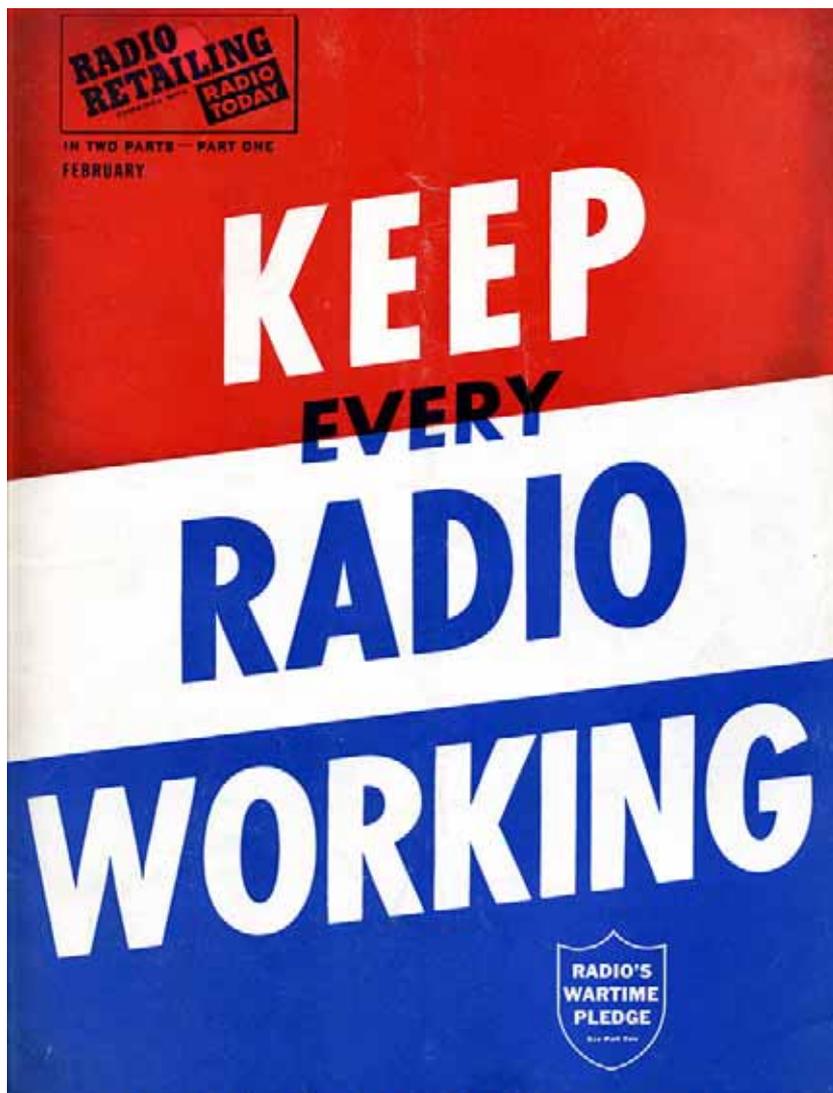


The **Call  
Letter**

September, 2004  
Vol. 30 — No. 9



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Almost 30 years in print!

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# 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 2004:

President	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005
Vice-President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Tony Hauser	(503) 397-0074
Board member at large	Wendy Johnson-Kent	(503) 281-9335
<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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# September 2004

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**On the cover:** In February of 1942 it was becoming obvious that the nation’s radio producers would be shifting to production of war materials and that the need to keep existing civilian radios in operation was of great importance. This patriotic cover from *Radio Retailing* with its “Keep Every Radio Working” message shows the shift in emphasis from Sales to Service within the industry.

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**The next meeting is on September 11, 2004.**

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**Summer Break is Over!**

**September Feature:**

**Pre-'50s US-Made Oddball Brand Sets.**

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

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**October Call Letter Deadline: September 29, 2004.**

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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 or services 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

I recently acquired (at little expense) a very nice color laser printer. This month's color cover is among its first big uses. While I can't promise a color cover every month, I hope to be able to do so a little more often than in the past.

This month's *Call Letter* is unusually full for the end-of-summer issue. There aren't the usual pages of photos, but there is plenty of content nonetheless. Dick Karman looks back at Jim Mason, an active and beloved member of our club during his life, and great benefactor after his death. Art Redman reminisces about the first guest speaker in the club's early days. Dave Wise gives us another blow-by-blow restoration description, this time of a Philco 60. Voilá is full of members' acquisitions, and don't forget to check out the Swap Shop - there are some new things there. Finally, Tony Hauser reminds us that the Fall Swap Meet is just around the corner and that it is time to reserve your table if you plan to be a seller at the swap meet.

September is the month of our return to monthly meetings. I hope to see you all there.

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## Roster Update

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Vance Daberko has a new e-mail address:

Daberko, Vance L.  
 956 NW Anjni Circle  
 Corvallis, OR 97330  
[vdaberko@fastmail.fm](mailto:vdaberko@fastmail.fm)

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## NWVRS 2004 Calendar of Events

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- September 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- October 9** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Salvation Army Rose Center.
- November 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.  
 Nomination of officers for 2005.
- December 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.  
 Election of officers for 2005. Annual Holiday Party!

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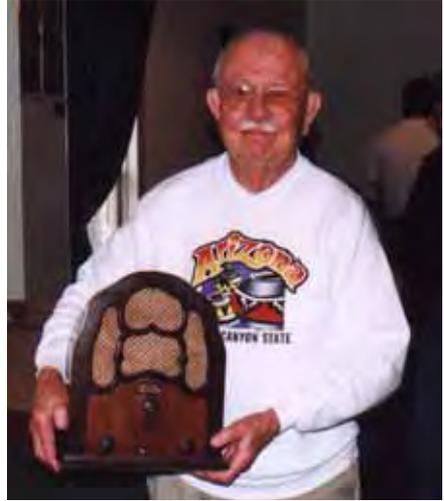
# Looking Back: Remembering Jim Mason

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By Dick Karman

Jim Mason was a USDA inspector and spent a portion of his career in Hawaii. As far as I know he never married. His desire to collect and preserve vintage radio came more to the surface when he retired from Government Service and settled in house just off Walker Rd. in Beaverton.

Jim was legendary for both the size and quality of his collection. When the Society did a public display Jim would volunteer any or all of his collection (No one ever took all - there just wasn't room.) At the memorable "Mall 205"



display in 1975, Jim also volunteered his time to man the display and be on hand for questions. In May 1978 Jim nearly doubled the size of his house in Beaverton by adding the Radio display room. It would be called a "large recreation room" by later owners of the house. It had a unique room or work area just off the far end that never quite lost the odor of paint stripping and wood stains.

In 1983 when the Society placed a display in the Georgia Pacific Historical Museum (now closed), Jim was the first to have his name on the list. The museum asked us to guide tours through the display, and again Jim, and other retired members were there to help out.

The American Museum of Advertising asked for a permanent display of radio hardware to complement their display of radio advertising. While others shared in the endeavor at first, rotating sets and captions soon became tedious. In time Jim's sets were the last one to be "permanent."

If the size, quality, and dedication to the Society were memorable, so was Jim's generosity. On more than one occasion Jim overheard a young collector say that he "couldn't afford" to have a cathedral or similar vintage set in his collection. Jim would make a personal offer so that every collection could have an icon of Radio's past. I know because in 1981 I was one of those young collectors.

Jim's generosity lived on even after Jim passed away in October 1999. Jim's will was read and indicated that his entire collection (except perhaps a few radios that he had designated as gifts) was to be auctioned off locally. No one ever said that outsiders couldn't come, but the radios remained right there in Beaverton. Sonny Clutter remembers working with Jerry Talbott and others spending dozens of hours cataloging several hundred lots of radio gear and collectibles.

The auction began Saturday morning in the middle of a torrential rain storm with the temperature in the 40s. This made an impression because the auction was held in a tent in the back yard of the house. We hadn't made it through half of the items by dark that night. We started again at 8 O'clock the next morning and went all day. It is often heard among collectors ten years later, "That was one of Jim Mason's radios." But why is this posthumous sale considered generous? Because 20% of the sale revenue went in the treasury of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society and the other 80% was donated to the children's hospital.

Few of those who knew Jim can remember anything except generosity and willingness on his part. Most of us miss his spirit of historic preservation and his habitual response to requests, "Yes."

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## Looking Back: At our first guest speaker

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### Remembered By Art Redman

Bob Bilbie, editor of the Newsletter, announced to the members of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society in the Society's Third Newsletter "we will have a guest speaker at the March 8, 1975 meeting that we are sure you will want to hear. Mr. Wilbur Jerman, originator and former owner of KWJJ here in Portland has kindly consented to give a short talk on the problems of early day radio broadcasting. He started his station way back in the early 20s. It was a 50 watter. This fine gentleman, who is now 74 years old, is one of the real pioneers of early radio. Don't miss it."

On March 20, 1975, in the fourth newsletter Bilbie wrote, "We wish at this time to express our thanks and gratitude to Mr. Wilbur Jerman, who took time out of a busy schedule, to give a very interesting talk on old time radio broadcasting. We wish him success in his present venture, and after listening to him we're sure he'll make it."

I cannot remember what Mr. Jerman's present venture was in circa 1975. However, I remember after standard radio broadcasting began in Portland in 1922 he made money by installing roof top aerials to the renters of apartments. After the renter moved, Wilbur would roll up the lead in wire and wait for the next tenant. He would then make his sales pitch on the wonders of modern radio to the new tenant and if an aerial was sold, Jerman and his coworkers would then lower the lead in wire making it available to the owner of a new radio set.

With business acumen like that, it was easy to see the beginnings a successful business career in radio broadcasting. Wilbur J. Jerman made his second guest appearance before members of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society in the early 1990s when the clubhouse was located in Southwest Portland at 7675 SW Capitol Highway. Mr. Jerman passed away in 2004 at the age of 102 years (see notes in *Call Letter* April 2004 edition).

[If you have memories of the first 30 years of our society please put them in writing and send them to Looking Back editor Dick Karman at [dick@karmans.net](mailto:dick@karmans.net).]

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## **Reserve Your Tables Now!**

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Tony Hauser, Swap Meet Coordinator

Don't forget to reserve your tables for the Fall Radio Sale & Swap Meet on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004. The sale will take place at the Salvation Army Rose Center on NE 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Sandy Boulevard in Portland.

Table rentals are \$15 each and can be reserved by contacting Tony Hauser by telephone at 503-397-0074 or by email at [abhauser@aol.com](mailto:abhauser@aol.com). You can also see Tony at the September meeting about reserving tables.

As always, our volunteers are responsible for making our swap meets successful, so please contact Tony if you would like to help with setup on Friday evening and/or teardown afterwards on Saturday.

Details on exact times for Friday setup and Saturday morning hours will be forthcoming. Please tell your friends from other related collector clubs to contact Tony for information and table reservations!

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# Play It Again Sam

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by Dave Wise

## Philco 60

Cute little 1934-ish 5-tube cathedral I repaired for someone else.

**1. Mechanical:** This chassis rests on four rubber spacers that fit into blind holes in the cabinet base plate. They were all squashed down, putting the dial too low in the escutcheon. (The rubber washers on the tuning cap, though hard, were still the right size and I left them alone.) Rubber garden hose washers fit the holes exactly and should last at least as long as the originals.

Tuning is done through a ball-bearing planetary vernier. Although not being an integral part of the tuning cap shaft I could have refurbished it, it wasn't necessary.

All tube shields were missing, but the set worked fine without them, without any sign of regeneration. Maybe the tubes are just weak:) Since the set ended up working well, I didn't bother to test them.

The dial pointer is a cost-cutting departure from the beautiful old "pointer of light" design. Now it's just a needle of sheet metal formed to cast a shadow on the celluloid. To point straight up and at the right place requires careful alignment of both the pointer and the lamp. The latter is on a stalk that's supposed to snap in place on a hole in the tuning cap frame. This particular example didn't fit right, and as far as I can tell, never had. In the end, I tacked the b\*\*\*\*\*d in place with super glue.

**2. Electrolytic caps:** The original wet cans were a dead short of course. I was able to find nearby tie-points for axial-lead replacements, so I removed the wires going to the original caps. Don't ever just fire up an unknown set. I hear of so many civilians doing this ("For sale, plugged it in and smoke came out"), sometimes I want to just shake them!

**3. Paper caps:** I replaced three, the 1st AF grid, the Output grid, and the AVC bypass. I "know" they're always bad, but I couldn't resist testing them. Yup. This set uses Philco's bakelite block caps. I wasn't in the mood to gut-n-stuff the boxes, but I didn't want wires hanging in the breeze either. I unsoldered the offending cap leads and insulated them with short lengths of spaghetti tubing (tacked down with you guessed it, super glue), permitting me to use the old terminals as tie-points for the new caps.

This set uses a big metal can multi-section bypass cap assembly. I measured the leakage on each section, and it appeared acceptable. Using

an external current-limited power supply, I “heated up” the B+ line. No smoke, so I proceeded to measure bypass cap leakage in-circuit by indirect means, didn’t have to unsolder any wires. Later, when the set was working and thoroughly warmed up, I re-measured various DC voltages to verify that the leakage was still acceptable. One cap is quite large (0.5uF) and used to filter the B+ to the 1st audio plate. The resistor ahead of the cap is fairly large, 70k if I recall correctly, and I expected to see the voltage drooping. To my surprise, it wasn’t, so I left these caps alone.

**4. Weird stuff part 1:** When I powered up the B+, I probed around for a while. I was dismayed to find a randomly-varying positive voltage on the 6A7 converter’s G1 pin. Dismayed because I knew I was in for the same bit of ticklish work I’d just done for my own model 18. Under the chassis, the only disturbed solder joints were this coil. The guy before me chickened out.

Most radios run G1 through a small cap, with a resistor to compete the return path to ground. This is called “shunt feed”. The model 60 departs from this and uses series feed instead. This gives you a higher Q on the oscillator coil and made it very convenient to “pad” the low end with a variable mica compression cap, but makes the converter vulnerable to inter-winding leakage. And there was leakage, apparently due to chemical deterioration of the thin celluloid strip used as insulation and spacer between the windings. I suspect all of you 30’s Philco owners will have to grapple with this within a decade if you haven’t already.

My winding broke up as I unwound it, but I counted about 18 turns of .004" wire. Like the model 18’s RF transformer, the oscillator primary is close-wound at the cold end of the secondary, making it the easiest example of a painstaking task. I don’t have this size on hand, only some hair-fine .002" stuff. (I have about five pounds of it, so you’re all welcome to take some.) Since the primary’s untuned, not carrying but a few mA, and not running over 4MHz, it’s good enough. I wrapped one turn of .010" PVC tape over the secondary, tacked it in place with The Usual, wound 18T of new wire, tacked it down, and soldered it to the tie points. By the way, if you rewind, do it in the same direction as the original. This is critical in an oscillator, so the feedback is the right polarity.

**5. Alignment:** ...is straightforward. IF is 460kHz, with three trimmers. (The diode secondary is untuned.) I happily put my newly-restored GR 1001A signal generator to work. What a great old piece of gear, it’s built like a tank but handles like a Corvette. Once the IF is lined up you trim the oscillator and antenna at the high end, and adjust the padder for maximum signal at the low end, going back and forth until both are right. I use KBPS/KPSU 1450 for the high, KOAC 550 for the low. I noticed

that at midrange the dial was off by 10-20kHz, and tried some judicious positioning of the dial with respect to the shaft. It helped some, but this process always involves compromise.

Many sets around this time offer a “police” band that usually goes from 1500 to around 4000. The low-end sets don’t contain any tweaks for this band. The 60 does have one, but not the expected high-end trimmers. Instead, there’s a second padder, which I adjusted for maximum response at 1550, noting sadly that this put the dial “off” in the opposite direction from the BC band. Like I said, sometimes you just have to settle.

**6. Weird stuff part 2:** I had a lot of trouble with “hum modulation” on this set. Ever wonder why so many sets have a .01 or so cap across the power line, or from line to chassis, or (in AC-DC sets) across the rectifier? You can have the best filter caps in the world, but still get hum - - but only when you’re tuned to a station! If it’s not H-K leakage in the front end, this is most likely to happen when your power cord and house wiring is acting as part of the radio’s antenna. Theoretically, grounding the chassis will stop it, but I’ve yet to see a ground good enough (and short enough, that’s the hard part) to do anything. And with an AC-DC set, you’re not grounding B- anyway. Speaking of AC-DC, the cap across the rectifier prevents the house wiring part of your antenna from being connected and disconnected 60 times a second. On sets with a transformer, the phenomenon is shrouded in obscurity. In my case, I verified that the existing bypass cap was good, and started plugging the set into different outlets around the house. The hum varied greatly from place to place, and I resolved simply to document it and try to explain to the owner.

With that I thought I was done. Guess again! Next day I turned it on only to hear a sudden drop in output a minute or two later. When I made a lot of electrical noise (in this case, by switching bands), it went back to normal. Oh-oh, an intermittent. On a hunch, I set up my signal generator to inject 460kHz at the #78 IF amp grid, and set the project aside. Next morning I warmed up the gen, then turned on the radio. The generator’s 400Hz tone filled the room, then suddenly quieted. Mate in one! It was either the tube, or the IF transformer after it. I prayed it was the tube. I turned off the set, put in a spare 78, and set it aside. Next day I turned it on again, and this time it held. Whew.

Just for fun, I put the old tube back in again. Funny, this one works now. On a hunch, I took it out, refreshed the solder on all the pins and the top cap, and put it back. After three days of on-off cycling, it’s holding.

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# Voilà

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

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Compiled by Sonny Clutter

**Ron Hershey:**

- RCA AC-136 communications receiver from 1934-1935. I believe this is RCA's first communication. set.
- Hallicrafters SX18 Sky Challenger II communication receiver 1938. This set is hacked so much it is probably only good for parts.
- Hallicrafters S-21 Skyrider 5-10 communication receiver from 1938, covers 27-68 MHz. Unusual rack mount version.
- Hallicrafters PM-23 speaker for use with SX-23, 24, 25, 28 receivers. Made from 1939-1944.
- National speaker NC-200-TSG for NC-200 receiver from 1940. This has National's Silver Anniversary logo on it.
- Metrodyne Super-Seven single dial battery set from 1926
- Ovenshire Symphony Speaker for battery sets. Folded horn speaker in walnut tabletop cabinet

**Sonny Clutter:**

- Zenith model 7G605 Trans-Oceanic "Bomber" circa 1942 in excellent cosmetic condition.
- Atwater Kent "Breadboard", model 10
- Hickok Military Tube Tester model TV-7D/U

**Dave Wise:**

- Cathedral, ca 1930. "Trumpet Tone" on the front, Jackson Bell on the back, manufactured by Gilfillan. Chassis matches Jackson Bell model 60 from Riders volume 7 but the cabinet is not the sunburst pyramid shown on somebody's web page for a model 59 (which confusingly has the same chassis in spite of Riders showing a different one), it's a standard, plain cathedral with a lyre grill. Anybody able to help identify it more? It's sort of a first-generation AC TRF, using 26's, with a 24A detector. First set I've ever seen to combine those types, if you're using 24A's your triode is usually a 27. Were they using up a surplus? The schematic is dated April 1930 but it wasn't printed by Rider until volume 7.

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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

**FOR SALE:** \*\*12-volt power supply, possibly generic or home-brew, \$10. Damon Vandehey. 503-259-9129.

**FOR SALE:** \*\*Tube caddy, full of tubes including 24A, 27 balloon, 41, three 45's, 77, 83, five 616's, some 6v6's, plus many more. \$100. Damon Vandehey. 502-259-9129

**FOR SALE:** \*Radio collection in Chehalis, WA. Includes several homemade battery sets, tube testers, speakers, literature (manuals and lots of early radio magazines), a few factory battery and early AC sets and a Radiola 30. List available. For more information or to make arrangements to take a look, contact Larry Senters, 360-740-9598, or e-mail: [lsenters@toledotel.com](mailto:lsenters@toledotel.com).

**FOR SALE:** \*Antique Radio Restoration Video Series! Vol. 1: beginning electronics and cabinet repair. Vol. 2: Intermediate electronics. Each video over two hours long! VHS: \$34.99 + \$3 S&H. DVD: \$39.99 + \$3 S&H. Two-volume SET: \$59.99 VHS or \$69.99 DVD including free U.S. shipping. Check or M.O. payable to Bret Menassa PO Box 51671 Denton, TX 76206. View a streaming preview at [www.bretsoldradios.com](http://www.bretsoldradios.com). More info: [bretsoldradios@att.net](mailto:bretsoldradios@att.net)

**FOR SALE:** Two Zenith consoles: 10-tube model 10-H-5, and 11-tube model, number uncertain. \$200 each. Contact Galen Feight, 503-231-9708, [gfeight@aol.com](mailto:gfeight@aol.com).

**WANTED:** A "deluxe or higher end" wood table radio with two or more shortwave bands, a tuning eye and a quality tuning mechanism (coarse and fine tuning or gear reduction tuning). It can be working or not but please, no basket case. Thanks. Vance Daberko, Corvallis, OR ([vdaberko@fastmail.fm](mailto:vdaberko@fastmail.fm)) 541-753-3356

## Radio Service

These members have indicated they are willing to perform radio repairs:

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

Blake Dietze – (360) 944-7172, [wb6jhh@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wb6jhh@ix.netcom.com)

Tony Ranft – (360) 944-8489 or [ranft@saw.net](mailto:ranft@saw.net) – General repairs.

Dave Wise – (503) 293-7835, [david\\_wise@phoenix.com](mailto:david_wise@phoenix.com)

If you are willing to repair radios, give your name, phone and/or e-mail, and any comments to the *Call Letter* editor.

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is not responsible in any disputes arising from services provided by members listed here. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

## Leads and Needs

Questions about restoration of vintage radio? Visit radiolaguy's web site often for this information plus lots of other interesting displays, photo's, virtual museum plus lots of other information on vintage radio and television. Oh, yes, there are items for sale as well and NVRS members get a substantial discount on most of these items. Thank You, Sonny the Radiola Guy  
Visit my vintage radio web site: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>

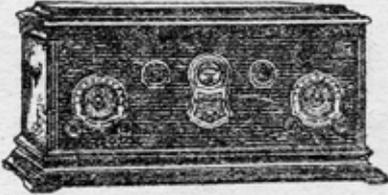
### Dave Wise:

**Leads:** Lots of AA5 tubes available.

**Needs:** Photocopy/scan of service manual for GE 7-2885F "Superadio II."



*Have You Seen It?*



THE new Stromberg-Carlson is here on display at our store. It is the wonderful new set that everyone is talking so favorably about. For music, book review programs or, in fact, any radio entertainment, it has no peer among receiving sets. Let us demonstrate in your own home. Terms as you will.

**The J. K. Gill Co.**  
*Booksellers - Stationers - Office Outfitters*  
Fifth and Stark Streets

From *The Portland Telegram* of November 14, 1925.

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**The Back Page - Swap Meet  
Poster**

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# VINTAGE RADIO SALE

and



## SWAP MEET

### 9 AM - 1 PM

### Saturday, October 9

**Salvation Army Rose Center  
N.E. 18th Ave. and Sandy Blvd.  
Portland, Oregon**

**For information contact:  
Tony Hauser, (503)397-0074**

[www.nwvrs.org](http://www.nwvrs.org)

Presented by



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# Member Information

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Just in case we don't have your most current member information, please take the time to send the information requested on this form.

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**Name\*:**

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**Mailing Address\*:**

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**City, State, ZIP\*:**

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**Ham Call Sign:**

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**E-mail:**

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**Phone:**

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**Collecting Interest (e.g. Battery sets, consoles, clock radios, etc.):**

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\*Information we must have to be able to send you your *Call Letter*. The rest is optional, but we hope you'll share it with other club members.

Mail this sheet (or something like it) to Rick Walton at the society's mailing address:

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379

Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

or e-mail the information to [rwalton@easystreet.com](mailto:rwalton@easystreet.com).