

How Bobby Ellerbee started Collecting Cameras

Around age 10, (1960), I was totally hooked on drawing television cameras and I drew them all day long for many years. My favorite was the TK41 and a lady named Kathryn S. Cole at NBC's 30 Rockefeller Plaza kept me loaded with thick stacks of 8x10 glossy 'back stage' photos for many years.

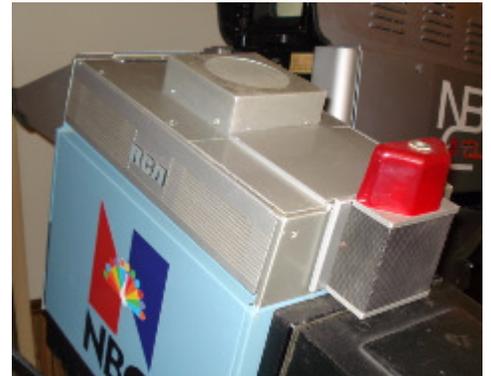
The RCA TK44B my first camera, is the start of a very interesting story. Wanting my own TV camera, I called Chuck Pharis in California on August 8, 2006. Later that day, after a good talk with Chuck, I decided to just call around here in my area (Athens – Atlanta) and just ask if anyone had any old cameras they would like to donate to a collector. On my first call, I left a message and then got busy with other things and made no more calls. Later that night, an engineer at the station, where I had left the message, **Gary Coffman, WXIA-TV in Atlanta**, called and asked me if I would like to have 7 cameras, a TD8 HF pedestal and 3 miles of cable. HONEST! I SWEAR!

There were 5 RCA TK44Bs and 3 RCA TKP 45 portable cameras and 8 CCUs. I kept 3 TK44s. I gave Chuck 2 of the 45Ps and gave Paul Beck and Tom Sprague 2 TK44s, the cable, the CCUs and a the other TKP-45 for their television technology museum that is being created now in New England.



(The five RCA TK-44Bs in Bobby Ellerbee's Garage)

Tom and Paul gave me a CBS Philips PC60, 1 Vinten head from WGBH and 1 Vinten head and a tripod that was used by WPIX only at Yankee Stadium (outfield camera). The TK-44Bs came from an Atlanta production company that went out of business, but, according to people that were at NBC Burbank, that's where these cameras started service and how do we know? Those are the only cameras that have an extra fan on top of the camera. This was a modification made by NBC to their Burbank cameras to help keep the viewfinders from overheating. If you go through "**Old Radio RCA Equipment**" **website**, and look at all the TK44s, aside from the NBC network TK44s, (see close up) there is only one other TK44 picture that has the fan mod and that was from Oral Roberts University. Probably all these cameras moved together (originally there were 6 TK44s, Gary Coffman said he gave one away a few years back)



(Close Up Of The Fan)

The ownership chain for these TK44s and 45Ps was from RCA to NBC Burbank, then donated to Oral Roberts Univ., then sold to Dixie Sports Net., then given to Gary Coffman and finally to me