

# The Call Letter

of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society

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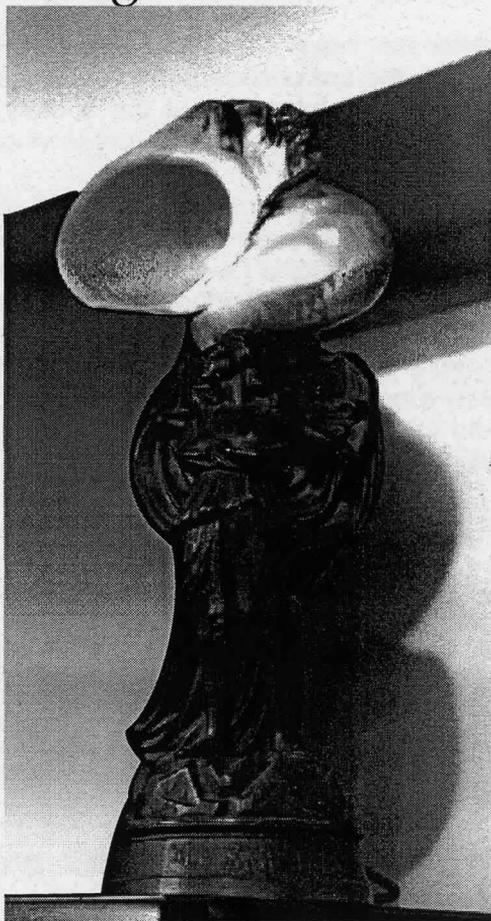
Vol 22

March 1996

No. 3

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March Meeting - March 9th—



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The *Call Letter* celebrates over 2 decades in print.

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## Northwest Vintage Radio Society

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "vintage radio" and wireless equipment.

Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$15.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

The Call Letter has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the first president and continues to be a publication that both informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held monthly (except July and August) at the Northwest Vintage Radio Museum, 7675 SW Capitol Highway (at 32nd street) in Portland Oregon. They convene at or about 10 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and information exchange. Guests are welcome at all Society meetings and functions (except board meetings)

Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows and radio sales which are advertised in the Call Letter and are held in and around SW Portland.

### Society Officers:

President	Greg Bonn	(503) 642-5097
Vice President	Speed Feldschau	(503) 390-3928
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Ken Seymour	(503) 642-9115
Board member at large	Ed Pittaway	(503) 645-2883
Call Letter Editor	Dick Karman	(503) 281-6585
Museum Curator	Frank Rasada	(503) 246-3400

The Society's address is:

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society  
Post Office Box 82379  
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

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# March 1996

## Table of Contents

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Meeting Minutes . . . . .	2
Tech Tips . . . . .	4
In The Shack . . . . .	6
The Bellingham Museum . . . . .	8
Wandering on the Web . . . . .	9
Atmospherica . . . . .	10
SWAP SHOP . . . . .	11

### The CALL LETTER

Editor, Dick Karman, (503) 281-6585

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Note: CALL LETTER material  
should be sent to the Post Office Box !

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Call Letter Deadline  
20th of the month  
prior to publication.

The Call Letter is the official publication of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. Circulation is limited to the membership and guests of the Society. The Society is not responsible for the material contributed for publication, nor the quality, timeliness or accuracy of the items offered for sale in the SWAP SHOP. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

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**Dues are overdue !**  
**- Still \$15 for 1996 !**

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# Meeting Minutes

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By: Secretary Ken Seymour, KA7OSM

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The February 10th, 1996 meeting of the NW Vintage Radio Society was called to order by the club Vice President, Speed Feldschau at 10:04 AM with 18 people in attendance. The minutes from the January meeting were approved and Ed Charman presented the Treasures report. It was accepted as presented.

**Good Wishes (None to Report)**

## Old Business

Speed opened up the meeting by asking for ideas on how to minimize expenses for the Clubs annual Christmas dinner. As you may recall, bad weather last year reduced the anticipated attendance for the 1995 dinner. As a result, donations were reduced and the Club paid Mary Rasada an additional \$100 for unpaid expenses. Ed Charman mentioned that in the somewhat distant past, the annual Christmas dinner was pot-luck. This idea was tossed around with considerable support from those members in attendance. The pot-luck idea would theoretically reduce the overall Club dinner expenses to almost zero, and minimize planning problems. The idea was tabled for further discussion at a future meeting when more members would be present to comment.

The discussion was then directed to resolving the location for the spring Radio Show. Lloyd Godsey reported last month about the potential for using the Pay- N-Pak store in North Portland as a swap location. A large number of members thought a joint meeting with another organization (ie: ham radio) may be beneficial. However, due to the short time-line until the spring show, it was decided that the Club should remain at the Multnomah Arts Center throughout 1996. Members encouraged Lloyd and Adam Schoolsky to continue to pursue setting up a relationship with ham clubs. The idea is to investigate the feasibility of doing a joint swap in order to reduce costs and bring in more potential buyers. Finally, it was determined that the spring Radio Show was going to be held on May 4.

## New Business

Speed Feldschau that he would have another summer swap at his place in Kaiser. He was thinking of having it around the end of July. However, no official date has been decided yet.

## Next Meeting

Gather up all of your unwanted radio parts and junk and bring it to our next meeting on March 9. This will be an internal Junk Swap for Club members. So, haul it in ....your spouse will appreciate it !!

The February meeting was adjourned at 11:11.

## Open Issues

1. Close out what to do for the 1996 Christmas dinner.
2. Set the date for the fall 1996 Radio Show.
3. Adam Schoolsky meeting with other ham clubs on viability of joint swap. Also, create Internet Web site for Club.
4. Dick Karman to publish Club Roster.

# The GREBE SYNCHROPHASE

TRADE MARK REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

This Company broad-  
casts through station  
WABC.

*Doctor Max*

All Grebe appara-  
tus is covered by  
patents granted  
and pending.



TRADE MARK  
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.



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# Tech Tips

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## Capacitor Restoration

From the Canadian Vintage Radio Society

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Without a doubt, the most common problem with old radios (at least 90% that I have restored) are those nasty electrolytic capacitors. For the most part, filter capacitors go first. This is likely due to the larger current and voltage handling required in this section of radios. When electrolytics fail, they may result in a dead short, become resistive, change dramatically in value, or short intermittently. To fully test an electrolytic capacitor you should check the break down voltage of the dielectric, leakage current, as well as the Farad rating via a capacitor checker. It sounds like a lot of work but only takes a few seconds once it is isolated from the set. Isolation infers removing at least one lead of the suspect capacitor from the radio. Isolating the capacitor is essential before testing because other devices in parallel with it will likely make the test results inaccurate and invalid.

It is interesting to see how restoration enthusiasts view "electrical restoration." It is a subject of considerable controversy amongst collectors who all have strong arguments for their methods. When I first began restoring old radios I simply cut out the old capacitor, discarded them, then stuffed in new ones. Later I learned that some purists were restoring the original capacitors. It seemed to me that this was an incredible amount of work for a single capacitor. Was this actually worth the effort. After learning how it was done, and five radios later, it's not as tough as it sounds. It is not a practice that I would perform on every radio but certainly on very precious ones. My methods were self taught and may not represent the best approach. They do however seem to work.

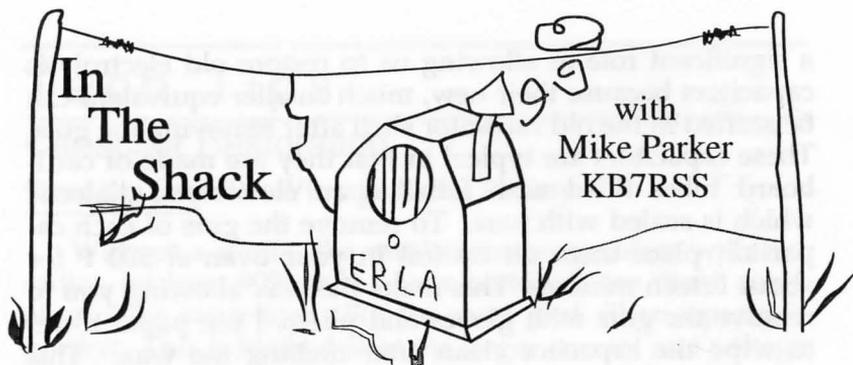
We will look at two typical wax filled electrolytic capacitors in rough condition, unrestored. The first capacitor is a "pig tail" capacitor composed of two capacitors rated at 40uF, 200 volts. The right capacitor is a single "axial" capacitor rated at 0.1uF, 200 volts. Modern technology plays

a significant role in allowing us to restore old electrolytic capacitors because their new, much smaller equivalent can be stuffed in the old capacitor shell after removing the guts. These capacitors are typical in that they are made of cardboard tubes filled with foil and an electrolytic dielectric which is sealed with wax. To remove the guts of each capacitor, place them on tin foil in your oven at 300 F for about fifteen minutes. This melts the wax allowing you to remove the guts with gloves and pliers. I use paper towel to wipe the capacitor clean after melting the wax. This must be done while still hot. Do not discard the guts yet.

The pig tail capacitor can be refitted with two 47uF, 250 volt electrolytics with the negative leads common. Solder color coded cloth wires to the leads. You should have one black wire and two red colored wires for this capacitor. Capacitors shells refitted with capacitors of differing values and ratings will require a different colored wire for each. If you don't have this wire on hand, you can order it from *Antique Electronic Supply* in Tempe, Arizona. Ensure you tape up the "stacked" capacitors to ensure they will be safe. The other capacitor will be safe. The other capacitor will be stuffed with a polypropylene capacitor rated at 0.1uF, 400V. In both cases we are able to build a better than original capacitor. The most important specification to beat is the voltage rating. Never go lower. You can usually go substantially higher in capacitance as well, but it is generally recommended not more than 200 to 300%. Refitting with capacitors of lesser values can result in excessive hum or even distortion.

To achieve an authentic, unadulterated look, you will have to refill the capacitor shells with their original wax after you have refitted them. There may not be enough wax to fill the capacitor so you may have to stuff fiberglass insulation as a filler. To fill the capacitor end(s), cut off wax chunks with a knife and melt them via a soldering iron, in the capacitor ends till full. The result is a fully restored electrolytic capacitor that will out perform and out last the original.

Canadian Vintage Radio Society  
"http://www.supernet.ab.ca/Mall/Alberta-Mall.html" or  
"http://www.supernet.ab.ca/"



## Collecting 78's

Very much like radio collectors, vintage record collectors seem to fall into a few categories. From the book, *78 RPM Records and Prices*, by Peter A. Soderbergh, here are five types of 78 record enthusiasts.

### Type 1

If, after pursuing a stack of 78's and some are warped, cracked, worn out or otherwise damaged, you feel guilty that you even considered wasting time on such inferior merchandise, you are probably this type. Some records may have been "rare" but you didn't know it. However, knowing that they are of some value because they are old, you pulled out *White Christmas* by Bing Crosby. After all, it sold a million copies; it must be priceless . . . . Wrong! As for the rest of the records you left them alone or threw them away.

### Type 2

You are please to have all those 78's but have no desire to do more than leave them in the cardboard box, out of sight. You might play one or two once in a while just for fun. They are good conversation pieces but not central to your overall lifestyle. Questions of market value do not concern you. You will probably keep them, but you would not miss them, particularly knowing that they sound terrible on the family stereo!

### Type 3

You are moderately concerned about 78's and wish to make some sense of your collection. You would like to learn about their comparative worth and the artists who

made them, and wish to prevent further decay by storing them properly. Playing 78's give you a good feeling. You may add to your modest collection now and then when you come across a familiar oldie at a flea market. Generally yours is a personal hobby with no organized blueprint for the future.

#### Type 4

You would like to amass a substantial collection of 78's (1,000 pieces or more) that is representative rather than comprehensive. You fill in the gaps carefully and gradually with quality discs from reliable dealers. Perhaps you wish to specialize in one label, one orchestra, one time period or one mode of popular music, rather than collect everything within your reach. You probably have a sense of history and recognize that records often reflect the times in which they were made.

#### Type 5

You wish to deal in records as an entrepreneur for whatever financial and mental profit may be made. You feel good at two times: when you find a valuable item and when you trade or sell it off. Collecting for aesthetic or historical reasons is not the basic purpose. It is a means to a logical end: selling records to people who need them. To do that successfully you need to amass a very large premier stock that will satisfy consumer demands. You are not motivated by nostalgia or any other impractical sentiments; 78's are a legitimate business enterprise and little more. You may have some favorite records within your own collection.

[These categories, with a few words changed, fit radio collectors too.]

Facing up to what collector type you are and how far you wish to go with 78's is important, but there are some mundane aspects relating to records that must be confronted, also. Proper storage and handling are two of these aspects. We'll look at them next month, *In the Shack*.

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# Museum News

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## The Bellingham Antique Radio Museum

By Dick Karman

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I was wandering on the World Wide Web recently and ran into the Bellingham Antique Radio Museum. It's a personal endeavor of Jonathan Winters (no relation), and has all of the ideas that I would like to do. He has put photographs of some great radio gear on his Web site; he has collections of tapes of old radio shows; he has a pretty good looking museum full of radio gears he's collected over the last 10 years; he's open to the public a few days a week; and he even has a very low power FM radio station that put old time radio shows out to the immediate neighborhood around the museum. It sounds wonderful to me.

Mr Winters admits to a life-long love affair with Radio and remembers exploring the workings of discarded radio sets when he was 5 or six years old. His collection is a historical journey through time; from the beginning of radio to the early 1940's there are over one thousand radios to view, and in some cases to play.

The Bellingham Antique Radio Museum is located in downtown Bellingham, Washington at 1315 Railroad Ave. And is open to the public Wed through Sat from 11:00 to 4:00. Visitors are welcome and there is no charge, though donations are gratefully accepted. The pieces in the museum are not for sale. Occasionally items are traded with other museums, or collectors in order to broaden or otherwise increase the scope of the collection.

It has long been his dream to make a museum so new generations may see, and explore a world of technology which is no longer here, and to give perspective to our present technology. He has done it, while I am still dreaming.

We also has sound bites of early significant radio broadcasts, and the occasional short film clip. He says the project will always be a work-in-progress, as the volume of information to be included continues to grow over time.

I plan to make the trip to *almost Canada* and see this paradise. I hope you can too.

PHOTO CREDIT: This months cover photo of a "Sea Horn" was downloaded from the museum's "Key Pieces" collection. It's a horn type speaker made in 1926 by the Hounk Brothers in New York. The speaker is cast out of Bronze and uses a natural sea shell as a amplifier. It is only one of several photos that can be viewed and captured while you visit the "virtual museum" on the World Wide Webb. For those of you who wander on the web, look at <http://www.pacificrim.net/~radio/> .

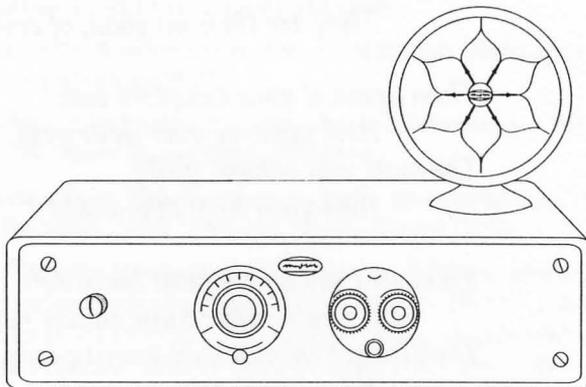
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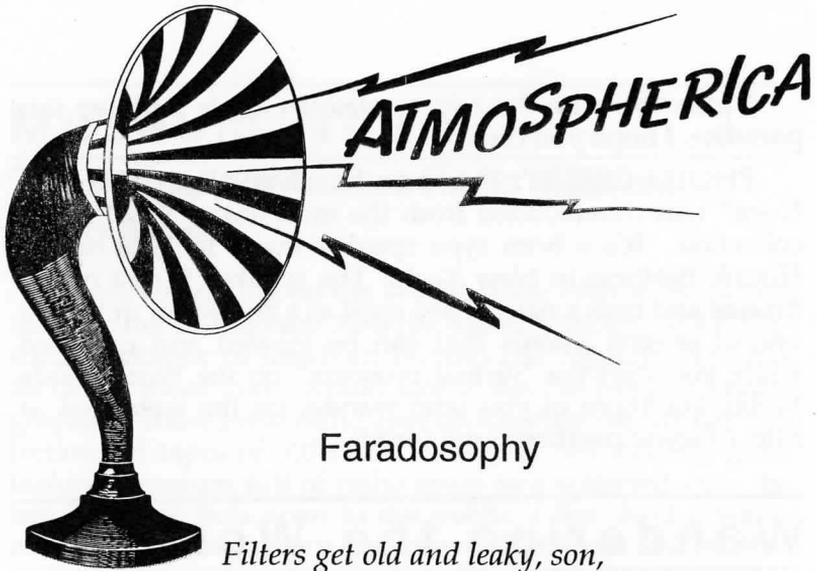
## Wandering the Web

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By Dick Karman

If you have access to the Internet, you'll be interested in a new feature that I will be including, starting next month: **Wandering the Web**. It will be a short column each month telling about things like the Bellingham Antique Radio Museum, or a web site dedicated to old time radio broadcast (<http://www.old-time.com/>). If you know of any good URLs e-mail them to me at [CHESSO@teleport.com](mailto:CHESSO@teleport.com). I'll look them up and write them up (radio related only, please).





## Faradosophy

*Filters get old and leaky, son,  
They are like a worn out cask,  
They drizzle all the juice away —  
And don't perform their task.*

*If the plates should come together;  
If opposite plates should touch,  
Their function as a tuning gang  
Is most certainly not much !*

*If you strain the bypass kind, with  
Too much electromotive force,  
It will bust them rascals open—  
They are then no good, of course.*

*Then again if your couplers leak  
And positive goes your grid,  
The tube will behave iffilly  
And your hi-fi take a skid !*

*You can't get on without them, son  
If you'd make those radios run  
They didn't in nineteen-twenty-two —  
Not even in ninety-one !*

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# Swap Shop

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## WANTED

Wanted: any parts or information on "NORCO" (made in Portland) 3-dial battery set; any Bremmer Tully "counter phase (sic) parts and pieces dead or alive, especially power supply parts for the military/secret service RP-6, RS-6 etc. Jim Bar-rattt, 26313 SE Leonard Rd., Camas, Washington 98607, (360) 823-4429.

Wanted: Sellers and Buyers for May 4th Vintage Radio Show and Sale at Multnomah Arts Center, in Multnomah Village. Help set up; help tear down.

WANTED Cutting needles for Webcor type older type records. Glen Bricker 1030 N. 11th St. Cottage Grove Or. 97424 (503) 942-3717

WANTED W.W. II and earlier military radio equipment. Forest Service radio pre-1950 fishing vessel radios, old or recent, especially Pacific N.W. built & manuals or advertising. Will pay to ship. Hugh Miller 250 S 900E #4C Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

WANTED To borrow owner's manuals for the following test equipment: EICO, 145 signal tracer, 221 VTVM, 239 VTVM, 315 Signal Generator, 332 VTVM, DeVry 1514 VTVM, Heath kits, V7A VTVM, IT12 Signal Tracer, SG8 Signal Generator, IM11 VTVM. Cliff Glaspey (206) 353-6637.

WANTED To borrow service manuals for Heath kits VTVM V-7A & Oscilloscope OL-1 and Hammarlund SP-600 communications receiver. Fred Powell (206) 547-6695.

WANTED five 01-A duds for restored Freshman Masterpiece. Dick Bixler, (503) 690-2557.

Wanted knobs for 46 Philco console Also transformer for Halli-crafter S- 85. Terry Burge (503) 678-2166.

Wanted: Crystal Sets. Have radios to trade for crystal sets. Also wanted, Boonton 260A Q Meter. Galen Feight (503) 231-9708.

WANTED: Vintage amateur radio receivers, AM transmitters, and other related amateur gear (circa: 1936 to 1960). ARRL Handbooks from 1935 to 1954. Ken Seymour (KA7OSM); 9115 S.W. 176th Avenue, Beaverton, OR 97007; 503-306-7439 days/eve. Email: ken.seymour@attws.com

Wanted AK Breadboard - Gerry Hale (509) 627-6319

Wanted Televisions from the 30s and 40s. - Also horned phonographs or parts and pieces of them - also radios from the 20s. Chuck Seidel, P.O. Box 1385, Merlin, Oregon 97532

Wanted Western Electric Electronics parts, and speakers, horns, also speakers and horns by Altec, JBL, Lansing or like items, Ed Billeci, 6229 NE Oregon St., Portland, Oregon 97213 (503) 234-8453.

Wanted Telegraph Relays Bob Phelps (206) 546-5495

## FOR SALE

For sale: Radios from the 30s and 40s and 50s, Televisions from the 40s and 50s. Radio and TV tubes in quantity. **Chuck Seidel, P.O. Box 1385, Merlin, Oregon 97532**

For Sale: Over 200,000 tubes, panels, speakers, chassis, electronic surplus and supplies. R5-D3 Surplus. Bob Lee, 6111 SE 82nd Ave. Portland, Or. (503) 774-6560.

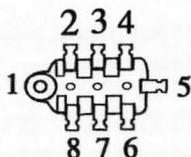
FOR SALE Oil-filled Capacitors, most are between 5 and 40 Mfd. AC or DC; AC Caps can take at least twice their rating when used on DC. \$1 each and up - send your needs **Bud Larson, 1325 Ridge Way, Medford, Oregon 97504; (503) 773-5214**

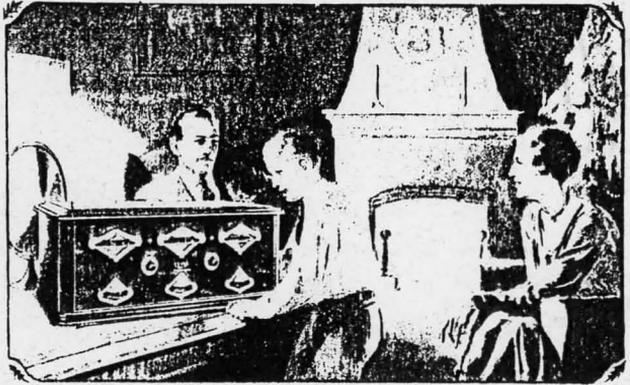
For Sale: Radiola 18 with tubes (good condition, no tuning light hood) \$75, a Heath kit 2 meter amateur transceiver mod HW-30 -\$30, **Dick Karman (503) 784 4398** (leave a message if I miss you)

For Sale: National HRO 5TA1, metal tubes, 5 coil sets (4 general coverage and 10 meter band spread), home brew power supply and cabinet for speaker and coils. Clean and in good working order. \$350. **David Rutland, P.O. box 1084, Philomath, OR 97370, (503) 929-4498 e-mail WREN@PEAK.ORG.**

## FOR TRADE

Have a Zenith Shutter Dial, an original Audion, Dewald Catlins. Not for sale but will trade for right crystal sets. Galen Feight (503) 231-9708





# Expresses Perfectly the Christmas Spirit

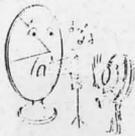
**W**HAT greater gift could you give those you love than the joy of awakening Christmas morning to find that the Synchronphase had joined the family circle?

The Synchronphase expresses perfectly the Christmas spirit and will keep it alive for years to come, because of several features which make Grebe reception so unusually satisfactory; for example:

The *Colortone*, which gives the notes of voice or instrument their natural timbre irrespective of the loud speaker; *Binocular Coils*, which pick the station you want, then keep others from interfering.

*Send for Booklet D which explains all exclusive Grebe developments. Then ask your dealer to demonstrate.*

A. H. Grebe & Co., Inc., 109 West 57th Street, New York  
 Factory: Richmond Hill, N. Y.  
 Western Branch: 443 So. San Pedro St.  
 Los Angeles, Cal.



**Colortone**

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

gives you control of tone quality independent of the loud speaker.



**Binocular Coils**

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

bring in the desired station; prevent others from interfering.

This Company owns and operates stations WAHG and WBOQ.



TRADE MARK

## THE GREBE SYNCHROPHASE

TRADE MARK REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.



Director of Art

All Grebe apparatus is covered by patents granted and pending.