

Vol. 5  
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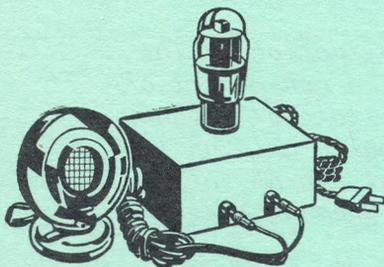
March  
1979

# CALL LETTER

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## "WIRELESS" MICROPHONE

Mystic Mike Co., 362 Wooster Ave., Akron, Ohio



**K**NOWN as the "Mystic Mike," this unit permits voice or music to be heard over any radio in the home without the use of inter-connecting wires. Essentially the device is a modulated oscillator which radiates a radio signal within the tuning range of all types of broadcast receivers. It is merely necessary therefore for the receiver to tune to the frequency of this oscillator in order to hear the speech or music picked up by the microphone. The device is designed to operate from the A.C. or D.C. light-line and is quite simple to operate.

October 1939 *Radio-Craft*

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Many of our members have in their collection of radio memorabilia, a few non-radio, but radio related items such as "silent salesman", promotion gimmicks, what-nots in the shape of radio receivers, news items of radio personalities, games etc. These items are something not ordinarily seen at our shows. How about a few of these for the rap session after the meeting on March 10th. Would suggest not too many magazines, as these frequently become damaged when too many folks thumb thru them. See you Sat. Mar. 10th.

Notes from the cuff--

Here's a bibliography for those wishing to get some information on the gentle art of restoration of wood furniture :

L. Donald Meyers-- *The Furniture Lovers Book*  
E.P. Dutton, Pub.

William Farwell-- *Easy Does It, Furniture Restoration the Vermont Way*  
Chas. Tuttle Co., pub.

Geo. Grotz-- *Instant Furniture Refinishing (and other crafty practices)* also, *The Furniture Doctor*.  
Doubleday & Co., pub.

James B. Johnstone-- *Furniture Finishing*  
Lane Books, pub.

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## 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 normally held on the second Saturday of each month, at ten AM, at the Buena Vista clubhouse, 16th and Jackson Streets, Oregon City, Oregon.

Editor-in-Chief ..... Tom James  
Feature editors include, Hugh and Virginia Ranken, Glenn Gonshorowski, Joe Tompkins, Bob Hay, Mark Moore, Bob Campbell, and others.

Advertising space is available. Bob Hay, Ad. Mgr.  
Correspondence regarding contents of the Letter should be addressed to :

P.O. box no. 02379, Portland, Or. 97202

Phone inquiries to : 503-235-0581

# OUR PEOPLE

*by Hugh Ranken*

Remember the "good old days"? If you weren't able to string up 50 or 100 feet of outside antenna you still could get pretty good results using an inside loop or cage. That's what our display was all about at the February 10th meeting. Jim Mason showed a well made standard loop, also a rarer type of cage antenna on a pivotal base, which permitted easy directional turning for best reception. Andy Bell displayed an unusual portable loop which folded and slipped into a carrying case - the ultimate in a portable antenna for the '20's and early '30's. Our thanks to Don Iverson, Ed Charman, Joe Tompkins and others for their showing of antennas, eliminators, boosters and various other antenna accessories.

This discussion of antennas brings to mind the first outside one my Father put up in 1922. This was a three wire job, with six foot spreaders, about 25 feet high and approximately 40 feet long. It served well for many years to operate the crystal sets we had then.

Here's some radio trivia, thanks to the Guinness Book of World Records. "The first advertising broadcast was made at Brant Rock, Mass., by Reginald A. Fessenden on December 24, 1906, using the 420 foot mast of the National Electric Signaling Company. The program included a rendition of Handel's "Largo".

Our Spring Swap Meet is scheduled for April. We still have to decide on a location and formulate other plans for it, so it's important that every member attend the next meeting on Saturday, March the 10th.



# ATMOSPHERICA

By J

## Foolishment

A fool there was, and he made his boast,  
Even as you and I,  
That he could find down at the coast,  
Old radio treasures, fit to toast,  
Even as you and I .

He sallied forth , one weekend hence ,  
Even as you and I .  
To gather in those old A. Kents--  
Might just as well have stayed in Lents\* ,  
Even as you and I .

The fool soon came a bit non-plussed ,  
Even as you and I ,  
As he uncovered rust on rust,  
Beneath that outer salty crust ,  
Even as you and I .

And so it is he came to learn ,  
Even as you and I ,  
A lesson bitter , even stern ;  
Some old sets ain't worth a Durn !  
Even as you and I .

(\* Lents: a Portland suburban area  
with several salvage and junk stores.)

\*\* \*\*

As I remember in the middle twenties, when I obtained my first loud speaker to add to my four tube regenerator, my father became one of the first automatic volume controls.

# POWER SUPPLY

*by Virginia Ranken*

We are pleased to report that the Buena Vista Club has won sixth place in turn-in period number 3 in the KXL-Community Club Awards. While this is still quite far down on the awards list, it is a big step up from last year when the best we could do was "Honorable Mention". Sixth place entitles us to a cash award of \$30.00. We still have three turn-in periods, the last one being March 28. So ladies, keep on saving those labels and sales slips, maybe we can come up with still another winner.

Bobbi Kibler and Dorothy James will be the hostesses for the March meeting, which will be Tuesday, March 20th.

I found several old cook books from the 1927's at the Flea Market in Salem. Here is a recipe using rhubarb, it's just now starting to come on the market.

## RHUBARB DOWDY

Wash and cut in short lengths a quart of rhubarb. Make a layer of it in the bottom of a glass baking dish and sprinkle well with sugar. Beat 2 eggs with  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup granulated sugar, add a cup of sweet cream. Sift 2 tablespoons baking powder and a tiny pinch of salt with a cup of pastry flour. Add to first mixture. If necessary to make mixture thickness of cake batter, add more sifted flour. Turn mixture over the rhubarb and bake 20 minutes in a hot oven. Serve from baking dish hot with cream.

"New radio set invented: Battery is eliminated in receiving equipment".

(from the Oregonian, April 26, 1922, pg. 1 )

Elimination of the storage battery, the most expensive part of the home-made radio receiving set, is now possible according to the Bureau of Standards of the Dept. of Commerce. The receiving set requires a battery to light the filaments of the electron tubes. The new set developed by the Bureau of Standards makes connection with the ordinary electric lamp socket.

The set may be used with any type of antenna and with special modes of connection, it is even possible to use the electric light wires themselves as the antenna.

The receiving set consists of an amplifier with an auxiliary part. It is described in a paper which has been published by the Bureau of Standards on May 1, 1922..

The amplifier, according to the description, will utilize the 60 cycle current supply for both filaments and plates of the electron tube, thus eliminating much of the interference in an ordinary amplifier circuit. "This interference", the statement said, "has been almost eliminated by balancing resistances, grid condensers, and special grid leaks of comparatively low resistance, telephone transformer in the output circuit, and a crystal detector instead of a tube. In the final form of the amplifier there is only a slight residual hum which is not objectional. The amplification obtained with the A.C. supply was as good as that obtained with the same amplifier used with D.C. supply. The complete unit is light, and compact, and portable. For the reception of damped waves the amplifier as constructed worked most satisfactorily for wave lengths from 200 to 750 meters. This range was determined by the working range of the r. f. transformer used."

"By using suitable r. f. transformers it is expected that the amplifier will be effective for the reception of damped waves as long as 10,000 meters".

.....I read the fore going and now am just as much in the dark as before... Ed.

See Page 10

your editor  
tried out this  
primitive xtal  
receiver and  
found it to  
work, the not  
as well as the  
conventional type  
of crystal set  
was used as  
an emergency  
receiver and  
as such was  
quite a deal.  
Inx. to Chuck  
Kibler for the  
item - J.

Lt. M. L. Rupert's "foxhole radio," used on the Italian front, gets reception on a razor blade. The chief engineer of a major broadcasting company improved it by tying pencil lead to the pin point. Wire gauge is not critical, but good headphones, a long aerial, and patience in locating a sensitive spot on the razor blade are all requisite

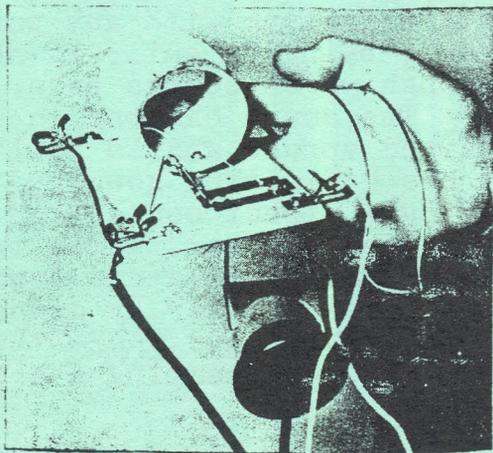
the coil and onto the aerial. The other side of the coil goes to the ground and to one side of the head set. From the other side of the head set a wire goes to the safety pin, which is driven into some wood at one end so the pin may be turned. Then the free end of the pin is moved across the unground part of the blade and in that way you can find your station."

Engineers of one of this country's major broadcasting companies promptly constructed a set according to the Lieutenant's specifications, and found that it worked! They did, however, make one improvement, by breaking off the end of a lead pencil and wiring it to the movable end of the safety pin, where it is used for contact with the blade. This was found to result in a decided increase in volume.

#### TUNING IN

You will find that considerable patience is required in finding the most sensitive part of the blade for the pin point or pencil point. Avoid the portions where the trade name of the blade is printed. A couple of light scratches made on the blade with a nail file will be found helpful. And the longer the aerial, the better the reception, with best results, of course, being secured at night.

The circuit is similar in principle to the ordinary crystal set, the suggested combination fulfilling the function of the galena rock and cat's whisker.



## The Sonometer

(Article supplied by  
Art Redman)

In 1926 a Portland radio manufacturer made a new type of loud speaker called the Sonometer. Invented by W.O. Erbes of Goldendale, Washington the Sonometer was made by the Universal Wood Working Co. and the Lents Cabinet shop. The distributors were the North Coast Electric Co. of Portland, Seattle, and Tacoma.

The speaker was first used experimentally by KGW in 1922 to broadcast phonograph records in the studio. After 5 years of experimenting, Erbes patented a vent system or special tapered air cushion which was said to create matched impedences in the amplifier eliminating and filtering all unnecessary and period sounds. The amplifier was made of a secret formula composition that slows down the sound velocity through the material used to somewhere near the speed it has through the air column of the amplifier. The size and material used and its rigid construction made the amplifier nonresonant, unperiodic, and without key tone. In other words, the amplifier will not be in tune with any particular key or chord, being an entirely neutral medium through which sounds pass.

The sound chamber is made of vertical grained spruce and is built like a violin. It has a floating sound board inside, having a direct connection in the top of the sound chamber. These two connections are securely glued and doweled with wooden pegs to each other by means of a one half inch spring board where the nodes are most constant and creating a complete separation

## Sonometer (cont.)

of amplification and resonance, allowing the sound chamber to function properly in giving heavy diapason and celo tones, making all piano tones heavier, and giving better reproduction to female voices and segregating all instruments in the orchestras.

The speaker came in a 4 leg cabinet about 2 feet high and was made of two tone mahogany. There was no mention in the Portland Evening Telegram, from which the information for this article came, of the electrical part of the speaker.

The first speaker made was presented to Queen Marie of Romania in November of 1926.

#####

*When Edwin Armstrong demonstrated to the public, his remarkable super-regenerative receiver at Columbia University, he remarked that, "The super heterodyne circuit is still the Rolls Royce method of getting practically unlimited amplification. But there are some people who prefer to use Fords. The super regenerative circuit is the Ford method of amplification"*

*From Popular Radio, Sept. 1922...*

*(submitted by Bob Campbell)*

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

*Did you know that Dr. Lee DeForest was mainly interested, after developement of his audion tube, in building some sort of musical instrument based on oscillations of the audio circuits he devised?*

*ed.*

# RAZOR BLADE AND SAFETY PIN RADIO

## Unbelievably Simple Set Actually Works Well for Local Stations

One of the war's wonderful gadgets undoubtedly was the "foxhole radio receiver" designed by Lieut. M. L. Rupert while he was attached to an infantry outfit serving on the Anzio beachhead in Italy.

If you want to make a set that is so simple as to be almost unbelievable, and that costs virtually nothing beyond the price of a set of earphones, here's your dish.

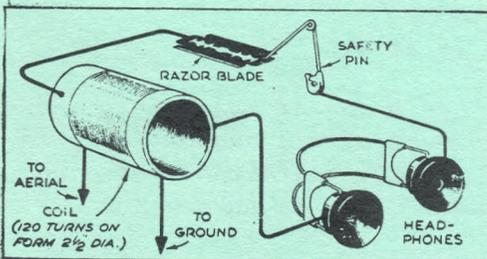
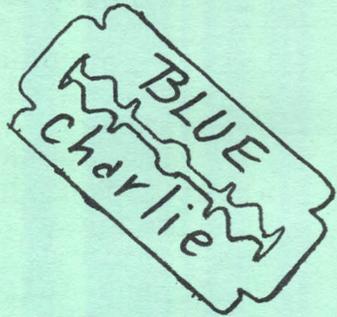
### MATERIALS NEEDED

**A**LL you need for the set is a razor blade of the "blue" type, a safety pin, a cardboard or wood cylinder two inches or more in diameter and any small cotton-covered wire, such as No. 28 or 30, for the 120 turns on the coil. Such a coil has sufficient turns of wire to pick up a station without other tuning aid. Ordinary nails, provided they are not rusty, can be used as binding posts for wrapping the connections.

### MAKING THE SET

In the Lieutenant's own words, here's how it works:

"The razor blade is tacked down with a wire tapped to it and going to one side of



# LETTERS

Hi Tom: .....

:..... from a stand point of seeing club members, the Salem Flea Market show was a great success. I don't know when I've enjoyed myself so much. The chairs in back of my display were sort of a gathering place for Vintage members and friends.

There were lots of radios at the show and phones were a-plenty, as those attending noticed. There were all kinds of prices, and most of the things I wanted were sorta out of reach. Sold all my consoles except one which went up in smoke while still on the floor! I'm glad it happened here instead of at the customers' home. Probably I won't take a table there for a long time, as I don't want the reputation of selling bad merchandise (dogs).

I picked up a Splitdorf for member Craig Hoaglin and he'd better come get it or I'm going to keep it!

Radio buyers from Calif. abounded; one thing about those guys tho, is that they haul them away working or dead, and no quibbling about prices! Look out men, we are being invaded!

So long for now, I'd better go to bed.....

yours  
Joey

(from Joe Tompkins, down Salem way, sort of reporting on the Salem Flea Market which used Vintage Radio as a come-on for their flea-market operation)

\*\* \*\* \*

to the Call Letter:

A recent garage sale "find" made me think of Joe Tompkins. I acquired a Kolster 6d for \$15., and by the way Joe, it has a cabinet. At the same sale, I got four cartons of battery radio parts, .....horn drivers,

... even a front panel for a Radiola IV.

BOB DEUEL.

# SWAP SHOP

*compiled by H. Ranken*

- FOR SALE: Majestic Model 90, works only, needs cabinet.  
Bill DeVey Ph: 639-0066  
11080 S.W. 121st. St.  
Tigard, Ore. 97223
- FOR SALE: Riders Manuals, Vol. 9 and 16.  
Bob Hay Ph: 643-5454  
ex. 418
- FOR SALE: Wilcox-Gay Recordio, Model 6A10 disc recorder. Sparton power converter for Model 930.  
Robert Deuel Ph: 482-8752  
1058 Linda Ave.  
Ashland, Or. 97520
- FOR SALE: New finds of several short and long prong 199 and 220. Also WD 11's McCullough AC & Cardon's.  
Craig Hoaglin Ph: 648-3148  
225 N.E. 18th  
Hillsboro, Or. 97123
- WANTED: Hallicrafters SX23.  
Frank H. Plaisted, Jr.  
Rt. 3 - Box 478 Ph: 647-2891  
Hillsboro, Or. 97123
- WANTED: Crosley Cathedral or parts for same.  
Edwin Buhite Ph: 284-7061  
4041 N.E. Wistaria Dr.  
Portland, Or. 97212

*More on back cover*

BIG VALUE AT SMALL COST



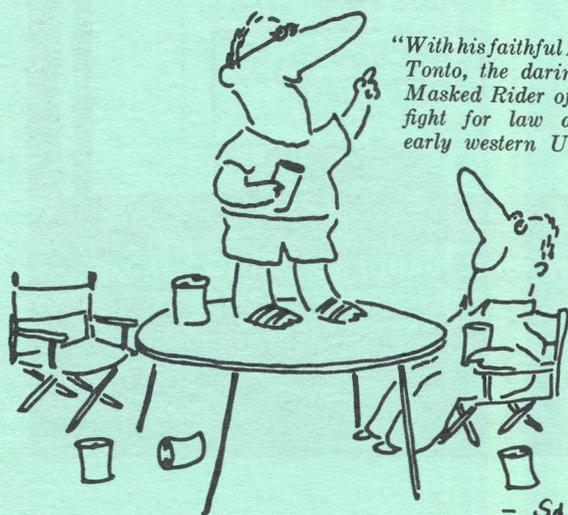
4  
MODELS  
*All Low Priced*  
**Philmore**  
CRYSTAL  
RADIO RECEIVING SETS

5 GOOD REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD OWN ONE

- 1 - INEXPENSIVE
- 2 - COSTS NOTHING TO OPERATE
- 3 - GIVES CONSTANT SERVICE INDEFINITELY
- 4 - NO PARTS TO WEAR OUT
- 5 - CLEAR RECEPTION - NO DISTORTION

PHILMORE MANUFACTURING CO., INC.  
113-115 UNIVERSITY PLACE,  
NEW YORK, U.S.A.

# CARTOON CLIPPINGS



*"With his faithful Indian companion, Tonto, the daring and resourceful Masked Rider of the plains led the fight for law and order in the early western United States. . . ."*

- Sat. Eve. Post

The I Q Trimmer--

by Glenn

Fill in the missing letters on this list of Radio sets taken from the "Golden Years".

G \_ E \_ E

\_ I \_ J \_ R

\_ A \_ \_ O \_

\_ R O \_ \_ E \_

A \_ \_ \_ I N \_

\_ P \_ \_ J O R \_

\_ O S J \_ \_ \_  
\_ E C \_ \_ \_

A \_ \_ \_ I N

\_ E R \_ \_ \_ L \_

\_ I \_ \_ L I \_ \_ \_

\_ E \_ \_ A L \_

Answers to last month's "True or Faults"

No. 1 False

No. 4 False

No. 2 True

No. 5 False

No. 3 True

Remember when:

Rabbit ears were only useful to the rabbits?

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

The radio serviceman said Lucy Wyre's set had a bad choke, to which she replied, --"probably from receiving those crummy programs".

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

How about some of you members coming up with a few one liners for use of your editor as fill material. That is, of course, if you can't come up with a paragraph or two.