

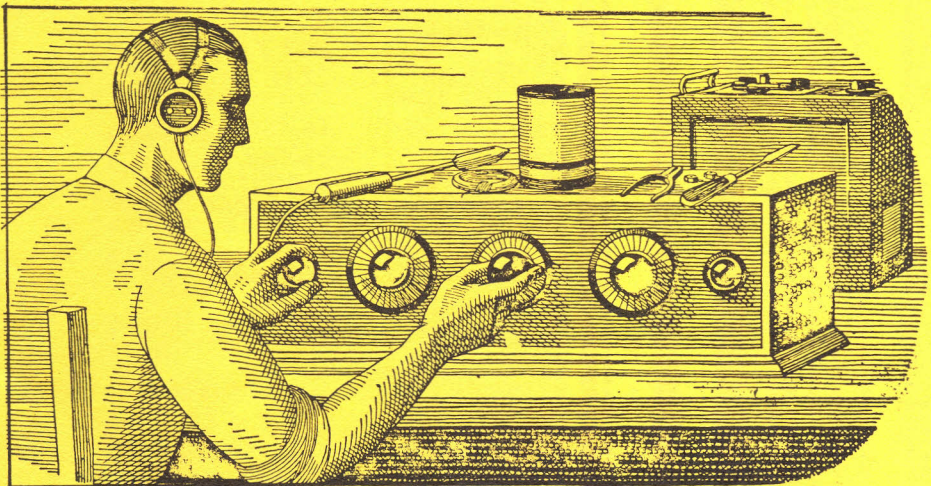
Vol. 4  
No. 9



September  
1978

## CALL LETTER

*On September, ninth, we will initiate the first of a series of home brew and restoration contests. If our efforts are successful and enough interest is shown in this phase of our club activities, we will continue with the project. Come on out and see what it's all about.*





Did you know that Dr. Lee DeForest hated commercials? Below is a quote from him on the subject.

"While I was in the east I thought there was entirely too much radio advertising broadcast over the air. But since I have taken up residence in the west, I have come to the conclusion that I hadn't heard nothing yet. Last night in the course of fifteen minutes I found how I could grow hair, cure rheumatism, become a millionaire and retire on oil royalties; where I could board my dog, and at the end heard the 'Stein Song' from aphonograph record." ..... "wired radio is unquestionably gaining headway. The public service companies are becoming greatly interested in it. One of the greatest advantages of wired radio is that radio advertising over the wire will be entirely eliminated or at least controlled. No one has objections to high-class advertising announcements, but blatant advertising, I believe, is doing more to ruin the cause of radio than any other single factor."

## CALL LETTER

The Call Letter is a monthly publication of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Oregon. Meetings of the society are held on the second Saturday of each month, at the Buena Vista Club House, Sixteenth and Jackson Streets, Oregon City, Oregon.

Editor (pro tem) ..... Tom James  
Feature Contributions by Hugh and Virginia Ranken, Glenn Gonshorowski, Joe Tompkins and from time to time, several others.

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# OUR PEOPLE

*by H. Ranken*

The annual picnic was the highlight of our August 12th meeting --- that and the display of several unusual radios.

The Ladies are to be complimented for providing such excellent picnic fare. The weather, of course, was Oregon's "on and off" rain, but no matter, the picnic was a great success. Those who didn't come missed a good time.

For the radio display, Joe Tompkins brought a Smokerette, a radio and smoking outfit combination, complete with pipe racks, humidors, cigarette boxes, etc. Another Joe Tompkins display was a 1 tube home made, mounted on an old Edison record. A very ingenious and clever idea. Joe also showed a 3 tube reflex kit and a home made 5 tube Neutrodyne.

Chuck Shively brought a Dial-O-Matic, an A.M. radio and 45 automatic record player combination - a compact unit with a novel record player.

Tom James displayed a 1 tube home brew which he recently completed - a replica of one he built in 1923, using a Morton salt box for the coil, works fine.

Bill Baker took us back to the early days of home radio with the set built by his Father about 1923 or 24, a reflex with crystal detector and 2 audio. Bill says it still works.

Dick Howard's 7 tube home built, dating to about 1923, was a gem of neat, precise wiring.

Several of "Our People" have travelled to Seattle to see the "Treasures of King Tut". No old radios of course, but you'll see some mighty interesting things. Those who have seen it say its well worth while.





# ATMOSPHERICA

By J

A Toast - -

Here's to the lowly Kolsters,  
A rarity in recent years ;  
Must have heeded all Joey's prayers,  
For now they run out of our ears!  
( apologies to the Club outlanders  
for including this "inside" non-  
sense verse. tj.)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Radio Genetics

Scientists in our Vintage Club  
Found a method of cloning a speaker .  
They'd take a portion of any part  
And culture that piece in a beaker.

But the curious thing they found out--  
The quirk that made little sense--  
No matter the make of the Mother,  
The products were Atwater Kents !

\*\* \*\* \* \*\* \* \*\* \*\*

## Epitaph

I had a little Tombstone,  
It's brand was highly rated;  
I polished off the face , one day,  
And the dial disintegrated !



# POWER SUPPLY

*By V. Ranken*

Thank you, all you good cooks, for your contributions to our Radio Club picnic and for your help in the clean-up chores afterward. Everything was delicious. Mrs. Tompkins, the huckleberry pie you sent was sensational. Did Joe REALLY pick all those huckleberries? We had about the same attendance as last year and are hoping for a larger crowd next year.

A reminder to the ladies of the Buena Vista Club. Our first meeting after summer vacation is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19, at 1 O'Clock. This will be a pot luck picnic, so don't forget to bring along a food item. Keep on saving your labels, sales tickets, etc. for the Community Club Awards.

If you have cookie monsters in your family, you might like to try this recipe from Aunt Sammy's Radio Recipes.

## ROCKS

1½ cups brown sugar	1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup butter	3 cups raisins, chopped
3 eggs, well beaten	1 cup walnuts, chopped
½ teaspoon soda in a little hot water	2 ¾ cups flour
½ teaspoon salt	

Cream the butter and sugar and add the eggs. Sift the dry ingredients, reserving some flour to roll the raisins and nuts. Mix all together. Place by teaspoonfuls on a greased pan and bake in a hot oven (375°).



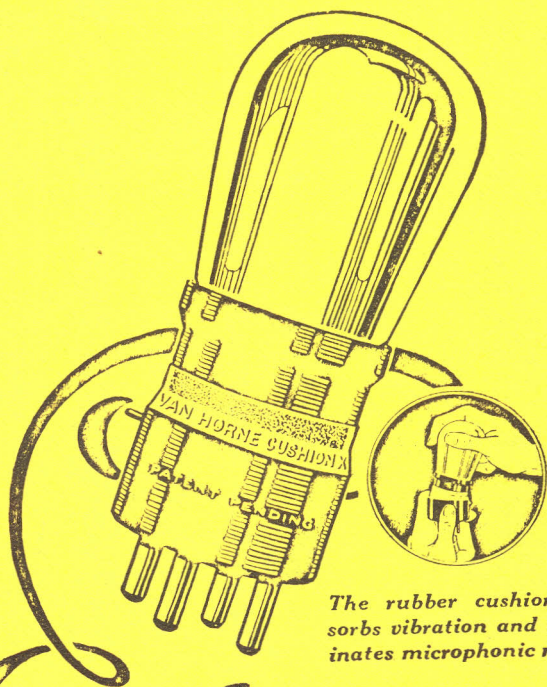
## The Call of the Wild

On the saga of the howling radio tubes, which plagued us 1920-30 vintage radio buffs. There were many different kinds of howls, beside the more familiar regenerative howls which were to a degree at least, controllable. For instance there was the oscillation set up in an audio section due to a resonant transformer of poor design; there was the howl of audio feedback because of interaction of adjacent transformers with poor shielding or again, design. There was the feedback through the powerleads (ie. battery) particularly if the audio gain was quite high. Of course there were unwanted feedback howls in the RF sections because of improper polarities of coils or too close spacing of the coils. Most of the above were curable once they were identifiable. Another annoying source of the howl was the microphonic tube, in which the design of the grid-filament structure was either loose or badly designed, so that it would vibrate at an audio rate and modulate the plate current causing ringing at best, and sometimes if the speaker were close by, it would set up a sustained oscillation or howl. Several methods were used to combat this annoying condition; select a non-microphonic tube, use a heavy lead cap on the tube, install a cushioned socket in the set, maybe a folded blanket underneath the cabinet would help!

The Van Horne Co. of Franklin, Ohio came up with another idea in 1926. A cushioned base on the tube! You tube collector types will have fun finding this particular item. Apparently a 201A type which could have been a great item four or five years earlier but was on the threshold of obsolescence in '26. Also, other tube companies were using stronger and better designs in their methods of securing the various elements to the glass, hence less vibration.

Many were the little innovations during the mad rush of the 20's to get a better radio product than the competition, but few succeeded.





The rubber cushion absorbs vibration and eliminates microphonic noises

# Cushioned

to stop vibration —  
that's why the Cushion  
Base Tube makes such  
a wonderful improve-  
ment in reception



# EDITORIAL COMMENT

On my recent vacation trip, I chanced on an estate auction sale of a farmer up in the Okanogan valley area in Washington State. I first sized up the items up for bid; there <sup>was</sup> housewares and furniture, with some minor collectibles such as old paintings of western scenes etc. The usual complement of dry-farm machinery, an awful assortment on truck beds, evidently the residue of other auctions--yard sale type of merchandise. Then my attention was focused on a bunch of old harness, bridles, saddles and such. I was amazed to see some horse collars with the padding shredding out and the leather completely rotter, bringing ten or fifteen dollar bids. No way could a person restore, or otherwise make presentable these items, so that they would represent an era! It would be an insult to those gone by, to think that such gear was actually used in that condition. A friend of mine at Omak has a nice collection of such horse and buggy day stuff--but in such state of preservation that it could be used today, if a suitable horse were handy.

Now what in Jophet has horse collars to do with Vintage Radio? Well, just this: don't you think that any radio one collects should represent in a measure the same instrument at the time it was someones pride and joy? Some "basket cases" represent a challenge to the collector, who eventually may completely restore it, but there is an awful lot of pure junk for sale, with no hope of restoration nor even parts to salvage. I believe in leaving it lay and not encourage some dealers to handle this sort of merchandise.

I'd like to hear some feed back on this, and come to think of it, I might just have a couple of old junkers for sale cheap!



Member Bob Campbell advises that there are or rather is a 13 radio collection for sale at Freemans Rest Stop Antiques in Redmond, Or. Phone 548-4388. The collection may go on to auction if not sold by Labor Day.

Due to your editors vacation, and Labor Day, and lack of material this edition will be a little late in arriving, cheer up were still alive.

One of the finds of the month seems to be Bob Campbell's recent acquisition of a complete kit in mint condition of a National, Browning- Drake.

We are hoping to get together sme photos to include in our Letter. This entails some preparation of the prints which to date has been somewhat expensive.

It seems to me that out there amongst the associate membership is one guy who has made a find he'd like to brag about. Locally the scuttlebut gets around pretty fast when Tom, Dick or Harry find a good thing. I really don't think you associates got any anything older than 1940(?)

There has been a recent jump in radio tube prices if my source is correct, particularly noticable in the octals and seven and nine-pin miniatures. So you tube collectors take heed when outside people want such tubes for 1970 prices. Among the members however, the old trading policy is still the best.

On my recent trip, I was amazed at what some people consider an old radio. Anything with out transistors seems to be the criterion. One fellow said he had one at least twenty years old! And according to that "Vintage News-caster", Edwin C. Hill, "Time marches On"

So much for the pot-pouri feature of our Letter, see you next month if not sooner.

Your ed. tj



The Phony Boloney Bit--  
according to Frank Plaisted jr.

Frank, of the Hallicraftorium  
Brung home a set from the storium.  
The tubes were all flat---  
And not only that ;  
No one has got any morium !

\*\*\*\*\*

It's been rumored that some of the Vintage Radio cats  
have been seen down at the club, I think it's called  
the "'Cold Solder " joint. Not enough rosin, eh?

\*\*\*\*\*

The sad part about our antique radios is that most  
of the people who can fix 'em are also "antique".

\*\*\*\*\*

I went up into the Junk Creek area of north central  
Washington state, and had a real good American Beauty  
radio, a Radiola 3A, A Grebe Syncrophase, 5 tubes,  
a bunch of old 20la's, other junk too numerous to  
mention, given to me free gratis merely for taking  
it away. Thought I might find a use for some of the  
stuff. By the way this was in 1930 so don't come to  
see it here. (ed.)

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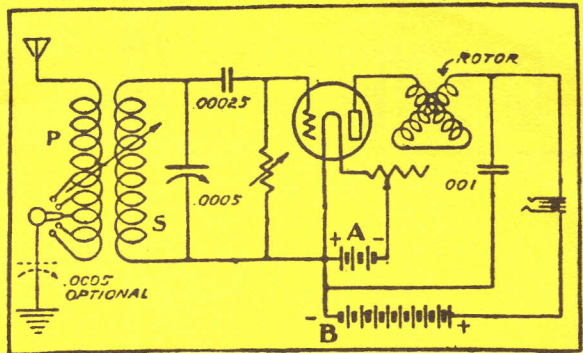
Wanted: An antique radio horn speaker, by a lady,  
with a very large mouth.

Lucy Wyre, ph. 222-1204, Tec. Annex.

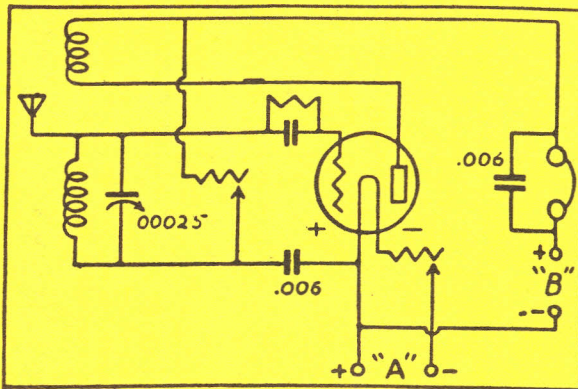
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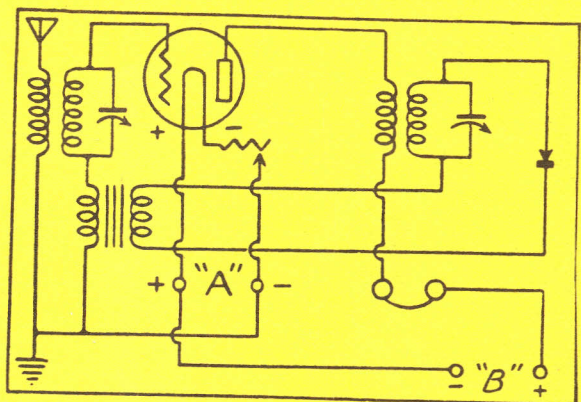
### DOUBLE CIRCUIT TUNED PLATE HOOK-UP



### Super-Regenerative Circuit



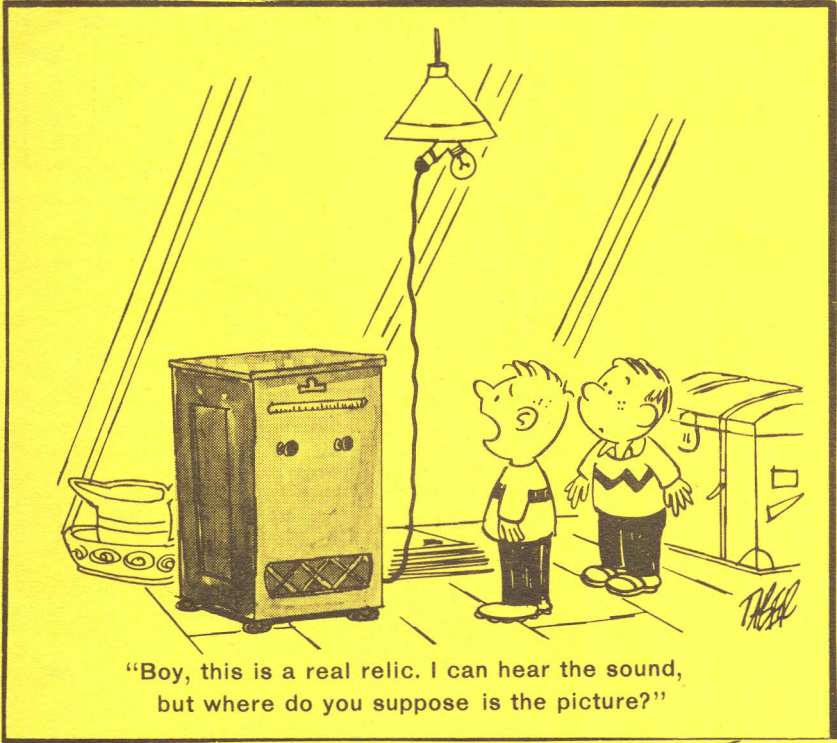
### Reflex Circuit



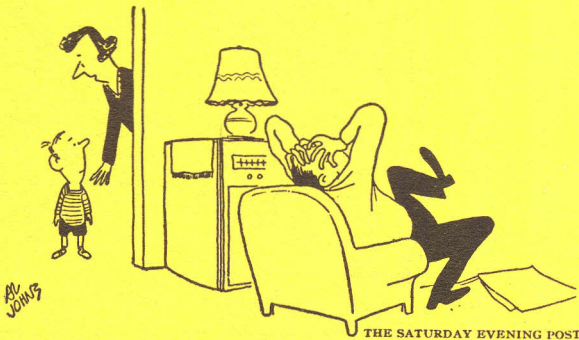
More circuits, courtesy Joe Tompkins



# CARTOON CLIPPINGS



SAT. EVE. POST



"Don't bother your father just now—the President's speaking."



# RADIO STATIC by Glenn

*Scrambled Words ( brand names)*

1. Kragiin                      2. Hpraceat                      3. Doterat  
4. Rowhad                      5. Tenrodmye                      6. Oorans

*Answers to August True or False-*

1. no                              2. no                              3. no  
4. no                              5. yes

\*\*\*\*\*

*In the year 1930, a Southern California radio distributor, Pacific Wholesale, Ltd., Sparton jobber made the offer of a free ride in the Goodyear blimp, Volunteer, to those who bought a radio from them. Which calls to mind many other sales where gas was used by radio dealers!*

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*Also in the same year, a radio man was applying for a job as a salesman. He had all of the usual qualifications excepting that he did not play golf, bowl, or shoot pool. he had been raised on a farm. The only game he knew was throwing dung at a mark on the barn. "Almost anyone can do that", he was told. "Yes, but I can make it stick", he answered, and got the job. This same guy sold me my only Atwater Kent!*

\*\*\*\*\*

*--and the thought for the day--  
Don't get bit, down at the Flea-Market.*



# SWAP SHOP

**WANTED:** Radio Boys books.  
Coils for Nat'l SW-3.  
"Book Condenser" and Cabinet  
for Crosley Model 51.  
Dick Howard Ph: 775-6697

**FOR SALE:** Philco Cathedral.  
AK-37.  
Dick Howard Ph: 775-6697  
9999 S. E. Frenchacres Drive  
Portland, Or. 97266

**FOR SALE:** The following by Joe Tompkins:

1. Pooley Cabinette with  
working speaker for AK 20  
compact.....\$65.00
2. Zenith all wood table model,  
offset on one end for  
speaker, 25" long, 15"  
high, 15" deep, looks  
good and works ..... \$35.00
3. Good 12" round, early  
Zenith TV picture tube.\$15.00
4. 1927 table model Silver-  
tone, mint condition,  
large drum speaker every-  
thing works well.....\$85.00

Joe Tompkins ph: 362-8071  
3796 Hulsey, S. E.  
Salem, Or. 97302