

# "Ruts"

My earliest memory is of Grandma, Aunt Ji, and Aunt Ipasta talking on the front porch in Willston, North Dakota. At the time, I was only 15 years old, hardly old enough to think about my family history. However, by the time I was 20, my curiosity as to my ancestry became deep and over-powering.

I remember the old bags rocking and talking about the generations before them. The farthest-back person that they ever mentioned was "the Highlander," named Kenn-Kay. Upon recognition that "the Highlander" came from Scotland, I flew to Edinburgh, known as Dunedin to the Gaelic. It was the Gaelic country where the Highlanders are found.

After searching through the archives of Dunedin, I found my great-great-great-grandfather's clan name. "The Highlander" was of the Kenn-Kay (spelled Kinky) clan. Yet I had no idea as to his first name, nor the reason for his disappearance.

The records showed that the Kinky Clan was found in the most northern part of the highlands known as the Grampians (famous for its glens). The clan was found in a region between Glen Campbell and Dung Hill.

Because of its isolation from the modern world, the people of the Kinky Clan have retained all of their old rituals and traditions. My team of Gaelic interpreters and myself interrupted their Highland Fling. Apparently, this

traditional folk dance is very important to the younger clan-members, but it was postponed because of our special visit.

We sought out the wise man of the clan. He was called Krudely and was 96 years old. Krudely

Kinky told stories of generations ago. He was getting to the year 1764 when he mentioned the family of Abit Kinky. Abit had four sons, but lost one during the Fling season. The boy was collecting some bamboo chutes

and hard heather thorns to make the traditional Weidhdivisare, a Gaelic word simply meaning 'devise! When the old man said the boys name, I developed goose bumps all over my body. This lost "Highlander," Kinda Kinky, was

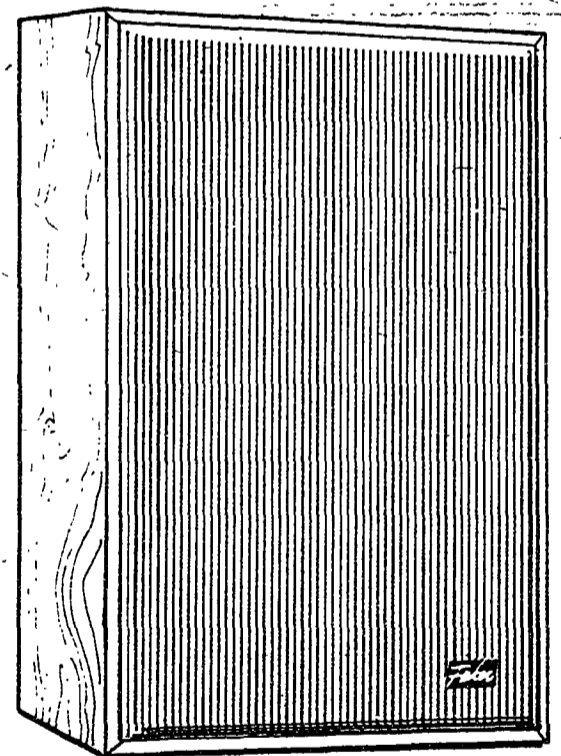
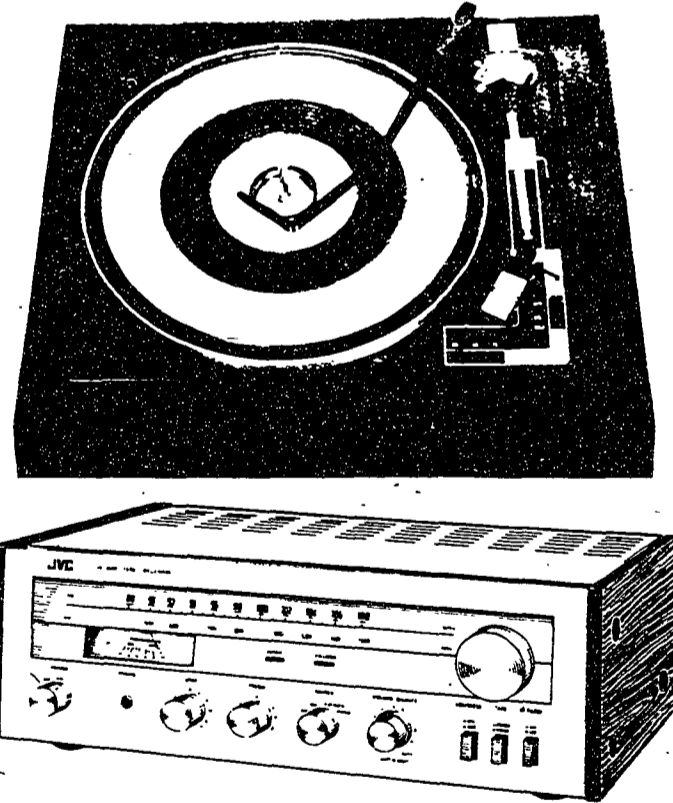
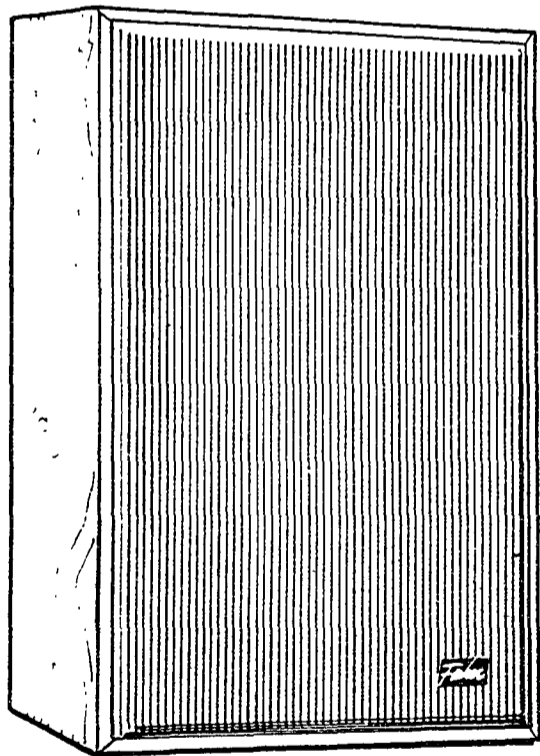
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