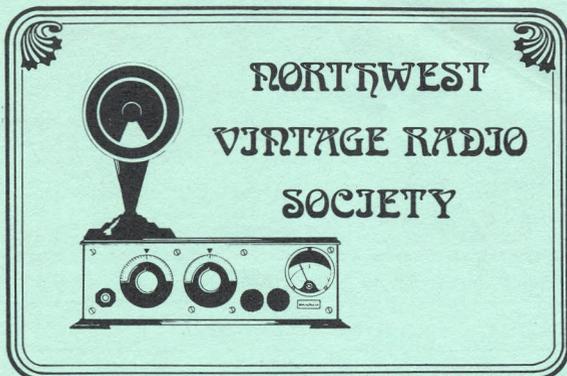


Vol. 4
No. 12



December
1978

CALL LETTER



Ho! ho! Ho! is the theme of our annual Christmas party held at our clubhouse in Oregon City. Each member is asked to bring a small gift (under two dollars value suggested) which will be put in the pile under the tree(?) and distributed after the regular meeting.

Election of new officers will be held at this meeting. Be ready with your nominations to speed up this important function. The board has prepared a suggested list of candidates as printed inside.

Merry Christmas, Everybody!

----- Special Notice -----

Here is the list of nominations as proposed by the board of directors, for the coming election of officers Dec., 9/1978. These are for your consideration only, and are not necessarily binding. You may nominate others at the meeting if you wish.

President	V. President	Treasurer	Rec. Secy
J. Mason	C. Hoaglin	Bob Hay	C. Kibbler
J. James	Joe Tompkins	D. Eggert	
H. Perkins	Tom Spence	H. Ranken	
Corresponding Secy.			

Ed Charman
Dick Howard

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, meetings normally open at 10 A M.

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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Phone inquiries to: 503-235-0581

OUR PEOPLE

by H. Ranken

All members are urged to attend the next meeting on December 9th. Not only will our Christmas party be held at that time but also it will be election of officers to serve for the coming year.

Your "dues are due" for 1979, another important facit of the December meeting. By vote of members present at the November meeting it was agreed to increase dues to \$12.50 for regular members and \$10.00 for associate members.

The Ladies Auxiliary is planning special refreshments and door prizes for the Christmas party (see the Power Supply section for more details). Everyone is asked to bring a wrapped gift for the grab bag, \$2.00 or less, radio related would be nice but not necessary.

We had a fine turn out for the November meeting, with lots of items offered for the Swap Meet that followed. I think many participating in the meet were able to make some good sales or trades. More table space for better display of the merchandise would have been helpful, but altogether it seemed a successful swap session. The ladies provided an excellent lunch for a chilly November day ... many thanks for their help.

Plan now to attend December 9th. Bring a gift and have fun at our Christmas party.



ATMOSPHERICA

By J

In years gone by, I would
Have sent to every member,
A Christmas card with greetings
On the twenty-fifth, December.

But Xmas cards are now so poor
With greetings cold and trite;
And the Postal system a lick-amiss!
It makes a problem, quite.

So I'll just say my greetings here,
To members far and near
And hope you have a Holiday,
That'll last throughout the year!
--- your president,

Tom James
** ** * ** *

Paradox--

Crystal sets are passé,
Said the Regen man.

Regen sets are squeally,
From a J R F fan.

J R F s are mostly iffy,
Said the Super devotee.

Supers still are with us,
But in Solid State, you see.

Solid State is soulless,
To quote a Vintage buff.

As for me, I'm neutral----
With this Technocratic stuff!

POWER SUPPLY

by V. Ranken

BIG DOINGS FOR THE DECEMBER MEETING. The Ladies Auxiliary is planning a Christmas party after the business meeting, as we did last year. There will be all kinds of snacks and special baked goodies, as well as coffee and punch. Any of the ladies who wish to contribute a food item, you are most welcome to do so.

There will be DOOR PRIZES again this year, items that can be enjoyed by you and your family.

DON'T FORGET to bring a gift item for the grab bag (a \$2.00 limit). Who can tell what Santa will distribute to you? Last year he gave out a couple of breadboards, (with fresh baked loaves of bread on them).

Election of Officers and the Christmas party makes this a meeting you won't want to miss!

A note to the ladies of the Buena Vista Club: remember the December 19th meeting will be a special luncheon meeting, to be held at North's Chuck Wagon on S. E. McLoughlin Blvd. Bring a wrapped gift for the gift exchange, it can be something homemade or purchased (a \$1.00 limit). You will be notified of the time. The new 1979 Buyers Guide for the Community Club Awards should also be ready for distribution at this meeting.

The Saga of the Tickler,

By Kitchee- Kitchee Koo.

--Such might have been a book and pseudonym of a very prolific writer by the name of Edward Stratemeyer. Born, 1862; died, 1930. He co-authored some of the last of the Horatio Alger books around 1912, and continued writing this style of youth novels until his death in 1930, under some 90 pen-names, male and female. According to all reports, he was immensely successful in this field. Such series as: Born to Win -- Dave Porter -- Lakeport -- Old Glory -- Pan-American -- Boy Hunters -- Flag of Freedom -- Putnam Hall -- Rover Boys -- Tom Swift -- Bobbsey Twins -- Hardy Boys -- Moving Picture Boys -- Columbia High -- Outdoor Chums -- Outdoor Girls -- Moving Picture Girls -- Central High Girls -- Wonder Island Boys -- Boy Globe Trotters -- American Boys Sports -- Phil Bradley -- The Mountain Boys -- The Girl Aviator -- Aeroplane -- Motor Maid -- Motor Boat -- Peggy Parson -- And for the Vintage Radio Collectors, he wrote The Radio Boys series, and The Wireless Boys! I'm not going to name all of his books and series of books, for he wrote over four hundred books before setting up a syndicate, three hundred or so after, and his two daughters continued some of his series after his death. This guy must have had something, I have a terrible time getting out our newsletter once a month! The Portland Library furnished some of the history of this author, the manager of the Beaver Book Store got me on the right track, and my own encyclopedia a bit more. Just thought you book collectors might be interested.

Here's a good place to throw in a Tom-Swiftie-----

"Don't touch those screws," said Joe, trimmerously.

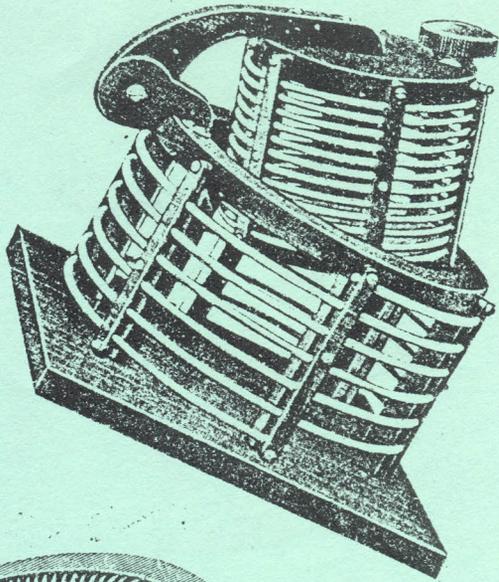
--- or ---

"I'm going to restore the old goat", said Dick, kiddingly.

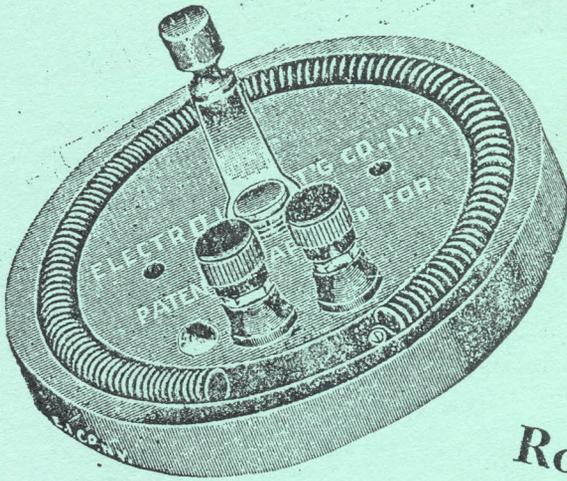
--- maybe? ----

"I prefer the large radios", said Harley, expansively.

Radio Gear
1914

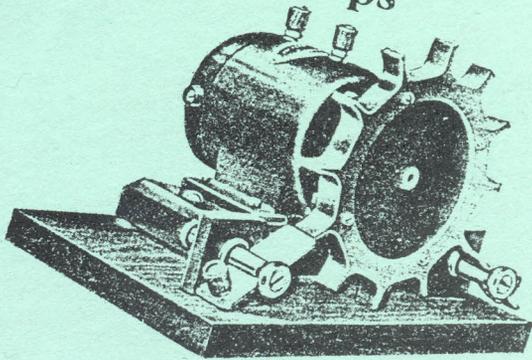


Antenna
coil



Rheostat

Rotary Spark
Gaps



The following two pages are from an article written by Hugo Gernsback in *Radio Craft*, October, 1938. Do you really think there's anything new?

SURPRISING as it may sound, when it comes to the more technical aspects of Radio we know practically nothing about many of its functions. All we have are unproven theories. Incidentally, these theories are being revised from year to year and often from month to month; and very often at the end of a decade we are seemingly as far from the actual truth as we were when we started.

Man occupies a rather unique position in Nature in that he tries to interpret many of her functions by means of his logic, which often turns out to be in error. In many ways Man is blind; and, even when he sees, he is not too sure of what takes place. Our eyes, for instance, are easily fooled and our ears are easily deceived. Thus, when we watch a motion picture that unfolds, the entire process is, of course, purely illusion because nothing moves on the screen except single pictures which jerk along, one after the other, giving us "motion."

But when it comes to other phenomena which we can neither hear, see, nor feel and to which all our senses are blind, we must try to guess what is taking place.

Thus, for instance, when the radio waves which emanate from a transmission aerial are driven into space, none of our senses can tell us what has happened. Indeed, we are not even sure that there *are* any waves. The scientist pictures in his own mind that the aerial waves are propagated into open space somewhat as if there were an infinite number of bubbles, each expanding—at the speed of light—within the preceding one, and each forming a complete shell. That is the classical explanation, but it is purely a guess. No one knows what shape these waves take and if some day we should become equipped with some super eyes we might see radio waves and perhaps they will be a most gorgeous view, impossible to comprehend today.

But what *ARE* the radio waves themselves? Physicists explain they are electromagnetic impulses or stress produced in the "ether" which brings us up right away to another enigma that nobody knows and that is, the "ether" itself. Before we can have electromagnetic waves propagated through space, scientists insist that there must be a medium in which the waves can travel. Just like sound cannot exist where there is no atmosphere, so scientists claim that waves, whether radio or light—both being the same—cannot exist unless there is "ether" for them to move in. Other scientists get along very well without the medium "ether" because they think that the radio waves are not just impulses but are actually composed of matter. Indeed this school maintains that all electricity, light and similar manifestations are matter, whereas the other school thinks just the opposite.

As for the elusive "ether" there has never been any scien-

tific proof of it until very recently and, while some scientists are convinced that the proofs have proven that "ether" exists, the proof leaves much to be desired.

Meanwhile we play with radio waves and all their functions as children might play with mechanical toys. The child does know how to wind up the toy and how to make it go, but what makes it work and all that goes with it, the child has not the slightest notion.

We are in a similar position whereby we can create and transmit radio waves and know how to receive them, but what happens to them in open space we know next to nothing. We do not even know what takes place in our radio sets, which we build, except that the radio waves after they reach the receiving aerial do certain things within the radio receivers. But we are changing our opinion as to this also, and very frequently, for the simple reason that much of our so-called knowledge is pure guess work. For instance, it took many years to get even a little insight into the nature of the received radio or high-frequency currents. Yet there are many things that we still know absolutely nothing about. For instance, at one time it was the thought that a good insulator was necessary to prevent radio frequency from straying away. Today, in certain cases, we actually use the finest type of insulators as actual conductors for the high-frequency currents. In other words the thing that once was Gospel Truth turns out to be something entirely different.

Then take our vacuum tubes, the heart of our radio receivers today. We have a hazy idea that there is such a thing as electronic bombardment going on, in between the heater and plate within the tube; we can even plot curves and measure it with instruments, and have thus acquired a fairly good idea of what goes on from a physical standpoint within the tube. But, try and find out what an electron is and immediately all of our scientists are up a tree. The electronic theory has changed, and with almost monotonous regularity, every year. There are dozens of theories as to the molecule, electron, the proton and the neutron. Each physicist has a pet theory of his own, only to clash with that of the next scientist, who immediately tears down the theory the first one built.

And we seem to get no nearer the real truth now than we were 10 years ago. Indeed, if you read the long-winded scientific papers it would seem that no one yet knows anything at all worth-while about the electron.

We could go on and write a large-size volume on what Man does NOT know about radio, but the few examples cited here give a vivid picture why we still are groping in the dark and why it will take centuries before we will make much headway in the ultimate knowledge of things.

KEEPING UP WITH KEX. . .

by M. Moore

A year ago we featured KEX Radio in the Dec. 1977 issue of the Call Letter and since then I have come across some new information relating to their expansion some 35 years ago which is a testimony of their foresight.

As our article mentions the 1940's were growing years for KEX. Westinghouse bought the station from the Oregonian newspaper in 1944. One of Westinghouse's leaders was Dr. Frank Conrad, a broadcasting pioneer who changed the course of history by starting the first commercial radio station in Pittsburgh--KDKA, 1920.

Westinghouse long remained a leader in radio broadcasting. KDKA has consistently been one of America's top stations for excellence of programming over transmitted signals of the maximum allowable power. (They have also preserved their history well.) This has given them a favorable position with the FCC. In their association with Westinghouse KEX's power was increased from 5000 watts to 50,000 watts, clear channel. This million dollar expansion included building a new broadcast center as well as a new transmitting facility in 1947 which is still in use today. The FM band was just beginning to grow in use and complete facilities for KEX-FM went into operation in 1948.

The Westinghouse conglomerate or network included several prominent radio and TV stations and they proudly recognized their investment in a growing Northwest and a very innovative KEX. To break ground for KEX's 50,000 watt transmitting center the spade used by Dr. Conrad in breaking ground for KDKA was sent to Portland. The spade was then returned to Pittsburgh as a cherished possession of the Pittsburgh Press.

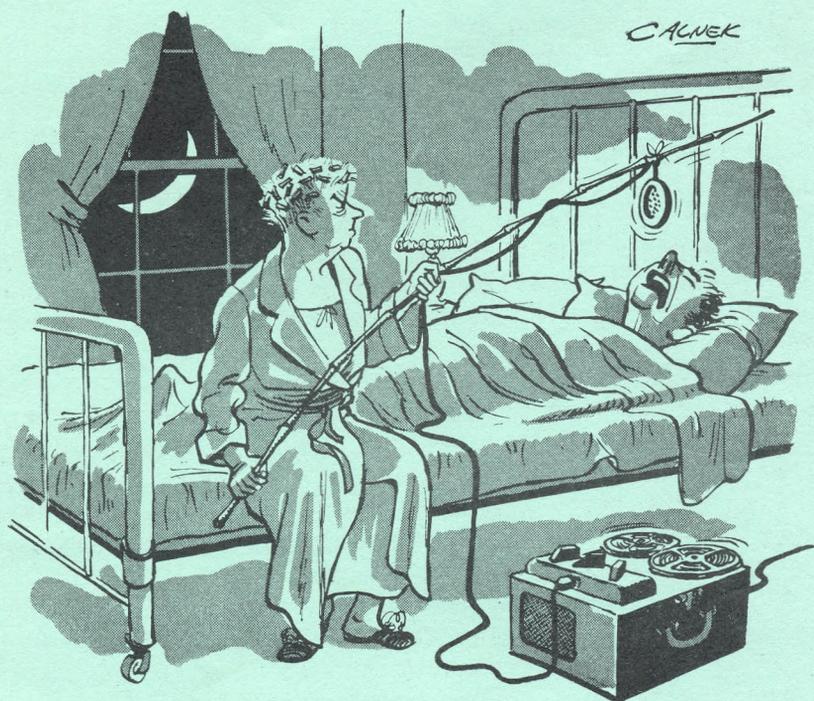
MARK'S MEMO

After observing the museum and facilities at the Oregon Historical Society (OHS) I would say that we as a club should approach them about securing a permanent display and/or rotating exhibits in the museum itself. The museum is really lacking in historically related items from Early Oregon. If one is to get a feel for what Portland was like 50 or 100 years ago the exhibits must be authentic. The problem doesn't lie in finding bits and pieces of Early Americana as many basements and barns overflow with stored memorabilia which only remain in fading memories. These early advancements which shaped our lives need to be preserved and classified to help us maintain our progressive leadership in the future. In this respect the OHS houses an excellent regional research library. They are organizing and filing articles, information and pictures of the Northwest throughout history. The exhibits at the OHS should be just as impressive.

It is probable that any dreams of the NWVRS having a museum will not come true. We should look to another alternative for preserving some exhibits and securing historical information about radios. Possibly we could be allowed to work with the OHS in setting up a room designated for early developments in radio and TV with an emphasis on local innovations. Something I think that could be included would be a restructuring of the facilities of an early Portland radio station. A capsule history of radio's development could be part of the exhibit. With our knowledge of radio development we could assist them in securing a creative display for all to experience.

Within their possession are tapes of early Portland radio programming including the nationally famous Hoot Owls program on KGW in the late 1920's. I will try to secure copies of these for our own library. Pictures from their files will be printed in coming issues of the Call Letter and placed in our own archives for permanent preservation.

CARTOON CLIPPINGS



THE SATURDAY EVENING POST



"But I distinctly said I wanted a di-pole!"

Radio Static Puzzle Names:

Acme	Aero
Airking	Emerson
Airline	Fada
Amrad	Ford
Arvin	Galvin
Baldwin	Grebe
Bosch	Howard
Chelsea	Radiette
Daven	Silver
DayFar	Silvertone
Detrola	Thorola
Diva	Valleytone
Echophone	

RADIO STATIC

Word search no. 6

Names of 25 different radios can be found in this puzzle, by reading forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally. They are always in a straight line and they never skip letters. Words overlap and letters may be used more than once. When 25 names have been circled, the remaining letters spell out a message when read left to right, top to bottom. Good luck!

N E V A D A Y F A N A M E
R I E N O T R E V L I S R
Y H V A L L E Y T O N E C
H O R R A D I E T T E C C
I W A A A D A F S M T H M
B A L D W I N A E S E O A
A R O I E N R R D L E P A
M D R O F M S K S H B H A
R P O L P C C E I Y E O A
A N H A N D A A P N R N R
D E T O S N I V L A G E P
E R R R E V L I S O U S N
E A L O R T E D W Y E A R

** ** *

Answer to last month's puzzle: 1 Sylvania (tubes) 2 Triad (tubes) 3 De Forest (audions) 4 Cunningham (tubes) 5 Aero (parts and kits) 6 Columbia (phonographs and radios) 7 Freshman (radio) 8 Burgess-15 (batteries) 9 Stromberg-Carlson (radios)

SWAP SHOP

by Hugh Ranken

- WANTED: Information and/or schematic diagrams for KEMPER RADIOS.
Bob Hay
Phone: 659-8566 or
673-5454
- WANTED: Cabinet for Freed-Eisemann Model MR-3.
Joe Tompkins
Salem, Ore.
Phone: 362-8071
- WANTED: Coils for National SW3 and FB-7.
Dick Howard
9999 S. E. French Acres Dr.
Portland, Ore. 97266
- WANTED: Collins filter for 75A4.
Bob Becker
Box 355
Kent, Washington 98031
- WANTED: Edison cabinet - Model R-5.
Glen Bricker
1030 N. 11th Ave.
Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424