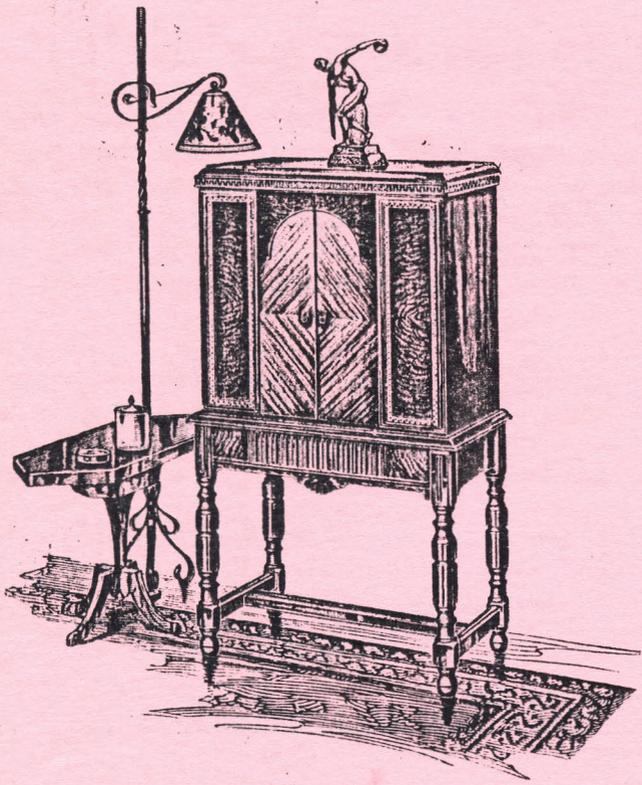


Vol. 5  
No. 5



May  
1979

# CALL LETTER



## Notes from the Cuff-----

Most of the members were pleased at our attempts to reduce the costs of the Call Letter, to those who were a bit critical of the Xerox copies, I have this to say: any old time you'd like to give it a whirl---

Your editor and president Mason made a junket down the central part of the state last week to pick up some old communications type gear at K. Falls. We made quite a few junk stores and antique shops along the way, but our luck was mostly bad. A few '50s consoles and table models but mostly zilch, and no leads. We have three old Motorola walkie-talkies, a G.E. Mobile Rec.--Trans., and a rack mounted Motorola base station to dispose of to the membership--- if interested call me. (235-0581) There will be a small charge for hauling them up, otherwise they will be donated free.

## 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 the month, at ten A M, at the Buena Vista clubhouse, 16th and Jackson Streets, Oregon City, Oregon.

Editor-in Chief.....Tom James  
Feature editors include; Hugh Ranken, Virginia Ranken, Glenn Gonshonowski, Joe Tompkins, Bob Hay, 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 H. Ranken

Attendance at our Swap session April 14 was quite good. Many items of interest were displayed and resulted in some sales and trades among the members. Our thanks to the Ladies for the excellent lunch they served. A swap session seems to create a healthy appetite.

Craig Hoaglin was named Vice President succeeding John Wood who resigned from that office due to work commitment.

Inventors who made radio history, like Marconi and Hertz, are well known but over the years there were many lesser known, like John Fleming, who made great contributions. Fleming worked for the Edison Electric Light Company in London and, as a consulting engineer, was called upon to solve many problems of the new incandescent lamp. Early lamps used a carbon filament and, as they burned, the inside of the bulb turned black and one side of the filament eroded. Edison overcame this by placing a metal plate inside the bulb and noted that a current passed between filament and plate. He called this the "Edison Effect". Fleming later joined the Marconi Company and in 1904, using the basic principles of the "Edison Effect" developed a wave detector tube which he called the Fleming valve. From this early beginning DeForest, Armstrong and others perfected the vacuum tube as we know it. Fleming was knighted in 1929 at age 80, becoming Sir John A. Fleming. So much for history.

Next meeting will be May 12th at the club house, 16th and Jackson Streets in Oregon City.



# ATMOSPHERICA

By J

The  
Brand New Brand

I found this olden battery set,  
Of excellent form and fashion.  
The cabnetry was beautiful;  
I loved it with a passion!  
I set out to restore this gem,  
From stem to stern, I'd work it;  
I'd hook it to the batteries then  
And enjoy it's ancient circuit.

First off, the coils were found to be  
Corroded at the joints--so  
I wound some more of like design,  
Giving juice a proper flow.  
The transformers in the audio  
Were all three sour-- kaput!  
I just happened to have a few  
That could be rigged to suit.

One tube socket was faulty, too,  
All three fixed caps were leaky,  
While the one grid leak did not.  
And the tuning shafts were squeaky.  
I finally got the thing to work  
With parts repaired like new.  
It sounded pretty good to me,  
And probably would to you.

I showed it to a friend of mine,  
--Said he'd found a like one, cheap;  
Worked like a charm without repair!  
Such statements make one weep.  
This set was once a Freshman,  
An aristocrat of names,  
But after all the work inside  
It's now a Freshman-James!

# POWER SUPPLY

*by Virginia Ranken*

The Ladies Auxiliary thanks all you members for your help in making the Spring Swap Meet food concession a success. The homemade chili was a complete sell out. Not too many hot dogs left over either.

Dorothy James has been elected to the post of Treasurer for the Buena Vista Art Needlecraft Club. This will be in addition to being head of the telephone committee.

The Community Club Awards "Pay Off Party" was held April 23rd. at the Lloyd Center Auditorium. A delegation of four attended from the Buena Vista Club. Bobbi Kibler and Virginia Ranken entered a couple of "far out" hats in the hat parade. They didn't win a prize but did win 25,000 points each toward next season's campaign. Our group won several door prizes and Franz Bread had sample packages of English Muffins for all.

Found in looking thru an old cook book..

## PEAS AND NEW POTATOES

This is a Cape Cod spring dish. Use small potatoes of uniform size. Rub off skin, drop in boiling salted water and cook for 20 minutes. Put in a quart of new peas to a dozen potatoes and cook 20 minutes longer. Drain, make a cream sauce of 1 cup of rich milk, a teaspoon each butter and flour. Season to taste. Turn over peas and potatoes and sprinkle with a teaspoon of minced parsley.



# LIMITED SUPPLY!

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Vintage Radio



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**SEND BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!**

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Pot-pourri-----

In the ten years between nineteen twenty one and thirty one, came the greatest explosion in radio developement that one could ever imagine.

In 'twenty one, that great marvel, the triode was in full sway, forcing that poor little crystal to a back seat in the radio receiver field. Then, began an ever accelerating rush to get more and better radio sets on the market. By June of 'thirty one, at the R.M.A. trade show in ~~Chicago~~, Midgets, television, unique radio furniture designs, and other radio-electrical specialties, were the "show stealers."

Superhets were in the majority by this time, although there were still a few midgets and an occasional console using the tuned radio frequency circuit. Two television concerns were displaying their wares; Shortwave and Television Corp., and Jenkins Television Labs.

The Midget (or Cathedral, Tombstone types) was apparently the leader by a wide margin saleswise. These models were already using the new pentodes, and variable-~~mm~~ screen grid tubes. All sets were using electro-dynamic speakers as an integral part of their cabinetry. The midget sets were selling for \$37.50, upwards to around \$72.50. The consoles began with the cheapies somewhere in between, to the super deluxe models advertised as high as \$2300.00 (this was the second year of the great depression, remember)

Automobile receivers were using the new 6 volt tubes and had developed enough sensitivity and tone to be practical and a definite must-have item for many new car buyers. Short wave sets were coming into their own as a means of getting that Dx that was becoming a bit more elusive as the number of broadcast stations started to crowd the regular frequencies. Many of these were sold as "kits", but regular broadcast "kits" were on the decline, as this phase of radiomania was fast departing due to universal availability of good receivers at reasonable prices.

Late developements in the radio field have been more in the ~~radio~~ National defense area and in space research and

Cont. p. 10

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# SWAP SHOP #1

**FOR SALE:** Parts for Zenith Big Dial,  
most all parts from junk  
sets - open prices. Also  
many electro dynamic speak-  
ers for different sets. \$10.00  
Joe Tompkins Ph: 362-8071  
3796 Hulsey, S.E.  
Salem, Or. 97302

**WANTED:** Hallicrafter SX23.  
Frank H. Plaisted, Jr.  
Rt. 3 - Box 478 Ph: 647-2891  
Hillsboro, Or. 97123

**WANTED:** Old tubes, crystal sets.  
Trade old battery sets for  
some.  
Don Iverson Ph: 286-1144  
10115 N.W. St. Helens Rd.  
Portland, Or. 97231

**WANTED:** Horn for Brandes "Table  
Talker".  
Lou Stober Ph: 639-6073  
7305 S.W. Beveland Rd. (Eves.)  
Tigard, Or. 97223

**WANTED:** Old tubes, crystal sets, cabi-  
net for Crosley Trirdyn.  
Dick Howard Ph: 775-6697  
9999 S.E. Frenchacres Dr.  
Portland, Or. 97266

# LETTERS

Dear Tom-----

-----I have been noticing the arrival of several new Flea Markets around the valley here. One opens at Corvallis next week, a new large building on Portland road here in Salem opens also next week. Rickreal has had one each month for a long time, but there are special ones which are in between times also. The regular time is the first Sunday of the month.

Flea Markets are easy to attend, whereas garage sales entail miles of travel as well as poor selections of goods and much wasted time. I have found that the Flea Markets have always been the most productive in most cases, timewise and luckwise as well.

-- Joey  
(from Joe Tompkins, Salem)

Your editor has an addenda to Joe's short note above, that is brought about by a recent circuit of the State by Jim Mason and self. We have come to the conclusion that the Antique Shops, and junk Barns in the hinterlands are as devoid of anything exciting as a dust-bowl picnic. A few of the Portland shops do a bit of specialization with old radios, but as a rule the private shops are a poor bet as well. There are quite a few old-radio collectors around that don't have a club affiliation and now and again these people will jar loose with one or all of their items. There seems to be quite a few Cathedrals around, that are held for their decorative value by other than radio buffs.

Each one of you collectors has his own pet area to work, but the successful ones seem to have an ear to the ground, and that penchant for being at the right place at the right time. See you-all at the estate sale!

(Pot-Pourri continued from page 7)

exploration. Most of the technology in the wonderworld of computers is in areas of chemistry and micro photography. Radar, Sonar, Loran and such electronic devices are extensions of early electronic developments.

Solid state devices are replacing thermionic tubes in almost all fields of electronics and are in themselves a new era of technology which is making vast strides in a parallel to the tube of the twenties; the difference being the state of the art at the onset of development. In other words, it isn't so difficult to build a wheelbarrow, if someone before you invented the wheel!

The kids of today aren't nearly so fortunate as we, when it comes to creating something with our own hands, rather than buying our way with the plastic and crud of the commercial world. My neighbor's son is about twelve years of age. He has had games, kites, sling shots, noise makers, fishing gear, camera, and several radios, all defunct as of a few weeks, all bought in a local super-market. Each of these items I had made by his age with my own hands! No big deal either, all the kids made things for themselves and were proud of the accomplishment. I'll say this that a person learns a lot more from building a toy or radio than he will from having a similar item thrust into his hands readymade. Then of course there's that little thing called pride, and self confidence.

How many of you members out there have ever built a radio set? How many of you have rebuilt a set to make some improvements? How many of you know what the heck I'm talking about? How about someone dropping the Call Letter a line about your early efforts at building, repairing, or restoring a receiver. Why not?

Your editor, Tom James

# Simplifying Radio

By H. GERNSBACK

WHEN we look back 20 or 25 years and contemplate the radio equipment of the vintage of 1900, we smile, or perhaps laugh outright, all according to our individual temperaments. We look on our 1-K.W. thunder factories with their rock-crushing equipment and marvel why there ever was such a display of metal and various sundry materials. But the radio receivers of the year 1900 are the ones that catch most of our attention. In order to hear the long distance call of the thunderous 1-K.W. station located 3 miles and 55 yards to the starboard side of us, we required an outfit with at least 25 different pieces of apparatus, not to speak of batteries, choke coils, metal lined boxes to keep out the waves set up by the decoheter, and a four-wire aerial, several hundred feet long. It took days to adjust such a receiver, and only an expert could handle such a set. There were more nuts and binding posts in the wireless receiving set of 1900 than you can find in a well stocked small radio store today.

Since that day we have improved the ancient outfit somewhat and we pat ourselves on the back and smile contemptuously at Marconi's first endeavors. We look at our present day outfits and say to ourselves that here at last is something worth while.

As a matter of fact, we should creep into a hole and weep, for the improvements which look wonderful to us, since 1900, are still very mediocre. Imagine the smile of the man who takes up this issue of RADIO NEWS 25 years hence. He certainly will have a good laugh at our present day radio atrocities, and he will not, for the life of him, understand why we ever did what we are doing right now.

It is all very well to sit back complacently and say that the millenium in radio has finally arrived, when as a matter of fact, we are perhaps a million years away from it. Just as we have simplified our apparatus and its action during the last 25 years, in this same degree we will simplify all radio apparatus in the future.

We have mentioned editorially before that the days of the huge generator, transformer and tremendous spark gap, that are in our large sending stations, are numbered. We have stated that during the next five years these thunder factories will be scrapped and that the entire plant which takes up acres today will be located in an office building in a room less than 20' square. There will be no noise and you will hear no sound, as all the sending will be done by powerful electronic tubes. Even the amateur 10 years ago had a noise factory all his own. We were using large spark coils or transformers; big spark gaps, either stationary or rotary; a sending inductance, called a helix, 2' high and 1' in diameter, along with many other cumbersome condensers and a host of other paraphernalia. Compare this to the small tube transmitter of today, which does not take up more room in its entirety than the old-fashioned helix. And so it goes.

The public still seems to have the erroneous idea that in order to get its money's worth, it must be handed a big box with at least 10 dials and a few gross of knobs thrown in for good measure.

Our vacuum tubes are still the size of a child's fist when it has already been demonstrated for years that a tube, smaller in diameter than a pencil and 1" high, will do the work just as well.

As a matter of fact, we believe that the vacuum tube, although remarkably good today will eventually be found only in industrial works. But it will have no place in radio reception. Other devices will take the place of the vacuum tube, as the coherer made way for the detector, and as the detector made way for the vacuum tube.

Speaking of vacuum tubes, it may interest many to know that a Holland manufacturer is now making vacuum tubes filled with argon, which, at a pressure of 30 volts, works as well as the pres-

ent tube at 100 volts. Its life is about 1,000 hours without change in its characteristics. One of these used for transmitting does the work of four, with only 200 volts on the plate.

Then we have our good old friends the rheostat and the potentiometer, with which we garnish our present day outfits. You may rest assured that five years from now, rheostats will no longer be known in connection with vacuum tubes. Either the vacuum tubes themselves will have a device to adjust the filament voltage automatically, or all outfits will be provided with automatic regulating ballasts. Some such devices are already making their appearance. It is a nuisance today, and always has been, to adjust the filament voltage by hand. Rheostats in the future will be recognized as a monument to inefficient or incorrectly designed tubes.

Next, we have our good old chum the inductance switch (tapped), a monstrosity of the first caliber. Being such, no self-respecting first-class radio outfit today would be without one or more of these switches. As a matter of fact, the more the better, because each switch adds "value" to the outfit in order to tag on an extra \$10. To be sure, there are several outfits on the market today that get along excellently without the tapped switch, which latter, by the way, acts like a first-class sieve, losing the little energy that comes in over the aerial. A variable condenser used in connection with the inductance (tuning coil) is far better in all respects than taps and a switch. Up-to-date manufacturers are doing this now. A good article on this phase appeared in the last issue of RADIO NEWS.

Most every up-to-date outfit has a number of variocouplers, variometers, and at least a quart of variable condensers, in order to make a respectable appearance. One of these days, and not in the far future either, it will be found that an outfit can get along without all this paraphernalia. It will be found that one, and perhaps two fixed coils are all that are necessary; one condenser knob with perhaps a little gearing, will take care of all the tuning. In other words, a single control outfit, without rheostat, without variocoupler, without variometer, with nothing but a single knob. Such outfits are already on the market today and are welcomed by the public for the reason that one has to be an expert or know something about radio to operate many present day outfits. Your mother, sister, or daughter cannot operate such receivers, and must wait until you come home. Years ago, it took an expert mechanician to drive an auto. It takes an expert today to handle the average radio outfit. Five years hence radio outfits will be simplified to such an extent that everybody can use them, just as anyone can drive a car now.

Then there is our great American nuisance, the loud-talker. To be correct it talks loudly but says nothing. We are still awaiting the loud speaker without a horn. Why the horn was ever thought of is just another of the unsolved radio mysteries. When a human being speaks, he uses no horn. The cricket makes a sound that can be heard for half a mile, the sound coming from a surface less than 1" square; and again there is no horn! The traffic policeman when sounding his whistle does not require a horn in order to project the sound. When the nightingale sings, it may be heard more than a mile away; evidently it can worry along very nicely without a horn.

One of these days someone will sit down and read all the books on acoustics that have ever been printed and after that he will do some thinking of his own and the result will be a loud speaker that speaks loudly and which is smaller than your fist.

That loud speaker, by the way, will be built into the future radio receiving outfit, and why shouldn't it be? The loud speaker today is conceded to be the most important part of a radio outfit. You might as well take the engine of your auto and mount it on a separate truck and lug it around. This would be a good analogy and is just what we are doing in radio today.

From Radio News. 12/23



**WANTED ANYTHING MADE BEFORE 1940,  
CASH PAID, ANY AMOUNT  
WE PICK UP ANYTIME, ANYPLACE  
QUALIFIED APPRAISALS**

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| Radios    | Pocket Watches |            | Coins  |

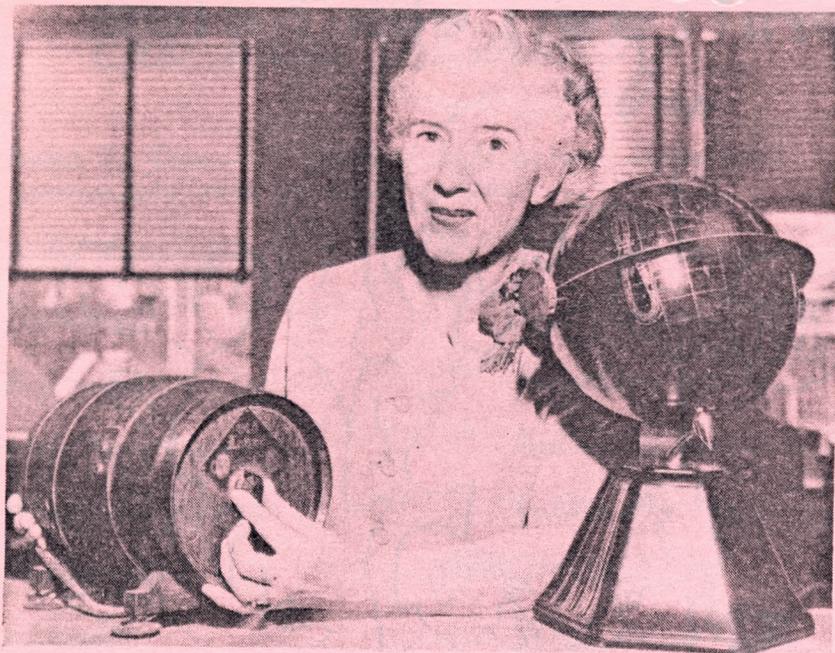
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CALL COLLECT - 771-1066

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Res. 645-1254

Mercantile Clerk  
Bob Davis  
Res. 775-9908



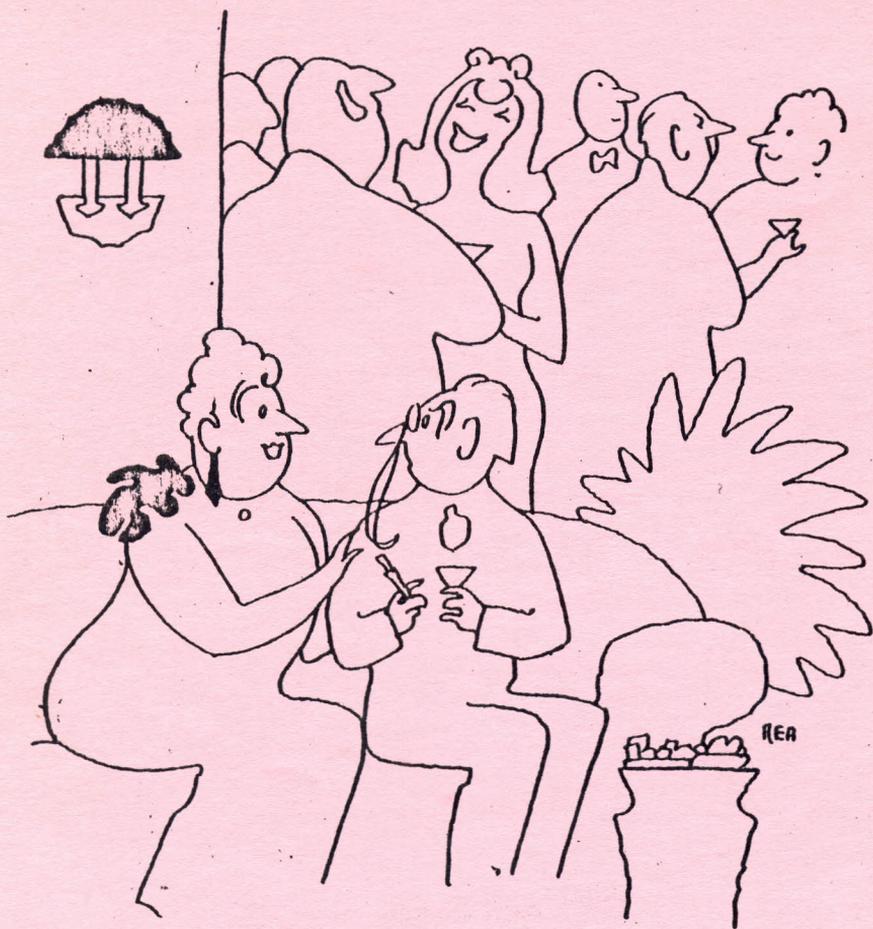


*Display of unusual sets entered in an old radio contest held in 1952 at K G W radio. The lady is Janet Baumhover of K G W.*



Oregon's first commercial Radio  
Telegraph station Astoria Ore. (1907)  
Alfred Ferdinand first operator in charge.  
Photo by  
Chas. A. Beck

# CARTOON CLIPPINGS



"You're a member of the Northwest Vintage radio people?  
'---well I got this old Panasonic---"

# the I.Q. trimmer

By Glenn.

Match Up Game-- connect left column items with appropriate ones in right column ....

Super Heterodyne	I.F. Transformer
Cathedral	Beat Frequency Oscillator.
Regenerative Circuit	Inductive tuning
Code Reception	Radiating Receiver
Push-pull Output	Gothic Styling
Variometer	Tickler Coil
Blooper	Final audio stage
***    ***    ***    ***    ***    ***    ***	

Last months answers---

R.F.	-----	Radio Frequency
V.C.	-----	Voice Coil
J.R.F.	-----	Tuned Radio Frequency
E.M.F.	-----	Electromotive Force
L.W.	-----	Long Wave
A.V.C.	-----	Automatic Volume Control
**    **    **    **    **    **    **    **    **		

An acidic approach may be a blot on ones escutcheon.  
( old proverb )

# SWAP SHOP #2

compiled by H. Ranken

WANTED: 25B8 tube.  
D. L. Meyer Ph: 289-4537  
6137 N. Omaha  
Portland, Or. 97217

WANTED: Source of beaded chain for  
tuning gang of Grebe Mu-1.  
Tom James Ph: 235-0581  
5024 S.E. Clay  
Portland, Or. 97215

WANTED: Metal cover for AK 42.  
Glen Bricker Ph: 942-3717  
1030 N. 11th.  
Cottage Grove, Or. 97424

WANTED: Cabinet for Zenith Big Dial,  
Model SW - 10 tubes.  
Joe Tompkins Ph: 362-8071  
3796 Hulsey, S. E.  
Salem, Or. 97302