

Richard Rodgers

Jim,

There's a cute story behind that blonde Stromberg Carlson in the first photo.

I took Roddy to the Charlotte swap meet several years ago. On the way to Charlotte, I mentioned seeing an ad for a Stromberg Carlson corner console on Craigslist for \$75. I knew Roddy was a big fan of Stromberg Carlson radios and he was very excited about it. We called the owner and learned it had been in their family since new and was described as "nearly perfect". We made arrangements to see the radio on our return trip (it was on our route). Roddy talked about the prospect of owning a rare corner console for the remainder of the trip to Charlotte.

Two days later we were both exhausted and nearly broke. My truck was filled with our new radios and there would certainly be no space for a console. Roddy was now completely disinterested in seeing the Stromberg. He probably said, "I just don't need any more radios" about a dozen times. Since I was driving, I explained that we were going to stop since we had made prior arrangements with the seller. I said I would just buy it for myself if I liked it and pick it up another day. He was in a foul mood and it didn't help that we got lost a couple of times trying to find the seller's home. Once we arrived, he refused to get out of the truck and suggested I "make it quick".

The console was in an upstairs bedroom and, sure enough, it looked like it just rolled off the assembly line. The owner thought her mother's cat ruined the grille cloth and it wasn't original but the replacement cloth was period correct and professionally installed. I paid the owner for the radio and told her I'd return at a future date to pick it up. Meanwhile, Roddy had second thoughts because he was ringing the doorbell. The owner was very gracious and we all went back upstairs to show it to Roddy. Without exaggeration, he was like a kid at Christmas. He was so excited and thrilled to see just how nice it really was. I jokingly told him I had already paid for it and would never consider parting with it. Of course, I made sure he got it and recall how excited he was to display it in the corner of his family room.

Rich