



The Phonographic Record

Journal of the Vintage Phonograph Society of New Zealand (Inc.)
A society formed for the preservation of recorded sound

Volume 50, Issue 3 June/August 2015



While this duster from ca. 1925 must have been made for the American market, it did not come to me from overseas but turned up here in Christchurch where it has probably been since it was new. The late Dick Hills, a local member of very fond memory, owned a Victrola Orthophonic Credenza Model 8-30 which he had inherited and which somehow had come to New Zealand soon after it was made. I say "somehow" because this country was supposedly HMV territory and we don't see very many Victor/Victrola machines. It may surprise US readers to know that Dick's 8-30 is the only example of this model I have ever seen in New Zealand. Dick's family still own the machine and recently asked my opinion on its value, after which they let me buy a few 78's and this duster which is both a fine addition to my collection and a memento of a much-missed friend – Ed.

THE PHONOGRAPHIC RECORD

Volume 50, Issue 3

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For your information

With the Annual General Meeting in September 2015 we marked the completion of the Society's first fifty years – not a bad achievement! Every member, past and present, has contributed to this success. Thank you all and may we carry on for a good while yet, keeping in mind the need to be realistic about what we can do and trying our best to provide what members want.

I am very grateful for the contributed articles in this issue. To spare you from too large a helping of my deathless prose in one issue, more articles please!

This issue includes part of the annual financial statements for the year ended 8 August 2015. Trish Matunga, our accountant, thinks that our financial year end date is eccentric but it has its advantages. The Phonograph Society file doesn't join her pile of club and company accounts all needing to be done by 31 March, the end of the tax year! Wearing my Treasurer's "hat" I must express again my gratitude to Trish, David Peterson and other members for help in this department. Once we get beyond a simple record of money in and money out, it soon moves out of my comfort zone.

Gavin East
Editor

President's Report 2015

By Gavin East

When I sat at the back of the first meeting in 1965 it would have been hard to believe that our society would still exist half a century later, let alone that I would be privileged to be its President for the Golden Jubilee. A milestone such as this inevitably turns my thoughts to the past and the contributions of so many over the years. Walter Norris was always quick to acknowledge the roles of Pam Rogers and Bill Webb in the foundation but I think we all agree that Walter did more than anyone to set the Society up and support it. We so hoped that Walter could help celebrate this fiftieth anniversary but must be grateful that he was able to come to meetings as recently as 2013.

Looking back to the world of 1965 I am struck both by how much has changed and yet how many things are the same. The internet and the information explosion were still in the future when we started and our society played a useful role in bringing collectors together to share what they knew. It was easier in those days to build up a collection from local auctions and newspaper advertisements, though an incomplete machine could languish for want of a horn or winding handle. We soon built up the catalogue of replica parts which served our members so well until a combination of factors made us realise that this aspect of the Society was no longer sustainable.

But though the faces at meetings are no longer those of 1965, and the world in which we live has changed so much, some things are not so different. Only a few of the members at the early meetings were active collectors and only a few members were willing to take on committee roles – just like today! The Society has always depended on a small core of local members to keep things going and I am very grateful to be part of a team which in every way upholds the aims and continues the dedication of the founders. It is still possible to start collecting early phonographs, as I was reminded recently when meeting an enthusiastic North Island member in his early twenties. We worry that the turnout for a Christchurch meeting may fall below the quorum threshold but so far so good and again, not a new problem! The Society still provides a network by which phonograph collectors can enhance the enjoyment of our hobby and I hope that it can continue to do so, even if in ways I cannot imagine.



In this postcard there is just enough of the machine discernible to suggest that it could be a G & T Monarch Senior of ca. 1904. The card has no stamp or postmark but appears to date from somewhere around 1910. The message on the back includes the startling request, "Please send me a message on your Phone", presumably just a humorous reference to the photo since this would have been many decades before texting became possible – Ed.

Finding and Restoring an Ariston Organette

By Jim Crook

I recently called into the Clive antique shop for a talk and “eye wander”. It’s just a small shop in a small town between Hastings and Napier where I have occasionally found something of interest in the phonograph line. I called in again in August 2015 mainly to have a chat with the owner Richard and to check with his stock. My eyes wandered over the shelves and noted nothing of interest. I was leaning on the counter while we nattered when my eyes settled on what looked like a wind up gramophone... Well it was the size of a table gramophone and had a handle to turn something.

Richard said it was an organette. “Look, I’ll play it for you...” It sounded horrible. “And it comes with about 20 discs”, he said. I could see it was old and in need of attention. “How much?” I asked. He told me the price which for the condition seemed a little high. I drove home and phoned Robert Sleeman who convinced me that it was a steal at the price Richard wanted so back to the antique shop I went, paid the money and I was the proud owner of an Ariston organette plus 40 discs.

Checking the serial number on the web it turns out to be a 1900-1902 model, made in Germany as are the discs, all stamped “Made in Germany”.

It has 24 spring loaded steel fingers which raise or lower according to the placement of the holes in the disc which in turn allow air from the bellows to pass to one of the 24 reeds thus making a tune. Each complete revolution of the disc takes 30 seconds. It does not have a wind up spring so stop turning the handle and the music stops. It took a day or two of spare time to adjust the fingers correctly and the organette now sounds great.

I am getting different advice from people as to whether to repaint the organette and also redo the gold pinstriping, which I want to do. As someone said, the missing paintwork and knocked-about woodwork are the history of the machine and it would be better to leave it as it is. I’m still thinking about this, any ideas?

Some of the history of this organette has been uncovered. It came from Matapiro Station which has a history going back to the c1880’s or earlier. Some years back the station was sold and various items were distributed to family. The woman who placed the organette in the antique shop was cleaning out unwanted collectibles. I have a photo of the organette at Matapiro and there is also a large green horned gramophone in the background. No luck as yet in tracing that but you just never know.

Editor’s note: Congratulations to Jim on finding the Ariston with a good number of discs and getting it playing well. The Ehrlich company supposedly turned out these organettes by the tens of thousands but only a fraction of that number still survive. Re the case finish, my preference would be to leave it original. Good luck to Jim in tracking down the gramophone which once “lived” at the same station (or I suppose “ranch” to US readers!).





These two photos are not the clearest but Jim Crook and I thought readers might be interested to see his Ariston organette as found in the antique shop (top photo) and earlier in its career at Matapiro Station in company with an attractive horn gramophone, present whereabouts unknown – Ed.

The Hexaphone 104

by Mike Tucker

As an avid collector of coin operated phonographs one of the machines I was keen to obtain was a Hexaphone, made by the Regina Company in four versions (101, 102, 103 and 104) between 1909 and 1921. These were spring wound machines (as compared to the upright Edison electric machines) and provided the choice of one of six Blue Amberol records. All Edison machines played only one cylinder.

I managed to obtain a restorable Model 103 from a contact in the USA, and eventually got it back to excellent appearance and working condition.

However, I learned in the process that the most advanced model was the 104, and when the opportunity arose to obtain an almost entirely original 104, the 103 quickly found a new owner and the 104 was purchased. (Illustration 1). The 104 has a number of updated features. The belt drive of the earlier models has been upgraded to a gear drive, the horn elbow has been re-designed and the reproducer upgraded to a larger model. In addition, the marquee display has been upgraded to simplify the changing of the tune list. This allowed the cardboard tune holder to be lifted upwards and out and the substitution of one or more tune details to be easily and quickly achieved. (Illustration 2) Earlier models had a one- piece tune sheet with details of all six tunes which was clipped inside the glass lid of the machine and which required a new sheet each time a tune was changed.

As an arcade machine, or quite possibly a stand-alone machine in a shop where the shop owner took a percentage of the coins deposited, where the owner hired someone to change the records etc., there were two security devices available. The first was a cage which fitted over the driving mechanism, including the coin trip, and prevented unauthorized access to "free" plays (Illustration 3, without security cage and Illustration 4, with security cage). The second was the addition of hook and eye latches on either side of the inside of the back panel. This meant that even if the screws holding the back panel were removed the panel was not able to be removed without noticeable damage and the coin box thus secured.

While the instruction sheet implores users to wind the crank only six times and then stop, the gearing only allows six turns before it comes up against a stop. It would take a very strong person to wind the machine past the stop and catastrophic damage would certainly result if this was done. (Illustration 5).

The playing sequence is very straight-forward:-

1. Insert USA 5 cent (nickel) coin into coin slide and push closed. The coin falls down a slide and trips the play lock to the open position. There is provision for “slugs” to fall in to the reject holder before it can trip the play lock.
2. Rotate the record selection knob to select the desired cylinder (the “finger” points to the cylinder number).
3. Turn the winder six times until it reaches the stop.

The playing sequence will then start automatically and the mechanism will re-set to the start point at the completion of the tune. Note that as the settings need to cover the start and stop position of any Blue Amberol, the start and stop positions are the same for all cylinders and as a result there can be a delay from the start of the playing sequence until the start of the tune and also a delay at the end of the tune until the stop position is reached.

Many thanks to Australian member Mike Tucker for this article. There is at least one of these machines in New Zealand but, like all coin-operated phonographs, they are rare and exotic beasts in our part of the world – Ed.



Illustration 1



Illustration 2

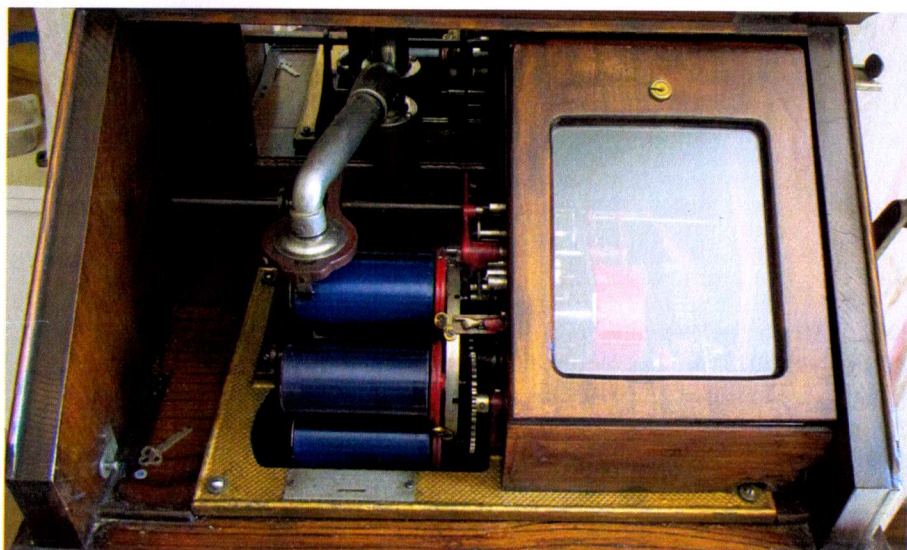


Illustration 3

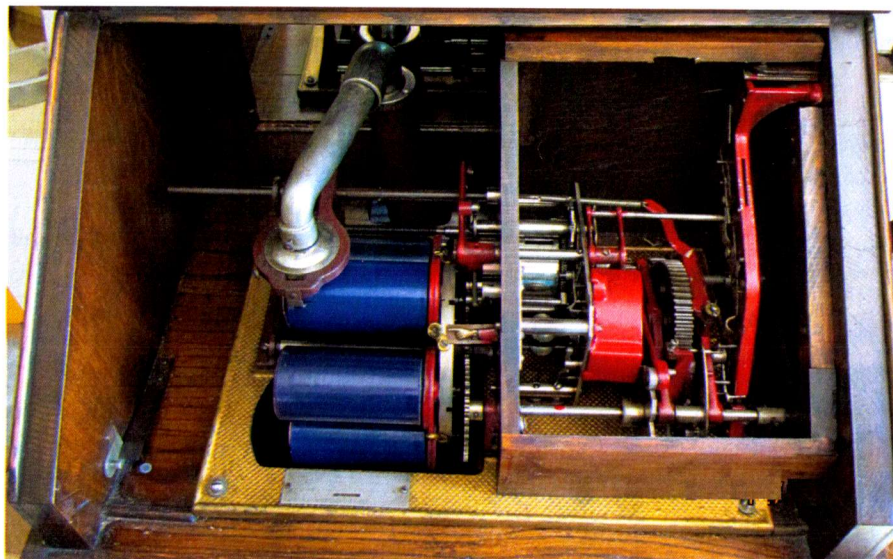


Illustration 4

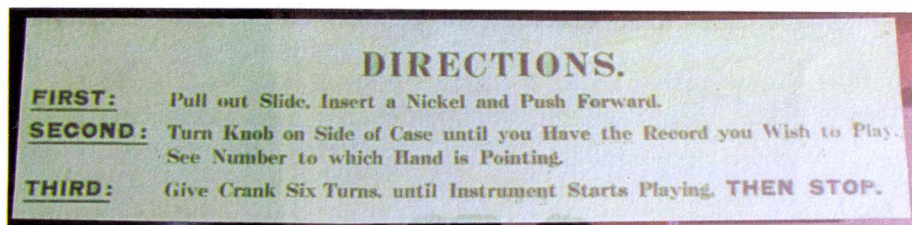


Illustration 5

Meeting Reports June-September 2015

By Gavin East

David Peterson welcomed us to his lovely home in Upper Riccarton, Christchurch for the June 2015 meeting. We made good progress planning the anniversary function at the end of the year. Peter McQuarters had sent a very positive email from the Aeroview function centre in Ashburton so we agreed on a firm booking for 5 December. David offered to enquire further about the catering options, based on the information supplied by Peter.

I was able to report that I had completed listing the books donated to the Society by the Norris family with the request that we distribute them among local members.

Laurence Varlet had suggested that we could mark the Society's fiftieth anniversary by commissioning a special needle tin with a suitable design on its lid. We agreed that this was a very appealing concept so Laurence sounded out an American supplier of printed tins. Unfortunately the price and time factors meant that this very interesting idea had to be abandoned.

Roger Brown brought the welcome news that he has started wood graining the remaining Amberola 30 front grilles.

We distributed a further selection of English and other phonograph magazines given to the Society by the Norris family from Walter's estate. After the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m. David played us two lively fox trot Diamond Discs on his L-19 Laboratory Model Edison Disc Phonograph before we enjoyed supper and further conversation.

On 27 July I hosted the monthly meeting at 4A Lyttelton Street in the small town of Lincoln, approximately twelve kilometres from Christchurch. Sadly we had to begin by marking the passing on 9 July of Neil Johnson who had been in nursing care for over four years after collapsing with a paralysing spinal infarction at his home.

We continued with plans for the anniversary function and were very pleased to know that several out of town members have expressed interest in attending. Acknowledging the contributions made to our society by the late Walter Norris, Bill Dini and Adair Otley, I undertook to extend invitations to Hilda Norris, Peter Dini and Hilde Otley.

Wilf Boon had received a catalogue of TANZA 78's, the pioneering New Zealand label, from North Island member Jim Crook and we were interested to look at it. Not yet running but attractive even in its "as found" state was the HMV Monarch Senior I had been fortunate enough to buy earlier in the month from a dealer friend who in turn had scored it in a weekly general auction.

Bob and Nu Wright offered to host the August meeting, so with that plus Derek and Marcia Cockburn's invitation for September it was good to have a couple of venues arranged in advance. There wasn't time for me to play many records before our supper, and I didn't take note of what did get spun, but something certainly entertained my guests via the HMV 191 or the C-19 Edison Disc Phonograph or both!

The August 2015 meeting was held at the home of Bob and Nu Wright in Christchurch. We covered various matters needing discussion, most notably the final arrangements for the anniversary function to be held in December. We were sad to receive a letter advising that Australian member Mr T. Goodwin had passed away. Following on from the news of Christchurch member Neil Johnson's passing early in July, I was able to provide an update on the sorting out of Neil's estate, a formidable task which the executor has entrusted to a very efficient professional organiser, Robyn Georgieff, who has appreciated the help which David Peterson, Robert Sleeman and I have been able to provide.

Derek and Marcia Cockburn kindly hosted the AGM and monthly meeting at their home in Jacksons Road, Christchurch on Monday 28 September 2015. For various reasons the turnout was rather on the low side but it was great to welcome a new

member, Peter Harris. The AGM was pretty much a formality since no matters needed discussion and there was no need under our constitution for a change of president. Joffre Marshall was happy to continue as Patron, as was Shirley McGuigan as Secretary, and we re-elected the Committee en bloc as follows:

President: Gavin East

Vice-President: David Peterson

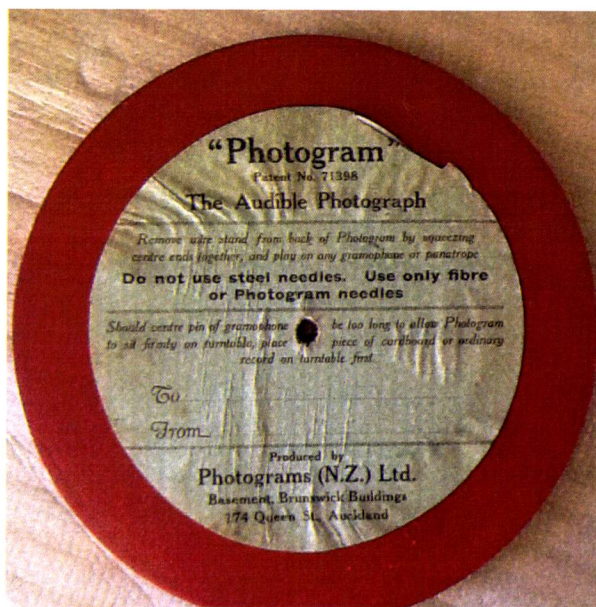
Treasurer: Gavin East

Committee: Wilf Boon, Roger Brown, John Hastilow and Laurence Varlet plus Robert Sleeman as immediate past President.

This all took less than a quarter of an hour so we were able to turn to the regular monthly meeting at 8.15 p.m. I was very pleased to report that I, Roger and Voila Brown, David Peterson and Robert Sleeman had been able to meet with Wellington member Scott Flutey who enjoyed his recent visit to Christchurch. Wilf Boon has been rebuilding a Peter Pan cameraphone from an incomplete example and we admired Wilf's handiwork.

From information provided by David Peterson I provided an update on developments at "Waipapa", the farm and lifetime home of the late Walter Norris at Swannanoa. The "new" house built in 1967 has been moved to the end of the farm and the whole homestead area including many mature trees is being cleared to make way for the new owners' conversion of the farm to an irrigated dairying operation. Many of us have been sad to learn of the destruction of a property we have enjoyed visiting over so many years.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m. and was followed by supper and further conversation as usual (and very enjoyable as always!). I offered to host the October meeting in Lincoln.



This disc, which I assume combines a personal recording with a photo of the person who made the recording, turned up on the Trade Me auction website recently and attracted some spirited bidding before selling for NZ\$309.00. None of us on the Christchurch "grapevine" had seen one before though it looks like a good idea which should have been reasonably successful. If it was the New Zealand version of a product familiar to overseas readers, please let us know! – Ed.

On the Look-Out

By Wilf Boon

Looking for something to collect is a hobby pursued by millions around the world. For some it probably gets to be a lifelong ambition to own the most sought after, valuable, rare and collectable items to be found in what appeals to their own particular interest. For others who, like me, are in their twilight years, the phonograph and gramophone have to provide one of the most rewarding hobbies for many reasons. When you think about it, there are not many things that can give you the combined pleasure not only of something to admire but also of hours of enjoyment listening to the many choices in music and even going back to the very first recordings of sound.

For me it is also the joy of finding something which is related to either the phonograph or gramophone. It was only recently, on a visit to Smith's, a well-known second hand bookshop here in Christchurch, New Zealand, that I was lucky enough to find some early Tuck's postcards which have a miniature recording imprinted on to them. The bookseller assured me they would be the last he had available there, but revisiting the shop some time later, and ferreting again through the old filing cabinet – yes – another four postcards turned up, and on yet another visit, guess what, four more. My desire to look for more has waned a little now, but I'm sure you know the feeling.

Well, that's my little story and I've yet to find something really valuable but who knows, maybe I'll get lucky some day.



For more information on Tuck's postcard records and other flexible discs, see <http://flexible-records.blogspot.co.nz/2014/03/tucks-gramophone-record-postcard.html> from which I have borrowed this picture – Ed.

2014 \$		2015 \$
	INCOME	
	<u>Trading Income</u>	
(788)	Gross Profit From Parts	373
	<u>Non-Trading Income</u>	
2,462	Subscriptions	2,070
-	Donations	10
204	Interest -National Bank	295
2,666		2,375
1,878	TOTAL GROSS INCOME	2,748
	LESS EXPENDITURE	
451	Accounting Fees	300
63	Bank Charges	65
489	General Expenses	301
836	Magazines	972
1,009	Printing Stamps & Stationery	1,880
2,848	TOTAL CASH EXPENDITURE	3,518
(\$970)	NET DEFICIT	(\$770)

2014 \$		2015 \$
	CURRENT ASSETS	
3,464	Westpac	3,272
10,313	Westpac Simple Saver	20,568
1,579	Accounts Receivable	-
22,900	Stock on Hand	13,945
38,256		37,785
	FIXED ASSETS	
12,020	Fixed Assets - as per schedule	12,020
50,276	TOTAL ASSETS	49,805
	LESS LIABILITIES	
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
200	Unspecified Credits Held	199
-	Sundry Creditors	300
200		499
\$50,076	NET ASSETS	\$49,306

On the basis that every member has a right to know about such matters, I have printed a couple of excerpts from our latest set of annual financial statements, prepared and reviewed by Trish Matunga of the firm of Gilbert & Associates Ltd of Lincoln. If any member wants to know more or have anything clarified, please contact us – Ed.

Advertisements

Phonograph Society of New South Wales Inc:

From cylinder to CD, the Society is for those interested in all aspects of historical sound recording and reproduction at its monthly meetings in Sydney. One subscription for all: \$A30 pa Australia and overseas. Write to The Secretary, Phonographic Society of NSW (Inc), P.O. Box 215, Epping, NSW 1710, Australia, or visit our website www.phonographicsocietynsw.welcome.to

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, is published quarterly. Relevant books and reprints are also sold. Annual dues (Australian currency); NZ, Asia and South Pacific \$28.00; Rest of the world \$32.00; Write to: the Secretary, PSSA, P.O. Box 235, Kent Town, S.A., 5071, Australia. Phone and Fax (=61-8+8337-7134) E-mail: nelsent@picknol.com.au

The Antique Phonograph Society:

The California Antique Phonography changed its name at the beginning of 2012. We are now **The Antique Phonograph Society**. Our mailing address remains P.O. Box 169 Victorville, CA 92393 USA. However, our website changed a few years ago to: www.antiquephono.org

Rates for members outside North America are \$40 USD (check) or \$42 USD (through the website/paypal)

The City of London Phonograph and Gramophone Society Limited (CLPGS):

To join us, contact the Membership Secretary: Tim Wood-Woolley, 28 Park Terrace, Westcliff on Sea, Essex, SS0 7PH, United Kingdom or e-mail clpgsmembership@blueyonder.co.uk. For more information visit the CLPGS Web page at www.clpgs.org.uk

Wanted to buy (or exchange for what you need):

One HMV Model 1 or 1a tapering tone arm with gooseneck. See pages 87-88, Phonoservice book of HMV gramophones. Bruce Leask, 20 Hind Place, Palmerston North 4410, New Zealand. Phone (06) 3550636.

Editor's note: In "His master's gramophone" by Oakley and Proudfoot these two ten-inch turntable "hornless" models are shown as illustrations 5.7 and 5.8 on pages 159 and 160.

Wanted to Buy:

Dancing Rastus or similar figures to fit on old gramophone records.

Please email: vandrbrown@xtra.co.nz

or phone 064 3 312 4477 (NZ)

Wanted to Buy or Exchange:

HMV No.4 soundbox, gold finish and early style with "His Master's Voice" printed on front. Record dusters with New Zealand shop names.

Gavin East, 4A Lyttelton Steet, Lincoln 7608, New Zealand,

email: Gavin.East@lincoln.ac.nz

Wanted to Buy:

TANZA 78's featuring vocals by John Hoskins. Please contact Wilf Boon via the Society's email address, nzphonosociety@hotmail.com or phone (03) 332 2897

Edison Message No. 17

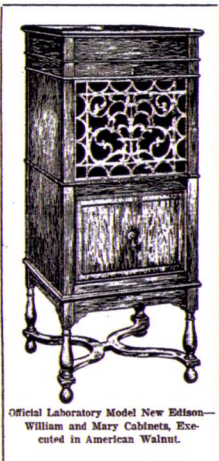
What Will Win The War?

Some say food—some say men—some say money—some say ships—some say artillery—some say aeroplanes—some say coal, according to the individual viewpoint. Perhaps it is going to be all of these or a combination of several, with others added.

We would not presume to predict beyond dispute just what factor or factors are going to win the war, but it is our firm conviction that what wins wars in most instances and what is going to win the present war for us is spirit—that vitalizing, energizing, indomitable, irresistible spirit of America that never knows defeat, that will "carry on" in the face of the most terrific odds—the spirit of '76, the spirit of Valley Forge. The spirit that made a handful of Belgians seriously hold up the

most gigantic military machine ever organized. The spirit that made the French, with greatly inferior equipment, turn, thrash and drive before them sixty miles the "invincible" German hosts. The Serbian spirit that cost two great powers serious losses in their attempt to crush it. The Italian spirit that rallied her armies after a crushing defeat and a demoralizing retreat, and, in spite of terrible losses, held the onrushing foe and fought him to a standstill.

Any influence that will arouse, sustain or raise the do-or-die spirit to still higher levels is a vital necessity in times like the present. Music is such an influence. The Edison Phonograph typifies music in the highest sense. Edison dealers are performing a useful service to the nation.



Official Laboratory Model New Edison—
William and Mary Cabinets, Executed in American Walnut.

THOMAS A. EDISON INC.,
Orange, N. J.

From the late Walter Norris' scrapbooks comes this advertisement, probably from early 1918. Fortunately there is no suggestion that Laboratory Models were about to be used as weapons. Instead we have an appeal short on facts but long on vague sentiment, intended to make one feel somehow patriotic by buying a new Disc Phonograph — Ed.