



NORTHWEST
VINTAGE RADIO
SOCIETY

CALL LETTER

VOLUME 18

JANUARY 1992

NUMBER 1



HOOT

OWLS

K·G·W

The Oregonian
PORTLAND

© 1925

CALL LETTER

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 NWVRS has been dedicated to the preservation and restoration of Antique Radio & Wireless apparatus.

The CALL LETTER was founded in 1974 by Harley Perkins (our first President). Editors have served as follows: 1975/77 Bob Bilbie, 1977/78 Bob Hay, 1978/79 Tom James, 1980 Bill DeVey, 1981/83 Jim Mason, 1983/87 Richard Karman & 1987/91 Edwin Buhite.

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society meets at the Northwest Vintage Radio Museum 7675 SW Capitol Highway (at 32nd St.) Portland, Oregon (Museum Phone (503) 246/3400.)

Business Meetings are held at 10:00 AM (Noon in December) on the second Saturday of each month except for summer vacation in August. The meetings are an opportunity to exchange information and advice. The July Swap is at Speed's in Keizer, Oregon. All Swap Meets begin at 8:00 AM.

Annual Dues: \$15-- Renewals are due January 1st

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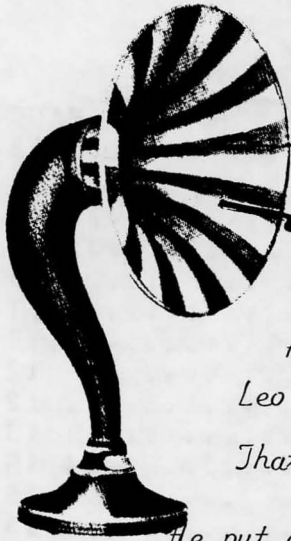
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Data entry by Jamie Buhite.		

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KLVS-1290 Portland IS ON THE AIR! 1-6-92





ATMOSPHERICA

By J

AK's Gain, Leo's Loss

Leo Klessig owned a dairy--
He'd heard it often told
That radio music could increase
His milk-take double fold.

He put a radio in the barn---
A Wayne King waltz or two,
His bossys soon confirmed
What folks had said was true.

'Twas an AK model forty
Built solid, in a car,
With a power speaker on it
Came in like Gengis Khan!

Simple minded "Solly" Perry
Who cleaned the barn, and such,
Believed if some was very good,
More would be twice as much.

He cranked the gain w-a-a-a-y up
Tuned K G A, and then
Thirteen cows of that Jersey herd
Were never seen again!

** ** * ** * **

Antique buffs, they are queer ones;
Antique buffs are strange, I fear,
As they keep on buying objects
That were the trash of yesteryear!



EDITORIAL

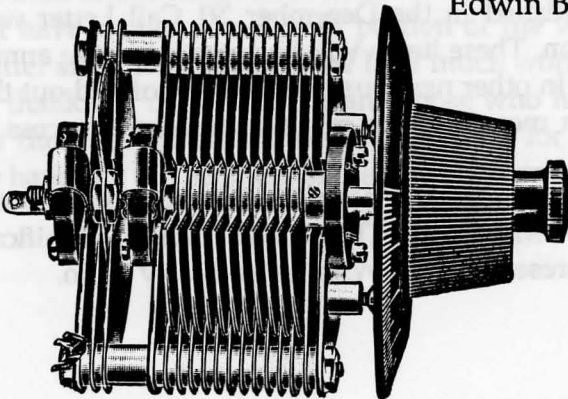
Contrary to popular rumor: KGW radio is still using the call letters KGW at 10 minutes before the hour. They are also broadcasting in stereo.

Each evening KDWN 720 in Las Vegas has some good music beginning about 7PM. If you like music from the 40's & don't live too close to KIRO tune them in. KKEY 1150 in Vancouver, WA Still broadcasts old radio shows from 6PM-7PM. Yesterday USA Superstation is still on the satellite from the National Museum of Communications.

I was very encouraged by the selections of 1992 officers at both elections. Much progress is being made in both Portland and Seattle. I would like to thank those 1991 officers who took the time to consistently back our newsletter each month and also those members who help assemble them for mailing. The August issue featuring CFCN was the 200th Call Letter.

While preparing this month's newsletter, my favorite talk show host, Bob Larson, was kicked off the "Salem" stations (locally KGNW & KPDQ). The contract was "not renewed". I wonder how KGNW & KPDQ would like it if "UNCLE CHARLIE" failed to renew their licenses? Certainly I would not miss them & we would be able to receive KGO better! On January 1st, sometime around 3PM, I was tuning my '38 Zenith and noted a very strong signal booming in on 1290. January 6th 1290-KLVS will be back on the air in Portland to replace KPDQ and 1050-KBLE has already replaced KGNW in Seattle.

Edwin Buhite



NWVRS Meeting Minutes

Portland, Oregon Saturday, Dec. 14, 1991

The meeting was called to order by our President, Dick Karman, at 12:10 PM. Dick welcomed everyone to the Christmas meeting and dinner that was to follow immediately after. Dick pointed out that there was no regular meeting in November because of the swap meet, but there was a meeting of the Board of Directors on November 16, 1991, the minutes of which were published in the December Call Letter. It was asked if there were any comments on the minutes as published. There were none and Ed Charman gave the treasurer's report which was approved as submitted.

In the area of introductions, Harry Auda was introduced as the person who made it possible to acquire the building now housing the Northwest Vintage Radio Museum.

OLD BUSINESS: Dick Karman said the board has several items, the first of which was the purchase of equipment such as a computer for bookkeeping, answering machine etc. This would be discussed at future meetings. Another item was the scheduling of the future calendar. Members were asked to contact Ed Buhite or other board members for any input. Ed Charman announced that we were still taking orders for the book *Radio Manufacturers Of The 1920s*, volume #3. Dick Karman suggested that everyone pay their dues for the coming year as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS: The board suggested the formation of a Promotion Committee that would coordinate the promotion of the NWVRS and museum. Frank Rasada, Dick Dielschneider and Nick Tonkin volunteered for the committee. Changes to the constitution, as published in the December '91 Call Letter were opened for discussion. These items will be voted on at the annual meeting in January. In other new business, it was pointed out that the library has been moved to the museum for easier access by members.

F.W.(Tex) Sloat and James Mason were unanimously voted Honorary Lifetime Members. They have made significant contribution to the preservation of Wireless and early radio.



The annual election of officers was held, the result of which was:

President	Speed Feldschau
Vice Pres.	Sonny Clutter
Secretary	Art Redman
Treasurer	Ed Charman
Correspondent	Ed Buhite

A final item of new business was a call for anyone who could help with printing and/or folding of the newsletter.

Meeting Adjourned 1:00 Pm.

Kem Sypher For Gordon Phillips,
NWVRS Secretary

Parting Shots

By NWVRS President Dick Karman

As we watched 1991 draw to a close, we saw many changes in the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. An early prediction that NWVRS may have it's own museum facility, has come true. Frank and Mary Rasada's dream of their own museum has come true. And new dreams of computerized contests, membership drives, and society promotion loom in the future.

Through my 4 different terms as President I have enjoyed the great support of good and helpful vice presidents, Ed Charman, our faithful and trustworthy Treasurer, and competent secretaries. I would like to thank all of them for their help and their friendship.

I have shared some small portion of the work behind the Call Letter since 1981, and I know how much work is involved. I'd like to thank our current editor and those who have gone before him for their dedication and time. Thanks too for the officers who will be handling the business in the years to come.



NW VRS M
KGW

Oregonian Publishing Co.

6th & Alder Streets Portland, Oregon

by F.W. Sloat W7AHK

Licensed on March 3, 1922, this popular and well known station was christened at noon, March 25, 1922, the featured entertainer being Edith Mason, soprano, of the Chicago Grand Opera. The equipment was installed by Jess Weed of the Ship Owner's Radio Service, and was contained in the Oregonian Building, with the antenna stretched overhead.

The Morning Oregonian of March 25, 1922, carried the front page announcement and requested radio operators not to transmit during the broadcast and create interference. KGW promoted the broadcasting of classical and operatic type music and featured many opera stars. It received much publicity from the parent newspaper.

Although often credited with being the first broadcast station in Portland it was preceded by both the Austin and Hawley experimental stations. The Hallock and Watson station KGG was licensed prior to KGW also, but is said to have had a mechanical problem which kept them off the air for awhile.

Manager and announcer for KGW was Richard Haller and his voice was well known to the listeners of the well operated station. Paul Heitmeyer became the chief engineer. Some interesting gadgets were used in the studio. A shield was constructed over the studio piano which resembled a hood over a kitchen range. Mounted on top this shield, and projecting out at a right angle was a trumpet shaped horn. This arrangement was called "a special sounding shield".

The wind-up phonograph was a locally constructed affair said to have been invented by William O. Erbes, Of Portland. The press called this special device as, "Simcoe Assimilating Phonographic Radio Tone Modulating Amplifier". It was constructed from Oregon kiln dried spruce.



The Oregonian Tower was the home roost of the Keep Growing Wiser Order of Hoot Owls, a fun group similar to the Kansas City Star Night Hawks, of WDAF, the "Whole Darn American Family" station. This wonderfully entertaining group made their debut over KGW the evening of January 29, 1923, and held forth every Friday from 10:30-12:00 P.M. Among the many officers were Charles F. Berg-Grand Screech, Frank Sardam-Grand Scream, and Richard Haller-Holder of the Grand Goat.

A specially built calliope was used to open every meeting and new members had to ride Poor William, the Hoot Owl Goat. The group of Portland businessmen, donating their time and talents, brought joy to untold thousands of listeners, many of them invalids. The Sunshine Division, organized to aid the poor and needy, now under the auspices of the Portland Police, originated with the Hoot Owls. They went off the air in 1934, as one writer put it, "tucked their heads under their wings and went to sleep".

Also, on the same evening the Hoot Owls were on the air, KQP in Hood River had their "Hootch Owls." They were a group of local musicians cavorting in their nest at the station and had a large group of fans in the mid-Columbia. a small hand cranked organ added to their repertoire.

In 1925 the weekly KGW program included:

Sunday-First Presbyterian Church service, Dr Harold Leonard Bowman, pastor.

Monday evening-Organ recital by William Robinson Boone. Quiet after 8:00 P.M. for long-distance reception.

Wednesday-Who's Your Hosier concert, sponsor, Chas. F. Berg co.

Saturday night-Jackie Souder's orchestra, from the Portland Hotel.

Note the "quiet period" for for DX listeners. This was common practice for the times. KFRC, San Francisco, KLX, Oakland, and many others followed this practice. Local listeners could then tune for WSB, KDKA and others in the eastern U.S.

KGW was the outlet for NBC. A popular network program was broadcast on Saturday night-

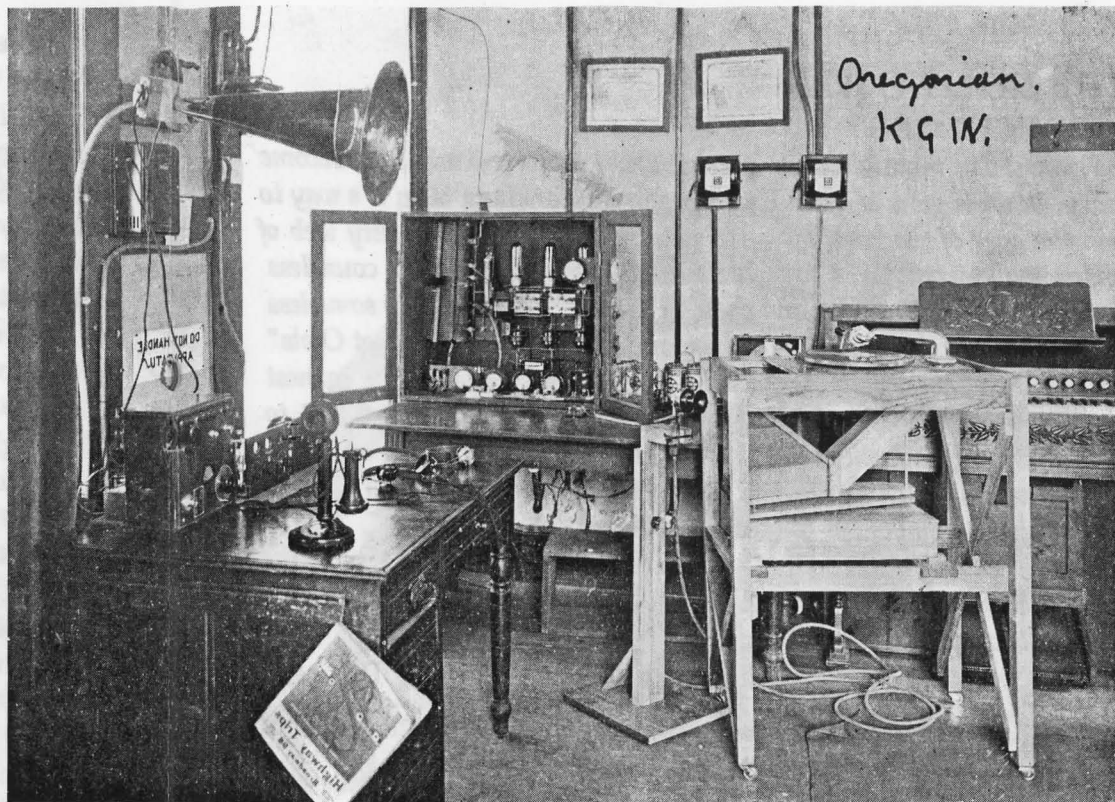
"Dick Jurgens and His Orchestra coming to you from the Golden Canopied Ballroom at Jantzen Beach on the shores of the Columbia River in Portland, Ore."



OREGONIAN BUILDING, PORTLAND, ORE.



1912



Broadcasting Station KGW, Portland, Oregon

Among the Sky Scrapers, looking South,
Portland, Ore.



1922

THE HOOT OWLS

MIDNIGHT ODE

Friends: The midnight hour is at hand and tomorrow will soon become today. What is gone is done. Each song or jest far-flung is on it's way to join the ages of the past. Here we stand, the center of a mighty web of golden waves; radiant waves which travel as a thought to countless thousands, to happy homes and cheerful firesides, but as well to some less fortunately blessed by fate. Should anyone ask us, "Why the Hoot Owls" this is our answer; "Go spread a little sunshine". And to our earnest prayer: "That to those who laugh we send our mirth to linger, but to those deprived of sunshine and the joy of living, with each song or laugh, or jest, we send our blessing and our hope that to some pale lips we may have brought a smile and to others a moment's rest from pain". And as the day is ending and another being born, by the ancient symbol of the chimes we voice our hope that tomorrow may be more happy than today for friends whose portion has been most hard to bear.

TODAY IS YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW IS TODAY

Jesse Weed

Jesse Weed, Portland's oldest commercial operator and technician during the 1920's, was manager of The Ship Owner's Radio Service. It has been claimed by some of his old acquaintances that Jesse was the pioneer operator of the Pacific coast. A pre-war I operator on a revenue cutter, Weed was an instructor at the Navy's Norfolk radio school during the war. He was also chief operator at the old Council Crest station in Portland and put in a stint at the United Wireless station at St. Helens, Oregon. "SORSINC"- The Ship Owner's Radio Service, Inc., claimed to be the largest radio chain store in the world. The company had stores throughout the U.S. and Hawaii. The Portland store was located at 622 Worchester Building, the Seattle store at 215 James Street and the San Francisco agency at 24 California Street. This company was a subsidiary of Seattle's Kilbourne and Clark Co.



P S A R A Meeting Minutes

Seattle, Washington Sunday Dec. 8, 1991

David Dintenfass called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Attending were 28 members and one guest, John Cooper, attending his second meeting. He announced he would like to be a member, so by unanimous vote he is a new member.

OLD BUSINESS: The treasurer's report by Al Atworth stated we are doing OK with many members renewing for 1992 and rent on the meeting room due in January. Remember your 1992 membership dues are needed now. The museum report given by Bob Phelps and Ken Korhonen included some information about possible upgrading some of the electrical system throughout the building via a grant for the Shoreline Historical Society to include an elevator in the museum. Also we have a call for a late 30's / early 40's console radio for loan to the museum for a world war II costume display until June or July. Ken loaned a console radio to Shorecrest High School for a stage play that they produced. Some good public relations thanks to Ken.

NEW BUSINESS Walt Kiefner has ordered the "radio manufactures of the 1920's vol. #3", if you were on the list that we passed around, have your check or money ready at the January meeting. Walt is ordering other books that he will have at the swap before the meeting. We announced again about Steve's Christmas party. Also Dave Dintenfass called the Bill Hebert home and found out that Bill had a heart attack and is in the hospital. We signed a get well card for him. **GET WELL QUICK, BILL.**

There wasn't enough interest for an in door swap meet in February, so we decided to drop the idea for now. The club wants to thank everyone for the huge turnout for last months excellent contest. congratulations to all the winners.

Think about future presentations that everyone would enjoy.

After the meeting we had a short update on Howard Page's lamination project. It looked very nice, Howard. He also showed some digital musical Christmas trees that he built on printed circuit boards.



Also Walt Kiefner brought a VHS video of clips from old time movies that showed antique radios as part of the scene or as central character of the scene. It was an interesting group of clips that lasted about 45 minutes.

David Braun, PSARA Secretary

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Friday, December 13, 1991

Robert Q. Lewis, radio and TV comedian

The New York Times

Robert Q. Lewis, a radio comedian, television host and panelist who was known as much for his fey wit as his trademark horn-rimmed glasses, died Wednesday

at Century City Hospital in Los Angeles. He was 71.

He died of emphysema, said Peggy Bigelow, a friend.

Lewis was perhaps best known for his frequent guest-host appearances on the television shows

of Arthur Godfrey, Jack Paar, Dave Garroway, Perry Como, Faye Emerson, Jackie Gleason and Garry Moore during the 1940s and early '50s. During the early years of television, he also appeared on "Kukla, Fran and Ollie."

"Empire of the Air," a documentary on early radio, to be broadcast on PBS in January

Wednesday, 29 January, 9 pm (KCTS, Seattle)

Empire of the Air, a two-hour documentary by filmmaker Ken Burns, will be shown in January on most public television stations. This documentary examines the development of radio in the United States and focuses on three radio pioneers: Edwin Armstrong, Lee de Forest, and David Sarnoff. Particularly intriguing will be the explanation of why Edwin Armstrong—the man who developed the Superheterodyne circuit as well as Frequency Modulation—is so unfamiliar to most Americans despite his tremendously significant contributions.

Filmmaker Ken Burns is best known for his highly-acclaimed documentary *The Civil War* that aired on PBS last year.

Empire of the Air is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 29th at 9 pm** on KCTS (Seattle). If KCTS is not your local Public Television station, consult your newspaper or contact your local PBS station.



From the President's Desk

David Dintenfass, PSARA president

Hope you've all had a good holiday season. Before I forget, I'd like to thank Walt Keifner for his videotape presentation back in December. If you weren't able to attend the meeting, you missed a real treat. Walt has put together clips from old movies featuring both common and unusual radios. In other news, Bill Hebert called me the other day, and he sends his thanks to the club for sending his get-well card. He is at home now and doing better.

Due to time constraints, we were unable to show the other two scheduled features at the December meeting. However, we'll be showing the *Early Days of Philco Radio* at the January meeting. This includes rare footage of the Philco factory during the late 1920s. Don't miss it!

We will be showing another videotape, *An Afternoon with John Mullin*, later this year. This was produced by the *Audio Engineering Society* and is a guided tour of Mr. Mullin's sound recording collection—a fascinating collection of early disc and tape equipment.

Upcoming Presentations

Please note that this list is tentative and therefore subject to change.

- **January.** Videotape: *Early Days of Philco Radio*
- **February.** 3-D slide show, presented by Walt Keifner, of his visit to the 1991 AWA swap meet (3-D glasses will be provided)
- **March.** Special tutorial on radio electronics by Westinghouse, from a vintage filmstrip/transcription disc program circa 1940; presented by David Dintenfass
- **May.** Videotape: *An Afternoon with John Mullin*
- **April.** Restoration of a Presto 64A vintage broadcast turntable, presented by David Dintenfass (includes information on spray lacquering)



New Members

As we roll in the new year, I'd like to extend a welcome to our new members, both full and associates. In particular, I'd like to acknowledge some of our long-distance members who have joined within the past few months. Please stop by if you're in the area!

Carl Peebles (Centralia, Washington)
Dennis Burk (Sunnyvale, California)
Charles Hill (Buhl, Idaho)

Presentation Ideas

I'd like to stress that this is *your* club; if you'd like to see technical presentations of a certain type, please speak up. Or better yet, consider putting together a presentation of your own. I'd rather not have to call on the same group of folks to provide presentations, but I will continue to do so if I can't convince the rest of you to come forward! Nonetheless, I'm determined to have technical presentations at each meeting, even if that means doing some additional presentations myself—and I can't guarantee that my interests are going to be of interest to *you*!

If you have ideas for a presentation, please give me a call. You can reach me at (206) 784-4803 most evenings after 7 pm.

Regards,



Aero Six Tube "Super-Phonic"
Superheterodyne Receiver
Incorporates Seven Tuned Circuits
Automatic Volume Control

David Dintenfass



SWAP SHOP

WANTED

Crystal Detector (20's or earlier) Bob Phelps 17238 10th Ave NW Seattle WA 98177 (206) 546/5495

Bezel for G.E. S-22 Radio. Dick Boller 3108 NW 91st St. Seattle WA 98117 (206) 782/8318

Philco 37-690X console. Jerry Cappoen 32904 13th Ave SW Federal Way WA 98023 (206) 874/5490

Philco 70 chassis need not work, Ecophone S-3 chassis Has thumb wheel tuner and type 24 tubes. Mike Parker 945 SE Linn St. Portland OR 97202-7027 (503) 235/7187

Grunow 801A console complete or cabinet only. Darrel Forsberg 12209 first Ave. NW Seattle WA 98177 (206) 363/0754

Sky Chief radios, Blue O1A tubes, Pre-1950 TV sets & literature, Catalin & other unusual radios. Ken Korhonen 4022 41st Ave SW Seattle WA 98116 (206) 932/9363

Any member or group solely dedicated to old time radio shows. Any books or reprints of any facet of old time radio shows. Dennis B. Burk 226 East Hemlock Ave. Sunnyvale CA 94086 (408) 734/0749

Guild Pirate's Chest, 100 foot mast, Zenith 10A1 chassis. Speed Feldschau 7445 O'Neil Rd. NE Keizer OR 97303 (503) 390/3928

FOR SALE

Garod walnut console 11FMP2 with rola speaker \$25-- , Rek-O-Kut Challenger phono. recorder \$50-- Edwin Buhite 4041 NE Wistaria Dr. Portland OR 97212 (503) 288/8719

Guild Roll top desk \$400-- Speed Feldschau 7445 O'Neil Rd. NE Keizer OR 97303 (503) 390/3928

Electronic Test equipment, Radio & TV Tubes for \$1.-- each. Bob Lee at R5-D3 Electronic Surplus. 6111 SE 82nd St Portland OR 97266 (503) 774/6560



Old! (acquisitions)

R. A. Dielschneider

- Delco 119K console
- Seeburg 148 Jukebox (trashcan)
- Sentinel 314-I plastic table set
- 1940 Zenith 1005 console
- 1941 Zenith 8A02 console
- 1942 Zenith 7-S-657R console

Max Kaplan

- 1924 Crosley 50

Walt Kiefner

- 1931 Philco 70 cathedral
- Abbotwares rearing horse radio.

Jim Mason

- 1941 Belmont 638
- 1950 Emerson 652-B
- 1957 Emerson 713

- Early 50's Stantex P-1000 battery portable

Mike Parker

- 1924 Home Brew 1-tube regen
- 1927 Case 60-A 1-dial battery set
- 1929 Zaney-Gill "Music Box"
- 1931 Ecophone S-5 Cathedral
- 1931 DeWald 524 Companion Semi-Cathedral
- 1931 All-Aire SW Adapter
- 1934 Colonial 651 Midget
- 1946 Zenith 6R084 table radio-phono
- 1947 Ecophone EC-113 BC/SW
- 1947 National NC-57B SW

Pete Peterson

- Freshman Masterpiece

