

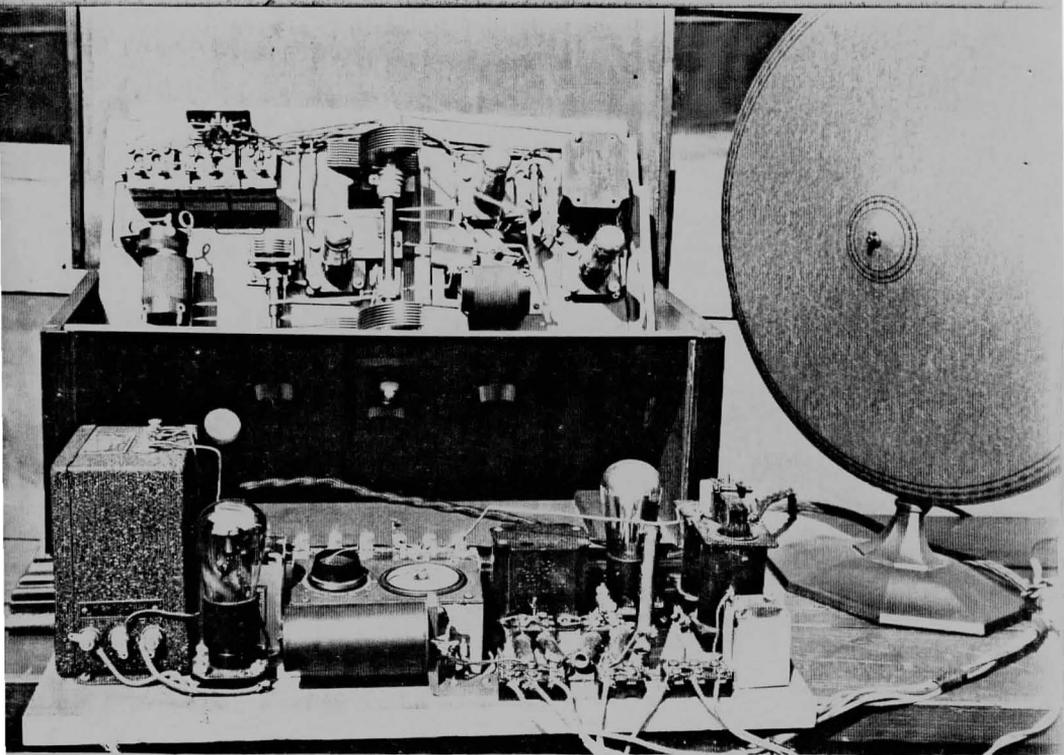


CALL LETTER

VOLUME 18

MARCH 1992

NUMBER 3



The Mission Mystery Set

CALL LETTER

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

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 CALL LETTER was founded in 1974 by Harley Perkins (our first President). Editors have served as follows: 1975/77 Bob Bilbie, 1977/78 Bob Hay, 1978/79 Tom James, 1980 Bill DeVey, 1981/83 Jim Mason, 1983/87 Richard Karman & 1987/92 Edwin Buhite.

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society meets at the Northwest Vintage Radio Museum 7675 SW Capitol Highway (at 32nd St.) Portland, Oregon (Museum Phone (503) 246/3400.)

Business Meetings are held at 10:00 AM (Noon in December) on the second Saturday of each month except for summer vacation in August. The meetings are an opportunity to exchange information and advice. The July Swap is at Speed's in Keizer, Oregon. All Swap Meets begin at 8:00 AM.

Annual Dues: \$15-- Renewals are due January 1st

1992 OFFICERS & STAFF

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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. All transactions are on an "as is" basis with the new owner assuming all responsibility.

On the front cover: The Mission Mystery Set Photo # OH45086 is used by permission from the Oregon Historical Society.

Details on page 5





ATMOSPHERICA

By J

Anyone for Triodes ?

I heard about this box of tubes,
Was told it was two feet square,
And more than that in depth---
Some three hundred valves were there.

The information stated that
The owner died in sixty-four;
Had been a navy radio man
For thirty years or more.

There was a dealer coming
To bid on the household stuff,
But I could grab some radio gear
Since I was a radio buff.

I asked about the box of tubes
I'd heard was in the sale.
The lady said "they're all in boxes,
Stowed in there by husband, Dale."

"Would twenty bucks be too much "
The lady asked, "before the dealer 'rives?"
Well friends that's how I happen
To have three hundred 6J5s !

** ** * ** * ** *

Poppa Goose# 4

Little Red Riding Rajneesh
Dropt her Sony in her Hindu-Kush deesh.
Along with the brew
Of some Antelope stew,
And it dissolved into Indonesse feesh !

** ** * ** * ** *



The Mission Mystery Set

by Art Redman

There are over one million photographs on file at the Oregon Historical Society. Some of these pictures pertain to old radio and have appeared in the *Call Letter* and the *Horn of Plenty* over the last year. The photo for this month is a radio set belonging to Ladmer W. Ross. The set was designed by W.H. Mission in 1927, however, the rest of the story remains a mystery.

There is no W.H. Mission in the Portland City Directory for 1927 or in the Ross family files at the Historical Society. It is not known whether the 'Mission' radio was a custom made set, a prototype or was produced in a factory.

There was a Mission Bell Manufacturing and Distribution Company in Los Angeles, California which made an AC set in 1928 and several other sets in the early 1930s but it appears to have no relation to the set in the series of pictures on file at the O.H.S. Perhaps a member of NWVRS or PSARA has a set designed by W.H. Mission or can supply more information about the set or the designer.

Portland Radio

The 1920's saw the development of radio broadcasting. Of the eleven "radiophone" broadcasting stations on the Pacific Coast in 1922, two were at Portland — William P. Hawley's call letters 7XG, broadcasting fifteen to thirty minutes of instrumental and vocal music each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening; and the Northwestern Radio Manufacturing Company's call letters 7XF, broadcasting bulletins of the Public Health Service every Tuesday and Friday nights at 8:45.

Said the *Oregonian* on March 19, 1922:

There are nearly 5000 homes in and near Portland which have radio receiver installations, bringing to their owners these enjoyable "ethereal" programmes. This number is increasing every day; and it would not be considered bold to say, that in a year, half of Portland's population will be "listening in" over the "air" to the radio miracles.

The newspaper made tests with its fifty-watt station on the night of Thursday, March 23, 1922. Soon congratulations poured in. A room twenty-four feet square was fitted up in the *Oregonian* Building for the KGW studios.

On October 1, 1923, KGW broadcast the proceedings of the opening session of the American Federation of Labor convention by telephone line from the Municipal Auditorium.

The outstanding radio feature in Portland in 1924 was the broadcasting of two speeches by President Calvin Coolidge, one on October 24 and the other on November 4. The President spoke from Washington, D. C., over a network serving twenty-seven stations, KGW being the Portland outlet, and was heard by more than 25,000,000 people, some half million of whom in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana were tuned to KGW, Portland.

In this year both the Republican and Democratic national conventions were broadcast in their entirety for the first time in history. Among the political figures who spoke directly over KGW were William Jennings Bryan, who had visited the city and spoken without the aid of radio in 1907, and Burton K. Wheeler, Vice Presidential candidate on the Independent ticket.

The first complete Portland church service broadcast was on Sunday morning, December 31, 1924, from the First Presbyterian Church over KGW. This broadcast became a regular Sunday morning feature thereafter.

The station KGW long had its studios in the Oregonian Building at Sixth and Alder, and for a while KEX was there too, but afterwards KEX moved to 1230 S. W. Main Street, and KGW went to 1011 S. W. Sixth, where KWJJ was holding forth. When the new Oregonian Building was ready, the 5,000-watt KGW moved to it, occupying the fourth floor.

KGW became an outlet for the National Broadcasting Company network on February 22, 1927. The Westinghouse station, KEX, founded in 1926, is now an outlet for the American Broadcasting Company network and has a power of 50,000 watts.

In 1925 Charles Myers bought KQP and changed the call letters to KOIN. No records were used, only live shows. In 1945 the station was purchased by Field Enterprises, a subsidiary of Marshall Field & Company. Located in the New Heathman Hotel, it is a 5,000-watt outlet for the Columbia Broadcasting Company network.

KXL, 10,000 watts, was established in 1926. For years its studios have been in the Orpheum Building, 743 S. W. Broadway.

KWJJ was incorporated in 1927 and was first located in the Broadway Theatre Building, where it was known as "the Voice of Broadway." It featured sports programmes and religious broadcasts. It subsequently moved to 1011 S. W. Sixth Avenue, where it is broadcasting local programmes on 10,000 watts.

Established in 1933, KALE joined the Mutual network in 1937. During World War II its studios were with those of KOIN in the New Heathman Hotel, but KALE afterwards moved to the Taylor Street Building. On Sunday, June 6, 1948, its call letters were changed to KPOJ. The transmitter was moved from Sylvan to Mount Scott. Owned by the *Oregon Journal*, the 5,000-watt station now has its studios at 1010 S. W. Tenth Avenue.

In 1947 the 1,000-watt station KPDQ was established at Oaks Amusement Park. KBKO, the Mercury Broadcasting Company, began operating in East Portland in 1949. By mid-century a number of Portlanders had television receiving sets, but as yet no television station had been established in the city.

Our thanks to Pamela Gardenier of Binford & Mort Publishing for granting us permission to use pages 187 - 189 of their 1952 Book: **CITY ON THE WILLAMETTE: THE STORY OF PORTLAND OREGON** by Percy Maddux.

Thanks also to Art Redman for arranging it.

Forty years later several changes are noted: KWJJ, KXL & KEX are all alive and well with 50,000 watts each. KPOJ is now known as KUPL and KBKO has most recently become KLVS, both have 5,000 watts. KPDQ (long time outlet for the notorious Jimmy Swaggart) remains the smallest with 1,000 watts. KOIN radio is gone, however, there is an obnoxious sound known as KBBT on that frequency. KGW is now used to simulcast an FM service. KPAM is now Known as KBNP and KKEY has transferred in from Vancouver Washington, both have 5,000 Watts. KFXN in Oregon City has 50,000 watts. Benson High School still has KBPS which is the second oldest station in Portland and is non-commercial.

KWJJ actually began broadcasting in 1925 and is the second oldest commercial station in Portland.



Feature Story

"DX"

by F.W. Sloat W7AHK

During the winter nights of the 1922-1925 time period, radio listeners in the western United States could hear some seven or eight Japanese broadcast stations. On favorable nights the reception was excellent with loud-speaker reception. In the Pacific time zone one could set their clock at 6:00 P.M. with the time signals from WGY in Schenectady or WSB in Atlanta.

A favorite station with the Australian and New Zealand fans was KGO in Oakland. One might think such long distance reception was due to the fact that there were few stations on the air. This is not the complete answer. With over 500 broadcast installations on the air in the fall of 1922, 360 meters was bedlam. One of the factors which contributed to the distances covered with relatively low power was the antenna system. The old "flat top" was what we now know as a top loaded vertical, capable of radiating a very strong sky wave. Every effort was made to get the most amperes into the antenna. Of course at times the sky wave interfered with it's own ground wave. arriving at the receiver out of phase. But no one worried about a little distortion or fading and the old flat top served admirably well.

The mention of Japanese reception brings up an interesting incident, at that time anyway, in salesmanship. Selling radio receivers was not as easy as one might imagine, and times were getting tight in the farming community. Our enterprising salesman friend had a rapport with the Japanese farmers in the upper Hood River valley. On nights when the Japanese stations were coming in, he would go to their homes and hook up to the antenna he had previously strung



up. The farmers were delighted to hear their native country and would close the deal on the spot.

This radio salesman, Luhr Jensen, afterwards proved his initiative by organizing and operating one of the foremost manufacturers of angling lures in the world. The company is still operating from a large modern plant in Hood River, Oregon.

Stations in the Land Of The Rising Sun were received on nights when the warm Chinook wind was blowing out of the west. They were not heard on a clear cold night when the east wind was usually blowing. We were not aware just why the waves could not be picked up at these times and I am sure some fans believed they were actually carried by the wind. We had not heard of the ionosphere and the reflection as the layer cooled and shifted.

Station News

by Edwin Buhite

KING AM & FM will continue in their present format and with local ownership. The KING Broadcasting Co. T.V. & cable is being sold to the Providence Journal.

The Gresham Oregon radio station which originally began as KGRO-1230 (when KGON moved to 1520) will return to the air this month as KMUZ. Adult contemporary music is planned.

We understand that the station manager, Bill King, likes Big Band. This is what KGRO played. The Gresham office is at 1217 N.E. Burnside Road. Phone 667-1000. *NOW might be a good time to write or call them concerning their format.*

KMUZ also hopes to build an FM transmitter on 94.7 (located near the Vista House). Both stations have local ownership.





Unloading Majestic radios at Gibbs Battery Station on Front Street in Hood River, Oregon. Note spare tire covers. Subjects, from left to right- Floyd Gibbs, owner. Luhr Jensen, salesman (Luhr was the super salesman in our story.) Harry Emmel, high school student, who later became the well known Dr Harry Emmel, orthopedic surgeon in Seattle. Far right- Ed Goodrich, owner of the truck line and Andy Anderson, local businessman.

P S A R A MEETING MINUTES

Seattle, Washington Sunday Feb. 16, 1992

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM. by David Dintenfass. Thirty-two members and three guests were in attendance. The guests were Al Ross, Ed Husarik, Bill DeWald and also associate member Jim Berg from N.E. Washington was here.

OLD BUSINESS: The Treasurer's Report By Al Atworth says we are doing fine. We still have about 35 to 40 members from 1991 that have not Renewed their membership, you know who you are. We'll carry you until April First, then you'll be dropped from the Roster. Al still has several "Manufactures of the 20's, vol #3" books that were ordered and not picked up. Please contact Al if you ordered one of these from the sign up sheet.

The Museum Report: by Ken Korhen said he is installing an infrared Detector to start the tape machine with old Radio Programs when people enter the room. Also John Schneider loaned a large KVI Radio sign for the Museum.

NEW BUSINESS: We discussed changing the April Meeting date on Easter, Sunday but voted to keep it still on the 3rd Sunday in April. Also passed around a get well card for Joe Rank, a former member now living in Rockford, ill. It was nice to see Bill Hebert at the meeting and doing well. Dave Dintenfass showed some books about old Radios, TVs etc. He acquired from Archie Mc Phee's Novelty store on Stoneway in Seattle.

At the end of the meeting Bob Phelps showed some nice Vintage Telegraph Keys and Howard Page passed around some musical Valentines made on Printed circuit Boards with integrated circuits lighting light Emitting Diddes. Before the main Presentation we had a short discussion, Radio clinic with Gray Limarzi and his Battery Portable tube



type. It has some problems and we hope we helped you, Gary.

The main program followed with Walt Keifner and his 3D slides from his visit to the Antique Wireless Association swap meet in Rochester, N.Y.. A very nice 45 minute show, Walt. Thanks very much.

David Braun, PSARA Secretary

NOTICE:

The PSARA Mailing Address Has A New Zip Code:
Puget Sound Antique Radio Association
P.O. Box 125
Snohomish, Washington 98291-0125

From the President's Desk

David Dintenfass, PSARA president

First off, I'd like to thank **Walt Kiefner** for his 3-D slide presentation of the AWA swap meet. Nice also to see a few extra slides from Walt's travels back east, which included items of radio interest from the Smithsonian Institution and FDR's house. And I'd like to thank **Gary Limarze**, who kicked off our first "radio clinic" with questions about his portable tube-era radio. Let's continue this tradition whenever we can—so bring out those stubborn, hard-to-fix radios.

Auction

Our annual auction is scheduled for May, and takes the place of the normal business meeting. Don't forget that our auction starts at noon. And of course, we'll be needing some volunteers to help with the auction...

Source for Reproduction Dials

At our February meeting, **Jim Berg** brought samples of reproduction Philco dials made by an outfit in Illinois. They are very nicely made, though a bit expensive since some of them are sold only in sets. However, it might be possible for a few members to get together and split the contents of a single set to keep the cost down. Available dials include those for Philco, Atwater Kent, RCA, and many others. For information, write to:

Antique Radio Restorations
635 S. Lincoln Avenue
O' Fallon, Illinois
62269



Call for Presentations

Please consider volunteering for a technical presentation. However, I'm not going to twist any arms. After all, this is *your* club, and technical presentations should represent topics of interest to you. I'd rather not have to provide technical presentations on my own—or call on the few other folks who are regular contributors—but I will continue to do so if we have no other volunteers.

I will re-schedule or cancel my own presentations to make room for those of you who would like to present something. In addition, I can help those of you who would like to prepare printed materials to accompany your presentation. This also includes help with articles for the newsletter.

Upcoming Presentations

This list is tentative and therefore subject to change.

- **March:** Special tutorial on radio electronics by Westinghouse, from a vintage filmstrip/disc program circa 1940; presented by David Dintenfass.
- **April:** *An Afternoon with John Mullin*, a videotape produced by the Audio Engineering Society.
- **May:** Annual auction. Note early start time (noon).
- **June:** Restoration of a Presto 64A vintage broadcast turntable, presented by David Dintenfass. Includes information on spray lacquering and possibly a demonstration of 78 rpm record cutting with an overhead lathe fitted to this unit.
- **July:** "The Wonderful World of Shortwave," presented by Max Kaplan.
- **August:** Annual PSARA swap meet, open to the public.
- **September:** PSARA elections

As always, if you have any ideas for future presentations (or just need to discuss something), please call. You can reach me at (206) 784-4803 most evenings after 7 pm.

Regards,



Our People

by Scott MacGregor

"Our People" is dedicated to the club members that may wish to share any monthly activities or events in the Call Letter. Planning to take that radio safari to central Montana? Or does anyone wish to share that special restoration project! Give me a call some evening and let's chat. (503) 661/1294

NWVRS members recently attended a local estate sale honoring the remaining radio collection of Craig Hoaglin, a NWVRS member in the late 70's. Club members attending included Jim Mason, Sonny Clutter, Ray Nelson, and Don Iverson. Jim Mason acquired an AK model 9 bread board set and a 1921 Aeriola Sr. receiver and amplifier. Sonny found a 1946 A.R.C. kit radio, with two-tone swirled cabinet. Ray Nelson discovered an original NWVRS club jacket and Don Iverson located some paper items. Some of the other items seen at the sale included an RCA 103 speaker, a model 84 AK cathedral set, a red lion AK cabinet, and a Stewart Warner Neutrodyne battery set. Perhaps we'll hear more about these acquisitions at our next meeting.

Don Iverson reported on his recent trip to the Rickreall Ham Fair held at the Polk County fairgrounds just west of Salem. Don made his early trek through the tables and discovered an American brand all-band kit type radio with original box and a pre-war Japanese nickel-plated cable telegraph key. Don indicated that his fair of collectable type tubes were mostly non-existent at this swap meet, but lots of amateur related surplus type gear. This event is held each February and can be a great source of small parts and often a number of pre-war shortwave sets for the Hallicrafter collector. Hopefully, Don will have a report for us from the upcoming March 7th Puyallup flea market. Good luck Don.



N W V R S MEETING MINUTES

Portland, Oregon Saturday, Feb. 8, 1992

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM. by President Speed Feldschau. Fifty-one members and two guests were present. Last months meeting minutes were approved as published in the Call Letter. The Treasurer's reports for December, 1991, and January, 1992, were given. No items of Good and Welfare were given.

OLD BUSINESS: There is still a dire need for a contest chairman. The current chairman and secretary, Art Redman, will print up the ballots for next months meeting in the meantime. Ed Buhite, Editor in Chief of the Call Letter, stated that newsletters from other antique radio clubs will be sent to the Radio Museum. Also the editor said that all club functions should be mentioned way ahead of time so the events can be publicized in Antique Radio Classified. Vice President, Sonny Clutter, said he would work on a calendar of events.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made to turn the Summer Swap Meet at Speed Feldschau's residence at Keizer, Oregon into an official society function. Motion seconded and approved. The fee will be \$5.00 for each table. Edwin Buhite requested someone to print, duplicate, and then help distribute the Call Letter. Ed Pittaway volunteered. Jerry Talbot mentioned that the display in Forest Grove will be coming up on the second or third Sunday of July. In conjunction with the Sounds of Nostalgia in Salem Feb. 9, the society will have a display. The theme will be World Wars one to Two. The contest categories for the March meeting were approved by the membership. They are: 1. One Tube Sets, 2. Two Tube Sets, 3. Three Tube Sets, and 4. Superheterodyne Sets of any year. Sonny Clutter requested money for a poster



fund. Motion made, seconded, and approved. Jim Mason mentioned that there is a proposed display at the American Advertising Museum in Portland. The date is set for May, 1992 and ten to fifteen will be needed for the display.

LEADS AND NEEDS: Glen Bricker needs a manual four a Million brand tube tester. His friend needs a 1941 Cadillac car radio. Rudy Zvarich knows where there is a Fisher console with an Ampex tape recorder circa 1970 that can be bought.

MEETING ADJOURNED 10:57 AM.

Art Redman,
NWVRS Secretary

NWVRS Book Notices:

Your copies of Radio Manufacturer's of the 1920's Vol. 3 have arrived, and will be available at the March 14th meeting. Hard-bound copies are \$19.50; soft-bound are \$13.50 Please have your check or exact change ready. Call Ed Charman if you've forgotten what you ordered, or if you want earlier delivery. We will have a few extras (soft bound).

Call Letter - reprints of Vol. 1 The few remaining copies will be made available at the March 14th meeting at \$5.00 each. Edwin Buhite

NWVRS Coming Events (revised)

March 14	Contest
April 11	Swap Meet
May 9	Auction
June 13	Paper Sell & Swap
July 11	Swap Meet at Speed's
August	Summer Vacation



Ole! (acquisitions)

David Braun

Trimm Home Speaker (horn speaker)

Edwin Buhite

1938 Zenith 9-S-262 console

Walt Kiefner

Pacent crystal detector

Scott MacGregor

1949 Admiral 19A1 table television

1959 Philco H3410 17" Predicta

Six million dollar man crystal set, orig box.

Gabriel Mickey Mouse 2-transistor set

Zenith royal 20 transistor set, original box

Motorola 53H black table set

Auction Prices

by Edwin Buhite

Member Jim Clark of Okemos Michigan has called for our attention; Auction sale prices are often not as they are reported.

Some folks bid on their own stuff to buy it back for the purpose of making it appear more valuable. Numerous errors in reporting auction sale prices have become common. For more details see the *February 1992 Radio Age*.

Radio Age 636 Cambridge Road Augusta, Georgia 30909
\$19.00 a year second class or \$24.00 a year first class.



SWAP SHOP

WANTED

Dial Escutcheon for Philco 41-380 console (bakelite panel) Roy Sperline (206) 735/0920
Horn Speaker (non A.K.) such as Rola, Music Master etc. Rich Gerlt (206) 735/2924 Auburn WA 1935-1936 Midwest 18 tube or cabinet, Philco 37-690 or 38-690 Jerry Cappoen (206) 874/5490
Transistor radios and small tube portables. Steven D. Martin 815 N. Hayden Rd. B-204 Scotts AZ 85257 (602) 994/3162

ARRL Handbooks pre 1940 for my collection. Bob Schafer WA7IHN P.O. Box 442 Aumsville OR 97325
1940 Zenith cabinet for chassis 5808 (FOS page 194), 1954 Zenith H511 any color. 1946 Olympic 6-501 (Collins 71). Scott MacGregor (503) 661/1294

FOR SALE

Rider Radio Manuals VIII, IX, XII. \$12.00 each. Bob Schafer (see wants above).

Philco 39-55 console with remote, General Motors Sheraton console Scott McGregor (see wants above).

Zenith 5319-6 21" Round TV, low mileage, needs AGC repair, excellent Early American cabinet \$25.00/OBO. Free 27" Zenith chassis 28K20 no tubes. Rudy Zvarich (503) 255/2227

Tubes, Parts, Receivers, Electronic Test equipment. Bob Lee at R5-D3 Electronic Surplus. 6111 SE 82nd St Portland OR 97266 (503) 774/6560

LEADS [This information is provided by members with information of radios available from non-members. The member providing the lead is now noted after each lead.]

T.V.s, Vintage car radios, tubes, test equip., Sams. Ron (503) 967/9432 Lebanon, OR No Friday night or Sat. night calls. {Scott MacGregor}

