



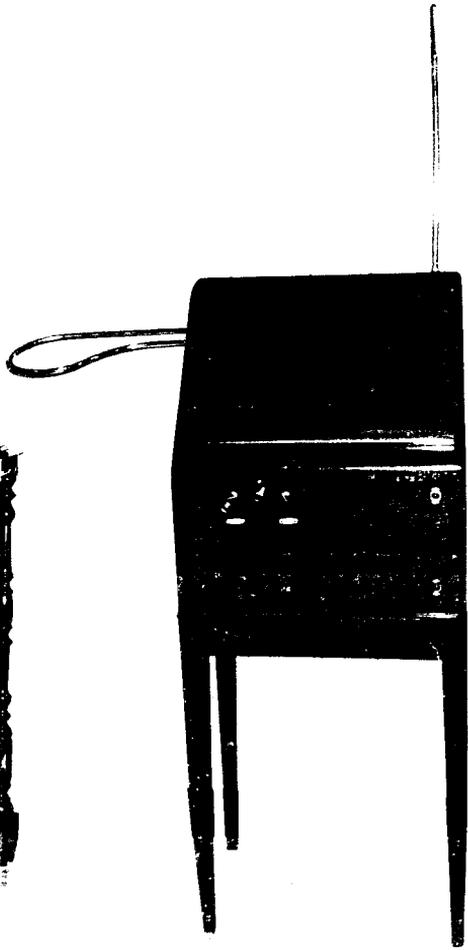
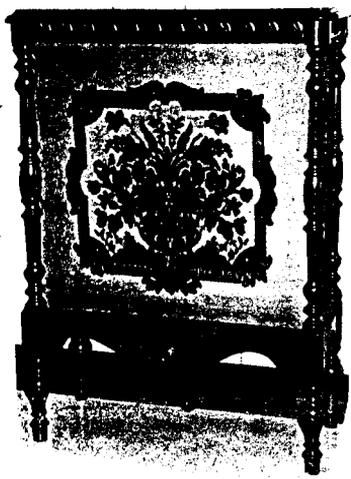
# CALL LETTER

VOLUME 15

JANUARY 1989

NUMBER 1

## RCA THEREMIN



# CALL LETTER

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 NWVRS has been dedicated to the preservation and restoration of Antique Radio & Wireless apparatus.

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society meets at the Buena Vista Club House (Atkinson Park) 16th & Jackson Street, Oregon City, Oregon. (Note: take Washington St. to 15th, up 15th hill to Jackson, turn left to 16th).

Meetings are held at 10:00 AM on the Second Saturday of each month except for summer vacation in July and August. The meetings are an opportunity to exchange information and advice. Annual Dues:

Regular Membership.....\$15--

Associate Membership.....\$12--

Renewals are due on January First

## \*\*\*\*\* 1989 NWVRS OFFICERS & STAFF \*\*\*\*\*

PRESIDENT.....DAN HOWARD.....503-761-7799

VICE PRESIDENT....DOUG DAVEE.....503-752-1648

TREASURER.....ED CHARMAN.....503-654-7387

SECRETARY.....NORRIS JACKSON.503-642-5625

LIBRARIAN.....CHUCK KIBLER...503-678-5066

## \*\*\*\*\* NWVRS MAILING ADDRESSES \*\*\*\*\*

Membership Applications & Renewals:

Northwest Vintage Radio Society

P.O. Box 02379

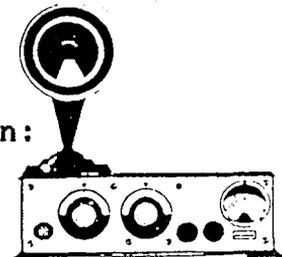
Portland, Oregon 97202

All Newsletter Business/Information:

Call Letter

4041 NE Wistaria Drive

Portland, Oregon 97212



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\*\*\*\*\*

The CALL LETTER and The HORN OF PLENTY are published monthly as the official publication of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society and the Puget Sound Antique Radio Association. The Call Letter and The Horn Of Plenty are available only as part of the NWVRS/PSARA memberships. NWVRS/PSARA are not responsible for any buying /selling transactions incurred, or for any other use of the contents of this publication.

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# ATMOSPHERICA

By J

## The Mutation

I had this Vulcan Special--  
A radio highly prized--  
I set it near the rubber plant  
And the foliage Vulcanized!

\*\* \*\* \*

## Question of Time

Where are the Bilkies,  
Or Phanstiehs of yesteryear?  
The Laurels or the Chelreas,  
Some folks held so dear?

The Insulines and Sentinels,  
The Jesse French, Deluxe,  
The Amscos and Distantones,  
And the Murads? Gadzooks!

Do you wonder if the Sonys,  
Hitachis, or Sanyo,  
Will ever stir the memories,  
As those names of long ago?

\*\* \*\* \*

## Remember When----

your wife said the batteries are  
dead, and it meant a trip to  
the store?



# Radio Waves

---

By Dick Karman

The year was 1922. The Roaring Twenties had begun. Warren Harding was in the middle of his short term in the office of President of the United States. The Teapot Dome scandal was "brewing" in the Southwest. The nation could still look over its shoulder and see reflections of World War I. But there was light on the horizon. As much as it is today, technology was changing the way men thought and what they expected of the future.

Radio was the technology of the day. It had grown from *sparks across the ether* to commercial communications. Tragedies like the Titanic, only 10 years earlier, had already been averted by it's use.

The *Scientific American*, under managing editor Austin Lescarbourea published a "popular guide to practical radio-phone reception and transmission and to the dot-and-dash reception and transmission of the radio telegraph, for the layman who wants to apply radio for his pleasure and profit without going into the special theories and intricacies of the art."

This smartly-bound work titled **Radio for Everyone**, is a "must own" for radio historians. Under the heading of *With an Eye to the Future*, Lescarbourea accurately predicted:

*"The distribution station is to be equipped with the latest developments of the Bell System, including the use of electrical filters and new methods whereby, as the business grows, several wave lengths can be sent out simultaneously from the same point, so that the listening station may receive at will any one of several services sent out at the same time.*

*"The Telephone organization will provide channels through which any one with whom it names a contract can send out his own programs, just as the company leases its long-distance telephone wire facilities for the use of newspapers, banks, and other concerns."*

This type of foresight and observation is responsible for the progress that radio has made down through the years.

To the men and women of that decade and other decades we should be grateful. Sixty-seven years later few of them are alive to receive our thanks, but without the development of radio none of the technological advances today would be possible.



# PSARA Meeting Minutes

Seattle, Washington

Sunday DEC. 11, 1988

The Business Meeting was attended by twenty-four members and two second time guests who were voted in as new members; they are Mr. Bob Dye of Bremerton and Mr. Larry Keen of Seattle.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Bert Whitaker compiled changes to the Membership List; these changes are listed on page 7 of this issue. Eric Lofquist mentioned availability of club name tags; a list was, and will be again, circulated for interested members.

Steve Von Talge mentioned the low attendance of the last contest; a number of possible remedies were advanced. Matt Thornton suggested to mention our contests in the IEEE Bulletin to attract visitors.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The President brought up the fact that the NWVRS of Portland, Ore. at their Dec. 10, 1988 meeting voted in favor of a resolution that would make members of PSARA eligible to membership in NWVRS and vice versa. (this was clarified by telephone after this PSARA meeting had adjourned, to mean: A Full, Charter or Honorary member of one club would be regarded as an Associate in the other; conversation between Jerry Brannon, PSARA President and Dan Howard, NWVRS President). A number of proposals were made by members in general support of this concept and were agreed upon in general terms. However, in view of above telephone conversation after the meeting and possible minor conflicts with PSARA by laws this matter will have to be taken up again.

John Schneider motioned for a PSARA/NWVRS joint membership list which was agreed upon by the membership. Bert Whitaker motioned to cut off from membership any members not paid up by the February meeting of each year; seconded by Steve Von Talge and passed. Ken Korhonen requested funds for a club photo album; approved by members.

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**

*Max A. Kaplan*

Max A. Kaplan,  
Secretary PSARA



# PSARA Coming Events

Shoreline Museum Seattle Washington

January 15, 1989

11:00 AM Swap Meet

1:00 PM Business Meeting

Presentation: Bert Whitaker on  
"Trouble Shooting".

Show and Tell: open.

February 19, 1989

11:00 AM Swap Meet

1:00 PM Business Meeting

Presentation: John Schneider on  
Refinishing Radio Cabinets.

Show and Tell: open.

March 19, 1989

11:00 AM Swap Meet

Annual PSARA Auction.

Times to be announced later.

For additional PSARA information contact:

Max Kaplan 206-851-4187.

14902 84th Ave. Ct. NW.

Gig Harbor, Washington 98335

\*\*\*\*\* PSARA ROSTER CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONS \*\*\*\*\*

New Phones: Bill Dymont, 206-782-3563

John Schneider, 206-527-3198

Dan Yerkovich, 206-284-9564

New Address: Frank Banks 206-941-2965

28232 27th Ave. S.

Federal Way, Washington 98003

\*\*\*\*\* P S A R A WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS \*\*\*\*\*

(and re-instatements)

Bob Dye

8709 Karolena Pl. N.E.

Bremerton, Wa. 98310

206-692-0220

Colin Halgren

2205 Oakes Ave.

Everett, Wa. 98201

206-252-3892

Larry Keen

P.O. Box 20548

Seattle, Wa. 98102

206-641-7656

# WELCOME



# Ole!

(acquisitions)

**Ted Benson**

Radiola 20 & 100A speaker

Thompson S-70 Concert Grand 6 Tube Neutrodyne

A-K Hornspeaker

**Jerry Brannon**

Kemper K-5-2

Radiola 25

**Sonny Clutter**

Grebe Console

**Dave Dintenfass**

Peirce 260 Wire Recorder

**Ken Korhonen**

Emerson Projection T.V.

**Ernie Neumann**

1946 RCA 630 TV

**Jerry Talbott**

1931 Crosley 124M Grandfather Clock radio

1938 Philco console 38-116, 15tube

1946 Coronado 43-8190, white bakelite & blue marbeled plastic trim.

## QUIETING NOISY ELECTRIC CLOCKS

Servicemen may be confronted with noisy clock motors when servicing combination clock radios. Many times this difficulty is due simply to lack of lubricant. The following method is offered as a cure for sealed units.

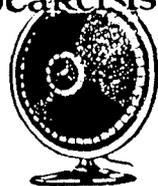
Remove the sealed motor from the frame and mount it above a 60 watt lamp bulb. Place a few drops of oil around the gear on the motor unit. When the heat drives the air within the motor out, as indicated by small bubbles, remove the bulb. Cooling will draw in the oil. Several trys will quiet the most grinding ones and will make them run smoothly.

E. E. Schultz, Jr.  
Estes Park, Colorado



You will  
never know how  
good your radio  
is until your  
loudspeaker is  
a

\$14.75



**CROSLEY  
MUSICONE**

Write Dept. 67 for Booklet

THE CROSLEY RADIO CORP.  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Prices slightly higher west of the Rockies.



# THE FIRST ELECTRONIC SYNTHESIZER

by Lila & Sonny Clutter

Most of us in our youth took music lessons, be it violin, piano etc. But what if Theremin lessons were suggested? How many of us would know what a Theremin was or how it was played? The Theremin could be called the first electronic synthesizer. The unit with its legs stood about 4' high (excluding the antenna) in a solid mahogany cabinet. The front of the cabinet is sloped toward the rear forming a music rack, the "pitch" antenna extends vertically from the right rear and the volume antenna forms an open loop on the left side of the cabinet. The electronics is reminiscent of a modified Radiola 17 chassis with the tuning capacitor removed, an unusual tube lineup and two large "tank type" coils on either side. The Theremin was supplied with the beautiful Radiola 106 speaker.

The inventor, Leon Theremin, was a young physicist born in Russia. He came to the U.S. in 1927 to demonstrate his new musical instrument which was played by the motion of the musician's hands in the space surrounding the instrument. Leon met and collaborated with a young lady (also from Russia). The lady was Clara Rockmore a child prodigy who began playing the piano at age 2. After extensive touring of Europe she ended up in New-York City and later performed in concert as a "Thereminist". Most concerts were for the rich and fashionable and were attended by invitation only.

In 1927 Theremin licensed RCA to manufacture the Theremin. RCA's kickoff promotion sought to assure the public that anyone could learn to play this instrument. This proved not to be the case, you see the Theremin, played without reference to fingerboard, keys, or frets required the artist to have perfect pitch in addition to precise control over finger, hand and body motion. For these reasons the Theremin proved to be the most difficult of all instruments to play. Thus the Theremin was not a commercial success. Few musicians knew the basic fundamentals for giving lessons. After RCA's initial production of a few hundred units, the Theremin was discontinued.

At this point Professor Theremin perceived the importance of developing artists and professional playing techniques. Clara Rockmore was just the person to achieve this. In the early 30's she gave her first solo performance and held the audiences spellbound. She went on to be a guest performer and solo artist with many symphony orchestras for the next 20 years.

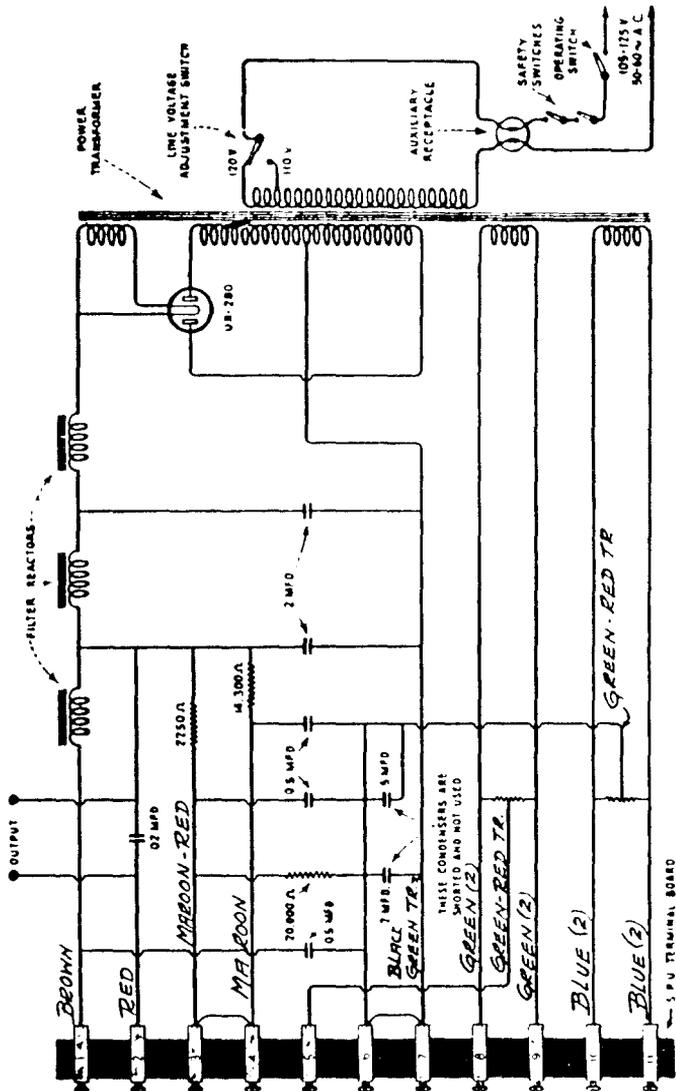
Although Professor Theremin's invention was not a huge success, it was no less a marvel of engineering for its time. Professor Theremin, without the aid of an oscilloscope, understood how the complex waveshaping characteristics affected sound. He incorporated a pure sine wave oscillator to control the volume of his instrument and harmonic rich waveforms to produce the sound of the Theremin. The music of his invention can be heard in many of the old movies, popular tunes and even TV themes.

**THE THEREMIN IN CONCERT?--YES**, Clara Rockmore can be heard on compact disc, titled: **The ART of the THEREMIN WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE THEREMIN?** The author's welcome your visit or phone (503) 254-9296.

Information for **THE FIRST ELECTRONIC SYNTHESIZER** was in part, taken from the pamphlet supplied with the compact disk, **THE ART OF THE THEREMIN**, Delos International 2210 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90403.











# Swap

\*\*\*\*\*

A.K. Horn Speaker for Thompson Horn

Ted H. Benson 503-752-5859

675 NW Stewart Pl. Corvallis, Oregon 97330

Scott 1931 "All-Wave" (two dial) mint original finish, Warrington cabinet, owner's manual, plug-in coils. Trade for: European pre-WWII radios, German military WWII receivers, or American 1920's big name sets, I.G. DeForest-Paragon-Tuska-Kennedy-Grebe-Federal or similar of Equal value. Max Kaplan (phone # above).

A.K. Cathedral, Rek-O-Kut Challenger lathe,

Bogen MXM Mixer-preamp with 1oz mike in.

Edwin Buhite (see want ad & phone # above)

\*\*\*\*\*

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

|   |    |    |                       |    |    |   |
|---|----|----|-----------------------|----|----|---|
| 1   | 2  | 3  | 4                     | 5  | 6  | 7   |
| 8   | 9  | 10 | 11                    | 12 | 13 | 14<br>OREGON CITY<br>NWURS<br>10:00 AM<br>Meeting |
| 15<br>SEATTLE<br>WASHINGTON<br>PSARA<br>11:00 AM<br>Swap Meet<br>1:00 PM<br>Meeting | 16 | 17 | 18                    | 19 | 20 | 21  |
| 22  | 23 | 24 | 25                    | 26 | 27 | 28  |
| 29  | 30 | 31 | <h2>January 1989</h2> |    |    |   |
|   |    |    |                       |    |    |   |





# EDITORIAL

As the NWVRS Minutes indicate the question of paid advertising in this newsletter has not yet been resolved. Your editor has repeatedly asked for clarification of rates and agreements.

I've recently learned that the 1988 rates were \$2.50 per month. This situation is unrealistic. The December NWVRS meeting resolved nothing on this matter.

PSARA has made their wishes clear on this matter! Your editor concurs with PSARA!

During 1988 Postage and Printing costs increased to the level of 85c per copy in June. Merger of the newsletters have made it possible for your editor to take advantage of quantity discounts. Presently, the cost is close to 50c per copy. The consolidation of newsletters is therefore saving NWVRS about \$42-- per month. Those folks in NWVRS who want additional paid advertising should consider locating some free printing and helping with the newsletter.

Your editor considers that JA MAC PRODUCTS has a permanent place in the Call Letter, they have been with us at least twelve years (longer than most of our present members). Your present editor has no plans to make room for any additional paid advertising.

January 1989 (the 169th issue) begins the 15th year of publishing the CALL LETTER every month and the 10th Year of THE HORN OF PLENTY. So far as we know, this is the oldest West Coast antique radio club publication.

E.J.B.





The election of 1989 club officers was held.  
The results as follows:  
President: Dan Howard  
Vice President: Doug Davee  
Treasurer: Ed Charman  
Recording Secretary: Norris Jackson

Next month's contest category will be for the most challenging restoration project. Please bring a "before" picture if available. The 100th anniversary of radio was celebrated by the NWRS with several wonderful radio displays by Ed Charman, Ray Nelson, Jerry Talbott, Ed Buhite, Sonny Clutter, Dan Howard and Larry Jochim. A delicious decorated cake was provided by President Dan Howard and Jerry Talbott. Brewed His special blend of coffee.

**LEADS AND NEEDS:** were given. The membership consoled Ray Nelson for missing that catalin set at an estate sale for \$22.50!

**MEETING ADJOURNED** at 10:51.

*Norris Jackson*

Norris W. Jackson, NWRS Secretary

# JA MAC PRODUCTS

SPEAKER RECONING ALL MAKES

## J.B.L. University

## Altec E-V

High Fidelity Auditorium Speakers, Horns

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8600 NE Sandy Blvd

Portland, Or 97220



# NWVRS Coming Events

**January 14, 1989**

**10:00 AM Business Meeting & Contest**  
Bring your most challenging completed restoration project AC or Battery set of Pre-1940 Vintage.

**February 11, 1989**

**10:00 AM Business Meeting & Contest**  
**Radios-Parts-Accessories**  
Manufactured by Northwest Companies

**March 11, 1989**

**10:00 AM Business Meeting & Swap Meet**  
Noon: Swap Meet ends.

**April 8, 1989**

**10:00 AM Business Meeting & Display-Talk**  
Documentation: Collecting & Preservation

**May 13, 1989**

**10:00 AM Business Meeting & Swap Meet**  
Noon: Swap Meet ends.

**June 10, 1989**

**10:00 AM Business Meeting**

**July.....Summer Vacation**

**August.....Summer Vacation**

**Sept 9, 1989**

**10:00 AM Business Meeting & Annual Auction**

**October 14, 1989**

**10:00 AM Business Meeting & Annual Contest**

**November 11, 1989**

**10:00 AM Business Meeting & Swap Meet**

**December 9, 1989**

**10:00 AM Business Meeting & Annual Election**  
**of Officers.**

## KNOB PULLER

Removing stubborn knobs has always presented a problem. The most effective means I have found is to use a shoestring. A shoestring will fit easily behind the knob without scratching the cabinet and has the strength to do the job.

Gunderson's  
Burlington, Iowa



# CLASSIC RADIO SERVICE®

Repair and Restoration

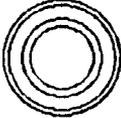
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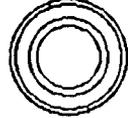
# CLASSIC RADIO SERVICE®



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R5-D3

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