



THE GSPS RECORD

*Being the Monthly Newsletter of the Golden State Phonograph Society,
the California Chapter of the Michigan Antique Phonograph Society Inc.*



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Our story starts over 5 years ago when we heard that the long closed Edison's West Orange site was scheduled to re-open. We checked their website and booked our ticket. We soon learned that the opening had to be delayed! Oh well, maybe next year? We did get to see Edison's grand 1880's home at Glenmont, a near walk from there. The following June we made our second trip, after all, it was scheduled for re-open last fall. Nope, not open. This went on for 5 years until finally, it opened and we were able to visit it this last June.

It was worth waiting for! There were a few of the buildings left, a small hand-

The Edison Historic Site Reopens—Finally!

by Scott Corbett



Scott Corbett stands in front of the only multi-story building left at the Historic Site, housing Edison's library/office on the first floor and the third floor had the music room and treasure house of phonographs!

ful of what once stood on the site. The good news was that the buildings that remained looked like they would have in Edison's day.

Things were not overly tidy, wood paneling was aged and bubbled. They did a great job making you feel you were

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A newly manufactured Neoprene belt for the Edison Fireside. Scoff if you like, but it works!

Ask Not for Whom the Belt Tolls—Technology Strikes Again

by John Robles and Vince Garcia

While perusing eBay late one night, I came across something that ignited my skepticism and derision, and then my interest. Someone was selling phonograph belts for Edison Standards, Gems, Homes and Firesides. Made of rubber. I immediately thought "A rubber band?

That would be unsteady!" But my curiosity got the better of me after reading the positive feedback from several happy buyers. I decided to buy one to try on a Fireside 'Model A'. When the belt arrived, neatly sealed in an individual plastic bag, it resembled a black rubber

band. I must admit to being a bit disappointed. I opened the bag, took the belt out, removed the shabbily made leather belt from the Fireside and applied the rubber one. I started the machine, lowered the reproducer, and—it worked! Smooth sound, no

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Uncle Josh Sorter's Message—by John Robles & Mike Sorter

The meeting for August was held at Mike Sorter's home in Riverside. Sadly, neither the President, Vice President nor Editor could attend, so I asked Mike to give us the highlights as follows: In attendance were the Corbetts, Don and Connie and Summerlee, Marc Capralis, Ed Collett and Mike Sherman. The group was treated to a preview of Mike Sherman's forthcoming

book on disc label variations. There was a 'Tone Test' comparison between an Edison Dance Reproducer and an Edison re-producer. The volume tests were conducted using dealer stock 52,000 series Diamond Discs.

Mike's ever-expanding collection was examined and a multitude of new acquisitions shared with the group. Mike's stock of Standards,

Homes, cabinets and parts were all examined, and many cylinders and discs were in available for sale or trade.

There is always much to see at these meetings, and the sales and trades are usually brisk.

As a reminder, the September meeting will be the Alex Theater in Glendale for the annual Vaudeville Night. Stay tuned for details!

...The library was 3 stories of priceless Edisonia including the famous desk that has been preserved they way it was the day Edison died...

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back in time. You expected to look up and see the 'old man' any minute mixing some chemicals or examining the results of an experiment!

The library was 3 stories of priceless Edisonia including the famous desk that has been preserved they way it was the day Edison died.

We hurried up to the 'Music Room' on the 3rd floor to catch "a demonstration of an Edison Phonograph" only to find no one was in sight. We later asked a ranger who told us that someone had locked the phonograph in a closet somewhere and they couldn't locate it for some time. We never saw the demon-

stration, but we did see the phonograph. Did they use a Triumph? an Opera? or an Idelia? No, a Fireside with maroon horn.

By far the place we spent the most time was looking at the phonographs on display (there is a big surprise!). From the very first phono-

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**GSPS IS NOW
ON THE WEB!
VISIT US AT
www.gsp1.org**

The GSPS Shopper

Submit a free ad by email or by phone! See contact information at lower left. Sell it now!

FOR SALE: Mahogany Edison Opera \$6500; Victor VI w/brass bell horn \$4500; Victor MS w/oak spear-tip horn \$3600, Columbia Graphophone Deluxe w/lionsheads (phonograph model) \$4000. Call Don Henry (310) 795-9144 Or email phonoworks@hotmail.com.

APPROX. 20 PHONOGRAPHS FOR SALE—Most have rebuilt reproducers and have been greased. Lots of 78rpm disc records available priced at \$1 each. **Jim Constantian**—(626) 359-3994

FOR SALE: Brunswick Cortez, Victrola 8-35, Victrola RE-75, Victrola 405 (1923) console, art model in three shades of walnut. **WANTED:** Edison Schubert or Beethoven models. Also could use the number of a furniture restorer who can match woodwork on Schubert legs. **Marc Capralis**—951-302-0750

WANTED: Spanish or Mexican cylinders. **Nestor Guzman**—909-627-0481

EDISON, LAMBERT CONCERT RECORDS & Columbia Grand Records and Related Phonographs is now available. This 154 page book covers production techniques, record lists, phonographs, dating guides and catalogs for these large records and instruments. \$54.95, postpaid in the US. Please send your check or money order to: **Ron Dethlefsen 3605 Christmas Tree Ln, Bakersfield, CA 93306**

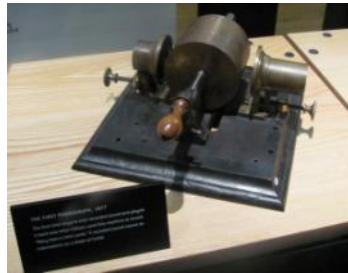
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graph (see photo) to strange experimental electric models, there were things I had never seen before-not even in books! Behind the display, was warehouse racking lined with every kind of Edison phonograph imaginable! From modified Triumphs to the monster Diamond Disc that cost \$6,000 new! There is so much more to tell. If you want to see things for yourself, get out to New Jersey OR you can come to a future GSPS meeting and see many photos of the pho-

nographs and other wonders. You can even find out why the people who restored the Music Room put a Victrola and Columbia uprights in with the Edisons!



The very first phonograph invented by Thomas A. Edison is now proudly displayed near its birthplace.



The music room houses phonographs by various makers, used in comparisons to Edison's own machines. Here we see a Victor Victrola, an Edison C-250 Diamond Disc machine, a Columbia Grafonola and an early Edison A-250.

(Belts Continued from page 1)

annoying bump from a leather belt seam. No 'wow' sound from stretching either. I decided to buy two more for other Firesides. They worked too! Uniform quality of sound, and the belt, once on the machine, looks original. I decided to ask the seller, Vince Garcia, about the belting and how he found it. Here is the answer: "I realized rubber belts would be far more practical to have on these machines than leather, so I set about trying to find the right size belts, which

was a long, hard process. The belts are neoprene. I buy them from a manufacturer, but the trick was sizing belts that worked well enough to run a machine properly. There are no such things as easily available neoprene belts with typical "American" lengths--such as a "10 inch" belt. They actually run fractionally more or less than standard US sizes, and only by trial and error was I able to find sizes that would work "good enough"--if not perfectly--to be used. I did not own machines like the Fireside, Gem and Am-

berola, so I had to work with customers wanting belts for their machines, and initially send out a variety of sizes until we found one that was just right for the machines. It cost a lot in belts to do that, but finally I have the appropriate belt sizes available, which work on the basic machines (I hope to find someone who needs a Triumph belt to work with to find the right size belt so I can offer them too.) Just a little too long or too short makes them unusable, so it's been a long process to get the

sizes just right.

I put some up on ebay, and the result has been quite positive. They don't cost that much to buy, and are worth their weight in gold for practicality. Some sizes like the Home and Gem are harder to get because they use very long, uncommon size belts, but I have been able to find some of them. So that's about it. I can hook people up with belts for Standards, Firesides, Gems, Amberolas and Homes." I am certainly enjoying mine! Thanks Vince!

GOLDEN STATE PHONOGRAPH SOCIETY

Sunday, September 19, 2010 at 2:00 P.M.

Alex Theatre—Vaudeville Returns
216 N. Brand Blvd
Glendale, CA 91203
(818) 243-2539

Details Forthcoming by Email!

GOLDEN STATE
PHONOGRAPH SOCIETY
290 Frances Street
Ventura, CA 93003

2010 GSPS Schedule of Events

September - Alex Theater—Glendale
October - Don Henry—Los Angeles
November - Nestor Guzman—Chino
December—Corbett's—Ontario

Monthly Mirth

All the Humor that's Barely Fit to Print



After buying a second hand computer at Goodwill, Edison's Old Couple discovered the joys of eBay.

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