Minute Edison Phonograph Cylinders in playable condition. Also Clockwork mechanism for a "Red Gem". Please reply to: Ivan Copping, 139 Totara Drive, Hamilton, New Zealand. Phone 07-8493-856.

Wanted to Purchase:

Any memorabilia concerning Island Bay Radio Service (Wellington) and recordings. Also any Sonic Studio (Wellington) recordings and associated photos, books — anything.

Has anybody got or know where I can get Sir Ernest Shackleton's Gramophone recording entitled: "Speech—Dash for the South Pole" (D.337). Any historical and documentary recordings. Please reply to: Ian Macdonald, 35 Ranfurly Street, Tamatea, Napier, 4001, New Zealand. Telephone (06) 8444 407.

California Antique Phonograph Society:

Dedicated to the preservation of antique phonographs, records and music memorabilia.

We meet monthly to display and share our collections.

Each year we sponsor a show and sale, the largest on the West Coast of the United States.

Membership dues are \$15.00 per year. (Out of U.S.A. \$20.00).

For information: Karyn Sitter, 18242 Timberlane, Yorba Linda, CA 92886, USA. (714) 7772486.

Information Needed:

Information on SEFTON DALY — a New Zealand composer and a light pianist of the 1940-1960 era; thought to have accompanied Noel Coward in New Zealand. Made Columbia 78's of own compositions.

also, **Seeking to Purchase:** DECCA 12" L.P. of orchestral "CANADIAN IMPRESSIONS" featuring 1958 Robert Farnon Orchestra. Please reply: Derek Cockburn, 135 Clyde Road, Christchurch, 5 Phone (03) 351-7939.

P.T.O.

Dear Walter,

For some years Russell Smith and I have been preparing a biography of PETER DAWSON. I am pleased to report that a publisher has been found and that the manuscript will be finished by the end of the year for publishing in 1998.

I am preparing a discography of Dawson but find that information on his cylinders, especially the 2-minute waxes, is sketchy.

May I make an appeal to Society members to check their cylinder collections to the following matters:

- (1) Type of accompaniment (e.g. piano or orchestra).
- (2) Composer credits (where printed).
- (3) Any "effects" present (eg bells or whistles, etc.).
- (4) If cylinders are announced.

We are also interested in identifying Peter Dawson pseudonyms on both disc and cylinder. The following have been suggested as being Dawson under an assumed name:

Mr C. Adams	Nicole
Robert Baxter	Zonophone
James Bell	Zonophone
Percy Dalton	Ariel
Will Danby	Twin/White/Sterling/Edison Bell
Fred Davies	Zonophone
Leonard Dawson	Edison Bell/Lambert
Maurice Evans	Ariel
Victor Graham	G & T
Hector Grant	Zonophone/Pathe/Victor/White/Edison/Edison Bell
Charles Handy	HMV/Zonophone/Ariel
Mr Miles	Zonophone
Llewelyn Morgan	HMV
James Osborne	Zonophone/Twin
Uncle Peter	HMV
David Peters	G & T
Sydney Reeves	HMV
William Stewart	Zonophone
Will Strong	HMV/Zonophone
Henry Tucker	G & T/HMV/Zonophone/Twin
Arthur Walpole	Zonophone
George Welsh	Zonophone
Walter Wentworth	Zonophone/Twin

I would encourage readers to dig out their Dawsons and enter into solving some of these mysteries. All contributions will be most welcome and properly acknowledged in the book.

Naturally, any reminiscences or anecdotes about Peter Dawson on his tours of New Zealand will be greatly appreciated.

Russell and I hope to produce a biography and discography which will be a fitting tribute to one of the recording industries most acclaimed artists.

My address for correspondence is Peter Burgis, P.O. Box 1660, Port Macquarie, NSW 2444, Australia.

P.T.O.