

POW Message

Below is a transcription of the message, along with scans of the record and the original envelope it was mailed in. A few of the words were more intelligible in the unenhanced version than in the enhanced version (CVC returns both on CD), and the mp3 file is not quite as good as the audio on the CD.

Note two interesting points about this message: (1) Both sides of the record contain exactly the same message, but the audio quality on the second side is far below that on the first. B. O. South must have re-recorded the original recording, once on each side of the disc, with different results each time. Presumably the original recording was made on a disc-cutting machine, although there were apparently a few early wire recorders around at the time and South could conceivably have originally recorded the message on wire and transferred it to disc. (At the bottom of this file is a page from a 1946 Allied Radio catalog showing the recording equipment that was available.) The Wilcox-Gay discs that South used were sold in packages of six for 60 cents. (2) I believe White congratulates his mother on her remarriage. In the message she is referred to at the outset as what sounds like "Minnie D. White," but at the end as "Mrs. [sounds like "D"] Clark." The envelope reflects forwarding to a Capt. Richard T. Clark. Was he the new husband?

Here is the text of the message as I understand it:

. . . sent to his mother, Minnie D. White, 1091-1/2 Mimosa Place, Wilmington, North Carolina. Dearest mother. Sure hope this finds you all well and happy and getting along good. I am as yet all right and well. I received your personal package. I have received some letters from you since the surrender. I have been moved to Japan. Hope Stanley is still in school and doing well. I sure am glad to hear you are [remarried?] and hope you are very happy. Please drop a card to these addresses and tell the folks that the boys are still all right. Mrs. J. L. Primrose, Carsgrove _____. Mrs. O. Sonet, _33 Oak Street, South Center, Minnesota. Mr. Ralph Sills, 2154 Mission Street, San Francisco, California. Mrs. ____ Selley, 200 South 8th Street, Elmwood, Indiana. Mrs. Lucille Melvin, GD ("general delivery," that is), Casper, Wyoming. Hope to see you some day . . . soon. Private Milton G. White, interned in Tokyo camp, sends this message to his mother, Mrs. [D?] Clark, of 1091-1/2 Mimosa Place, Wilmington, North Carolina.

RECORD DISC

TITLE
*Melton S. White
message read by
announcer.
Short Wave Japan*

WILCOX-GAY HOME RECORD

BY *Jan. 5, 1945* FOR

Rec # 2076

DATE

SLOW BURNING MATERIAL

WILCOX-GAY

MICH USA

CORP

UL

CHARLOTTE

RECORD DISC

TITLE
*Recorded by
B.O. Smith*

WILCOX-GAY HOME RECORD

BY *H.G. Perkins* FOR
San Francisco

DATE *Oct*

WILCOX-GAY CORP. CHARLOTTE MICH. U.S.A.
SLOW BURNING MATERIAL
UL

B. O. SOUTH
460 Larkin Street
San Francisco 2
California

SAN FRANCISCO
JAN 7,
3 PM
1945
CALIF.

FRANCISCO
1945
CALIF.

comp. maint. shop

To the family of
Milton G. White
Richard J. Clark 91 1/2 Menisco Pl.
Wilmington
North Carolina

~~A.A.A. R.P.~~
~~J.L. Bliss Texas~~

ENGR. TRIG CNTR
CP. CLAIBORNE
LA.

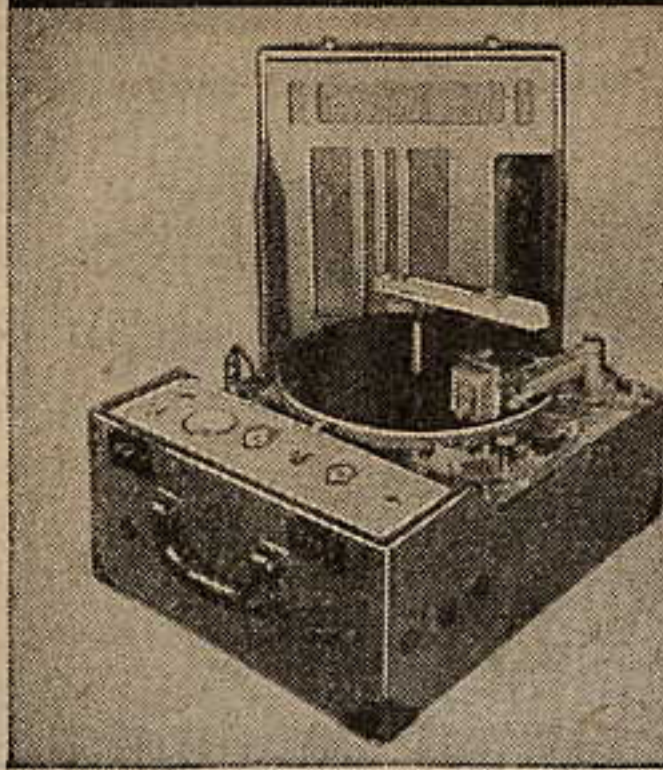
Postmaster: Contents - Recorded Voice
from Prisoner of War in Japan.
Please HAND CANCEL

Avic Delay-Furnish Sndar
EXCEL
Use W.L. JACOBS, BOX 371

COLUMBUS
VAN 17
2 PM
1848
O.M.P.

11/10/18
11/10/18
11/10/18
11/10/18

PORTABLE RECORDING SYSTEMS



PRESTO PROFESSIONAL RECORDING EQUIPMENT MODEL "K"

Finest quality recorder, record player, and public address system made with precision craftsmanship to satisfy professional requirements. Entirely contained in a single, compact carrying case. Ideally suited to the requirements of schools for instruction in speech, music, dramatics, law, etc. Records for 15 minutes continuously on a 13 1/4" disc. Recording speeds, 33 1/3 and 78 RPM. Cuts outside-in or inside-out at 112 lines per inch. Will play back all types of records. Provides excellent PA system for small audiences. Dynamic speaker in detachable cover. Amplifier frequency response is flat within 2 db from 50 to 8,000 cycles. Response of magnetic cutting head and magnetic playback unit, 80 to 5,000 CPS. 12" heavy cast metal, rubber-tired turntable is rim-driven, and maintains constant speed to within .4%. Portable case covered with attractive dark gray leatherette. Measures 19 1/2 x 15 1/2 x 14". For 115 volt, 60 cyc. AC. Tubes: 3-6SQ7, 1-6N7, 2-45's, and 1-80 rectifier. Shpg. wt., 59 lbs.

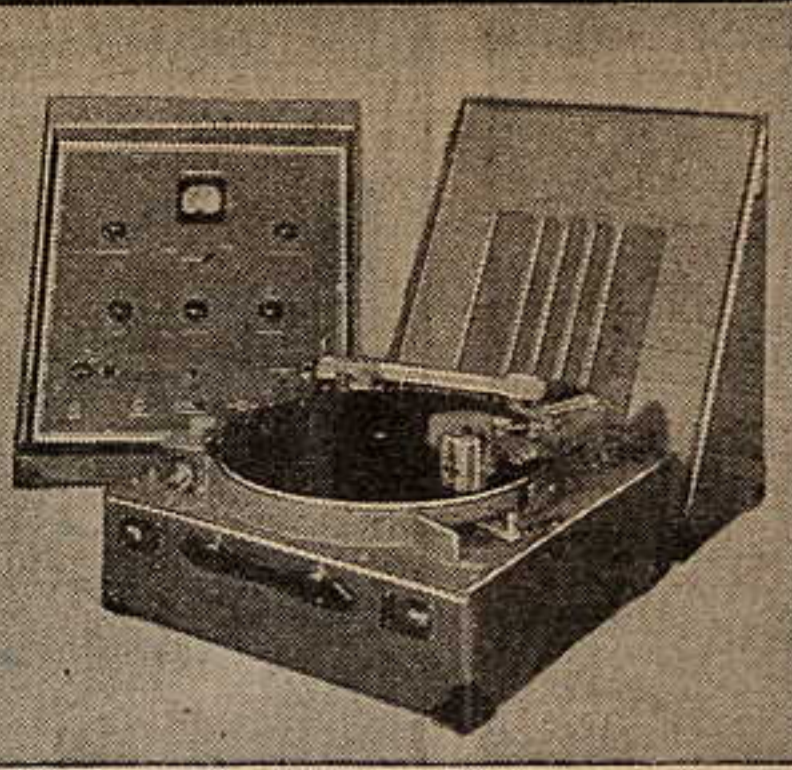
96-000. With tubes and speaker, less mike and stand. NET.....

\$297.00

Write for complete descriptive literature and prices on all Presto equipment.

93-270. Shure "Uniplex" crystal microphone and floor stand with 25 ft. cable and plug, for Model K above. See page 82 for description. Wt., 16 lbs. NET.....

\$27.60



MODEL "Y"

A professional, portable-model transcription recorder and playback unit with "broadcast quality" performance. Ideal for broadcast station remotely-recorded pickup use, and auditioning purposes. Inclined studio-style control board permits complete equalization and control. Takes all size records from 6" standard to 17 1/4" master recordings. Records continuously for 15 minutes. Recording speeds, 33 1/3 and 78 RPM, constantly maintained within .4% accuracy. Flat frequency response, 30 to 10,000 cps. Treble control has range of +17 db to -20 db from normal level at higher frequencies. Bass control produces maximum peak of 20 db at 80 cyc. Amplifier output, 10 watts at 8 ohms impedance. Equipped with 10" quality PM dynamic speaker and enclosed baffle. Amplifier and speaker form compact portable case, 23 1/2" x 11" x 19". Portable turntable case measures 20 1/2" x 11" x 19". Both cases are covered with gray luggage cloth. Have chromium plated locks and leather handles. For 115 V., 60 cyc. AC. Complete with tubes: 2-6SJ7, 1-6N7, 2-6C8G, 2-2A3, 1-5Z3 rectifier. With mike plug. Shpg. wt., 146 lbs.

96-010. With tubes and speaker, less mike and stand. NET.....

\$638.00

Use 93-270, microphone and stand at left or make selection from pages 82 and 83.

Write for complete descriptive literature and prices on all Presto equipment.



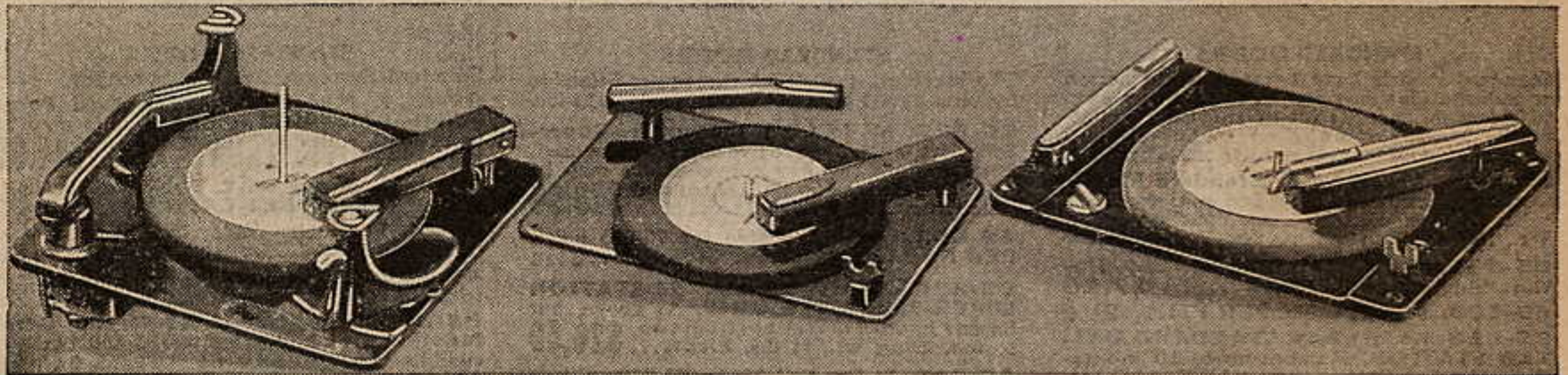
UTAH "60" MAGIC-WIRE RECORDER AND PLAYBACK

The most sensational development in recording science! Records continuously for 66 minutes at slow speed and 33 minutes at fast speed—on a single spool of steel wire. Recordings are permanent, but all or part may be removed when desired. The same wire can be used to record thousands of times without affecting the original high quality. Ideal for every type of home recording; for direct recording of complete radio programs without using a microphone, or for teaching diction and language in schools. Wire speeds can be adjusted at 200 RPM or 400 RPM. Frequency response at slow speed, 100 to 6,000 c.p.s.; at fast speed, up to 8,000 c.p.s. Completely self-contained in strong, light aluminum case except for microphone. Has 3.5 watt amplifier and built-in 5" speaker for playback operation. Provision for use of external speaker by plugging into jack on panel with choice of 10, 50, 250 or 500 ohms output. Recording mechanism consists of wire-guide assembly, wire spools, erase coil, and automatic stop. Rugged induction motor maintains constant speed. Complete with tubes: 2-6V6GT, 2-6SJ7, and 1-5Y3GT rectifier. One spool of wire supplied with unit. Aluminum case with detachable cover, 13" x 13" x 9 1/2". For 110-120 v., 60 cyc. AC. Shpg. wt., 40 lbs.

96-175. Complete less microphone. NET.....

\$350.00

96-177. Extra Spools of Wire, EA. \$6.50 Use 93-270, mike and stand at left.



GENERAL INDUSTRIES RECORDING AND PLAYBACK ASSEMBLIES

COMBINATION RECORD-CHANGER AND RECORDER

Combination recorder and record-changer in a single basic unit. Operates at 78 RPM. Records on acetate and composition discs up to 10" in diameter. Plays all "home recorded" and commercial records up to 12" dia. manually. Automatic changer handles all commercial 10" or 12" records. Only one lever to move when shifting from 10" to 12" records. Crystal-type recording head cuts at 110 lines per inch, working from outside-in. Has convenient depth-of-cut adjustment. For radio or amplifier with 3 watts or more output. Pickup is 1 1/4 oz. low pressure crystal type with response of 30-7000 CPS. Rim-driven 10" weighted turntable has retractable record driving pin. Smooth running induction motor is dynamically balanced. Base plate is 14"x14". Mechanism extends 5 1/8" above, and 2 3/4" below top of panel. Comes with on-off switch and all mounting hardware. For 110 V., 60 cycle AC operation. Brown iridescent finish. Shipping weight, 26 lbs.

96-101. Model GI-RC130L. NET.....

\$32.67

SINGLE-SPEED BASIC RECORDING UNIT

A 78 RPM basic mechanism with which to assemble your own Recorder-Phonograph unit. Cuts records up to 10" dia. outside-in at 110 lines per inch. Plays records up to 12" dia. The cutter feed mechanism simply requires lowering the cutter arm over the record disc to start the recording operation. Cutting arm has adjustment for depth of cut. Induction motor employs an internal rim-drive to the turntable. Assembly includes: motor; 10" dynamically balanced, weighted turntable; cutting mechanism; crystal cutting head which will operate from any radio receiver or 3-watt audio amplifier; high impedance 1 1/4 oz. crystal pickup; cutter rest; base plate with smooth, round edges. Dimensions 15" wide and 10" front to back; extends 2 1/2" above base, 2 3/8" below. For 110 volt, 60 cycle AC operation. Shpg. wt., 17 lbs.

96-103. Model GI-R70L... NET.....

\$19.95

96-102. As above but has 2 oz. medium-pressure playback pickup. NET.....

\$19.95

DUAL-SPEED BASIC RECORDING UNIT

A deluxe, dual speed, basic recording and playback unit, especially suited for smartly styled custom-built installations. Operates at 33 1/3 and 78 RPM. Records on all composition and acetate discs up to 10" in diameter. Plays back composition, acetate and commercial records up to 12" diameter. Crystal recording head cuts at 110 lines per inch from outside-in. Has depth of cut adjustment in arm. Pickup is 1 1/4 ounce low-pressure type. Rim-drive dual speed motor. Shock mounted. In attractive walnut grain finish on steel base plate with plastic trim on crystal pickup and cutter arms. Base plate is 15" W., by 11 1/2" front to back. Mechanism extends 2 3/4" above, and 3 3/8" below top of panel. Complete with speed-change dial and all mounting hardware. For 110 V., 60 cycle AC operation. Shpg. wt., 17 lbs.

96-105. Model GI-R90L. NET.....

\$23.58

96-104. As above but has 2 oz. medium-pressure playback pickup. NET.....

\$23.58