

VOL. 7  
No. 8

NORTHWEST  
VINTAGE RADIO  
SOCIETY



AUG.  
1981

# CALL LETTER

The advertisement features a large circular border containing the text "CUNNINGHAM DETECTOR TUBE" repeated twice, once at the top and once at the bottom. Inside the circle, at the top left, is the word "QUALITY SERVICE". At the top right is "SINCE 1915". In the center is a detailed illustration of a vacuum tube. The tube's glass envelope has "Cunningham" written on it. The base of the tube is labeled "CUNNINGHAM TYPE C-300 GAS CONTENT DETECTOR PATENTED". To the left of the tube, the text "Amplifies as it Detects" is written. To the right, the price is listed as "\$5.00".

CUNNINGHAM  
DETECTOR TUBE

QUALITY SERVICE SINCE 1915

Amplifies as it Detects

Price \$5.00

CUNNINGHAM TYPE C-300 GAS CONTENT DETECTOR PATENTED

CUNNINGHAM TYPE C-300 GAS CONTENT DETECTOR

# Contents

SOCIETY BY-LAWS.....	3
ATMOSPHERICA.....	4
DISPLAY NEWS.....	5
OUR PEOPLE.....	6
POWER SUPPLY.....	8
WIRELESS QUOTE OF THE MONTH.....	9
OLD TIME RADIO.....	11
OL'E.....	13
CARTOON CLIPPINGS.....	14
I. Q. TRIMMER.....	15
SWAP SHOP.....	16

## CALL LETTERS

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, normally, at the Buena Vista clubhouse located at 16th and Jackson Streets, Oregon City, Oregon. Meetings convene at 10 o'clock A. M.

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Portland, Oregon 97202

BY-LAWS  
OF  
THE NORTHWEST VINTAGE RADIO SOCIETY, INC.

ARTICLE III: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

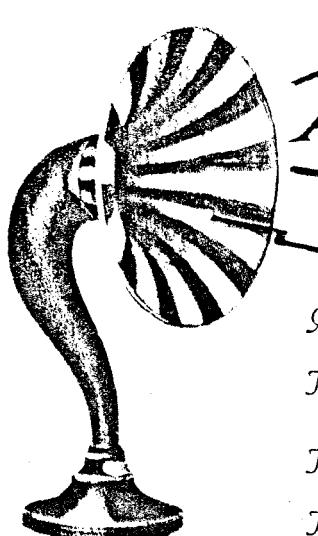
The Board of Directors shall consist of the current elected officers of this organization plus the immediate past president of this organization. In the event that the immediate past president is unable to serve or is one of the current elected officers, a board member-at-large shall be nominated and elected immediately following the annual election of officers. The Board of Directors shall direct the care and expenditure of the funds of the organization. The Board shall adopt from time to time as required a series of by-laws, which shall become effective only when ratified by a majority vote of a quorum of regular members of this organization. The Board shall be responsible for the time and location of the meetings of this organization. The Board shall appoint a successor to fill any unexpired officer's term should such a vacancy exist.

ARTICLE IV: DUES

Dues for the regular and associate members shall be assessed at the annual meeting of the members. Such dues shall be proposed by the Board of Directors; however, the proposal can be modified by a majority vote of a quorum of regular members. The dues become due and payable only when accepted by a similar vote. New members' dues, whether or associate, shall be prorated on a quarterly basis according to the time the member in question joins the organization.

ARTICLE V: PROCEDURE

(continued on P. 10)



# ATMOSPHERICA

By J.P.

## The Stalemate

It was in the town of Brewster,  
Some fifty-odd years ago,  
There occurred a feud comedic  
Of which you might like to know.

The dispute pits old Abel Smith  
And his neighbor, Titus Rose.  
Their feud includes no guns at all,  
But two home-made radior !

Abel had a crude "regen",  
And Titus had a "super";  
"Dry-cell eating monsters", quoth Abel,  
And Titus called Abe's a "bloopo"!!

They bet a bunch of bucks one day,  
On who could log the most;  
A mister Johnson held the stakes  
At Jasper's Trading Post.

The weeks went by and deadline came,  
Their logs were sealed complete.  
Down they went to the trading post  
To the black-crow one must eat .

But who received the most of calls  
Is something we'll never know---  
Johnson was canned the prior week,  
Had made off with the dough !

Each kept his log a secret from  
The other, and so you see--  
Each claimed his set far the best !  
'Til they died in thirty three.

# DISPLAY news

## WANTED YOUR RADIOS

THE DISPLAY COMMITTEE HAS ARRANGED FOR THE GEORGIA PACIFIC MUSEUM DISPLAY TO OPEN IN LESS THAN TWO MONTHS. WE NEED TO KNOW WHICH RADIOS YOU'D LIKE TO EXHIBIT. PICK OUT YOUR FAVORITE, OR YOUR BEST LOOKING, AND/OR THE SET THAT TOOK YOU TWO YEARS TO RESTORE. ONLY ONE OR TWO RADIOS FROM EACH LOCAL MEMBER WOULD FILL THE ENTIRE "RADIO ROOM".

BRING A LIST OF  
YOUR SHOW PIECES TO THE PICNIC.  
TELL US TOO ABOUT OTHER ITEMS  
YOU'D LIKE US TO INCLUDE.

 dk

# OUR PEOPLE

Remember the days of Western Union, when incoming telegrams were delivered within reasonable distance by "Western Union boys" on bicycles during peak hours. Quite natty they looked in their brown uniforms with "Western Union" caps and leather puttees. What was the name of the other wire service? Postal Telegraph I think it was.

The display of old telegraph equipment at the July meeting brought on this bit of reminiscence. A good display it was with keys, printers and a working model.

The coming of the telegraph brought an end to the Pony Express. Spanning a period of only 18 months (April 1860 to October 1861), the Pony Express contributed much to the color and legend of the Old West. Telegrams sent to Fort Kearney were picked up by Pony riders who covered the 2000 miles to the Pacific Coast in 10 - later 8 - days. There were 190 way stations, each rider making two round trips a week between his stations. Young unattached men were preferred - this made for less complications in the event of an untimely meeting with the Indians.

July meeting brought discussion regarding the type of circuit to be employed in the Club build-a-radio project. It was decided that a 5 tube TRF would be most suitable and the cabinet should also be built as part of the project. A committee was appointed to coordinate the gathering of parts -- Tom James (Chairman) with Bill DeVey, Bob Teague and Joe Tompkins.

The year 1941 saw the radio service industry greatly upset by an article appearing in a popular magazine, accusing repairmen of "gyppery" -- ("rip-off" was still far in the future). The article stated that when the

average citizen, with little or no knowledge of radio, calls on a serviceman he will be cheated 64 times out of a 100, and will be charged for tubes, batteries and service which the set doesn't need. To substantiate their claim a team of investigators, carrying two well known makes of portables, travelled Coast to Coast and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf, calling on 304 repair shops of every type. The sets were brand new and in perfect working condition. Before calling on a shop with one or the other of the portables, the set was deliberately put out of order by disconnecting a wire or usually loosening a tube. When the back of the set was removed even a layman should not have failed to notice the dangling wire or the wobbly tube. A repairman who didn't see them and failed to speak up was taking the first step toward gyperry. How did the test turn out? 76 repairmen spotted the trouble as soon as they opened the set and made no charge; 33 others made a charge so small they could be classed as honest. The remaining 195 tried by one means or another to take advantage of the customer.

The industry was quick to refute the charges, claiming that even though the sets were perfect at the start of the trip, 20,000 miles of travel by car would have had its effect in vibration and misalignment, not to mention having wires loosened and tubes pulled out at least 150 times for each set. Other service shops claimed that to do a good job all tubes should be checked and the set realigned to bring out any hidden malfunctions. The article didn't really prove anything - it did raise suspicions - but with WWII just around the corner, any serviceman eventually looked good.

# POWER SUPPLY

Please plan to attend our annual pot-luck picnic, which will be held after our regular club meeting on August 8. Bring your favorite hot or cold dish and join the fun. You bachelors might like to bring pickles, olives, potato chips, etc.

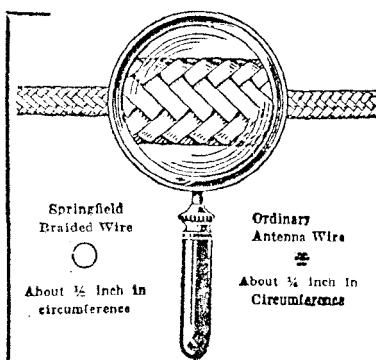
The Power Supply will furnish paper plates, but please bring your own silverware. We'll have some plastic spoons and forks available if anyone forgets. Also, we will furnish the coffee, tea and punch. If you have a large table cloth, it will come in handy also.

If the weather is nice, we might like to eat in the park but can decide that later if tables are available.

See you on the 8th!

bk

## Increase your Range



*From 15 to 100 per cent*

You can, with your present equipment, by using SPRINGFIELD 16-STRAND BRAIDED ANTENNA. Most wonderful wire for indoor loops. Its extra large surface—twice that of ordinary wire—enables you to get greater distance and clearness.

125 feet in your attic, in strands 3 feet apart, gives better results than 150 feet of ordinary wire outdoors. Write for free booklet.

At dealers—or send us \$2.50 for 100 feet.

Dealers and Jobbers—write for prices and terms.

SPRINGFIELD WIRE & TINSEL CO.  
67A Taylor St., Springfield, Mass.

## Springfield 16 Strand Braided Antenna

## Wireless Quote Of The Month

### Disadvantages Of The Audion- Comparison With Crystal Detector

"The audion detector as now sold is bulky, fragile, and requires frequent care and renewal of batteries, bulb, etc. Many bulbs are not constant and some give annoying siren effects. In many cases there really is no need to employ any such device for a crystal detector will do as well or better. A crystal detector such as galena will even detect signals from arc and undamped wave sets under favorable conditions. The author (Philip E. Edelman) has heard such signals when using such a detector in a receiving circuit containing a variometer coupler which caused the necessary reaction in the circuits. The tone however, was not musical."

"The audion as an amplifier is superior, as the usual received signals are amplified to advantage. Indeed the audion may be combined with a good crystal detector to advantage, the one rectifying, the other amplifying, the rectified current."

"The connections for using an audion with a crystal detector such as galena . . . afford an amplification of about ten times the signal strength obtained with the detector alone."

**Source:** Philip E. Edelman, E.E. author of Experimental Wireless Stations. The Norman W. Henley Publishing Company: New York, 1922 pps. 231-232. Original cost three dollars.

From the library of Art Redman

###

## ARTICLE V: PROCEDURE

The procedure in all meetings of the members and the Board of Directors shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, Revised. A quorum for any matter requiring a vote by the regular members shall be not less than one-fourth of the regular membership or fifteen, whichever is the smaller number. With respect to the Board of Directors, a quorum is a majority of the number of directors specified in Article III.

## ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS

Proposed changes in these by-laws, or a summary thereof, shall be submitted in this organization's newsletter by the Board of Directors prior to any vote. Such amendment will become effective only when ratified by a majority vote by a quorum of regular members in attendance at a regular or special meeting of this organization.

This completes the printing of the by-laws of our Society. (Ed.)

JA MAC PRODUCTS  
Speaker Re-Coning  
All Makes  
8600 N.E. Sandy Blvd  
Portland, Oregon 97220  
252-2929

# Old Time Radio

## DESCRIPTION OF BROADCASTING STATION "CL8", VANCOUVER BARRACKS, WASH.

The ever-growing success of the concert programs being sent from CL8, Vancouver Barracks, Wash., has given rise to an insistent demand for further and more detailed facts concerning this interesting and finely equipped station. At 7 o'clock every evening and at 3 on Sunday afternoons CL8, the Eighth Infantry Brigade Radio School, has been furnishing thousands of radio fans with a class of service that has brought a steady stream of congratulations by phone and mail from practically every point on the Pacific Coast.

In personal charge of the school and of all matters pertaining to the station itself is Sergeant Benjamin Silvermaster, overseas veteran and long since wise in the ways of radio. Some idea of the work accomplished by Sergeant Silvermaster may be had from the fact that when the Fifty-ninth Infantry arrived last fall, after marching down from Camp Lewis, there was no radio station of any kind at the Barracks. Upon him devolved the responsibility of selecting the site, securing the material used in the construction of the antenna and ground, the installation of all the instruments and the designing and specifications of the new apparatus which has been added from time to time.

The station occupies one of the long, low frame buildings just north of the Post Hospital, and is admirably adapted for the purpose, being unusually well lighted and situated on a slight rise of ground. No one can fail to find CL8 if they just look for the big antenna, a four-wire inverted L, which rises at one end from an 80-foot pole to a height of more than 100 feet at the other end, in the topmost branches of an ancient pine. It is 90 feet long, with an 87-foot lead-in, complete to the

ground. A trophy of the world war comes into most appropriate service right at this point, for the wire used in the aerials was captured by Sergeant Silvermaster during the St. Mihiel offensive in France. It is of the finest quality German, 47-strand, No. 18 Phosphor bronze wire, and is used for both transmitting and receiving. A specially constructed symmetrical ground has been built, terminating in a deeply buried mass of metal. Included in this molten mass was a battered German helmet, another of the spoils of war, thus giving a little jolt to Jukerdom at every touch of the transmitting key.

The radiophone apparatus consists of a five-watt Signal Corps set, manufactured by Western Electric Company, and known as the SCR-67A. By means of a few adjustments in the set itself and the use of a 10-wire counterpoise, 20 feet above the ground, surprisingly good results have been obtained. The modulated CW has been reported heard in Hawaii, and successful voice communication has been easily maintained with many such distant stations as 9WU, at Ellendale, N. D., and KDPW at Bear Creek, below Fresno, Cal.. Still another adjustment has made the same set available for straight CW, so that all three forms of transmission are now available on the single instrument.

The spark set is a one-kilowatt, non-synchronous, rotary gap transmitter. Spark communication has been maintained as far east as Le Mars, Iowa, Radio 9YAE, southeast to Roswell, N. M., and south to the Mexican border. This successful long-distance work has flooded the station with special amateur relay traffic and nightly requires a regular shift of operators trained by Sergeant Silvermaster.

(to be continued)

From "RADIO WAVES", June, 1922

# Ole!

by

T.J.

This time of year catches us with other interests and vacations, and gardens, and company and, and and, so we don't get out in the field as much as usual, at least this is the reason given for a slack month on "brag" items by most members; a few however did trickle thru!

John McConnell says he forgot to send in previously, a note that he had acquired a Scottsville Harmonic, complete with a bill of sale and 30 tubes. That "bill of sale" was the original, by the way. He also picked up a communications set, Hammerlund 180.

Jerry Talbot rounded up a Radiola console, Mod. 66, 1929 vintage.

President Don Iverson walked into a rare deal for a rare stipend, which I won't divulge, in the form of a Radiola III Balanced Amplifier. A rather scarce item in the bargain basement!

Dick Howard calls in at the last moment with some goodies to add to his list : A nice Rola cathedral type speaker, a box of tubes ( over a hundred ) incl. DeForest DV-5, brass based 201s, WD-11s, 99s, etc. test label etc. intact. Previously Dick picked up Taylor TZ-40s and a Navy Type W.E.215A (peanut).

One of our members passed this old gem along, from a 1925, Captain Billie's Whiz Bang :

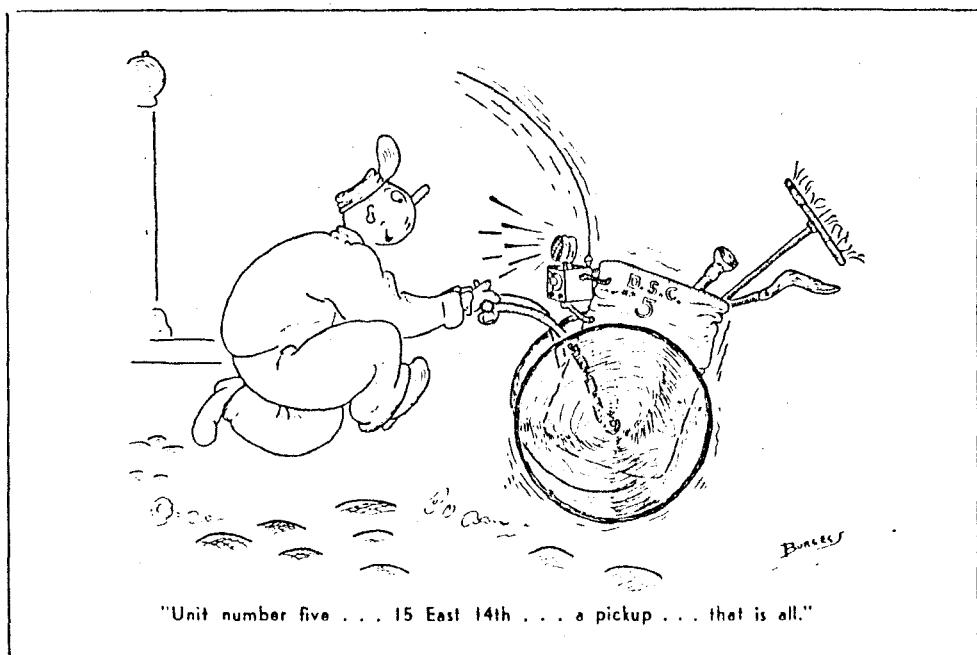
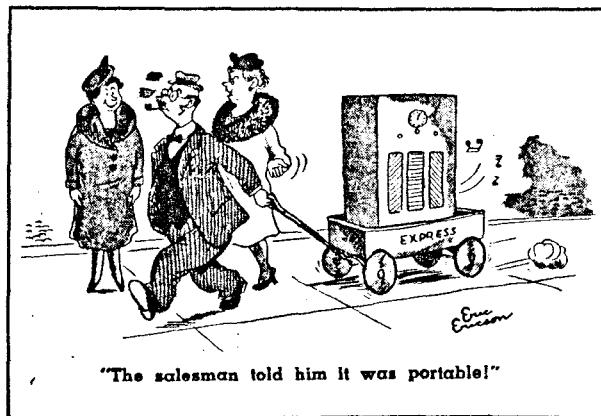
### Epitaph

Here lies the remains of a radio fan  
Now mourned by his many relations.

He went to a powder house smoking his pipe,  
And was picked up by twenty-one stations !  
( anon. )

Please try to get your Ole's in before the 20 of the month, to get the items in the following month's Call Letter. Still havn't heard from very many of you out of town members. (tj 7/81)

# CARTOON CLIPPINGS



# I 2 Primmer...

Here's a new one for you to figure out. By transposing the letters in the words of this jumbled Limerick correctly, you will discover another of Lucy Wyre's old friends.

by THE PROF.

Heert saw na lod farfeg morf slent,  
How emos shofl thoghut galnick ni neses.

Rof uto ni shi dhes,  
Swat lomconym dais,  
Eh dah yxtis rouf Warttae Skent!

( using a Swedish dialect on this won't help a bit )

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

The answers to last month's association quiz is as follows:

- |     |   |     |
|-----|---|-----|
| 1.  | + | 7.  |
| 2.  | + | 8.  |
| 3.  | + | 5.  |
| 4.  | + | 6.  |
| 5.  | + | 10. |
| 6.  | + | 3.  |
| 7.  | + | 2.  |
| 8.  | + | 4.  |
| 9.  | + | 1   |
| 10. | + | 9.  |

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

Mamma Goose # 17

There was a crooked man

And he roamed a crooked mile

He found a crooked Crosley

Upon a crooked pile.

He polished up the crooked set,

Then flashed a crooked smile,

Sold it for some crooked cash,

Which was his crooked style !!!

# SWAP SHOP

- FOR SALE Five Awater Kent Breadboards, and AK models 20-L, 20-C, 21, 33, 35, 49, 82, 145, plus AK horns L, G, H, M, plus other early radios and outside horn phonographs. Send \$1\* & SASE to Charles P. Seidel, P. O. Box 259, Merlin, OR 97532. PH. (503) 476-1078. \*(for list)
- FOR SALE 800-B6 Scott radio-phono. As is \$150 - restored ?. Has AM, FM, short wave - 24 tubes. Tom James, 5024 S.E. Clay, Portland, Ore. Ph. 235-0581.
- FOR SALE Cloth-covered line cord - 15¢ ft. Jerry Talbott. 649-6717.
- FOR SALE or TRADE I have lots of 30's & 40's magazines to trade for literature of comparable value. Bill DeVey. 635-6746.
- WANTED Knurled brass dial drive knob for AK model 40 radio. Alan Shadduck. 649-4473.
- WANTED Need information, pictures, and parts for Model 84 Peter Pan radio. Ron Whisman. 292-6924.
- WANTED Want old tubes, crystal sets, odd components. Don Iverson. 286-1144.
- WANTED Cabinet for Crosley Trirdyne (sloping front); also cabinet for Crosley 51. Dick Howard. 775-6697.
- GIFT/TRADE 1936 1000watt ham rig - rack mounted. Excellent condition. Donations welcome. Dick Howard. 775-6697.