Magic Music Inc. – Columbus, Ohio

55 East Spring Street

The company in Columbus was established in the spring 1940 by Richard Burton Wiggins (1907-1973), who had been connected with the coin machine industry since late 1926. Wiggins came from the Standard Device Corp. and the Richards Mfg. Co. in the autumn 1938 to become a travelling representative for O. D. Jennings & Co., and a year later in the autumn 1939 Wiggins established headquarters in Columbus Ohio, to distribute products from O. D. Jennings & Co.. Richard (Dick) B. Wiggins was by then known as a former operator, designer, and mechanical engineer responsible for development of the first reliable slug rejector used in most slot machines in the late 1930s.

The new "Magic Music" company with facilities at 55 East Spring Street for the manufacture of coin-operated wired music systems, said to be the first reliable wired systems, was based on more than a year of experimental work followed by eight months of testing in Phoenix, Arizona, by Dick Wiggins and the chief engineer Charles Pfund (1896-1979), who was responsible for all electrical details. There were three wired music models made for operation: The 'Magic Grandeur', the smaller 'Magic Symphonette', which were both consoles, and the 'Magic Wallette' for use on counters or walls in smaller locations. The first installations of the machines in Columbus were in place late April or early May 1940.

The management of the Magic Music Inc. factory facility was finally taken over by O. D. Jennings & Co., when Richard B. Wiggins decided to join the Baker Novelty Co. in May 1941. In July 1939 Dick Wiggins married Lydia Martha Sommerfeld (1913-2003), who was secretary to Harold Baker, head of the Baker Novelty Co. at 1700 Washington Blvd. in Chicago, and in 1941 Dick and Lydia Wiggins moved to Chicago.

Charles Pfund

26/6 1896 - 3/5 1979



Richard Burton Wiggins 19/11 1907 - 2/4 1973

HIGGING ARESTIA

(passed away in Burbank, CA)



Wauseon Union Cemetery, Fulton County, Ohio

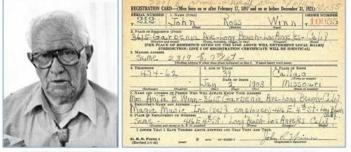
(Birth registration: Chas. Pound)



Magic Music Inc. – Long Beach, California

416 East 4th Street

The company in Long Beach was managed by Johnny Ross Winn (1903-1984), who was registered as self employed owner and operator of the wired music systems. *Johnnie* Winn was a multi talented businessman, and an interview well written by Sue Boyce can be found in the April 1984 issue of the Loose Change magazine. It is uncertain, if the wired music machine pictured with the known actor Phil Harris is the Wiggins 'Magic Symphonette' or a newly designed 'Magic Music' console made by Johnny Winn at the facilities in Long Beach. Also a picture can be found of a smaller 'Midget' counter model, and it is uncertain, if that one is an original 'Magic Wallette' model made by Wiggins (maybe a later Jennings version). It seems that Johnny Winn also used Seeburg 'Select-O-Matic' library units for his wired music system in the late 1940s. With the interview from 1984, conducted a few months before Winn passed away, is a photo signed by the young talented singer Lena Horne.



Johnny Ross Winn 2/1 1903 – ×/6 1984

(passed away in Phoenix, Arizona)



(Left: John Winn, Second from right: Phil Harris)



(LenaHorne)



(Midget - Wallette)

Recordall Sales Corp. - Los Angeles, California

2619-25 Santa Fee Avenue

The Recordall Sales Corp. was headed by Marcellus Howard Stearns (1895-1959) alias Howard Oliver Stearns (used his father's name Marcellus). The 'Rhythm Air' wired music system with an external all-in-one control board was manufactured and operated from the autumn 1940 in mainly California like many other systems. Local competition came mainly from the Magic Music Inc. managed by Winn (1903-1984), Rodney Pantages Inc. headed by Rodney Alexander Pantages (1905-1986), and the Voca-Tele Co. incorporated by Erle Miles Burnham (1879-1943) known from the Cinematone Corp. (*Penny Phono*). Nationwide the competition very soon came from major manufacturers like O. D. Jennings & Co., the Rock-Ola Mfg. Corp. (*Mystic Music*), AMI (*COS*), WurliTzer, and of course the 'Multiphone' system developed by Kenneth Carl Shyvers in Seattle. Multiphone is well described in the story published by John A. Bennett in 2021 (ISBN 978-1-66781-111-6).



This story is based on the article "Wired Music Systems of the 1940s" by David Brenner published in the Gameroom magazine in May 1994.

Gert Almind/07-24

ORDER NUMBER STRIAL NUMBER | 1. NAME (PURC) 885 Rodney ALExander Pantages 1315 R. ARRI 2423 Nottingham Are Los Angeles, CaliF. L TRANSPORT 4. 5.A. to be That Mother Mrs. Lois PANTages 5. AL 5 90 No. User man + Are Los Arisekes Calif Manual Arisekes Calif Hellywood Partuges Theatre Corp. - 6 23.3 He Hay ward Blad hes Aprilles, Salat A. Taulago . REGISTRATION GARD D. S. S. Provinci Inerit Inerit

Rodn ey Alexan der Pantages (Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale) 16/10 1905 – 2/12 1986 (Terrace of the Daybreak)



(Pantages Maestro)





(Automatic Hostess)



(Jennings Telephone Music)



(Rock-Ola Mystic Music)



Kenneth Carl Shyvers 12/12 1899 – 28/1 1976 Ella Louise *Shepard* Shyvers 10/12 1895 – 25/4 1982



Forest Lawn Cemetery, Seattle, King County, Washington