

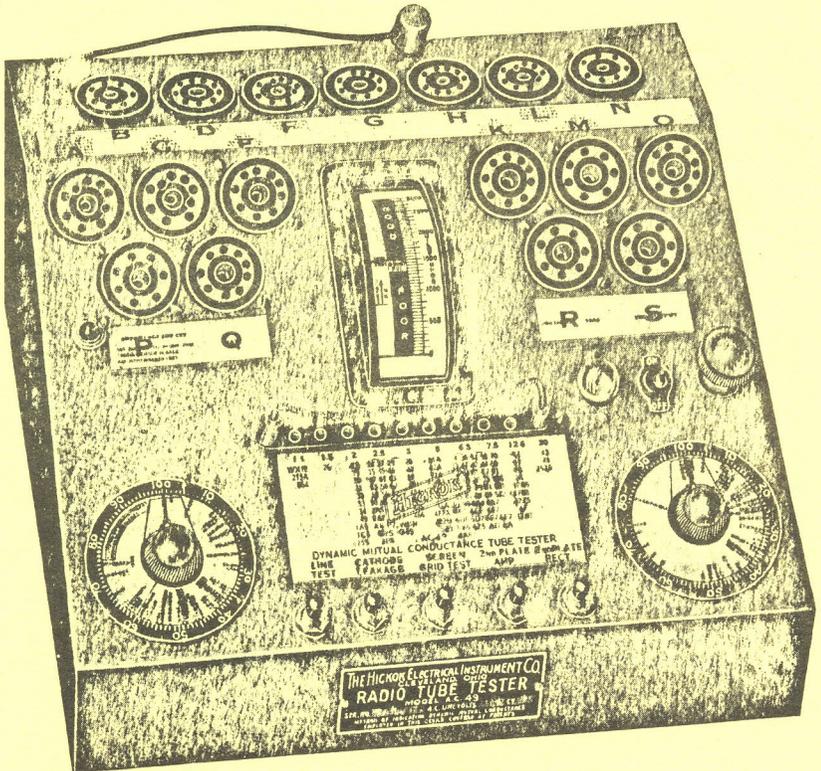
Vol. 4  
No. 10



October  
1978

# CALL LETTER

*Our October, 14th meet will feature test gear of the vintage radio era. Come on out and check us out!*



Did you know ?

From 1930, General Motors set aside a "junk-ing fund" of \$18.50 per set. This amount is kept in a separate fund at the factory. Dealers are paid \$20.00 each for every trade-in they junk. Zone sales representatives carry a small axe for this purpose, and the set is actually broken up with the axe! ( so that's where they went, Ed. )

\*\*\*\*\*

Radio advertising is raw when overdone, thus differing from meat and other edibles. Subdued publicity, which may be a builder of goodwill, is so rare nowadays that many listeners purposely avoid tuning in programs which are known offenders.

from Radio, Oct. 1928

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## CALL LETTER

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The Call Letter is a monthly publication of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Oregon. Meetings of the society are held on the second Saturday of each month, at the Buena Vista Club House, Sixteenth and Jackson Streets, Oregon City, Oregon.

Editor (pro tem) ..... Tom James  
Feature Contributions by Hugh and Virginia Ranken, Glenn Gonshorowski, Joe Tompkins and from time to time, several others.

Correspondence regarding contents of the Letter should be addressed to:

P.O. Box # 02379, Portland, Or. 97202

Phone inquiries to: 503-235-0581

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# OUR PEOPLE

*by Hugh Ranken*

Our September meeting saw presentation of entries in "new construction" and "restoration". Entries were disappointingly few, even though the contest had been played up in Call Letter for several months. Best restoration honors went to Chuck Kibler with his Detrola table model, complete with "before" pictures. The before photo shows parts of the cabinet missing. Chuck has restored the cabinet to "like new" condition and it sounds good too.

In the "new construction" department, Bob Campbell's Ultradyne was outstanding. He is to be complimented on a fine job. He even put together a loop antenna to go with the set.

Joe Tompkins displayed his home made 1 tube on an Edison record, a replica, he says, of the first set he made years ago. Joe also showed a 5 tube home brew set which he had adapted to an OZARKA case. A good looking job.

Bob Campbell made the "Find o' the month". A Remler Scotty and a Model 551 Philco Neutrodyne from 1928 - also a Drake's Radio Encyclopedia. Bob has four early and desirable ARRL handbooks on which he will accept offers. They are Vol. 1 - (1926) Vol. 4 (1930), Vol. 8 - (1934), Vol. 9 - (1935).

We are saddened by the death September 15th of Chuck Shively. Chuck was a member who took great interest in, and participated actively, in our hobby. He will be greatly missed.

Our next meeting will be October 14th, let's have a fine turn-out!



# ATMOSPHERICA

By J

*Confucius Say*

*Hickory, Dickory, Dockee ;  
My grandpapa's radio-clockee.  
The pendulum bum,  
The speakee he mum,  
It a case of no tickee, no talkee !*

*\*\* \*\* \* \* \*\**

*Velocity Modulation ?*

*I went to a neighbor's once,  
To hear his radio.  
He had a brand new Meteor,  
That he was proud to show.*

*Some other folks were there as well ;  
A new set was quite a thing.  
My neighbor basked in pride  
As the set began to sing.*

*He demonstrated often how  
To bring in other places,  
Turned the volume up and down,  
To suit whatever cases.*

*And then up piped a lady there,  
She glibly asked, to know,  
Where the speed knob was  
That made it fast or slow !*

*\*\* \*\* \* \* \*\**

*We asked Barney Schmell what sort of  
Radio Jim got at the auction the other day and he  
said he thought it was a Peutrodyne, that's an old  
form of aromatic volume control.*

# POWER SUPPLY

The first meeting of the Buena Vista Club after summer vacation was preceeded by a pot luck picnic. Special congratulations were given to one member who celebrated her 90th Birthday during the summer. KXL-Community Club Award lists, with sponsors to date were given out. Keep on saving your sales slips and containers - we will be asking you to turn them in soon. Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 17th.

How long has it been since you have had an old fashioned dessert like baked custard? Here is a recipe from "Aunt Sammy's Radio Recipes".

## BAKED CARAMEL CUSTARD

1 quart milk	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup caramel sirup
5 eggs	$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar	butter
$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla	

Heat the milk slightly with the sugar, salt and caramel sirup. Be sure the caramel sirup is entirely dissolved before this mixture is poured into the lightly beaten eggs. Add the vanilla. Pour the mixture into custard cups and add a small piece of butter to each. Bake in a pan surrounded by water in a slow oven, (325° F.). Test by placing the point of a knife in the center of the custard and if it comes out clean remove the cups of custard at once from the hot water. The custards may be served hot or cold with caramel sirup. Sugar can be easily caramelized by placing it in a heavy skillet over slow even heat and stirring it constantly until it melts and becomes a heavy brown sirup.

*Here is an article written by Hugo Gernsback  
in Radio Craft Magazine for March, 1932.*

**T**HERE are some people in the radio profession who feel that we know quite a good deal about our diverse radio instrumentalities, that we have explored practically everything, and that radio is now a pretty well "settled" art.

Nothing could be more erroneous than this. As a matter of fact, everything in the whole radio art is so new, that we may safely say that not even the surface has been scratched. We may also safely predict that radio, as we shall have it, say fifty years hence, will be something totally different from what we have today. It was thus with the electrical art. When it started, batteries were the only source of power known; then, later on, everyone used D.C. generators; while today, we are all coming to alternating current.

With radio, the parallel is far greater because, as yet, we have not even found the best instrumentalities for it. Our tubes are still crude affairs—marvelous as they are. If you compare present-day tubes with those of 1914, and then try to imagine what tubes (if we shall have tubes) will look like thirty years hence, you are apt to wonder.

Take, for instance, our present-day detector tube. It is woefully inadequate (with regard to quality) and, compared to the crystal detector, it is exceedingly poor. This has led a Western experimenter to substitute a crystal for a detector tube in his television set, with astonishingly better results in the quality of the received image.

But there are other things in radio of which we know practically nothing. Ever so often, we read of radio ghosts, explanations for which our best engineers are unable to supply. Suddenly, a frying pan, a faucet or a bed spring will emit music loud and clear. Evidently *it is possible* to have radio reception by totally different means than those which we are using today.

In New England recently, a frying pan started to emit music to the astonishment of the housewife. Perhaps you can say there was an aerial and ground in this instance, but what was the detector, and where was the amplifier? Yet, music there was, and evidently our best engineers today are unable to regularly produce music with such means. As usual, nature goes us one better and causes its own natural instrumentalities to do the same thing that we do in a most round-about manner.

-- Continued from preceding page--

While radio phenomena of this kind have often been stressed, and while engineers have a **vague** idea as to how it all originates, yet, I do believe that if a little time and energy are used to work out the actual physics of such phenomena, an entirely new radio art might evolve in time. Nature is full of such "stunts," if only we might take advantage of them.

I spoke of the crystal detector before. While, of course, the vacuum tube is easier to handle, the "lowly" crystal still has its inherent qualities that will some day bring it back to its former popularity if it is properly "engineered." The crystal detector is full of mysteries as yet unsolved by radio engineers.

As every radio man knows, there is nothing really superior to the crystal detector when it comes to quality. What all of them do not know, however, is that the crystal has frequently been an excellent distance-getter, and there have been many verifications of this. For no known reason at all, the crystal, whose limit is usually about 15 to 25 miles, has been able to bring in signals from distances up to 300 miles.

Of course, the "wise" radio man will point out that this must be "freak" reception, and let it go at that, but when the same "freak" reception is duplicated hundreds of times they are no longer "freaks" but become pretty normal.

I proved this years ago in my *Interflex* circuit where I coupled a crystal to the grid of a vacuum tube. Taken alone, the crystal could not bring in stations more than 15 miles away. With the detector tube alone, the receiver could not bring in signals for a greater distance either. The two together (the tube now being used as an audio amplifier) brought in regularly stations as far as a thousand miles distant, and I can still duplicate this experiment today at will, bringing in stations on a 100-foot aerial from 500 to 1000 miles on any good receiving night.

Here then, is another radio mystery that needs exploring and that perhaps will lead us somewhere into something that we do not know today.

The trouble is that we take our present-day radio instrumentalities too much for granted. The chances are that we are working along entirely wrong lines, and it might behoove us to try a new path in order to gain knowledge which we do not possess today.

A Bit of Radio History in the North West  
Here are a few stations that many of us missed:  
Portland, Ore. Willard P. Hawley. 7 XG 200 meters  
Experimental and vocal music between 8:00 and 8:45PM  
Tues. and Wed., and between 9:00 and 9:30PM, Thurs.

---Portland, Ore. Northwestern Radio and Manufac-  
turing Co. 7 XJ. Broadcasts every Tuesday and Fri-  
day evening at 8:45 PM. Public Health Service Bull-  
etins. Sends out Industrial News every Monday eve-  
ning.

Portland, Ore., The Oregonian. KSW 360 meters.  
Music, talks, news bulletins daily. Max. distance  
900 miles.

Seattle, Wash., Excelcion Motorcycle Co. KHQ.  
Works on a divided schedule with Northwest Radio  
Service. Broadcast 7:00 to 9:00 PM with Music.

Seattle, Wash., Northern Radio Elec. Co. WJQ  
360 Meters. Operating in conjunction with Seattle  
Post Intelligencer. 100 watt vacuum tube trans-  
mitter. Heard by ship 3600 miles at sea. News,  
market reports, music, etc. Seven to nine hours  
daily. Land range, about 1200 miles.

Seattle, Wash., Post Intelligencer. KJF 360  
meters. Operated by Northern Radio Co. News  
bulletins between 12:00 Noon and 1:00 PM. on  
special occasions: at 3:30 and 5:30 PM, news  
bulletins, market quotations and music. 8:30  
to 10:30 PM., cables, news, new phonograph  
records, concerts.

Such was the information published by Science and  
Invention, for May 1922. Would be interesting if  
someone has old DX logs for these stations. In  
going over all the stations broadcasting at this  
time, I discovered the fact that a great prepond-  
erance of the stations were using 360 meters as  
their wavelength. I guess it got kind of messy  
before new frequency allocations were assigned!  
But I guess the circle is finally complete, as  
the situation is back to Messy again.

"SCARS WEST " NOV. 17-18

1st ANNUAL WEST COAST CONFERENCE

TORRANCE , CALIF.

SPONSORED BY SOUTHERN CALIF. ANTIQUE

RADIO SOCIETY

\*\*\*\*\*

FEATURED ACTIVITIES WILL BE : GUEST  
SPEAKERS, AUCTION OF QUALITY EQUIP.,  
CONTEST OF HISTORICAL EQUIP., AND  
BANQUET WITH AWARDS PROGRAM.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, WRITE:

S C A R S SECRETARY,  
35615 Ave. "D",  
YUCAIPA, CA., 92399

*Our member, Glenn Streeter, who is also the president of "S C A R S " sends us an invitation to attend their blast down L.A. way. Would like to get the various West Coast clubs together in a good sized conference. He further states that he is holding open house Friday evening to display his collection. Lets get a few members down there to represent N W V R S . We may have a few items to send down to compete, or at least sweeten the "pot", Hi.*

*I would like some of the East coast and other members to give us a run down on their regional get-togethers. Give us at least a thumbnail sketch of your area activities.*

Thoughts about test equipment, as seen by your Ed.

Do many of you remember the days when some sort of volt-ohmmeter, plus maybe a crude emission type of tube-checker, was all the test gear necessary to do almost all service work necessary on our radios or other electronic gear? Then on the other side of the coin, was the fellow who loaded up on every conceivable piece of gear on the market, such as set analyzers, oscilloscopes, sophisticated signal generators, ---- you name it--, and hoped that would be the end of his service troubles.

One of the first precepts in servicing any sort of equipment that has failed, is to assume that it was in working order prior to a failure of one part. It may be that this one failure was responsible for the breakdown of others, but mainly one vital part of an otherwise working apparatus failed. Now with this in mind, the next step is isolation of trouble. The obvious starting place is power supply voltages. Does the AC mains voltage get to the input system? Is DC voltage coming out of the filter? Are the tube plates at the right potential? Now, if every thing seems to be in order here, then check the audio thru, a simple touch of the finger to an audio grid will usually show audio continuity. Now ahead of the detector, we can start back tracing with a signal generator of some sort, until we locate a stoppage along the way, thus we have isolation. And except for rare instances, a signal generator, and vacuum-tube type voltmeter, and a modicum of horse-sense will get the job done. Re-engineering any of the circuitry, flat-topping the i. f. section, noise and distortion analysis, and such sophisticated monkey business should not be attempted by the neophyte, and indeed they do require items of test equipment not available to most of us. Circuit diagrams of the stuff at hand are a great help, though not altogether necessary; however a knowledge of electrical fundamentals is almost a fore gone conclusion before attempts to do very much on electronic gear.

Your editor needs a short course on re-finishing of cabinetry and allied arts, who'll volunteer?

# LETTERS

From Member Pat Stewart, up Walla Walla way :  
Enjoy the call letter very much, but do miss the old  
Carby Swapfests.

Recently picked up a nice National AGS (1933) All band  
receiver with the full set of 27 plug-in coils; Serial  
Number 129, only a few hundred were built! Also a nice  
1917 National Electric Supply, (N-208-- Serial #1. This  
is similar to one (N-239) in "Vintage Radio" pp64---  
Under wireless receivers.

Picked up a Juska's 225-228, and a Western Electric  
212-E tube. I have over 200 01-A's in receivers mostly.

Stop by and see us etc etc-----  
Pat

Now that one member has met the challenge and made me  
out a wrong guesser on the status of our outyonder mem-  
bers, how about hearing from some of the rest of you  
guys?

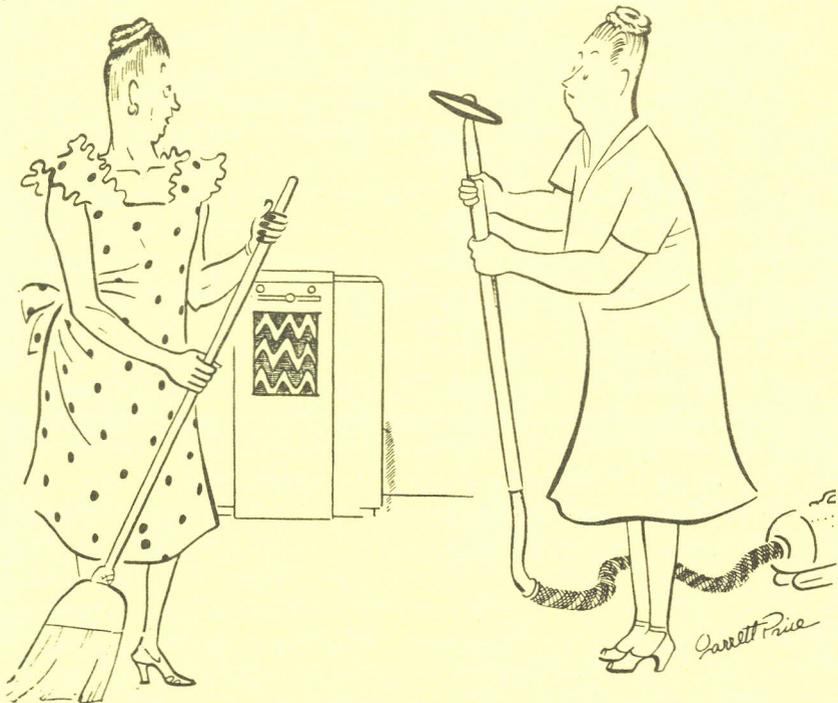
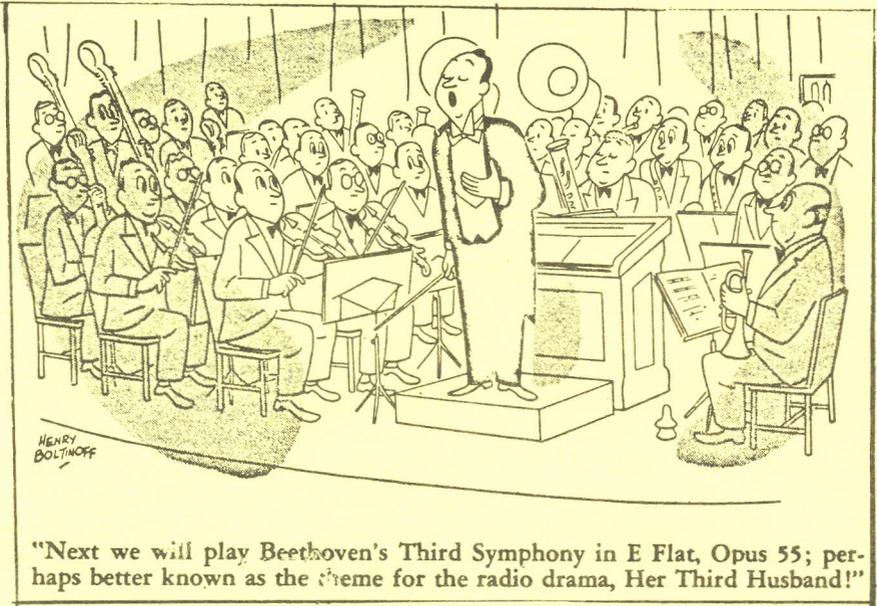
Joe Tompkins, at Salem, Or. sends me a letter per mon-  
th, with Swap Shop items and that ever needling little  
bit about how a "guy calls me up and says he's got a  
bunch of old radios he just has to get rid of-----"  
I thought maybe some of you other guys would like to  
brag a little, too.

Incidentally, Pat Stewart included a photo-print of a  
few dozen goodies he has in his museum in Walla Walla.  
One of these days ??????

Also in letters, I received a nice thank-you note from  
Mrs. Charles Shively, and an acknowledgement from the  
Oregon Heart Assn.

When you affix that stamp to your letter, just remember  
that fifteen cents is a small fee to pay for all those  
oats, saddles, levi's etc, required to get the "Express"  
thru!

# CARTOON CLIPPINGS

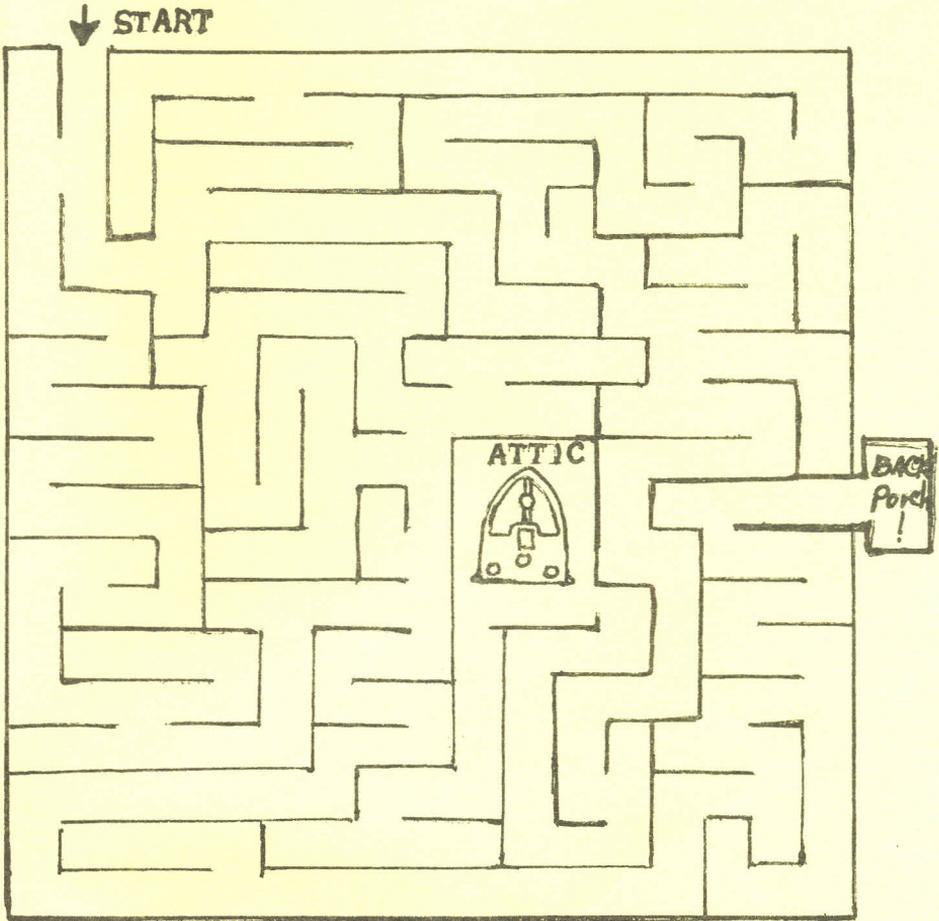


14 "I don't use the vacuum, ma'am; it spoils the radio programs for me"

# RADIO STATIC

by Glenn

Located in the heart of downtown atticland, there lies hidden a mint condition cathedral radio. The goal here is to find it without ending up in a closet or out on the back porch.  
On your mark, get set, GO!.....



Answers for Sept. Scrambled names:

1. Airing
  2. Capehart
  3. Detrola
  4. Howard
  5. Metrodyne
  6. Sonora
- \*\*\*\*\*

Lucy Wyre thinks that Radio Static is nothing more than a shocking commercial!

# SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE: G. E. Floor Model, less  
tubes. Make offer.  
Bill DeVey  
11080 S. W. 121st.  
Tigard, Or. 97223 Ph: 639-0066

FOR SALE: RCA Cabinet Speaker #104,  
Amplifier #AP951  
Maurice Leete Ph: 656-6487  
610 E. Hereford St.  
Gladstone, Or. 97027

FOR SALE: Scott 28 tube Model 600  
Laurette. Has phono and  
plays great. \$250.00.  
Nice Grebe Console. \$65.00  
201-A Tubes at \$4.00 each.  
Joe Tompkins Ph: 362-8071  
3796 Hulsey, S.E.  
Salem, Or. 97302

WANTED: Old, odd tubes, crystal sets,  
will buy or trade for some.  
Don Iverson Ph: 286-1144  
10115 N.W. St. Helens Rd.  
Portland, Or. 97231

WANTED: Knobs for Silvertone Model  
#6140.  
Bill DeVey Ph: 639-0066  
11080 S.W. 121st.  
Tigard, Or. 97223

WANTED: Freed-Eisemann Table Cabinet  
Model NR-6 or NR20 (both  
identical). This is a battery  
set. Will pay well.  
Joe Tompkins Ph: 362-8071  
3796 Hulsey, S.E.  
Salem, Or. 97302