
Bob Cooper's TV Reception Addendum



Before there was television ...

...there was radio, or the "Victrola" (an RCA brand name) and a host of other recording device systems that allowed you to carry your entertainment with you - not exactly iPod but the forerunners of today's massive memory, go-anyplace music boxes. Radio prospered during the world-wide depression of the 30s, generating excess income (called "cash flow" in the broadcasting business) which could be dumped into promising new technologies. One of these was television (another was transmission of entire newspapers via what we would today call 'FAX' of facsimile using radio station broadcasts during the wee hours [1AM-6AM]; tens of millions of dollars were poured into this concept, which found almost no consumer acceptance and it died a slow death during World War Two).

My collection of early television 'memorabilia' is extensive and will be featured in "Changing Channels: The pirates who took control of your television set" (available early in 2006). What you will find here is the first of five CDs devoted to the "technology behind the technology" - the little bits and pieces that accumulated as 'knowledge' allowing television to extend more than 15-25 miles from a transmitter and into the hinterlands. "*Fifteen to twenty-five miles?*" That's as far as most transmitters reached in the 40s and early 50s, unless the viewers were equipped with massive reception aerials and after-market gadgets called 'signal boosters.'

Large aerials, as masthead / antenna mounted amplifiers improved during the late 50s and 60s, as television sets themselves became more sensitive and selective, became a memory by the 1970s for most people. But not for all. For example, before that was satellite TV reception from Australian-overspill into Papua New Guinea (the late 1970s), Port Moresby residents with the dollars to spare installed huge aerials, masthead amplifiers, and watched with a high degree of regularity Queensland television over distances approaching 600 miles. Impossible? A freak? Not at all, as the full set of five CDs will reveal in detail.

There is little need for huge TV reception aerials these days, due in large part to the presence of C-band and Ku-band satellite signals reaching essentially every corner of the globe. So perhaps the 200 foot long, 90 foot high 'troposcatter' antenna described here, or the nearly 15 metre long super-gain Oliver Swan 'Logi' will be of no practical use to you. But it will connect you, directly, to the heritage which we all enjoy today. These guys (and gals) were pioneers and their knowledge should not be ignored, even if we have very little real practical use for it today.

What's in volume 'One' of "*TV Reception Addendum*"?

TB9301 - Co-channel interference (how to eliminate it when there are two or more stations on the same channel); **TB9302** - Weak Signal Reception (antenna systems you can build to extend terrestrial TV reception to several hundred kilometres); **TB9303** - UHF/The Next Frontier; **TB9304** - Combining Cross Pole + Beating Noise Interference (cleaning up degraded reception); **TB9305** - Cable Television/Part One (how a cable system functions); **TB9401** - Cable Television /Part Two (the hardware); **TB9402** - MATV System Design (lots of channels to lots of TV sets); **TB9403** - VHF-UHF Receiving Antenna Design (build your own - to 400km reception!); **TB9404** - DTH: Home Satellite Dish Systems; **TB9405** - Satellite to Room (SMATV - lots of satellite channels to lots of sets) plus two bonus pieces: **World's Longest/Largest** single channel TV reception antenna (400km? No problem!), and, **Super-Bolic** for all-channel 400km reception.