(Listening report by Gary Alley)

Testing of W-K Electric Co. Oriole 7B

June 10, 2014 –

Since both audio transformers in the set are open, I connected the audio section as an RC-coupled set. Not wanting to disturb its originality, I made the resistor and capacitor connections to the set using alligator clips.

Since only the secondary winding of each transformer was open, I left the primary windings connected as plate-load impedances, used 0.015-mfd coupling capacitors, and 470-kohm grid return resistors.

Because of the high level of radio interference in my area at night, I had to limit my testing to daylight hours. Using a 40-foot longwire antenna in my basement, I logged the stations listed below between 4 and 5 p.m.

In most cases, I used a Grundig YB-400 radio having a digital frequency readout to determine the frequency of the stations.

I found the set to be very selective, and to have very good audio quality. Because the set lacked the advantage of transformer voltage stepup in the audio section, the volume was lower than normal, but was more than adequate to drive an RCA 100-A loudspeaker.

All of the controls – tuning condensers, volume rheostat, and feedback coil – interacted, so tuning could be a bit touchy. I found that by adjusting the feedback coil to the point where the set would "choke," and then backing it off very slightly, the greatest sensitivity and selectivity was achieved.

I found that at certain frequencies, e.g., at 1260 kHz (WWRC), some positions of the feedback coil would kill reception of that station on the YB-400.

LEFT DIAL*	FREQUENCY	CALL	LOCATION	POWER
58	630	WMAL	Washington, DC	10 kW
43.5	730	WTNT	Alexandria, VA	8 kW
38	780	WAVA	Arlington, VA	12 kW
27.5	920	WURA	Quantico, VA	7 kW
18.5	1120	WUST	Washington, DC	20 kW
17	1160	WMET	Gaithersburg, MD	50 kW
16	1190	WCRW	Leesburg, VA	50 kW
15	1220	WFAX	Falls Church, VA	5 kW
14	1260	WWRC	Washington, DC	35 kW
11	1390	WZHF	Arlington, VA	5 kW
9+	1480	WPWC	Dumfries, VA	5 kW
9-	1500	WFED	Washington, DC	50 KW
6.5	1630	Northern Virginia Community College **		

* Right hand dial tunes very broadly, hence is not shown.

** Not listed in FCC database

Data from "The AM Journal" and www.fcc.gov

Most stations were identified using another radio with digital frequency readout.

Stations received 6/5/2014, between 4 and 5 p.m.