

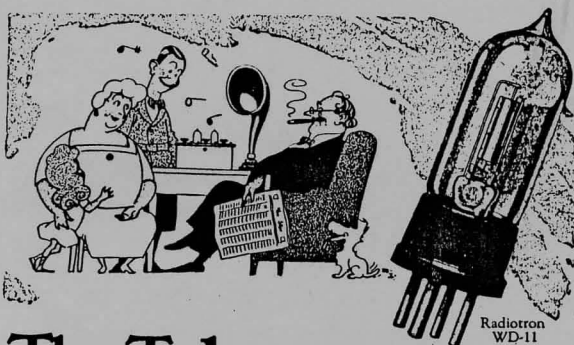
Call Letter

of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society Portland, Oregon

Vol. 19

July, 1993

No. 7



The Tube means Music or Noise

All Radiotrons now
reduced to \$4.00

It isn't a genuine WD-11
unless it's a Radiotron.

It isn't a genuine WD-12
unless it's a Radiotron.

It isn't a genuine UV-199
unless it's a Radiotron.

It isn't a genuine UV-200
unless it's a Radiotron.

It isn't a genuine UV-201-a
unless it's a Radiotron.

Buying anything but the best in vacuum tubes is like trying to run a car on gas that is half water. In radio, everything, in the end, depends upon the Radiotrons. You can put perfectly good Radiotrons in a poorly made set—that's true. But the point is that the very finest receiver made can be no better than its tubes. This is no new or startling announcement. Everyone knows it. And that's why, at the radio counter, you see each man pick up a Radiotron and look at the base for the word "Radiotron", and at the glass for the "RCA" mark. For best reception—real music—nothing short of the best in tubes will do.

Radio Corporation of America

Sales Offices, Suite No. 118

233 Broadway, New York

10 So. La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.

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This symbol
of quality
is your
protection

Radiotron

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "vintage radio" and wireless equipment.

Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$15.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year.

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

Society meetings are held monthly (except July and August) at the Northwest Vintage Radio Museum, 7675 SW Capitol Highway (at 32nd street) in Portland Oregon. They convene at or about 10 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and information exchange. 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 SW Portland.

Society Officers:

President	Speed Feldschau (503) 390-3928
Vice President	Gordon Phillips (503) 234-3517
Treasurer	Ed Charman (503) 654-7387
Secretary	Joel Carnicia (503) 287-7832
Board member at large and Call Letter Editor	Dick Karman (503) 281-6585
Museum Curator	Frank Rasada (503) 246-3400

The Society's address is:

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

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July Swap Meet

From Speed Feldschau

There is no membership meeting in July or August, but don't miss the July 10th, NVRS Keiser Swap Meet under the cool trees. See the advertisement on page 6. Speed especially wishes members to contact him to reserve a table. He has arranged some pretty good coverage on Salem area radio and even perhaps a television interview to bring the public. Now we need sellers. Call him today: (503) 390-3928.

September Meeting

The September meeting will be the *Vintage Radio and Related Nostalgia Show and Sale* at the Multnomah Arts Center, at 32nd and SW Capitol Highway. After the success of the May Show and Sale you'll want to reserve your tables early. Call Sonny Clutter: (503) 254-9296.

MEETING MINUTES

By Joel Camicia, Secretary

The SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1993 meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by President Speed Feldshaw, with 14 members attending.

The May show and swap-meet in Multnomah was the first topic of discussion, which included a rundown on the club's costs versus proceeds from the show. Two changes with regards to all future shows were proposed, that is, longer hours and increased table fees, i.e., \$15 (nonmember), \$10 (member). Both issues were voted on and approved by majority.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Ed Charman, and accepted as given.

Minutes for the May meeting were considered and accepted as reported.

OLD BUSINESS

Sonny Clutter gave his personal thanks to all those who helped make the May show a success.

Gordon Phillips discussed the continuing efforts for creating a brass plaque for the Hunker-Dyne Radio.

Sunny gave a brief description of the SCARS swap-meet in Torrance, California. Speed congratulated all those responsible for the excellent photos of the SCARS meet in the June issues of the Call-Letter.

NEW BUSINESS

Mary Rasada raised the issue of the annual Christmas Dinner. Mary reported that the dinner would have to be held on the same day as the December '92 dinner, i.e., must be held on the 18th, not the 11th.

The date and time for the combined December meeting and Christmas Dinner was voted on and approved as fol-

lows: meeting to begin at 2:30 p.m., dinner to begin at 4 p.m.

Speed reported that he was arranging advertising (radio/TV?) for the July swap-meet. Tentative count was taken for those who planned to attend.

Mary reported that the continuing work on the Museum was progressing very well, and that both bathrooms are now completed. Frank requested a work party for the painting, which needs to be completed.

The subject of the Leads and Needs was raised, without response.

Mary requested that the club pay for the two walnut bookcases to replace the metal files now being used to store the club's Photo-Facts. A motion was made to allot \$200 for the purchase of the bookcases, the motion was voted and approved by majority.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Little Nipper

By Scott MacGregor

- NVRS member Norris Jackson and all of the Jackson family proudly announce their latest acquisition:
- Trevor Nathaniel Jackson
- Born: May 27th, 1993
- Weight 8 Lbs. 6 Oz. Length 20"

Congratulations to the Jacksons !

(I bet they are gonna have to change the "grill clothe" on that model frequently, and how about the volume control? editor Dick)

Radio Passing Away

By Editor Dick Karman

Last month (May 1993) a long-known name in radio passed away. Carleton E. Morse was 93 years old and still very active in promoting the memories of old radio. He was responsible in part for hundreds of radio shows and personally responsible for thousands of pages of radio script. Of his notable shows, *I Love A Mystery (ILAM)*, with Jack, Doc, and Regie stands out, as many folks all time favorites. It was that show that Jim Harmon used to open his book *Great Radio Heros*. It was some of the writing from that show which inspired a later recreation titled *Adventures By Morse*, starring Captain Friday, and Skip turner. Friday had a distinct similarity to Jack Packard, and Skip sounded a lot like Texan Doc Long.

Morse's ILAM was on the air nearly sixteen years, but this seemed brief compared to the twenty-six years that another creation shared the airwaves. *One Man's Family* first came to the air in May of 1931. The story of a family hanging together through the post-depression years appealed to the public. In fact in less than two years this "local show" went coast to coast, where it stayed until May 8th, 1959. The story of the Barbour family never faded nor did it falter when the sons went to war and the women took war jobs. Grandchildren were born, family members died, and occasionally tragedies shook the public. But instead of sentimentality (ala Ma Perkins), when the show was not renewed, it simple left the air. When listeners tuned to their NBC affiliate on May 15th, 1959, *One Man's Family* was not there. Listeners had to make believe that this man's family had moved away.

Old radio collectors may not note the passing of Mr. Morse, but those of us who follow the history of broad-

casting will hear the strains of Valse Trist every time we think of this grand old gentleman. I am happy to have passed his star "star" on the walk of stars near Hollywood and vine during my last trip to LA.

(For more history about Carleton E. Morse see a three part article on his life and works in the CALL LETTER, July, August, September, 1983)

Radio's Past

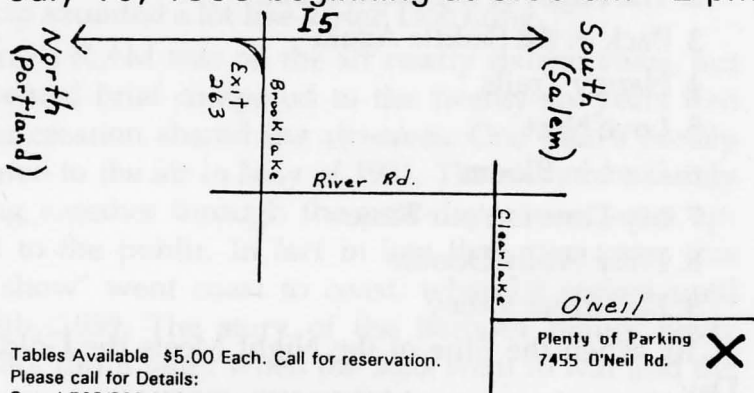
Can you tell which song is associated with which show?

1. The William Tell Overture
 2. The Flight of the Bumble Bee
 3. Back in the Saddle Again
 4. Happy Trails
 5. Love Nest
 6. Love in Bloom
 7. My Time is Your Time
 8. Polly Wolly Doodle
 9. Red River Valley
 10. When the Blue of the Night Meets the Gold of the Day
 11. Moonlight Serenade
 12. Rhapsody In Blue
 13. Inka Dinka Doo
- (Answers in next months CALL LETTER)

Fourth Annual
**VINTAGE
 RADIO
 SWAP**



Hot Summer meet under the cool big trees
 at Speed's in Keizer, Oregon.
 July 10, 1993 beginning at 8:00 am - 2 pm



Tables Available \$5.00 Each. Call for reservation.
 Please call for Details:
 Speed 503/390/3928 Sonny 503/254/9296

Sponsored in cooperation with:
Northwest Vintage Radio Society
 P.O. Box 82379 Portland, OR 97282-0379



Tech Tips

by David Rutland

Reforming Plastic Knobs

At the recent Show and Sale on May 8th, a friend of mine purchased an Airline Table Model 4465 at a fair price as a gift for his invalid father in Chicago. He was leaving for Chicago in about a week and wanted me to go through the set to make sure that all was in working order. One thing was readily apparent--the tuning knob would not move the tuning condenser.

So, I took it home, removed the knobs and chassis, and looked it over carefully. The cabinet was in very good condition and had been expertly refinished. The chassis electronics had also been attended to by a professional, and all of the three tuning bands were in working order. The only thing wrong was that the knobs all suffered from distortion and, in fact, two of the knobs were broken between the center hub and the set screw housing (see figure 1). One of them happened to be the tuning knob, and that was the reason for getting no action from the tuning condenser and pointer. Over the years, the pressure from the set screw against the shaft had caused the plastic to "flow" and two of the five knobs had actually distorted to the point where they had broken. The other three knobs were only elongated.

As the knobs were unique to the set and marked during the manufacturing process with working appropriate to the control (Volume, Broad-Sharp, Tuning, etc.), I thought that the best thing to do was attempt to repair the originals, rather than try to find new or used replacement knobs. I was able to do so by the following method.

Thoroughly clean the inside of the knobs with dental picks, Q-tips and cleaner to remove all of the grime, dust

and insect nests. Purchase a radiator hose clamp at the local auto supply house. Use a small one which adjusts from 5/8" to 1-1/4". Clamp it onto the broken knob such that the worm screw housing of the clamp is tangent to the set screw housing. (I found by trial and error that this caused the least distortion in the clamp when tightened on the knob.) Tighten the clamp just enough to exert pressure on the circumference of the knob. Position a 250 watt heat lamp approximately one foot above the clamp and knob. After the lamp has been on for about 10 minutes, you will detect some movement in the plastic. Gingerly tighten the clamp a little more and continue to monitor the plastic. After another five minutes, tighten the clamp again (just enough to let the plastic gently flow and reform.) Altogether, the process takes 30 minutes, and the knob will be as round as it was originally, with the broken ends together. Turn off the lamp and allow the plastic to cool. Keep the clamp on for at least an hour.

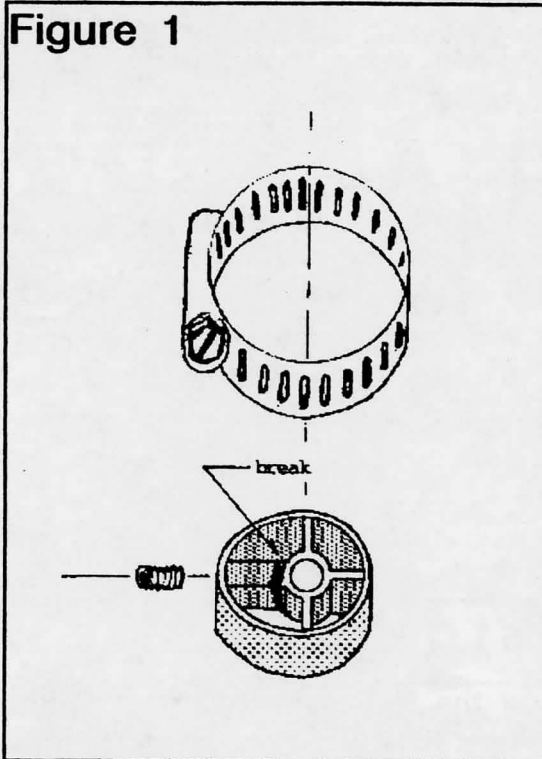
Remove the clamp. The plastic will have rehardened, and the knob will remain round. With a sharp instrument thoroughly scratch and rough- up the inside webbing of the knob, shaft housing and set screw housing. Next, mix up a supply of good quality epoxy and daub it carefully into the spaces between the webbing and the outer housing of the knob. Remove all of the air bubbles in the epoxy. Be sure that the epoxy flows densely around the break area. Wipe off any excess epoxy and set the knob aside to dry. When dry, the knob can be tightened on the shaft and should be stronger than originally.

Special Note! Two things I found out during a trial and error process: 1) be sure to leave the set screw in its housing so that the heating process does not deform the threaded hole; and, 2) put a short length of 1/4" shaft into the center hub during the heating and forming process.

Failure to do so causes the webbing to push against the hub and produces a square hole in the center.

[Editor's note, the illustration did not reproduce too well.]

Figure 1



August Swap Meet

August 15th, 1993; Puget Sound Antique Radio Association; Shoreline Museum on N 175th street, one block West of Aurora Avenue, in North Seattle.

NVRS Calendar

July 10th -

(No meeting) Keizer Oregon swap meet at Speed Feldschau's home, 7445 O'neil Road, Keizer.

September 11th -

Northwest Vintage Radio and related nostalgia Show and Sale at the Multnomah Arts Center.

October 9th -

Business meeting, Vintage radio and equipment auction at the Vintage Radio Museum. Tentatively a silent auction first and an oral auction to "clear the floor."

November 13th -

Business meeting with nomination of 1994 officers, after meeting a radio repair demonstration (to be announced).

December 18th -

Business meeting at 2:30, the annual Christmas dinner at 4:30.

A BIG Mistake

In 1898 the head of the United States Patent Office wrote a letter to President Mckinley recommending that he shut down the patent office permanently. He opined that "everything that can be invented has already been invented" and therefore there is no need for the office.

This was fully 10 years before the advent of radio. It would have been a Big Mistake!

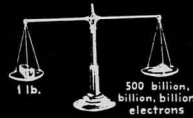
THE ELECTRON—its characteristics

SO FUNDAMENTAL is the electron that it is difficult to speak of its size, or weight, or shape. There is even doubt that it has any such attributes; for very

recent studies indicate that the electron may be nothing but a wave. The data below, however, may convey some idea of the characteristics of this basic "building unit."

MASS — — — — — 9×10^{-28} grams = 3.2 hundredth billionth billionth ounce

The electron probably has no mass; but it acts as though it had. It would take 500 billion billion billion electrons to weigh one pound. The hydrogen atom is the lightest of all atoms; it has about 1,800 times the mass of the electron.



ELECTRIC CHARGE — — — — — 4.774×10^{-10} electrostatic units = 1.59×10^{-19} coulomb

An electric current is nothing but a motion of electrons each carrying a unit charge or quantity of electricity. Thus to light up a 50-watt bulb requires the passage of 3 billion billion electrons per second. If a mechanical counter can count these at the rate of one million per second it would require 118,000 years to complete the task.



SPEED — — — — — from 300 to 125,000 miles per second

The electron is not static; it is a dynamic, whirling primordial unit. In the hydrogen atom the electron travels about 1,300 miles per second, and makes about 6,580 trillion complete circuits a second. In more complex atoms it may go as fast as 125,000 miles a second, approaching the speed of light.



SHELL
2,800 feet
per second



MOTORCYCLE
132 feet per second



AIRPLANE
300 feet per second



ELECTRONS IN VACUUM TUBE
1,000 miles per second

SIZE — — — — — about 1/13 trillionth inch

The electron is so small that if a marble were to be half way between the electron and the earth in size, the earth would have been enlarged about 6,000 times.

ELECTRON MARBLE

THE EARTH



ELECTRONICS —

Fig. 3
Electron Characteristics.



ATMOSPHERICA

By J

THE STORM

Everyone had AC sets-
'Cept old Jim MacCoys.
He stuck to his batteries;
Was scared of those AC toys!
Then a Norther came a-screaming,
And Blooie, went the lights!
There were many quiet firesides
For several days and nights.

That is: except for Mac--
His cozy house was warm;
His radio was a jewel;
Helped him weather-out the storm.
Mac now, is long departed
But until his dying day,
He kept the batteries working
In that drum-dial R.C.A.

Atmospherica is still one of the pleasant memories we have of our humor and our past. We welcome suggestions about your favorite Atmospherica, so we can reprint your choice.

editor