

The

# Call Letter

December, 2001  
Vol. 27 — No. 12



Over 25 years in print!

# 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 \$20.00 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 society members, the *Call Letter* has continued to be a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports 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 Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. 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 show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

## Society Officers for 2001:

President	Charles Kent	(503) 281-9335
Vice-President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288
Board member at large	Dave Rutland	(541) 929-4498
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135

The Society's address is:

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



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**On the cover:** In glorious color, a boy’s Christmas dream as depicted on the cover of *Radio News*, December 1927.

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### January Call Letter Deadline: January 1, 2002.

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**The next meeting is on December 8.**  
**Don’t miss this important meeting:**  
**Election of officers for 2002,**  
**and annual Christmas party.**  
**Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!**

**Visit our web site at <http://nwvrs.org>.**

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

It's time for our annual holiday celebration and time for our election of officers, both of which are on the agenda at our next meeting.

By now you should have received your invitation to the annual Christmas celebration. President Charlie Kent tells me that the main dish will be fried chicken by Albertson's. The rest, salad and dessert, is up to each of you as explained on your invitation. We owe a vote of thanks to Tony Hauser for taking on the project of printing and mailing the invitations.

For the first time in a while, we will actually have to vote for one of the offices, that of Vice President. Dave Brown and Cliff Tuttle are the able and willing candidates. Those of you in attendance at the November meeting will recall that Dave was also nominated for President (see the Meeting Minutes. He accepted the nomination then, but later decided to be a candidate only for Vice President. That means that our President will be Wendy Johnson-Kent, and for the first time ever, our society has a woman for its President. Although women have played a substantial role in the life of the society since its beginning, this is the first time a woman has held our highest elective office, perhaps a long overdue occurrence. Wendy has certainly evidenced her willingness to work on behalf of the society over the past few years, and we wish her well as she takes the reins.

In this issue we have most of the usual suspects: Calendar, Meeting Minutes, Photo Display, Voila, Swap Shop. In addition, I've reprinted a Christmas short story by Bob Bilbie that was originally printed in the December, 1976, issue of the *Call Letter*. We also have the color cover, a scene that graced the December, 1927 issue of *Radio News*.

If I don't see you at the December 8th meeting, let me take this opportunity to wish each of you a blessed Christmas, and a prosperous and happy New Year!

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## NWVRS 2001 Calendar of Events

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**December 8** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Election of officers and annual Christmas celebration. Fried chicken by Albertson's provided; bring a salad or dessert to share.

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# NWVRS Meeting Minutes

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By Liles Garcia, Secretary, NWVRS

President Charles Kent called the November 10, 2001 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as printed in the Call Letter. There were no minutes from the October meeting since that meeting was our swap meet. We had two guests that attended today. Club member Ludwell Sibley was recently involved in an auto accident, and is now recovering. Club member Don Copeland is having RF treatments for cancer. We wish for a speedy recovery for both members

## Old Business

Swap Meet—The Club sold 28 tables at our swap meet; and the swap meet cost the club \$480.00. Several members mentioned that they sold radios to the general public. The group discussed the swap meet and the car break-ins at our swap meet. We discussed ideas for our next swap meet and the group agreed that we will need someone to watch the parking lot at the next swap meet. The group gave Cliff Tuttle a round of applause for his great job of coordinating the swap meet.

Northwest Car Collectors' Show—Dick and Dan Howard had a display of radios at the recent Northwest Car Collectors' Show in October. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> year that our club has had a display at this car show, and our display had a Halloween theme. Dick acquired an unusual battery radio at the car show. The group gave Dick and Dan a round of applause for representing our club at this car show.

Library—This is a reminder to please try to return library books after you have had them for a month.

## New Business

Christmas Party — We are planning a Christmas Party. There will be food, door prizes for adults, and door prizes for kids.

Nomination for Club Officers — The following members were nominated for club officers:

President: Dave Brown, Wendy Johnson-Kent

Vice President: Dave Brown, Cliff Tuttle

Secretary: Liles Garcia

Treasurer: Ed Charman

## Leads and Needs

Dave Wise needs the internal tuning knob for an Atwater Kent 206 and a 3TF7 ballast tube for an R-390A.

Sonny Clutter needs a speaker for a Majestic Model 90.

Damon Vandehey needs the cabinet for a Philco 20.

Glen Bricker has a Jackson-Bell cabinet with tulips on it, and he would like to get a chassis for it.

## Program

Today's program was "tuning eye radios". Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The following members won ribbons for their radios:

First place—Dave Brown—Simplex Model D radio

Second place—Sonny Clutter—Airline Model 93WC-604

Third place—Dick Howard—National NC-100 communications receiver

Damon Vandehey brought a display of tubes and tube boxes to show to members.

Dave Wise gave a class on radio alignment after the meeting today. Many thanks to Dave!!

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## Library Alert!

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John Bucholz, our club librarian, reported at the last meeting that there are a number of books that have been taken out of the library but not returned. If you have a library book from the library that you checked out more than one meeting back, please return that book right away so that other members can have a chance to enjoy it. Although there is no official policy on how long you can keep a book, the unwritten rule is to try to return it at the next meeting.

# Photo Display

Photography by Rick Walton

These are the radios brought in for the monthly feature, radios with tuning eyes. Because of some editorial confusion, kit radios were also part of the feature.



Dave Brown: Heathkit with two 6ME5 tuning eyes



Dave Brown: Simplex Model D.



Ed Cook: Airline 62-290 plaskon



Sonny Clutter: Airline 93WC-604, 1939, made by Belmont



Dan Howard: National NC-100



Dan Howard: Kapsch Melodie from Germany



Dick Howard: Kitcraft crystal and 1-tube kits



Damon Vandehey: Tube box display



Myron White: Montgomery Ward 6V farm set with sync. vibrator and 150 ma tubes.



Dave Wise opens up a set for an instructive demonstration in radio alignment.

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# A Christmas Miracle

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A short story by Bob Bilbie

*Editor's note: This short story is reprinted from the Call Letter of December 25, 1976. The author, Bob Bilbie, was then the editor, and was one of the founders of the NWVRS just two years prior to the publication of that Christmas issue.*

It was eleven days before Christmas and Harry was pondering his fate as he walked disconsolately in the driving snow in search of a present for his lovely wife. "Shucks," he thought, "here it is nearly Christmas, out of work, low on money, no prospects for the future, and a tough year ahead." All about him were people going about their task of providing a good Christmas to *their* loved ones. Harry could not help but feel that fate had dealt him a losing hand. Confusion raced through his mind as the biting cold and raging wind tore at his very being. "Love," thought Harry, "comes in many forms. Surely my lovely will understand if I'm unable to provide a Christmas as good as the ones we've had together in the past. Maybe we will celebrate Christmas the way it was intended to be celebrated, by paying tribute to the *baby*, born Christmas Day, that was to change the course of mankind," thought Harry. "Surely I'll find something I can afford," he mullied.

While strolling through the poor section of town, past the dimly lit windows of a second hand store, Harry happened to notice a rather ragged little radio sitting in the corner of the window. "Say, if I could afford that little radio, I could fix it up all pretty like and give that to my wife as a present!" Harry reasoned. He entered the store and walked over to look at this soon-to-be (he hoped) Christmas present. "Not bad... all the knobs are in place, fair little cabinet, good wood, and with a little work could be restored to its original beauty and make a decent gift at that," he thought.

As Harry was looking at the radio the man from the store walked over and said, "May I help you?"

"Yes," said Harry, "you see, I'm kinda down on my luck and don't have much money to spend for gifts this year and I thought that if I could afford to buy this little radio, I could take it home and restore it as a gift for my wife for Christmas."

The man said, "Yeah, we got that radio and a bunch of other stuff from old Silas Wilson up on the hill. He's an eccentric old coot, unpredictable, never know what he's gonna do. He used to own the bank over in Freeport. We don't have much in it so if you think you can do something with it you can have it for six bucks."

(Continued on page 10)

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# *Voilà*

*...new and recent finds by NVRs members*

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Compiled by Sonny Clutter

## **Dave Wise:**

### **Radios:**

RCA 9T wood tombstone

Atwater Kent 206 cathedral (missing a knob and the dial glass, otherwise excellent!)

Silvertone R1181 tombstone (smoked transformer)

Zenith A600 T-O

Sentinel 286 portable (for parts, missing lid)

Motorola 57R pink plaskon table (surface cracks but expected, check, that's how I ID plaskon :-)

Philco PT-26 bakelite midget (cracked)

Philco unknown model bakelite midget (cracked)

Philco unknown model "Transitone" pink plastic table (cracked)

Airline unknown model bakelite midget (cracked)

Zenith "Zenette" portable (cracked)

Emerson 507 bakelite table (cracked)

Motorola 52H bakelite table (\*not\* cracked :-)

GE 206 bakelite table (not cracked)

Silvertone 2015 bakelite table (Sandy got this for me!)

Kobe Kogyo KT-80 transistor (This one too!)

RCA 56X3 wood table (This one too! and it's really grown on me. Jeff, this one's why I let you have that Emerson...)

Mission Bell unknown model bakelite table (had same model as a kid)

Philco 39-6151 wood table (nice-looking, it's for Sandy, she really certain Philco dials)

Philco 37-61 cathedral (so do I :-)

Hitachi WH-829 transistor. Two-band, still has screw-in antenna that stows inside the leather carrying case.

### **Test gear:**

Sprague TO-6 cap tester. I got this after finding that every cap in my TO-4 was bad (and so is in the fix-up pile).

### **Passed up:**

Emerson 520 catalin (missing the back, had a hole drilled in the side, and they still wanted \$250. Thanks for the advice, Charlie!)

### **Doug Sattergren:**

Triplet model 630 VOM

Packard-Bell 1472 14 tube radio, phono, tape AM/FM with dual tuning dials.

Sentinel model 1U-212 ac/dc

Brandes model 1030 (also known as Kolster) plastic case w/handle

Atwater-Kent model 20 compact w/horn speaker

RCA radiola 20 w/100A speaker

### **Sonny Clutter**

Rare Temple 7" TV from 1948,

Lafayette mini-console style table set

Emerson "Mickey Mouse" set from 1934

Rare "Tom Thumb" wood version of the very rare "Catalin" set

These sets can all be viewed on my web site, "Show Case page": <http://www.radiolaguy.com/showCase.htm>

### **Rick Walton**

Emerson Phonoradio, model GK-450 portable radio/phono

Zenith Royal 820 portable transistor AM/FM, with AC adapter

General Electric Model 50 alarm clock radio

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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, 9770 S.E. Stanley Ave., Milwaukie, OR 97222, (503) 513-0410

*BUY, SELL, & TRADE:* Vintage Radio, Early Television and Hi-Fi.

Wanted: Tubes, Parts and whatever you might have related to early radio & TV. Visit my web-site at: <http://www.radiolaguy.com> or e-mail me at: [sonny@radiolaguy.com](mailto:sonny@radiolaguy.com)

Thanks, Sonny Clutter, phone (360) 834-5741

*WANTED:* The INGRAHAM man wants radios with wood Ingraham cabinets. If you're not sure if it's an Ingraham, call Ed Cook in Vancouver, (360) 573-1439, or e-mail "[hopocol@home.com](mailto:hopocol@home.com)".

*FOR SALE:* A wide variety of radios at <http://radiogallerykent.com>. Charlie Kent

*FOR SALE:* 1950's Packard Bell console AM radio/phonograph model 601.

Radio & phono work. Has unusual dual "stationized" radio dials; one dial has California stations, the other has Northwest stations. Cabinet in good

condition and needs no refinishing. \$50 o.b.o. Call Tony Hauser 503-629-4836 or e-mail abhauser@aol.com.

**FOR SALE:** Vintage TV's (1940's - 1970's)

1948 GE 810, excellent original wood 10" round table set, plays - \$100

1949 Philco 49-1040, unusual mahogany console, good 10" round CRT, as-is - \$35.

1955 Stromberg-Carlson 21" solid oak console, plays but needs filter caps replaced - \$35.

1956 Philco 17" portable with rare UHF tuner, plays - \$35.

1973 Philco 12" S.S. white plastic "pod" portable b/w TV, plays - \$35.

1973 Panasonic "pop-up" portable TV & AM-FM radio, plays - \$35.

Will deliver consoles free to buyer in Portland area. Jerry Talbott (503-649-6717) or e-mail (jerryt@easystreet.com)

**FOR SALE:** Portable radio tubes 1920's - 1950's. \$1 new, \$.50 used. I will bring them to the January meeting. Call or e-mail me for a particular tube you need and I will set it aside. Jerry Talbott (503-649-6717) or e-mail (jerryt@easystreet.com)

## Leads and Needs

Radiolaguy's web page is full of lots of information on early radio, TV and also provides lots of links to other valuable info resources relating to radio collecting hobby; it's not just a "for sale" site. Be sure and visit the site often. One of the services offered is pictures and information on the entire RCA "Radiola" line from 1921 to 1931 and my "show and tell" page.

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## Christmas Miracle (continued from page 7)

Well, Harry dug deep for six bucks, paid the man, and reached down to pick up this little treasure. It was then he noticed that it was a Mission Bell. "Ironic," he thought, "to have a name like that in this set of circumstances!"

Arriving home late, with the little radio under his arm, he headed for his very meager workshop, not wanting to awaken his wife. Harry had not much time to get the radio finished, for Christmas was not far off, so he started immediately to remove the screws that held the chassis to the cabinet. He pulled off the knobs, and started to pull the chassis out. As he did so a small Bull Durham sack lodged up in the chassis fell out on the floor with a metallic clank. "Shucks," Harry thought, "a sack of parts to re-install. I'll never get this little fella done by Christmas." As Harry bent over to pick up the sack, he wished he had just bought his wife a box of candy instead, although the work he was about to do on the radio would mean more to her than a box of candy. Harry quickly opened the sack and poured the contents out on the bench. He could not believe what he saw laying there before him... his heart literally leaped to his throat. Could it

be? Yes, laying there on the bench were *five* twenty-dollar gold pieces! Harry thought, "I can't keep them, they are not mine. I must return them tomorrow." Putting everything aside, he went to bed beside his lovely wife, still not wanting to awaken her to tell her of this latest dilemma. Tomorrow would be another day.

The next morning Harry explained the happenings, over coffee, to his wife and she said, "Harry, as bad as we have it, with you out of work and all, it would not be in keeping with the Christmas spirit if we decided to keep those gold coins, so we must return them to their rightful owner." Harry agreed.

Under the circumstances it was not easy to do, but Harry set about to find the Wilson residence. He finally located the house and he passed through the large open iron gate and walked up the long driveway to a very palatial house. He rang the bell and shortly a nice old lady answered, wanting to know what he wanted.

"Mrs. Wilson, you don't know me," Harry said, "but I understand that your husband had your cellar cleaned out and gave the contents to the second hand store downtown. Is that true?"

"In part it's true, young man," said Mrs. Wilson, "but you see it was me that had the cellar cleaned out, for my husband, Silas Wilson passed away about three months ago. But what has this to do with you, young man?" she asked.

Harry explained, "Well you see, Mrs. Wilson, I bought a little radio, a Mission Bell, that was among the things you gave to the store. I bought it with the intention of restoring it as a gift for my wife for Christmas, and as I took it apart, a small sack concealed in the chassis fell out. The sack contained five twenty-dollar gold pieces and I am here to return them to you."

"Well, land sakes, young man, my Silas *was* an eccentric fellow and this doesn't surprise me a bit. What does surprise me is that you were honest enough to want to return these coins to me. Believe me, in this day and age that's really something!"

"This has been a tough winter for me, Mrs. Wilson, being out of work and Christmas coming on, but my wife and I both felt that in order to keep in the spirit of the Lord and Christmas, that this was the right thing to do. After all, *you* are the rightful owner of the coins," explained Harry.

"Well, young man, when Silas passed away, he left me with more than I will ever need for the few remaining years I have left, so you just keep those silly old coins and you and your wife have yourselves a very merry Christmas," Mrs. Wilson told Harry.

Harry let necessity be the better part of valor, thanked Mrs. Wilson sincerely for her generosity and Christmas spirit, and left knowing that *this* year, he and his wife would surely have a great holiday.

The next day Harry sold the gold coins to a local dealer and gave 2/3 of the money to a local charity that would do some good for other people who might be as unfortunate as he... Harry felt that his reward was far greater. After all, didn't he still have the lucky little Mission Bell radio, an understanding wife, and a truly Merry Christmas?

That was a long time ago... and if you should ever meet Harry and his wife, they will proudly show you a completely restored little beauty of a Mission Bell radio, so in a way it restored them, too. It restored their faith in a world both harsh and compassionate!



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# Officer's Roles

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## **The President**

The President shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors. The President shall set the time and the place of Board of Directors' Meetings. The President has the power to appoint members of committees as appropriate to enhance the activities of the society.

## **The Vice President**

The Vice President shall be responsible for planning and arranging technical and entertaining activities associated with the society's meetings. He serves as chairman of the program committee if such a committee is appointed. He acts as presiding officer at meetings if the President is unavailable.

## **The Secretary**

The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of every business meeting and for receiving and preparing all of the society's correspondence.

## **The Treasurer**

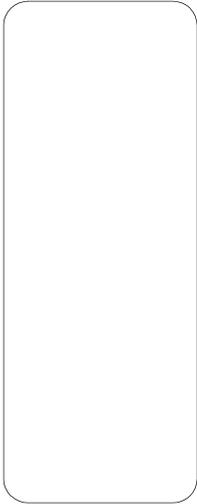
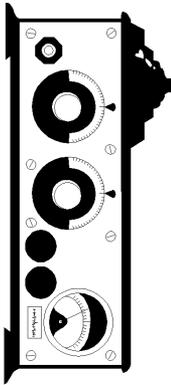
The Treasurer shall be accountable for all funds received and disbursed by the society and shall report all monetary transactions and treasury balance at each regular meeting of the society. The Treasurer shall prepare a list of members in good standing for distribution at the next regular meeting following the annual meeting of the society.

## **The Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall consist of the current elected officers of the society plus the immediate past president of the society. The Board of Directors shall direct the care and expenditure of the funds of the society. The Board shall determine a suitable time and place for regular society business meetings.



**NW Vintage Radio Society**  
**P.O. Box 82379**  
**Portland, Oregon 97282-0379**



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**