

# CALL LETTER



March 1976  
Editor . . . Bob Bilbie

Volume 2, Number 4  
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 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.

## How much is too much?

What is the true value of a refinished radio?? As you all know, your editor is also a flea marketeer by profession and in this strange line of work you learn many different things. For example, recently I purchased a radio from a fellow collector for \$30 and thinking that I would make a neat \$5 profit on the said item, it was put up for sale at \$35. This radio had gotten a rather poor treatment, but someone had tried to restore it to the best of their ability, however it did not sell at two flea markets. In desperation, I took it home and restored the cabinet properly, making it a very attractive and beautiful old piece. This time when it was presented to the public, it sold within three hours for over \$100!!! Perhaps this will show or prove to you the importance of a GOOD cabinet restoration. If any of you out there would like to learn how to do this properly, we will teach it sometime this year in accordance with our little questionnaire, sent out last month. All this would lead your editor to believe that our radio collections would become three times as valuable by some careful cabinet restoration!!

Speaking of good cabinet restorations we offer our congratulations to Pete Young for his excellent work on the Zenith he brought to the club meeting last month. This is the kind of work that makes you proud that you collect old radios! Just beautiful, Pete, keep up the good work.

## New discoveries

We are just now beginning to find out about the unheralded radio pioneers that lived many years before those who were given credit for the inventions. How many of you read the article in Radio Age about the man who first sent voice transmissions in 1892?

Another unknown radio pioneer, Dr. Mahlon Loomis, was experimenting in 1865 with sending aerial telegraphic messages, and in 1872 was granted the first patent (No. 129,971, dated July 30, 1872) for WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY. He is credited with inventing the aerial.

He discovered that by erecting two aerials far apart and setting up "disturbances in the atmosphere", would cause electric waves to travel through the atmosphere and ground, thus establishing WIRELESS telegraphic communication between two distant points! His first message was sent a distance of 14 miles in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. His primitive "aerials" were kites covered with fine mesh copper wire. Remember that this was in 1872, which was 48 years before the first "credited" voice transmission and 23 years before Marconi began experimenting!!! This book is available to members to read, just call Bob Bilbie at 266-5338, if interested.

The book is entitled **RADIO THEORY AND OPERATING** by Mary Texanna Loomis, Loomis Radio College, Washington, D.C. Date of publication was 1925. Many neat old radios are pictured! 848 pages.

Yes fellas, we know we promised you an ALL ELECTRIC issue this month, and it is in the works, so we will have a super good issue when it is finally completed. Patience, too, is a virtue.



**PHILCO**  
Balanced-Unit RADIO

**SPARTON RADIO**  
THE PATHFINDER OF THE AIR

THE TWO OUTSTANDING RADIOS  
Free trial anywhere. Call anytime  
Highest allowance for your Radio.  
Piano, Phonograph, Furniture,  
or what?

A. G. E. ABENDROTH  
208 Floral Ave.

**TRinity 4669**

R-81-1

"Choose your dealer with care"

**Majestic**  
ELECTRIC Radio

Micro-Synchronous  
**Victor Radio**

SALES AND SERVICE

**VERN L. WENGER CO.**  
264 ALDER  
**ATwater 0429**

R-87-1

The following is from Joey Tompkins, our good old Salem collector: This is written exactly as we received it. (Ed.)

Bob:

Maybe you can glean something from all of this for the next newsletter. You mentioned that it is hard to come up with things to mention in it. You will note that for forty years I've written news style, no corrections, save that for the re-write. Joe  
(Guess I fall into the category of re-writer, so we'll dress it up a bit, Ed.)

One of the most common complaints we so often find in the old battery sets is that the transformers have either secondary or primary windings opened up. You need not tear your hair out for there is an easy way to repair them. Remove the winding taps from the PLATE entro, and the B power, insert a 100k resistor. On the grid side between the GRID and the C or A bias source, whichever is used, insert a 1 meg. IF in the first stage, 500k in the second stage, 250k in the third, if there is a third stage audio. Between the plate and grid of the transformer insert a .01-1.10% 400 DC condenser. There will be a loss in volume, but quality will be much better. Plate voltages may have to be boosted a little, but don't exceed the voltages required.

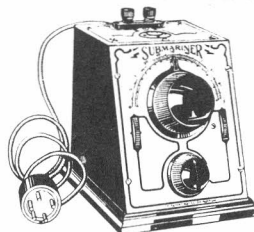
#### THE PSALM OF RADIO

Radio is my hobby; I shall want no other.  
It maketh me to stay home at night.  
It leadeth me into much trouble,  
It draweth on my purse.  
I go into paths of debt for its sake,  
Yea, tho I understand it perfectly,  
It will not oscillate.  
Its concerts and speeches comfort me,  
Yet it will not work in the presence of my friends.  
I annoint thy coils with shellac,  
But the tube spilleth over!  
Surely the bug will follow me all the days of my life;  
And I will dwell in the house of a RADIO fan forever.

Joe Tompkins

By the way Joe informs us that he has many parts available to members only, so if there is something you need, call him, he may be able to help you! Phone 362-8071.

We'd like to say at this point that newsletter contributions were much better this month, than ever before. For example I did not have room for the rest of Joey's letter, so will include this in next month's issue. We also regret that we were not able to use all of the other contributions that were sent in. If you remember that this is your newsletter and that you can make it work to your advantage, the effort expended to send in a contribution will be little felt!! We had less room because of the swap meet flyer, so don't think that we can't use your contributions. All contributions should be sent to the Call Letter %Bob Bilbie, 295 S. Knott St., Canby, Oregon 97013.



**SHORT WAVES**  
THE SUBMARINER  
Radio News  
May 1930

#### STILL WAITING...

Your editor is still waiting for the most unusual find of the month. We feel that this would be a nice addition to our paper and Lou Stober did find a cute little horn. If he will write or call and tell us about it we'll put it in the next issue. By the way Lou how do we get ahold of you? Several of us have tried without success.

#### A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Congrats to the new officers for taking the necessary steps to brighten up our meetings. As one voice speaking for the whole club, I think that the last meeting was the most enjoyable one we have ever had. We all hope that it does not stop now!!

#### THE TOM JAMES POETRY CORNER

By super poet Tom James

#### FIGURES DON'T LIE

Pete employed a squirt of Fantastic;  
To clean up some metal and plastic;  
But no lacquer adhered  
As his dial disappeared  
In a manner quite comically drastic.

#### RE:STATIC

Some search out their circuits in Sams,  
Some use Rider's to help with the jams;  
But in tending the flock,  
One should take stock  
Of Robert's to quiet the flock.

LUCY WIRE says they called their radio  
a Cathedral because Father was always  
inside it!

#### ONE FOR THE FILE

I don't wish to set up vibrations---  
Or fracture my public relations;  
But in transmission, the verse  
Often seems to get worse---  
And suffers abit in translations.

RADIO'S FINEST

**OZARKA LYRIC...**

GUARANTEED RADIO SERVICE  
DAY OR NIGHT

Call—TRinity 7062

**Siefarth's Radio Service**  
1407 Sandy—at 51st Street

C. J. Siefarth, Sales Res. GARfield 9124  
H. M. Grosse, Service Res. TRinity 2639

R-145-1

## Speaking of . . .

Maurice Leete stopped by the other day to inform us of a useful tip. Many of the old coils are waxed, but to re-wax a newly wound "old" coil presents a problem because paraffin has too low of a melting point so what shall we use? Maurice says to go to a tree nursery store and buy some GRAFTING WAX, which has a very high melting point. This is put on with a soldering iron and according to Maurice this really does the job. I haven't tried it yet but will darn sure do it in the future!

Your editor found a rather rare old 1916 Western Electric "hanging" horn. It is in mint condition, 22 inches long, with a bell measuring 16 inches across. Would assume that this is a rather rare item because very few collectors we have talked to can offer any information on it. Perhaps the most unusual feature of the horn is that it has a PILOT LIGHT mounted in the bell, and it is a factory mount too!!! We really wonder if this old horn wasn't used in a broadcast studio because of this pilot light. Can anyone out there inform us as to its application?? Cost: \$60.

A word of appreciation is in order for our past president Harley Perkins for the excellent job of teaching radio theory at the last meeting, which I have been told that the "old-timers" sat and listened to as well as the inexperienced. Boy, Harley this is super interesting teaching and we all hope you don't stop now!! I was able to repair a radio from just the little that I learned, and from a guy with a 9th grade education that's really an accomplishment! Thanks from all!!!

I received a letter the other day from Vic Ives of radio station KSFO in San Francisco. Previously was program director at KEX and he informs us that Charles Michelson, 444 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022 is selling the old transcription discs of old syndicated shows (these are the originals) for \$12 each for a two sided disc. Charles is a little afraid of collectors because some of the stuff has been boot-legged to radio stations, but is willing to sell them to honest collectors. Tell him you are a member of the NWVRS. The only shows that he has left are from the SEALED BOOK, a summer replacement series for the Shadow. He only has about 15 discs left so you had better write to him now. Vic says that he enjoys getting our terrific little newsletter each month! (Little courtesys like this sometimes pay off for us collectors.

## MARK'S MEMO

Greetings to all of you! First of all I want to thank those of you who responded so quickly to our questionnaire last month. Because of your immediate response we were able to put together the first lesson. Those of you who missed our last meeting missed a fine presentation. Harley, (Oregon's own Morgan McMahon) thank you for doing a super job and especially on such short notice. We're in the beginning stages of our information program and would welcome any suggestions. We'll be compiling all of the information and printing a copy for all who want it. We'll provide the information, you'll have to get your own loose leaf binder or notebook to put them in. By the way this information is also available to associate members and those not living in the Portland area. Just write to the Portland address and request it. I guess I'd better give it to you, it's Box 13544, Portland, Oregon 97213. The information is also available on cassette tape on a lending library type basis.

The address brings up another point. We now have a permanent address in Oregon City. The post office let us go ahead of about 50 other applications and rented us a box. The box number is 341. We certainly weren't expecting to get the box so soon. My only problem is that I live about a half hour's drive from the post office and if someone in Oregon City would like to be responsible for checking the box once a week or so and forwarding the mail to me, I would be very grateful for any volunteers. The Portland address which is printed on our brochures is my Portland address and any mail sent to this address will probably be answered the soonest.

Official address:  
NW Vintage Radio Society  
Box 341  
Oregon City, Oregon 97045

Corresponding address:  
NW Vintage Radio Society  
Box 13544  
Portland, Oregon 97213

To our newest member we bid a welcome:  
Robert Auburger, Jr., 3771-D Brice Run Road, Randallstown, Maryland  
21133

Robert has been collecting radios for about a year (sounds like several others of us) and he has a request. He has a 1925 Stewart Warner set and would like to locate a horn for it. I realize most of us don't like to part with something like that, but it would certainly be a nice gesture for a new member.

How many of you have seen the new KEX billboards with that neat old cathedral on them? Their billboards in my opinion are a very welcome and beautiful addition to our environment.

Some of the advertisements in this issue in our limited space this month were from a 1930 edition of the Portland telephone directory from the Portland Buyers Guide (forerunner of the Yellow Pages).

Though this is sort of a rush notice, the coming swap meet will be April 24 at the Canby fairgrounds. As you know this is a radio swap meet and our contract states that each seller have a majority of radios or radio apparatus. If you have any questions as to just what is included in the above contact me or Bob Campbell. For more details see page 4, and post it if you can. Those wishing to display or swap should be there by 8:AM. More posters are available, so don't be afraid to put up a bunch in choice spots.

See ya all April 10th at the next meeting at 16th and Jackson in Oregon City. Don't forget to bring your stick of firewood.



The editor wishes to publicly apologize to Craig Hoaglin for any misunderstanding we had on the tubes he bought from me recently. I have never tried to cheat anyone in over 30 years of "horse-trading". However 4 of the tubes mentioned proved to be unsatisfactory, but at the time of purchase I said that I would make good on any that were not good. I have kept my end of the bargain faithfully. I will always back up a deal I make to any end, the only request I have is that I get the complaint first hand, instead of third hand from someone else not even involved. This is a legitimate request, I feel.....So again

Craig, I hope you accept my humble apology, thank you..ED.

\*\*\*\*\*

Will the following members please provide TOM JAMES with the necessary photos he needs for the CLUB SCRAPBOOK:

Bob & Sandy Bilbie, Harley Perkins, Jerry Irwin, Ron Moran. These are the five people in attendance at the founding of the NORTHWEST VINTAGE RADIO SOCIETY in 1974.

Tom has been working feverishly on the scrapbook of which we can take great pride in, but has come to a "dead-end" without these photos. Will you please help? Thank you.....

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Glenna Lansing, our famous honorary member from San Diego, Ca., sent a photo of her husband Jim Lansing taken in Pershing Square, Los Angeles, during a WW II Bond Drive. As you know LANSING SPEAKERS are a famous old line which were used in Jackson Bell, Remler, Gillfillan and other radios. They also made horns and speakers back in the battery set days, but these have become extremely rare. She also sent a brief history of how Mr. Lansing got started in radio, way back in 1926. In a future issue this will be covered, for your interest. Not many clubs have so BIG a name in radio as the Lansings, so we can be proud!! (I'm sure all of you out there has heard of ALTEC-LANSING-Ed.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Who Built the Remler Radios?

Elmer Cunningham, of Cunningham Tube fame, decided to get into the manufacture of RADIOS, but not wanting to do anything that would cut into the sale of his tubes to other manufacturers, was reluctant to come out with a radio bearing his name, so he took his first name which was ELMER, turned it backwards, and added an R for Radio, hence the name REMLER-which today has become one of the most desirable of old radios to collect, but also one of the most rare, too!

\*\*\*\*\*

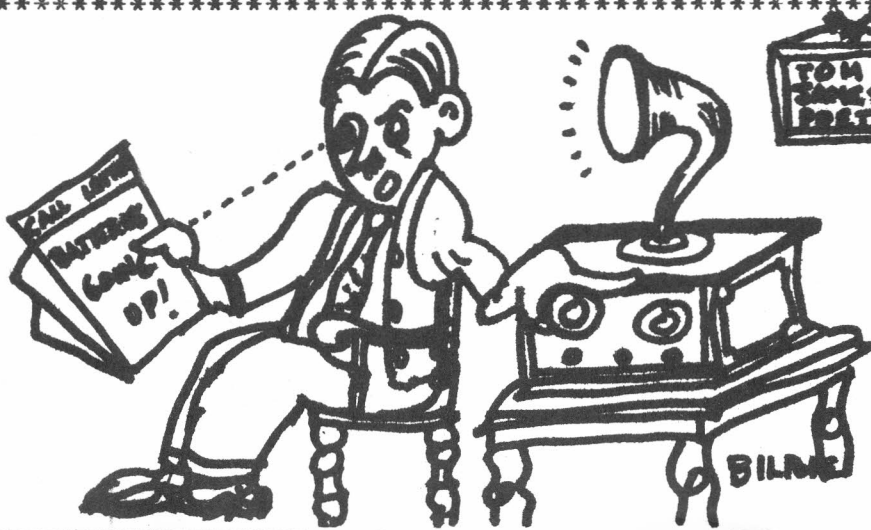
On the last page of this issue is the information on the SWAP MEET-SAVE IT!

\*\*\*\*\*

Well, fellas, as usual, we have enjoyed this little outing with you. Hope it gave all of you a chuckle and some food for thought, as well as holding your interest in our little club. We try extra hard to keep everyone informed and thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*

N  
W  
V  
R  
S  
★  
★



73's