

Dear Dave and family,

3/23/80

The Smithsonian jazz album is superb! We are listening to it now. I sat and listened closely while reading the last batch of King abstracts. It seems impossible that they could filter the noises off those old records and at the same time improve them. They are so much better than the originals! So please thank David and Elizabeth again for us.

Here is how we finally got the components straightened out, with the reel-to-reel in the circuit and some of the parts for which we paid a couple of supposed pros left over.

As you may recall, we are quite fond of the Maños, who have the China Pearl. We went there for dinner Tuesday night. Jackson, the middle son, was back from VPI on his break. He came out to see us and we chatted. Last time we learned of his liking for classical music and how he listens to it at the student building, on phones, while studying. While we were talking I asked him if they have a good public FM station there. (It is down in the southwestern corner of Virginia, in the mountains.) He said he didn't know because he has no radio. None? I asked. Well, he had had one but the younger brother sort of adopted it. I then offered him a once quite good ~~pa~~ all-wave portable we'd used as the bedroom set, since replaced with a stereo so I'd can take in the opera simulcasts if I want to sleep. (Good phones.) He said he'd be glad to have it if we were not using, as really we weren't. I told him he might have one problem and how I'd solved it. There was a bad spot on the volume control and by spraying a little of the stuff they use on TV tuner switch contacts I got it working fine. I told him he might have to do that occasionally. He said no problem, he has a good local friend who is handy with radio and he'd have him look at it before he returns.

Good, I asked? Do you suppose he could wire my components properly. Jackson said he was certain and that he would be willing. He'd have to do it some night because he works. I said I'd be glad to pay a fair price.

Two nights later there is Jackson and his friend, who it turns out works in what I didn't know we have hereabouts, a radio factory. There are several half way between here and DC, specializing in high-quality communications stuff.

The young fellow, Stu, took a look and said what a mess! OK if he takes it all apart and starts from scratch? Sure. And it was careful. Everything was labelled and all the various connectors were straightened out and laid out.

An hour after it was disassembled it was together, working fine and as I said, the reel-to-reel is connected. He can tape on it and from it now, by merely turning the external switch I had. All else is within the controls on the tuner. Of course, they have to be manipulated with the reel-to-reel is used but not for anything else.

We were quite please. I asked Stu how much I owe he. He replied nothing, that I am a friend of his friend. And he wouldn't take anything, either. I finally got him to take a good Channelmaster am-fm portable I never used now. Used to use it while walking but have a smaller one that is more convenient.

I'd told you how popular the Maño boys are locally, despite the racism. This is an illustration of it. The youngest one has been selected from a rather small number, from the entire country, to spend some time studying on a boat, converted into a school, while it circumnavigates the globe. Maybe only goes to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Europe. I've forgotten. He had to raise a fairly large sum for this, above what he was saved. The local story did a paper and people sent him a total of \$200,

Again, ~~xxx~~ our thanks. The records are great! Best to all,