

The **Call**
Letter

October, 2008
Vol. 34 — No. 10

*"Coming again in
OCTOBER
to Historic AURORA"*



BIG

Antique

**RADIO
SHOW & SALE**

*Presented by the
Northwest Vintage Radio Society*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11
9 AM 'til 3 PM**

**American Legion Hall
21510 Main St.
IN HISTORIC
AURORA, OR**

*You'll see and can purchase consoles,
table tops, Catalin, shortwave, wood,
Bakelite and project radios. Radio tubes
& hard to find parts will also be available.*



**FREE PARKING
FREE ADMISSION**

*for more information, see our
website www.NWVRS.org*

Over **30** years in print!

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

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 \$25.00 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 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).

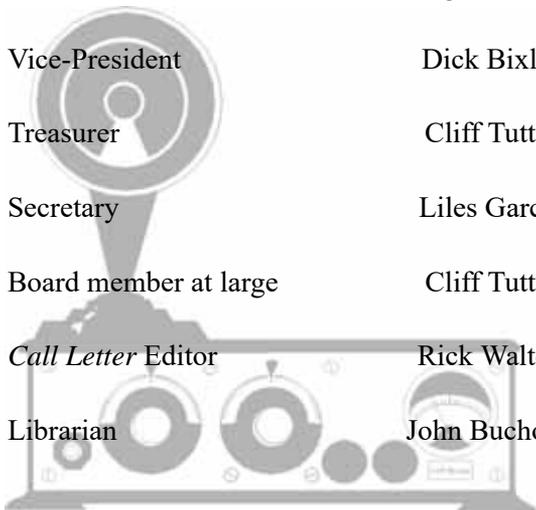
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

With each issue of the *Call Letter*, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1999. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the *Call Letter*.



Society Officers for 2008:

President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 radiogeo@hevanet.com
Vice-President	Dick Bixler	(503) 690-2557 rf2af@verizon.net
Treasurer	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 kiptuttle@comcast.net
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 landn2@verizon.net
Board member at large	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 kiptuttle@comcast.net
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 656-4104 rwalton@easystreet.net
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 BonJonBuck@webtv.net



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On the cover: “As always when it is a Swap Meet month, the flyer for the meet appears on the cover.

The next meeting is on November 8, 2008.

Don't miss the Fall Radio Sale and Swap Meet on October 11 that takes the place of our usual October meeting

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

Next Call Letter Deadline: October 30, 2008.

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.

From the Editor

by Call Letter Editor, Rick Walton

This one is a big ‘un! We’ve got all kinds of stuff for you in this issue. “WRNO, Vancouver” is back this month with a report on the monthly happenings of that group. Mark Moore sent a report on the opportunity for some club publicity later in the month at the Antique & Collectible Show at the Expo Center. Liles Garcia reports on the efforts of several people to spread the news about the Fall Sale and Swap Meet.

“In the Shack” returns with the article first printed in February, 2001. This is among the last articles in the series that Mike Parker wrote for the *Call Letter*.

I just returned from a vacation in Italy, where I spent a week at a villa learning to cook Tuscan dishes when I wasn’t touring the countryside. The food was marvelous and the sights breathtaking. But I didn’t find radios. The only radios I saw were decorations in a wine bar and lunch shop in Volterra. One was a bakelite table set, and the other was a reproduction. I nosed into a couple of antique shops but didn’t find anything except clocks and old scales. It is probably just as well that I didn’t find radios, because I probably wouldn’t have been able to afford them in the first place, and I couldn’t have fit them in my luggage. Next time I go to Europe, I’ll have to do some prep work so I know where to go to find the radios.

Sinatra, Bennett, Norah.

Portland's only station for classic American standards
of yesterday and today. Sunny 1550 KKAD.

Listen online at: www.sunny1550kkad.com



NWVRS Calendar of Events

Most of the hamfest and ham swap meet information comes from: PNW Hamfair web page at www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm

- October 11** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- October 11** North Kitsap ARC Hamfest and Electronics Swapmeet. Bremerton, WA at the President's Hall – Kitsap County Fairgrounds. \$5.00 admission, \$15.00/Table. For more information: <http://www.nkarc.org/hamfest.html> or e-mail kb2skp@arrl.net
- October 25** **Swaptoberfest.** Mid-Valley ARES. Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR. Contact: Chris Portal, W7CLP (503)559-7837. w7clp@arrl.net. 520 South Pacific Highway. <http://www.swaptoberfest.net>
- October 25** Mount Baker Amateur Radio Club Flea Market, Lynden, WA. Always the last Saturday in October. Contact k7iey@netscape.net; <http://www.qsl.net/k7skw/>.
- October 25 & 26** Palmer Wirfs Antique & Collectibles Show, Portland Expo Center. See the flyer on page 11.
- November 8** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Officer nominations for 2009.
- December 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Officer elections, annual Holiday party.
- 2009**
- January 10** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- February 14** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- February 14** Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet. Rickreall, Oregon at the Polk County Fairgrounds. <http://www.w7sra.com>.
- March 7** Mike & Key Swap Meet. Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA. Contact mwdink@eskimo.com. <http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm>.

NorthWest Vintage Radio Society Meeting Minutes

Liles Garcia, NWVRS Secretary

President George Kirkwood called the September 13, 2008 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. Liles Garcia read the minutes of the August meeting. The minutes were approved as published in the September Call Letter. Cliff Tuttle gave the Treasurer's report; it was approved as provided by Cliff. Our Society now has 108 members. John Bucholtz said that the library was doing well. There were approximately 45 people at our meeting today.

Old Business

Swap Meet--Our Swap Meet will be on October 11. Dick Bixler has posters for advertising our Swap Meet, and he will take some down to the shops in Aurora. Radio Station KKAD will be advertising our Swap Meet during the week preceding the Swap Meet. Liles thanked those people that distributed posters for our SWap Meet. Everybody appreciates their help very much!

New Business

Swap Meet Set-Up Times--Set-up times for the Swap Meet will be Friday afternoon from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM and Saturday morning starting at 7:00 AM.

Car Collectors' Swap Meet--Dan Howard would like to borrow a Crosley radio shaped like a railroad diner car. He needs it for the Car Collectors' Swap Meet at the Expo Center.

Expo Antique Show and Sale--Mark Moore discussed having a display of Portland-manufactured radios at this show on October 25 and 26.

Leads and Needs

John Bucholtz said that former member Tom Moore's wife, Suzy, still has radios that she would like to sell. Her phone number is (360) 693-6022. Mel DeBoer has an IBM PC Junior that he no longer needs. Dave Wise needs a knob for a Zenith bakelite radio and a 1500 Volt center-tapped transformer with a current capacity of about 30 ma.

Program Topic

The program topic today was “Tube Electronic Phonographs With Or Without Radios”. Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The program topic for the November meeting is “Northwest-Manufactured Radios And Related Items”.

The meeting was adjourned.

Sonny Clutter gave a class on “soldering” after the meeting. Many thanks to Sonny!



Club members look on as Sonny Clutter demonstrates proper soldering technique.

Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

Here are the radio/phonos displayed at the September meeting.



Airline - Mike McCrow



Philco - Rudy Zvarich



Arvin - Dan Howard



Silvertone - Dick Bixler



Zenith with two turntables -
Sonny Clutter



Motorola - Rick Walton



Motorola - Dick Howard

WRNO, Vancouver

Submitted by Blake Dietze

September 2008

As September comes to a close, so does the warm weather required to complete our wood cabinet projects. The group spent a good portion of our Wednesday evenings discussing general cabinet repair and restoration. Topics included the importance of wash-coating cabinets between finishing steps, the mixing and application of toning lacquers (dye vs. pigmented), and pros and cons of different types of spraying equipment; among many other finish related topics.

In this photo you can see an array of different radios in differing stages of restoration and the relative simplicity of the environment used to perform this work. Saw horses and plywood give us a decent work area, and a couple of 20" box fans with furnace filters taped on the rear side give us a simple but usable work environment. Both HVLP (High



Volume Low Pressure) and traditional compressor-attached spray guns are used, but clearly HVLP spray guns have the advantage as the efficiency is over 90% (less than 10% is caught in the filters or let out into the atmosphere) and state and local laws are forcing their adoption.

Our conversations wouldn't be complete without trying to solve the problems of the world or an occasional debate over which presidential candidate would afford us more leisure time and financial gain to invest in furthering our radio collecting hobby! Regardless of your political beliefs, a completed radio project will bring them to life in your study, den or living room.

Our photo spots this month include:

- Tom's "Peter Pan" radio arriving for both cabinet and chassis restoration
- Pat performing some last minute sanding in preparation for a cabinet face lift



- Quentin getting ready to align his Zenith Transoceanic G-500; his first official radio re-building project.

Next month we'll start looking at some of the individual projects taking place in the WRNO studio (garage).



Antique & Collectibles Show

by Mark Moore

It was 32 years ago, on October 22, 1976, when the Northwest Vintage Radio Society put together a display of old radios at Don Wirfs Flea Market in the Exhibit Hall of the old Memorial Coliseum. We have been invited back to do another display at the much larger Palmer Wirfs Antique & Collectibles Show at the Portland Expo Center which sees up to 20,000 attendees.

On October 25 and 26, 2008, we will have a display that includes microphones and memorabilia from Portland's early radio stations as well as some old radios. Palmer Wirfs will provide a large booth with three tall showcases and one that is about waist high for taller horns and larger radios. The booth will be shared with a couple historians who will have three other showcases for displays of photos and memorabilia of Vanport (60th anniversary) as well as The Expo and the old stockyards.

After putting on successful historical displays over the past four years, I thought a display of Portland Radio Memorabilia would make a good exhibit. In order to have a well-rounded display, we would like to enlist the help of the NWVRS. We can hang our banner and have brochures, newsletters and membership applications. We can expect that there will be television stations there to interview us and give us some media coverage.

I have an old sign or two from KXL radio that can be hung and we can hang any other large radio signs that members can bring as well. At our last meeting, it was suggested that we include a display of Portland-made radios. If you can bring them, we can display them. If you have microphones, photos or memorabilia from Portland's early radio and TV stations, we would enjoy having them in the display. Palmer Wirfs is insured and bonded for our displays. The locking showcases will secure our priceless treasures.

You can find the display at the northeast corner of Hall C, the old rodeo arena. For more information or to arrange for pickup or delivery of your items for the display, please call Mark Moore at 503-286-5224. Setup usually takes place on Thursday and Friday before the show. Anyone who wants to help staff the booth, please let us know.

REMEMBER WHEN?



A Historical Display of Portland's Radio Days

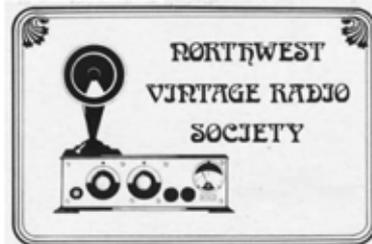
Saturday October 25, 2008 – 9 am to 6 pm

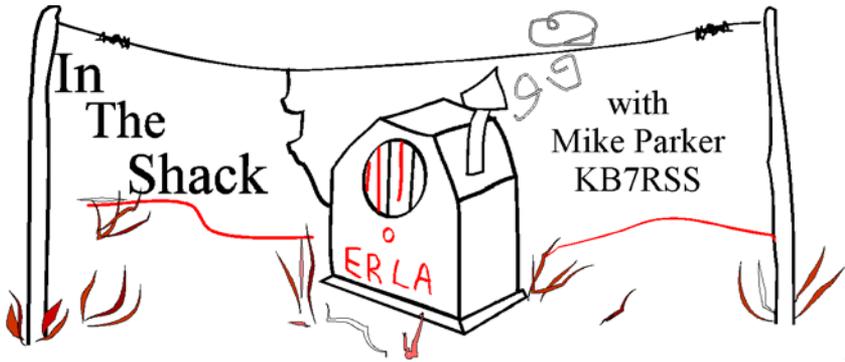
Sunday October 26, 2008 – 10 am to 5 pm

\$7 Show Admission

Palmer Wirfs Antique & Collectible Shows
Portland Expo Center
2060 North Marine Drive

For info: 503-286-5224





Editor's note: This "In The Shack" article is from the February, 2001, Call Letter!

Grandma's Majestic Radio

It's funny how certain things stick in your mind, things that go way back when you were just a youngster. You may not remember every detail but there are certain scenes or details you can picture in your mind very clearly. I have some very vivid pictures in my mind about my grandma's old Majestic console radio. They have been clear in my mind since about 1953.



Back then, it was always fascinating to go to somebody's house you had never been in. In my case, it was always the radio they had that became a cynosure of my undivided attention from the minute I spotted it. Everybody had a radio then of some kind in the house. TV in Portland was in it's infancy. Even poor people at least had a radio, usually an old one. If the people were young and prosperous, you could usually count on seeing a new radio of some type, maybe a nice plastic table model or a blonde wood console with doors. But say you went to your pal's grandma and grandpa's for the first time. You would invariably see an old radio that they had since '29 and still working. Such was the case with my friend's grandparents who had a Steinite console on legs that I remember. For the first few times I was there, I never got a close look at it and I thought they called it a Si-night as they heaped much praise upon it for being the best radio they had ever owned! It was hard to resist the urge to ask them if I could pull it out from the wall and look in the back. After, all, my grandma let me look in the back of her big old Majestic so many times that they finally got over thinking I was nuts and just let me do it anytime I was there.

Grandma and Sid (not my real grandpa on dad's side, I never knew him) always had the radio playing. It was their companion from dawn to dusk, just like my wife's TV today! Grandma liked the soap operas and Sid liked to listen to Grand Old Opry at night. He was from Tennessee and quite a character. They lived together for years before they ever got married! He would tease us kids and liked to sit and whittle wood things and give them to us. He chewed tobacco and had a spittoon. Grandma just went on with straight Lucky Strikes until they finally did her in. I can still hear Minnie Pearl's voice coming out of the old

Majestic while Grand Old Opry was on. “Howdeeeeee!” The Majestic (Model 91) was a powerhouse of a radio. I would stare for an hour at the inside of that beast, the big tubes glowing merrily and down on the lower shelf... the power supply, a big black box with perforated metal that hummed like some kind of miniature power sub-station. The big speaker, with the huge coil would vibrate mightily. When you turned it on you flipped a big bat handle switch on the side with a resounding clunk. I did not like the tuner dial however, which was solid metal and not the translucent amber with the light showing through that I was used to seeing on old radios. They would say to my mom and dad, “Mike sure likes that radio, maybe someday he will own it!” My dad would say, “I don't want it in the house!”

One Sunday we went there and the radio was not playing. I turned it on and the voices sounded gurgle-y and it hummed loudly. They promptly told me to turn it off, it was broke. Disappointed, I heard grandma ask my dad if he would find them another radio. Apparently, dad had always gotten them radios. Before the Majestic, he had found them an Echophone cathedral, which I vaguely remember; it had a pointed top and the dial was over on the right side of the cabinet. From what I heard, it lasted about 2 months and quit altogether! The “Radio of Tomorrow.” Ha!

The next time we went to grandma's, I got to listen to the new radio dad had found for them. What a letdown! It was a Philco midget Depression table model, with two knobs and the speaker in the middle. It rested on top of the Mighty Monarch of the Air and sounded like trash compared to the real radio it was riding piggyback on. Why they did not fix the Majestic escapes me now but I think it was the cost.

Later, one fine day, grandma asked me if I wanted the Majestic. They were getting it out of the house, since the only thing it was doing was holding up the little Philco. I said sure, I would take it. Dad was not too happy about it but said he could throw it in his pick-up with the stipulation that it was only to reside in one of two places at our house... in the garage or in my room. In the meantime, a friend of Sid's wanted the Majestic cabinet for a bookcase or something and all I ever got was the chassis, power supply and speaker. Now, the stipulation was that “that junk stays in the garage! Period!”

The Majestic was a very popular radio in the late 20's and early 30's. The company must have carefully predicted the market for big, ornate console radios at that time and sold a lot of them. They were very well built, well engineered and sounded fantastic with perhaps the best audio stage design and electrodynamic speaker combination in that price range. However, unlike Philco, they failed to predict the onslaught of the Depression and the need for a small, low priced midget radio. It is ironic that the very radio that replaced grandma's Majestic, was indeed a Philco midget!

I kept that “junk” for a few years and everybody thought that I could fix it. But I was only 13 and did not know enough about fixing a radio, especially one like that. But I sure was good at tearing it apart. The power supply sat around the garage and we all got tired of lifting that big boat anchor. The chassis ended up in small pieces and I remember pulling miles of hair like copper wire out of the field coil, never to work again. Occasionally, we would laugh at the funny name on the tag, “Grigsby-Grunow!” After I got a little older, cars, girls and parties became way more important than that radio and dad heaved it all in the nearest dump. I am sure he breathed a sigh of relief, all the way back home.

I guess this story has a moral....be careful what you wish for, you just might get it! QSO you next time....whenever that is....IN THE SHACK.



Swap Meet Promotion Report

by Liles Garcia

Our Swap Meet is coming up in about a week and a half, and I have been busy networking with hobby and interest clubs. I would like to update you on all of the activities that have occurred and are still occurring. Our Society has had a lot of help from a lot of our members.

Here is a list of the activities that we have been working on along with some additional comments:

1. Dick mailed large Swap Meet posters to the antique shops in Aurora. Thanks to Sonny Clutter who created the posters. Many club members delivered posters to antique shops throughout the state and to the two Norvac Stores. This was in mid-summer, which is well in advance of our Fall Swap Meet. Those members that distributed posters should be thanked at our November meeting.

2. I assembled a computer data base of hobby and interest clubs in Oregon and Washington and e-mailed each organization a copy of our large poster. I e-mailed our posters three weeks before our Swap Meet. I wrote Brian's name and phone number at the bottom of the poster so that people could reserve swap meet tables and/or get additional information. I am still adding to my data base and looking for other hobby and interest clubs.

3. I had some counter flyers printed – these are the counter flyers that are sized three to a page. These counter flyers advertise our Swap Meet, and they have Brian's name and phone number on them. Last Friday, I went down to Aurora and passed out the counter flyers to all of the antique shops. I was well-received by all of the antique shop owners. Our large posters are displayed in many, but not all, of the shops. There are counter flyers in the Aurora Historic District information kiosk. We also have a poster and counter flyers in the Aurora Mayor's office! On Tuesday, I took counter flyers to the Norvac Store in Beaverton.

4. There was a comment at our October meeting about getting more members of the PSARA to our Swap Meet. As a part of my poster e-mailing program, I sent a poster to the PSARA. Last week, I sent an individual invitation to the contact person for the PSARA inviting their club members to our Swap Meet. I also offered any of their club members one free swap table.

5. Dick has arranged for Radio Station KKAD to advertise our Swap Meet at different times of the day during the week before our Swap Meet. Dick has also arranged for us to participate in the Aurora Historic Colony ad in the Home and Garden section of our Thursday Oregonians.

Hopefully, these efforts will bring in a lot of people to our October Show and Swap Meet. If anyone has any questions, please let me know.

Swap Shop

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

FREE to a good home: **1939 Philco 39-40 console, cabinet good, needs new dial glass, some repair work already done, hums. 1931 Zenith 11 lowboy console, complete basket case. Neither radios working. I can deliver to the August meeting for pickup. Tony H. abhauser@aol.com or 503-397-0074

FOR SALE: *autographed copy of *Oscilloscopes: Selecting and Restoring a Classic* by Stan Griffiths. It focuses on the old Tektronix boatanchors, and is in impeccable condition except for a small crease on the cover's corner. \$25. Contact Jay Johnston, wihat@msn.com or 503-226-4181.

Radio Service

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

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

Blake Dietze – (360) 944-7172, wb6jhj@ix.netcom.com

Todd Ommert – (503) 246-4141, website www.burlingame-radio.com

Tony Ranft – (360) 944-8489 or ranft61@msn.com – General repairs.

Dave Wise – (503) 648-0897, 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.

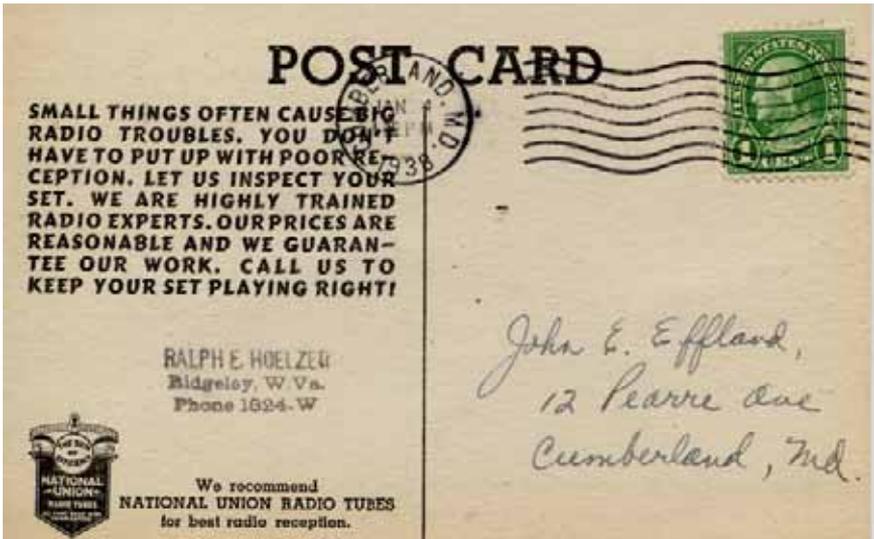
Leads and Needs

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>

Jay Johnston is looking for a Kilbourne & Clarke horn speaker. Contact him at wihat@msn.com or 503-226-4181.

The Back Page

Don Hanson submitted this National Union promotional card to our attention, figuring it had some validity in this election year. Notice the date, 1938, in the postmark, and notice that the cancelled stamp is for one cent.



Swap Meet Location

Map by Google

Here is a map to Aurora. The American Legion hall is just off of Highway 99E at the corner of 3rd and Main Street NE. Exits off I-5 to Aurora are clearly marked from either direction. Really, you can't miss it.

