

The
Call Letter

of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Vol. 23

March 1997

No. 3

The Cover Image Is Not Available

In print since 1974

The 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 founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous members the *Call Letter* has continued to be a publication that both informs members of the society's business and that has supported the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month (except July and August) at the Buena Vista Club House at 16th & Jackson Streets in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 10 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. 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 Portland.

Society Officers:

President	Jerry Talbott	(503) 649-6717
Vice President	Tony Hauser	(503) 629-4836
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Dan Howard	(503) 761-7799
Board member at large	Greg Bonn	(503) 642-5097
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648

The Society's address is:
The Northwest Vintage Radio Society
Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

March 1997

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The *CALL LETTER*

Editor, Rick Walton, (503) 284-5648, rwalton@mtsi.com

Call Letter Deadline

**20th of the month
prior to publication.**

The next meeting of the NWVRS is on March 8, at the Buena Vista Clubhouse, 16th and Jackson streets in Oregon City. See you there!

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.

Meeting Minutes

By Secretary Dan Howard

The February 8th meeting of the NW Vintage Radio Society was called to order by President Jerry Talbott at 10:00 am with 40 members in attendance.

The minutes from the last meeting were ordered corrected. President Talbott advised the group that the decision to purchase the additional texts for the library had been made prior to the January meeting. The minutes incorrectly reported that the decision would be made by the members at a later date. The treasurer's report was reviewed and approved.

Old Business

Tom Moore brought a lockable cabinet to the club house for storage of miscellaneous club property.

On May 10th, the society will be sharing swap meet space at the Washington County fairgrounds with The Portland Amateur Radio Club and The triode Society. Each group will have a block of tables. Prices for our tables will be \$10.00. Admission for society members is free. The general public will pay \$2.00 each.

New Business

The society display at the Councours d'Elegance will be on June 29th this year. More information about our planned participation will be forthcoming.

A voice vote of the membership determined that the display/entertainment features for the upcoming society meetings will be termed "The Monthly Feature."

Business was temporarily suspended while members viewed the home brew and kit radios brought by the members.

After reconvening the meeting, Jerry solicited ideas for "The Monthly Feature" for the March meeting. A voice vote determined that obscure and unknown brands of tube radios would be featured.

Good and Welfare and Leads and Needs were given.

The February meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

The Monthly Feature

Start checking your collection for that radio with an obscure brand or a radio that you can't identify. Then bring it to the meeting on Saturday, March 8.

From the Editor

by Call Letter Editor, Rick Walton

Oh my gosh! February is history and I've managed to get another *Call Letter* printed and in the mail to all of you. Each issue gets a little easier, and in no time I'll be pumping them out with little strain.

In this month's issue I've included a bit of the club history with another "20 years ago" article gleaned from the *Call Letter* archives residing in my basement along with my radio collection. I've received a few new items for the "Swap Shop" and I've devoted a page to a form suggested by President Jerry Talbott. It's handy for a variety of communications to the *Call Letter*, especially items for the "Swap Shop." By the way, the "Swap Shop" is looking kinda bare since I thinned out those ads that have been in there since December. I apologize if I removed an ad that should've continued running.

I've also included the text of a posting on the internet newsgroup *rec.antiques.radio+phono* announcing our joint swap meet in May. It's nice to see the word getting out this early.

Be on the lookout next month for Dick Karman's *Call Letter* article about Hugo Gernsback.



Wandering on the Web

by Rick Walton

I don't normally have a lot of time to spend wandering on the web, but a recent couple of hours managed to produce these far-flung results. The sites I've chosen to present here are all foreign sites, and with one exception, all are produced by individuals displaying their collections. Some are very interesting, others not so much. But in any case, they are evidence that antique radio collecting is a world-wide endeavor.

El web de la radio de epoca española —
<http://www.salomprocom.es/RadioEpoca/>

This one is from Spain. The thing that caught my eye was a picture of a most unusual radio right at the beginning of the page. There was also an extensive collection listing that will bear further investigation when I have time.

Bienvenue a Retro-Phonia —
<http://members.aol.com/retrophoni/bienvenue.htm>

An interesting French site that seems to be a group of collectors who have as one of their projects the establishment of a European schematics and radio information data base.

COLLECTION RADIO X.C —

<http://www.pratique.fr/~xcombes/angindex.htm>

Another French site (a link at this site led me to the previous one) with a collections of European radios. English translations make this an enjoyable site.

Wumpus Homepage — **<http://www.inx.de/~wumpus/>**

This site comes from Germany. Again, bi-lingual text makes this site fun for those of us who are “foreign language challenged.”

Olaf And Roger's Old tube radio page —

<http://www.fna.no/ehem/radio.html>

I think this site is from Norway. It’s not much to look at, but fun in a quirky sort of way. The page consists of a single black-and-white photo of about 50 radios stacked about 8-high to form a wall. Kneeling in front is either Olaf or Roger (I’m guessing, he isn’t identified). A caption beneath the photo states that there will be “stuff” about radios in this space.

Gerard's Radio Collection —

<http://www.cs.ruu.nl/~gerard/radios/>

This is probably the best known European collection on the web. Gerard Tel of the Netherlands has had this site on-line for at least a year, maybe longer. His collection is extensive and requires time to browse.

Memories of Radio

Compiled by Dick Karman

Who sponsored what?

Match the show with the sponsor:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Oxydol | The Big Story |
| 2 Pepsodent | Fibber McGee & Molly |
| 3 Mars | Bob Hope |
| 4 Pall Mall | Take It or Leave It |
| 5 Eversharp | The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet |
| 6 International Sterling Silver | Ma Perkins |
| 7 Johnsons Wax | Dr. I.Q. |
| 8 Ovaltine | Little Orphan Annie |

Sidekicks

Name the sidekick for these leading western characters:

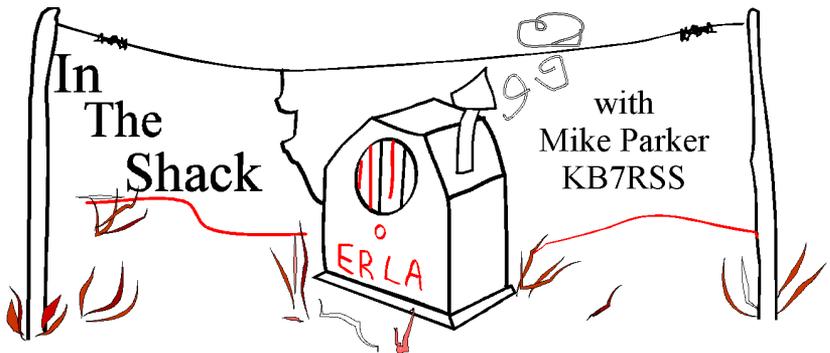
- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 Tom Mix | Packy |
| 2 Hopalong Cassidy | Wash |
| 3 The Lone Ranger | Tonto |
| 4 Red Ryder | California |
| 5 Straight Arrow | Little Beaver |

Knowing the News

What newsman was known to say:

- 1 "Mr. & Mrs. America, and all the ships at sea . . ."
- 2 "Ah, There's good news tonight."
- 3 "This . . . Is . . . London"
- 4 "Good night and 30"
- 5 "And that's the top of the news as it looks from here."
- 6 "Cheerio!"

ANSWERS Next Month!!



WINDOWS '25

Just what exactly was it that finally turned a household radio into an object of “beauty” back in the 1920’s?

It certainly wasn’t the cabinet itself, basically a “box” with a lift up lid that was considered a standard design from the early teens until 1929 or so.

Yes, some radio designs dared to be different back then — the 1925 Thompson “Minuet” is a good example. This cathedral shaped radio had an extruded paper-cone speaker with the tuning dial around the circumference of the speaker. This radio, which incidentally is featured in an article in the latest *Antique Radio Classified* magazine, was indeed so different that it didn’t sell!

This is analogous to a couple of automobiles that suffered a similar fate, the Chrysler “Airflow” of 1934 and the Ford “Edsel” of 1958. Maybe they were considered ahead of their time, but I don’t think that was the problem, I think that people could not accept the radical departure from what they accepted as normal.

Prior to the mid-1920’s, a normal looking radio was a box of the type mentioned above, with a front panel loaded with knobs and all kinds of functional stuff such as jacks and wire binding posts, bezels to look at the tube filaments glowing, and in some cases, the tubes themselves and even, coils, all in full view, right in milady’s fine living room! A case in point is the 1923 Federal 61, which had 22 visible items on the front panel alone!

Of course, some of this was cleverly hidden behind doors, but this was usually done on the higher priced models. By 1925, during that

decade of flamboyance, style and modern design influence, the radio that looked as if it was lifted from Frankenstein's laboratory was beginning to be a total misfit. The novelty of radio was wearing off. A radio set was no longer tolerated in the house as an object of curiosity, but was being accepted as a new symbol of "status quo" — much like the TV or computer of today.

And so, to answer my first question, the one single item that was responsible for a revolution in radio design, adding beauty and decreasing clutter was none other than the WINDOW TUNING DIAL!

But before that, the advancement of the one dial radio had to happen. This was accomplished in late 1924 with the introduction of three different radios at about the same time. THERMIODYNE had only one tuning dial but several other knobs on the panel.

MAGNAVOX had introduced a one dial set with a cleaner look, and in my opinion was a modern looking set for it's time. The MOHAWK A-5, first advertised in November, 1924, was considered a true one-dial set but still had four items on the front panel. None of the above mentioned radios used a window dial of any type.

So, who really was first with a window dial? In my opinion, that honor had to go to Charlie Freshman and his B series FRESHMAN MASTERPIECE of August, 1925. By contrast, Atwater Kent didn't use a window dial until the Model 55 of 1929. If any of you readers know of one made earlier, I certainly would like to hear about it!

Freshman had already taken the radio industry by storm when he introduced his A series Masterpiece in mid 1924. This cheap model 3-dial, using the TRF circuit and a trick form of neutralization by coil and condenser placement, sold for \$60 and started a revolution in low-cost radio design.

When Freshman introduced the B-series Masterpiece, they designed the tuners with a circular number plate to be viewed through a small window in the front panel. This was cheaper than using full-vision knobs, as on the A-series, and I am not sure that Freshman did this with aesthetics in mind! Nevertheless, it started another revolution — WINDOWS '25!

But, the B Freshman still had 3 dials, and it wasn't until the mid 1927 season that Charlie came out with a true one-dial. This time, however, it had one window dial, a harbinger of things to come.

Getting back to around August, 1925, a new radio company came on the scene, a company with plenty of money and a fair amount of technical expertise. And, just by chance, they had designed a four-gang tuning condenser made to mount across the front of the chassis. This new design made use of a drum-shaped circular number plate, to be viewed through a slot-shaped window. Although it got off to a slow start, the KOLSTER soon started selling quite well and, again in my opinion, was the perfect radio for milady's modern living room!

One month later, hard on Kolster's heels, came RCA and the Uni-Control drum dial designed by Westinghouse for the Radiola 20, 25, 28, and 30-series radios. This type used a window slot but also had a thumb-wheel tuner, setting another trend for the future.

The Radiolas were advertised in a luxurious home theme, making a further statement that radio should be beautiful.

Who had the last window dial radio?....PHILCO used that concept up until 1939. Many short wave radios used it until much later, and I have seen it used on transistor radios made in the last decade. It's a sensible tuning arrangement, now in a very insensible world!

See you next time.....IN THE SHACK.



“Rare Old Wine”

*When twenty one I planned to buy
A radio; like the one in the fancy ad.
I took one home for a week to try,
And prove-out if good or bad.*

*“FULL-RANGE tone brings every note
the orchestra can muster!”,
(And if it expects to get my vote,
She’d better have it, Buster!)*

*There was a sound of bell or chimes,
It missed low bass altogether;
Drum beats sounded oftentimes,
Like the thumping of a feather!*

*And so on thru it’s listed merits,
I checked every one for fact,
And for every time it quoted “carats,”
There were five or six it lacked.*

*I took it back, you can believe!
(The dealer was quite irate)
I prefer the ads that don’t deceive,
And the folks who tell it straight.*

*One day, last week, in old Spokane,
I bought that self same set,*

*From the estate-sale of a local man,
'Twas a real terrific bet!*

*I guess the message here,
(And there's no mistake in typin')
Is that it took some fory years,
For that sour set to ripen!*

This "Atmospheric" by Tommy James, legendary poet of the NWVRS, was published in the March, 1977 issue of *The Call Letter*.

Twenty Years Ago . . .

From *The Call Letter* of March, 1977, by Editor Bob Bilbie

New Show Being Planned for NWVRS

Yes folks, the NWVRS has done it again! This time at one of Portland's classiest shopping centers, Washington Square. We are presently completing negotiations for a display which will run from March 10th to March 15th, 1977, and will be in conjunction with the "Old Time Packard Show." Our display will be in one of the sunken gardens, and Scott Sorensen has promised 24 hour security. (Mr. Sorensen in Washington Square's promotion manager). He has also assured us that all advertising concerning the event will SPECIFY the Northwest Vintage Radio Society and there is also a remote possibility that we will be paid for our efforts this time (the Society, that is!). Wn.Sq., as you know, has tremendous patronage and this will not hurt us exposure-wise. Set up times are not available at this printing, but we will inform you by phone any details pertinent to this show. Please help in this one as yhou have in (the) past and we'll all be helping our club to grow bigger & better. LETS MAKE 1977 A YEAR OF SENSATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE NORTHWEST VINTAGE RAD. SOC.

The Upcoming Swap Meet

Posted on the Internet by KIRK C SMITH
<KIRK.C.SMITH@TEK.COM>

On May 10th NORTHWEST VINTAGE RADIO SOCIETY & PORTLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will host a vintage/amateur radio swap meet at the Hillsboro armory, in Hillsboro, Oregon {part of the Washington co fairgrounds} Admission will be \$2 ,swap tables are \$10{includes two passes} RV {overnight parking} will be \$10w/hookup & \$5w/o. There will be two VE test sessions, one at 9:am {must pre register} and one at 12:noon {walk in's welcome} There will be door prizes & snacks also. You may unload your equipment on Friday night {time not yet set} or Saturday morning at 7:am. The doors will open at 9:am until around 3:pm. If you plan to park overnight, or purchase a table, you need to pre pay in advance by April 25th. If you plan to pre register for the 9:am test session, you must do so by May 3rd. To register for ve testing please contact Greg Nightingale KK7GN, 360-576-1989 or E -mail gregn@teleport.com To purchase a swap table or overnight parking, please contact Kirk Smith {PARC} KB7EGK 503-786-5142 or E-mail kirk.c.smith@tek.com Or Myron White {NWVRS} 503-629-5513 [confirmation will be sent to you for overnight parking, swap tables, ve testing] SEE YA THERE!!!

Swap Shop

FOR SALE: Thousands of tubes, hundreds of radio parts, panels, meters, surplus, etc. R5-D3 electronic surplus, Bob Lee, 6111 SE 82nd Ave., Portland, OR, (503) 774-6560.

FOR SALE: Hallicrafters short-wave receiver S40B (ca. 1954) \$25.00.
Untested SBE 34 Single sideband transceiver. Looks nice. Needs work. Former owner said receiver intermittent. \$50.00
ca. 1920 Duolateral plugin coils (8) + 4 sockets \$40.00
Abbott TR4 2-1/2 meter transceivers (ca. 1943) \$20.00 each
Lots of oil-filled capacitors reasonable.
Bud Larson, W7LNG, 1325 Ridge Way, Medford, OR 97504.
(541) 773-5214.

FOR SALE or Trade: 1938 RCA HF-2, 12-tube console with motor-drive tuning. "Low-boy" design. \$200. Jerry Talbott, 1440 SW 239th, Hillsboro, OR 97123, (503) 649-6717.

FOR SALE or Trade: Over 400 78's (records) in excellent condition. \$1 each or will trade for radios. Records are of Glenn Miller, Tommy & Jimmy Dorsey, Sammy Kaye, Tex Beneke, Eddy Howard, etc. Also Bing Crosby, Margaret Whiting, Dinah Shore, etc. Contact Howard Burgoyne, West Linn, OR, (503) 650-3828.

FOR SALE or Trade: Knight console, sliding doors (circa 1930 or '32), working condition - \$60 or will swap for table radio or tapes.
Philco - console r/p, model #52-1730. No r/p. \$25.
Magnavox - console r/p. Model 81-49 -late 40's. Works. \$25.
General Electric - console r/p, 1941, model LC-619. Good condition, needs speaker - \$40.
Flashing neon Export (beer) light. New in box, about 2 feet high - value \$200. Will swap for ? --
Contact Howard Burgoyne, West Linn, OR, (503) 650-3828.

WANTED: T/O's: Pre-WWII, R-7000-2, R-520/URR, 600L. Mike Roy, Work (503)-627-1580 / Home 360-254-8082

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: WD12 Peanut tubes working or duds OK. (Navy Base - 4 flat contacts like panel lights) Call Bruce Russell collect at home (604) 299-1116, or Work (604) 298-1038 (or packet VE7HII @ VE7ROB.

Leads:

*FOR SALE: **Magnificent Magnavox** (1951?), console, AM/FM, Stereo Phono. All tube with "magic eye" tuning indicator. Single owner, purchased at Joseph & Lucas Music in Portland. Located in SE Portland. Needs a home. Make an offer to Tracy Spencer, 231-1317.*

FOR SALE: (Ed. note: I found this one in the rec.antiques.radio+phono news group - it was dated 2/26/97) EH Scott SLR-12B for sale. Big heavy radio and speaker. Low radiation radio with heavily shielded RF, IF and case. Works great, has AM and 2 SW bands and matching 600 ohm Taybern speaker. As the radio and speaker are well over 100 pounds, local sales ONLY, unless you can find a way to have it picked up. \$125. Alan Peterman, Tigard, Oregon 97224, al@qiclab.scn.rain.com, (503) 684-1984 Voice

Northwest Vintage Radio Society Workup/Info Sheet

Date _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Acquisitions: _____

For Sale/Trade: _____

Wanted Items: _____

Leads: _____

Suggestions: _____



The NW
Vintage Radio
Society