NORTHWEST VINTAGE RADIO SOCIETY

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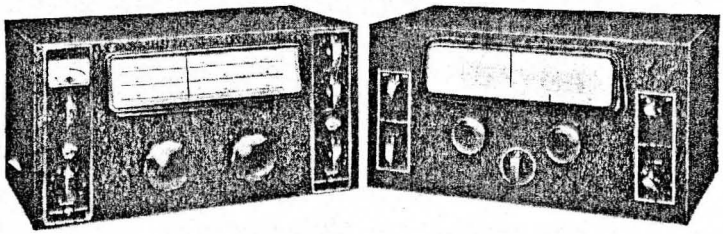
CALL LETTER



TWO NEW NATIONAL COMMUNICATION RECEIVERS

At the right is the new NC-44 Communication Receiver which combines capable performance with exceedingly low price. It employs seven tubes in a superheterodyne circuit with a 6K8 first detector and oscillator having exceptional stability and conversion gain, two 456 KC IF stages, diode second detector, AVC with ON-OFF switch, CW oscillator and 25L6G beam tube output (2 watts UPO). A coil switch with silver plated contacts selects the four ranges from 30 MC to 550 KC. A full vision dial is calibrated directly in frequency, and a separate electrical bandspread dial makes accurate tuning easy. There are separate controls for RF and Audio Gain. The self-contained power supply operates on 105–130 volts AC or DC. The receiver is supplied with tubes and speaker. A six-volt battery model is also available, designated as Type NC-44B, and is supplied with tubes and speaker but less batteries. List Price, with tubes and speaker chassis, $82.50

The NC-510, at the left, is a specialized communication receiver covering the 28 to 60 MC range. The use of acorn tubes in the RF, First Det. and Oscillator circuits, together with a new rotary system of automatic coil changing, and the National 1560 KC IF channel, provides "HRO performance" on this range for the first time. Circuit details include CW oscillator, beam power tube, variable selectivity, straight line frequency tuning, a new AVC circuit and many other important features (such as the stabilized HF oscillator), which will be found in no other receiver.

Engineering Bulletins on these receivers available from your dealer.

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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 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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** ** ** ** ** **

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

** ** ** ** ** **

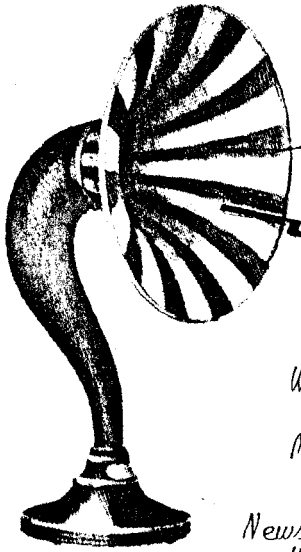
Call Letter address: P.O. Box 02379
Portland, Oregon 97202

MINUTES OF THE MAY 8, 1982 MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the NWVRS was called to order by Vice President Tom James. The minutes for the meeting of April 10, 1982 were read and approved. The Treasurers report was read and accepted. There was no report of good and welfare. New member Eric Jones was introduced.

OLD BUSINESS: Dick Karman reporting on the proposed display at OMSI stated that OMSI had changed the dates for our display. Tentative dates are now the first week in August to the last week in September 1982. The proposed theme to be "Sound and Communications". No schedule of floor space has as yet been presented. Tom James reported he has all componets, except for a few miscelleneous parts, for the club radio project. Tom suggested that those who would like to participate in the project but had no vintage parts to contribute might make a monetary contribution to the treasurer.

NEW BUSINESS: Jerry Talbott reported on the meeting and display May 7 of the Tektronix radio club, (Tek Employees Radio Amateur Club). He suggested that NWVRS consider a joint swap meet with them at some future date. He further suggested that we investigate the possibility of a joint meeting and swap meet with the Seattle club. Dick Karman reports that occasionally he has met some of our associate members who state they enjoy receiving the Call Letter even though not able to attend as regular members. He suggested sending an invitational letter to prospective associates. Ed Charman memtioned that some of our Associates had dropped out and failed to respond to solicitation. George (Rudy) Rudolph suggested sending a complimentary copy of the Call Letter to prospective associates. Tom James reported on his trip with Jim Mason to the Spokane



ATMOSPHERICA

By J

Le Martyr Set

Wit dees petite Marconi set,
I ordaire him late las yar,
Mon Dieu ! He mak long nite short
On de shore, Lac St. Pierre.

News she come from far Quebec,
Weathaire guy, he Prins Albaire.
De music pour le danse, By Gar,
She come la belle Calgaire.

Joe hate to see de wintaire go,
Now printemp fill de air.
Les moustiques he back, By Gar!
All ovaire Lac St. Pierre.

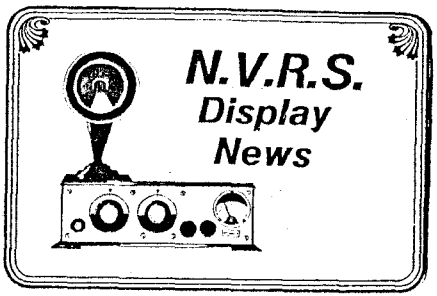
La batterie she all gone now--
My Marconi she come stall.
La solitude she bad, By Gar !
My Marie, she Montreal !

Joe he now marchand de poisson,
My Marie she cook and care.
Les kids zey bust Marconi up !
Adieu ole Lac St. Pierre !

** ** ** **

Mamma Goose # 18

Ole Queen Bess was a merry old mess,
And a merry old mess was she.
She slipped off her parka, turned on the Ozarka
And giggled at Fibber McGee !



dk

Due to circumstances beyond our control the scheduling statement for the OMSI display did not reach us in time to prepare a formal announcement for the membership. Instead I will write the text of a motion which I will make at the June membership meeting:

> I move that the display proposal which was prepared for the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry be retracted and the display which was rescheduled for the months of August and September be cancelled.

This action was taken because the scheduling statement which we did receive from OMSI could not give the society a firm commitment of floor space, facilities support, or a statement of continuity with the other museum exhibits during the same time period.

I personally entered into an agreement with the displays coordinator at OMSI that I and perhaps other individual members of our society will provide advice and properties to fulfill the need for historical information during the "communications" portion of their summer schedule.

I think we can look forward to other more rewarding times at OMSI and other museums in the area if we maintain a commitment to quality and preservation.

Bits and Pieces

Plastic was "King for a Day" at our May 8th meeting and display. Enjoying the limelight were Stewart-Warner, Fada, Bendix, Arvin, Silvertone, Traveller, G.E., Crosley.. all fine sets from leading manufacturers. Top honors for the oldest plastics surely must go to Andy Bell and Bob Hay, both displayed 1933 Internationals, identical except for color, and both in prime condition. As these sets approach their fiftieth birthday it seems as though they have earned recognition as "vintage plastic". As the availability of good wood cased radios shrinks, it seems that collectors will naturally turn to the plastics. Don't ignore them, what may be rejected today could in a few years, become a desirable collectible.

Vintage radio was the theme of the Tek Employees Radio Amateur Club (TERAC) meeting on May 7. Bob Campbell of NWVRS displayed pre 1940 equipment at this meeting. It was TERAC member Bill Beitelspach who made it possible for us to acquire the free set of Sam's Photofacts for our club library. Our thanks to Bill - his interest and assistance are appreciated. Anyone wishing to borrow a "Sam's" should contact our Librarian, Chuck Kibler.

* * *

It was a good idea, but ..... In an effort to solve radio's congestion problems, CBS has undertaken exclusive experiments to prove or disprove the theory that more than one high powered station can operate at the same time on the same channel. Sam Pickard, CBS Vice President and former Federal Radio Commissioner, is responsible for conducting these tests and experiments. His theory is that radios greatest problem probably is

lack of space in the airways. He believes this could be overcome if proper synchronization methods could be found. But, Engineers maintain that two stations of 1000 or more watts of power could not operate on the same frequency at the same time without destroying each others signals. Two key CBS stations, WABC in New York and WCAU in Philadelphia, were selected for the experiment. These stations were only about 100 miles apart but were considered ideal for the research. Tests were to be conducted on the 860 kc channel between 1 A.M. and 5 A.M. WABC normally operates with 5000 watts of power and WCAU with 1000, but for these tests both stations will use 1000 watts, and exact operating procedures maintained. Listening posts have been established in the area to monitor the results. (This was excerpted from an article appearing in the Oregon Daily Journal on October 1, 1929.

* * *

According to a news release on October 22, 1929, General Motors was completing negotiations with RCA, Westinghouse and G.E. under which it planned to enter the radio business in a big way. The company was to be called General Motors Radio Corp., organized with a capital stock of $10 million, with RCA, G.E. and Westinghouse holding 49% of the stock and G.M. 51%.

In the Journal for October 27, 1929, Sharff & Dubiver were advertising Peerless and Courier consoles - the Courier priced at $88 to $175, without tubes - Peerless priced at $207 to $635, without tubes. Their slogan, "it isn't radio, it's the human voice."

Hugh Ranken

Wireless Quote Of The Month

Born in Southern Russia, David Sarnoff came to America as an immigrant with his parents when he was only a child. When he was fifteen he secured a position as an office boy with the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. of America. This was the beginning of his meteoric rise to eminence in the radio field. He became commericial department manager of the Marconi company and, in 1919, general manager of the R.C.A. He was elected president of the Radio Corporation of America on Jan. 3, 1930 at the age of thirtynine. His views of the future problems of radio in 1926 were that:

"No matter what new developments in the manufacturing or selling end of radio may demand our attention from year to year, there still remains the perennial problem of improving broadcasting, and making it available to an ever-increasing number of people."

"Great advances have been made during the past year, and we may confidently expect even greater developments in 1926. Already there are 'on the air' two super-power broadcasting stations reaching out to possibly hundreds of thousands of additional homes. The world's greatest artists are being made available to the broadcast listener. New developments have raised the standard of loud speaker performance to unbelievable levels. Receiving sets are being manufactured which are more efficient and more economical. And still we regard these tremendous foward steps as mere indications of future growth."

In 1928 David Sarnoff ,in a bold attempt to improve broadcasting and create a still larger demand for radio sales, formed the National Broadcasting Company as a new R.C.A. operation. In the 1930's Sarnoff saw television as an area of future growth.

Source: Radio News magazine for March, 1926. Page 1254. Contributed by Art Redman

Minutes (continued from P. 3)

Antique Radio Show and their visit to the outstanding Pat Stewart collection of early day equipment. Jerry Talbot suggested that the ladies of the Power Supply pick their selection from the display of the day. Whoever owned the winning radio would get a free goodie and coffee. Dick Karman suggested that anyone interested in getting tapes of old radio shows to contact him. Larry Callahan presented a 1943 article on plastic radios. The display for June meeting will be metal cased radios or any radios with unusal cases.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Hugh Ranken,
Secretary

Some Antique Radio Prices From Reno, Nevada

There seems to be a wide regional disparity in antique radio collectables. For instance while driving through Reno, Nevada I came accross an antique store specializing in old radios among other things. The owner said that there was no market for battery sets because there was only one battery set collector in the area. There were rumors of an old battery set at a store I could not locate. Tube types like 01A cost $25 which was strange where no one cared for battery sets. A single 26 could be bought for only $15. Cathedral Sets wholesaled from $110 to $130 and were resold at $230 to $260. Needless to say, this collector never bought anything in Reno.

From the March, 1982 vacation of Art Redman

RADIO STATIC

I wonder how many of you reading this have acquired a radio and when you took the chassis out of the cabinet, you found you had a radio in which it appeared that someone had removed most of the wiring and all of the components from one or more of the tubes. The only connections being to the filament pins of those tubes. While this may have happened (someone removing said parts) you may have acquired a very unique radio. Back in the Roaring Twenties in the infancy of radio it was said that the more tubes you had in a radio the better it would perform. But it was more costly to build and to buy. If one were to build a workable five tube radio and add two dummy tubes, it would appear to be a seven tube radio. The filaments would be hooked up so it would look like they were part of the circuit. It would seem as though they were doing something - they were; they were heating your house. The savings in the cost of the unused components would compound the builders profit - the cost of the unused parts plus the profit on a five tube radio. This was actually done, of course not by well known manufacturers, but by the little gypo, the type who is always looking for a way to make a fast buck.

In my earlier days of radio I worked as a radio repairman and actually worked on a few of these. They worked quite well. As I recall them they resembled the Radiola 18 in configuration, kind of a long box.

During World War II and for a few years after, radios were hard to come by. Many of the earlier sets which had been stored in the attic, basement, and elsewhere were put back into use. These I'm speaking of fall into that group. At the time I was working on them they did not mean much, just another radio to fix. But now I see that they were another of the fascinating sagas of the great medium of radio.

You may say that that's all ancinet history, but the fact is that in the early days of (ugh) transistors this same scheme was used and for the same reasons. A five transistor radio could be built and three unused transistors added. The set could be said to be an eight transistor job. And there was the savings in even the filament wiring.

It would appear that after almost thirty years some of those good ole boys were still around.

Don Iverson

SWAP MEET WITH SEATTLE CLUB

Any member who wants to attend a joint swap meet on July 18th with the Seattle Radio club please contact Jerry Talbott, Ph. 649-6717 (home), 622-1675 (work), before or at our June 12th meeting. Jerry needs to know if there are enough interested people so that he can let them know how many would be coming. Also, he needs to know who would like to car pool to save transportation costs. Their club did not indicate if there would be a table fee.

Old Time Radio

ANNOYANCE OF KEK GROWING

Hillsboro, Ore. Dec. 19. Petitions will be circulated in the Tualatin valley among radio fans to secure signatures asking for regulation of the wave length of radio KEK, high powered spark station of the Federal Telegraph company, located east of here, as a result of a meeting of 250 radio fans at Forest Grove Tuesday night. The aim will be to bring some kind of amicable settlement by having. O. R. Redfern, federal district radio supervisor, and the management of the Federal company represented at a conference.

As a last resort it has been intimated among the fans that an appeal be made to the Department of Commerce to get a settlement.

The high powered station KEK is now operating on a wide spark gap on a wave length of 706 meters. Fans in the Tualatin valley find it impossible to tune out the big station. It is reported that the same trouble extends into East Portland, Yamhill county and even into Tillamook county.

By using tubes, it is said the broadcasting can be so finely controlled that it would be impossible to hear the station under an approximate wave length of 700 meters. Eastern stations have replaced their spark broadcasters with the tubes, and find these results to be true.

In a letter to one of those present at the Forest Grove meet, Redfern said, in part: "As you no doubt know, all tube transmitters are controlled by competing commercial radio companyies to the Federal company. And for this reason it is very probable that the Federal Telegraph would not be able to use that form of transmitter".

(to be continued)

From: Radio section, "Portland Telegram", Dec. 19, 1925

Olé! by T.J.

This time, member Don Iverson sent in a two page list of goodies obtained from an old service shop he bought--dated from the twenties, with battery set sockets, panels, cabinets, knobs, audio x-formers, and such, but not one 01-A, in the lot. The list is so long that I'm going to break it up for several Olé's. Here's partial list: Arcturus Wonderlich tube, type A /with orig. blueprint dated '32, for use of same; 2 199s, one in box new, 2 Arcturus type GA, one new, one loose; About 1000 other tubes, with 300 or so new in boxes, 27, 56, 58, 30, 78, 80, 6K7, 45 etc.; 2 Radiola 100 spkrs., Cathedral type spkr. 2 paper coned magnetic spkrs., one new in box. List cont. next month.

Jerry Talbott: 1936 Arvin automobile set #18, '38 Philco #38-15, oval chairside; '40 Airline "movie dial" con.; '56 RCA CJC5, early TV, not many left.; Coin-op. motel radio, Concertone mfd. by Gott Radio.

Bob Campbell: came up with a rather rare Kolster #K-114 which is a battery operated 9 tube super. intended to be used with Eveready "Air Cell". rumor has it that he also got a sizeable batch of new resistors in values of 1/2 to 10 watts, assorted resistance s.

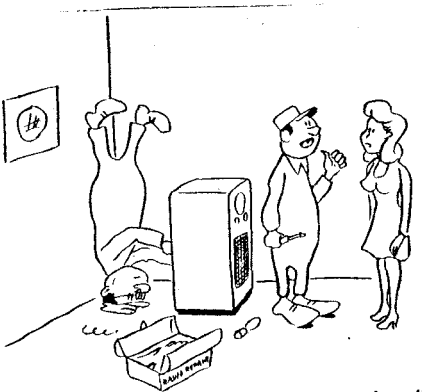
Jim Mason: A Philco #16, 11 tube table job; Tiffanytone mfg by Gillfillan and dist. by H.Horn.; No-name crystal set; RCA 5 tube plastic job; 1934 Clough-Brengle Sig. generator # O.C.; Silvertone batt. set (didn't note the model no.); 2 type 15 tubes sorely needed by Jim; Box of new resistors 1/2 to 10 watt, asst resis. values; an asst of "dud" vintage tubes for stuffers.

Joe Warburton: The recipient of a worthy batch of tubes most in original boxes, range from 200 to 24A, most RCA with a Gold Seal, a Ce-Co, a McCullough, and three Diktators. The latter, Joe says, are 01A, 12A, and 24A and the boxes are marked RCA on all sides and at the bottom "Manufactured in U.S.A. for use in our own hardware" but no indication as to location of "hardware" or Co. (note to Joe-- I believe there was an early dictating mach. by this name. tj)

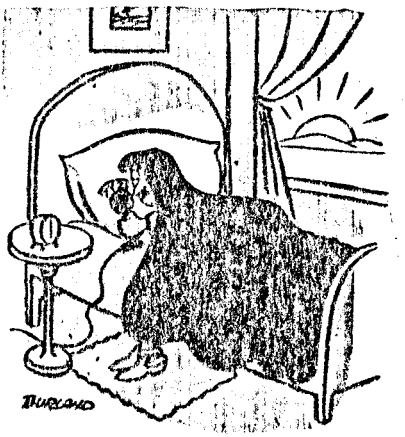
CARTOON CLIPPINGS

Suggested by: A. B. Klyne, Dover, Ohio.

"Give me one of those short 'wave sets' I hear so much about; my hair is a mess."



"His bifocal lenses got put in upside down."



"Good Morning, Exercise Club Members! Up and out of bed, bend to the floor, bend—1-2-3-4 put some pep into it!"

Yesterday

May, 1945

When the Federal Communications Commission first announced its intention of moving F.M. from the pre-war position between 42 and 50 megacycles to the higher band where it would be free from long distance interference and would have adequate room for expansion, opponents of the move argued that all existing F.M. receivers would be made obsolete, as it would be impractical, if not impossible, to adapt them to the new frequencies.

The Hallicrafters Company of Chicago, manufacturers of high frequency electronic gear, now reveal details of two F.M. converters, which were the subject of much discussion at the recent FCC hearings in Washington. These converters, one a 3 tube model which includes a power supply, and the other a one-tube device, will enable pre war F.M. sets to receive stations in the proposed new F.M. band from 84 to 102 mc.

The three tube model uses a type 7V7 mixer, 7A4 oscillator and a 6X5GT rect. The output of the converter is at 42mc making it a double conversion superhetrodyne. this model is in the developement stage. Of greater appeal to the present F.M. set owner is the one tube model which installs in the cabinet of almost any F.M. set, using the regular tuning dial in a sort of tuned intermediate frequency system, as the RF is band-passed 84 to 102 mc., the oscillator is a fixed frequency, and power is obtained from an adapter plug in the FM set. It takes one switch to cover the complete band, so one hole need be drilled in panel of the FM set.

Editors note----- You will note the frequencies proposed for the new channels became obsolete shortly and the present 88 to 108 mc. were adopted. Surely kept the manufacturers of sets, transmitters on their toes to keep up with Washington.

SWAP SHOP

WANTED — 1L6, 1U4 tubes; schematics for Zenith 6G601, 5G41 portables; Philco 51-934, 51-1733; Airline 14BR-1113; dial glass RCA-Victor 1057B; cabinets Ward 1100 Challenger, Zenith 60, Ward 14BR 1113, US Radio 41 - or will trade chassis. Larry Callahan, 2725 N. E. Pilkington, Corvallis, OR 97330. Ph. 753-7701.

FOR SALE OR TRADE — Philco model 610 tombstone (1935) model 511 metal box and speaker (1928), model 60 cathedral (1933) model 37-10 console (1937), RCA model 33 metal box (1929), Zenith model 6D525 table model (1942), Atwater Kent model 89 chassis, Case Electric 9-tube neutrodyne chassis and power supply, Kaar communications receiver (1942). Jim Mason, 90 N. W. 150th Ave., Beaverton, OR 97006. Ph. 644-2343.

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REAL WORK!

Little Joe had completed his crystal receiving set and had made it "work". His astonished and proud mother said to him:

"Wasn't it very hard to do all this?"

"Naw," said Joe; "most of it was easy as anything."

"What was the hardest part of it?" she asked.

"Gettin' eight plunks out of pa," said Joe.

From WIRELESS AGE, Sept, 1923