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**Author:** John H. Dilks III, K2TQN

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## OLD RADIO

### The Legacy of the Globe King

When World War II was over, surplus equipment and parts flooded the market and the country was ready to play radio again. Some of the rigs from pre-war times came back to life. Many hams wanted to convert war surplus radios, and others wanted brand new rigs. The surplus parts that enticed the home-brew builders also stocked the manufacturers' shelves. These surplus parts became the basis for many new radios.

World Radio Labs (WRL) of Council Bluffs, Iowa, was a manufacturer in the right place at the right time. Investing heavily in war surplus material, WRL owner Leo Meyerson produced some of the first post-war transmitters. His popular low-power Globe Trotter was one of those transmitters.

With hams asking for more powerful rigs, WRL prototyped a 1/4-kW transmitter. By 1947, it was ready. Designing it around a pair of United V70D triodes operating in class C, the Globe King was born. It produced over 250-W output on AM.

Within a year, the Globe King had already been redesigned. The original version had a modulator with four 6L6s in push-pull parallel. WRL found that by designing a new modulator, the RF power could be increased to 300-W output at 100% modulation. The new Globe King 400 ran the same United V70Ds in the finals and a pair of Hytron 5514s in the modulator stage. A few additional changes in the Globe King 400 series occurred, but they continued to use the same RF and modulator tubes, and plug-in coils.

#### THE STORY OF ONE WRL GLOBE KING 400B

By Steve Marquie, W8TOW

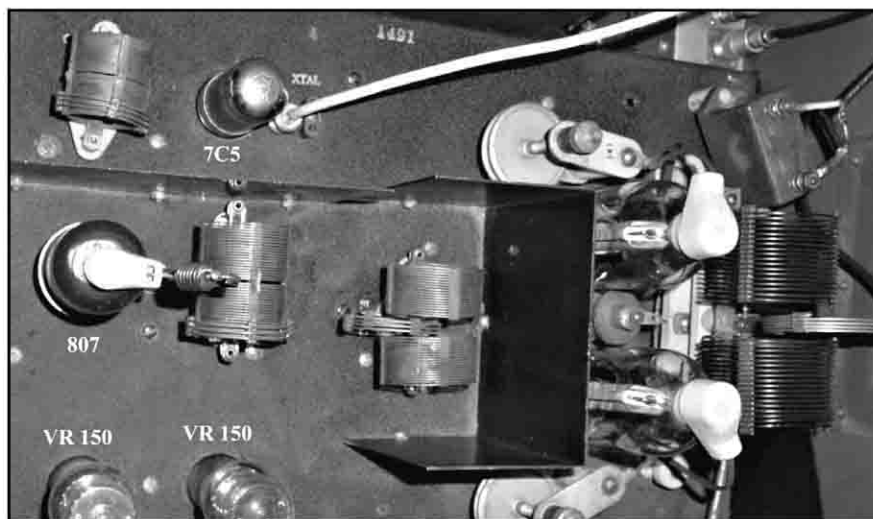
In the fall of 1951, John Eisenman, W8URM, decided he would become a proud owner of a Globe King 400. Now deemed a Globe King 400B, John's new radio included TVI shielding, an improved speech amplifier and some minor RF circuit changes. John was a CW man, though, so he never tried it on phone. Instead, he concentrated on getting his DXCC by running the Globe King 400B only on CW. I am sure he commanded the DX end of the bands!

After almost 30 years in suburban Detroit, John finally sold the rig in 1980. The transmitter was relocated to Mike

Beachy, N8ECR. Mike, an avid AMer, made efforts to restore the rig and get it on AM phone.

The class C power supply and the

modulator were both giving Mike some problems. He realized some success by replacing the high-voltage bleeder resistor. The transmitter was delivering over



The Globe King RF deck: 7C5 oscillator, 807 driver and two V70D finals.



The station of Steve Marquie, W8TOW. His restored Globe King is at the far left.

#### Old Radio Profile: Steve Marquie, W8TOW

Steve Marquie, W8TOW, became interested in operating AM early on. Originally, he operated CW/SSB like many newcomers to ham radio. Then, in 1977, *CQ Magazine* ran an article titled "No, Harry, AM isn't Dead!" This sparked his curiosity. Within months, he had restored a Viking I transmitter and a 51J2 Collins receiver. He used them in the 40-meter "AM Window." Other AM rigs followed, but eventually the DX bug bit him. Later, he moved to a new home and fell out of radio for a while. In 1997 he rediscovered AM. This time he chose to focus only on AM/CW with vintage radios. This led to an opportunity to restore some of the "big rigs" from yesteryear. Among several home-brew transmitters, his favorite is the 1952 vintage WRL Globe King 400B.