

The *Call Letter*

October/November, 2009
Vol. 35 — Nos. 10 & 11



Almost **35** years in print!

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

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.

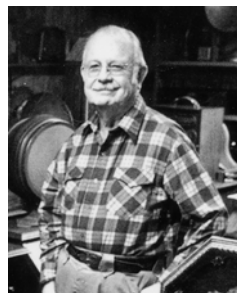
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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 society members, the *Call Letter* has continued to be a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month 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 shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

With each issue of the *Call Letter*, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1998. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the *Call Letter*.



Society Officers for 2009:

President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 radiogeo@hevanet.com
Vice-President	Dick Bixler	(503) 690-2557 rf2af@verizon.net
Treasurer	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 kiptuttle@comcast.net
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On the cover: “A collection of catalin radio photos. Catalin radios are the feature for our November meeting.

The next meeting is November 14, 2009.

Nomination of Officer Candidates for 2010

**November Monthly Feature:
Catalin Radios**

Visit our web site at <http://nwvrs.org>.

Next Call Letter Deadline: December 3, 2009.

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 or services 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's issue is a first in the Call Letter's history, a combined issue. Why a combined issue? Fortunately it has nothing to do with the recession or budget cuts or anything like that. Here's what happened...

Just as I was ready to do the final assembly on the October issue and print it, my body betrayed me. An obstruction in my colon landed me in the hospital on Saturday, October 3, and there I stayed until the following Wednesday morning. By then, the usual mailing deadline for the October issue was past. Family and work pressures after that prevented me from publishing even a late issue. So I've put the two together for just this once.

In addition to lots of photos from several events over the last couple of months, there are two must-see articles in this issue. First is another NEW "In the Shack" from Mike Parker. I'm thrilled that Mike is finding the time and inspiration to write articles for us. Second is a review of a new history of Oregon broadcasting contributed by our good friend Ludwell Sibley. In addition to the review, Lud sent along a copy of the book for our library. I've had a chance to read some of the book, and it is a very thorough treatment of Oregon's radio and TV history. Check it out..

Always sunny & warm.

*For a refreshing change,
check it out!*



Sunny 1550 KKAD

	Herb Alpert - Tony Bennett - Michael Buble - Carpenters
	Nat King Cole - Perry Como - Neil Diamond - Diana Krall
	Barry Manilow - Johnny Mathis - Platters - Carly Simon
	Elvis - Frank Sinatra - Babara Streisand - Andy Williams

NWVRS Meeting Minutes

Minutes recorded by Dick Bixler and submitted by Liles Garcia

President George Kirkwood called the September 12, 2009 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. The minutes of the August meeting were read and they were approved as published in the September Call Letter. Cliff Tuttle gave the Treasurer's Report, and his report was approved as provided by Cliff. John Bucholtz said that the library is doing well. There were 53 people at our meeting today.

New Business

Swap Meet — Our fall Radio Show And Sale will be on October 10 in Aurora. Dick Bixler said that KKAD will be advertising our Swap Meet during the week before. Our Swap Meet will also be included in the Aurora Colony Visitors' Association advertising in The Oregonian. Dick thanked Joe Corsi, Dennis and Sylvia Killeby, Bob Ewing, and other members that downloaded, printed, and distributed Swap Meet posters and counter flyers around the state. Liles Garcia distributed posters and counter flyers to the antique shops in Aurora.

Here are the Set-up times for our Swap Meet:

Friday, October 9--4:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Saturday, October 10--7:00 AM to 9:00 AM

Brian Toon said that the Swap Meet tables are going fast; if you would like to have one, contact Brian quickly.

Trash Bash — Members discussed the "Trash Bash" that we had today. The general consensus is that the event today was very successful.

Program Topic

The program topic today was "Radios With Inductor Tuning". Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The program topic for November will be "Catalin Radios".

The meeting was adjourned.

NWVRS Calendar of Events

Most of the hamfest and ham swap meet information comes from: PNW Hamfair web page at www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm

November 14 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
Nomination of officers for 2010.

December 12 NWVRS monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10 am. Election of officers for 2010.

2010

January 9 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

February 13 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

February 20 Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet. Rickreall, Oregon at the Polk County Fairgrounds. <http://www.w7sra.com>.

March 7 Burnaby ARC Flea Market. New Westminster, BC http://rac.eton.ca/events/detail.php?event_ID=1333

March 13 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

March Mike & Key Swap Meet. Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA. Contact mwdink@eskimo.com. <http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm>.

April 10 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

May 8 NWVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.

June 4-6 Sea-Pac Hamfest. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. This is an ARRL sanctioned event. ai9q@arrl.net www.seapac.org/

Roster Correction & Additions

by Rick Walton

Here are the corrections and additions I've received for the roster.

Updates

Photo added:



Joe Fielding
3875 Azalea Ave SE
Albany, Or 97330
541-207-4637
Repair & Restoration
starbuc4@msn.com

R

Address change:



Hess, Richard
16850 Siler Ridge Lane
Beaverton, OR 97007-9700
503-246-4451
Table models 1940's and 1950's.
rickhess@yahoo.com

R

Phone & e-mail address correction:

Ewing, Robert R., Jr.
(503) 349-8734
robert.ewing9@comcast.net

Additions

New and returning members:



Calkins, DeLos
P.O. Box 937
Lafayette, Or 97127
503-376-6307
deloslc@comcast.net

R



Jack Doyle
11071 SE Wichita Ct
Milwalkie, Or 97222
503-305-8097
Interests are 20's-40's tube radios

R



W.G. Nelson
62 Wheatherstone Ct
Lake Oswego, Or. 97035-1916
503-635-8163
gregnelson4@msn.com

R



Homer "Jim" Myers
1210 Bryant
Walla Walla, Wa 99362
509-525-6264

R

Trash Bash Photos

Photos by Rick Walton



10% DISCOUNT

To all members in good standing of the
Northwest Vintage Radio Society
for any purchase from



Please show your current
NWVRS membership card
to receive discount.

BEAVERTON (503) 644-1025
7940 SW Nimbus Ave.

SALEM (503) 583-9810
1545 Commercial St. NE

EUGENE (541) 345-2904
960 Conger St.

Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

Photos of inductively-tuned radios and inductive tuners displayed at the September meeting.



Admiral - Blake Dietze



Rocket Radio - Blake Dietze



Airline Mini - Dan Howard



Tradio Hotel Radio - Dan Howard



Philco 49-901 - Dan Howard



NORCO Tuners - Dan Howard



Transomite Crystal Set - Dan Howard



Philco 49-901 - Sonny Clutter



Admiral - Sonny Clutter



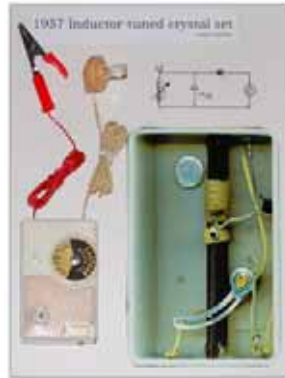
Silvertone 8220 - Bill Meloy



Miscellaneous Tuners - Dick Bixler



Silvertone 7226 - Mike McCrow



Eastern Germanium Radio - Lloyd Harris



'53 Chevy Auto Radio - Rudy Zvarich



Burstein-Applebee tuning unit for '53 Mopar - Alan Shadduck



AK Variometer - Art Redman

NWVRS Swap Meet, Oct. 2009

Photos by Gerry Hertel

Here are a couple of photos of the October Swap Meet in Aurora.



PSARA 2009 Show – Great, Again, Like Always

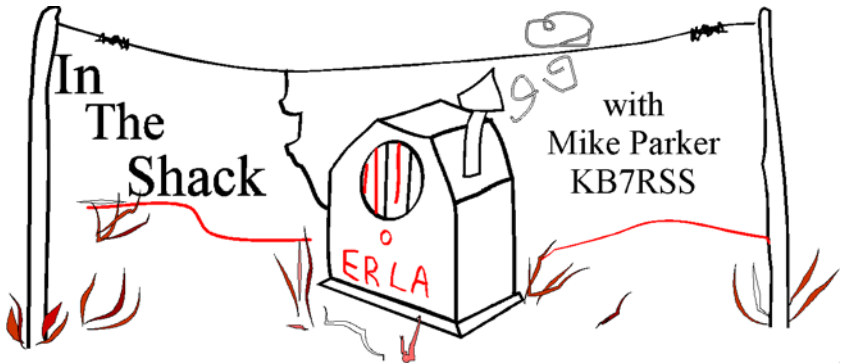
By Dan Howard, Photos by Sonny Clutter

Would it have been the near sell-out crowd that filled the parking lot this year? Or would it have been the wonderful novelty radios at bargain prices including a Charlie McCarthy, Lone Ranger, and Majestic Melody Cruiser? Or perhaps it was the crystal sets, battery sets, and wireless gear. How about a 1915 Murdock condenser for \$1? I could go on.

This year's show was great like always. We had fantastic weather to enjoy. Yes, it was a little nippy for the folks who spent the night camped out in the parking lot or who were browsing by flashlight starting well before the 6:00 am dawn. PSARA and NVRS members as well as the public turned out in force for the camaraderie and the deals.

Well, if my report and Sonny's photos leave you hankering for more details, check in with George, Brian, Dick, Blake, or any of the rest of us at the meeting and we'll fill you in. The PSARA hosts parking lot swap meets in conjunction with its monthly meetings at Ronald School in Seattle. Their big annual show is always the third Sunday in August. Start time is up to you....





CRAZILY OVER CROSLY

Mike Comments: *Hello everybody! I was not sure if I was going to have enough material to start a brand new "In The Shack" but a recent turn of events settled that question for me. I am not sure if I can come up with a subject every month these days but I will do what I can and do what I feel is worth an article over. I want to thank everybody in the club for the compliments about my past writing and those who keep encouraging me to write more. I do feel that it is important to have a Call Letter that is worth reading hobby related articles in rather than the usual announcements and meeting minutes. We have done a pretty good job in the past so here goes!*

Lately, I have been acting Crazyly over Crosley! This seems to have started when I attended the October, 2009 NWVRS swap meet in beautiful 'downtown' Aurora, Oregon. I brought with me a fairly nice 1936 or 7 Silvertone all-band tombstone I had owned as a gift for several years, just in case, as a trader. It was a nice radio, the one with lots of tubes, including a tuning eye and has the large circular full vision dial displaying all the short wave bands. It played well but had a noisy pot and was just a little out of reach according to my current interests....which is much older stuff!

As I looked around the meet and talked with friends etc., I kept on looking for what I thought could be suitable to trade for. I found a nice old 1920's battery set and this was more 'up my alley' but it was a home-brew. I thought 'no, not this time, I have enough'. I got hooked on a very nice old 'Comet Pro' short wave receiver. Nope!...probably worth more than my radio in the van!

Finally I arrived at Dick Bixler's table. He was getting almost sold out and I was late anyway having driven in from home, over at the coast. But he still had 2 old radios that caught my interest. A 1923 Ace V, small box 1 tube regenerative set made by Crosley, and about a 1928 or 9 Silvertone metal box battery set. This was a model F, the one that is a complete Atwater Kent metal box clone and made by King radio.

Both were in what I would call 'needs attention' condition. I started thinking that this Ace would be just the thing that I wanted, something 'really old' to

resurrect. The old Crosley ‘book condenser’ inside and the tip-top brass based tube (neat, but a ‘dud’), the binding posts on the front etc. just drove me crazy!

So crazily, I asked Dick if he would trade these for my Silvertone. And you know ‘Bix’ (always in a good mood) said, “Sure”! He did look like he was in an increasing mood to pack up and get going however, so I brought the ‘Slivertone’ in from the van and he liked it. I had to turn it upside down and shake it to get a stuck extra octal tube loose from between the chassis and the cabinet and this caused some temporary amusement. Anyway, we both ‘drove home happy’.

After I got the radios back home, I started on an inspection project of each one, just to see what I got and what had to be done. But first, I needed to do some research, especially on the Crosley Ace. Turning to the Crosley chapter in Volume 1 of “Radio Manufacturers of the 1920’s” by Alan Douglas revealed a lot of information that I had forgotten or never knew. Powel Crosley Jr. had started in radio in an odd way on Washington’s Birthday in 1921 by taking his son out to a radio shop to buy a crystal set. They just happened to go to the Precision Equipment Co. in Cincinnati, a company he would later purchase. They looked at Precision’s line of ‘Ace” radios but were absolutely stunned at the high prices and came back home with a 25 cent “how to build a radio” book! In no time, Crosley and his son built a radio and were amazed to pick up broadcasts from 8 miles away! Apparently this fascinated Crosley enough to decide to go into the radio business. Crosley started out making small parts and radio cabinets but had plans for mass production of low cost radios. Soon his plans came true and he eventually became the “Henry Ford” of radio. And the simple small box regenerative radios such as the Crosley Ace became the “Model T’s”. See the attached photos of the Ace V (not mine but identical) and the amplifier unit with it. Also the photos of the Crosley 51 (not mine but thanks to Sonny Clutter).



Ace V and amplifier unit



Crosley 51, front and top-down views

Ace V name tag



Since Crosley was building regenerative circuit radios, he needed a license to build the Armstrong patented circuit. But he was not among the lucky few manufacturers who were originally issued licenses.

So, to alleviate this situation, in very early 1922, he purchased the Precision Equipment Co. lock stock and barrel, who had an Armstrong license already for their 'Ace' brand line of radios. I might add that it must have been quite a feeling to buy the company that he walked out of a year earlier, frustrated and with a 25 cent book! Crosley then hired a young electronic student, Dorman Isreal, who developed the 'Harko' line of radios and were really the forerunners of the later Crosley small box sets. But it was an awkward situation — the Crosley Mfg. Co. had to keep making Ace radios by the Precision Equipment Co. along with the Crosley named radios to keep the license valid all through 1923. Sometimes both brands were advertised on the same page. I discovered that this was how my Crosley Ace V was made. The tag inside lists it as made by Precision Equipment Co. with Powel Crosley Jr. as president and also says it is made with Crosley parts, (see photo of a name tag). Finally in 1924, Crosley started over with the name Crosley Radio Corporation, absorbing both the Crosley Mfg. Co. and the Precision Equipment Co. This was looked upon as a 'fast one' by the folks at the 'Patent Fort' but he was apparently influential enough at the time to squeak by with it! By then, Crosley was mass producing radios and selling them like hotcakes, building a new factory and setting a goal of 5000 radios built in a day!

Going back to my inspection, I found a few things wrong in the Ace. The panel is so easy to take out with only 4 screws in the cabinet. Everything is mounted on the panel making things easy to look over. In fact, the radio is a lesson in simplicity. I wouldn't doubt that more than one home brew radio was copied from one of the Crosley small box sets without a print. I found that the grid leak resistor and condenser had broken loose from the solder joint on the tube socket, taking the hair-like grid wire from the spider web RF coil with it. Bix had already told me that the tap switch was not original, although it looked close anyway.

The tube socket was quite primitive in design and held the tube in loosely. It also was made for only the short pin variety 201-A tube, which would be a brass base type or the really scarce short pin Bakelite base 201-A tube. So I got to work and fixed those problems. The hair thin coil wire was a real challenge to fix and took quite awhile. But I am retired now and have a lot of time to do this kind of thing...a situation I dreamed about for years! This job was a real 'pipsqueak', since the hair-like enameled copper wire had broken right where it comes off of the coil winding. Under a strong light, I carefully worked the coil side of it loose enough to pull back the silk insulation then sand off the enamel and prep the wire for solder. With both ends sanded, I bent each in a small loop and hooked them together. My soldering iron is a large behemoth from the 1920's or 30's, making the situation not unlike hitting a fly in the leg with a baseball bat! So after I soldered the grid leak to the tube socket lug, the iron was just hot enough to tin the coil hair-like wire and just dab a solder drop on there to fuse the wires together, voila!, it held!

I then looked over the Silvertone metal box battery set. The chassis had already been partially unscrewed from the cabinet causing the drum type tuning dial to rub on the dial surround. The set was filthy and I cleaned it up good enough to look it over under the chassis. Everything looked complete except a dial cord that runs in 2 directions and rotates a small coil inside of the first RF coil, apparently for volume and peak tuning. The battery wires were a ratty mess

with frayed insulation and bare spots. I cut them shorter and ID and tagged all of them, terminating them on a Bakelite strip with connecting screws. All of the 201A's were display tubes except for one which worked. I put the disassembled set in a box for future tinkering. And give myself time to evaluate what to do about the missing dial cord. This is a neat looking set if restored to look good. It is smaller than an AK 40 metal box set and much better looking, with a fancy gold dial escutcheon and name plate.

Looking back in "Radio Manufacturers of the 1920's", Vol. 1 (Crosley Chapter) I noticed a very fine display of the different type of small box sets, called Crosley, Ace and Harko. Some of the photos of the Ace and Crosley models 50, 51, 52 types were supplied by Dave Crocker, a well known early Crosley historian and collector. Some of his photos and the photos in reprinted ads showed the small box sets tied to audio amplifiers made in the same Crosley boxes for loudspeaker operation. These were strapped to each other by busbars attached to the binding posts, which lined up exactly. I thought of how neat that would look in a display or actual operation of my Ace. I dug through my collection and found that I had a complete Crosley 51, a regenerative small box like the Ace but with 2 tubes and a transformer for loud speaker operation. This was a runaway best seller for Crosley and several versions exist. I also found that I had a 50A 2 tube Crosley amplifier case and panel only, all else had been stripped. I found enough binding posts which were similar, but not Crosley and mounted those on the empty panel. I then set it next to my Ace and strapped the binding posts together with strips of silver solder so recreate the look of the photos of the set beside the amplifier. This really got exciting and again, I was going "Crazily over Crosley", I launched into a project to restore the amplifier and make it work wired to the Ace V. I had no Crosley parts for it other than an authentic rheostat, which I found. I vowed to make it work with what I have. Here is where the fun began!

I had none of the Crosley 'Sheltran' transformers but I did have a couple of brand new small audio transformers designed for replacement especially in 1920's radios. Playthings of Past, a great old radio parts house in Ohio carried these for \$5 each several years ago but now claim they are discontinued.

So I refreshed myself on what color lead wire does what, and checked them for continuity. All was OK.

Looking at the hole pattern for mounting them I thought they would fit the Crosley hole pattern but... not quite! Just slightly off. So now came the question; how to get the holes bigger to avoid re-drilling the Crosley front panel? I ruled out a drill, it could slip and ruin the windings. Lessee! Maybe a file? Yes, a rat tail file! I looked all over for that chain saw sharpening file I had but no luck. I had to drive the 16 mile round trip to the nearest farm store where for only \$1.39 I found one. I filed out the mounting holes and it worked great!

Next came the problem of trying to find vintage looking screws and nuts. The Crosley panel required flat head #6-32 x $\frac{3}{4}$ in. screws and was countersunk for that type screw to hold the tube sockets, transformers etc. Well! That is the same screw that holds a light switch or wall plug cover, I thought. But it is not, really. The plate screws are generally oval head, not flat head. Although a flat head will work! I would need flat head screws in this amplifier to look like the authentic screws in the receiver. I am very lucky to live real close to Sundance Trading, a second hand tool and bolt store here in Garibaldi. I have almost always found what I need in that place. So I went down there and bought a dozen flat head 6-32 screws for way under a buck. I would like to point out two things when replacing

screws in any of the early radios. One is to always look for slotted screws, not Phillips or the combined type. The only screws that existed in use in the days of this Crosley were SLOT screws! The next item was the looks of the screw. They are shiny! So new and shiny looking that they stand out like a sore you know what. So, here is a tip on what to do. I put the screws in a small plastic strainer. I attached the strainer to a 3 foot wooden stick. I then dipped them in a PLASTIC bucket with a solution of water and muriatic (hydrochloric) acid. After about a half hour they looked like they were 100 years old. In fact they matched the ones in the small box Ace Crosley perfectly. I rubbed a little WD-40 on them to prevent future rust and installed them. I will insert A WARNING here to be careful with this acid! Always mix the acid in with the water, not the opposite. Do not breathe the fumes at all and wear rubber gloves. Rinse everything with clear water after using. Keep the acid in a safe tamper-proof place and make sure it is marked with a warning.

The tube sockets and mounting presented special challenges because, as I stated before, everything is mounted on the back of the panel, including the tube sockets. They are mounted on horizontal rods that screw on to the panel and the socket ends are molded into the sockets themselves to make them stand upright. I did not have any Crosley sockets nor the material to replicate them. I did have 2 identical black -01A sockets from another parted out radio that look so similar they were worth using. I did not want to just mount them on the cabinet bottom in the set, preferring instead to have them removable with the front panel. So I 'borrowed' an idea seen used many times in home brew sets of that period. I found a small piece of thin wood, small enough to slide in the cabinet. I then came up with 2 small L brackets and attached the whole thing to the existing front panel screw holes. I was able to mount the tube sockets on that. Once inside the amplifier cabinet, it is hard enough to see so that it looks like the 'floor' of the cabinet.

Now it was time to wire the amplifier. I used some wire from a new reel of red and black twisted pair that is old enough to look cloth covered. It is solid copper # 18 but has an impregnated cloth insulation with a very strong inner insulation under that. I think it may be an early version of thermostat or bell wire. I used the black wire for filament, and grid circuits and the red wire for B+ or Plate leads that have up to 45 volts or more. The popular 1920's 2 stage amplifier using audio transformers with the speaker output from the plate and B+ of the last transformer is so common that I could have used any old battery set schematic and was considering a schematic for a Freshman Masterpiece TRF set. Looking through my radio books I found the actual Crosley 2 tube audio amplifier schematic in the book "Fixing Up Nice Old Radios" By Ed Romney. This is a great book, by the way, for anyone engaged in repairing or restoring old radios, or for just general information. I had to come up with enough solder lugs to place under the terminal screws of the tube sockets. I found enough of those but did not have enough for the insides of the 9 binding posts on the front panel. Here again, Sundance Trading had them new for a mere 10 cents a piece! What a neighbor to have! Like the owner Pat Ader says, "Just consider my garage your garage!"

I had in mind to make a composite B battery for the plate circuits out of eight 9 volt batteries, 5 for the 45 volts B+ for the last audio stage and output and the other 3 for the 22.5 volt detector (actually 27 volts). I planned to insert this battery in between the 2 tubes in the Crosley amplifier and alligator clip the plus and minus leads to the back of the appropriate binding posts in the amp cabinet. Then I could run the 22.5 B+ through one of the busbars to the ACE receiver for

it's single detector tube. I could also power the filament in the ACE via the A- and A+B- binding posts busbars just like the original layout. For the composite battery I went to Radio Shack and bought two 5 packs of those snap on battery lead caps for 9 volt batteries. I also bought the batteries. I then snapped those on and wrapped the whole battery pack with freezer tape around the outside, including in the tape the excess wire length of the battery snap on terminals. This provided a nice battery block that fits right in the amplifier. The snap on battery leads for the 9 volts are a 'must' since I learned one thing the hard way long ago. Don't just try to solder wires to the snap tips on the 9 volt battery. You will destroy the battery with heat and make a big mess also! For the 5 volt tube filaments, I was lucky and just happened to have an extra 6 volt auto battery that I use in my 1937 Ford pickup. I bought a new one last year when it failed to crank over good enough on the day of the 2008 town parade and I had to miss entering the 37 in the parade. This year's parade I found that the new battery worked fine! The failed battery may not have had the current to crank the engine but it sure has ample current to run a few ¼ amp 201-A tubes. I was now about ready to 'smoke test' the new amplifier box and the Crosley Ace V one tube receiver!

Since the weather has been normally lousy this time of year and I have a separate shop building without heat, I set the whole thing up on wooden TV trays in the guest bedroom. A barely visible 24 gauge antenna wire was run out of the window and along the eaves. Every thing was lining up until my wife freaked when I brought a big ugly black car battery in the house! I had to do a little fast talking to pull that one off! I set cardboard under it on the carpet and told her that it was not 'dangerous' nor did it leak or create fumes. I finally won approval but she looked at me 'Crazily' for quite a while!

Finally the moment arrived, All of the wires were attached correctly to the front binding posts including a 'Little Spitfire' horn speaker and the busbars were installed between the receiver and the amplifier, just like the photos! I was getting excited! I flipped the switch and....no sound! The 2 tubes in the amplifier were lighting up but the tube in the Ace was not. Chagrined, I shut it all down and carefully pulled the Ace panel out and started tracing the filament wires with the ohmmeter. I could read from the A- binding post to just up to the rheostat but not through it. As an aside, for the moment, I will mention that Crosley wired their rheostat in series on the A minus lead. Most other schematics of that time show the rheostat in the A plus lead. It seems that the radio does not know the difference and works equally as well either way. So what was Crosley's point? This was getting as bad as another mystery battery set question I have had for a long time. In the Crosley, the A+ and B- leads are tied together and the A- is left as is. This is the most common scheme. But in some 1920's battery sets, the A- and B- are tied together and the A+ is left alone.

Both schemes work but if you try to reverse the A filament leads on a given set, it will not play or play very weak! If you find a battery set with no instructions (and that is pretty common now days on 80 year old + radios) your in for a heap of extra work trying to figure out which scheme is right for the radio! But, I am straying from the point.

I had no tube lighting in the Ace regenerative receiver! I took over to the shop and turned a strong light on the rheostat and sure enough it was open right at the start of the element wire. Incidentally, this era Crosley uses their own made rheostats and you can tell one easily by observing that the rotating 'slider' is the type that uses a tubular slider with a spring loaded tip that turns inside of the element rather than the conventional type using a slider that drags along the top

of the element windings. I filed the elements right at the break and found that the element wire is very strong steel and gets a coating on it from the heat over the years that is hard to remove. I finally was able to get a drop of solder to stick over the break and it now works fine. I saw a tip in another good book, "1928 Radio Trouble Shooting" By Enno R. Haan. (a reprint). He states that a big cause of noisy or inoperative old rheostats is this build up on the element that occurs from years of heat while in use. He says to take a rag and soak it in light oil and run that over the element wire until the film is removed, then dry it with alcohol. I have not tried it but will sometime.

Back into the house again with the Ace for a second try. Now everything worked! Complete with all the regenerative squawks and squeals. My wife said it sounds like cats fighting! She then plugged her ears and was mad! The tickler coil that slides horizontally in and out on the front panel, changing the proximity of it and the main coil is crude, but also very sensitive. The only station I could get was KMBD 1590 in Tillamook. It was daytime and that is all that comes in on AM here anyway unless you have a powerful superhet! With very little effort you can turn the Ace into a hand capacitance device like a Theramin! Decreasing the filament rheostat seems to calm the regenerative little beast the best, along with precision when using the sliding tickler or 'Crescendon' as Crosley called it. All in all a whole lot of fun! I am now trying out the Crosley 51 2 tube small box set that I have and this is a little nicer radio and a bit more well behaved. I don't need the amplifier with it since the second tube and the single audio transformer are sufficient for normal but not loud speaker volume. They did make an amplifier unit for the 51 however, the Crosley 51-A, which is a smaller box than the radio and only uses 1 tube. But why do that when you could buy a model 52 with all three tube stages in the radio?

As radio technology evolved during the mid 1920's the little small box sets that looked like something in a science lab were superseded by stylish 5 tube TRF's and Superheterodynes more suitable for home décor. The last small box one made by Crosley was actually the "Pup" in 1925. This was nothing but the 1 tube model 50 small box (the same circuit as my Ace 5) squeezed into a small metal box with the tube on top! You can't say that Powel Crosley Jr. was not frugal, he found a way to utilize the obsolete small box radio parts in the "Pup"... a \$10 novelty radio now worth more than ten times that much!

Later, I plan to connect up another "Crazily over Crosley" radio that I have. This is a 1924 DeForest-Crosley Trirdyn, a Canadian version of the U.S. made Crosley 3R3 Trirdyn. It is a Reflex-Regenerative 3 tube set with the same sliding spider web coil 'tickler' that the small box sets employed. It should be fun but after that I will probably get the whole works 'kicked out' of the bedroom. And so it goes.

A happy holiday season to all from "In The Shack" QSO you next time. 73

Book Review

Reviewed by Ludwell Sibley.

PIONEER MIKES - A HISTORY OF RADIO AND TELEVISION IN OREGON

By Ronald Kramer

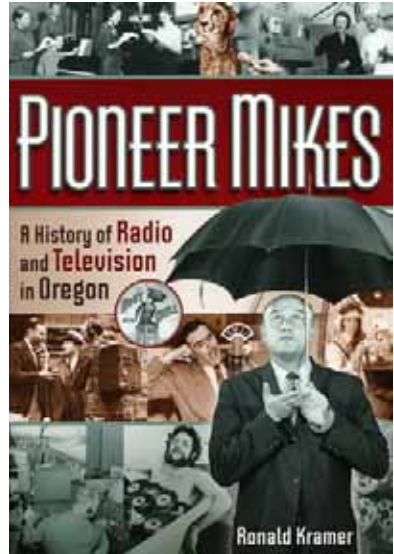
ISBN 978-0-615-30030-6, 2009 release. Paperback, 7" x 10" format, 480 pages. Orderable for \$26.95 from the JPR (Jefferson Public Radio) Foundation, 1250 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland, OR 97520, (541) 552-6301, or via the Foundation's Web site, www.ijpr.org (click on "JPR Store").

This new book, as the title announces, chronicles the development of radio and TV broadcasting in Oregon from 1922 to 1982, with some detail as to activity in later years. It reports on the stations, the Government policies, the executives and air personalities, and the programming that gave the state its first electronic mass media.

The book relies on Government archives, a wide span of publications, and a mass of interviews of important individuals. Each station receives its own section. The book is profusely illustrated with photos, station letterheads, and promotional layouts.

The story begins with the first apparent AM broadcaster in the state, a five-watt bootleg operation in Ashland that turned into the licensed KFAY. In Portland, the pioneers were 7XF/KGN, 7XG/KYG, 7XI/KGG, KFEC, and KQY. By April 1922 these five shared time on 360 meters (833 kHz to modern readers) - with "silent hours" included to allow local radio fans to hear DX from out-of-town. The larger stations among them operated at 100 watts.

Kramer, of course, cites the development of FM. The first applicant for an FM station in the state was KGW-FM, which originally (1944) asked for 46.1 MHz, later changed to 100.3 and then 95.3. The story includes the terrible financial conditions under which FM operated, principally lack of receivers, and in which most of the first stations failed.



Television began in the Northwest with a small scanning-disc operation, 7XAO, reassigned W7XAO, in 1928-30. Electronic television came to Portland relatively late, after the FCC lifted its “freeze” on new stations, via KPTV on Channel 27 in late 1952. (The nation's first commercial UHF station proved noncompetitive in a mixed VHF-UHF environment and eventually retreated to Channel 12.)

The book contains some surprises. The 1951 book *Of Mikes and Men*, based loosely on the experiences of an author who had worked in Portland radio, recounts a tale of a broadcaster running his own remote lines through the city sewer system. That story, read long ago, seemed preposterous. However, the new book gives details of Harry Read of KXL doing just that, and cites plausible documentation to support the story.

Another unexpected angle is that Portland's Hallock and Watson Radio Service was not simply a maker of '20s battery radios. Instead, the partners constructed KGG, operated it until early 1924, owned part of KQP (later KOIN), and built transmitters for other stations. They also participated in publishing a Portland-area magazine, *Radio Waves*. Joe Hallock had a long career as “talent” on other stations like KGW and then as Engineer in Charge with the FCC in Portland.

A conventional paradigm in the history of cable television is that the first place to receive service was Mahanoy City, PA. (Wikipedia asserts this claim.) However, *Pioneer Mikes* offers Astoria as the original site, with the installer being Leroy Parsons, an engineer from KAST radio. The initial service was a single station: KRSC-TV, Channel 5, from Seattle.

The history of broadcasting is filled with stories of commercial success but also of financial hardship. One station with the latter sort of story was KVAN (its callsign at the time), licensed to Vancouver, WA. It suffered through the '60s from inadequate earnings and successive losses of leased transmitter sites. The hard-pressed owner moved the station into a mobile home without toilet facilities and put up a long-wire antenna - without authorization from the FCC. The station barely squeaked through a license-revocation hearing in 1972 and was eventually sold.

One of the engaging stories in radio broadcasting is that of the smaller networks. The majors are well documented. However, the lesser ones - particularly the short-lived services - are obscure. *Pioneer Mikes* discusses the ones that served stations in Oregon: the American Broadcasting Co. from Seattle (*not* the ABC of 1943 and later); the Associated Broadcasting Corporation from Washington, DC; the Northwest Broadcasting System, the Northwest Triangle Network; the United Broadcasting Co. from Los Angeles; or the Liberty Broadcasting System from Texas. The book also goes into stages in the evolution of the big players, like a CBS - Don Lee combination, or the NBC Gold and NBC Orange networks.

This text is liberally outfitted with endnotes in each chapter, and a detailed index. It should prove to be a major reference source as well as a “good read.” It compresses a lot of material into its pages - there's no overuse of “white space” or large type here!

Swap Shop

FOR SALE: Thousands of tubes, hundreds of radio parts, panels, meters, surplus, etc. R5-D3 electronic surplus, Bob Lee, 9770 S.E. Stanley Ave., Milwaukie, OR 97222, (503) 513-0410

FOR SALE: 1 Stewart-Warner Model B-134-A; a 2 band (AM/2.3 to 6.8 MHz) with no cabinet, no speaker, but with all good tubes

2 Stromberg-Carlson Model 1121; a 4 band (FM1/FM2/AM/8.3 to 10.5 MHz) that includes all its hardware, speaker, phonograph, and tubes, but no cabinet.

3 Spartan Model unknown; 3 band (550KHZ to 18MHz) that includes all hardware, phonograph, and console cabinet (cabinet needs restoring)

4 Philco Model 60--complete and working

Contact Ed Guenther at (541)382-0173.

FOR SALE: Rider's Perpetual Troubleshooter manuals, Vols. 1-22 (1-5 are single volumes, not abridged), \$300 o.b.o., pick-up only in Aloha. Contact Damon Vandehey, 503-459-1777.

WANTED: *Power transformer for a Sparton Equasonne Model 301 Radio.
Contact James Harper, 503-538-8738, jlharperclan@aol.com

Radio Service

These members have indicated they are willing to perform radio repairs:

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

Bruce Baur - (503)-708-4537, brucebaur@comcast.net

Blake Dietze – (360) 944-7172, wb6jhj@ix.netcom.com

Jack Doyle – (503) 305-8097

Todd Olmert – (503) 246-4141

Tony Ranft – (360) 944-8489 or walterranft@hotmail.com – General repairs.

Dave Wise – (503) 648-0897, david_wise@phoenix.com

If you are willing to repair radios, give your name, phone and/or e-mail, and any comments to the *Call Letter* editor.

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is not responsible in any disputes arising from services provided by members listed here. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

Leads and Needs

Questions about restoration of vintage radio? Visit Radiolaguy's web site often for this information plus lots of other interesting displays, photos, virtual museum plus lots of other information on vintage radio and television. Oh, yes, there are items for sale as well and NVRS members get a substantial discount on most of these items. Thank You, Sonny the Radiola Guy

Visit my vintage radio web site: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>

Officer's Roles

The President

The President shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors. The President shall set the time and the place of Board of Directors' Meetings. The President has the power to appoint members of committees as appropriate to enhance the activities of the society.

The Vice President

The Vice President shall be responsible for planning and arranging technical and entertaining activities associated with the society's meetings. He serves as chairman of the program committee if such a committee is appointed. He acts as presiding officer at meetings if the President is unavailable.

The Recording Secretary

The Recording Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of every business meeting.

The Corresponding Secretary

The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for all of the society's networking and correspondence tasks.

The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be accountable for all funds received and disbursed by the society and shall report all monetary transactions and treasury balance at each regular meeting of the society. The Treasurer shall prepare a list of members in good standing for distribution at the next regular meeting following the annual meeting of the society.

The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of the current elected officers of the society plus the immediate past president of the society. The Board of Directors shall direct the care and expenditure of the funds of the society. The Board shall determine a suitable time and place for regular society business meetings.