



The Phonographic Record

Journal of the Vintage Phonograph Society of New Zealand (Inc.)

A society formed for the preservation of recorded sound

Volume 57, Issue 2, July/December 2022



In 1953 a ten year old American named Gayla Peevey had a big hit with this title but for many in New Zealand it will be associated with Pat McMinn (1926-2018) and this TANZA issue of 1954. Based on an exhaustive statistical survey, i.e. remembering that this was one of the 78's in our family radiogram, it must have been one of TANZA's best sellers.

THE PHONOGRAPHIC RECORD

Volume 57, Issue 2, July/December 2022

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For your information

As Bethany and I have made the final additions and changes to this issue in mid November, I hope that that will give enough time for printing and posting so as to see the result in members' hands before Christmas. Many club magazines are now distributed online and some clubs have introduced different subscriptions for online or print magazine delivery. For the moment we are staying with print and are not charging a subscription beyond the joining fee. There is enough in the bank account to sustain this for some time to come.

James Sleeman has done a great job scanning the back issues and the run searchable on our website, www.phonograph.org.nz, is now either complete from the beginning in 1965 or lacking only one or two issues which we are sure to find. We know from correspondence that the digitised copies are being read. The Society owns some rare original catalogues and these should be added to the website soon.

From us at Vintage Phonograph Society of New Zealand "headquarters", best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year.

Gavin East
Editor

We Welcome a New President

At the 2022 Annual General Meeting Edan Bowman accepted nomination as President and was elected. Though Edan has not been a member of our society for very long, many of us have known him for some years thanks to his interest in mechanical music and his involvement in other clubs, one of which has provided him with good training for the role of President.

Edan will be relieved to know that a photo of him at a pianola will not be appearing in every issue. Kathleen Campbell took this one at a recent meeting and it was too good not to use.

The beautiful old house pictured is Curragh, built in Christchurch in 1865 and moved to Ferrymead's historic township in about 1971. It is managed and curated by Friends of Ferrymead, of which organisation Edan Bowman and Kathleen Campbell are active members. We have enjoyed meetings in Curragh twice this year and look forward to more.



President's Report
Vintage Phonograph Society of New Zealand Inc.
57TH AGM – 26.09.22
by David Peterson

It is my pleasure to present this report to the 57th Annual General Meeting of the Vintage Phonograph Society of New Zealand Incorporated.

While we have had one or two of our meetings cancelled over the past 12 months due to the ongoing nature of the Covid pandemic, it would appear that this is now behind us and our more recent monthly meetings have returned to regularly being held on the fourth Monday of each month.

During this past year we have had some interesting social meetings, with visits to the private home cinema and film collection of Ian and Bev Fisher and a visit to the recently opened display of the Dini Collection at Ferrymead being highlights. As always, the meal we shared together prior to Christmas was enjoyed by those who attended.

We have welcomed Nu Wright in to the position of Secretary for the Society. Nu continues to be an active part of our local group here in Christchurch and we appreciate very much her willingness to assist where needed.

With an active presence online, we receive various email enquiries from members of the public who have a machine with problems or that they would like to know something more about. In many cases where there are significant mechanical issues such as a broken spring, we are not able to help as much as we would like with commercial repairers not available locally. However where and when we can, we have been able to offer assistance and advise which has led to a positive outcome for the machine owner who contacted us. This is very satisfying.

I would again like to give my sincere thanks to Gavin East for his ongoing work as Treasurer for the society and also Editor of the magazine. I know that the magazine in particular takes a lot of work to bring together and that the work he does, with assistance from Bethany Bond who manages the layout, is appreciated by the membership. Thank you also to the members of the committee and those who have welcomed us in to their homes for our monthly meetings.

With my two year term as President coming to an end this evening, I would like to wish the incoming President and committee the best of success leading our small but enthusiastic group over the coming year.

Some Early Films With Synchronised Sound on YouTube

by Gavin East

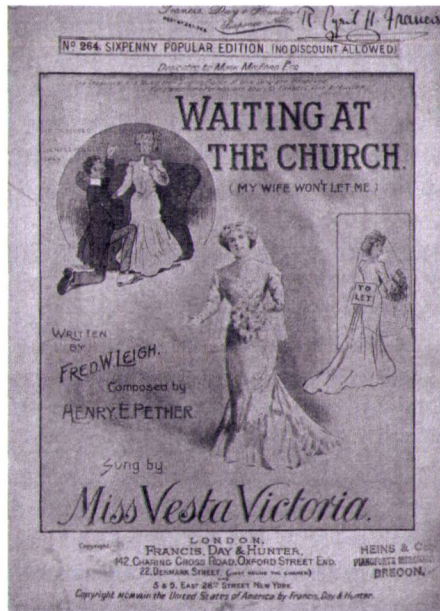
In my meanderings around YouTube I have stumbled across several examples of very early film synchronised with sound recordings. I don't think there is a Google search which will bring all these up so I hope the following links are of interest. The first two films were intended to be shown with sound while the last two were not but have been combined with appropriate recordings.



From books on the history of cinema I was familiar with a grainy still, from an Edison film made in 1894 or 1895, showing a man playing a violin next to a recording horn while two other men dance. Google "The Dickson Experimental Sound Film" for the full story. I knew the film had survived but did not know until recently that the wax cylinder still exists and was repaired in 1998 with the result that we can see and hear this glimpse of the dawn of motion pictures.



1906 saw the premiere in Vienna of the operetta "Kunstlerblut", composed by Edmund Eysler and literally translated as "Artists' Blood" but titled "The Love Cure" for a later adaptation. Alexander Girardi (1850-1918) recorded "Rauschlied" from the operetta for the Messter Biophon system of film synchronised with sound on disc and both film and disc have survived in near perfect condition. Though I have no idea what Girardi is singing about, I enjoy this for the melody and for Girardi's obvious mastery of the stage. The picture and sound quality are so good that I can just about imagine sitting in a theatre in Vienna in 1906!



whatever later sound films she made may

I hope that those who seek out the above
Please let me know of others like them!



sue 2, we illustrated a Gulbrandsen label for a vocal record intended to here we have another outbreak of this peculiar notion, a QRS roll me: e the Grafonola, Victrola or whatever -ola played a Columbia disc by cert baritone David Bispham (1857-1921). I own the roll so if I come some time it might be fun to try the combination -- Ed.

“Dulcetto” “Standaphones.”

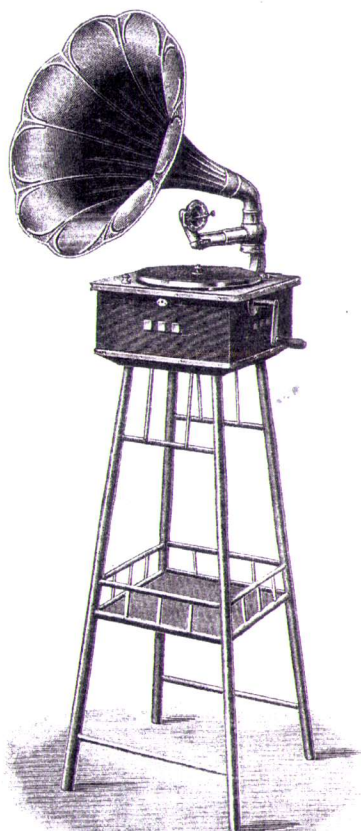
COMBINATION DISC MACHINE AND STAND.



No 1. Complete as illustrated.

TAKES ANY SIZE RECORD.
WINDS WHILST RUNNING.

Price - £3 3 0



No. 2. Complete as illustrated.

PRICE - £5 5 0

Cabinet grey finished oak with bronze
ornamentation. Large flower horn. Takes
any size record. Winds whilst running.

(6)

DULCETTO "Standaphones"

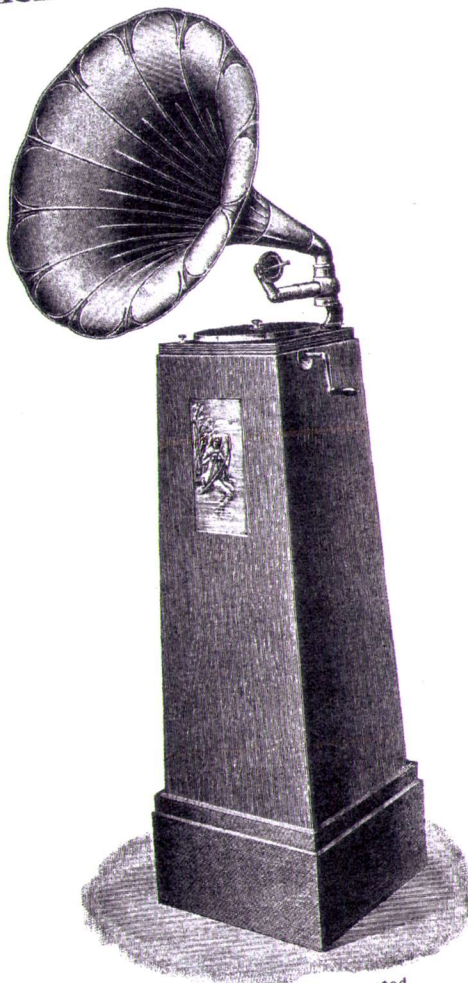
COMBINATION DISC MACHINE AND STAND.



No. 3. Complete as illustrated.

In fine Cherry Wood, polished.
Powerful Motor. Beautifully finished.

PRICE - £8 8 0



No. 4. Complete as illustrated.

Obelisk shape in Italian Walnut, ornamented with German Silver. Inside of Cabinet can be used for storing records. Large Flower horn. Very powerful Motor.

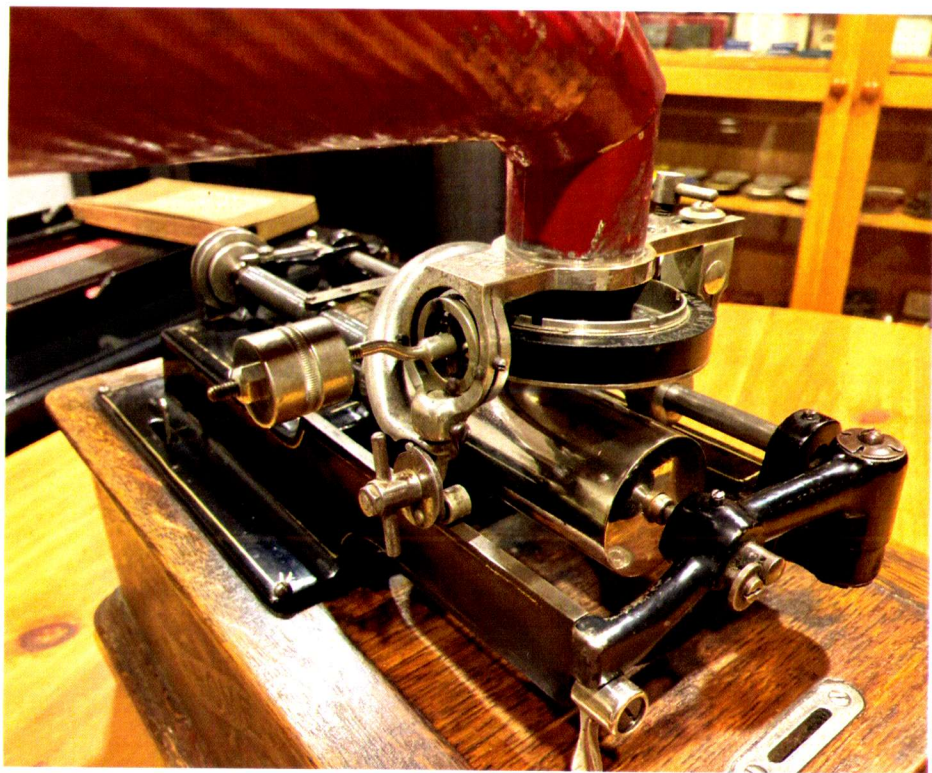
PRICE - £13 13 0

PRICES INCLUDE PACKING CASE.

(7)

In the 1970's the late Paul Flight of Christchurch found an incomplete catalogue of ca. 1908, printed by the British, showing a range of Edison, Columbia, Gramophone Company and Continental phonographs and gramophones. Fortunately some copies were made as the original may no longer exist. Among the most unusual machines are these "Standaphones", three of which look as if the slightest earthquake would destroy their name to the test.





It was a rewarding moment recently, when I stood back and listened to an Edison 2 minute wax cylinder played with a Bettini Micro-Reproducer.

The Edison Model B Home phonograph with banner transfer (pictured), will have been made around 1906.

Bettini reproducers were first available as an after-market accessory (or improvement as Gianni Bettini would claim) in the mid - late 1890's and in the case of the 'H' model manufactured to fit the Edison Home

Phonograph, they tend to be seen on 'Suitcase' and 'low case' Model A Home machines which were available for sale around the time that Bettini attachments were actively sold. My understanding is that this particular Bettini attachment, previously owned by Walter Norris, was found as old shop stock that had never been fitted to a machine and Walter chose to fit it to this Model B Home.

After servicing the phonograph motor and giving the machine and reproducer a careful clean and polish, I enjoyed listening to some two minute cylinders loud and clear from the Bettini Micro-reproducer!

David Peterson

I hope to feature an article on the Bettini equipment and records so far found in New Zealand -- Ed.



THEATRE ROYAL CHRISTCHURCH

Proprietors

... ..

J. C. Williamson (N.Z.) Ltd.



J. C. WILLIAMSON Entertainers

THIRD
COMPANY

Commencing

Saturday, November 8
1924

For a **SHORT SEASON**

Harry Weldon



A. E. PURSE, PRINTER, 232 MANCHESTER ST., CH. CH.

Christchurch had two theatres at which variety programmes could be enjoyed. Both were run by major Australian firms, the Theatre Royal by Williamson's and the Opera House (later known as the Fuller's). The performers were mostly from Australia but sometimes included stars from the variety stage. One such was Harry Weldon (1881-1930) who recorded his sketches "Stiff" and "The white hope" for HMV. Also on this bill were Lucan and McShane, later famous for their film as "Old Mother Riley and her daughter Kitty".

A NEW CATCHY COMEDY SONG

Specially featured by TOM KELLY, STUD FOLEY, THE BIG FOUR,
O'MARA & BURKE, and MABS HOWARTH.

cy B.

BRIDGET O'FLYNN (WHERE'VE YA BEEN?)

Words by

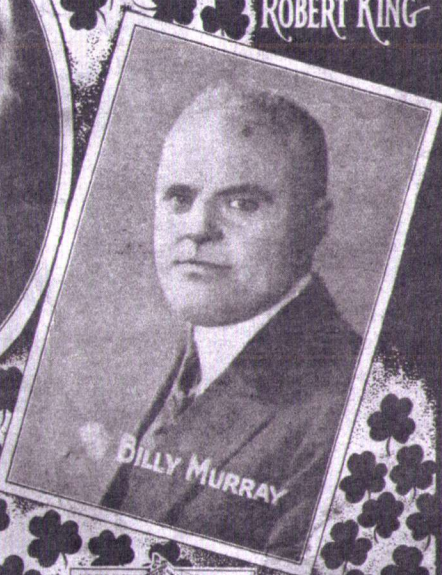
ANDREW B. STERLING

Music by

ROBERT KING



AILEEN STANLEY



BILLY MURRAY

BISHAW
UKULELE ARRANGEMENT
TODD

Introduced by

Billy Murray
and
Aileen Stanley
Famous Phonograph Stars



BRIDGET O'FLYNN
TALKING MACHINE
AND PLAYER PIANO

J. ALBERT & SON
PUBLISHERS OF SMALLWOODS PIANOFORTE TUTOR

Price 2/-
NET.

Shapiro, Bernstein & Co. New York

In New Zealand the sheet music for popular songs of the 1920's was commonly published by Albert in Sydney and featured Australian singers. For a change this title shows the American artists associated with the song. This and other Victor recordings by Aileen Stanley and Billy Murray were pressed in Australia by HMV in the ten-inch plum label EA series.

Bert Ralton

and His World Famous

HAVANA BAND

Record Only for

Columbia
New process **RECORDS**

Over Fifty Titles to choose
from, including the Items
Featured this Evening.

FIVE SHILLINGS EACH.
Catalogues Free on Request.

WEBLEY'S

243 HIGH STREET - CHRISTCHURCH

For a short season opening on Boxing Night 1924, audiences in the Theatre Royal in Christchurch really were treated to a variety performance. Not only could they see and hear Bert Ralton and the Havana Band (or part of it at least) from London but the bill also included the famous female impersonator Bert Errol and the fine English music hall comedienne Marie Kendall. The original of this printed programme is badly damaged. David Peterson has done wonders to get it as good as it is.

THEATRE ROYAL

CHRISTCHURCH

N.Z. ENTERTAINERS Present Ralton's Havana Band

BERT ERROL

And a Brilliant Company.

General Manager	...	...	...	A. R. SHEPARD
Touring Manager	...	...	...	WALTER P. MONK
Treasurer	...	...	...	IRVINE ELSTON
Stage Manager	...	...	...	E. BULT
Musical Director	...	...	...	ARTHUR G. FORREST



BERT RALTON

THE GRAMOPHONE



is the most recently-invented "Talking Machine," and far excels any other kind of instrument yet invented. Whoever buys a gramophone buys a box at the opera, rents a pew in a city church, secures permanent admission to the best music halls in the country, can order out the most dashing military band our army has at a moment's notice, can make the great piano-players of the day his obedient servants, and can do a great many other things which would have put somebody in danger of being roasted for witchcraft had they been attempted by our forefathers.

PRICES:

Gramophones with	Six Records and	clock-work motion	£10 10 0
Do.	do.	hand apparatus	7 10 0
Extra Records	...	per dozen	2 8 0

A. P. SYKES, 227 Little Collins-street, MELBOURNE.



Steve James spotted this advertisement, dated 11 June 1898, in a bound volume of the Sydney magazine "The Bulletin". At this early date Berliner machines and records would have been imported from the National Gramophone Company in the USA. The machine in these photographs turned up in Canterbury, incomplete but with the early steel horn as shown in the advertisement. The machine was completed with replica parts from Australia and the present owner wisely decided not to repaint the horn.

The advertisement's reference to a hand cranked Gramophone is intriguing. The hand cranked model illustrated in American advertisements of this period is an extremely rare machine.

Meeting reports July to October 2022

by Gavin East

Our monthly meeting in July 2022 was an informal one at Ferrymead Heritage Park in Christchurch where we viewed the Dini Collection in its new building and met Janine Campbell, the Park's Curator. It was a daytime meeting on a rather cold and grey winter afternoon so we were grateful that Edan Bowman had arranged with Friends of Ferrymead to use Curragh Cottage in Ferrymead's historic township and had a fire glowing in the drawing room. We even had a tram specially laid on for the ride down to the Dini building.

Though some items in the Dini Collection have been on display at Ferrymead since soon after Bill Dini died in 1980, there has long been a need for a more fitting permanent setting and the new building goes a long way toward achieving this. Janine has used the large new display cases to group categories of machines in appropriate and attractive combinations. For example, Bill may have had New Zealand's largest and most varied collection of organettes and they look very impressive displayed together.

After a good look around the Dini Collection we made our way back to Curragh Cottage where members of Friends of Ferrymead had prepared a very welcome afternoon tea. Curragh Cottage, an 1860's house rescued from demolition and moved to Ferrymead, is built on a more generous scale than many of the first generation of Christchurch homes and I am not the only member of our society who thinks it would be a lovely house in which to live - except perhaps for the stairs.

In August 2022 we met in Peter Harris' home for the first formal meeting since May this year - not that there is a great deal of difference between "formal" and "informal" for our group. An email enquiry had reminded us that the latest digitised issues of our magazine on the website are from 2015 so we agreed to get cracking and bring the website up to date with James Sleeman's help. Can't have people thinking we have fizzled out, can we?

As an example of the range of enquiries which arrive as emails at our hotmail address, David Peterson mentioned his correspondence with the owner of an HMV 163 who is making a replacement lid stay, not an easy job.

Nu Wright told us of her recent visit to son Alan and his family in Germany before we enjoyed supper and a look round Peter's varied and well displayed collection.

September is AGM time and this year it was lovely to meet once again at John Hastilow's home in Christchurch. The AGM was done and dusted in about ten minutes with the annual accounts for 2021/22 passed and the subscription waiver and \$25.00 joining fee confirmed for another year. David Peterson's report as President was received with thanks. David's two year term as President having ended, we were very pleased to welcome Edan Bowman to the position. Following the election of officers the lineup for 2022/23 is:

Patrons: Lyndsey Drummond and Tony Airs
President: Edan Bowman
Vice President: Robert Sleeman
Secretary: Nu Wright

Treasurer: Gavin East

Committee: Wilf Boon, Roger Brown, Peter Harris, Kathleen Campbell plus David Peterson as immediate past President

Moving straight into the monthly meeting for September 2022, it was satisfying to know that almost all issues of our magazine are now digitised and searchable on the website. The few remaining gaps should not pose a problem. I have been a member since the foundation meeting in 1965 and would never have thrown any of my issues away - but putting my hands on particular ones is another matter!

David Peterson mentioned a hotmail enquiry which could almost be described as horrifying. A person moving house had “broken” their phonograph and the photos proved this to have been an understatement. The machine appeared to have been dropped from the top of a skyscraper. It would have been distressing enough had the machine been an Amberola 30 but from the fragments in the photos it appeared to be a Columbia Model A of ca. 1897. David was going to liaise with the owner and offer what advice he could.

On a happier note, Robert Sleeman told us of his and Averyl’s recent trip to Queensland, though family commitments got in the way of contacting collector friends there. Wilf Boon mentioned the latest “definitely final” addition to his collection, an Edison Fireside refurbished by David Peterson. We agreed with Edan Bowman’s suggestion to include some of the Society’s remaining petal horns and steel needles on one of the stalls at the Labour Weekend market at Ferrymead.

During the meeting John’s current house guest strolled into the room and inspected each of us in turn. We did not mind at all since the guest was one Mozart, a large and affable feline belonging (to the extent that cats ever belong) to John’s neighbours.

Nu Wright had hoped to host the October 2022 meeting but was recovering from a slight indisposition so Edan Bowman quickly put on his Friends of Ferrymead “hat” and made Curragh Cottage available for us again. It was good to welcome Steve James back after his overseas trip and admire the latest additions to his Victorian sheet music collection.

Edan showed us a neat handout he had compiled and printed to promote our society at Ferrymead. No steel needles had been sold at the market stall that weekend but, to our surprise, someone had bought one of the petal horns.

We had learned with sadness of the passing of North Island member Jim Crook.

Edan led a useful preliminary discussion on the new Incorporated Societies Act which comes into operation next year and which requires every society to submit a constitution complying with new requirements.

We discussed recent hotmail enquiries and I was able to report that we can refer spring and motor repairs to two Australian repair services. Another enquirer wanted information on an inherited gramophone. As it showed all the signs of the classic crapophone I hope my reply was sufficiently tactful.

Advertisements

Wanted to Buy:

Dancing Rastus or similar figures to fit on old gramophone records.
Please email: vrbrown@amuri.net 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: gavexcat88@gmail.com

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

Wanted to Buy:

TANZA records Z90: Pixie Williams singing “Maoriland” and “Sailing Along on a Moonbeam”, with the Allan Shand Orchestra. Would be interested in other TANZA records, please send me numbers.
Contact Francis Young at hjyoung@xtra.co.nz or phone 07 549 2767.

Wanted to buy:

Large cygnet crane with adjuster spring. The repo ones the society used to make would be fine. Chris Rogers 3 Windham St Vic Australia 3749
email c.m.rogers@bigpond.com.au

Merry Christmas

Dedicated by Mr. Snazelle to Sir George Grey, by permission.

THE OLD LAND AND THE NEW
WORDS & CHORDS
ASSURE BY
MR. SNAZELLE

Words by W. R. WILLS.
MUSIC BY DASMA.

COPYRIGHT. PRICE, TWO SHILLINGS.

(George Harry) Snazelle (1848-1912) had a successful career as a baritone on the operatic stage in England before he became a well-known raconteur and entertainer, visiting Australia and New Zealand several times in the 1890's, the decade from which this song appears to date. Snazelle recorded his two famous monologues, "A Whistling Yarn" and "How Bill Adams Won the Battle of Waterloo", for the Gramophone Company and Edison Bell. Thanks to Steve James for this photo.