



VOL. 7
NO. 12

DEC.
1981

CALL LETTER



We Wish You
a Merry Christmas!

Contents

SAMPLE BALLOT.....	3
ATMOSPHERICA.....	4
DISPLAY NEWS.....	5
OUR PEOPLE.....	6
SERVICE HINTS.....	8
WIRELESS QUOTE OF THE MONTH....	9
SPECIAL NOTICE.....	11
OPEN HOUSE INVITATION.....	12
OL'E.....	13
CARTOON CLIPPINGS.....	14
YESTERDAY.....	15
SWAP SHOP.....	16

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. Meetings convene at 10 o'clock A. M.

** ** * ** * ** *

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** ** * ** * ** *

Feature articles are contributed by members under various by-lines. Please send all contributions to the editor.

** ** * ** * ** *

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Portland, Oregon 97202

SAMPLE BALLOT FOR 1982 ELECTIONS

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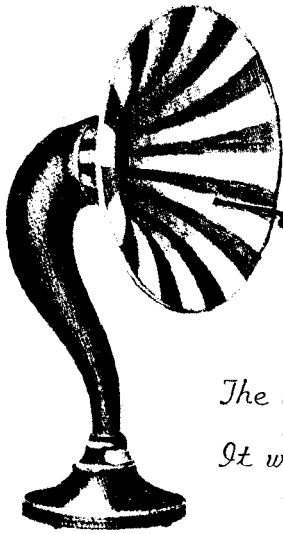
RON WHISMAN _____

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DON IVERSON _____

BOB TEAGUE _____



ATMOSPHERICA

By J

Delayed Delivery

The white bear cubs were playing tag,
Polar lights were flashing bright--
It was December twenty-fourth,
Preceding that fateful night.

Santa's helpers were grooming deer,
Mrs. S. was making soup.
Old St. Nick was a busy guy,
Filling pack bags with a scoop.

The sleigh was finally readied
For that annual Xmas dash;
The reindeer poised and prancing--
Then off in a blinkin' flash!

Nick took a radio out of a pack
(From the many in the sleigh),
Just to listen to the carols
And thus while the miles away.

He arrived four hours late that night,
(Early folks were getting up)
All because he hunted DX
With somebody's Crosley Pup!

** ** * ** *

The times confuse me -----
So much is out of gear.
But I wish you Happy Christmas.
And a Merry New Year!

DISPLAY **news**

Georgia Pacific

Attendance at the Georgia-Pacific Display has been very good over the past six weeks. The department heads of G-P have been extremely pleased at the public interest which has been generated. Likewise the NWVRS has had many complimentary contacts as a result of the exhibit.

An open house which was put on especially for Portland area broadcasters was enjoyed by all, eventhough attendance was low. Several new leads for future displays were established. Our society was represented by Tom & Dorothy James, Jim Mason, and Ed Charman.

OMSI

Arrangements and negotiations have begun for an OMSI display next summer. It, like the G-P display, will be somewhat smaller than the showings which the society has sponsored in the past but it will have a very favorable contact with the public and I'm sure will be well worth it.

Mr. Ivey who is now in charge of OMSI's displays has made several knowledgable suggestions which will be followed up at one or two of our winter membership meetings. It will give us a good opportunity to be ready in the Spring.

special note

Georgia-Pacific is preparing to have an open house for the society, it's members, families, and friends on the twelfth of December. Bring a carload down and have some refreshments "on the house".

OUR PEOPLE

At first it appeared the November meeting of the NWVRS might be a casualty of the windstorm. Not so -- it turned out better than expected with at least sixteen attending. Glen Bricker came clear from Cottage Grove, bringing a guest along. The power failure ruled out the coffee pot, but we did have a supply of donuts and coffee cake, so things turned out pretty good after all.

* * *

Old time radio lost a prominent figure with the death on November 21 of announcer Harry Von Zell. He was 75. Born in Indianapolis, he started his radio career in the 1920's announcing dramatic shows. His greatest popularity came during the "Golden Years" of the 30's and 40's when, it is claimed, he sometimes worked on as many as twenty shows in a week. Many of them were top-notch, prime time shows, like Eddie Cantor, Fred Allen, Ben Bernie and the Henry Aldrich Show. He became almost as well known to radio listeners as the stars for whom he served as announcer.

* * *

Last month we introduced Graham McNamee, first of the great broadcasters, who laid down a fine pattern of professionalism for others to follow. Soon after McNamee came Ted Husing, another great still well remembered by early listeners. Perhaps Husing was not as innovative as McNamee -- that would have been a hard act to follow -- but he was eager and ambitious. Husing's talents were directed almost exclusively to sports broadcasting and there were few who could equal his talents in that area. He helped establish CBS as a leading network and, over the years, deve-

loped the New Year's Day Orange Bowl broadcast from a hard-scrabble affair into a major sporting event.

Husing grew up in the New York area. He tried a series of jobs but nothing proved really successful until he won an announcers audition at WJZ New York in September of 1924, coming out on top over a field of 619 competitors. In those days radio stations held regular auditions, competition was rough, and experienced announcers and radio people came from all over the country at their own expense to participate. For varying periods of time Husing worked at WRC in Washington, WHN New York, then for a Boston Station. In December 1927 he signed on with CBS and stayed with the network till July 1946.

* * *

Do you remember? Here are some of the records we listened to in October, 1940: Kate Smith - "Trade Winds", Connie Boswell - "Blueberry Hill", The Ink Spots - "I'll Never Smile Again" and Glen Miller's "The Call of the Canyon".

* * *

Judging of the home built sets has been advanced to the January 1982 meeting. There is still time to build or improve your entries!

Hugh Ranken

S E R V I C E H I N T S

Philco 90. "Cutting off" of reception I have found is usually caused by opening of condensers in the audio plate circuit. To test, momentarily short across condenser, which will cause same to break down. Replace condenser with new type which has stranded wire from condenser to eyelet in lug. (Note: in sets with serial numbers above 237,001 these condensers are numbered 18, 23, and 28.)—Louis E. Lange, Chicago, Ill.

Philco Model 91X. In the Philco Model 91X which incorporates shadow tuning, if the set is dead, and all that is visible in window of shadow box is a straight line about the width of a pencil mark, look for open coil in Vane Type Milli-ammeter. This meter is located in the B supply lead to the plates of the R. F. and I. F. tubes, and above condition indicates these tubes are drawing no plate current. While these coils may be repaired or rewound it doesn't pay if time is taken into consideration, as a new unit is not expensive. To make a temporary repair with the loss of the shadow tuning feature, simply cut both wires to meter and connect together. A series resistor to compensate for coil resistance is not necessary.—Allen Beers, 724-6th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

Philco Model 91X. Another condition in these models also located in the Vane Type M. L. is set dead, shadow in window of shadow box extending full across window indicating excessive current through meter. Look for a ground where the lead from meter to plates of R. F. and I. F. leaves the coil box. The insulation has been found to be cut through and grounded to the sharp edge of coil box, causing a short to chassis. This lead comes direct from the high potential lead of power pack, therefore if grounded to chassis acts the same as a short in power pack, making it advisable to check power transformer, choke coil resistors and rectifier tube to be sure no damage to these units has resulted from the overload.—Allen Beers, 724-6th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

Philco 95, 96, 111, 112. Blasting at full volume, either continuously or intermittently, with a seemingly inoperative volume control is not due to the volume control. Nor is it due to the 70,000 ohm resistor leading to C—. It is due to an open one-half mfd. condenser connected to the junction of the volume control and the 70,000 ohm resistor. This is located in the filter condenser bank and inconspicuously connected to the volume control. Cut this lead off and solder a one-half mfd. condenser, with a cartridge or metal-cased, between this point and the

Wireless Quote Of The Month

Ernst Fredrick Werner Alexanderson emigrated from Sweden to join the General Electric Co. in 1902 where he later developed the high frequency alternator. His alternators produced continuous waves of frequencies up to 200 khz. and were the primary device used for transatlantic radio communication till superseded by the vacuum tube oscillator. He thought the most important problem facing radio in 1926 was the study of wave propagation. In an interview with Radio News Alexanderson told the staff that:

"We must acquire an understanding of the physical phenomena that take place in space between the sending and receiving station if we wish to learn to make use of radio waves to full advantage. The solution of the present crowding of the ether must come from scientific research, which will open up new channels of communication. We have effectively explored only the waves up to 1 mhz. and we are beginning to learn more about waves up to 10 mhz. Perhaps we will soon use waves up to 100 mhz."

"Much has been learned recently regarding the behavior of these short waves and a new set of ideas has been introduced, such as refraction and polarization. This is only the beginning of a new science. The radio wave is the only known means for exploring the upper layers of the atmosphere, and important discoveries may be expected. This new science can progress only by accumulation of a mass of evidence; and it is the radio fraternity that must be counted on to furnish the evidence."

"The radio magazines are at the present the forum where new observations are brought into light and discussed. The contributing parties are government officials, amateurs, universities and the corporations directly engaged in radio. The General Electric Co. has an experimental radio plant in which seven transmitters

Wireless Quote Page 2.

with different antenna systems are operated simultaneously. Observations on these transmission tests are being made all over the world."

"This, I believe, points the way to the solving of the new problems of radio. The large corporations must be counted on to furnish the expensive part of the experimental equipment, the transmitting plants; but the observers will be largely volunteers, amateurs professionals and universities. The observations will be promptly published and freely discussed, so that the evidence can be statistically arranged and made available as a basis for new theories."

Source: Radio News, March, 1926. Page 1254.

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From the library of Art Redman



JA MAC PRODUCTS

Speaker Re-Coning
All Makes

8600 N.E. Sandy Blvd
Portland, Oregon 97220
252-2929

The advertisement features a central text box surrounded by several images of different types of speakers and horns, including a large horn at the top center and various smaller circular and rectangular speakers around the perimeter.

NOTICE

Change in meeting time!

AT THE NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING A MOTION WAS ENTERTAINED BY THE CHAIR, SECONDED AND PASSED BY VOICE VOTE TO CHANGE THE MEETING TIME AND LOCATION OF THE DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

NEXT MEETING : 7 pm, December 12, 1981

LOCATION : Georgia-Pacific Auditorium
900 SW Fifth, Portland, OR
Concourse level (basement)

THE DECEMBER MEETING WAS CHANGED TO COINCIDE WITH AN OPEN HOUSE WHICH THE GEORGIA-PACIFIC MUSEUM WILL HOST FOR THE MEMBERSHIP, THEIR FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING. HOLIDAY REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED BY GEORGIA-PACIFIC.

**The 4th avenue doors will be locked at 7:30 pm. after that time enter on 11th avenue.

NOTE: Due to the above change in time and location of the December meeting, the customary Society Christmas party has been cancelled.

Remember - Dues are due in December

Full membership.....\$12.50

Assoc. membership.... 10.00

Special Invitation

The Georgia-Pacific Historical Museum will host an open house in honor of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society from six to seven-thirty O'clock, on the evening of December the twelfth, nineteen hundred and eighty-one. This is in appreciation of the radio display which has been placed in the museum by the society. A *Special Invitation* to attend is extended to the members, families and friends of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. Please come and be our guest on this special occasion. See your society's display, meet with the contributing members, and share our holiday refreshments.

The Georgia-Pacific Historical Museum
900 Southwest Fifth Avenue
Portland, Oregon

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard M. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Richard M. Thompson
Museum manager

Ole!

by

T.J.

If one were to put all of the Ole's amassed over the year with acquisitions of those others who did not report their "finds", it would fill a pretty good sized show room. I wonder how we compare with the other clubs in the country?

Jerry Talbot is becoming a regular on this column, I may soon change the heading to: "The Fortunes of Jerry". This month he reports: a '39 Wards table set, mod. 62-352; '42 Zenith 6D520W; '46 Philco 46-350, portable; '51 Zenith H= 5116; '52 Travler wooden cab. clock radio.; '55 Westinghouse H45776; '49 Pilot 3 in. portable J-V; '49 10" GE TV; a nice trip in the country as a bonus.

Evidently I neglected to give our member in Walla Walla credit for some good items he speared at the Swap meet at Milton-Freewater: A couple of De Forest D type tubes; an Atwater Kent 3 tube, mod. JA ampl. unit; an old broadcast type double button microphone. Sorry about this oversight, Pat Stewart, I deserve three whacks with a frayed hunk of spaghetti!

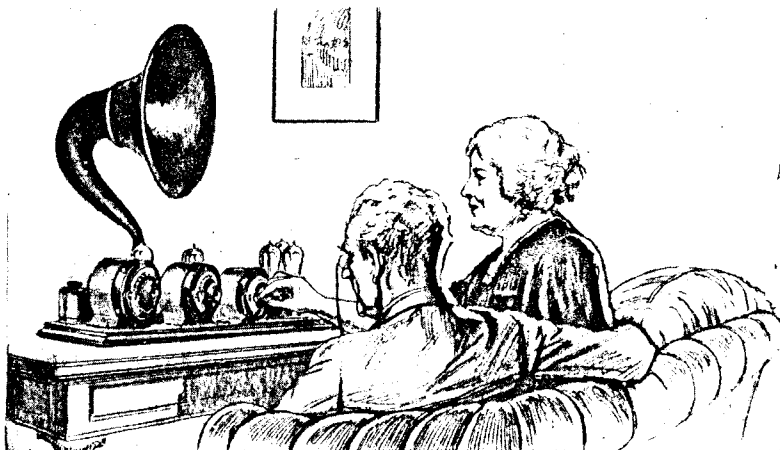
Jim Mason landed a nice Atwater Kent Model-9; A well fed Crosley "Pup"; a little known Kemper portable battery set, 5 01-As.; a Philco grandfathers clock radio; an advertising three dimension Silent Salesman advertising the merits of Fada Radio. Nice!

Your Ole' editor took a trip to the Corvallis area the other day and landed a lot of old twenties radio parts similar to those I worked with over 50 years ago. a few items were Marco dials, Carter parts, Pilot, Karas, Remler tuning condensers in original boxes, Remler 360 degree dials new in boxes, sets of coils for RJ. sets, old Cornell-Dubilier, Pilot, Potter, Muter condensers, all in boxes. Many similar parts in near new condition and a wealth of small parts useful in restoring old sets such as audio transformers, sockets, binding post strips, etc. etc. Also three home brew sets, two supers and one neutrodyne. No mention made of a beautiful Hallicrafters, Mod. TW-500 "Lizigator" portable AC-DC Battery set for good measure, and a Western Electric 1922 amplifier (promised).

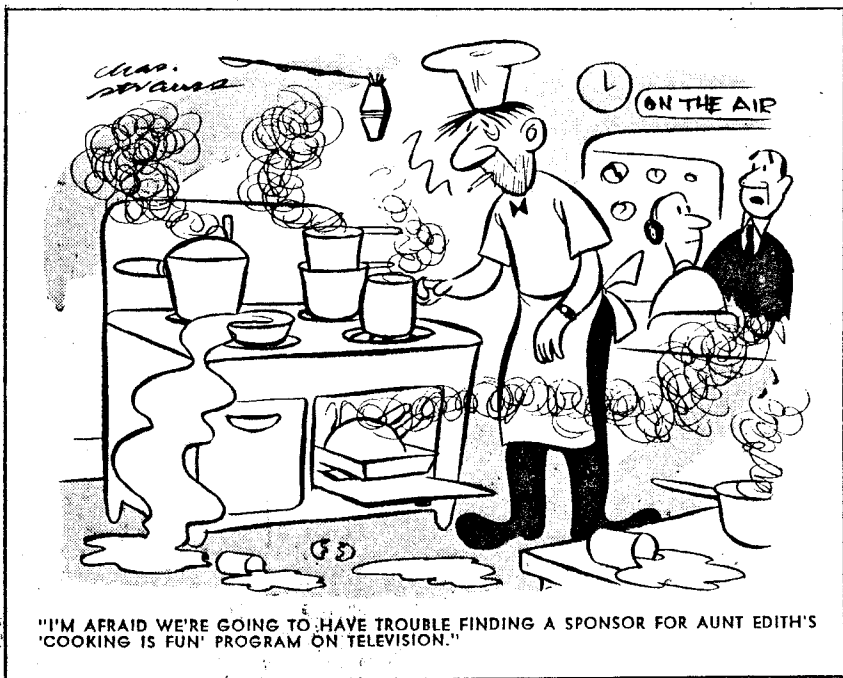
Don Iverson, pres. came up with three rolls of green

wire and a quantity of tubes, namely: Ux-26B 4 pin small, 5 = 303A, 5-275A thirties tubes, 1/3 new in bxs.

CARTOON CLIPPINGS



She: Goodness! When Coolidge gives a speech do they have to put it on all the stations?



"I'M AFRAID WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TROUBLE FINDING A SPONSOR FOR AUNT EDITH'S 'COOKING IS FUN' PROGRAM ON TELEVISION."

JANUARY 1, 1947—ELECTRICAL MERCHANDISING

Yesterday

Fifty years ago, those of us who were there, began to realize that there really was a depression upon us in the air. This was the year of the spindle legged consoles in radio styling. This was also the year that saw many a budding radio company drop out of business, or at least seek consolidation with more fortunate firms. To complicate the fate of many companies was the great advancement in state-of-the-art, both in tube changes and circuit advances, as well as the fact that to compete there were certain patent rights to consider. These were held by a small segment of the trade, especially the tube patents. The similarity of sets, circuit wise, was astonishing; nearly all the companies had a chassis with two or three 24As, 2 27s, two 45s, and an 80. There were few exceptions such as the die-hard triode folks and a dozen or so adventuresome superhetrodyne advocates such as General Electric and Silver Marshall. The supers were made more practical by the advent of the screen grid tube. Remember that supers were invented by Armstrong 12 years before, but it took a tube with much greater gain than a triode to make them a real success. Automatic volume control was used on the better sets, and a handful of manufacturers put a cable type remote control on some models. The older 26 type tube was now passe!

Atwater Kent made his three millionth set in September of this year. Powell Crosley was the first radio tycoon to have his life insured for one million dollars (after working on some of those old Crosleys, I can see why).

There was two television sets shown at the R.M.A. show this year, a Jenkins J.v. Lab. job and a Shortwave and Television Corp. receiver.

Things to come according to interest at the R.M.A. show were the "Midget" receiver and the aforementioned Super. (the Midget and our so called Cathedral are the same)

so long t/j 12/81

SWAP SHOP

- FOR SALE Radiola horn speaker model 1325. Vintage Radio book pages 208-9. \$45.00. Art Redman, Ph. 774-9913.
- FOR SALE Have hundreds of tubes. Call me for any you may need. Don Iversen, Ph. 286-1144.
- WANTED Pre-1950 small screen television (7" or smaller). Prefer one in working condition. Call Murray Stone, (503) 231-8336.
- WANTED RCA external loop antenna or other 1920's loop. Art Redman, Ph. 774-9913.
- WANTED Interstage transformer for Crosley model 51. Bob Hay, Ph. 226-7435 or 659-8566.
- WANTED Large tuning knob for Crosley model 51. Jim Mason, Ph. 644-2343.
- WANTED Zenith 10A3 chassis, 1941 AM-FM that belongs in model 10H551. Will take console with chassis. Philco model 39-116 console. Jerry Talbott, Ph. 649-6717. 1440 SW 239th, Hillsboro, OR 97213