

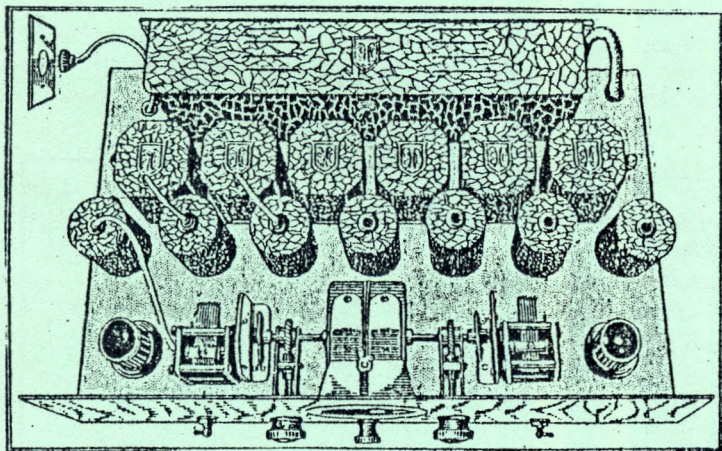
Vol. 5
No. 9



Sept.
1979

CALL LETTERS

Tyrman "72" Custom-Bilt Shielded Grid



From a Chicago Radio Cat. 1929

The Half Century of Radio, will be the theme of the Sept., 8th meeting at our clubhouse. Bring anything, particularly "29 radios. Older items of course, will be Okeh too, as at least one of our members has a nice "brag" item to show. A half century, eh, that 's a long time ahead but not so long Ago, wouldn't you agree?

Notice to all members wishing to get the jackets with the club logo: be sure to bring the \$12.00 cash to the September meeting, as Bob Campbell will get our order on the way at that time, and doesn't want to bother with checks or pay-later deals. I think these jackets will be good advertising for our club.

In regard to the show at OMS9, I have been asked to have all those showing items at the display to have a list of sets or other gear, age style etc. to give to show chairman at the Sept. 8, meeting. This is to better organize the display, and prevent too much duplication.

My replacement as editor of the Call Letter will soon be Bill DeVey. He is one of our newer members and represents a later age group among our membership. If you have an idea for changing format, or changing any thing in the Call Letter, contact Bill with your ideas. I'm sure he will appreciate all the help he can get!

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, normally, at the Buena Vista clubhouse located at 16th and Jackson Streets, Oregon City, Oregon. At 10 o'clock A.M.

Editor-in-Chief.....Tom James
Feature articles by members are indicated under various headings.

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OUR PEOPLE

By Hugh Ranken

Old tubes were the featured display at our August meeting and a very representative display it was. Bob Campbell, Don Iverson, Doug Eggert and Jim Mason all had well prepared exhibits. Along with the familiar Cunningham, Philco, Radiotron and Majestic tubes were such almost forgotten makes as Speed, U. S. Navy, Arcturus and many others. Impressive was the number of tubes in their original cartons -- very colorful when grouped in a large display.

Development of the vacuum tube was said to have started in 1880. HANS GEITEL and JULIUS ELSTER in Germany are credited with recognizing the "valve" effect of adding a plate to an incandescent lamp. A few years later Edison enlarged upon this with the "Edison Effect" and putting this discovery to use, JOHN FLEMING found that rectification took place and could be used as a wireless detector. LEE DeFOREST with his many experiments and discoveries is generally credited with developing the tube as we know it. In 1919 General Electric made the UV-200 and UV-201 for R.C.A. From this date many other makes appeared. (Thanks to Vintage Radio for this bit of tube history).

Our thanks to the Power Supply for furnishing a super picnic lunch after the business meeting in August. Those who did not come missed good picnic fare and a pleasant get-together.

A reminder again of the OMSI display, scheduled for October 6th to 14th. Time to start getting your old time sets in show condition. Let's have a good attendance for the next meeting, September 8th.



ATMOSPHERICA

By J

The Electron Cure

The MacIntosh Faradic battery
Is Jim Mason's latest find,
While most collect the common things,
Jim likes the shocking kind!

When rheumatiz has got him down,
Or from ague, his teeth are chattery,
He wets the sponge and fires up
His new Faradic Battery!

True, cure-all claims were glibly made,
And he wonders how he'll fare,
Jim-- just remember lasting cures
Are made by the 'lectric chair!

** ** * * * **

High Futility

Away back in the twenties,
I was an audio nut,
Hi-fi was a way of life,
No if, no and, nor but.

I tried to get the best of sound
That technique could produce;
Anything less than quality
Was staunchly banned from use.

I still demand perfection
In every set I've got,
But what's the use, I ask of you,
With Broadcast gone to pot?

POWER SUPPLY

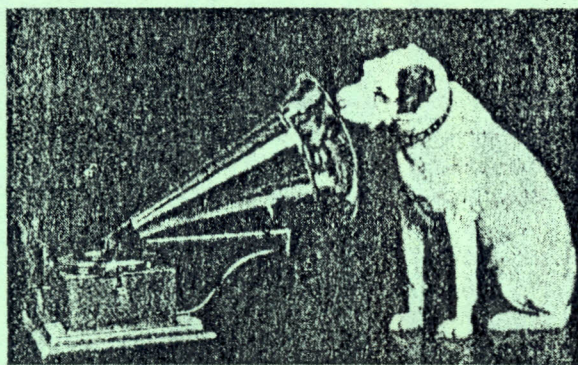
Good food and good company make an enjoyable picnic and we certainly had both on Saturday, August 11th. Even the weather cooperated. We were pleased to welcome Mrs. Harris Hutchinson to the meeting and our picnic for the first time. Mrs. Joe Tompkins brought her sister Dorothy, who was visiting from Buffalo, New York. It was nice to see Mrs. Bob Campbell and Mrs. Don Iverson again too. The item of food that created the most interest was the cake baked by Mrs. Doug Eggert and decorated with a replica of an old radio and the slogan "Old radios turn me on". It was delicious. The Ladies Auxiliary wants to thank you all for your help in making the picnic a success.

A reminder for the members of the Buena Vista Club -- the September meeting will be a luncheon meeting at North's Chuck Wagon on McLoughlin Blvd. Dorothy James will notify us of the time.

Are you one of the fortunate ones to have some Huckleberries? If so, here is an old time recipe for HUCKLEBERRY MUFFINS.

Cream 1/4 cup butter or any preferred shortening with 1/4 cup sugar. Add a well beaten egg. Sift a pint of flour with 4 level teaspoons baking powder and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Add to first mixture with 3/4 cup milk. Stir hard until perfectly light and smooth, then add a cup of well washed and drained Huckleberries. Have muffin pans greased and heated. Bake 25 minutes in a moderate oven. Eat hot with plenty of butter, or can be used as a dessert with butter and maple syrup or powdered sugar and cream. (It seems to me you could adapt this for Blueberries too, which are in good supply now).

"Nipper" Is Back!



"Nipper," the famous RCA Corp. trademark picturing a fox terrier listening to "His Master's Voice" flowing out of a Gramophone speaker horn, is coming out of the doghouse.

In recent years, the symbol had been relegated to RCA's classical record covers. But now the company is planning to spend \$8 million to reintroduce the dog to the public. Nipper will be featured in newspaper ads, embossed on stationery, and painted on RCA trucks.

For many Americans, no introduction will be necessary. Nipper still has regular correspondence from fox terrier owners, students, and museums. And, for residents of Albany, N.Y. a four-ton version of the dog sits on top of an office building that houses and RCA subsidiary.

Nipper was the creation of Francis Barraud, an artist, who spotted his dog — Nipper — listening to his "talking machine." He painted the scene, and in the 1890's sold the painting for 50 pounds to the Gramophone company, a British firm. In 1901 the Victor Talking Machine Co. began using the dog, and it has been a part of RCA since 1929.

*above item taken from Dec. '78
issue of Pac. NW Electronic News.
R.C.A. used Nipper for 50 years.
D.*

It's later than you think !

Fifty years ago, *Senorita* was being played by Anson Weeks and his Orchestra; *Avalon Town* by Gus Arnheim and his Coconut Grove bunch; "Button up your Overcoat" and "That's How I Feel About You" were rendered by Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians. Guy Lombardo was doing such tunes as, "Where the Shy Little Violets Grow." And the singers like Vernon Dalhart were regaling the country folks with "The Big Rock Candy Mountain". "I'll Get By" could be heard on your new Radiola 33, played by Ben Bernie's hotel Roosevelt Orchestra, if you tuned the right stations. Piccolo Pete was tweeting on his piccolo and almost any nite one could hear such songs as "Am I Blue", "Pagan Love Song", "Painting the Clouds With Sunshine", "Singing in the Rain", "Tip Toe through the Tulips," (not the version that Tiny Tim sings), and "My Song of the Nile", if your set was able to reach even a few stations.

Do you remember Sunday Nite at Seth Parkers? His "give me a toot on the tooter, Tommy"? Almost the original "sing along" program.

We were on the verge of a great depression, which did a lot of damage to budding radio companies, putting many old line companies on the skids from which they never recovered, coming as it did on the heels of many new developments, such as screen grid tubes, which necessitated expensive new designs. All the prestige sets were affected because of greatly decreased sales.

Don't feel badly about drawing a blank on all this forgoing stuff, not too many years ago fifty years was a darn good life-span. We can feel fortunate that we are here to enjoy the collection of old memorabilia of the Golden Years of Radio that our Society sponsors. But fifty years--? Why man that's Half a Century !

"Backward, turn backward, O Time, in your flight,
And make me a boy again, just for a night !

(From Elizabeth Allen)

THE CASE OF ONE FIFTY YEAR OLD RADIO

Peter Young was one of the founding members and first vice-president of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. Peter and I both work at the Wilsonville Tektronix Plant. We have spent many a coffee break talking over our latest old radio find. During one of our recent coffee break chats, Peter was telling me about one of his choice finds. The radio in question is a mint condition Radiola 60 with matching Model 100 speaker. It was purchased on February 25, 1929 making it 50 years old this year and of special interest for this month's topic of discussion. You may wonder how Peter can be so certain of the purchase date. It's because he has complete documentation with the radio including the bill of sale (pictured here), the serialized guarantee cards and the instruction manuals for both the speaker and the radio (they were sold separately). Peter also has the original packing carton for both.

The bill of sale indicates that the original purchase price for the radio and speaker was \$208. It's interesting to think about what that would be in today's dollars. If we assume that a 1929 dollar is worth about twenty cents today, that radio would cost over \$1000 now. The sales agreement shows that E. A. Mowery, the original purchaser, paid \$113.50 down. On the back of the same piece of paper is written the dates on which six \$15.00 payments were made. The final payment was made on August 24, 1929. This was just over two months prior to when that radio may have carried the news of the big stock market crash that ushered in the great depression. I wasn't born for ten more years after that, but I'm sure that many of you have vivid memories of those days.

Many thanks go to Peter for sharing this bit of nostalgia and documentation with us.

B.D.

CITY Portland
STATE Oregon

Date Feb. 26-1920

AN AGREEMENT entered into this day, between Et. Johns Hardware Co.
party of the first part, and W. A. Nowary party of the second part,
whose name is signed hereto;

WITNESSETH: That the party of the second part has leased from the party of the first part,
property described herein:

1- 60 Radiola #120907
1- 1901 Spearce #250700

at a total valuation of \$203.00 payable as follows: \$113.50 cash in hand, receipt
of which is hereby acknowledged, and \$15.00 per month last payment due 192

Time is the essence of this Contract. The possession by the vendee of the property is not to be considered
evidence of ownership, but it is expressly agreed that all title shall remain in the party of the first part, and prop-
erty shall not be removed from the City of Portland without the written consent of
the party of the first part, and in the event of default in payment or other breach, the owner may retake possession
of said property (wherever it may be found) with or without process of law, and may declare this Contract ended
and may retain all moneys paid herein as liquidated damages and rental. Damage to property, outside of regular
wear and tear, becomes an extra charge and in event of litigation an attorney's fee shall be added thereto.

SEP 11 1920
J. J. Johns Hardware Co.

SIGNED _____

OCCUPATION _____ ADDRESS _____

PERINULA COMMERCIAL PRINTERS, 205 W. BURLINGTON ST., PORTLAND, OREGON

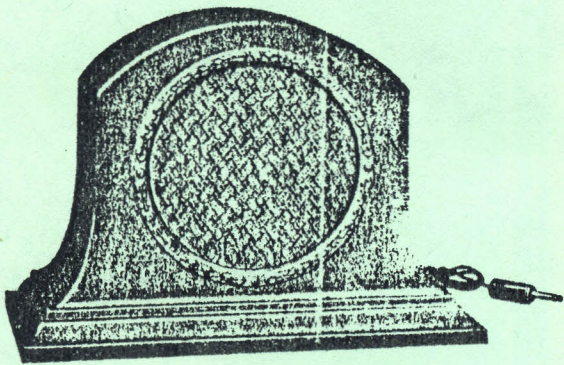


Fig. 1 RCA Loudspeaker Model 100A

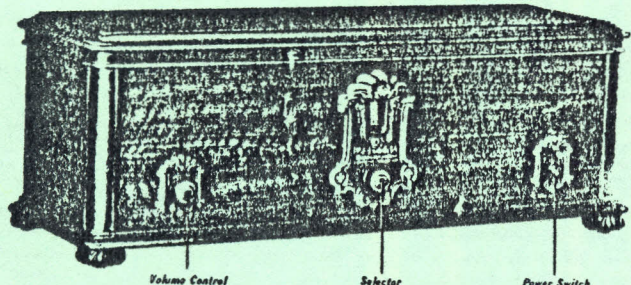
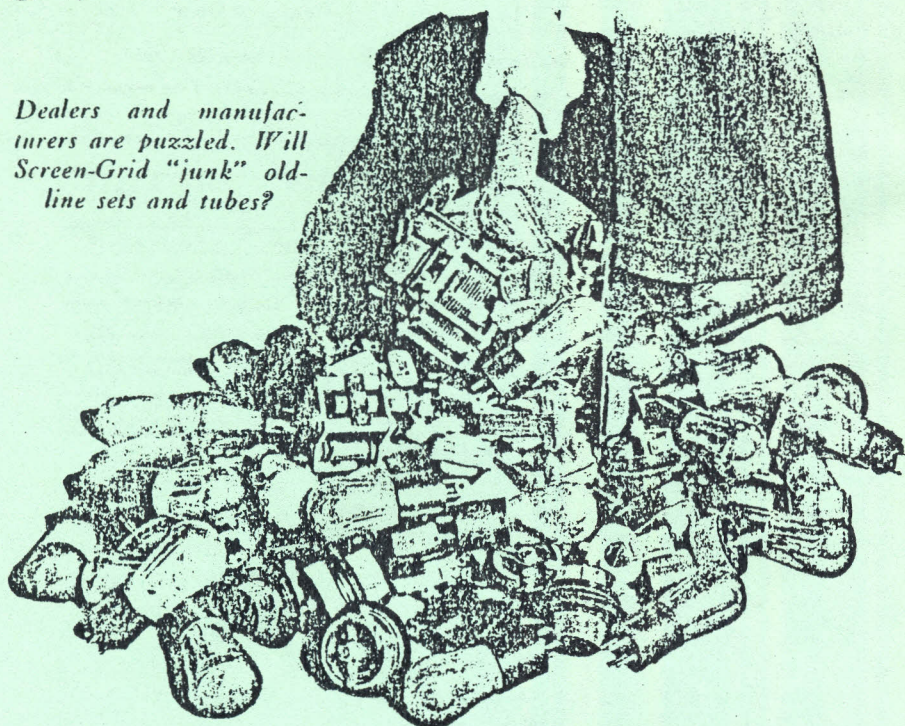


Fig. 4-RCA Radiola 60 (25)

In 1929 —

Dealers and manufacturers are puzzled. Will Screen-Grid "junk" old-line sets and tubes?



The CYNICS Say:
"Screen Grid Is Only 'a Flash
in the Pan"

because —

- Present popularity is merely a passing fad.
- Great sensitiveness is not needed. "Static level" is reached by other sets.
- Sets are unsatisfactory unless tubes are carefully selected and balanced.
- Present sets promise trouble when re-tubed with stock tubes.
- Shortage of tube supply is foreseen this fall.
- Many so-called "screen-grid" sets now offered do not utilize the new tubes efficiently.
- "Screen-grid" name is mere talking point.
- Screen-grid sets are no better than any good, commercial, old-line set.
- Screen-grid models will eventually take their place as "merely another model."

The ADVOCATES Say:
"Screen Grid will Sweep Away
All Other Models"

because it —

- Tremendously increases amplification.
- Makes greater sensitivity and selectivity.
- Will produce great volume with fidelity of tone.
- Is independent of line-voltage fluctuations.
- Simplifies design and construction of receiver.
- Insures more rapid start after turning on.
- Will have adequate and dependable tube production by fall.
- Reduces factory cost of set while improving characteristics.
- Is in an unparalleled state of popular demand today.
- Popularity is based upon customer satisfaction, and will be permanent.

1929 ^A Scrapbook
Selected from Radio World
Magazine

Nothing New and No Serious Tube Shortage

AS TO THE "NEW" THINGS. NEVER HAS there been such a dearth of them. In every nook and cranny that we delved into we could find nothing even resembling "New." More sets than heretofore will be equipped with various remote control, automatic and near-automatic tuning devices. But you wouldn't call that new. Nothing startling in designs, circuits, tubes, speakers or anything other than what the average dealer already knows about. From now on it looks like radio design will be one of refinement, both in chassis and cabinet.

As to the tube shortage. It doesn't look as serious as it did. Tube factories are working girls elbow to elbow, with many of them working double shift. Tubes may be a little hard to get at times but it doesn't appear that there will be enough of a shortage to put a serious crimp in Christmas business.

Seven Dealers Go Broke

SEVEN RADIO DEALERS WENT OUT OF BUSINESS in one western city in one week recently. In six of them creditor's representatives found their back rooms stacked, heaped or cluttered up with old obsolete radios. It can be easily believed that this unsold junk was a major reason if not the main reason of putting them out of business. Probably most of the sets were taken in at ridiculous prices, very likely at a valuation placed at ten per cent or twenty per cent of the new scale. It is mighty few stores that can show a net profit of over ten per cent on the gross, and if a dealer is to give away ten per cent on each sale where does his profit come in? Yet that is the basis on which many dealers establish their trade-in values. If a set cannot be sold, why take it? One never can get rich doing business at a loss. Better have the back-bone to say no than have your creditors force you to say it. Other merchants place their valuations at so much a tube. Which is about as illogical as valuing an automobile at so much a cylinder, or so much a spark plug.

Still others establish their valuations at a certain percentage of the original price of the old set. We can remember when one tubers sold for \$125.00, and many a set that originally sold for three or four hundred dollars isn't worth a dollar for junk today. Yet there are dealers who keep throwing their profit away on such merchandise.

When Stores Become Radio Graveyards

SAYS A CLEVER JEWISH MERCHANTISER ON the Coast. "You can't go broke making a profit on each sale. Ain't dot funny?" Thereby hangs some good philosophy. This publication takes the stand and is willing to debate the question with anyone that a dealer should make a profit, even if it is a small profit on every radio taken in trade. Moreover it can be done. Thousands of dealers are doing it. It is a matter of sticking together, and having the backbone to stay within the bounds of good business. Otherwise the public is going to bulldoze the radio trade into a cemetery business.

CROSLLEY FINDS AC SCREEN GRID TUBE TOO RISKY

Powel Crosley, Jr., president of the Crosley Radio Corporation, Cincinnati, has mailed a letter to dealers, with catalogue sheets telling about new models of Crosley sets.

"Crosley radio with screen grid tubes, of course" was one announcement in the letter.

One attached sheet, announcing "Crosley 82" of the "1930 line," describes this AC console receiver in two models, "H" with 227 tubes and 245 output, and "S," with screen grid tubes for radio frequency amplification, with 227 and 245 for audio.

Footnote on Tubes

At the bottom of this sheet appears the following:

"Note to Crosley Dealers: The use of screen grid tubes in Crosley 82 is optional to meet the demand of those who desire to experiment and try out things. The screen grid tube and its use in radio sets and circuits has been a matter of constant laboratory experiment in the engineering department of the Crosley Radio Corporation for more than two years. A great many experimental models have been built. Sets utilizing the screen grid tube have been available for production for six months or more, but the Crosley Radio Corporation hesitates to recommend or promote the sale of anything until it has been completely proved.

Calls 224 Tubes Not Uniform

"The use of the screen grid tube by the public presents many problems. One of the most important of them is the question of the production of a sufficient quantity of tubes sufficiently uniform in their characteristics to render satisfactory service and have proper life outside the laboratory.

"The Crosley Radio Corporation is fortunate in having a license under the Hazeltine Neutrodyne patents which enables it to build highly selective, efficient and sensitive radio receivers, using standard tubes to get performance.

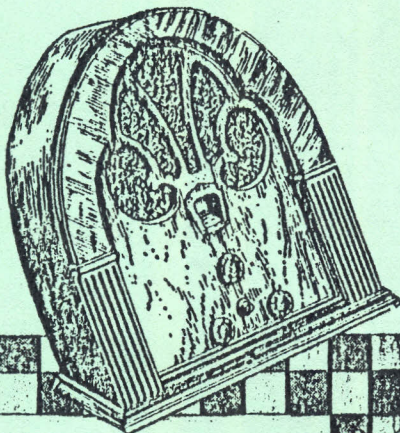
"Crosley 82-S with screen grid tubes presents the highest development of the screen grid tube set to date. It is but little, if any, better in performance than the same set using the heater type tubes (227) with the genuine Neutrodyne circuit.

Mentions Possible Tube Shortage

"Being built in smaller quantities than some of the big-production Crosley models, it should not present a major problem in case of a shortage due to tube manufacturing difficulties in connection with the new type of tube."

The screen grid tubes, with stages properly shielded, require no neutralizing devices.

A second mention of the screen grid tube appears in connection with a model for battery operation.



**WANTED ANYTHING MADE BEFORE 1940,
CASH PAID, ANY AMOUNT
WE PICK UP ANYTIME, ANYPLACE
QUALIFIED APPRAISALS**

Furniture	Comics	Glassware	Clocks
Rugs	Dolls	Post Cards	Trunks
Pictures	Jewelry	Toys	Trains
Radios	Pocket Watches		Coins

MIKE'S GOLD ANVIL ANTIQUES

5901 S. E. FOSTER RD. - PORTLAND, OREGON
CALL COLLECT - 771-1066

Proprietor
Mike Losli
Res. 645-1254

Mercantile Clerk
Bob Davis
Res. 775-9908

1914 1909 1904
1928 1908 1937
 1903 1933 1902 1934 1906 1917 1911
 1929 **1936**



Ole!

The most rewarding finds this month were made by "pal" Joey Tompkins. A Crosley 4 tube (99s) model 4-29 with a small cute horn made by Atlas of N.Y. Further description unnecessary as Joe says he'll bring it to the meeting. He says it plays OK. Then to add insult to injury, Joe uncovers a Kennedy XV, slant front, mint condition, with brass based, tipped, tubes. A card with the guarantee and a Western Electric cone speaker. He's going to bring this one to the meet also--but--he'll have a Pinkerton guard with him just in case!

Bill DeVey uncovered a pretty good Crosley Drum speaker back east last month, plus some "junk" for a mere pittance. These kind are fun when the price is right.

Bob Campbell got a timely little gem in the form of a National S.W.-5, Thrill Box, w/8 sets of coils, and a working AC power supply for same. I believe this item is a 1929 job, and a good candidate for the next meeting.

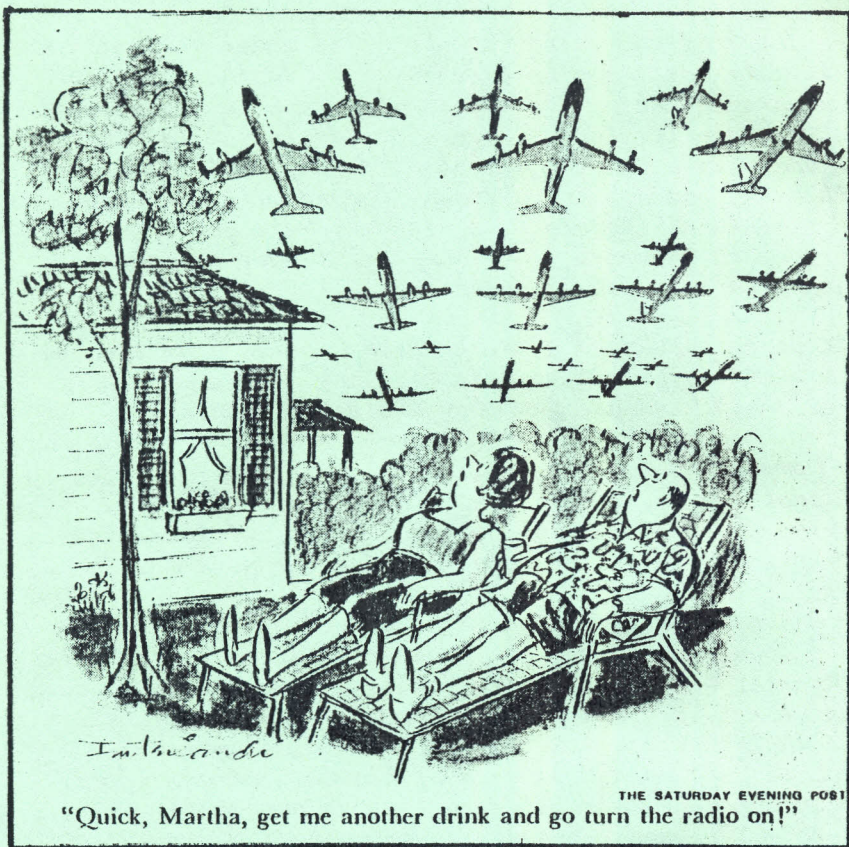
Jim Mason found some goodies he's been after up in the Puget Sound Area, namely a loose coupler made from original parts, but not strictly "antique". An Atwater Kent crystal set (?), and a lesser crystal set. He brings the news that the pres. of the Puget Sound Antique Radio Assn. is getting rid of much of his collection, if any of you guys are interested, his phone number is: 206-783-6151, and the name is Art Corbus. Jim can fill you in on the details I've left out.

Dick Howard came up with a pretty respectable item in the form of a Kennedy XXX. Says that it's in fair condition, but like so many of the old sets, it has lost a few knobs along the way.

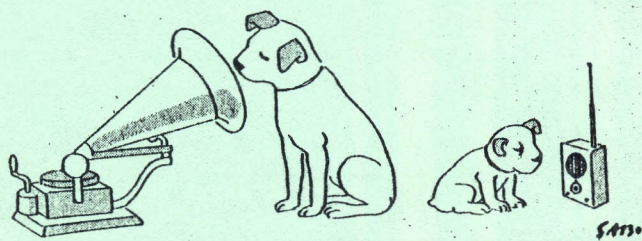
So far the OLE! column has had good results. Quite a few members have told me they like the idea. Personally, I like it better than "Find of the Month" columns, because such judgement is difficult to make in view of the wide range of items our Society collects.

tj.

CARTOON CLIPPINGS



THE SATURDAY EVENING POST
"Quick, Martha, get me another drink and go turn the radio on!"



Sat. Eve. Post.

the IQ trimmer by the Prof.

Who was the "main woman" for each of the following?

Andrew Brown.....

Fred Allen.....

Jack Benny.....

Fibber McGee.....

The Kingfish.....

George Burns.....

Henry Aldrich.....

If you are under 30, forget it! taken from radio shows of the twenties and thirties.

* * * * *

Answer for the radio shown last month: This was probably the first remote control set offered for the general public. It was the No. 56 Te-tek-tor-et, made by Stromberg-Carlson. Do any of you have this classic designed old radio, made in 1933? Your editor has never seen this model, but would love to add it to his collection.

* * * * *

Barney Shmell said he had no use for the Loan Arranger down at the bank. Says he wouldn't advance him a plugged nickel on his tater crop. Says he'd had better luck with Lum 'n Abner, at least they gave him a laugh.

SWAP SHOP

- FOR SALE/TRADE: Grimes Reflex for ???
of equal value.
Joe Tompkins
3796 Hulsey, S. E.
Salem, Or. 97302
Ph: 362-8071
- FOR SALE/TRADE: Crosley 14" Super Cone
Speaker; R.C.A. Model 100
drum speaker; A.K. Model
E-2 drum speaker.
Jim Mason
90 N.W. 150th Ave.
Beaverton, Or. 97005
Ph: 644-2343
- WANTED: Old tubes, crystal sets or
any unusual components.
Don Iverson
10115 N.W. St. Helens Rd.
Portland, Or. 97231
Ph: 286-1144
- WANTED: Knobs for Kennedy XXX (30).
Dick Howard
- WANTED: Coils or forms for National
SW-3. Also any copies of
Q.S.T. 1925 or earlier.
Dick Howard
9999 S.E. French Acres Dr.
Portland, Or. 97266
Ph: 775-6697