

Call Letter

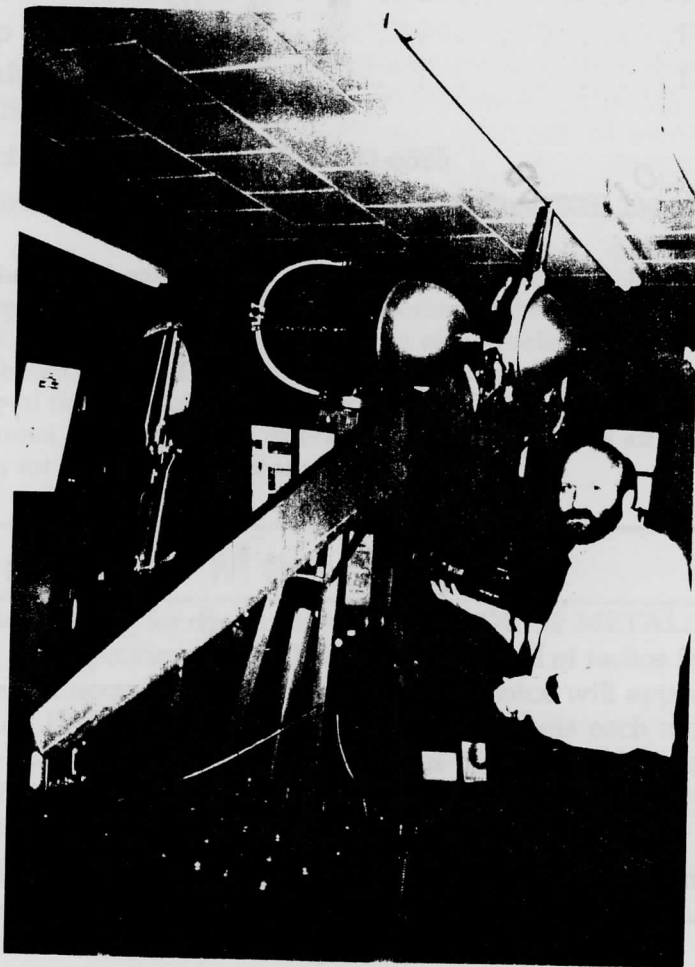
of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, Portland, Oregon

Volume 20

January 1994

Number 1

January 8th Meeting "Show & Tell Returns"



Celebrating two decades in print !

January 1994

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The Call Letter:

Editor, Dick Karman, (503) 281-6585

Binding and Distribution, Gordon Phillips (503) 234-3517

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.

January Meeting

Please bring for display **RADIOS MADE OF METAL**. This is not a competition, but rather a show and tell of radios for all to see. Cameras are welcome and some photos will appear in the Call Letter to encourage others to bring sets each month. There will be a different classification of radio each meeting (see Vice President's note on page 7). This meeting, bring your "tin boxes" and your ideas for next month.

There is always table space available for those members wishing to bring radio related gear for sale. There is no charge for this at the monthly meetings.

Meeting Minutes

From Secretary Joel Camicia, NVRS Secretary

The December 18th annual meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society was called to order at 2:45 PM by President Speed Feldschau. There were 17 voting members present. The minutes of the November meeting were accepted as published in the Call Letter. The treasurer's report was given by Ed Charman, and accepted as presented.

The chair asked for clarification on why ads for certain service providers no longer appear in the Call Letter. The Treasurer, the Call Letter Editor and member Sonny Clutter explained the conflicts which arose out of co-publishing with the Puget Sound Association. By consensus, businesses who do a service for the radio collecting community should be acknowledged in future issues of the Call Letter.

Members are reminded that dues are due prior to the first meeting of the year. [Members are encouraged to use the renewal and survey form sent out with the Call Letter.]

Name tags are available through the Society.

Obtaining a drip coffee maker for use of the Society at meetings was discussed. The issue was how to make coffee faster and more efficient than the percolator which is not in use. The issue was not resolved.

Elections of the 1994 Society Officers was held. The required quorum was present. Results: President - Ed Pitaway (last minute write in); Vice President - Jerry Talbot; Treasurer - Ed Charman; Secretary - Ken Seymour; Corresponding Secretary - (not filled).

Frank Rasada gave a personal thanks to all those who have helped on the museum building and related projects over the last year.

The item of better attendance at the Christmas banquet was discussed. Time of day; particular weekend; better publicity were all mentioned. Frank Rasada suggested mailing a post card specifically inviting members and their families to come. the Vice President, who is in charge of meeting activities and

social functions, will be asked to look into it for next year.

Dick Karman announced that 1994 is the society's 20th year. He introduced ideas of some special functions to commemorate the anniversary year and related that the new board of directors will meet to make up a calendar of events with the vice president.

There were no entries under "Good and Welfare."

Leads and needs were given (none recorded), and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM. the Christmas Banquet followed the meeting.



JA MAC PRODUCTS
SPEAKER RECONING ALL MAKES

8600 NE Sandy Blvd
Portland, Or 97220

503-252-2929

JaMac advertising is done as a courtesy to our members and in recognition of the 20 year association between JaMac and the Northwest Vintage Radio Society.

Wincharger

By Editor Dick Karman

In 1927, a time when member Gordon Phillips was running a paper route in the Sellwood area, and when Bing Crosby first started singing with the Paul Whiteman Orchestra, two farm boys, John & Gearhardt Albers, in Cherokee, Iowa, got tired of hauling their radio batteries into town to get charged. Farm radios came in the same shapes and sizes as other radios but they were DC and required several batches of dry batteries or messy rechargeable lead-acid batteries.

With everything happening that year, farmers didn't want to miss a single news event, like the famous Demsey/Tunney fight, or the Lindburg transatlantic flight. Having the batteries "in town" overnight was a problem. The over 23 million automobiles on the road gave the Albers brothers an idea. Most cars used their engines to recharge their storage batteries. The 6-volt generator, when hooked up properly could charge radio batteries. They took a windmill tower, placed an automobile generator on the top of it and ran the wires down to their batteries. It wasn't as spectacular as the first talking movie which was released that year, but it worked.

For the next few years the Iowa boys built their products in a shed "down on the farm" and sold their Wincharger for \$44.50. The photo on the cover shows the author with an original Wincharger and its storage batteries which are on display in the Pioneer Village Museum in Linden, Nebraska.

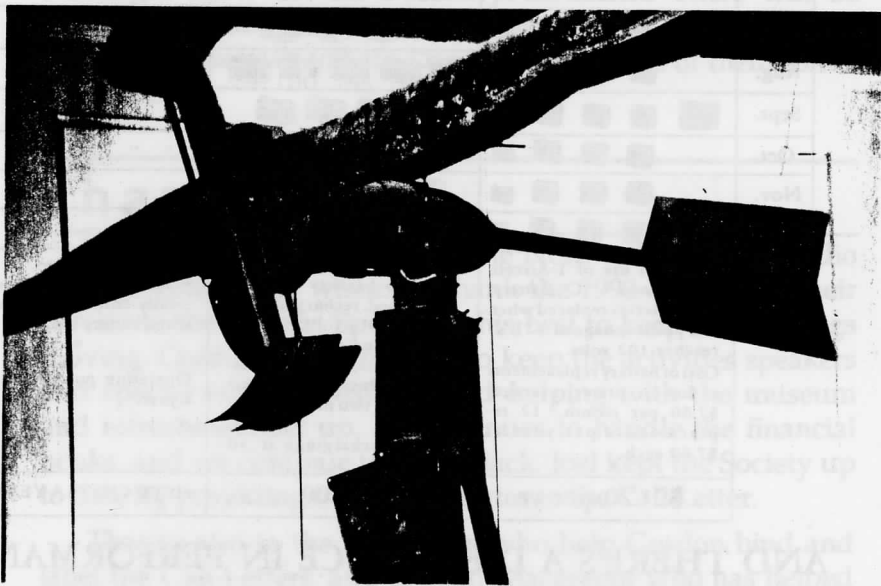
In early April of 1935 Gene McDonald, head of Zenith



The Zenith "weather vane" tail on display in the NVRS museum.

Radio, heard about the Wincharger and sent Carl Hansel to visit the Albers brothers. The idea was sound, but some of the technology was lacking. McDonald and Hansel offered John Albers some technological advancements in return for a mass-produced product for a lower price. One such improvement was a governor to prevent damaging the batteries in a strong storm. When all was said and done, Zenith Radio placed an order for 50,000 Winchargers bearing the Zenith name. As a result Zenith offered the "Wincharger battery system" for \$10 when purchased with a Zenith farm radio. This marketing by the Zenith company was credited with carrying the company through a rough season by selling to a rural market when times got tough.

When rural electric lines started to reach the outlying farms in 1944-45, the Wincharger and the DC farm radio became obsolete and the Wincharger soon ended in the scrap heap. Frank Rasada has a Wincharger on display in the NVRS Museum, and also loaned the author the advertising which appears in this issue.



This Zenith Wincharger is on display in the NVRS Museum. It was obtained by Speed Feldschau and purchased by Museum owner Frank Rasada.

Startling New!



50c A YEAR
OPERATING POWER COST
With Frepower

A STARTLING COMPARISON OF OPERATING COSTS

SEE FOR YOURSELF WHAT IT COSTS TO OPERATE A DRY BATTERY RADIO

TEN HOURS EVERY DAY OPERATION FOR ONE YEAR			
	Ordinary 2 Volt Dry Battery Radio	Ordinary 6 Volt Battery Radio	New Zenith SHORT WAVE 6 VOLT FARM RADIO with WINCHARGER
Jan.			No Cost For Recharging
Feb.			" " " "
Mar.			" " " "
Apr.			" " " "
May			" " " "
June			" " " "
July			" " " "
Aug.			" " " "
Sept.			" " " "
Oct.			" " " "
Nov.			" " " "
Dec.			" " " "
	Based on use of 1-Aircell, 3 "B's" and 1 "C" Battery. "B" batteries replaced when end point voltage of 3 "B's" reaches 102 volts. Cost of battery replacements at lowest prices, averages \$7.60 per month. 12 replacements per year at \$7.60 each.	Based on 175 ampere hour storage battery on 2.35 amps. load, recharged when down to 5 1/2 volts. —not including expense of hauling—cost of rental batteries or loss of use of set for nearly two months each year—cost 52 rechargings at .50 each—	—no recharging— —no run down batteries, —only cost, distilled water when battery needs it. Operating power cost 50c a year.
	\$91.20 per yr.	\$26.00	FIFTY CENTS A YEAR, max.

AND THERE'S A DIFFERENCE IN PERFORMANCE

Looking to 1994

From Vice President Jerry Talbott

As I mentioned at the November 1993 meeting, I would like to see our Society return to the policy of bringing radios and related items to the monthly meetings. I plan to call this portion of the meetings "member's choice." The choice for the February meeting will be made at the January meeting; in February we'll decide for March, etc.

This is not a contest. This is show and tell. Radios don't have to be fully restored or "museum pieces" to bring and share them with other members. Bring as many as you like, and be prepared to tell about them. When possible the Call Letter will feature pictures of "last month choice" in next month's newsletter. January will feature radios made of metal.

Display News - Dan Howard has agreed to do our vintage radio displays this year and I'm sure he will do a bang-up job. At the January meeting we will be discussing the **Sounds of Nostalgia** show set for February in Salem. There will be several opportunities for great public displays throughout the year, so please plan to help Dan make each one of them something special.

Thank You

On behalf of all members of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, your editor wishes to thank the 1993 officers for their service to the Society. Speed did his best to keep the meetings moving. Gordon did a great job to keep the activities speakers and special events scheduled and helping with the museum and refreshment set up. Ed continues to handle the financial books, and we continue to be in black. Joel kept the Society up to date by providing meeting minutes to the Call Letter.

Thanks also to the volunteers who help Gordon bind and label the Call Letters, and to Scott Macgregor who has helped with phone calling and gathering newsletter information.

Acquisitions

Acquisitions is for members to tell others what vintage equipment has been added to collections in the Northwest. We are looking for your acquisitions. You can give your list to Gordon Phillips at meetings, mail them to the post office box, or drop them through the mail slot at the Editors home (2515 NE 37th Ave, Portland, OR 97212).

Richard Bosch

This is part two from Richard of 1993 Acquisitions

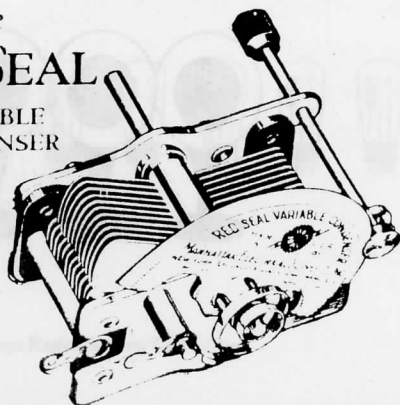
- 1946 FADA Model 652 Catlin
- 1936 Goodyear Model 833
- 1936 Grunow model 1291 console
- 1949 Hallicrafter Model S-72 L
- 1949 Hallicrafter Model S-38 EM
- 1950 Jewel Model 5057 U
- 1951 Majestic Model 5LA5
- 1946 Olympic model 6-501
- 1929 Philco model 87 Hiboy
- 1936 Philco model 84 cathedral
- 1940 Philco model 40-180 console
- 1948 Philco model 48-230 table set
- 1949 Philco model 49-501
- 1952 Philco model 52-940
- 1959 Philco Predicta 21" TV
- 1936 RCA Model 15K console
- 1937 RCA Model 811K console
- 1936 Remler Model 41
- 1946 Remler Model MP5-5-3
- 1947 Remler Model 5520
- 1941 Silvertone model 3461
- 1950 Sparton model 132
- 1949 Stromburg Carlson model 1400H
- 1946 Truetone Model D2615
- 1933 Zenith model 410 Console
- 1936 Zenith model 7-S-53 Console
- 1938 Zenith model 9-S-263 Console

1938 Zenith model 6-D-315
1938 Zenith model 6-D-311
1939 Zenith model 15S373 console
1939 Zenith model 5R317
1940 Zenith model 10-S-464 console
1942 Zenith model 7-S-634R
1942 Zenith model 8-S-661 Console
1942 Zenith model 12-H-670 Console
1955 Zenith Royal 500 transistor
1959 Zenith Royal 750 transistor
1960 Zenith Royal 675 transistor
1960 Zenith Royal 3000 transistor

Dick Dielschneider

Electromatic Model 607A Radio/Phono Combo
Philco Model 60 cathedral
1936 Rockola series "B" type 2 "nightclub" Juke Box
Crosley model 14 plastic table radio
1942 Zenith model 10-S-668 console
Sparton model 1167 console
1931 Sparton model 15 console
1941 Zenith model 7-S-681 Chairside & phono
Philco Model 70 cathedral
 With after market console cabinet
RCA Model 128 tombstone
1939 Zenith model 5-S-319 table set
General Electric Model H116 console
Stewart Warner Baradio Model R-3861

The
RED SEAL
VARIABLE
CONDENSER





ATMOSPHERICA

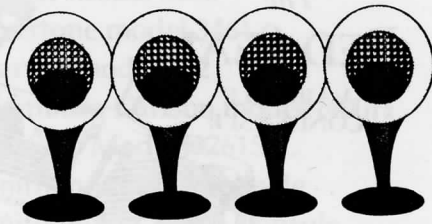
By J

IN RETROSPECT

Santa Claus has come and went,
Leaving papa badly bent;
Daddy'll regain his composure, true,
In '78 he'll be "Nicked" anew.

'Twas a strain on mama-san,
(Ever thus since feasts began).
And daddy dassen't even twit
About her poundage, up a bit.

The kids all loved the fuss'n furze,
All the presents; his 'n hers.
For '77 it should suffice----
I suppose 'twas worth the price!



SWAP SHOP

WANTED

PRE WWII EUROPEAN Radios - valves - speakers - related literature. Max A. Kaplan (206) 851-4187 from 9 AM - 2 PM week days.

Advertising for old battery sets. Clean Xerox copies are appreciated for publication and decorations in the CALL LETTER. Send them to Dick Karman, 2515 NE 37th Avenue, Portland Oregon 97212. receiver. Jerry Cappoen (206)

Non-ham communications equipment: Military, Forest Service, ship and aircraft equipment. Also, any communications equip built in West coast USA: Northern, Spokane Radio etc. Manuals, catalogs, price lists for any type communications equip. Hugh Miller (206) 487-3203

SAMS 400 to 499 Gordon Phillips 610 NE Royal Ct. Portland OR 97232 (503) 234-3517

For Sale

1949 Sears-Silvertone 7" portable TV \$75 - Jerry Talbott (503) 649-6717

Sale or trade - Crosley #610 Gem box, missing metal top and one control. All tubes in tact. Jim Broeffle, Grants Pass Oregon (503) 479-3607.

Panel meters, speaker, 250,000 tubes, electronic surplus equipment, Bob Lee at R5-D3 Surplus, 6111 SE 82nd Avenue, Portland, OR (503) 774-6560.

