

The

Call Letter

of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Vol. 25

June 1999

No. 6

Antique Radio and Tube Audio Swap Meet

Washington County
Fairgrounds

Hillsboro, Oregon

Admission \$2.00



Saturday

June 12, 1999

9 AM until 2 PM

* Antique Radios and Parts * Tube Audio *

* Vacuum Tubes *

In print since 1974

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 (prorated quarterly).

The *Call Letter* has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous members of 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 the second Saturday of each month (except July and August) at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 10 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all Society meetings and functions (except board meetings).

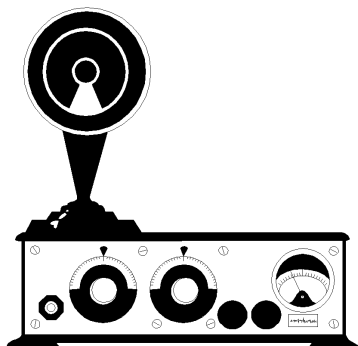
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

Society Officers for 1999:

President	Charles Kent	(503) 281-9335
Vice-President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288
Board member at large	Dave Rutland	(541) 929-4498
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648
Librarian	Tony Hauser	(503) 629-4836

The Society's address is:

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



June 1999

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On the cover: As always when a swap meet approaches, our front cover advertises that fact to all who receive the *Call Letter*.

Call Letter Deadline
10 days prior
to meeting day.

The Spring Swap Meet replaces the usual meeting for June. Be sure to attend the Swap Meet that will take place on June 12 in the South Main Exhibit Hall at the Washington Co. Fairgrounds in Hillsboro, Oregon.

Visit the NWVRS web site at:
<http://www.peak.org/~wren/nvrs.html>.

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 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.

From the Editor

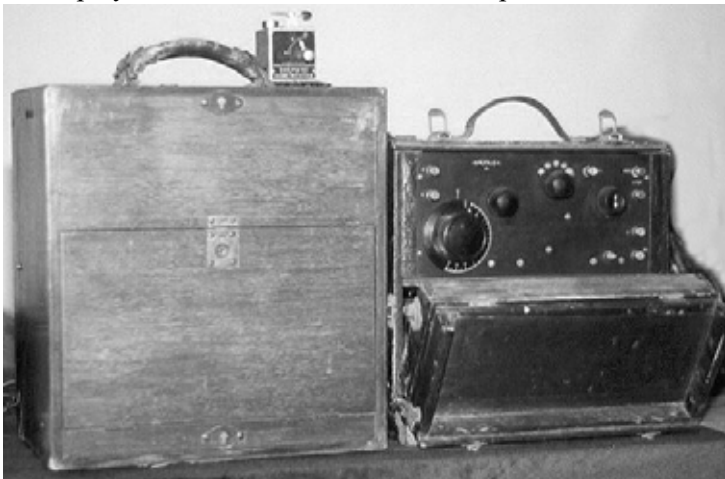
by *Call Letter* Editor, Rick Walton

This month in the *Call Letter*, Mike Parker is back “In the Shack” and up to more “shenanigans” as he calls them. There are pictures of the many Crosley radios that members brought to last month’s meeting, and several announcements of interest to club members. We also have another of the historical articles submitted by Art Redman, and another reprint of a *Call Letter* article by “Tech” Sloat. All in all, it’s a full bill of fare!

Those of you who’ve been waiting what seems like forever for club nametags, take note of the announcement that they are, or will be, available as well as club caps and windbreakers. Our thanks to Gordon Phillips who looked into having these items produced. The prices are “way cheap” as my kids might say, so don’t delay sending your order to Ed Charman, the club treasurer.

Last month I made a plea for issues of the *Call Letter* to fill in the gaps in the archive that I keep as editor. Pete Young answered that plea, bringing me a bag full of *Call Letters*. While they don’t fill the gap entirely, they do narrow it so that now the archive is only missing the period from December 1987 through May of 1990.

At last month’s meeting we had as our guest Dr. John A. Nelson of Longview, Washington. Dr. Nelson had seen the feature on antique radios in the *Oregonian*. It was a treat to hear him tell of his acquaintance with the late “Tech” Sloat, a member of our club, and to hear him describe his own collection of radios. He presented a video tape of Tech’s collection to the club, which will surely be enjoyed by us all. He also brought four radios to display, three of which are seen in this photo:



Meeting Minutes

Liles Garcia, Secretary

President Charles Kent called the May 8, 1999 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at approximately 10:05 AM. Members approved the meeting minutes as written in the Call Letter. Dr. John Nelson and his daughter came to our meeting with some Crosley radios that belonged to Tech Sloat.

Old Business

Riders Manuals—Jerry Talbott mentioned that Riders Manuals are on the Internet.

Library Committee—Members voted for Jerry Talbott, Wendy Johnson-Kent, and Tom Hoskins to be on the Library Committee. The Library Committee will buy some new books and remove any books that we do not need.

Caps and Coats—We discussed caps and coats for the club. More information will come later.

New Business

Club Display at Senior Fair—Rick Walton was invited to have a club display at the Senior Fair at Beaverton Mall on May 14th. Dan Howard will participate in the display for the Club.

Swap Meet—Myron says that there are tables for the swap meet available.

Forest Grove “Concours” Car Show— Our club will have a display at this show this year. Jerry Talbott is coordinating our display for this event.

NWVRS 25th Anniversary—We will be having some event for our upcoming 25th anniversary.

Leads and Needs

Speed needs a dial for a Silvertone Colonial 1940.

Mike Parker would like to look at the Heacock radio that came from Jim Mason's estate. He is restoring one and needs to look at some details.

Myron needs a radio for his 1965 GMC truck.

Program

Our club program today was Crosley Radios. Members showed and discussed the Crosley radios that they brought. Dr. Nelson talked to the group and described some of the radios in his collection and in former club member Tech Sloat's collection. Club members want to thank Dr. Nelson for coming to our meeting and sharing some of his experiences with us.

The meeting was adjourned.

Library Committee Report

The NWVRS Library committee composed of Jerry Talbott, Wendy Johnson, and Tom Hoskins met Saturday, May 22nd. The committee decided what club library books and other materials are to be sold.

Ed Charman will have a club table at the June Swap Meet and will have these items for sale as well as some manuals, etc. left from Jim Mason's estate. Members will have priority to buy these items.

Members who currently have books checked out should return all books to Tony Hauser at his table at the June Swap Meet.

Tony will inventory our current books and add the ones being purchased this summer. An updated library list is planned to be sent out with the September *Call Letter*.

NWVRS 1999 Calendar of Events

- June 12** Spring Swap Meet with Oregon Triode Society. See the cover.
- July 25** "Concours d'Elegance" at Forest Grove.
- July 31** Coos Bay Hamfest, The Barn, Bandon, OR

Swap Meet Information

While most of the information about the Swap Meet is available on this month's cover, there are a couple of points that should be covered here. First, the location of the meet is in the South Main Exhibit Hall at the Washington County Fairgrounds. This is the same building we were in a year ago with the ham club. This year, we are holding the Swap Meet in conjunction with the Oregon Triode Society.

Second, as in the past, members are not charged admission.

Forest Grove Concours d'Elegance

announcement by Jerry Talbott

I plan set up a club display at the Forest Grove Auto Show /Concourse July 25th. Currently about six members have volunteered to help operate the display, but more are certainly welcome. If anyone else is interested in taking part, call me at 503-649-6717, or e-mail me at PTL@worldaccessnet.com.

Jackets, Caps & Nametags

by Gordon Phillips

For those who want jackets or caps or nametags, the prices are as follows:

Windbreaker Nylon Jackets (white) with the large NWVRS letters and logo on the back of the Jacket and a smaller size on the upper left front of the jacket. \$13.50

Caps with solid white front and bill with white knit remainder and with the smaller NWVRS letters and logo on the front **\$3.00**

Caps with solid white front and solid black bill with black knit remainder and with the smaller NWVRS letters and logo on the front **\$3.00**

Nametags like the previous ones the members have had made (which are of black plastic with the NWVRS letters and logo and your name engraved in white). When ordering, write your name as you want it on the nametag. **\$6.50**

When you order your Jackets, be sure to state your size. Small, Medium, Large or Extra Large. The Caps are adjustable.

Because we won't be meeting in the Clubhouse until our September meeting, we thought if you could get your order in early, we could have them for you in September.

We have to get a minimum of 10 Jackets and Caps to get this rate.

To order, write your preference of Caps and your Jacket size and send it along with a check made payable to Northwest Vintage Radio Society. Send it to:

Northwest Radio Society
Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379.
Attention: Ed Charman.

Gordon Phillips will pickup and distribute the Jackets.

Club Listing with Multnomah Co.

by Jerry Talbott

NWVRS will be included in the Multnomah County Library data base under "Club & Organizations." This used to be provided by the Portland Chamber of Commerce. The library did not say how one could purchase the list, but they will look up any interest group with a phone call.

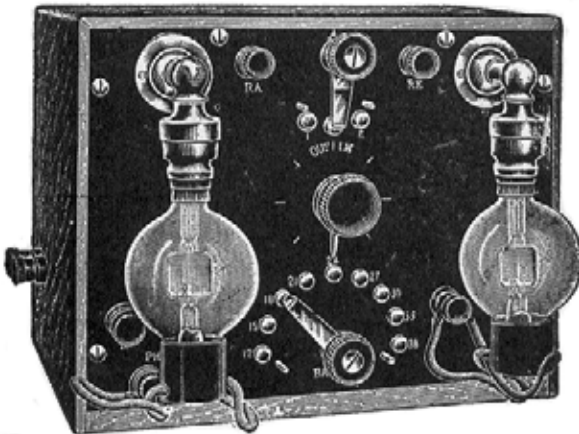
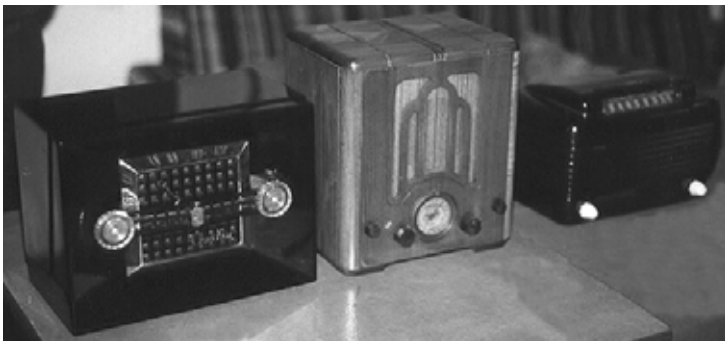
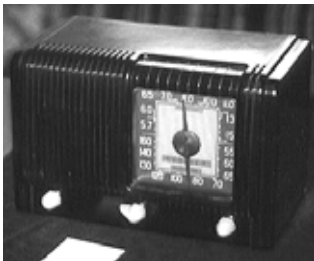


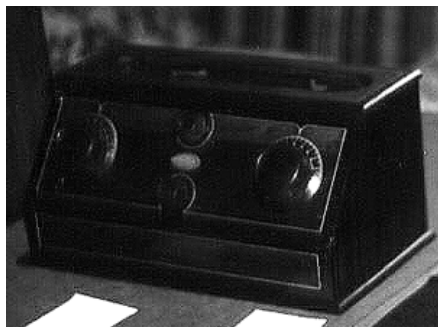
FIG. 3,193.—Professional type of audion detector. It is provided with two super-sensitive Audion tubes, high voltage local battery, potentiometer switch graduated to show voltage at any point, switch to change from one bulb to the other, and rheostat to change brilliancy of filament. This detector is used by the U. S. Army and navy, and is furnished in oak and hard rubber; size, 9¼ by 9 by 7 inches. Three dry cells to light filament are necessary.

Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

Crosley radios were the theme of our Monthly Feature at the May meeting. First place went to Dick Bosch with his beautifully restored Victory model. Dick wasn't sure if the red, white, and blue stripes in the grill cloth were authentic, but said "if they aren't, they should be!" Ed Cook took second place in the balloting with his Model 173, and Mike Parker took third with his Model 429 Regenerative TRF.







In the Shack

by Mike Parker

New Crop of Hybrid Battery Sets

A new crop of “Hybrid” battery sets is emerging up here In The Shack. I never thought that I would become a radio “farmer” but I just can’t seem to help it...it is too much fun!



All along, I have been no stranger to these shenanigans but the latest “growth” seemed to start at the radio parts garage clean-out of the late James Mason estate, last Winter.

When I first walked into the garage, somewhat belatedly, my eyes caught an unusual battery set front panel, sitting in a slant front battery set cabinet with a loose 5 tube stripped out sub panel inside of it. The Bakelite front panel was a LONG Radio Works F-5, a 2-dialer with these weird diamond shaped scalloped edge metal vernier dials on it. This was part of a set made by the Long Bros. in Cornelius Or., near Hillsboro, circa 1925. Since I will literally grab anything made by Long or for that matter, anything radio made in Oregon in the 1920’s, I threw it in the van, along with the cabinet, (unknown make at the time but later research revealed it to be a THOMPSON Neutrodyne) I also threw in the Bakelite sub panel, make also unknown but perhaps part of the LONG...how did I know? Brian Toon and Myron White and I stared at it, in my van and remarked what a neat looking set that would make, but nothing fit together and would be “non-authentic”. Later, Dan Howard told me that he gave the decrepit LONG front panel with dials & condensers to Jim at one time because Jim was always interested in locally made radios. Apparently the panel had spent some time in Howard’s attic, previously.

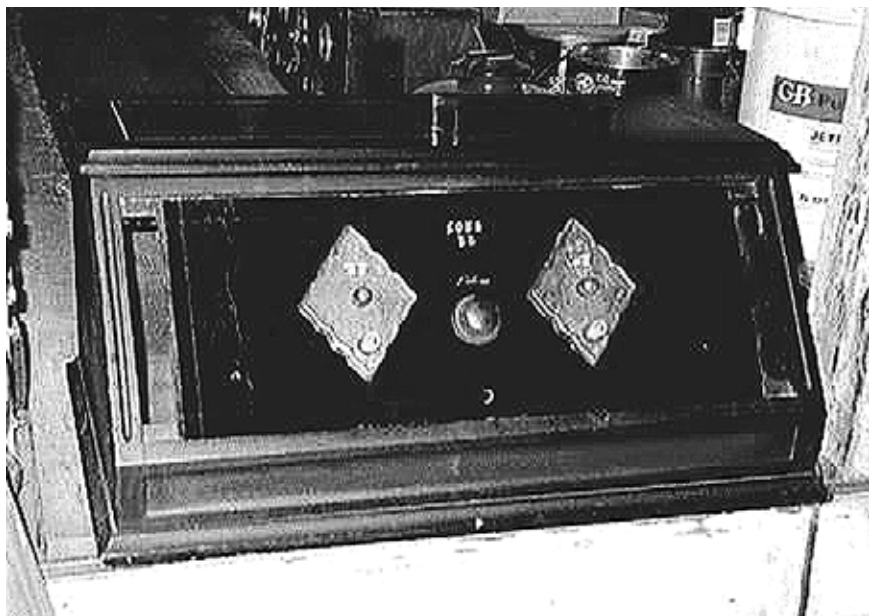


Figure 1. The LONG front panel.



Figure 2. A view of the interior.

Before that, the LONG panel must have spent some time in a barn or shed, near some dripping water....boy, was it rough! The vernier dials used a friction drive where the knob shaft turned a metal disk inside upon

which was printed the numerals and increments. The shafts were missing and the dial faces badly rusted. On the back of the dial disks, what was left of the shafts the variable condensers mount on, had been rusted to a point of no connectivity! The condensers were still mounted on the panel and since it was a 2-dial, one was a double ganged unit to double up 2 of the RF stages. Alas, the condensers were completely frozen up. The single unit was bent to the point of no alignment ever, without the plates rubbing. It was hopeless.

But that LONG panel, sitting in that slant front case kept haunting me....tormenting me! With that LONG F5 script on it, done in that gothic lettering that is so hard to read. (Where on earth did the Long Bros. ever find that letter engraver? They used it on the next model they made also, the B5, which I have, but that's another story.) Finally I couldn't stand it and vowed to just "make a radio" out of it all.

That is where the challenge began. Things became evident like, the panel is only 17 inches wide and the space for it is 20 inches. I had some Bakelite (and yes it is a trade name, so I capitalize) scraps and took them to my friend Tony to cut on a table saw. That did not work out well and he gave me some plastic (yuk) that was straight cut and black crinkle finished to make the spacers out of. They look good now, but I am ashamed of plastic parts in a vintage looking set!

Then the next hurdle was how to get the vernier dials to function. The edges of the metal discs were so rusty and irregular that I could never friction operate them with a round shaft again. I stuck one of those octagon shaped metal "standoffs" in there with a knob attached and presto! the dial turned although it feels kind of bumpy. I had mentioned that the condenser shafts were rusted nubs. So I mounted some other type condensers on the inside of the panel and was able to attach them out away from the surface enough to be able to drive them with short pieces of 1/4" ID rubber hose! It works! You would have to see this Rube Goldberg affair to believe it...what fun!

Next, I got to work on the sub panel. I had enough extra parts to actually build a 5 tube TRF set from scratch. There I got to use my own imagination, since I have never seen a LONG F5 and none of you probably have either. Using a FRESHMAN Masterpiece schematic, I started in on a month long project and found myself IN THE SHACK a lot of long hours, after work and weekends. It was almost a bigger bite than I could chew but things just kept coming together. I was able to do things like use red cloth covered wire for all the + circuits, black for - circuits and green for grid circuits. I used binding posts and wire tips to make the front panel completely disconnectable from the sub panel. Things that no radio manufacturer would have bothered with in the 20's. The more I dug through my parts boxes the more stuff I came up with to

finish this obsession, a matching set of binding posts, 3 matching spider web TRF coils, a Benjamin springy tube socket for the detector tube, all the old looking 6-32 and 8-32 nickel plated nuts and bolts I could find. A couple of working audio transformers were mounted under the panel.

Just as all was ready to hook up and mount in the cabinet, I realized that the front panel looked terrible. It was water spotted and grimy. The lettering was faded and spots were missing. I took all the parts back off of the panel and stripped it down to bare Bakelite. I rubbed it with Liquid Wrench to remove the stubborn grime and worked it over with TR-3 auto polish. This stuff does wonders with old Bakelite and I shined both sides until I could see reflections in it. Small chips and cracks and water damage will not totally disappear but I think it gives it a nice aged look and I can accept that, if it is very clean. I then re-lettered it with a Lacquer Stick and also did the twin grooves that border the outer edge of the panel...this trim was common on some battery sets, notably the FADA 192 and others. It came out looking good so I re-assembled everything and got it ready to test.

Surprise, it worked but would not tune below 970 Kc. and also just like any old unshielded TRF “losser”, it oscillated violently if I forced it to. The condensers that I used are straight line capacity type and crowd the stations to one end of the dial. Since the cabinet bears a Neutrodyne tag, I came up with a dual capacitor neutralizing device that is adjustable with knobs inside the set. This helped control the oscillations so I may now have the only LONG Neutrodyne set on the planet!

All in all, it has been a lot of fun to build and operate but what have I really got? A hybrid radio and something the purists would probably regard as totally absurd, blasphemous, purged, or whatever. But you know, I really don't care, I have a lot of untouched authentic factory built sets and fully respect keeping them that way. Why not have some like this, just for fun?

I do think that someday, when we are all dead and gone this type of set will be in somebody's hands and they may not know that it is a FAKE, and a highly altered FRAUD. I will bring this LONG to a meeting show & tell sometime when we are called to display this type of thing and I can tell you that it takes more than a casual glance to realize that it may not be the genuine article. Therefore, I am considering hiding a small paper inside it saying exactly what it is....a disclaimer, if you will, because I am enough of a purist myself to want to tell somebody in the future, say in the year 2077, that this dam thing is not the real McCoy! That the “genuine” 1925 vintage radio you were high bidder for on E-bay (if there is an E-bay then)....is a SCAM! If some of the silly descriptions I see on E-bay now are any indication...by then they probably wont even know that it is a radio!

Other hybrid radios that are growing here IN THE SHACK are a HEACOCK Radiophone, made in La Grande, Oregon and a Halowat TR-5 3-dial, late series, made in Portland. These will without doubt, become subjects of future articles here.....IN THE SHACK.

I could use some input from you, dear readers, should I.....

1. Keep on doing this without a “disclaimer”?
2. Keep on doing this with a “disclaimer”?
3. Quit doing it altogether and leave all that stuff as is.?

I solemnly swear that I will never alter a set so much that it cannot be restored to originality somehow.

QSO you next time.....IN THE SHACK

Swap Shop

FOR SALE: Thousands of tubes, hundreds of radio parts, panels, meters, surplus, etc. R5-D3 electronic surplus, Bob Lee, 6111 SE 82nd Ave., Portland, OR, (503) 774-6560.

BUY, SELL, & TRADE: Vintage Radio, Early Television and Hi-Fi.

Wanted: Tubes, Parts and whatever you might have related to early radio & TV. Visit my web-site at: < <http://www.radiolaguy.com> > or e-mail me at: < sonny@radiolaguy.com >

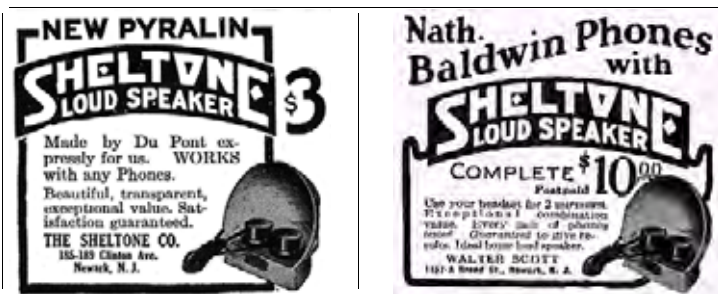
Thanks, Sonny Clutter, phone (360) 834-5741

WANTED: The Crystal Radio Guy wants crystal sets and toy germanium diode radios. Buy outright, or trade for other radios. Galen (503) 231-9708.

WANTED: Zenith tube shields. Have non-Zenith shields (Philco, other brands) to swap. Contact Dick Dielschneider.

Leads and Needs

I am in need of a clock and/or clock lens for the Crosley clock radio, D25 series, will buy a junker with good clock and lens. Thanks, Sonny Clutter, phone (360) 834-5741 or e-mail me at: < sonny@radiolaguy.com >



A pair of ads from the February, 1924, issue of *Popular Radio*.

A Look Back at Oregon Radio

submitted by Art Redman

KFJR, KALE, KOIN, and Later KPOJ

The Portland newspaper, the *Oregon Journal*, got into the radio business back in 1931 when the depression was heavy, as one evidence that faith in the future was undisturbed. The Journal bought an interest in KOIN and conducted "The Newspaper of the Air." After a while interest in another radio station began which climaxed in complete ownership by the Journal.

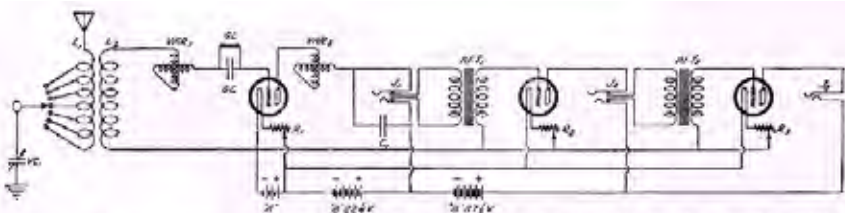
On a ranch in the Bitterfoot Valley in Montana back in 1922, the Forest Service installed a small radio, which was operated by Ashley C. Dixon. Its call letters were KFJR. Power came from a water pump engine in the basement. KFJR moved to Portland in 1925 and opened as the Eastmoreland Broadcasting Station in a space over Ashley Dixon's garage. In 1927 there were financial troubles and after consultation with the late S.R. Winch, Dixon made an arrangement which resulted in removal of KFJR to the Lumberman's building, and its official opening as the Journal station.

It became necessary under Federal edict for the stations to be separated. KOIN was purchased by Marshall Field, and KALE (KPOJ) passed to the exclusive ownership of the Journal.

Under the present management of Richard M. Brown, station KPOJ has been named one of the three outstanding radio stations in the nation "for outstanding contributions during the past year (1950) to mutual understanding and respect among racial and religious groups".

The last three letters of KPOJ stand for Portland Oregon Journal.

From the book *The First 50 Years of the Oregon Journal A Newspaper Story 1902-1952* by Marshall N. Dana. Published Binforts and Mort, 1951, Portland Oregon, pages 186 and 187.



TWIN-VARIOMETER, VARIOCOUPLER REGENERATIVE CIRCUIT WITH TWO STAGES OF AUDIO-FREQUENCY AMPLIFICATION

The Metrodyne, A Restoration

by F.W.Sloat, W7AHK

Editor's note: This article by "Tech" Sloat originally appeared in the Call Letter of February 1993. Thanks to Dick Karman for submitting it.

The Metrodyne receiver was manufactured by the Metro Company of Chicago and was one of the first A.C. receivers. It was advertised extensively in Radio News during 1927 and 1928 for mail order sales with a 30 day free trial.

The circuit is straight forward with three stages of tuned R.F., detector and three stages of transformer coupled audio. Originally, according to the ads, it was equipped with Sovereign brand over-head heater tubes of the McCullough type. McCullough, a former Westinghouse engineer, is given credit as the inventor of the first A.C. tube.

I first saw mine lying in the parking lot at the AWA flea market, Dearborn, Michigan, 1978. A cursory examination was made and it was noticed that Wireless brand tubes were installed in this receiver. They must be bootleg McCullough, I thought, and I must have them.

The four variable capacitors are mounted on two 3/8" shafts separated in the center with a drum dial. The rotor plates are in cast pot metal hubs which slip into shafts and are held in place by set screws. The stator plates are in pot metal frames which can be rotated several degrees around the shaft by levers on the front panel. This is for alignment.

My Metrodyne was a basket case. It was in extremely bad condition, however, it was decided to attempt restoration. The variable capacitors were frozen and the pot metal broken in pieces and warped into strange shapes. An application of penetrating oil loosened the rust on the shaft. The dictionary defines pot metal as a combination of lead and copper and if you have not been involved with the vagaries of this stuff you don't know what you have missed. It grows with age, warps, twists, and falls apart in your hands. It is so tough and brittle one can break a pair of diagonals on it. The hubs were OK but the stator assemblies looked hopeless. All parts were carefully cleaned and decreased. Cardboard was used for spacing shims and the broken pieces were fitted together and cemented in place with "Duro". Some additional breaks were made to get things properly lined up. The first R.F. capacitor was missing some parts and this was taken care of by making new ones on the lathe.

One spider web inductance was replaced. The cathode resistors were replaced with wire wound types, the plate by-pass capacitor replaced and one audio transformer rewound.

The many breaks in the pot metal caused a loss of electrical continuity and this problem was solved by interlacing all stator plates with fine copper wire, placing this at the extreme outer edges, so as to not interfere with the rotors. These tubes take three volts on the heaters and the power winding was wound on an old transformer. The old B eliminator was put into service and we were ready for the alignment. It should have been mentioned that the old panel was too far gone and a new one of black walnut was fashioned. Checking each stage separately indicated all was well. With the power applied in came the music. A little polishing and some paint made the old wreck look quite nice and it does a good job. Hum is negligible, the audio is fair and all in all the Metrodyne was a good receiver for 1927. To finish our job, the cabinet was made by studying the pictures in Radio News!

All Electric Radio
Single Dial 7 Tube Set - 30 Days Free Trial

**Agents!
 Dealers!
 Big Profits!**

Make Big Money Selling
 Metrodyne All Electric Radios—
 all in one line. Metrodyne
 are in a class by them-
 selves. Metrodyne for
 quality, performance and
 price. Demonstrate at
 home and take orders.
 Lowest wholesale prices.
 Your Demonstrating Set
 on 30 days' FREE Trial.
 Mail the coupon below for
 complete details.

Three Year Guarantee

Metrodyne
 ALL ELECTRIC RADIO

"Simply
 press the
 switch button
 and it's on!"

New Meeting Location!

In February we changed our meeting location to the Abernathy Grange Hall, located at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City. Here are instructions for getting there and a map.

1. Take the OR-213 exit, exit number 10, towards PARK PLACE/MOLLA.
2. From the South, turn RIGHT onto SR-213, or from the North, keep RIGHT at the fork in the ramp and merge onto SR-213.
3. Turn LEFT onto CLACKAMAS RIVER DR.
4. Turn RIGHT onto S FORSYTHE RD. (appears on the map to turn into PARK PLACE)
5. Turn LEFT onto S HARLEY AVE. The Abernathy Grange Hall is a little past S. Taylor Lane.

The written instructions came from “Map Quest” on the Internet; the map is scanned from a AAA map with much detail removed for the sake of clarity.

