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## The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

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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

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# December 1997

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### The *CALL LETTER*

Editor, Rick Walton, (503) 284-5648, [rwalton@teleport.com](mailto:rwalton@teleport.com)

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

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**The next NWVRS meeting will be December 13 at the Buena Vista Clubhouse in Oregon City. Election of Officers for 1998! Potluck Christmas Party follows the meeting. Monthly feature: Your favorite set.**

**Visit the NWVRS web site at:**  
**<http://www.artdeco.com/nvrs>**

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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# From the Editor

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by *Call Letter* Editor, Rick Walton

Everyone be sure to attend this month's meeting to elect the new officers, to display your favorite radio, and to share in the punch and refreshments. Thanks to George Kirkwood for leading the refreshment effort.

I've been in contact with Adam Schoolsky, our Web page creator, and he wants me to be sure to let you know he's working on updating the page. I've sent him the November issue of the *Call Letter* in HTML format to make it easier to include it on the Web Page.

It is gratifying to see response to my pleas for Swap Shop ads. You'll notice there are a few new ones there.

Since this is the last issue for this calendar year, I suppose it is a good time for me to thank all of you who have helped me in becoming more comfortable in the role of editor of the *Call Letter*. Your words of encouragement have been wonderful and I deeply appreciate them.

My thanks go out to my regular contributors Dick Karman and Mike Parker, who keep these pages interesting and informative with their monthly offerings. This month, Mike compiles another of his lists of radio names with the same ending. This time it's "tone". Dick, in a departure from his usual Web wanderings, discusses the four ages of collecting.

For each of you in our society, I wish the joy of this season and good collecting in the year ahead.

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## 1997 NWVRS Calendar of Events

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**DECEMBER 13:** Election of 1998 officers and *Christmas party*

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# Meeting Minutes

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Dan Howard, Secretary

## November 8, 1997

The November 8, 1997 meeting was called to order by President Jerry Talbott at 10:00 AM with 20 members in attendance. The September minutes were approved with a clarification. The members participating in the car show display were Dan Howard, Dick Howard, Brian Toon, and Myron White. The treasurer's report was given. The society came out "ahead" on the November swap meet.

## Good and Welfare

Speed Feldschau was in attendance and says that he is recovering nicely.

## Old Business

Myron White reported that the swap meet was well attended and that we achieved planned capacity. The facility is not available next May. In fact, the only available date is April 11th. Myron will work out particulars.

George Kirkwood is coordinating the refreshments for the December meeting. A special mailing is planned to let everyone know about it. Bring your favorite radio to help decorate the clubhouse.

## New Business

Nominations for 1998 Society officers were made:

President: Dave Rutland

Vice President: George Kirkwood

Recording Secretary: Liles Garcia

Treasurer: Ed Charman

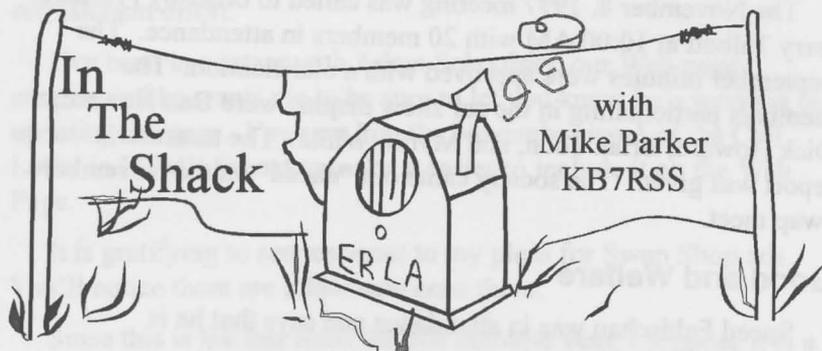
Members are invited to call Board members prior to the December meeting with other nominations.

This month's display theme "Battery Sets and Crystal Sets" brought out quite a few items. Several members discussed the items that they brought.

Rudy Zvarich, Ken Seymore, and other hosted a discussion of changes in the local TV and radio markets.

Leads and needs were given.

The November meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.



## In The Shack

### TUNZ-A-TONE

I just knew there would be a time when I had to do this. I have some more very important (!), information concerning those 1920's and later radio trade names. In this article, I will list all the brand names I can find ending in "tone". Tone was thought to be an important selling point, since how the radio sounded was what the prospective buyer was interested in. Distance of reception was also considered important in the earlier days of radio and one company had both covered in one name....DISTANTONE! Another company used a catchy contraction of the word "excellent" to imply the status of their products....EXLNTONE, some were just downright silly, like PINK-A-TONE! Others utilized common slang such as BETTA-TONE and WUNDATONE and FULL A TONE.

In my previous articles, (CALL LETTER, July '96 and May '97), I listed all that I could find ending in "Dyne", and also "Ola". Here are some more of each that I have since discovered....They just keep on coming up. I really must like to do this!

ACMEDYNE	BABYOLA	OPEROLA
ORTHODYNE	CONSOLA	PORTROLA
POLYDINE	DARIOLA	RECOLA
ROMADYNE	DAYOLA	SPIROLA
TRANS-O-DYNE	FEARNOLA	STENOLA
VIODYNE	GRADUOLA	SUPEROLA
AMBOROLA	MANTOLA	TALKIOLA
	MODERNOLA	VOCAROLA

There are probably more out there, I will keep looking. Now, I will list the "TONES" and I am amazed at the amount of them.

ACRATONE	GLORITONE	RADIOTONE
AERTONE	GRANTONE	RAMSTONE
AIRTONE	GRANDTONE	RECREATONE
ALTONE	HARMOTONE	REFLECTONE
AMBERTONE	HUMANTONE	REGALTONE
AMPLITONE	ISOTONE	RITETONE
AM-PLI-TONE	KEEN TONE	ROYALTONE
ARTONE	KENTONE	RY-TONE
AUDIO-TONE	KLEERTONE	SEATONE
AUTOTONE	KLEER-TONE	SELECTONE
BEAVERTONE	KLERETONE	SENSITONE
BEL-TONE	LEOTONE	SHELTON
BELLTONE	LOUD-R-TONE	SILVERTONE
BESTONE	MAGIC TONE	STAR O TONE
BETTA-TONE	MARLOTONE	SUPERTONE
BRILLIANTONE	MARVELTONE	SUPERIOR TONE
CHARMTONE	MASTERTONE	TELETONE
CHARMITONE	MELODY TONE	TELE-TONE
CHIME-TONE	MEL O TONE	TIFFANY TONE
CLARATONE	MELL-O-TONE	TIMBRETONE
CLARITONE	MORE TONE	TRANSITONE
CLEARSTONE	MOTORTONE	TRIPLE TONE
COSMOTONE	NATURALTONE	TRUTONE

DISTANTONE	OPERATONE	TRUETONE
DODGETONE	ORO-TONE	TRUE TONE
ECHOTONE	PEP-TONE	ULTRATONE
ECHO TONE	PERFECTONE	UNITONE
ELECTONE	PIERCETONE	VALLEYTONE
EXCELSTONE	PILOTONE	VELVETONE
EXLNTONE	PINK-A-TONE	VIEWTONE
EVERYTONE	PLAYER-TONE	VITALITONE
FIDELITONE	POWERSTONE	VOLOTONE
FULTONE	PURATOAN	WELTONE
FULL A TONE	PUR-A-TONE	WESTONE
GOLDSTONE	PURETONE	WONDERTONE
GOLDENTONE	QUALI-TONE	WUNDATONE

There are 108 of them. All are radios, phonographs, tubes, speakers, earphones, company names, and one TV that I know of, can you find it? Imagine what will happen when I go after PHONE or FONE, FLEX, TRON, etc. They'll be coming to take me away!

I could not find a listing for MONOTONE, they wouldn't dare use that....would they?

There you have it....TUNZ-A-TONE! Have a great holiday season,

QSO you next time....IN THE SHACK

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# Swap Meet Photos

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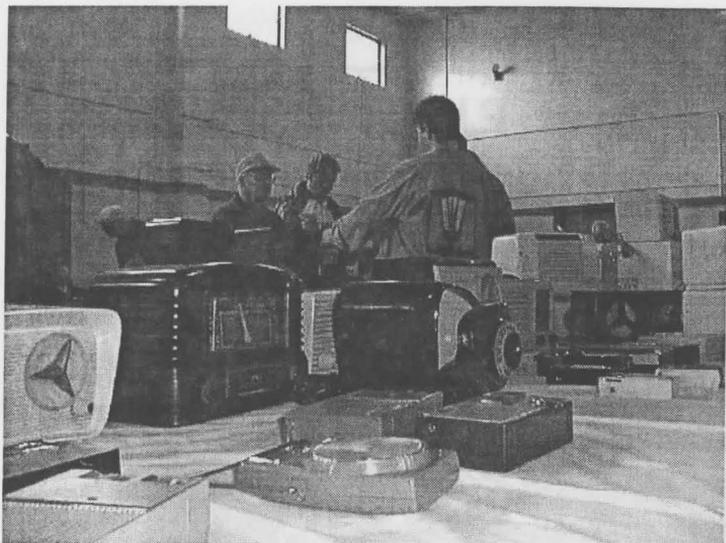
Digital Photos by Adam Schoolsky



Unusual tuning eye



Mike Parker.



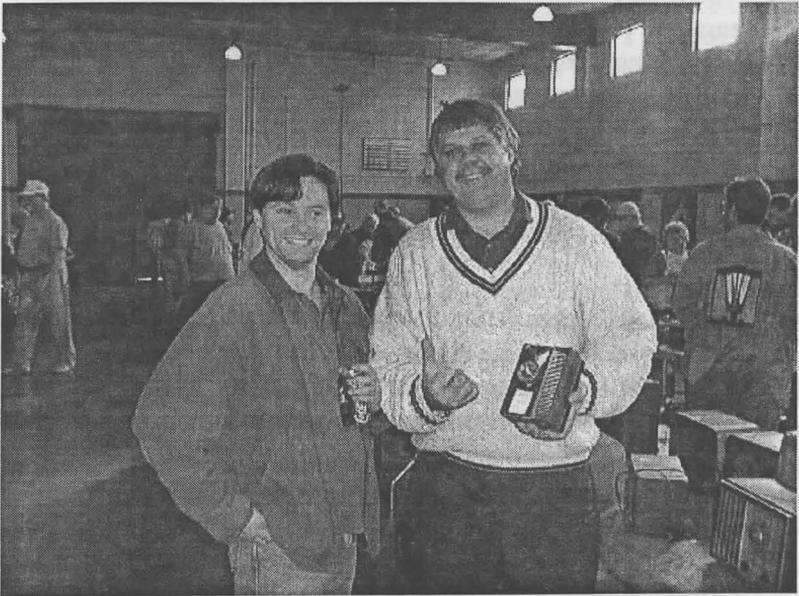
Radios, radios, . . .



and more radios!



Sellers



Buyers

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# Collecting

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By Dick Karman

This article was suggested by Jerry Talbot, and inspired by two car collectors, Larry Givens, and Michael Lamm. The ideas are not original. What I have to say, they said before me and others said before them.

Dick

It has been suggested that collecting falls into

4 phases. It's not hard to see them when you look back, but it would have been hard to predict them looking forward. Perhaps too many of you may have come into the radio collecting arena during one of these stages and have not had the opportunity to look back.

The first phase of collecting popularity is when the general public sees the item being collected as junk. For radio, those were the late fifties and early sixties. I was not collecting radios during those years, but research shows that most people were enraptured with new exciting transistor radios, television, automobiles, plastic and synthetics. Wooden radios had no value and most folks had no desire to do anything more than get them out of their basements into a dump. If you were perceptive enough to recognize the aesthetic, historic and economic side of tube radio in the sixties, you could have built one of the more valuable collections of your time.

Alas, most of us missed phase one collecting. Some joined the radio collecting hobby while it was in its second phase. Those are the years that collectors actually started seeking out "classic" sets, and started looking at each other's collections. Informal groups were formed and someone in each part of the country started publishing a rough newsletter. The Horn Speaker out of Texas was one of those early newsletters. The Puget Sound Antique Radio Association, the California Historic Radio Society, many chapters of the Antique Wireless Association, and our own NW Vintage Radio Society were formed between 1971 and 1975. Inevitably the media got wind of the collecting fad and wrote it in the papers, and put it on TV. A new wave of collectors and would-be collectors join the junk phase. The pioneers start to sell some of their "nearly free" junk at 4 or 5 times what they paid for it (but one twentieth of what is worth today). Later they'll hate themselves for it.

In the third phase restoration, documentation, and even reproduction of some hard-to-find parts has begun to take place. Collectors delve deeper into who made the original sets and the economics behind them. Academic pursuits add a veneer of class to an otherwise "rough" hobby. Thus the advent of collectors guides. Morgan McMahon published some of the first and some of the best collector's guides. Next come the price books telling everyone what a radio should be worth. At this point I have to pass on a word of advice to those who try to sell their radios for the price listed in the book: sell it at a price a few dollars more than buyer wants to pay, and not at the price in the book. Books don't buy radios; People buy radios.

Another unfortunate part of phase three is that some collectors began to realize the inflationary value of their collection, and became collectors/salesmen. The goal becomes, buy more radios, so you can sell more radios. This has driven wedges between friends, and even split up some clubs. It's too bad that profit is more important than restoration and preservation even today.

Phase four is that time when the collectibles are not readily available. Large collections are hoarded, and radios are sold only at the book price or more. Collecting is no longer based on interest in and love for the objects themselves, but rather for the money that can be made. It's a shame because whether it be radios, cars, or music boxes, when the hobby is no longer a hobby, but is a business investment the thrill for the beginner is gone.

Phase four may be just around the corner for the hobby/business of radio collecting. I sense it in a \$1,000 price tag on a AK breadboard, or on a \$20,000 price tag on a "barn full" of old radios that used to there for the asking.

Larry Givens, long-time editor of Automotive Engineering, reminds us that even in the heyday of collecting we don't own the cherished items. We are only their steward; their caretaker. We have them for a short time. We will either pass them on to another generation or we will destroy them with our greed. Let's try to preserve them for another generation.

## Epilogue

Take a look around. Phase one may be coming around again. What junk will look good to collectors thirty years from now? Maybe stock up on analog cellular phones, or Apple Computers. You don't know, it could pay off.

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# The Passing Parade

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By Dick Karman

As I look back over the last 13 or 14 months I find a great deal of our radio heritage has passed away. Most of my hobby deals with "the other side of the microphone" so these memories have to do with the men and women who made the programs which we enjoyed listening to.

October 28, 1996 Morey Amsterdam, 87 years old. Morey Amsterdam, best remembered for his roll as Buddy in the Dick Van Dyke television show, got his start in radio comedy in 1947-48 as a panelist on *Stop Me If You've Heard This One* where Mr. Amsterdam would offer the punch line of the joke before it was told. In his television work he played his own role, that of a comedy writer who seldom got the credit he deserved.

October 30, 1996 Arthur Peterson. Mr. Peterson played the part of Reverend Ruthledge in the *Guiding Light* from 1937 to 1944 when he went into the service. He returned to play his part as a chaplain returning from the war in 1946 and stayed with it into the 50's.

November 12, 1996 Peter Leeds, 79 years old. Books could be written on the voice credits of Mr. Leeds. They include the light comedy of *Massie* in the forties; the tough guy in *Night Beat* in the fifties; Dick Powell's sidekick in *Rogue's Gallery*; and an endless parade of voices in the *Stan Freburg Show*. But those may not stir the memories as much as the voice production for thousands of cartoons in the 1960's, and television commercials too numerous to mention. To describe his voice would be to limit it. His dialects were plentiful and his talent unlimited.

November 25, 1996 Ted Meyers, 83 years old. Radio Newscaster Ted Meyers got his start in radio as a station announcer on Los Angeles area stations in the forties.

December 11, 1996 Neal Reagan. Mr. Reagan's notable radio credit was a supporting role in *Dr. Christian* for a portion of the 16 year run, which began in 1941.

December 30, 1996 Lew Ayers, 88 years old. Lew Ayers and Lionel Barrymore were the stars of the radio show *Dr. Kildare* in the forties. They were moved directly into the roles that they played in the *Dr. Kildare* movies in the late 30's.

January 17, 1997 John Loveton, 84 years old. John Loveton directed *Your Hit Parade*, *The Goodwill Hour*, and *The Shadow*. He directed and produced *Mr. & Mrs. North* in the forties and *Topper* in the fifties. He went on to produce the television version of *Topper*.

May 29, 1997 George Fenneman, 77 years old. Long to be remembered as the announcer for Groucho Marx, on *You Bet Your Life*, Mr. Fenneman's voice is probably most recognizable from the words "The story you're about to hear is true." Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent. That line signaled the beginning of *Dragnet* first by announcer Hal Gibney and later by George Fenneman. George got the job because he also announced on the Jack Webb creation *Pat Novak for Hire*. He was backup announcer for *Gunsmoke* in the 1950's. He took the part of Buzz in the short-lived serial, *I Fly Anything*

September 10, 1997 Ivan Ditmars, 90 years old. Mr. Ditmars provided opening music for many shows and he wrote much of the "original scores" used in detective shows like *The Adventures of Frank Race*, in thrillers like *Escape* and in anthology series like *Stars Over Hollywood*. More recently, and in the minds of those who work to preserve Radio drama, Mr. Ditmars has done numerous recreations of old radio shows, and his organ keyboard work has brought back many a memory.

September 17, 1997 Red Skelton, 84 years old. Radio's favorite clown got his start in circus in 1923. He went on to burlesque, and by 1935 he and the bride of his teenage years were ready for Vaudeville. But vaudeville was tough and Mr. Skelton's real interest was movies. He was well established in radio doing guest spots and eventually hosting *Avalon Time*. True success came in 1941 when Raleigh Cigarettes and NBC gave his own show. What did a pantomime have to do on radio? His voices, his skits, and his sense of humor made him a star wherever the show went. When most radio stars saw the advent of television they retired. Not Skelton. He hauled out his old gags from vaudeville, built on his

radio reputation, and was a bigger hit on TV than he was on radio. The world will miss him.

October 5, 1997 Arthur Tracy 98 years old. Tracy began singing as a child, and studied the style and form of the great Enrico Caruso. His position in radio got a small start in 1929. In 1931 when radio was growing in popularity, Mr. Tracy got a trial contract with CBS and became an overnight sensation as *The Street Singer*. He appeared initially as only the street singer and thus garnered thousands of letters requesting his identity, which was revealed with great pageantry and ceremony. The novelty served him for several years, but in 1936 his popularity was waning and his last radio show in 1941 did not last past the trial stage.

October 14, 1997 Hy Averback, 76 years old. Mr. Averback's credits list all of the major stations in the Los Angeles area. His voice was often heard on *Yours Truly Johnny Dollar*, *Crime Classics*, *Lux Radio Theater*, *The Bob Hope Show*, *Your Hit Parade*, *Suspense*, and *Hollywood Calling*. Many times he was the staff announcer in the credits, but several of the other voices were also his. In 1956 he moved to directing television, and often appeared on the programs that he directed.

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# Swap Shop

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*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.

## *RESTORATION/REPAIR SERVICES OFFERED*

Quality repairs and restoration services now offered on vintage Radio, TV, Hi-Fi, & other pre-60's electronic equipment. Some small parts fabrication and location services of vintage items also offered.

Phone: Sonny Clutter, (360) 834-5741

*WANTED:* Parts for a Federal Model 61. Contact Dick Howard.

*WANTED:* I would like to talk with people who worked in Military Communications. Dan Howard.

*WANTED:* Wanted: Dial glass or complete chasis and escutcheon for a Grunow 1081 Floor model radio. The dial glass is about 3 inches in diameter. Several models took the same lens, if you think you may have, let me know. Thanks in Advance. Wayne Brown 503-282-6463 or wayneb@involved.com

*FOR SALE:* RELOCATING OUT OF STATE : Must sell radios, parts, books, etc., Many table and floor model radios - wide variety to include Zenith, Sparton, Philco, Grunow. Misc TV's including Philco Predictas. If interested, call to arrange viewing time. Phone: Scott MacGregor (503) 661-1294, e-mail: sjmacgregor@juno.com

*FOR SALE:* Vintage T-V's. Have 5 sets to sell, \$10-\$35 each. Call me for details. Jerry Talbott (503-649-6717 home) (503-627-4451 work).

## **Leads:**

*FOR SALE:* The items for sale are in SW Washington. The lady's name is Gloria Cummings and her phone # is 360-892-2203, or contact Tony Hauser, (503) 629-4836. Highlights are:

- Single & multi-unit "can" capacitors
- Resistors, diodes, and crystals
- Lamps and Speakers
- Phono cartridges, needles, coils, and transformers
- Vibrators
- Photofact and other folders
- Simpson 555 tube checker
- Hickock AC51 tube checker

- Jackson TVG2 sweep marker generator
- SECO F84 flyback tester
- EICO 400 scope
- Jackson 106 oscillator
- Simpson 485 field strength meter
- Tube caddies, parts cabinets, and tube stock shelves

