

The

Call Letter

September, 2008
Vol. 34 — No. 9

RADIO'S LIVEST MAGAZINE

OVER 175 ILLUSTRATIONS

Radio-Craft

HUGO GENSBACK Editor

**Special
RADIO
SERVICE
Number**

July
#5 Cents
(5 Cents Home
and Foreign)

BOAT RADIO REPAIRS

See Page 9

Everyman's Car - Radio Set — Public - Address and "Universal" Radio Tuner
Tube Characteristics with the "Ray" Tube — Service Man's Coil Tester

OVER 50,000 RADIO MEN READ RADIO-CRAFT MONTHLY

Over 30 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).

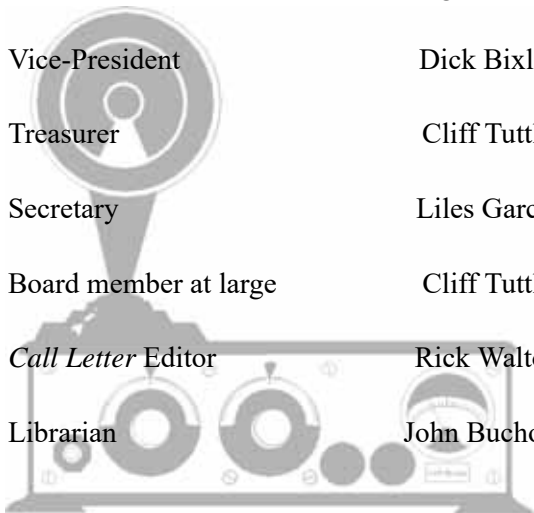
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

With each issue of the *Call Letter*, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1999. 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 2008:

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
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 landn2@verizon.net
Board member at large	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 kiptuttle@comcast.net
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 656-4104 rwalton@easystreet.net
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 BonJonBuck@webtv.net



September 2008

Table of Contents

From the Editor2

NWVRS Calendar of Events3

NorthWest Vintage Radio Society Meeting Minutes.....4

Photo Display.....5

WRNO*, Vancouver7

KPOJ Celebrates a Birthday:8

Swap Shop12

On the cover: “This month’s colorful cover is from the July, 1937 issue of *Radio Craft* magazine.

The next meeting is on September 13, 2008.

The Program Topic for our September meeting will be “Tube Electronic Phonographs With Or Without Radios”

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

Next Call Letter Deadline: October 2, 2008.

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 Call Letter has taken me a long time to pull together, and I hope like it. We have a new item, WRNO Vancouver, that we hope will become a monthly feature. We also have a special item submitted by Dick Howard — this is a reprinting of an article from *Ours Ahead*, the in-house publication for the “Oregon Journal.”

Your editor will be on vacation between September 19 and October 1. Even though the deadline is October 2, please try to have all articles to me before September 19.

For the first time in several months we’re not running one of Mike Parker’s “In the Shack” articles, but the rest of the usual monthly features are present except for Voilá.

Your editor suffered a hard disk failure about a week ago that impacts the *Call Letter*. The disk that failed contained the most recent mailing list. With some wonderful assistance on short notice from Cliff Tuttle, I’ve managed to reconstruct the list with the exception of two addresses. If you have an address for either Eric Bergquest or Jack Doyle, please let me know. They are members who joined last November. As serious as the loss of this information is, it seems that this is the only information that was not duplicated elsewhere.

Sinatra, Bennett, Norah.

Portland's only station for classic American standards
of yesterday and today. Sunny 1550 KKAD.

Listen online at: www.sunny1550kkad.com



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

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

September 27 Spokane Hamfest. University High School, 12420 E 32nd Ave, Spokane Valley WA 99216. For more info contact Bryan, K7WXO at k7wxo@gktech.net

October 11 NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.

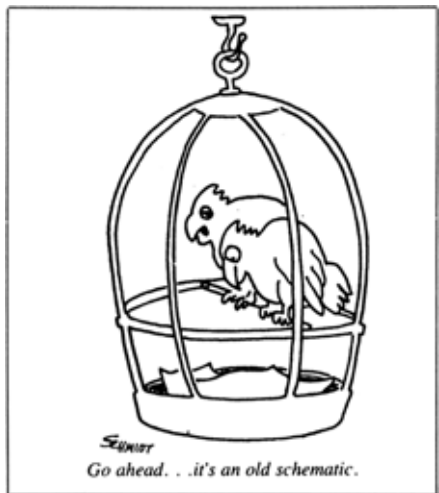
October 11 North Kitsap ARC Hamfest and Electronics Swapmeet. Bremerton, WA at the President's Hall – Kitsap County Fairgrounds. \$5.00 admission, \$15.00/Table. For more information: <http://www.nkarc.org/hamfest.html> or e-mail kb2skp@arrl.net

October 25 **Swaptoberfest.** Mid-Valley ARES. Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR. Contact: Chris Portal, W7CLP (503)559-7837. w7clp@arrl.net. 520 South Pacific Highway. <http://www.swaptoberfest.net>

October 25 Mount Baker Amateur Radio Club Flea Market, Lynden, WA. Always the last Saturday in October. Contact k7iey@netscape.net; <http://www.qsl.net/k7skw/>.

November 8 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Officer nominations for 2009.

December 13 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Officer elections, annual Holiday party.



NorthWest Vintage Radio Society Meeting Minutes

Liles Garcia, NWVRS Secretary

President George Kirkwood called the August 9, 2008 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 9:50 AM. Liles Garcia read the minutes of the July meeting. A correction is that Brian Nies lives in Sellwood, not in Sherwood as written in the minutes. The minutes were approved as printed in the August Call Letter and with this correction. Cliff Tuttle gave the Treasurer's report; it was approved as provided by Cliff. As a record, Cliff was paid \$20.00 for a new color printer and \$15.98 for new receipt books. Our Society now has 105 members. Steve Darling attended today as a guest. Welcome Steve!! Members gave Steve a round of applause. Vice President Dick Bixler said that Don Iverson continues to recover at home after his surgery. There were approximately 40 people at our meeting today.

New Business

Swap Meet Posters--Dick Bixler has posters for advertising our upcoming Swap Meet.

Call Letter--Cliff got our Society a new color printer so that our publishing costs will be much less. Members gave a Rick a round of applause for his excellent work at publishing our Society's Call Letter. Rick said that he would like to have more articles from members for the Call Letter.

Leads and Needs

John Bucholtz said that former member Tom Moore's wife, Sue, has about 125 radios that she would like to sell. Her phone number is (360) 693-6022. Oscar Olson brought some tubes that are available for free. Cliff has a Tek 465 oscilloscope for sale.

Program Topic

The program topic was "Radiola Radios". Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The program topic for the September meeting is "Tube Electronic Phonographs With Or Without Radios".

Sonny Clutter will give a class on soldering after the September meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

The August monthly feature was Radiola radios. These are the radios that members displayed at the meeting.



Swedish Radiola - Dick Howard



Radiola 100 speaker - Sonny Clutter



Warranty tag under Swedish Radiola



Radiola IV - Sonny Clutter



Radiola III - Bill Meloy



Radiola IIIA - George Kirkwood

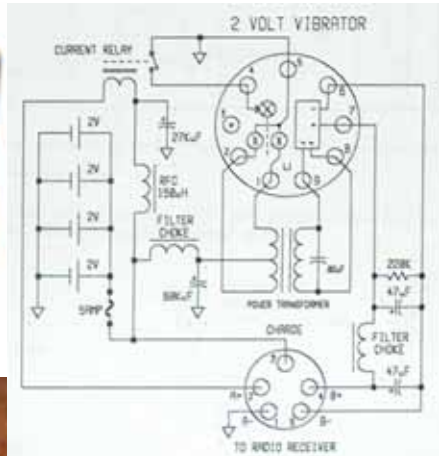


Westinghouse Radiola RC -
Blake Dietze



Radiola 20 - Frank Olberding

Here's a radio, not a Radiola, that Roger Brown brought to show club members. Roger restored the radio, and designed and built the battery eliminator.



RELEASED FOR PRODUCTION BY		DATE
RK SYSTEMS		HILLSBORO, OREGON
ASSEMBLY For Coronado model 658		
SCHEMATIC TITLE 2V B+ Power Converter		
SIZE	DESIGNER	ASSEMBLY PN
11	ROGER BROWN	
DATE 3/18/88	SHEET 1 OF 1	80. PN

WRNO*, Vancouver

Photos by Rick Walton

This is the first in what we hope will be an ongoing series highlighting the activities of an ad hoc group in Vancouver, WA, that meets most Wednesday evenings to have a “radio night out.” Future columns will summarize the past months activities.

The gathering usually takes place in Blake Dietze’s garage, where he has a work bench set up with the tools and equipment needed to repair and restore radios. The radio night out is a time to talk about the hobby with fellow collectors, discussing where to find that elusive part and maybe brag about some choice find, or to dive into repairing a radio. If you’re new to collecting and repairing radios, it’s a great place to start learning how to troubleshoot the circuits. You’re welcome to bring a radio that needs some troubleshooting to get it running, or refinishing to make it presentable.

These photos were taken at a recent Wednesday evening gathering.

*WRNO stands for “Wednesday Radio Night Out.”



Blake Dietze traces a signal.



Some of the WRNO regulars.



Pat Kagi sprays on a coat of lacquer.

KPOJ Celebrates a Birthday:

By Virginia C. Holmgren

Editor's note: This article was published in "Ours Ahead," Vol. 10, No. 5 of November, 1958. "Ours Ahead" was an in-house publication of the "Oregon Journal" newspaper. Our thanks to Dick Howard for submitting this slice of Portland radio history. 1330 AM, KPOJ's frequency, is now KKPZ, a religious broadcasting station. The station at 620 AM in Portland that currently operates as KPOJ, was formerly KGW.

Station Born in Crystal-Set Era...35 Years of Pioneering Pay Off

November is the month when KPOJ wishes itself a big fat happy birthday — our 35th this year. The original operation license hanging in the KPOJ studios is dated Nov. 12, 1923, and is really our birth certificate, although the call letters on it are KFJR and the place of operation was Montana.

The authorized operator of 5-watt KFJR was Ashley C. Dixon Sr., and the station's main purpose was to cooperate with the Forest Service in fighting • forest and range fires. KFJR moved to Portland along with Mr. Dixon in 1925 and broadcast from the Dixon garage at 36th and Glenwood, The garage is still there and Mr. Dixon lives not far away. Talk to him about the old days of radio and he'll tell you with a chuckle that he learned all he needed to know of radio engineering in a quick correspondence course.



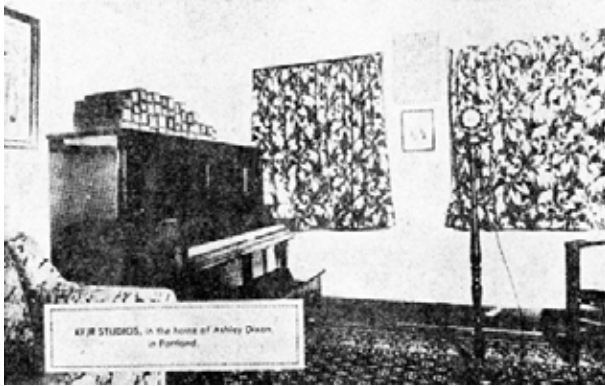
Original Portland home of KPOJ at 36th and Glenwood in Eastmoreland district. Transmitter and studios were both located on second floor of garage seen in rear.



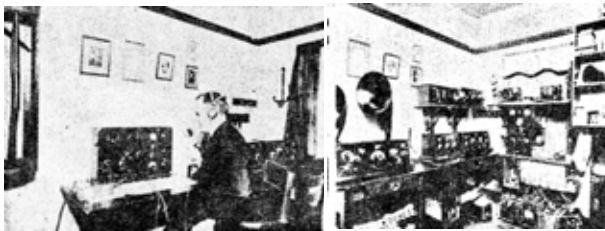
Ashley C. Dixon

Outside the two-story garage, the radio towers rose skyward. Inside was a player piano with a goodly supply of rolls stacked on top, and all it took to get music on the air was a little footwork. Tunes like "Charleston," "Linger Awhile," "That Old Gang of Mine," "Yes, We Have No Bananas," "Who's Sorry Now," "Remembering" and "Swingin' Down the Lane" were the 1923 hits. 1924 starred "All Alone," "What'll I Do?" "Fascinating Rhythm" and other Irving Berlin and Gershwin tunes. "Tea for Two" was a favorite, without its present cha-cha beat, and the songs of "Rose Marie" had the boys' making like Nelson Eddy. Many top tunes of the '20s are still played today. Radio was giving song-writing a lift it had never known in the days before the airwaves carried music to country towns and ranch houses far from Tin Pan Alley and Broadway, and

songwriters were giving out with an inspired beat for this new medium. KFJR did its share in spreading the great songs of 1925 here in Portland, from “Always,” “Collegiate” and “Dinah” to “Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue,” “If You Knew Susie,” “Sweet Georgia Brown.” “Who,” “Yearning” and “Yes, Sir, That’s My Baby.”



The fortunate radio set owners clutched their earphones closer as they listened — or maybe boasted about their new loud speakers—and sat up late at night to get a “distant” station, or talked about waiting for cold weather when reception would be clearer. The crystal sets and battery-powered radios were disappearing now in favor of the new all-electric mechanism, and KFJR was quick to latch onto the growing radio audience.



In earlier days—KFJR studios and transmitter looked like this. Note player piano with rolls stacked on top. Five-watt transmitter supplied station’s power.

It shared its frequency with another station, KTBR, and upped its power and coverage. The Sunday Journal for Aug. 23, 1925,

carried pictures of the KFJR studio and transmitter along with a story of its programming. On Nov. 7, 1927, the first commercial operation was sanctioned, thereby giving us a second November anniversary.

The Oregon Journal now began identifying itself with this station, broadcasting news. Journal Juniors, “The Story Hour” for blind people and programs for Boy Scouts and the Better Business Bureau. In 1935 the two stations KFJR and KTBR merged, took the call letters KALE and operated as a full time station. They affiliated with the then newly-



The latest in radio equipment is housed inside transmitter building on Mt. Scott. Seldom seen by outsiders is this view of KPOJ’s 5000-watt transmitter, located several miles from downtown studios.

formed Mutual Don Lee network. Owners were The Journal, Charles W. Meyers and C. Roy Hunt. Since this same group also owned stock in KOZN—and the FCC ruled against multiple ownership—a division was necessary. The Journal bought KALE'S full ownership and gave up its interest in KOIN.

The New Journal station first moved to studios at 919 Taylor street; then in June, 1948, changed its call letters to KPOJ, to indicate its Journal ownership, and moved to our present location in the Oddfellows building at 10th and Salmon. The new transmitter on Mt. Scott went into operation that same month, as did KPOJ-FM, the first full-time FM station in the Portland area. KPOJ filed application for a television station that same year, and now 10 years later, is still hoping to further its service to Portland, in this newer medium.



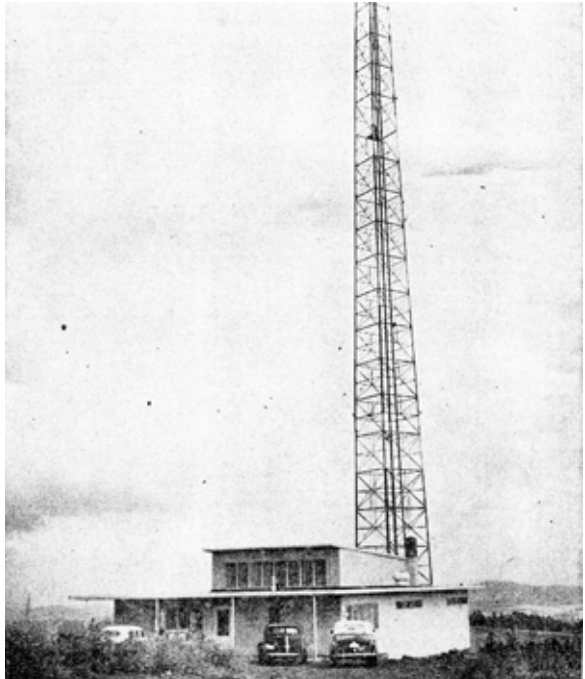
KPOJ Gen. Mgr. Dick Brown, who moved to radio from The Journal, sends this birthday message:

This is the birthday month for KPOJ—35 years of broadcast service makes our station the second oldest in the Portland area. The service rendered today is a far cry from that of 35 years ago when Ashley Dixon was granted a license. Today almost every home has not just one, but several radios. Radio has become an indispensable part of the American scene, actually increasing its position as the great new medium —television—arrived and established itself. I am proud of KPOJ's accomplishments in the face of the toughest kind of

competition. I thank each one of you for your contributions toward this end. Best wishes for a happy KPOJ birthday.

To which we say, thanks, Dick. and the same to you. Our 35th birthday was happy, with plenty of excitement cooked up by Jack Wilbur, promotion manager, to call our celebration to public notice. Don Parr, sales manager, turned out some special birthday business builders and anniversary advertising packages, and Program Director Vern Mueller led the studio staff celebration. So—away with the candles and cake till next year.

... Speaking of birthdays, the KPOJ family has had a few new arrivals via stork delivery



Lofty antenna beams KPOJ's signal loud and clear. Transmitter building, perched high atop Mt. Scott, has commanding view of Portland and surrounding area.

since Ours Ahead last went to press. Master Danny Scott, son of Bob Scott, account executive, arrived on May 13, weight 6 pounds, 9 ounces. The Vern Mueller family welcomed dainty Miss Melinda Susan on June 24, weight 6 pounds. Last but not least—very definitely not least, since she weighed in at a husky 8 pounds 9 ounces—is Miss Julie Lynne Magnuson, daughter of Jim Magnuson, account executive. That's the last news from Storkville for our birthday year.

Wedding bells added to KPOJ excitement this fall. Lucille Neely returned from a September vacation as Mrs. Al Hanks, and now lives in a lovely new home out Tigard way. She still runs KPOJ accounting division with a firm hand, however, in spite of the stars in her eyes.

A new service at KPOJ is “Mike Mutters”—a single-page bulletin issued whenever Continuity has time and there isn't an Ours Ahead in the mail. On the masthead is Mike himself, an animated microphone with a puckish face that indicates he's more given to chuckles—or even a guffaw—than to mutters.

Also new at KPOJ in this our birthday year is the decision to dispense with all the 78 RPM records in the music library. We've been selling them to the public at 15 cents each, 10 for \$1, and KPOJ staffers have been among our best customers, sorting over the piles with many a nostalgic memory. Vi Eaton got so wrapped up in “remembering when” that she spent all Saturday in the stacks, working right through lunch—much to hubby's hungry despair. Still quite a few 78s left—maybe your favorites are among them. Come on up and see us —Monday through Friday 8:30 to 5.

Every now and then we get a reminder that a few more people listen to us than there were back in the 5-watt days of KFJR. The KPOJ Jello commercials were chirping that it was national “eat Jello for breakfast week” and no sooner had Chuck Bernard sent this information out on the morning airwaves, than the phone rang. A brisk feminine voice announced that she was just swallowing the last bite of a pretty red jolly-jelly dishful! Talk about faithful following! And one of Larry Caramella's public phoned on election day to remind him he'd have to give equal time to the opposition on capital punishment—reason? He was playing “Tom Dooley.”

Mark Allen's fans send him candy taped to their dedication slips, so he won't get hungry...

Well, that's radio. And we love it. As we were saying, Happy birthday to us!



Mobile Operation—Studio on wheels is completely equipped to handle on-the-scene coverage of news and public events. Above photo shows unit operating in park blocks during 1958 Rose Festival week.

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

FREE to a good home: ***1939 Philco 39-40** console, cabinet good, needs new dial glass, some repair work already done, hums. **1931 Zenith 11** lowboy console, complete basket case. Neither radios working. I can deliver to the August meeting for pickup. Tony H. abhauser@aol.com or 503-397-0074

FOR SALE: autographed copy of *Oscilloscopes: Selecting and Restoring a Classic* by Stan Griffiths. It focuses on the old Tektronix boatanchors, and is in impeccable condition except for a small crease on the cover's corner. \$25. Contact Jay Johnston, withat@msn.com or 503-226-4181.

WANTED: Tuning knob for Arvin 444AM (as shown here), or the loan of the knob in order to have a reproduction made. Rick Walton, 503-701-3260.



Radio Service

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

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

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

Todd Ommert – (503) 246-4141, website www.burlingame-radio.com

Tony Ranft – (360) 944-8489 or ranft@saw.net – 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, photo's, 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>

Fold, Spindle, & Mutilate!

If you've ever wondered who does the work preparing the *Call Letter* for mailing, here is your answer. These are the society members who gather once a month to do all the things required to make sure that your copy of the *Call Letter* will make it through the postal system and into your mailbox before the club meeting on the second Saturday.

Shown in the picture from left to right are Rudy Zvarich, Brian Toon, Tony Hauser, Kem Sypher, Sonny Clutter, Gordon Phillips, Blake Dietze, and Jerry Hertel (your editor is taking the picture).



In these pictures, Brian and Rudy man the staplers, while your editor battles a roll of stamps.

