

CALL LETTERS

Of Mikes and Men



NORTHWEST
VINTAGE RADIO
SOCIETY

BOX 13544
PORTLAND, OR 97213

An interesting book on early day radio is "Of Mikes and Men", written by Jane Woodfin, of Portland, Oregon, who in 1929 when radio was still a youngster, got a job at KUKU, Portland. The characters in the book are true to the call letters—cuckoo! Jane was hired as a continuity writer and was to give a daily broadcast on cooking. (She could not cook and had no idea of what a continuity writer was!) Her salary was to be \$25. per week, which was a large amount in the depression, but unknown to her at that time was that KUKU was almost bankrupt due to the crash of Wall Street and most of the regular employees had left because they were not getting paid, and the station could not afford to hire experienced help. As a matter of fact her first paycheck consisted of \$10. cash, twenty loaves of bread, a gold fish bowl, complete

with two goldfish, a gigantic carton marked "Fish Food", ten pounds of nuts and bolts from Henderson's Hardware, and last but not least, two bottles of Patton Brothers Hair Renew, complete with their Magic Massage Brush to stimulate sluggish scalps! All with a value of \$15. to bring her wages up to the promised \$25.! Jane Woodfin starts by saying "To my dear friends and co-workers in early radio who will attempt to find themselves in the pages of this book. You aren't here. I couldn't put you in because you are normal, but you may recognize some of the screwballs we both knew.

For anyone wanting to read a very funny book (especially you gals) on early radio this one is tops. It will be available at the next club meeting for anyone who would like to read it.



Yes it's Altec Lansing! Jim Lansing flanked by his promotion director gives a pitch for the Altec Lansing Company in Los Angeles during World War II. Mrs Lansing, an honorary member of NWVRS sent the picture to us. At right is an ad for Lansing Speakers from Western Music and Radio Trades Journal of June 1931.

By the way our gals in the club are rather neglected, but they have one thing to be proud of:

The idea of an antique radio club was brought up by one of our gals—Sandy Bilbie, who was laughed at by your editor (which I'll never live down) and others who never dreamed what a success our little club has become. This is mentioned for the new members who may not know this fact—never underestimate the power of a woman! One of the greatest gifts from God is two people with a common interest—old radio.

The Speaker--!

**The
Voice of
All Radios**

◆

Simple enough . . . "The voice of any and all radios" . . . The modern speaker is built to give the effect of the thousands of dollars spent to deliver perfect tone.

The public, not knowing the technical side of a radio chassis, will always buy one with the most natural tone!

LANSING . . . a pioneer in the electro-dynamic speaker business has always enjoyed the reputation of creating natural tone. . . . The latest type speaker has proved to be a sensation among acoustic experts. It is built neatly, sturdily, and powerfully! Built to meet the requirements of any radio. Be sure the radio you are demonstrating contains the internationally known Lansing electro-dynamic!

SEE RESULTS:
If you assemble your own radio, use the latest type Lansing. It will improve your set and give you a longer life!




LANSING MFG. CO.
6920 McKinley Ave.
Los Angeles California

Atmospherics

Finders Keepers . . .

Time for a handy-dandy glossary

- TRIODE: Sample ode.
- KILOHERTZ: Danger, 100,000 ohms.
- SPACE CHARGE: Parking fee.
- CHASSIS GROUND: Dirt in the works.
- DIODE: An elegy for a dead set.
- HI-FI: A Russian Diplomat greets Castro.
- PILOT-LITE: Illumination showing where to pile it.
- FREQ. CONVERTER: Danish Doctor.

JUVENILE JOLT

Don Hunker, his eyes all a-spark,
 Built a set for his son as a lark;
 But the boy made him mad
 When he said to him, "Dad,
 This must be a first from the Ark!"

THE JERSEY BOUNCE

A dairy farmer near the town of Rainier,
 Put radios for his moo-cows to hear.
 But a blast of HARD-ROCK
 Stampeded his stock
 And his bull is now classed as a steer!!!

tj '76

1925 Steinite "Five" battery set complete with DeForest 401-A tubes by Lou Stober. (Neat)
 1925 Hammerlund-Roberts Hi-Q Long and Short Wave Receiver with tubes, works, found by Bob Bilbie.
 Pearson (?) 5 tube battery set wocomplete with 17" high Saal horn. Circa 1924. Nice small radio in good condition by Bilbie.
 Also an unusual O'Neil cone speaker, good shape—Bilbie.
 And a 1933 Zenith, Model 711 table model—unusual because it has a SHADOWGRAPH tuning indicator and heavy inlaid brass trim on the cabinet. Six tubes plus a no. 59 output tube. Cabinet measures 12x6x5, very ornate, also inlaid wood trim around base. Ever seen one like this? The thrill of finding these unusual old radios is so great that we all quiver at the thought of coming up with something like these! Long live the supply!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

ADS

RADIO AGE—a radio magazine devoted to the development of early radios with articles written by collectors. Reprints of significant articles which appeared in early radio magazines and classified section. Subscription rates \$7.50 per year, 10 issues. Sample copy of latest issue 75c. Send check or money order to Radio Age 1220 Meigs St., Augusta, GA 30904.

WANTED:

- 1) a 401-A DeForest Tube—Alive!
- 2) schematic for Steinite "Five".
 Could not locate in Riders reg. or misc. sections.
- 3) Tuning dial drum for Echophone S-3 cathedral.
 Call Lou Stober, Tigard-639-6073.

Bits from "A Chronological History of Electricity"

- 600 BC Thales (640-546 BC) Greek physical philosopher of Miletus discovers that if amber is rubbed with a cloth it has the power to attract light bodies, such as feathers, straw, leaves and small bits of wood. (The origin of static electricity.)
- 1895 Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937) Italian electrician, inventor of wireless telegraphy starts his experiments in his home at Bologna, transmits signals one mile without wires.
- 1906 Lee DeForest (1893-?, he was still alive when the book was written in 1944) announces Oct. 20th, his first three element vacuum tube (filament and plate electrodes) described as an amplifier of feeble electric currents. He receives a patent on the tube in 1907.
- 1916 E.H. Armstrong invents the superhetrodyne circuit.
- 1920 Station KDKA, Pittsburgh owned by Westinghouse, begins broadcasting on a regular schedule. Its first broadcast was the election returns of the Harding-Cox presidential campaign on November 2.

Let me know if these are interesting to you and we will include a few every month. The book covers everything from 600 BC to 1944 and contains many little known but vital facts on electricity and radio.

CALL LETTER

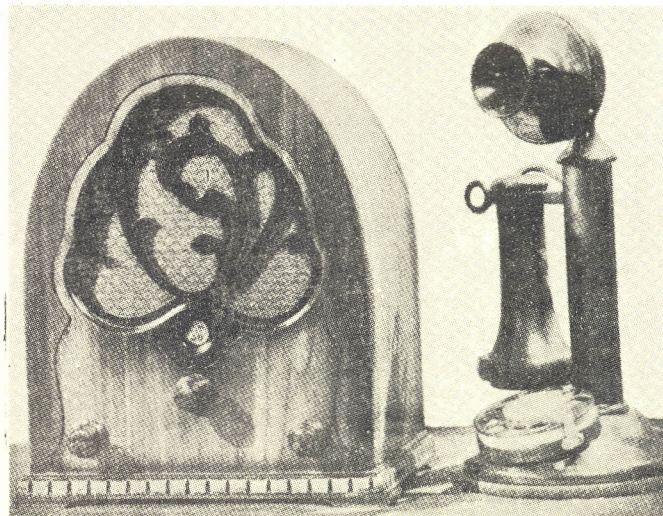
April 1976

Editor and writer
 Bob Bilbie

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Graphics
 Mark Moore

The Call Letter is a monthly publication of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society which meets the second Saturday of each month at the Buena Vista Club House, Sixteenth and Jackson Streets, Oregon City, Oregon. Contributions of written articles are gladly accepted and are to be received by the editor no later than the 25th of the month. Please send your articles to the Call Letter, % Bob Bilbie, 295 S. Knott St., Canby, Oregon 97013.



Western Music and Radio Trades Journal, June 1931

MARK'S MEMO

A very busy month has just passed and I have some very good news—we have 12 new members that we welcome heartily. Among them are some of the super collectors of the country. One fellow who has really done a lot for the club is Morgan McMahon. We thank you Morgan and we welcome you to the club. Also topping the list is Don Patterson of Augusta, Georgia who is the editor of a great publication—Radio Age. To those of you who don't receive Radio Age I strongly recommend you subscribe today! We are also privileged to have Dr. Ralph Muchow, President of the Antique Radio Club of America as a member of our club. I was also very happy to meet Mr. and Mrs. Pat Stewart of Walla Walla. We are really pleased to have such nice people as the Stewarts in our club.

It is my wish that I will personally get to meet all of our members near and far some day. We extend a cordial welcome to all of you. Our next project was suggested by one of our newer members—Robert Hay. Those of you who would like to participate, we will print a list of those items that each of us needs, or those items that we will sell or trade. I hope that you will all take the time to write a few things down. Who knows someone might have something you need! Those of you who will be at the next meeting can give your list to me at that time and others outside of the Portland area may mail them to me. We'll try to have the list ready in June.

This brings up another point—any suggestions you might have that would help us in any way, don't hesitate in letting us know!

BROWN, Edwin Associate
855 Snell
Eugene, OR 97405
342-7015

FORBES, James Associate
2705 Castlewood Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89101
876-9549

GRIFFITHS, Richard
5605 N. Concord
Portland, OR 97217
289-8248

HAY, Robert
5225 SE Brookside Drive
Portland, OR 97206
653-1195

McMAHON, Morgan (Lifetime)
Box 2045
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

MUCHOW, Ralph Associate
107 Center Street
Elgin, IL 60120
312/742-0183

PATTERSON, Don Associate
1220 Meigs Street
Augusta, GA 30904
404/738-7227

RANDALL, Dick Associate
1263 Lakehurst Road
Livermore, CA 94550

SCHWABAUER, Charles Associate
705 Hillcrest
Grandview, WA 98930
882-1920

STEWART, Pat
1404 Ruth
Walla Walla, WA 99362
527-4393

STOKES, Ralph
14044 SE Fair Oaks Way
Milwaukie, OR 97222
653-1807

WRIGHT, Dave Associate
5902 Melvern Drive
Bethesda, MD 20034
301/530-5956

From your editor

The whole club was VERY pleased to find that Orval White is feeling much better now. Hang in there Orv, we are all with you 100% and all hope to see you soon at one of the meetings!

The swap meet was a lot of fun as usual, however a lot of people who heard about the swap through our ads and on KEX were very disappointed in driving all the way to Canby to see a handful of radios on display and very few GOOD radios to buy. Remember if we get the public down on us, we lose too, because they have radios for us to collect, right? We hope this matter is brought to attention at the next board meeting.....

The editor has noticed a great improvement in the use of the newsletter by the members, and would like to thank every one concerned. Those of you who have not done so as yet, get with it!!!

Our thanks to the Loaves and Fishes organization for their excellent handling of the food service at the swap meet. They inform us that they are more than willing to help us at our next one too. It is great to know that we can rely on them for this difficult service...and the food was great!!!

Our next meeting is Saturday May 8, at the usual time of 10:am at the Buena Vista Club House in Oregon City. Those of you who would like to have your radio featured in the program book for our show at the Cor's D'Elegance July 25th at Pacific University in Forest Grove be sure to bring your little jewel to our meeting so Joey can take a picture. Y'all come!

Rebuff to Editorial Exhortation of February 1976.

"Besides, we always thought we were devoted to OLD RADIO, not an old radio built in 1976."

Constitution of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society: Article I, Sec. (2)—The object of this club is to bring together persons interested in the preservation and restoration of historical, antique, or old time radio apparatus, literature, and the history of radio development.

Construction of 1976 radios from 1920's components and construction details is in fact preserving and restoring these items to the use for which they were first designed.

Most early radio literature (before 1938) consists of construction of kits, store purchased components and miscellaneous junk box parts into efficient and sometimes ingenious radio devices. (Continued on page 4.)

Find of the month

(as judged by the editor)

Radyne Battery set, Two Echophone Model A-3 tube regenerative battery sets Radiola III and balanced amplifier, Radiola horn speaker model UZ-1325 Magnavox horn speaker, type M-1, model A, a Dictogrand horn, type R-3 Kolster radio loop antenna. ALL THIS IN ONE LOT AT SPOKANE, WA.

Congratulations for all this belongs to our treasurer and good friend, Jim Mason. We shudder to think what it must have cost Jim, and we hope that he can still restore old radios after leaving that proverbial "arm and leg" up in Spokane!!!



(Continued from page 3)

In the 20's many persons could not afford store bought, fancy shiny works of wooden art designed to dazzle the neighbor's eyes. Radio receivers were made by the commoner as a functional item, used for information and education, and the neighbors still wondered at the marvel of radio.

The majority of radios collectors possess today represent a minor part of the history of radio development. Most radios the Society collectors possess are crystal, tuned radio frequency, Armstrong regenerative, neutrodyne, and superhetrodyne.

In the history of radio development what has happened to the ultra-Audion, Reinartz, Haynes, Autoplex, Flewelling, Bishop regenerative circuits, Solodyne, Infradyne, Reflex, Harkness, Ultradyne, Tropadyne receivers, and radio kits such as Karas Equamatic, Worlds Record Super by E.H. Scott, Bremer-Tully Counterphase Six, Bremer-Tully Power Six, Unicontrol Nine-in-line, Henry-Lyford Receiver, Camfield Duoformer Five, Madison-Moore Superhetrodyne, Hammarlund-Roberts Hi Q, St. James 240, Victoreen, Silver-Marshall, Melo-Herald Eleven, Samson "TC" Deluxe, Cockaday LC-27, Silver shielded Six, Fada neutrodyne, Freshman and more?

If I had a 1927 Atwater Kent in poor condition and replaced all the capacitors and resistors, reglued the peeling veneer and re-finished the cabinet, what vintage radio would I have? 73 s Bob Campbell

For Sale

Reprinted Grebe Sales brochure covering models CR-3, CR-5, CR-8, CR-9 Rord and Rork \$2.25 postage paid. Also companion 64 page instruction book with hookups, graphs, and schematics of each model above plus Rorn \$3.95 postage paid. Send check or money order to Don Patterson, 1220 Meigs St., Augusta, Georgia 30904.

From Western Music and Radio Trades Journal March 1931

That Husky Baby Brother



—Courtesy Los Angeles Times

BUICK 4-DOOR SEDAN **5 CARS GIVEN!**

Ever win a prize? Here's your chance! Every year we spend over \$150,000.00 on prize offers to advertise our business. In this new offer 150 grand prizes totaling \$6555.00 will be given to the fortunate ones who solve our puzzle correctly and win. Here it is—

FIND THE "DIFFERENT" AUTO!

The 16 cars in the circle all look alike. 15 of them are exactly alike—but one is different from all the rest. That's the trick for you! Find this "different" car if you can—and mark it. The difference may be in the fenders, bumper, name plate, radiator, or top. Be careful now—because winner must solve puzzle correctly in order to qualify for this opportunity to

WIN BUICK SEDAN OR \$2035.00 CASH

A magnificent list of 150 Grand Prizes—\$6555.00 in all! Lucky first prize winner has choice of new 1930 Buick 4-door Sedan or cash if preferred. Also four other fine new Sedans, radios, victrola, etc., in big prize list. Duplicate prizes awarded in case of ties. All actively interested who have answered correctly will receive prizes or cash rewards.

\$705.00 FOR PROMPTNESS

Don't delay—act this minute! Solve the puzzle correctly and receive at once Certificate good for \$705.00 if you are prompt and win first prize, making total first prize worth \$2035.00 This is the only puzzle to solve. Any man, woman, boy, or girl in the U.S.A., outside of Chicago, may submit an answer. 150 of the people who take up this offer are going to win these splendid prizes. Be one of them. Send the number of the "different" auto in a letter or post card today. Nothing to buy, so send no money. But act promptly! B. BLACK, 500 N. Dearborn St., Room 210 Chicago

SEND NO MONEY! REPLY TODAY! **\$705.00 for PROMPTNESS!**

From Radio News, May 1930