

**THE “MORSE BOX” OF E. STUART DAVIS, E.E., Ph.D.
CIRCA 1975**

Now that we have, through the ingenuity of Mr. Les Kerr, the ability to work Morse Telegraph instruments over the Internet, it is difficult to realize how morose we telegraphers were in the 1970s. Other than the Philadelphia Leased Morse Wire, a private line subscribed to by a dozen or so old telegraphers in Philadelphia, and one other small private wire around Toledo, the Morse Telegraph appeared to be dead at last.

Stuart Davis, E.E., Ph.D., of Union, NJ, had different ideas. Beginning in the late 1960s, Stu designed and built a few devices, which he called “Morse Boxes,” which allowed telegraphers to make, and to play back, cassette tapes of telegraphy. Stu’s Morse Boxes operated on the “mark/space” principle, i.e. tone or the absence of tone. When the telegraph key was closed, as it made dots and dashes, a tone was generated by the Morse Box, and this tone could be jacked into and recorded on cassette tape recorder. By rearranging the wire connections on the back of the Morse Box, a tape could be played back and the Morse Box emitted a signal of sufficient strength to drive a Telegraph sounder or relay. I know of four Morse Boxes built by Stu Davis, but there were probably a few more.

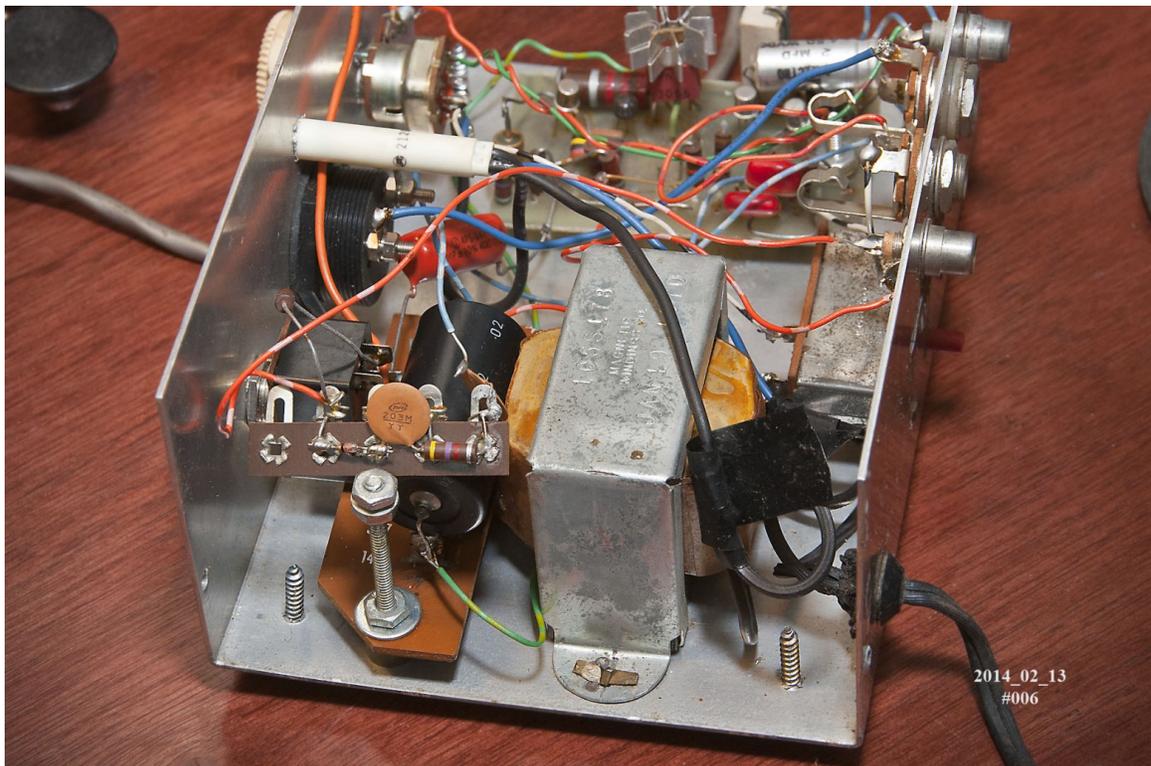
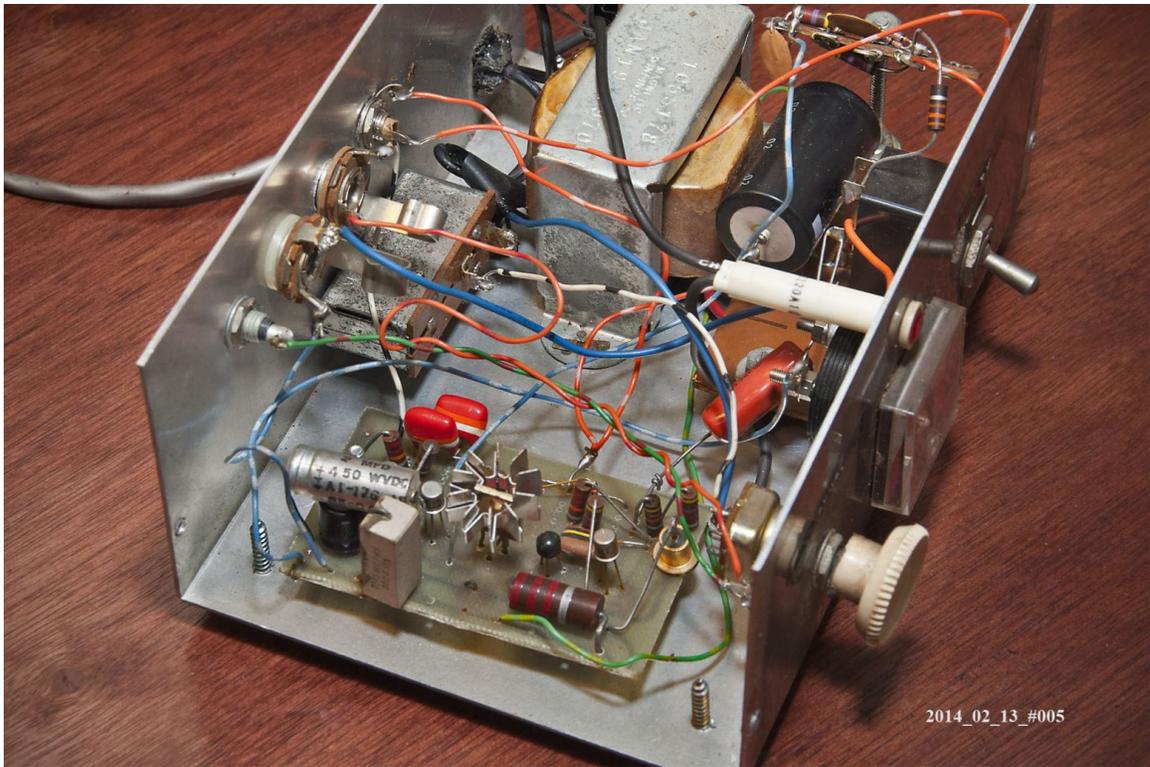
Those of us interested in telegraphy made cassette tapes and mailed them to our confreres. Besides Stu and myself, others whom I remember being involved in the exchange of tapes were Dick Loveland of Philadelphia, Joe Christian of Cordova, Alabama, and one gentleman in New Jersey whose name I have forgotten. All are now long deceased. (Joe Christian did not use a Morse Box, but made his tapes acoustically.)

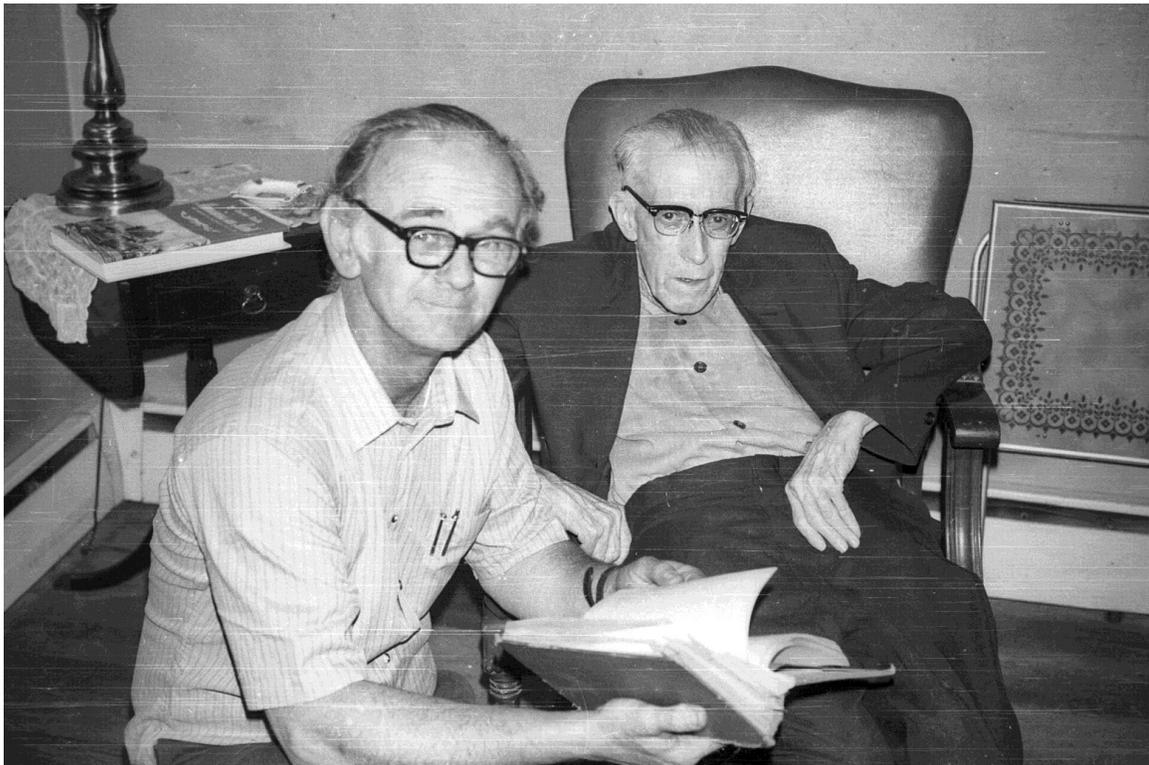
I met Stu Davis through the mutual friendship of Richard S. Loveland, E.E., City Engineer of Traffic Signals in Philadelphia, and Wire Chief of the Philadelphia Leased Morse Wire. Stu visited my home at least twice, I visited his home at least once (and possibly twice,) and I was with Stu at several other get-togethers, one of which was at “KB” Telegraph Office operated by John Henry (Ace) Holman, of Malvern, Pa.

Anyone desiring a copy of my little memorial on the memorable Stu Davis, written last year, with photographs taken at his home, may have it for the asking by contacting me at pravoslavna@comcast.net .

Abram Burnett
New Cumberland, PA
February 13, 2014







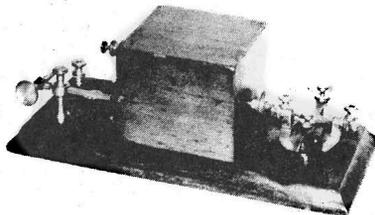
Ace Holman (left) and Stu Davis (right)
at the Holman home, Malvern, Pa., about 1980

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THE NATIONAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE



Dedicated to the preservation of the telegraphic art

E. STUART DAVIS

1149 WEBER STREET UNION, NEW JERSEY 07083

MAY 25TH. 1979

PEACE ON YOU TOO, JUDGE!

GLAD YOU HAVE THE MSE BOX RUNNING ALL OK.
ON REVERSE HEREOF, IS THE REQUESTED SCHEMATIC. I HOPE YOU'LL HAVE
NO NEED FOR IT. PLEASE DO NOT BROADCAST THIS DIAGRAM AMONGST
THE MANY WHO HAVE MADE SIMILAR REQUESTS OVER THE YEARS.
DOES NOT APPLY TO DICK OR ACE!

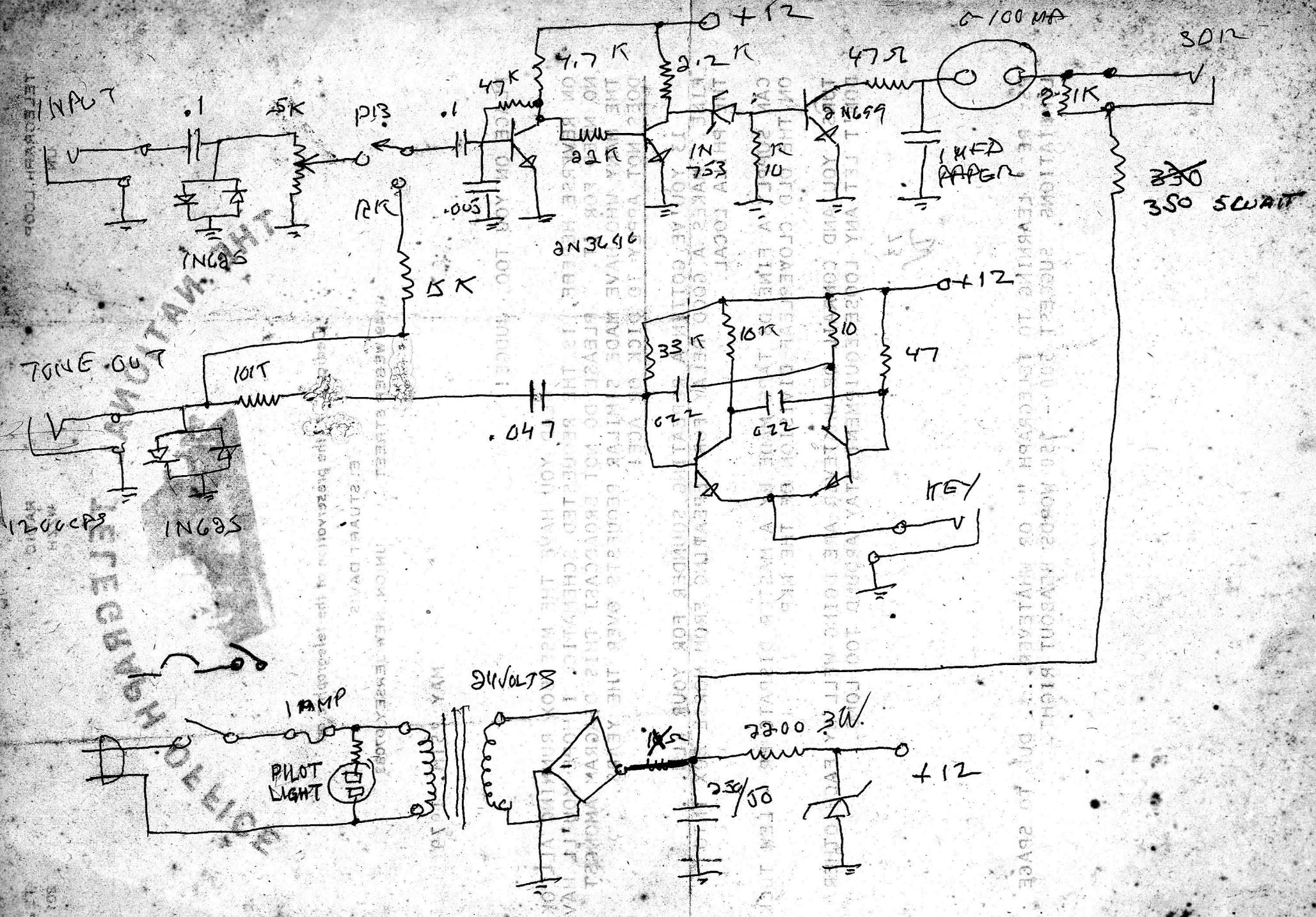
13 YOU'VE GOTTEN A REPEATING SOUNDER FOR YOUR KLN...
FINE. MAKES A GOOD RELAY FOR REPEATING FROM MORSE BOX INTO
THE PHILA LOCAL.

CAN SUPPLY A FINE DS TAPE MADE BY A MASTER DISPATCHER - LEW TUCKER
ON THE OLD CLOVERLEAF DIVISION OF THE NKP.

WURST YOU AND CONRAIL OR WHATEVER ARE DOING WELL BY EACH OTHER/
DON'T LET ANY LOOSE EQUIPMENT STAY AROUND TOO LONG.

73
W

PS: RE ' LEARNING TO TELEGRAPH " OR WHATEVER.... DUE TO SPACE
LIMITATIONS SUGGEST 500 - 750 WORDS BE/ABOUT RIGHT.



MARS 130 + MARK III

1969

