

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society  
The  
Call  
Letter

Volume 18

December 1992

Number 12



Christmas Party page 4

# ***The Northwest Vintage Radio Society***

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 \$15.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year.

The Call Letter has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was founded by our first president Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous members the Call Letter has continued to be a publication that both informs members of the society's business and that has supported the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held monthly (except July and August) at the Northwest Vintage Radio Museum, 7675 SW Capitol Highway (at 32nd street) in Portland Oregon. They generally convene at or about 10 AM and 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 radio sales, auctions, and "swap meets" which are advertised in the Call Letter and are held at various facilities in and around SW Portland.

## **Society Officers:**

President	Speed Feldschau (503) 390-3928
Vice President	Sonny Clutter (503) 254-9296
Treasurer	Ed Charman (503) 654-7387
Secretary	Art Redman (503) 774-9913
Board member at large	Dick Karman (503) 288-1285
Museum Curator	Frank Rasada (503) 246-3400

The Society's address is:

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society  
Post Office Box 82379  
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

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# Contents

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December 1992

Truth Stranger Than Fiction . . . . .	.2
Christmas Party . . . . .	.4
Sylvania Tubes . . . . .	.5
1941 . . . . .	.6
Meeting Minutes . . . . .	.8
The Magnetic Cone Speaker . . . . .	10
Acquisitions . . . . .	11
Atmospherica . . . . .	12
Swap Shop . . . . .	13
. . . . .	.

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## The Call Letter

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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 for the quality, timeliness or accuracy of the items 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.

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# Christmas Party

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The Northwest Vintage Radio Society invites all of its members to the annual Christmas Party to be held at the Radio Museum on Saturday December 19th. This is our regular meeting day, but the business meeting will be at 2 pm and the dinner party will begin at 4 pm.

Mary Rasada will graciously prepare the turkey and trimmings. Members are asked to bring salads and deserts.

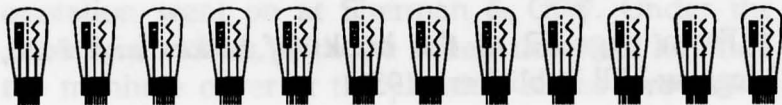
Everyone is welcome and we hope to see members who don't usually get out to meetings, but we do ask that you call Sonny Clutter (254-9296) to reserve a seat for dinner. We want to make sure that there is room for everyone, and that the deserts and salads (munchies, etc.) are equally distributed.

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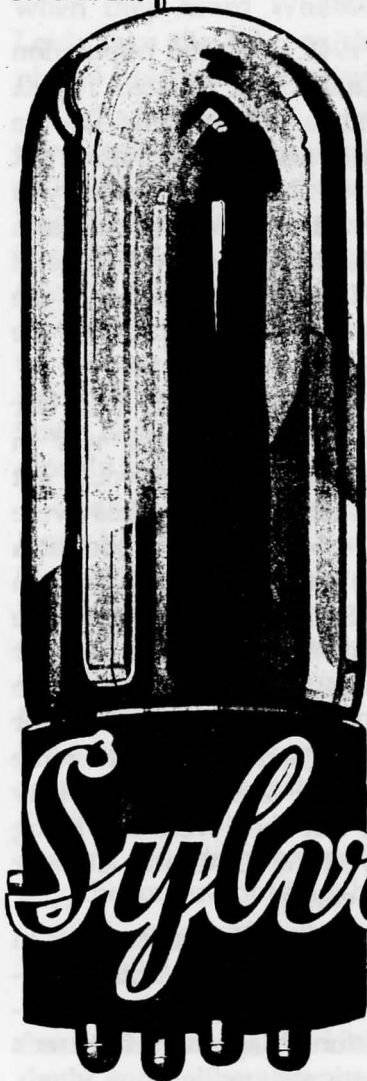
# Announcement

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Those who signed up for books by Breed and Bunis through the Society: those book have been ordered and possibly may be available at the December meeting. The terms are Cash On Delivery, but we're sure that you'll like the low prices. Official name badges have been delivered and will be available for pick up at the December Christmas Party. If you have questions contact Scott McGregor (503) 661-1294.



A type for every  
need or preference:  
S 01-A  
S-99 Large Base  
S-99 Small Base



## If you want to get down to bed-rock on the tube situation

THIS tube or that tube—a cheap, questionable product that quickly wears down "B" batteries and gives little that is worth while in return or a downright quality product that brings out the best in your set—its an important question many fans are asking themselves today.

If you want to quit speculating with radio tubes—if you want to get down to bed-rock and get all out of your set that its possible for a tube to get—then install Sylvania's. Immediately you will notice a big difference in performance: better tone, greater sensitivity, more volume, longer life.

There is no compromise in Sylvania performance because there is no compromise in Sylvania manufacture. There is one standard only—the best it is humanly possible to produce. Yet the price is no more than you will pay for any other tube.

### A Note to Dealers

SYLVANIA tubes are made by a close-knit organization that knows, from long years of experience, the intimate relationship of quality to profits. You should, by all means, get full particulars about the dealer franchise now.

Sylvania Products Company  
Emporium, Pa.

*All apparatus advertised in this magazine has been tested and approved by POPULAR RADIO LABORATORY*

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# 1941

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## A Commentary by Dick Karman

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There were uneasy times in 1941. The total population of Portland was only 307,572, and Bend boasted 10,000. People were pretty much content to stay at home. On the other side of the nation LaGuardia was mayor of New York City and had been there since 1934. No matter where you lived, you knew someone who had relatives or friends in Europe. And those that did in 1941 heard daily reports of the air bombing of the British House of Commons; of the German forces invading Russia; and of the reports of the atrocities of war.

Radio was the media that brought all that into our homes. Although we were concerned over the war in Europe, some Americans vowed the closest we would get to war was our living room radios. And radios were popular. If you had the money you may have bought a grand new Philco 380X console, one of the largest that a blue collar family could afford. Some families bought the Silvertone 12 tube All-Wave console which was new for that year. Every manufacturer was making a console. The larger the box, the more they could capitalize on better sound; larger speaker; more tubes; greater reception. Some brands just didn't make it into the 40's, though. Many Majestic radios were in homes, but they were not being sold anymore. Jackson-Bell was off the scene, and Atwater Kent had closed its doors 5 years earlier.

When folks were on the move portable radios were in fashion. There were several on the market, the Philco transitone PT-87 & PT-88 portables, the Crosley, the first Trans-Oceanic Zenith, not to mention that manufacturer's "Pocketradio," a "tiny" 4 tube plastic set.

The summer of 1941 was keynoted with shorter hem-lines; big band songs like Chattanooga Choo Choo, and the Jersey Bounce; the first use of aerosol spray; and meeting at

the local church or town hall to pack "bundles for Britain," part of our aid to that war-torn country. Several sports fans could not be torn away from their radio that summer when they heard Whirlaway win the triple crown, Joe Louis take the title, or that Lou Gerig had died. Radio played a big part in the way of life in that summer of 1941.

Radio would play an even bigger part that winter. On the clear Sunday morning of December 7th, 1941 an air attack on the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor Hawaii would change the course of our lives. Radio on the Hawaiian Islands was being used to evacuate the residents; to call a few servicemen, who by grace alone had not been on their ships, back to the units; and to relay the death toll to the mainland. Announcers repeated over and over again: "This is not a drill. This is not a drill." The United States had been "at war" for only a few minutes and we had already lost nearly 3,500 lives.

The west coast of the United States had been up several hours by the time that the news reports may have been on the radio. If the radio was on at all it was tuned to "the Radio Bible Class" from the Mutual Network (10 AM Central Time), or its competition the "Church of the Air" on the Columbia Broadcasting System, or "The Sunday Driver" offered at 9:30 am from the NBC Red Network. Most stations and most networks didn't have news commentators in the studios on a Sunday morning. If any were, they were on the east coast receiving and recording the evening reports from correspondents in Europe. That Sunday, the nation could not believe its ears.

1941 changed when on December 8th President Roosevelt delivered those now familiar words:

"Yesterday, December 7th, 1941, a date that will live forever in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."



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# Meeting Minutes

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The November membership meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by President Speed Feldshau. There were 25 members present.

## **Old Business:**

Discussion started about the last board meeting. The members talked about the approval of new members provision of the Society's constitution. Concerned were voiced about sponsoring a new member by a current member in good standing, leaving the constitution unchanged or having the Board of Directors approve new members. No action was taken at this time.

The president reported on his meeting with the members of the Puget Sound Antique Radio Association on October 18th, 1992. The P.S.A.R.A. will publish their own newsletter with Ed Buhite as their editor.

Scott McGregor will assist our new editor Dick Karman by compiling the Acquisitions and SWAPSHOP features. Tex Sloat is a contributing writing. Gordon Philips will also assist in post production work.

Dick Delscheider reported on the status of the Radio Museum. The duct work construction is in progress. The electrical conduit and painting remains to be done in the meeting hall. The furnace needs to be moved downstairs. Hopefully this work will be done in time for the Christmas Party. Volunteers are needed for the "paint party" to work on the meeting hall.

The Treasurer's report was given and approved. The order for \$75.00 for library shelves was canceled.

## **New Business**

A discussion took place about having bulk mailing for the CALL LETTER. Questions were asked on how many copies can be mailed at this rate and the minimum number to qualify.



Many members were concerned about having more room for the swap meets. One solution would be to move the Swap Meet across the street from the Radio Museum to Old School Community Center (Multnomah Arts Center). The costs to do this would include a \$150.00 deposit, \$36.00 per hour, \$40.00 yearly fee, and a \$25.00 application fee. Suggestions were forwarded to include phonographs in our Swap Meet and to have more advertising like in the Oregonian. Sonny Clutter volunteered to run the swap meets next year.

Many members were concerned that our club does not have any liability insurance. Ed Charman will look into the matter.

A motion was made, seconded and passed, to have Sonny Clutter make arrangements for the next swap meets. The society will drop the Oregon City (Buena Vista Club house) site as a meeting and swap meet location.

The Floor was opened for nominations for 1993 officers. These nominations were made and accepted:

President Speed Feldshau

Vice President Gordon Phillips

Treasurer Ed Charman

Secretary Peter Young, & Kem Sypher

There were no reports of "Good and Welfare." The Johnson book was for sale for \$11.00. The Call Letter deadline is the 25th of the month.

### **Leads & Needs:**

The Garrett/Wade wood products catalog is available by calling 1-800-221-2942 at a cost of \$4.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Submitted by Art Redman,  
NWVRS Secretary.



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# Magnetic Cone Speakers, 1926-1928

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Floyd Paul, W6THU

Reprinted by permission from the Old Timer's Bulletin, Nov. 1986.

After some six years of market dominance (1920-1926), horn speakers gave up their sales leadership to magnetic cone speakers. The arrival of the UX-210 tubes (1.5 watts of audio) in 1925 made an audio amplifier available for a speaker that had not been available with the UX-201A or UX-120 tubes. In 1927, the UX-171 (0.4 watts) was introduced. Magnetic speakers could absorb more energy and delivers more power than a horn speaker of early design.

The author did some research and developed a list of over 120 cone speaker manufacturers in the 1926-1928 time period. About one-third of the list also made horn speakers and the rest did not. This indicates an entirely new generation of manufacturers was entering the speaker market.

Since the author has listed over 320 horn speaker manufacturers in the 1920-1927 time period, simple statistics indicate that most horn manufacturers quit business, went bankrupt, sold out or retired.

Magnetic cone designs varied considerably, even as much or more that the horn speaker designs. Here are a few types: single cone, double cone, convex, concave, fan shaped, free edge, restrained edge, and rolled. They were enclosed, protected, and unprotected. They were oval or round. Some were suspended vertically, hung on the wall, or packed in a housing.

Open cones were susceptible to damage; hence a trend toward protection. As an example, Atwater Kent, Model E magnetic cabinets became works of art, and metal frames supporting the cones had ships cathedrals, flowers, and colorful emblems on them. Pressed wood grills were also popular.

Unlike horn speakers, cone speakers were sometimes sold as kits, particularly the types that hung on the wall.

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# Acquisitions

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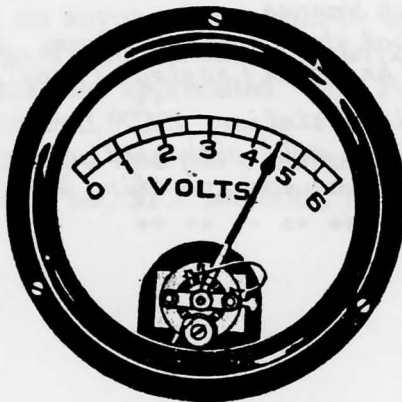
This portion of the Call Letter is to let you show off your most recent finds. If Scott or Dick don't call you and ask, you can send the list of your latest finds to the post office box.

## Mike Parker

- '34 Western Air Patrol wooden midget
- '35 GE M-55 console
- '35 Troy 4 wooden midget
- '37 Silverton 4586 Console
- '38 Howard 220-270 midget (top push buttons)
- '41 Zenith Chairside 12H691 Radio Phono
- '46 Echophone EC-600 battery table set
- '47 Zenith 6D087 Radio Phono Combo
- '47 Bramdes 1030-T Table set BC-SW
- '53 Coronado Chatterbox plastic
- '58 Philco E-818 table set
- '59 Zenith Royal 500-ZX pocket transistor.

## Sonny Clutter

- Amplion Horn Speaker 9.5 inch bell.
- "Firth Radio" Crystal set circa 1922
- Zenith Model 12A58 "baby Strat" Console





# ATMOSPHERICA

By J

## Barney's Choice----

Lucy Wyre was sure determined  
To get "that stone" from Barney.  
She said she knew good and well  
All that sweet talk was 'nt blarney.

So she hinted early that  
Of all presents she could get,  
The best was a sparkly crystal  
Resting in a box of jet.

Barney was a simple farmer--  
No genius, Barney Schmell;  
Quitting school at an early age,  
Zactly when, I cannot tell.

But Barney was not a do-do,  
And that's a winning bet!  
So Lucy awoke on Christmas morn  
With a Philmore Crystal Set!

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

## Mamma Goose # 21

Little Jack Warner  
Sat down in the corner,  
With his Christmas Crosley "Puppy".  
He tuned in a station,  
Went wild with elation,  
And shrieked an ear-splitting Whee!

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# Swap Shop

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The Swap Shop has been a feature of the Call Letter for over 14 years. It is the place to put your classified ads so that they go to the homes of each NWVRS member. You can send them directly to your editor (Dick Karman 2515 NE 37th Avenue, Portland 97212) or to the Society Post Office Box.

## **WANTED:**

GE 82 Cathedral in excellent condition (or other GE that is also a superhet with gothic cut-outs and fluted columns). Any leads would be appreciated. Art Katsapis, 3210 SE 71st Avenue, Portland 97206, (503) 774-8934.

1939 Zenith 5R-312 Pushbutton table set. (see collins book 1, pg 71), 1951 Majestic 5-LA-55 (see Collins 1 pg 95.) Philco model 20 Cathedral. Scott McGregor, 1115 SW 28th St. Troutdale, Oregon 97060 (503) 661-1294.

Advertising for battery sets. Clean Xerox copies are appreciated for decorating the CALL LETTER. Send them to Dick Karman, 2515 NE 37th Avenue, Portland Oregon 97212.

## **FOR SALE:**

E.H. Scott 800B in near mint condition. Regency Cabinet. \$750.00 Art Katsapis, 3210 SE 71st Avenue, Portland 97206, (503) 774-8934.

## **LEADS:**

(from non-members)

Looking for anyone who would be willing to repair a Philco Radio/TV combination, model 22 BU 4101. Any leads would be appreciated. Jay Pasarow, General Delivery, Portland, 97208.

Want to sell a Sparton pushbutton console, and a late 30's table set, \$100 for both, Mr. Huff (206) 695-8983.