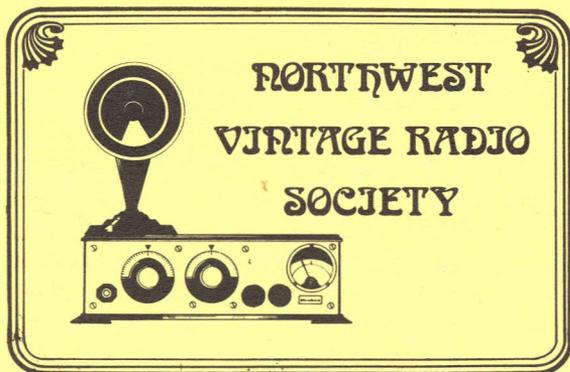


Vol. 4  
No. 11



November  
1978

# CALL LETTER

*On the 11th of November we will have our fall swap-meet at the clubhouse in Oregon City. Plan to attend this event and see how many new items of vintage radio gear, or Cathedrals, or old Scotts, or tubes, or magazines, or, ---Oh, what the Heck, come on down and see what's cookin'! Don't forget to bring something to swap, sell, or look at.*



Find of the month--- ?

As member Jim Mason was going thru one of the "boxes" of radio parts(etc) that he had acquired over the months, he uncovered a "Ball Bearing" grid leak. No vintage was indicated by Jim, but he adds that the "patent is pending". Your editor is more familiar with the roller-bearing type, Who knows anything about Jim's jewel? Is there any of the old timers in our club who can shed light on this novel, and rare item?

Your ed. believes that a good modern RF diode when used in a well designed tuned circuit, will out perform any of the old cat-whisker types. Such is the conclusion after recent experiments. 12 daytime stations isolated, with a high of -10db, from K E X 9mi. away.

## CALL LETTER

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.

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# OUR PEOPLE

*By Hugh Ranken*

The big news for November is the SWAP MEET. This will be held at the club house at our next meeting, November 11th. Get your spare or duplicate radios, parts, old radio magazines and literature together and bring to the next meeting. You're bound to find something to buy or trade and you will have a lot of fun too. The ladies will provide lunch - see the Power Supply section for more details.

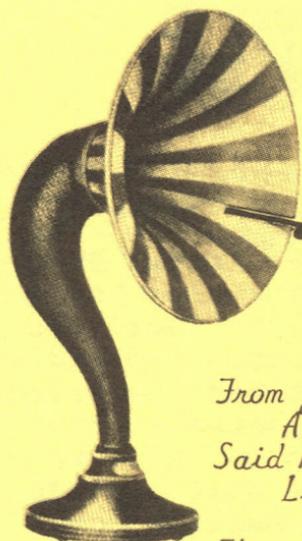
Attendance at the last meeting, October 14th, was most gratifying. Many members we hadn't seen for several months turned out. Welcome home and keep coming.

Bob Hay reported on his recent European trip, he visited eight countries in three weeks. Bob says prices are very high and getting higher, has a familiar ring, doesn't it?

We had an exceptional display of old test equipment, we were hard pressed to find table space to adequately display it all. We appreciate and thank all those who took part. It's amazing the variety of test equipment that was produced during the big years of radio.

Maurice Leete contributed two books to our library - one a 1941 ARRL Handbook. We will be happy to receive any books, service manuals or the like which you care to donate to the library.

Once again, the big occasion for November meeting is the SWAP MEET, to be held at the Buena Vista Club House, 16th and Jackson Streets in Oregon City. Let's have a big turn out!



# ATMOSPHERICA

By J

## Bobbledy Boo-Boo

From Johnson Creek, he fished the set,  
A miserable thing to behold,  
Said he was a-goin' to restore it,  
Like any good radio of old.

They told him it couldn't be done;  
With a smile he went right to it,  
He tackled the thing that couldn't be done,  
And By Golly, he couldn't do it!

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

## Humph!

There's a farmer I know, at the edge of town,  
Who's got an old shed that's almost down.  
It's filled with the junk of a former life,  
When he was married to his number one wife.

There's a Radiola Ten, that's buried out there,  
Far from polish, and love, and care.  
I'd give a bundle, in hard earned cash,  
To rescue this sweetheart away from the trash!

I'd make it a home as fine as could be;  
Give it a glister to a high degree;  
I'd fix the circuit so she could sing;  
That is; If I Owned the Darned Thing!

The farmer informed me with baleful eye,  
"Nothing will be sold 'til the day I die".  
Thus he'd vowed to his departed frau-----  
I Didn't Want the Old Wreck anyhow!

# POWER SUPPLY

by Virginia

**SWAP MEET MEMO:** Lunch will be available at the Swap Meet Saturday, November 11th, courtesy of the Ladies Auxiliary. Coffee and pastry as usual before the meeting. So, come to the meeting, stay for the Swap Meet and lunch.

A bit of interesting news heard at the meeting of the Buena Vista Club. A grant has been obtained to help with some needed repairs to the club house, such as a new roof, siding and a furnace. No date as to when this will happen though, so in the meantime, keep on bringing your contribution of wood for the stove. Next meeting of the Buena Vista Club will be Tuesday, November 21st.

Here is a popular holiday salad recipe from "Aunt Sammy's Radio Recipes".

## TOMATO ASPIC SALAD

2 envelopes gelatin	1 tablespoon finely
1 quart canned tomatoes	chopped parsley
1 tablespoon finely	1 cup finely shredded
chopped grn. pepper	cabbage
2 tablespoons finely	1½ teaspoons salt
chopped celery	½ teaspoon onion
	juice
	½ teaspoon sugar

Soak the gelatin in a small amount of water. Boil the tomatoes for 5 minutes and strain through a fine sieve to remove the seeds. Pour the hot tomato juice over the gelatin and stir until it is dissolved. Add the salt, onion juice and the sugar and chill. When the gelatin mixture is partly set, add the finely shredded vegetables and mix well. Pour into wet custard cups or a mold and chill until set. Unmold on crisp lettuce leaves and serve.

A Thumbnail History of Speakers, Along the Vintage Trail. J James

So called "loud speakers" began their evolutionary climb from early developments on the telephone in the 1800s as a receiver for that instrument. Who was responsible for the permanent magnet, coil, and diaphragm arrangement, I don't know. Nor do I know if the addition of the permanent magnet was accidental or if the inventor was versed in hysteresis effects of a changing magnetic flux on an iron diaphragm. At any rate he applied the first bias on a magnetic device. The first loud speakers used this type of driver on an exponential horn of some sort. The early A. Kents were such a speaker using a large single headphone unit coupled to a metal horn. The linear motion of the sound producing element (diaphragm) was very limited, and the consequent generation of resonant peaks and other unpleasant distortions, as well as a limited range of audio frequencies, made this type of reproducer a poor instrument for such listening as symphonies, organ music, opera, bass solo instruments etc., however the old type horn loudspeakers were pretty good in the range of the human voice. In passing let me mention that Magnavox came out in this same period with a horn driver which used an external battery to energize a field coil magnet, around which a winding on a movable "voice" coil was directly attached to a similar diaphragm as the above type. This was great for very loud systems, but required the additional power for the field. Also it was quite heavy. More about this system later. The old horn speakers endured for about ten years but with the headphone type of reproducer replaced by a much better system called a "balanced armature". This driver used a small bar of magnetic iron coupled to the diaphragm, and energized by two small coils external but surrounding the bar. Their field caused the bar to vibrate in the permanent magnet field, when connected to a source of electric pulsations. Someone along the way used the same type of driver to operate a cone of stiff paper directly, thus the cone speaker was born. The volume was not too great but there was a mellowness, and greater range in lower frequencies, that almost obsoleted the poor old horn over night.

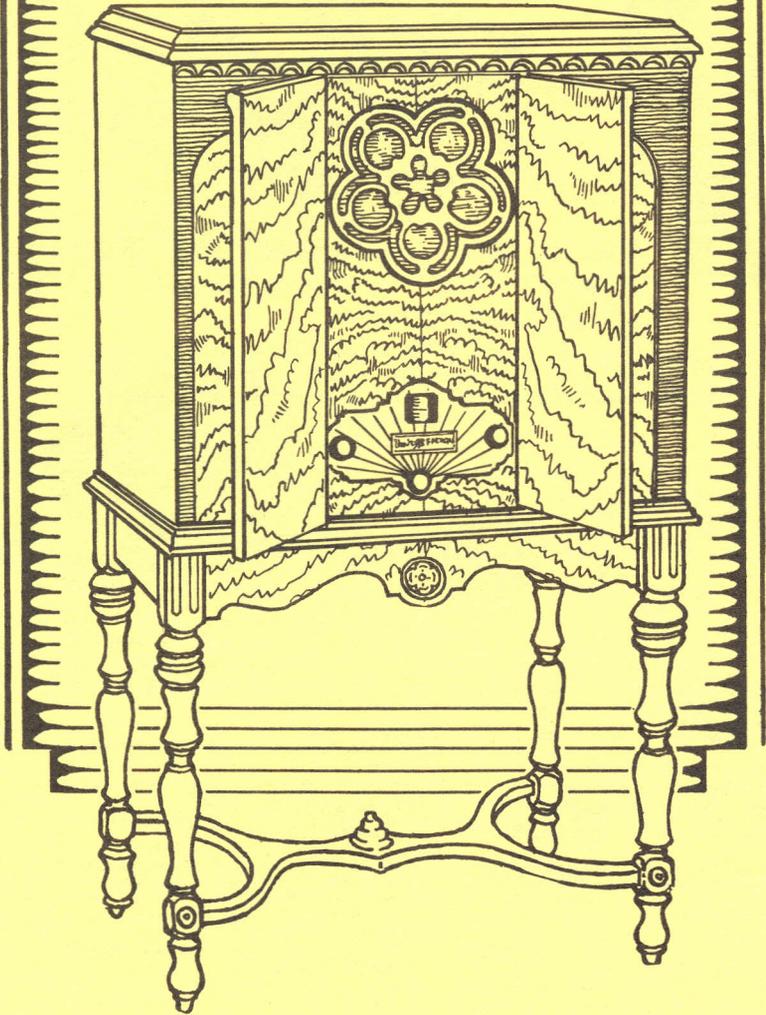
(cont. on page 7)

As new power tubes appeared on radio receivers, there was a need for a speaker to handle more power. Such a unit was the Inductor Dynamic, by Farrand. It used an armature also, but unlike the forgoing type, the bar of iron moved parallel to the permanent magnet pole pieces, instead of between them, thus was more linear in response and capable of much more displacement before becoming over-driven; hence more volume without distortion. And right on the heels of this development came the rising cry for AC radios and demand for better AC tube types. With AC came a step back to the old Magnavox system which now became practical because of cheaper field current supply; and a marriage to the paper cone sound radiators. The first of the Electro Dynamics, as they were called, had a copper-oxide rectifier and a transformer to energize the field winding. They sometimes had an audio transformer in the cabinet to change the impedance from 5000 or so ohms, to 8 ohms required by this type of speaker. These speakers were in separate cabinets from the set usually, but in a year or so almost all of the set manufacturers found that they could incorporate the filter system of the radio's power supply to energize the speaker field, thus virtually all of the speakers found a home in the radio cabinet. This type of loud speaker stayed around for at least 20 years almost without change. A new technology in the metallurgical field came up with some permanent magnetic materials so vastly stronger and machinable, that once again a reversal took place, and speaker manufacturers came up with the Permanent Magnet Dynamic. This uses a strong permanent magnet as a field for the voice coil. It is still with us, and in spite of all the modern technology, no change seems imminent.

Other systems have been used, such as electrostatic, corona discharge, crystal (piezo-electric), and types using gas or other strange methods of coupling the air to electric systems. None have been successful as yet.

Now if we had just spent as many years trying to develop something to feed into these speakers, as we have on research to improve them, it's entirely possible that we would be better off in the the sound department.

The JESSE FRENCH  
RADIO



Hey! Don't forget the  
Swap Meet

If any members are planning a trip to England I would recommend the following points of interest. The British Science Museum is on Exhibition Road just off of Cromwell Road in London. The nearest underground station is South Kensington. Displays in the museum cover the broad range of scientific discovery and the development of technology. The museum is a large four story building and one could easily spend an entire day browsing. The wireless, television, telephone, and telegraph sections are very good. Some of the early Marconi equipment including an operable replica of his earliest transmitter and receiver, the Marconi magnetic detector, the original Fleming valve, many crystal sets, and several sets representative of the 20's and 30's. A call in advance to Mr. Kenneth Gedes of the museum would put you in touch with a man who has written a great deal about the development of wireless in England.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority, 70 Brompton Road has a daily tour through The Gallery. Arrangements need to be made for this tour in advance as I was left out even after traveling 7,000 miles. I believe the emphasis is on television, including a look at Baird's original television apparatus.

Finally, a side trip to Bristol is well worth-while. There you will find the shop of Tudor Rees at 64 Broad Street in the Staple Hill section. This shop is totally devoted to serving the vintage radio hobbyist. Naturally the flavor is British but Mr. Rees deals in wireless equipment world-wide. Tudor Rees also has a monthly newsheet which I find very informative. You can write to him at:

Tudor Rees (Vintage Services)  
64 Broad Street, Staple Hill  
Bristol, BS16 5NL  
Great Britain

I bought a crystal set that has a dual detector from Mr. Rees just to make my trip complete.

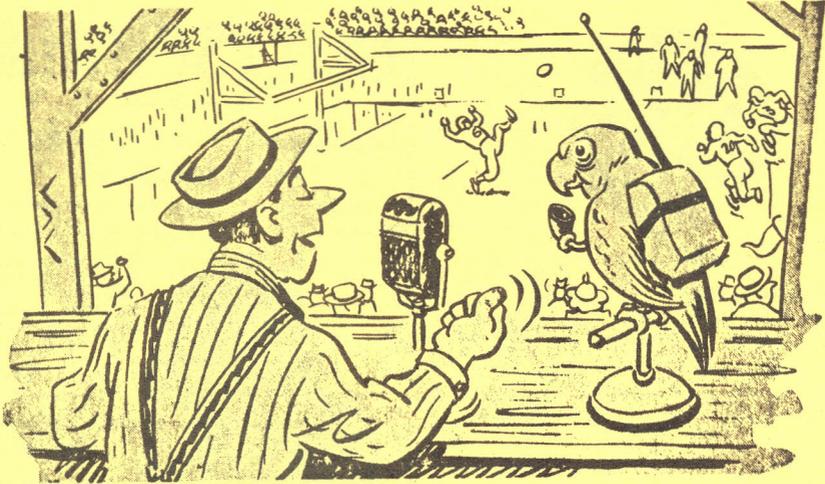
On the second page of the July, 1978, issue of our Call Letter was a popularity listing of Radio sets as surveyed by the American Press Assn. Here is a follow-up, with speakers (separate from radio sets) in the same survey. The published data was taken from Radio Retailing Magazine, June, 1927.

Rated first, second, third and fourth choice.

NCA	158	66	18	5
A Kent	106	71	32	9
Crosley	43	61	41	11
Utah	18	11	10	6
West. Elect.	16	15	13	3
Fada	16	14	5	4
Mus. Master	15	9	7	4
Farrand	13	4	9	6
Magnavox	10	12	9	2
Fed. Brandes	8	8	8	11
Thorola	8	6	5	8
Pathe	8	5	1	1
Bosch	5	8	3	4
Stew. Warr.	4	7	1	4
Rola	4	6	5	1
Musicone	4	4	3	2
Tower	0	6	7	4
Baldwin	4	4	1	2
Acme	2	5	1	0
Amplion	2	2	4	1
Peerless	3	2	2	0
Freshman	1	3	1	2
Strom. Carl.	0	2	3	3
Trim	2	0	2	0
Westinghse.	0	2	0	1
Sonochorde	0	1	2	0
Sparton	0	1	1	0
Day-Fan	0	0	0	2

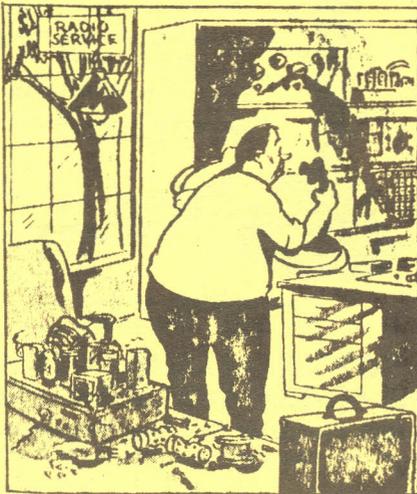
If you'll dig out your July issue of the Letter now you will see that after the first three widely advertised brands, that the popularity of the sets and speakers varied widely. Of course all manufacturers did not make both receivers and speakers. I suppose that quality was more app-

# CARTOON CLIPPINGS

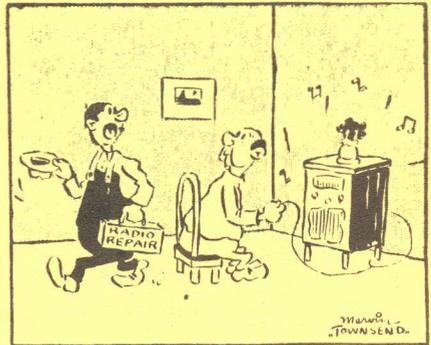


"Stand by, folks, for a bird's-eye view"

*from Cartoon Calvicade*



"There'll be a slight delay, Madam—  
I got awful mad at your radio today."



"Awright, awright! So what if you have  
to hold the wire; it plays, don't it?"

*from Radio News*

# RADIO STATIC

by Glenn

Here's a new twist to the Static puzzles.  
Fill out the well known trade names from  
the clues shown.



We don't think an answer for last month's maze  
will be necessary, was sort of added for the  
"kids" anyway.

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

Jimmy Sly, from NRO

As to fixin' old radios, By Gum,  
I'm a sharpie who's not a bit dumb!  
I can detectorate static,  
Replug tubes, erratic,  
And make those old sets really hum!

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

Did you ever offer to buy an old set from an  
elderly person and hear him say: "I was hop-  
ing to get a little more for it"?

# SWAP SHOP

*Hugh Ranken*

- FOR SALE:** Trade ARRL #1 - 1926 for Pilot Super Wasp AC, National SW4, National Thrill Box, National AG5-X with Walnut cabinet.  
R. C. Campbell Ph: 648-7331  
2175 S. E. Pine  
Hillsboro, Or. 97123
- FOR SALE:** RCA Cabinet speaker #104, amplifier #AP-951.  
Maurice Leete Ph: 656-6487  
610 E. Hereford St.  
Gladstone, Or. 97027
- WANTED:** Freed-Eisemann table cabinet Model NR-6 or MR 20 (both identical) this is a battery set.  
Joe Tompkins Ph: 362-8071  
3796 Hulsey, S. E.  
Salem, Or. 97302
- WANTED:** Peter Pan radio.  
Art Redman Ph: 774-9913  
5111 S.E. Tolman  
Portland, Or. 97206
- WANTED:** Coils for Nat'l SW-3 or FB-7 cabinet for Radiola III, Crosley Tridyne & Crosley 51, tubes, Radio Boys books, early QST's & ARRL handbooks.  
Dick Howard Ph: 775-6697  
9999 S.E. French Acres Dr.  
Portland, Or. 97266
- WANTED:** 7E6 - Loctal.  
Bill DeVey Ph: 639-0066
- WANTED:** 6AE7, 25A7  
Alan Shaddock Ph: 649-4473