

# THE DOPE FROM HOPE

190701



Richard Groves KHMA President

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The Klipsch Museum's vision is **STEaM** education. This building, originally referred to as the Steam Generating Plant, has been repurposed to teach science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. (Plus music education of course.) By using the teachings, thoughts, works and deeds of Paul W. Klipsch, our goal is to help the world better understand the science of sound.

We are now blessed with a facility dedicated to that vision—The Paul W. Klipsch Education Center. Through the hard work of many volunteers, this dream has come true. The building serves as a classroom, a research center, a library and gathering place for all of us to learn, discuss and realize information and enlightenment into the science of great sound and music through great speakers.

The Center is now in discussions to partner with various educational programs. We can always use your help and support of this endeavor. Please contact us with your ideas and suggestions for potential programs. Our ability to educate is the key to our future.

Music innovation/historical education is the reason for you to come visit and experience the life and works of Paul W. Klipsch (PWK) in Hope, Arkansas. Our Curator, Jim Hunter, has spent his adult life learning, working and teaching about the science of great sound. We invite you to join us for a great tour of these facilities.

This has all been made possible through the generosity of the City of Hope, the many contributors to Klipsch Museum of Audio History/Klipsch Heritage Museum Association (KHMA) and the group of hard-working volunteers that completed the building.

We continue to dream big here at the Klipsch Heritage Museum Association (KHMA) and look forward to more great announcements this year and into 2020. Please visit soon.



## CURATOR'S CORNER

Jim Hunter, Curator

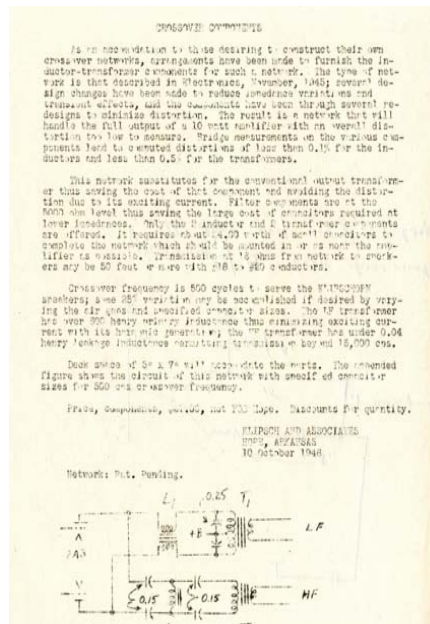


**Donations:** Glenn Mosby donated a Stewart screen for video presentations. Tim Cooper donated a video monitor and accessories for use at KHMA events. Thanks, guys!!!

**Acquisitions:** None since last reported.

**Archives:** A gem recently surfaced in the archives. It is a draft biography of PWK written by his wife, Belle, in 1956. PWK also contributed to this effort. We will be releasing the documents on the website and social media in the coming months. It is a wealth of information that we are going to spoon-feed y'all. (You might O.D. if we released it all at once!)

**Housekeeping:** This amp has been identified as one PWK built in association with his electronic crossover. No evidence of the crossover has ever surfaced, other than his article in the November 1945 Electronics magazine.



Ian Moore and Chris Hornbeck are working to build one from the schematic to be united with this amplifier (also undergoing restoration).

Sadly the document shown here is the "best quality" we have. If you look hard enough, you will realize that Paul was attempting to sell electronic crossover kits.





# The History of our STEaM Education Center

(Previously known as the Southwestern Proving Grounds Steam Generating Plant and currently known as our STEaM Education Center Building.)

Building 202 at the Southwestern Proving Ground was designated “Heating Plant” on the 1946 engineering report regarding the disposal of this munitions testing facility. The building was among 242 structures erected between the latter half of 1941 and March 1942. For the past several decades, it has been known as the “steam generating plant.” The building originally contained two gas-fired boilers that supplied steam heat to the airport hangar and adjacent buildings, including the Army Air Corps barracks. The design was standard Army-issue. It could accommodate three boilers, but only two were required in southern Arkansas. The report lists construction as “steel frame brick.” The steel frame must be well-hidden, as it appears to just be brick inside and out. It is approximately 50’ X 29’, with the bottom of the flat roof joists at 21’ high.

Steam was piped to an underground tunnel system for distribution to the various buildings. In the northwest corner of the building is an 8’ X 12’ opening about 8’ deep. This tunnel proceeds west to the airport hangar, and also splits both north and south for the other buildings. Unfortunately

for the conspiracy theorists, these branches end in about 20’. The remains of the steam plumbing pass through the walled up terminations and on to their target buildings. Today, the tunnel is subject to the whims of a fast-changing ground water level in the local “gumbo” soil. Only in the dead of a summer drought is it “almost” dry. Normally the sounds of a babbling brook announce that several feet of water are present, with untold reptilian inhabitants.

The KHMA’s first job was to cap this opening for obvious safety reasons, as well as to enable dehumidification of the rest of the building. Treated lumber was a given, and its perimeter was sealed. A trap door remains to access some of the utility connections, as well for the curious. The platform is raised about a foot above the main floor, and provides a small display area for artifacts.



## KHMA Education Center Preparation

From the time KHMA signed the lease agreement with the city of Hope for use of the Southwestern Proving Grounds Steam Generating Plant until the 2018 Watermelon Festival, the building was mainly used for storage. There was quite a bit of ‘junk’ that came with the building and we added a lot, too. For our part, it was used for overflow for the Museum and to store various loudspeakers for the 2018 Pilgrimage.

Things started to change in August of 2018 when what would eventually become the KHMA Facilities Committee was tasked with building a platform to cover the open pit inside the building. The pit originally provided a conduit for steam pipes to run underground from the plant to other facilities at the proving grounds. The tunnels had long since been sealed off and the pit was filled with debris, muck and several feet of ground water. This was not safe, sanitary, nor conducive to converting the building into a library. While the Watermelon Festival was in full swing across town, the facilities team gathered the needed supplies to build a sturdy cover for the pit. Not only did this eliminate a major source of moisture in the building, but it also now provides a fine display area for museum artifacts.



The next phase of work was to restore the building to a usable state. This began in earnest in January of 2019 when Richard Groves, our fearless leader, charged us with preparing the building for use at the upcoming Klipsch Pilgrimage in April. January was filled with a lot of planning and discussions on how best to accomplish this task. A list of things to do was compiled and plans were made for multiple work weekends over the next several months. Since most everyone on the facilities team lives somewhere other than Hope, vacations from work were scheduled and travel plans made. The team made five trips to Hope and spent a total of 18 days working on the education center. In all, over 500 man-hours of work were delivered by the team. During this phase the team accomplished the following improvements

- ◆ Caulked the outside of all windows – M.A.C. Construction
- ◆ Painted the office/bathroom area – M.A.C. Construction



- ♦ Painted the platform over the pit – M.A.C. Construction
- ♦ Painted and installed wood frames for the windows
- ♦ Cleaned all light fixtures and installed new LED bulbs
- ♦ Covered windows with Visqueen to help with water intrusion
- ♦ Hung blinds in all windows
- ♦ Removed all the extra junk
- ♦ Sanded and painted all doors
- ♦ Sanded and painted the handrail
- ♦ Worked with the city to fix leaks in the roof
- ♦ Worked with the city to fix potholes in the access road
- ♦ Had a gravel parking lot poured in front of the building
- ♦ Replaced the ceiling tiles in the office/bathroom
- ♦ Trimmed bushes around the building
- ♦ Built a privacy fence around the A/C unit
- ♦ Installed KP-600 speakers in the building
- ♦ Installed KPT-1802 in the building
- ♦ Installed new electrical outlets on the south end of the building and over the pit
- ♦ Installed a dehumidifier to help control the humidity in the building
- ♦ Repaired toilet seat and hung a new mirror in the bathroom
- ♦ Replaced light fixture in the bathroom
- ♦ Fixed water spigots and purchased water hose for the property
- ♦ Repaired various trip hazards in the floor
- ♦ Rolled out donated carpet
- ♦ Installed bookshelves in their final location in the building
- ♦ Brought additional materials stored in the Klipsch warehouse to the building to display on the bookshelves
- ♦ Brought several large artifacts to the building for display
- ♦ Hung various banners in the building
- ♦ Hung Klipsch Museum banner on south end of building
- ♦ Hung new American flag on the flagpole



So, what does the future hold? The facilities team is not done by a long shot! We still have plans to fix the remaining water leaks in the building, do some more work on the acoustics, landscape the outside and potentially build an office for our resident curator to have a work space at the Education Center. We also have much to do at the Audio Museum across from the Klipsch factory. The basement still leaks and needs to be sealed. There has been talk of returning it to the way it looked when PWK was building speakers there in the 1950's, including his recording studio, lab and a replica of his office. There have also been discussions about KHMA gaining access to one of the old Proving Ground's ammo bunkers to use as a storage facility. There are other things in the works, but that's enough for now.

The following individuals and organizations all contributed to the renovation efforts at the Education Center. We would like to thank each one of these folks for their contribution to our new Education Center!

- ♦ The city of Hope Arkansas – Repairs to the building and A/C unit. Also fixing the access road
- ♦ M.A.C. Construction – Window caulking and painting
- ♦ B&R Hardware – Many of the supplies we used during the renovation
- ♦ Jim Hunter – Access to the museum artifacts and to tools we would forget to bring
- ♦ Christy Luquet – Coordination of activities
- ♦ Elden Luquet – Construction expertise and new signs for the building
- ♦ Kevin Harmon – Construction expertise and loan of equipment for the KP-600's
- ♦ Roy Delgado – Design of the fly rig and help with installation and tuning of the KP-600's
- ♦ KGI Engineering staff – Rebuilding the KP-600's so they would sound their best
- ♦ Michael Griffin – Replacing the ceiling in the office/bathroom and other tasks
- ♦ Andrea Stuart-Glasgow – Lots and lots of cleaning
- ♦ Rita Strause – Lots and lots of cleaning
- ♦ Roger Simmons – Gravel parking lot in front of the building
- ♦ Richard Groves – Donation of the rug for the facility
- ♦ Rodney Newton – For giving us a place to stay when we would come to town to work





## A Very Special Award . . .

Scott and Paula Yocum were honored during the grand opening of the KMAH's new Klipsch Education Center building at the airport near the Museum at Hope, Arkansas. The event kicked-off the 2019 Pilgrimage. In recognition for their generosity and support of the Museum, the "Scott and Paula Yocum Memorial Award" was established and the first award was presented to Scott's family. The award will continue to be presented when an individual gives superlative support for the Museum. In addition to receiving an individual award, recipients' names are also displayed on a permanent plaque at KMAH.

The Yocum's were the largest early donors to the KMAH at its' fledgling stage. Scott purchased several pairs of speakers offered by the Museum for fundraising, a Founding membership, and several Khorn memberships. In keeping with his generous nature, some of those speakers and memberships were given to friends and family. He and Paula also donated to the Pilgrimage.

Scott was a life-long Klipsch fan, and he shared a love of music with Paula and their daughters, Lauren and Melissa. Lauren accepted the award for the family and related his teaching them about the "sweet spot" between the Klipschorns and her dad's insistence of "hands off" of his audio equipment. Scott and Paula also enjoyed Klipsch speakers at hometown concerts. The local Murphy Arts District (MAD) features Klipsch speakers, and Roy Delgado designed some of them especially for MAD, which hosts top name performers. Scott was known as "Pappy III" on the Klipsch forum. At his funeral, the church organ blasted "Stairway to Heaven" and "Wish You Were Here", and after his burial, at the cemetery, Jim Hunter delivered Scott's last pair of new Klipsch speakers to one of his daughters. Daughter Lauren White Yocum, spoke eloquently accepting the award. Here, we share with you her acceptance speech:

*Good evening! On behalf of our family, thank you for your hospitality. As off-kilter and heartbreaking as it is to be gathered in this venue without daddy, we are trying our best to carry on his joyful and charismatic character as we take steps forward in words and actions. If you lived in the Scott Yocum household, you learned at a very early age that all of daddy's cornerhorns, amps, CDs, vinyl, and stereo equipment in general, were MEGA off-limits. Daddy taught us about sitting in the center of the room, or the "sweet spot", as he would call it, in order to receive the best combination of sound.*

*Despite the possibility of losing a finger or hand at the touch of these fancy and intimidating powers of electronics, we Yocum girls have priceless memories of dance parties and sing-alongs in our home music rooms. Thanks to Klipsch, our favorite lyrics and melodies were brought to life through the crisp clarity and high efficiency of legendary products. You might say that our ears are a bit high maintenance, musically. :-)* We were spoiled to high quality music at an early age.

*As we witness firsthand the laid back atmosphere here at the Pilgrimage, it's easy to understand why my daddy loved this time of fellowship over the past couple of years. Even though he was a homebody, he was eager to plan*





his annual journey to Hope to be a part of this community. My mom, sister Melissa, and I love the memory we have of a picture that daddy took last year while attending. He had tediously placed edible Klipsch stickers on a few dozen sugar cookies to be served over the weekend. We were so proud of him for taking on that task and executing it so successfully—our daddy was a rockstar in the giving and “taking care of others’ department.

It’s with great humility that we accept this recognition for daddy and the supporters that he and momma have always been to the world of Klipsch. I know if daddy were with us tonight, he would make it very clear that he didn’t give of his time or finances with the desire of being recognized. Matter of fact, he would probably show you the ‘yellow button behind his lapel’ in silent protest of being honored. He never questioned what dollar amount of gift would get his name put on a T-shirt or place him in a certain tier of gifting. To be honest, his outlook on giving was much like his fashion sense and every day wardrobe—which was humble and driven by the desires of his heart. Daddy loved to work behind the scenes and had an eye for those who are often overlooked.

Thank you for having the heart and eyes for daddy’s work behind the scenes. Thank you for recognizing the love and passion that he had for music and Klipsch throughout his life. I’ve been thinking about what to say tonight for several weeks. But just this past weekend I went to visit daddy’s headstone. I looked up and to the right just beyond his stone and saw his mother’s headstone...and although I’d seen her stone 100 times...it’s like it was the first time...I noticed her headstone is covered in a treble clef, ledger lines, and notes. It hit me. It hit me right then and there. Daddy’s passion for quality music is part of his mother’s legacy. She gifted him a love for music of all kinds. Her passion for quality music was part of her parents’ legacy...You see, our Creator has placed music in our hearts through all of the generations before us...How awesome is that????!!!!

What a great reminder this is for us to instill a love for music in the hearts of daddy’s grandchildren...It’s now my turn to share quality sound. The Klipsch museum and community foster the challenge of carrying on that legacy. The legend and quality of the Klipsch brand serves as a solid common ground for many of you gathered here today. Truth be told, it’s likely the relationships that keep you coming back to this community of safety, comfort, and enjoyment. It’s our family’s hope that you will continue to enjoy and capitalize these times together as you carry the torch of “The Ultimate Sound Experience”. Thank you, Again.



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LONG MAY YOU ROCK  
Klipsch



KLIPSCH MUSEUM OF AUDIO HISTORY





# Getting to Know Kevin Harmon...

Kevin Harmon is the vice president of the Klipsch Heritage Museum Association. Kevin, who is a dentist by trade, was not always a Klipsch fanatic. When he was legally able to drive (at age 15 in Louisiana in 1975), he journeyed to Audio Systems in Lafayette, LA on an audio expedition to listen to some great stereo speakers. The salesman was demonstrating high-end Infinity speakers to a customer who was contemplating spending \$5,500 on the great sound. Kevin thought they sounded great too, but was enthralled by the looks of the Klipschorns in the corner of the store. The salesman humored the kid and demo'd the Klipschorns. They both agreed these were much more impressive at about half the price of the Infinity's!

Five years later Kevin visited (and took videos of) the PWK Museum in Hope, AR. He kept going back and after two or three visits he was determined to meet his idol, Paul W. Klipsch, which he finally did in June 1989. Kevin became friends with him, as well as with Jim Hunter and Roy Delgado (aka Chief Bonehead). Soon afterwards, all of the Klipsch engineering team moved to Indiana, except for Roy. When the idea of a Klipsch Museum came about, Roy and Jim asked Kevin to be part of the working group.



**Kevin with the love of his life,  
Lisa, his wife.**

Kevin lives in Louisiana, has a few trailers...became a Klipsch dealer... has a Klipsch license plate since 1989. His original plate was signed/autographed by PWK. Wear and tear has faded it, so he's going to get his third plate.

If you see him towing one of his trailers on the road, you would think he is "Mr. Klipsch" himself. In his big trailer (about 20' long), he hauls his KP-600 concert speakers. These consist of four stacks of two pair each (each pair = six boxes of equipment). He brings these out for big events like concerts and the Klipsch Pilgrimage. His smaller half-sized trailer is used just for fun (fundraisers, benefits, parties, festivals, etc.). It is not a business, just a "sound system for festivals" fun hobby.

Kevin grew up in Louisiana, he graduated high school in 1978 and went to USL (University of Southern Louisiana). He narrowed his studies down to engineering, medical school or dental school and speed-passed his graduation to three years. Dentistry became his chosen profession because it afforded him the luxury of time to enjoy life (and outdoor sports), and the finances to afford it. He and his six younger siblings (Damon, Shawn, Alicia, Rachel and Brandon) enjoyed football, baseball, basketball, boxing and hunting. Deer bow-hunting (archery) is Kevin's favorite.

Kevin and his wife, Lisa, married in 1985. They are the proud parents of Kyle (30 years old) and Lindsey (25), and they look forward to soon having both a daughter-in-law and son-in-law. Kyle is marrying Cameron on Oct. 12, 2019 and Lindsey is marrying Nik on Nov. 23, 2019. Kevin and Lisa are also happy to be parents of a few fur-babies too. Gunner is their chocolate lab, Cora is their pit-bull and they have a cat named Cane.



**This photo was taken on June 29, 1989, the day Kevin first met his idol, Paul W. Klipsch.**

Kevin admits he was not very driven in school, but in his second semester of college he was motivated by his roommate to work harder and give it his best effort. Thanks to this roommate (Dr. Tim Thomas), Kevin graduated college in three years and dental school in four. Kevin and Tim became long-time friends and business partners, and they now have a dental practice in Louisiana (Harmon & Thomas Family Dentistry). Kevin is happy that dentistry allows him to pursue his passion—the enjoyment of great music. So far, Paul W. Klipsch's speakers have been producing the best sound Kevin has ever heard and he's heard plenty of great sounds as he's been listening a lot!

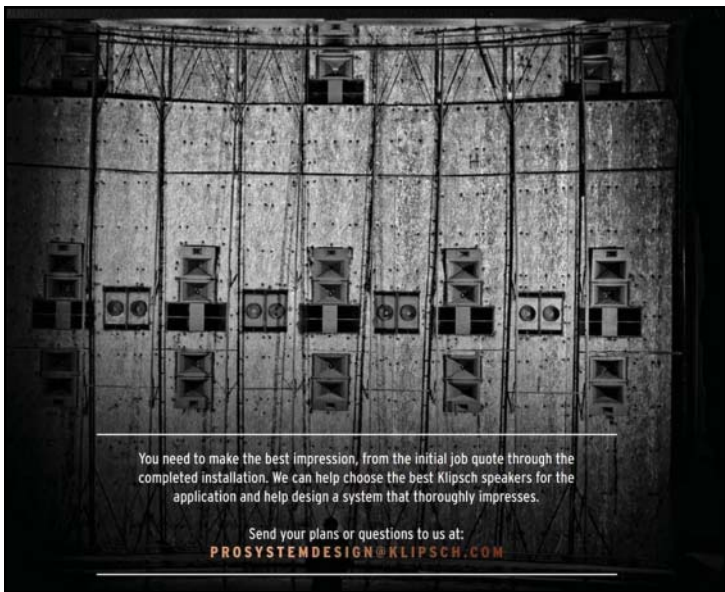


# Reminiscences

by Curtis Putnam, KHMA Member and former Klipsch & Associates Engineer

Around the same time as "Earthquake" came out (November 1974), there were stories of cracked movie theater foundations...due to Klipsch MCM grand cinema speaker usage!

My most important interaction was with a group from New England. A dealer called who had installed the MCMs in a disco, and had a class action lawsuit filed against him. Pictures were falling off the walls in buildings around the club...people were complaining for nearly a mile around the place, but only during the winter.



You need to make the best impression, from the initial job quote through the completed installation. We can help choose the best Klipsch speakers for the application and help design a system that thoroughly impresses.

Send your plans or questions to us at:  
[PROSYSTEMDESIGN@KLIPSCH.COM](mailto:PROSYSTEMDESIGN@KLIPSCH.COM)

I asked how deep the freeze line was during the winter. He said two feet. I told him to dig a two foot wide by four foot deep "moat" around the club, install drainage, and then fill to the top with large aggregate gravel. In other words, isolate the club from the frozen ground. It freaking worked!!!

I got three letters of thanks—one each from the club manager, the club owner and one of the neighbors.

Those were the good ole days!



## WHO WE ARE

Paul W. Klipsch (PWK) was an American audio pioneer, a true eccentric and a proud member of the *Engineering and Science Hall of Fame*. He gave rise to technologies that would forever impact generations of music lovers. He left an amazing legacy for you to discover.



Klipsch Museum of Audio History is owned and operated by the Klipsch Heritage Museum Association (KHMA), whose mission is to restore, preserve, maintain and display Klipsch and Klipsch-related artifacts and archival materials for historic purposes, as well as to conduct pertinent historical research and

to host educational activities and events.

### Visited us?

Please post a review to Trip Advisor for others to see. Help spread the word!



We believe in the importance of science in education, the spirit of discovery, and good ol' American ingenuity. As a non-profit organization, the Klipsch Museum of Audio History is dedicated to preserving and sharing the technological discoveries, artifacts, and principles of Paul W. Klipsch.

## PLAN YOUR VISIT

We would love to have you tour our collection and hear our stories. They're good ones.

### Admission

\$3 for Seniors, College Students & Kids under 12  
Babies are free, everyone else is \$5

### Hours

Open 10AM-2PM Wednesday, Thursday & Friday  
Also open by appointment - email us!

### Contact

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