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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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Editor-in-chief.....Jim Mason
 90 N. W. 150th Ave.
 Beaverton, OR 97006
 Ph: 644-2343

Contributing Writer....Tom James
 Power Supply.....Bobbie Kibler
 Our People.....Hugh Ranken
 Advertising Mgr.....Art Redman

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Feature articles are contributed by members under various by-lines. Please send all contributions to the editor.

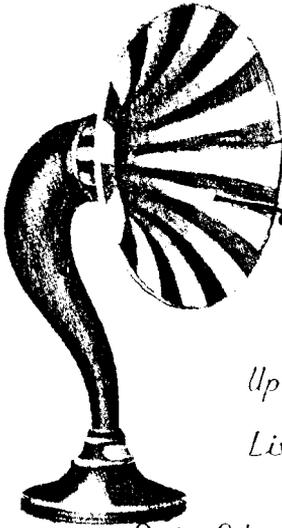
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Call Letter address: P.O. Box 02379
 Portland, Oregon 97202

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 1982 MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of NWVRS was called to order by President Bill De Vey. The minutes of the January meeting and the Treasurer's report were read and approved. There was no report of Good and Welfare. Ed Charman presented a vacuum tube cross reference guide showing military tube numbers and corresponding civilian numbers. Copies were made available to members. Old Business: Dick Karman presented a draft for the proposed display at OMSI and stated plans were shaping up nicely for this event. Tom James presented the schematic he had prepared for the Club radio project and discussed the parts necessary for building it. Several members offered to contribute parts and Tom asked that they bring them to the March meeting. Nominations were opened for the position of "Member at Large". Dick Karman was sole nominee and was elected unanimously. New Business: Jerry Talbott reported he had learned of a source that had a large number of Sam's manuals available free and in cardboard boxes. Jerry presented to the Club library several articles dealing primarily with the restoration of old radios. Jerry also brought up for discussion the possibility of having our April Swap Meet at the Coliseum in conjunction with the Sunday Flea Market. Jerry agreed to get more information and present it at the March meeting. Also advanced as other possibilities for the meet were Clackamas Town Center or holding it at the Club House following the meeting of April 10. Plans for the Swap Meet must be finalized at the March meeting. Public Broadcasting's "Golden Hours" program has offered to assist in the proposed OMSI display. Their participation would give their program more exposure as well as benefitting our display. A motion was offered and approved that we cooperate with them. Meeting was adjourned.

Hugh Ranken, Secretary 3



ATMOSPHERICA

By J

Plus or Minus

Up in the hills of Synarep,
Due north of the town of Claim,
Lived a couple of characters
With a singular bid to fame.

Pete Odenski, an affable chap,
Had a neighbor, Niki Czai,
And while Pete was an optimist,
Niki would always decry.

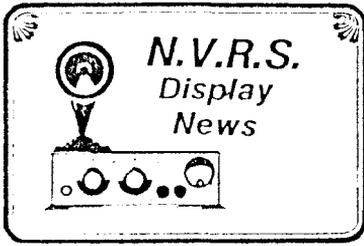
"The Crosley's fine", said Odenski.
"Horrible mess", growled Nick.
"An R C A's super", said Pete.
Czai whooped an emphatic, "sick".

"My battery set is a jewel",
Said Peter, thumbing the dial.
"Not nearly as good as A.C."
Said Nick, "It missed by a mile"!

So I submit to you readers---
Don 't you agree that their roles
Were personification of
"Positive" and "negative" Poles?

** ** * ** * ** *
A couple of "swifties"

"When, are you going to sell me that Crosley
Pup", said Tom, a little doggedly.
"The Call Letter may be a little late", said
Jim, unimpressively.



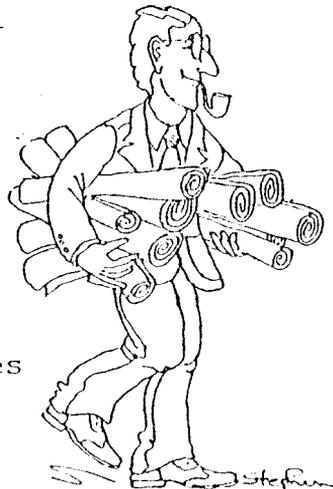
DK

I must say that I have appreciated the positive comments that many of our society's members have made about the Georgia-Pacific Display. This type of "good strokes" makes a good memory even better. I hope too that anyone who has any comments about improving on what has been done will come forward, all comments will be greeted with enthusiasm.

I have also gotten a goodly amount of encouragement from the public in general. They have called and written many of our members and have had nothing but good things to say. This makes it even more encouraging to schedule new displays and "public showings".

The displays committee has rated the OMSI display proposal "acceptable" and I will soon be taking all my peperwork to OMSI for the second meeting. I'm sure that we will have their ratings by the March meeting. SEE YOU THERE !!

(in the absence of our regular editor, I'd like to thank Tom James for a job well done.)



OUR PEOPLE

To some extent, at least, nearly everyone is familiar with the fine variety and musical shows of Eddie Cantor, Fred Allen, Jack Benny and with the characters that called on Fibber and Molly at 79 Wistful Vista. But there were other shows of the 30's and 40's that, at the time, enjoyed considerable popularity but which have slipped from memory, obscured by the passage of time. Here are a few:

The Fleischmann Hour - starring Rudy Vallee. Started in 1929, the show continued for several years, later changing its name to The Sealtest Hour when a new sponsor took over. Rudy was immensely popular for his megaphone singing and his collegiate good looks.

Your Hour of Charm - an hour long show over CBS that featured Phil Spitalmy and the all girl orchestra, all musicians of considerable talent. A star performer was "Evelyn and Her Magic Violin". As I recall, the show was heard in this area early on Sunday evenings, featuring classical and semi-classical music.

The Chesterfield Supper Club - this show featured two bands, one broadcasting from New York, the other from Hollywood. Perry Como and Jo Stafford were stars.

Your Hit Parade - sponsored by Lucky Strike. This show presented the ten most popular songs of the week, starting with #10 and ending with #1, the most popular. Frank Sinatra was an early performer. Some songs remained in the top ten for several weeks, so it required considerable ingenuity to produce different backgrounds each week. At the start of WWII Lucky Strike commercials came on strong with the phrase "Lucky Strike green has gone to war", signaling the switch from the traditional green paper wrapped package to white. Was there really some connection

with the war effort or was it a clever advertising gimmick. I never found out, but it was successful.

First Nighter - an excellent half hour drama show sponsored by Campana Balm, in which Mr. First Nighter arrives at "the little theater off Times Square" and is seated just as the curtain goes up. Barbara Luddy who, in the 1940's was voted best radio actress, usually took a leading role. The show continued for 24 years, the longest anthology series in radio. It originated first in Chicago, later moved to Los Angeles, but never came close to New York's Times Square.

Mercury Theater of the Air - Orson Welles was the star. Even today it is remembered for the "War of the Worlds" show on Oct. 31, 1938, about Martians invading Earth. So realistic that many listeners tuning in late thought it was the real thing and there was considerable hysteria across the country as a result.

* * *

Welcome to new member David Brown who joined as of the February meeting.

Plan to attend our next meeting on March 13, learn more about the up coming Swap Meet and the proposed OMSI display --- and don't forget to bring your portables and headphones for display.

Hugh Ranken

S E R V I C E H I N T S

Audiola. Oscillation when tone control is in treble position. Replace .01 mfd. condenser connected from plate to filament.—Radio Retailing

Bosch 28 or 29. In replacing volume control it will be noticed that it is located in the extreme left end of chassis, controlled by a pulley arrangement to the control knob in center of chassis. This original Bosch wire wound control is placed at the end of the chassis instead of at the rear of the point of control to eliminate oscillation. To replace this is impossible in some towns without sending to the factory, with consequent delay.

A standard Centralab replacement unit 3 72-102 (25,000 ohms) can be used instead, to be placed at the point of the chassis where the former control knob was located. This does away with the necessity for control cables and pulleys. Oscillation will not take place if the metal cover on the rear of the replacement unit is grounded to the frame of the chassis.—A. W. Sprenger, Milwaukee, Wis.

Bosch 28. Easy volume control replacement. Remove all old drive gear. Install standard 250,000 ohm unit and hook in circuit so that it will vary B plus voltage to R.F. plates. B plus lead from pack is the one going to one end of the resistor in clips near 26. Hook 1,500 ohm grid suppressor resistor from grid of first R.F. to stator of first variable gang condenser in place of original control. Result: greater sensitivity, easier to neutralize.—Radio Retailing

Bosch 31. Suspect a faulty 300,000 ohm resistor in the I.F. stage when fading occurs.—Radio Retailing

Bosch 60. Loss of volume and distortion may often be traced to poor contact at the phono switch which is supposed to cut out the R.F. when the tuning condenser plates are disengaged.—Radio Retailing

Brunswick Panatropé 3KR8. Low volume from phone pickup may be due to a poor contact at phono switch points.—Lanternman Radio Service, Edwardsville, Ill.

Crosley 124. Fading. Look for cold-soldered joint on I. F. transformer lug.—Radio Retailing

Crosley 124. Intermittent reception, temporarily cured by touching by-pass condensers or resistors, is the fault of an intermittent open in the 0.1 mfd. condenser connected between screens and ground. While the set is inoperative a small increase in first R. F. plate current will be noted.—Radio Retailing

Crosley 124. Fading. Check .01 mfd. by-pass units for intermittent opens. Replace entire three or four section units W22412 or W23736 in which defective condenser is found for permanent repair.—Radio Retailing

Wireless Quote Of The Month

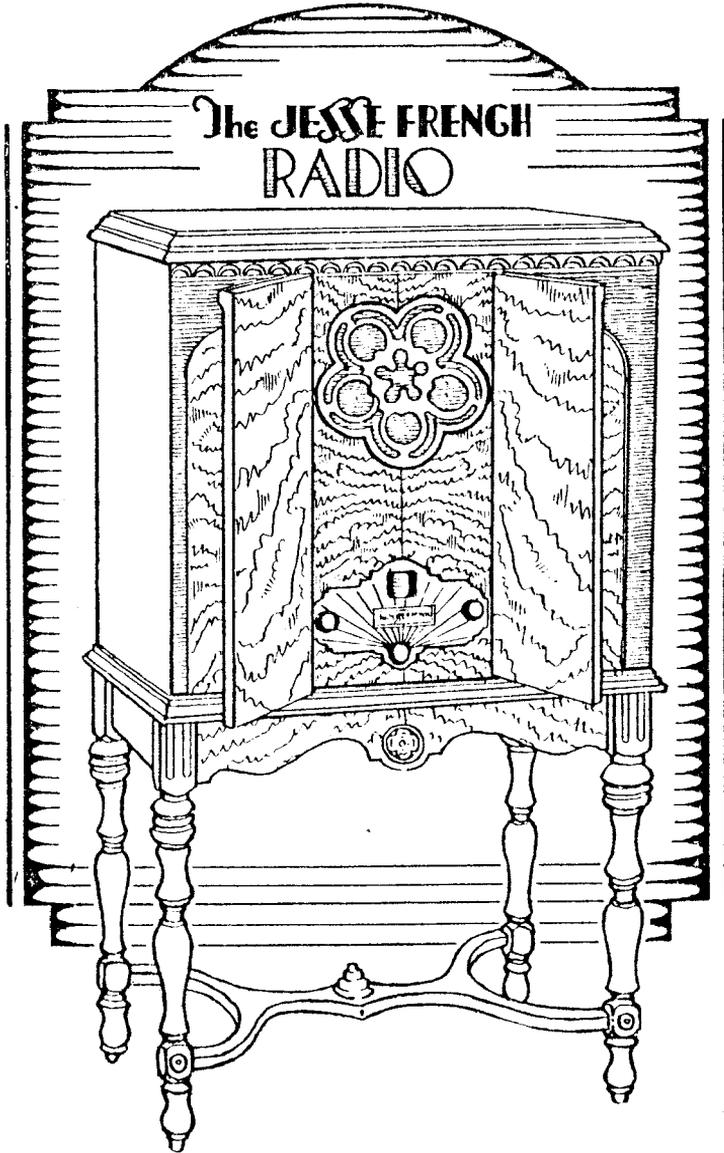
J.H. Morecroft was professor of electrical engineering at Columbia University and author of several books on radio. In 1922 Professor Morecroft noted that the triode was better than the alternator as a transmitting device at frequencies above 400 khz. and in applications where high power was not necessary. He said of the triode that:

"It has been used as a source of power for transmitting up to several kilowatts of high frequency output, but its application in such installations at present is of doubtful utility; unless the frequency desired is above the possible limits of the high-frequency alternator, it seems that a machine is preferable because of the high expenses for tubes and their short life compared with that of a machine. It seems quite likely, however, that new developments in high-power vacuum tubes will soon make them superior to any other type of high-frequency apparatus."

Morecroft's words proved prophetic. Within a year, a 100 kilowatt triode was exhibited and transoceanic voice transmissions became possible at low frequencies. Also over 500 broadcasting stations used triodes as vacuum tube oscillators. Even though alternators remained in service at locations like Radio Central, at Rocky Point on Long Island, New York, their obsolescent became apparent. In 1923 the spark-wave system was losing popularity with both amateur and commercial stations and the continuous-wave system with a vacuum tube oscillator was on the eve of universal adoption.

From the book: Radio Mastery Of The Ether by Henry Smith Williams: Funk and Wagnalls Company, New York, 1923. Pages 95-96.

Contributed by Art Redman



Here's one to keep a lookout
for - if you like the "leggy"
Consoles. D.

Old Time Radio

Woman in a Man's World

One reason people never seemed to tire of early radio entertainment was the aura of mystery surrounding the personalities. Unlike television commentators today, radio announcers remained "hidden friends" to a host of faithful listeners.

Lucy Bridge, now Lucy Bridge Wilson of Spokane, was one of those familiar radio voices on KFAE, an early forerunner of KWSU radio at Washington State University back in the 1920s. Further adding to her mystique was the fact that she was a woman in a male profession.

"During those days there were no women on the air. As far as I know there was only one other woman broadcasting and she was in Los Angeles," said Mrs. Wilson recently. "I didn't think of myself as a pioneer. Women's lib hadn't started then. I just enjoyed doing it."

After earning a two-year teaching certificate at Eastern Washington State College in Cheney, she taught 8th grade at Bullman for a year before enrolling at WSU in the fall of 1923--a year after KFAE went on the air.

KFAE was the outgrowth of experiments in wireless communications that had been going on on the WSU campus prior to World War I. The late Homer Dana, professor of Engineering, built the station with encouragement and support from H. V. Carpenter, dean of the College of Engineering, and Frank Nalder, who headed General Extension activities.

"As I recall, Dean Carpenter had been announcing and another fellow did it for a month or two," she said. "One day Maynard Lee Daggy, chairman of the Speech Department, received a call from Dean Carpenter asking him to recommend an announcer from among students in his drama class."

Prof. Daggy recommended Lucy Bridge, who had appeared in a number of plays at Eastern and was

making her mark at WSU. She was interviewed and selected to fill the KFAE vacancy. "Maybe they couldn't get anyone else," she said modestly. "I didn't have any experience, but I don't think any was needed. I think the voice is the important thing.

A story from the Nov. 28, 1923 EVERGREEN carried the following sentence: "Miss Lucy L. Bridge was presented to the world Wednesday night as the new radio announcer for KFAE.

"We broadcast three nights a week, from 9 to 10 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. I can't remember what I was paid, but I'm sure it was the going wage. If you like something, it isn't work," she said of her days at the KFAE "mike".

"There were no newscasts. Our program was something more in the way of book reviews by various professors, and music and songs by bands and soloists. My responsibility consisted mainly of getting material together and introducing it," she said.

An official KFAE News Sheet listed the following programs for Mrs. Wilson's show the week of May 21-30, 1924: Summer Millinery by Miss E. Belle Alger; Piano Solos by Miss Florence Carpenter; Forage Crops by Prof. O. E. Barbee; Individuality in Dress by Miss Helen Robson; Training for Agriculture by Dean E. C. Johnson; New Books to Read by Miss Alice L. Webb; Flute Solos by Percy Severance; Value of Cow Testing Tours by Don G. Magruder; The State College of Washington Military Band; The Climate of Washington by Prof. F. J. Sievers, and Know Your Enemies (insect pest talk) by Lincoln Lounsbury.

(to be continued)

From WSU "HILLTOPICS", March, 1977

Ole!

by

T.J.

Probably the talk of the month as regard to vintage radio collecting will be the complete A.K. # 10 parts that got away from a couple of members at least, down at the flea-market in Salem recently. As I get the story from there, it seems someone had put the A.K. parts in an empty console so they wer'nt readily visible at first glance. Anyhoo, a chap from Goldendale got a nice bit of stuff for \$15.00!

Don Iverson got a nice Wizzard (note the 2 Zs) tube w/box in fine cond. Also a couple of ~~table~~ table radios (investment stuff) A Majestic and a Gilfillan. His pride and joy is an old 1916 Manhattan Spec. catalogue with all those wireless goodies listed.

Pat Stewart is re-living the past with a 1930 Rasco catalogue (New York Radio Specialties Co.) which lists a bunch of sets at ridiculous prices. Such as : Radiola 25-- \$10.25 ; Freshman Masterpiece , \$5.00 ; Radiola 20 @ 12.50 ; A.K. 20 (compact, @ \$10.95 Etc. Anybody want to take a trip back there in my time machine ? Bring a few bucks and it should be a pleasureable trip !

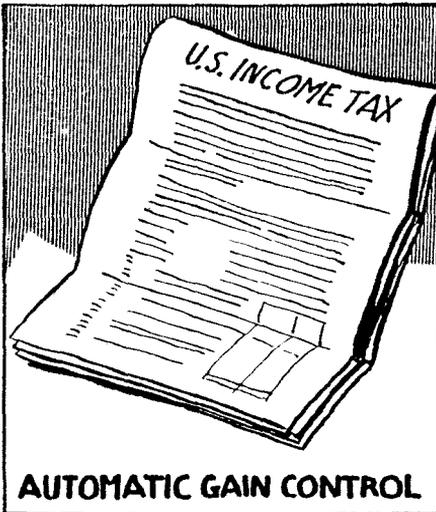
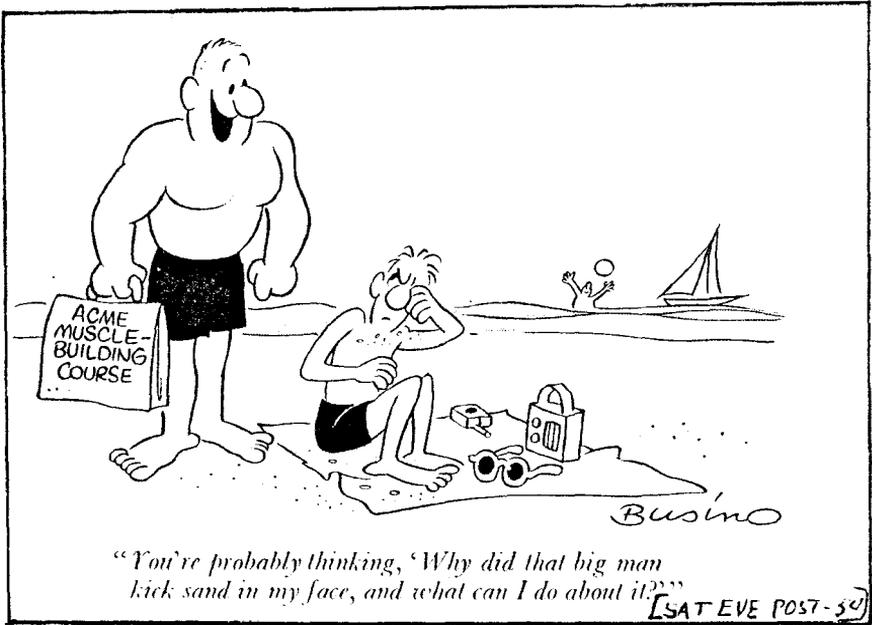
Joe Tompkins wants us to know about his Mousekadyne home brew kit set complete with packing and and satchet !

Jerry Talbot continues to pack 'em in down at his dig-gins. '29 Spanton console # 301; '33 Crosley 167 5 tube Cath.; '34 Western Air Patrol #28; '45 Hallicrafters no. 541W ; 40½ "Horse Radio" novelty set, Abbotswares Z477; '48 G.E. 212 AM-FM ; '66 Hallicrafters WR-1500, one of their last, a 5 band, 5 tube walnut cased set.

Your Ole' editor got a surprise recently when my son showed up with some records and engineering data that I thought was lost thirteen years ago when I moved here. Seems it got mixed up with his stuff when he helped me move. Lots of data on transformers, test gear etc, nomographs that are hard to find, test records and ckts. amassed over thirty years of radio work.

Good hunting--

CARTOON CLIPPINGS



from "The handy-dandy Glossary"

Yesterday

Geneva, Switz.

July, 1925

Europe has it's problems of a crowded ether, too. The technical committee of the International Radiophone Union is trying to solve it. There are now about 60 stations in Europe, and all must work within wavelengths between 300 and 500 meters. As wavelengths used by the various stations should have a difference of from twelve to fifteen meters, according to the distance which separates the stations, it can readily be seen that scientific distribution is necessary to prevent confusion in broadcasting. In a number of instances the same wavelengths used by by two or more stations have limited radio quality.

It is also pointed out that the limited radius of a station is no guarantee against interference with other stations. Mr. Burrows, Director of the International Union, has listened in on Edinburgh from his home in Geneva, although the Edinburgh station is supposed to have a radius of only five miles.

The committee was unable to make any headway. The stations in Europe must operate with a wave band capable of holding only forty-two channels. In order to continue operation of all the stations, it will be necessary to make much further experimentation.

** ** * ** *

In regard to the above, you may wonder how we handled this problem in the U.S. It was solved in part, at least, by the use of directional antenna systems, regulation of power, and time sharing where applicable. These methods served quite well until various power groups have forced the hands of the F.C.C. to release more and more frequencies in the smaller towns until now there are ten or fifteen stations on some of the frequencies, making Dx virtually impossible on many channels.

SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE The original Atwater Kent antenna, ground, and speaker binding posts. \$1.00 a pair. Art Redman. Ph. 774-9913

FOR SALE Riders Vols. VII, VIII, IX; many magazines from the 30's and 40's. Bill DeVey. Ph. 635-6746.

FOR SALE Atwater Kent model 10B breadboard - \$400, or will consider trade. Dick Howard. Ph. 775-6697. 9999S. E. Frenchacres Drive, Portland, OR 97266.

WANTED Sparton 250, 281, 484 tubes. Will trade other tubes, etc. Jerry Talbott. Ph. 649-6717.

WANTED Panel for Crosley No. 51 amplifier. Bob Bissell. Ph. 236-8422.

FOR SALE Philco remote control console, no. 40-216. Nice item. \$100. or trade. Jerry Talbott Phs. 649-6717 or 627-1675.

Announcement:

The Inland Empire Radio Amateur Clubs will hold an annual Swapfest in Spokane, Apr., 24, along with the Custer's Antique Sale, Apr. 23, 24, 25. Check with Tom James or Jim Mason for details. Courtesy Pat Stewart, Walla Walla.