

The

Call Letter

of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Vol 22

April 1996

No.4

**NW VINTAGE RADIO
SPRING SHOW & SALE**

SATURDAY

ed **MAY 4TH, 1996**

MULTNOMAH ARTS CENTER

7688 SW CAPITOL HIWAY

PORTLAND, OREGON

9 AM TO NOON

In print since 1974

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

April 1996

Table of Contents

Atmospherica	2
Radio Show & Sale	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Editorial - Roster Retrospective	6
In The Shack	7
Radio Waves	10
Wandering on the Web	12
 SWAP SHOP	 15

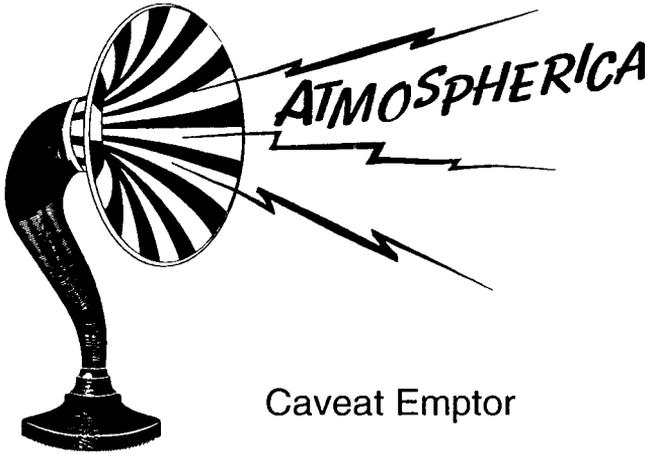
The CALL LETTER

Editor, Dick Karman, (503) 281-6585

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

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.



Caveat Emptor

*He said, "How d'ya do," normal enough
And "I'm sure pleased to meet cha,"
But I found out that this character
Was a strange and conniving creature.*

*He had some old radios put away
In a careful and tidy fashion.
He loved each one in a different way
With a deep paternal passion.*

*I knew I was in trouble here, sure
If I expected a bargain here.
I wondered if he'd someone to leave them to
When he shucked this mortal sphere.*

*He reluctantly sold a **Meteor**.
For an astronomic sum.
And I left the weeping old codger
Ashamed of the cad I'd become.*

*But I'm now all over my grief,
Since I learned the truth from a friend.
That shyster had bought all of those radios
At a flea market over in Bend!!!*

**NW VINTAGE RADIO
SPRING SHOW & SALE**

SATURDAY

MAY 4TH, 1996

MULTNOMAH ARTS CENTER

7688 SW CAPITOL HIWAY

PORTLAND, OREGON

9 AM TO NOON

**MAKE THIS SALE A SUCCESS
FOR YOU AND THE SOCIETY !**

RESERVE YOUR TABLE WITH

MYRON WHITE AT

503-629-5513.

**VOLUNTEER TO GET THERE
EARLY AND HELP SET UP,
OR STAY 30 LATER AND HELP
CLEAN UP.**

Meeting Minutes

by Gordon Phillips Secretary, Pro-Tem.

The March 9th, 1996 meeting of the NW Vintage Radio Society was called to order by the club President, Greg Bonn at 10:14 AM with 26 people present.

Before the start of the meeting, Mary Rasada asked to speak. She voiced her opinion of the article under old business of the February meeting on the December club dinner. Mary was very upset. She mentioned that the Society doesn't have to pay any rent for the use of their facility and the fact that she had to drive many miles to get to Portland in time to organize and help prepare the dinner with the help of some of the other members. Speed Feldschau read the February old business article in the March call letter to the members present.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as published in the March Call Letter.

Ed Charman presented the Treasurers report and it was approved as it was presented

Good & Welfare

Ed Curry from Everett Washington is in bad shape. It is unknown what specific problems, but we wish him well. Don Iverson is going to the hospital on March 26th for a problem with his urinary tract.

Old Business

There was a discussion of the upcoming May swap meet. Myron White is in charge of organizing the meet. There were 5 tables signed up at the time it was announced at the meeting. There are a total of 44 tables that should be rented. It was suggested that members and others sign up now for their tables. See Myron White.

Richard Bixler said he is now writing an article about last May's swap meet. Speed said that the sale at the fairgrounds was not too well attended by the Society members. Kim Brickman reported that in spite of the weather, many people came. He thanked those who did.

Greg Bonn gave out flyers for the May swap meet gave the rest of them to Myron White. See Myron if you need any. He also has arranged to have several thousand Society Brochures printed to promote membership at swap meets, meetings and any other event we in which might participate. Contact Greg if you need any of these. Dick Bixler suggested getting the new Society flyers enlarged to attract the interest of prospective members by posting them in stores and retail locations. He suggested giving a flyer to each member that would participate so they could have one blown up at his or her expense. The cost would be minimal for each member that helped with this project.

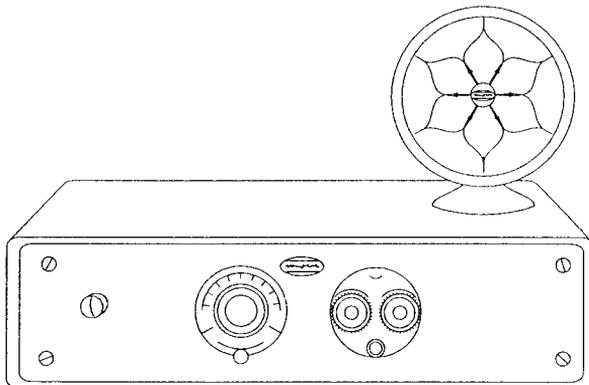
Dick Bixler is going to update the Society membership roster. He would like a response of each interested member to tell of their collecting interests. Such as kinds of sets, Radios, Crystal Sets, Battery sets, Cathedrals, Tombstones, literature, parts, etc. Call Dick at (503) 690-2557.

Liles Garcia asked Sonny Clutter about his radio garage sale that was available to the members only on one afternoon. Sonny talked about some of the things that were available and invited the membership to attend. Who knows, he might still have some treasures for sale.

Leads & Needs

German "PROTON" Transistor radio and a 3-R 390 A'S Military surplus at \$300.00 a piece. Contact Liles Garcia. (503) 649-9288.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 AM.



Editorial - Roster Retrospective

I thought I should review some of the history of the club to help members remember how things have gotten done in the past.

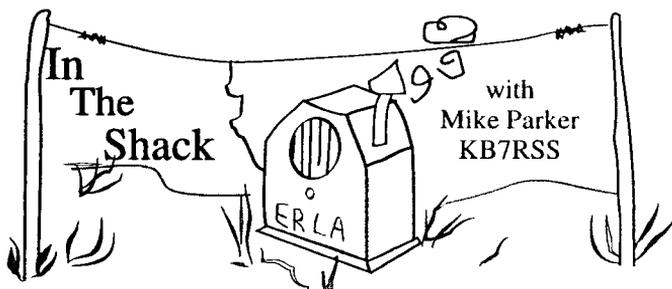
The Roster, as dictated in our by-laws, gets printed by the newsletter editor, as soon as the Treasurer has received all of the dues. This used to be after the February meeting, because we would all get together for the meeting, pay our dues and it would be done. Now days less than 15% of our members get to meetings and renewing takes a little longer. Had we printed the roster after the February meeting, only 35% of our members would have been in it. So it has been our custom to wait until at least the majority of our members have renewed before printing what would seem to be an incomplete roster.

In this technological age, I can push a button and send the roster to the printer, but it costs the same to print and distribute as an issue of the Call Letter. No use spending the money until we have all of the information.

Additionally, for the last few years Lloyd Godsey has volunteered to add radio preference data to our roster. This delays the printing also. Last year your editor was out of town so much that it didn't get done at all. This year Lloyd has been calling all of our members and former members (to remind them to renew) and has been compiling extra data for the Call Letter and the Roster. This data also has to be entered into the computer. Everything takes a little time.

It is possible, and quite probable that new members, those who attend meetings, those who pay dues on time, would think that we could have the roster printed in January. This hasn't been practical for more than 10 years.

At the moment, I'd suggest that all of us cooperate with Lloyd, give him our specific interests, pay our dues, and help speed the roster along it's way. I hope this editorial helps members understand why everything isn't done "overnight."



Picking up where we left off last month *In the Shack*, I'm talking about collecting and storing phonograph records.

Old records are just like any other collectibles, they have to be of acceptable quality to the consumer-collector. When 78's are not in the top condition (and they are not, as a rule) they neither sell, nor play very well.

Always store your 78's standing on edge, preferably in a storage album or in record sleeves. When storing them in a box (preferably a wooden box) leave plenty of room to be able to flip through them and to see the labels. Never cram them into a storage place under pressure. A good source for records sleeves is **Antique Phonograph Supply Co.**, Rt 23 Box 123, Davenport Center, New York 13751. They also have a catalog which I am looking forward to receiving.

Unfortunately, it is common to find 78's stacked on top of one another without sleeves, in a damp basement or garage, near a leaky pipe or sitting too close to a hot furnace. I have witnessed this at countless garage sales. Never store them "flapjacked" atop one another, but when you must use sleeves or paper towel between each disk. Cardboard boxes, altogether too often used, attract moisture like a sponge. If they are used they should be used at room temperature in a dry location.

A widely accepted grading system for phonograph record condition has been in use for some time and is commonly seen when listing records for sale. This one is copied from a record auction catalog published by *Nauck's Vintage Records*, 6323 Inway Dr., Spring, Texas 77389.

- M- Just this side of Mint condition. Few, if any, are perfect so "mint condition" is never used.
 - E+ A choice copy. No detectable wear whatsoever.
 - E Excellent. No trace of groove wear, minimal traces of handling.
 - E- An above average record. Some groove wear, but not enough to detract from the audio quality.
 - V+ Very good. Well played, but enjoyable.
 - V Very well worn, but listenable. Expect surface noise.
 - V- Wiped out. Stressed grooves; graying. Could be played with the right equipment.
- (I will add: a **Zenith** "Cobra" will play anything! MP)
- P Poor. Possibly unplayable.

In addition, more detailed description abbreviations are used such as *SCR* for scratched; *CR* for cracked; *ND* for needle drop; etc. Some use the common grading system of M, VG, G, F, and P (self explanatory).

Nauck's catalog, published periodically before each auction, is an excellent source of information on vintage records. The minimum bid price per record can be used as a price guide to determine a record's collectibility. *Nauck's* prices range from \$3 to more than \$200 per disk. They are listed by the type of record, artist, record number, lot number, and condition. Each auction lists an average of 5,000 items, identified by lot number. They handle only 78's, thick Edison's, cylinders, and some literature. For \$4 they will send you their current, most excellent catalog. In addition they will send you the next publication, if by chance, you didn't participate in the first one..

But how much are those old disk really worth? Well, virtually thousands and thousands of them are worth between \$1 and \$3, regardless of age. A few are worth between \$10 and \$30. Fewer are worth between \$50 and \$100. Recently an Elvis Presley 78 on the Sun label sold for \$870.00 at an auction; \$470 above the minimum bid (wow! don't drop it).

Many people prefer to collect what they like, regardless of the record's value. This includes me. Other seek only the

obscure. This is currently the trend in 78's collecting. A perfect Tommy Dorsey 78 (which has been reissued on an LP) may be worth \$2, while a 78 of *Pig Meat Strut* by the "Famous Hokum Boys" on the Homestead label of the 1920's will fetch \$500. Early blues and hillbilly records from the 20's and 30's, if done by obscure artists, or that used a musician that later became famous, are now commanding premium prices.

Another category that is increasing in popularity are the discs made before 1900, or 78's made just prior to 1960. As usual, people are looking for the first and the last.

But why pay high prices for these records when, if you keep looking, you may find a gem among the rubble? recently I found a "pre-dog" (before *Nipper* was on the label) Victor Monarch one sided record with a catalog number of "2" for \$1. To the flea market clerk it was just another old record, one of ten that I bought. Like radio hunting, looking for them is half the fun.

In spite of it all, I have many hobby interests other than old records. I will always be a *Type 3* collector [See the March Call Letter for details]. Well, maybe a *type 4*, but never a *type 5*. . . I can't stand to sell anything!

Stay in the Groove — because I'll include some more information about collecting 78's next time *In the Shack*. . .



Radio Waves Farewell

"A life that lasted a century; Memories that will last forever"

Nathan Birnbaum, who we know as **George Burns**, was written up in almost every paper, periodical, and presidential address when he played his last performance on March 9th, 1996, 49 days after his 100th birthday. Even though his last few months were painful ones, George Burns played life as a stage. I can't improve on the hundreds of remembrances, memorials, and obituaries that have been printed, but I would like to draw some attention to the life that lasted a century, and the memories that will last forever.

He was born in 1896, three months before the first public film screening in the United States. Thomas Edison was 49 at the time.

In 1903 George begins his performing career in the **Pee Wee Quartet**. This is the year George's father dies, just 4 years after Marconi demonstrated his wireless set.

George completes his formal education (4th grade) in 1905 and begins his vaudeville career. It was still fourteen months before Dr. Lee DeForest would invent the Audion tube.

George, the ninth of twelve children, leaves home for the vaudeville circuit with partner Hannah Siegal in 1913: Woodrow Wilson becomes president; the American Cancer Society is founded; and the Panama Canal is opened.

By 1923 George is on the circuit. In his own words, "I was a flop in show business, and I liked what I was doing, so I thought I was a successful flop." This is the year he met Grace Ethyl Rosalie Allen.

In 1926 when he married Gracie Allen, George is witnessing the birth of the National Broadcasting Company, and he had already seen the advent and the demise of the horn speaker and the cylinder phonograph.

Four years later George & Gracie make their radio debut, but not in the United States, in Great Britain. 1930 was the year that Louis Armstrong makes his first record. George is already 34 years old.

In 1932 George & Gracie begin what will become an 18 year career on radio. *The Burns and Allen Show* on CBS becomes one of the top rated shows. In 1932 radio is also the theme of their first movie: **The Big Broadcast**.

George and Gracie play themselves in the popular radio show. The theme music is *Love Nest*, and true to the pattern set back in the twenty's, George played the straight man and Gracie plied the humor, as only Gracie could. Harry Von Zell is announcing for most of the run and Mel Blanc plays the Happy Postman. Sponsors include the Hormel Meat Packing Co., Chesterfield Cigarettes, Campbell's Soups, Lever Brothers, and many others, but probably the best remembered is White Owl Cigars. George and Gracie's contemporaries are George Jessel, Jack Benny & Mary Livingstone, Danny Kaye, Danny Thomas, and Glenn Miller, all long since gone.

In 1950, after a record run on radio, Burns and Allen go on to TV for another eight years. By this time the transistor has been invented and space travel is being contemplated.

In 1958 Gracie, under doctor's orders, retires from entertaining. Gracie is 53 years old, and suffers severely from heart disease. Transistor radios are common and anything more than music on radio is an oddity.

At the age of 69, George loses his favorite partner. Gracie dies of a heart attack in 1964. With the arrival of the **Beatles** all recollection of what we consider *Vintage Radio* has already been forgotten.

In 1975, when the NW Vintage Radio Society is only 1 year old, George is taking an academy award winning movie part (originally scripted for Jack Benny who died a few days before production started) in the *The Sunshine Boys*.

In 1991-92 George is still doing "stand up" comedy in Las Vegas and Jersey City. At 96 years old his only regret is that Gracie couldn't be with him.

At the time of his death in March 1996, George's works have been recorded on cylinder, and on digital Compact Disc, all in his lifetime. Few others can boast a century-long lifetime, and fond memories that will last forever.



Wandering on the Web

The world wide web has added a new dimension to those of us who seek information and have esoteric interests. As I *wander on the web*, it is like walking through a community which is literally spread all over the world. I looked at radio programmes from the United Kingdom. I looked at pictures of a radio collection on the east coast. I listened to old time radio shows. I studied radar weather maps . . . of Africa.

For those of you who *wander* here are some paths that you might look down:

<http://www.songs.com/noma/phil0>

Member Myron White enjoys this page which tells a very complete story about the invention of television by Philo Farnsworth. Myron can be reached at myron@ncube.com, or 629-5513.

<http://www.iw3p.com/frame/tv1.htm>

[Sometimes you get a thread and follow it other sites]

This page mentions Philo Farnsworth, but also has lots of trivia nostalgia about Television from the last 4 decades.

<http://alpha.wcoil.com:80/~gnbc/>

This is the site of the **National Radio Clubs and DX Audio Service**. I must admit while wandering today, I didn't read all about the organization, but I did download a database of radio stations that were licensed as of 1920. This site has volumes of information about the early days of radio. It has some pleasant trivia, and some other links. Take a look; wander for a spell.

<http://www.old-time.com>

This is a friendly page that has links to other goods and services. If you have all of the applications tied to your in-

ternet browser you can see moving pictures and hear vintage radios play. It's main emphasis is on nostalgic radio shows, education and entertainment.

<http://www.altavista.com>

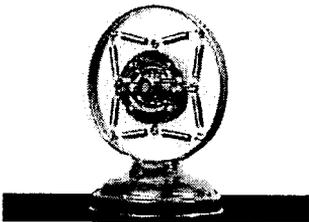
I throw this in because I like their search engine. A tool like this is often paid for by selling advertisements in the form of graphics which are inserted into your search. Digital Equipment Corporation sponsors this search engine, keeps it's contents current, allows no other advertising, keeps its own advertising to a minimum and does a good job of it.

<http://soli.inav.net/~jebraun/mikes.htm>

This is a virtual museum of a Microphone collector. His photographic images span nearly all type of hitorical microphones. (The photo below is courtesy of Mr. Braun.) Also branch off from here an find information on Microphone "flags" which have been conspicuous in newspaper and newsreel pictures since the 1920's. They advertised the station or network broadcasting a live event.

Good luck in your wandering, I'll see you next month
Wandering On the Web.

[Know of a good site? Send it to me at chesso@teleport.com]



Electro Voice Corporation
South Bend, Indiana

Double-button
carbon microphone
on chrome base, late 1920

ATWATER KENT RADIO



In the home of RRR BRANCH, the author, you will find the Atwater Kent Model 20 Compact Receiving Set and the Model H Radio Speaker.

Radio is meant to be heard
—not necessarily seen



Model H, with 9" flexible cord, \$22



Model 20 Compact, including battery cable, but without tubes, \$50

Prices slightly higher from the Rockies west, and in Canada

Every Sunday Evening The Atwater Kent Radio Hour brings you the stars of opera and concert, in Radio's finest program. Hear it at 9:15 Eastern Time, 8:15 Central Time, through:

WEAF	.....	New York
WFLD	.....	Philadelphia
WEEF	.....	Boston
WEAF	.....	Washington
WCAE	.....	Cincinnati
WCCO	.....	Min. St. Paul
WEAR	.....	Cleveland
WPT	.....	Philadelphia
WOPX	.....	Albany
WCAE	.....	Pittsburgh
WGBR	.....	Buffalo
WVCB	.....	Des Moines
WAGD	.....	Hot Springs
WHD	.....	St. Louis
WWEI	.....	Detroit
WELR	.....	Chicago

No longer than a row of a dozen books, no higher than your fountain pen, light enough to be carried on one hand—that's the Atwater Kent Model 20 Compact.

It is the Receiving Set of tomorrow, here today. It has all the power in half the space.

It is only 6½ inches high and 19½ inches long. It is right in step with the modern trend of saving space. You can put it anywhere—on a small table,

beside your favorite arm-chair, among your books and flowers and magazines; no new furniture is needed.

For any room, in any home—for beauty, convenience and efficiency—you can do no better than to select the receiving set so satisfying in so many homes—the Model 20 Compact.

See it—hear it at any store where Atwater Kent Radio is sold—today.

Write for illustrated booklets telling the complete story of Atwater Kent Radio

ATWATER KENT MFG. CO.
A. Atwater Kent, President
4738 WISSANICKON AVE., PHILADELPHIA

Swap Shop

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

FOR SALE

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.

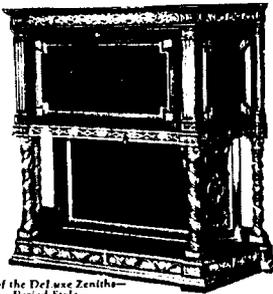
FOR SALE Oil-filled Capacitors, most are between 5 and 40 Mfd. AC or DC; AC Caps can take at least twice their rating when used on DC. \$1 each and up - send your needs **Bud Larson**, 1325 Ridge Way, Medford, Oregon 97504; (503) 773-5214

For Sale (to a good home) Packard Bell Model 67 BPR Deluxe Console radio/phono, with PA and record cutting features. Very original. Cabinet good, radio needs work. Schematic is in Riders Vol. XIII.- Call Evelyn Schafer, 282-2937.

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 work-ing order. \$350. **David Rutland, P.O. box 1084, Philomath, OR 97370, (503) 929-4498 e-mail WREN@PEAK.ORG.**

Why Did
Commander
MacMillan
Take Zenith to
the Arctic?

As the result of his experience
with Zenith Radios last year,
Commander Donald B. Mac-
Millan again chose Zenith for
his Arctic Expedition.



One of the Deluxe Zeniths—
Period Style

Super-Zeniths are priced
at from \$245 to \$2,000.
Each instrument sold
under a quality guarantee.
Also, Zenith regenerative
sets from \$100 to \$175.

Why Every Dealer Can Not Handle Zenith—

THE dealer who sells you a Zenith regards the transaction only as the beginning of a permanent connection.

To him—you are not a "purchaser"—you're a customer. There's a distinct difference.

He expects—that—through the performance of your Super-Zenith—other people will become interested.

His policy of satisfying you is not sentiment—but sound business.

The Zenith Super-Radio is not a "quantity" proposition.

Consequently we can pick and choose our retailers—add and eliminate—work only with those retailers whose ideals and methods fit our own.

And our objective is a mighty good one for you—for your protection.

We want you to know that wherever there is an Authorized Zenith Retailer, you can buy safely—with the full assurance that you get what you pay for; that cheerful, intelligent service begins with your purchase—and never ends.

The Zenith is not a "cheap" instrument in any sense of the word.

You pay a price that entitles you to unusual performance—genuine satisfaction.

And we are using every means within our control to see that you get it.

Zenith literature and name of nearest retailer gladly sent on request.

ZENITH RADIO CORPORATION, 310 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

ZENITH
TRADE MARK REG.
→ LONG DISTANCE ←
TRADE MARK REG. **RADIO**
Costs More—but Does More