



John Doremus



John Spink



Bill Rhodes

From the Retrocom archives dated June 1966 THE POLY STORY

History of Polytronics

Polytronics, maker of *Poly Comm* CB equipment, has moved to its fourth plant, this time from New Jersey to Maryland. The company, now a subsidiary of *Vitro Corporation of America*, now has the benefit of broad experience of its parent company as well as its own.

Claude V. Palmer founded Polytronics Laboratories, Inc. in 1958 in Clifton, New

Poly Firsts

FIRST Poly - Hybrid Phone Patch - MP-1	1958
FIRST Crystal-Controlled CB Transmitter and Receiver	1959
FIRST Electronic Switching	1959
FIRST Amateur 6 and 2 Meter Band Transceivers	1960
FIRST 23-Channel Citizens Band Unit	1961
FIRST Nuistor R.F. Amplifier Unit	1962
FIRST CB Unit With Frequency Switch	1962
FIRST Mobile Amateur 6-meter Unit With VFO	1962
FIRST Metal-Case Ceramic Mike	1962
FIRST High-Frequency Tone Signaling	1962
FIRST All Nuistor Front End	1963
FIRST Compadron CB Unit	1963
FIRST Frequency Synthesized 23-Channel CB Transceiver	1963
FIRST Modular F.M. Communications Equipment	1964
FIRST 30-Channel Fully Synthesized CB Equipment (Part 15 FCC)	1964
FIRST Compact CB Unit, All Solid State	1965



First Poly Comm CB transceiver.

Jersey, not far from New York City. W. V. Hargreaves was named chief engineer. The first "Poly" product was the MP-1 hybrid phone patch. In April of the following year, Polytronics produced its first CB transceiver, the 4-channel PC-I. In November, the PC-II, also a 4-channel set, went on the market and over 8000 were sold.

During the same year, H. Ronald Levine joined Polytronics as vice president, and later became president. In 1960, the company introduced its first amateur radio unit, the PC 62, a 2- and 6-meter rig. Shares of the company's common stock were sold to the public, and Polytronics moved to a much larger plant at 388 Getty Avenue, also in Clifton.

In 1961, Polytronics introduced the PCN 4 CB unit and the first 23-channel CB set, the PC 23 Sr., the *Cadillac* of the industry.

The Poly Call was introduced in 1962 and the employee roster grew to 54. And, the first mobile 6-meter ham rig with VFO, the Poly Comm 6, was placed on the market.



23-channel "Cadillac-class" CB transceiver.

John A. Doremus purchased control of Polytronics and succeeded Ron Levine as president in 1963, Ron moving over to Hammarlund as vice president. John, an old-timer in communications, was formerly with Barker & Williamson and Motorola.

The business grew and the PCN 8 CB unit was added to the Poly Comm line. Some 3500 of the sets were made in May 1963. By July, employment had grown to 115 and the company moved to a new plant at 88 Clinton Road in West Caldwell, a few miles west of Clifton.



This Poly Comm uses the Compotron tube.

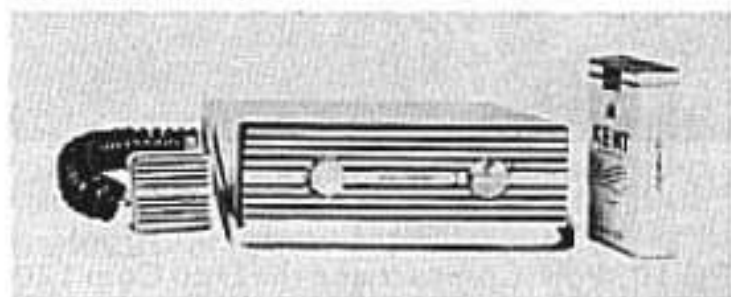
The PC Pro, a 24-channel crystal controlled transmitter and tunable receiver was introduced in November 1963. Polytronics



Poly Comm FM business radio transceiver

also entered the FM commercial mobile radio field when it introduced the Poly Comm B. Expansion into the FM mobile field was a natural in view of John's experience at Motorola.

Assets of *Osborne Electronics Corporation* of Hawthorne, California were acquired by Polytronics in 1964, bringing to Poly a complete line of all-transistor walkie-talkies and larger solid state transceivers. The entire Osborne facility was moved to West Caldwell in May.



The first compact, solid state CB transceiver, the "Poly Compact".

The Poly Comm PC 23 Jr. CB unit was added to the line in 1964 and the PCH, a high band (150-174 MHz) business radio was introduced along with the PB 50 and PB 100 boosters. The company now had a complete business radio product line and had become the third largest maker of CB equipment.

In 1965, Polytronics started production

of the *Duo Com 120*, an all transistor CB walkie-talkie. And, in May, the 11-channel *Poly Compact* was introduced. This was the first compact all-transistor CB unit which started the trend to compact, all-transistor CB sets.

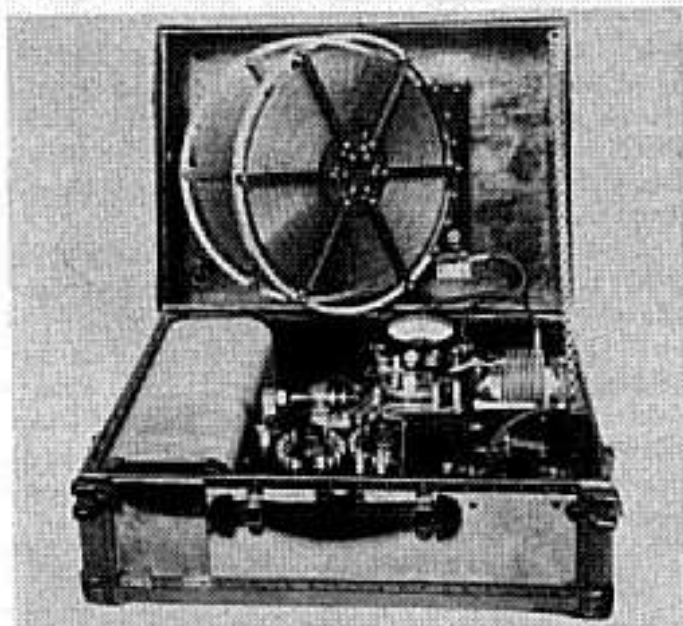
Upon approval of a Chapter XI Plan of Reorganization, Polytronics became a Vitro subsidiary in November 1965. John Spink was named general manager, John Doremus assumed the post of director of engineering, and W. F. "Bill" Rhodes took over as director of marketing. Before joining Vitro, Bill had been with Radiation, Inc. and Stromberg-Carlson.

A new Polytronics plant was leased at 900 Burlington Avenue in Silver Spring, Maryland, adjacent to Washington, D.C. and, in March of this year, moving of facilities from West Caldwell to the new plant was started. The new 10,000 square foot plant is adjacent to the 60,000 square foot plant of a sister company, Vitro Electronics.



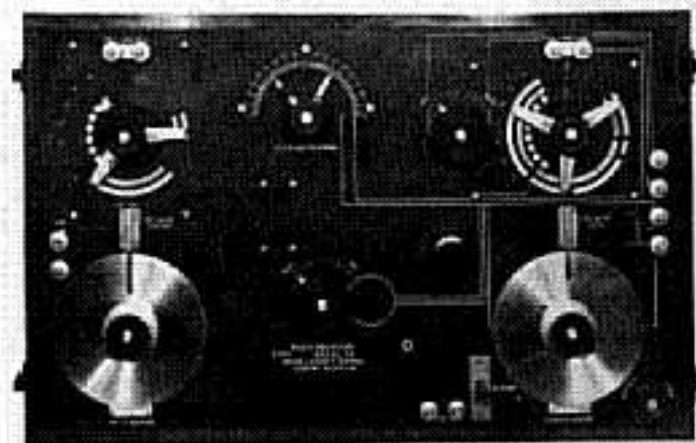
New Polytronics plant in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Vitro Electronics (maker of Nems-Clarke Products) has been manufacturing communications equipment continuously for a longer period than any other company in the United States (since 1878). Poly can now draw on the research and technical capabilities and facilities of Vitro Electronics.



1912 portable transmitter-receiver.

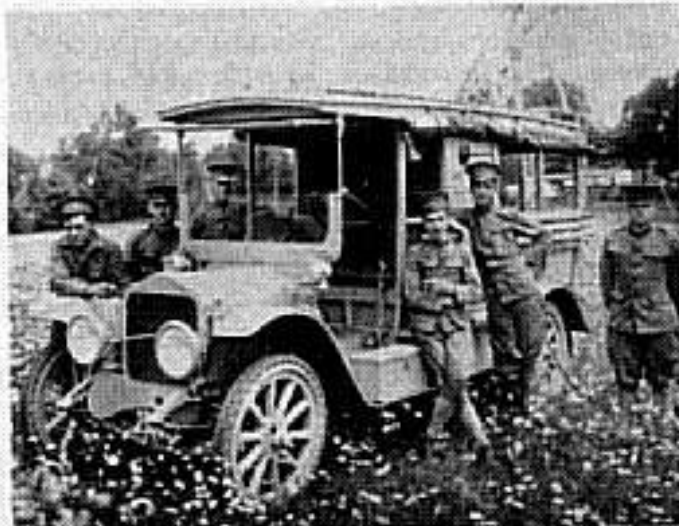
Back in 1912, the sister company built a 500-watt portable transmitting and receiving set, a solid state radio receiver in 1916, and a mobile radio station in 1917.



1916 model communications receiver.

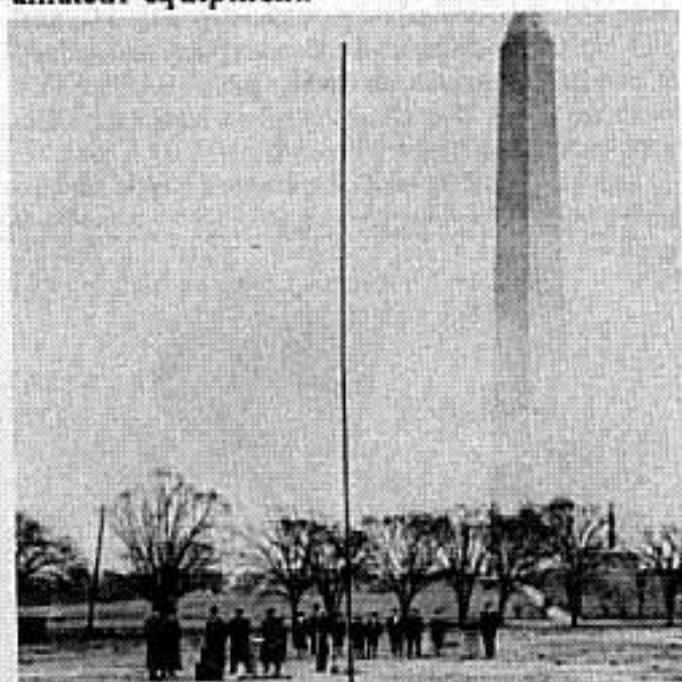
In March, Polytronics announced the appointments of Clyde Palmer as a sales engineer and Frank Thompson as manager of customer service. Clyde joined and has served the company in many of its departments, including inspection, quality control and field testing. Frank was previously in the Quality Control Department.

At the 1966 NEW (National Electronics Week) Show in San Francisco, Polytronics introduced the *Poly Pup*, a 7-channel CB transceiver employing 15 silicon transistors and five diodes. Other products currently in production include the PC 23, PC 23 Sr,



One of the first mobile radio stations, built for the Signal Corps by Vitro's NEMS-CLARKE operation in 1917.

PC 30, Poly Compact and the Duo Com 120 walkie-talkie of which approximately 15,000 have been built and sold throughout the world. The engineers in the carefully guarded back room are currently designing several new products including solid state amateur equipment.



Scene of portable transmitter-receiver tests in 1912.

The continued growth of Polytronics is assured by its Vitro backing and experience



Prototype of latest Poly Comm CB transceiver, The "Poly Pup".

which dates back to 1878 plus its own well demonstrated capabilities. □