

Vol. 5
No. 12



Dec.
1979

CALL LETTER



Merry
Christmas
to
all
from
the
Staff
of the
Call Letter

Don't forget the
Xmas party at the
meeting Dec. 8.

Remember the elect-
ion of officers for
the coming year, too.
More on this inside
this issue.

Notice for the Election of Officers for 1980

The nominating board has contacted and put up the following list of candidates for the five offices to be voted on at our December meeting. These candidates are selected as willing and proper for their offices, however, any member may put others in nomination at the meeting, prior to the election if he so desires.

Here is your list of candidates for approval:

President:..... Craig Hoaglin.....
Vice President:.... J. Plaisted... Bob Campbell.....
Treasurer:..... Ed Charmin... Lou Stober.....
Rec. Secty:..... Chas. Kibbler... Tom Spence.....
Corr. Secy:..... Bob Hay.....
** ** * * * * *

At this time, I would like to notify all who read the Call Letter to welcome the new editor, Bill DeVey, who will take over on the first of the year. To all those who have been associated with me in this effort, I am indeed grateful for the help and hope you continue to give Bill all the assistance he requires. (t james)


CALL LETTER

The Call Letter is a monthly publication of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, a non-profit organization, incorporated in the State of Oregon. Meetings of the Society are held on the second Saturday of each month, normally, at the Buena Vista clubhouse located at 16th and Jackson Streets, Oregon City, Oregon. Meetings convene at 10 o'clock A.M.

Editor-in-Chief..... Tom James
Feature articles by members are indicated under various by-lines.

Advertising Mgr. Bob Hay
Ad inquiries addressed to 5225 S.E. Brookside Drive, Portland, Or. 97206. Ph. 659-8566
Call Letter address: P.O. box # 02379 Portland Or., 97202
Phone : 235-0581

OUR PEOPLE


Hugh Ranken

The next meeting of NWVRS will be on Saturday, December 8th. Not only will it be a meeting of considerable importance, but promises to be one of the most enjoyable of the year.

Election of Officers to serve for the coming year will be held at that time. The Ladies Auxiliary has planned special refreshments and door prizes for our Christmas party which will follow the business session. Every one is asked to bring a wrapped gift for the Christmas grab bag; something for \$2.00 or less - radio related would be nice but not necessary.

Membership turn out for the November meeting and swap session was excellent and there seemed to be some good sales and trades made. Thanks to the Ladies for providing a tasty lunch for a chilly November day.

"Remember When" - the KOIN KLOCK program had live music from their studio orchestra to start the broadcast day. At one time Clint Gruber (now director of OMSI) was announcer and M.C. The KLOCK'S annual Salvation Army Christmas appeal at this season brought substantial contributions from listeners - a worth while cause that increased from year to year. I think KOIN (now KYTE) was probably the last station in this area to maintain a studio orchestra and broadcast live music. Do you recall the plush studios of KOIN in the New Heathman Hotel and the sign on the roof that proclaimed in big, red neon letters "KOIN"? The sign remained until a comparatively short time ago, long after the studios had moved to new quarters.

Just a reminder that your dues are due for 1980, an item of business that should be handled at the December meeting. Let's have a good turn out.

Merry Christmas to all!



ATMOSPHERICA

By J

Paradox ?

"Favor others as you would,
That they should favor you",
Such is the precept, I am told,
Of a rule with golden hue.

As I went shopping for a gift
To sweeten the Christmas meet,
I found two dollars went as far
As anvils kicked with feet !

I did the best I could, my friend,
To spend that paltry sum ;
I felt like a child of seven,
Buying a ten cent stick of gum !

When Xmas time is coming near,
Don't you think it really strange
That with all that moral teaching
They don't dock prices for a change?

** ** * ** *

Try it, you'll like it

Autumn season now is waning,
And the turkey's met his fate.
The radio is spouting sports,
Distant stations come in great.
No lawn to trim, or garden spot
Creating spare-hour demands.
The evenings are lengthening,
Time weighs upon our hands .
It's now you build those home-brew sets,
Don't procrastinate, or shirk.
Go show every "Doubting Thomas",
That such radios really work !

POWER SUPPLY

The Ladies Auxiliary is planning a Christmas party after the December 8th business meeting, as we did last year. There will be all sorts of snacks and special baked goodies, as well as coffee and punch. If any of you ladies wish to contribute a food item, you are most welcome to do so.

There will be door prizes again this year, items that can be enjoyed by you and your family.

Remember also to bring a wrapped gift for the grab bag (\$2.00 limit).

And fellows ... bring your family along to the party. If they don't usually come to the meetings, this would be an ideal time for us to get to know them.

* * * *

A note for the ladies of the Buena Vista Club. Our December 18th meeting will be a pot luck luncheon, held at the club house. Time will be 1 O'Clock. Dorothy James is head of the food committee. Don't forget to bring a gift for the gift exchange (a \$2.50 limit).

Buyers Guide for the Community Club Awards will be ready for distribution at this meeting.

* * * *

Wishing you a beautiful Holiday season and a New Year of peace and happiness.

by Virginia Ranken

The Locked Door Tube Factories

The beginning of production of unlicensed tubes began with the advent of the "Audiotron" in 1915. Some of the glass blowers employed by large licensed lamp works were quick to see the extraordinary profits being made in the in vacuum tubes, and they began clandestine manufacturing operations on a small scale in their cellars at home. Some produced counterfeits, markings and all, of licensed tubes on the market; others, attempted small-scale repairing of burned-out licensed tubes.

These products were very inferior, made of bad materials on crude machines by glass blowers totally ignorant of vacuum-tube engineering. Once in a while they turned out a good tube, but this was largely accidental.

With the sudden development of nation-wide broadcasting in 1922, the demand for tubes became enormous, and here the unlicensed tube makers and repairers separated into two entirely different types, traveling widely divergent paths.

In the one class were the crooks and counterfeiters of trademarks, incompetent and unscrupulous, intent solely upon cheating someone with an inferior copy or wretched repair job. In the other, and far more interesting class were those who hired experts from legitimate factories and built plants with excellent equipment and processes, with the result that the quality of the finished product was sometimes identical with that of the licensed manufacturers.

A good tube plant could not be set up for less than a sum of \$25,000., yet many attempted to operate with equipment not worth the price of a second-hand Lizzie. The need for secrecy was the result of the patent situation. Employees were selected with great care and paid high wages. The factories were operated as private "electro-chemical laboratories", or "electrical production-research laboratories". The premises were kept locked and a stranger could not enter to ask questions.

The corporations holding tube patents were inclined to let the illegal operators alone unless they became too

prominent, or attempted to appropriate a nationally advertised trademark. If a plant got too big, it generally got squelched quickly. The first step in putting an independent factory out of business was to get a "blind" to buy a shipment of the unlicensed product. Next, an injunction was obtained, the plant was shut down, the machinery was taken away at night, by the owners, and the factory was as bare as a hay barn in the spring by the time the authorities arrived.

When the storm had passed, the machinery was brought out of hiding and set up in a new location, soon operating again full blast. The major expense was installing the electrical wiring, and gas and air piping, costing around \$3,000.

The viewpoint of the clandestine operators seemed to be that the licensed factories were making immense profits behind the shelter of two or three disputed patents, and since we are producing a quality product and giving each one a fair deal, our business is OK.

Excerpted from an article by V.G. Mathison, in "Radio" November, 1924. Vol. VI, No. 11. and contributed by

Jas. I. Mason

** ** * ** * ** * **

A comment on the foregoing article: although a patent is essential to an inventor to protect a device he has developed for his profit, I feel that all the disputed patent litigation in the radio field has done more to retard the development of radio than any other thing. Also the "cornering" of patents, as one of our leading names in radio has done for years, does not add any significant boon to the rank and file consumer of radio gear. It is my belief that too many attorneys are involved in patent disputes, and not enough scientific and engineering expertise is put forward in granting patent applications and settling patent disputes. Read the cases of Armstrong and DeForest for examples. It is remarkable how quickly devices modernize and improve immediately after a patent has run out on some key part, or accessory to the device itself.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Scientific trade shows and conventions put out a call for papers in order to attract contributions. This is done several months before the meeting convenes. My purpose here is to encourage you all to contribute to your Call Letter. Yes, this is your publication. It doesn't belong to the editor or one or two regular contributors. As your future editor I want to invite, and if that isn't strong enough, to request, and if that isn't strong enough, to plead with each of you to contribute to your Call Letter in the near future and throughout the coming year.

Here are a number of suggestions for those of you who haven't contributed because of one reason or another.

First, let's talk about the format. If you are going to put an article in final form (and of course this is preferred) the typing, artwork, calligraphy or whatever should be kept to about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width if at all possible. This permits the copy to be centered in a $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide page with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch borders. The copy can be anywhere in length from a few lines to several pages. The copy should be formatted for a maximum size of $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches. You may however have some vintage printed material or items of interest that exceed these maximum dimensions. Well, don't give up. Your editor has access to a reducing copier so that some oversize copy can be brought down to fit on a page. The only limitation here is that the copy must still be readable when reduced.

Picture material can be somewhat of a problem. Photographs do not XEROX (®) well. Halftoned or line-drawn pictures generally turn out pretty good.

Next, let's talk about subject matter and different contributions you might consider.

1. OPINIONS OR STATEMENT OF POSITION:

This type of writing is often the most controversial. It also usually makes for very interesting reading. Responses of contrary opinion often result.

2. CONSTRUCTION ARTICLES:

Some of you out there have put together one or more sets from your collection of vintage junk. Tell us about what you have done. Maybe you have a choice construction article from a '20s or '30s magazine that other builders would really enjoy.

3. PERSONAL EXPERIENCES:

Every one of us has had a couple of buying, selling, finding or gift receiving experiences that are worth telling about. Be careful now - no fish stories, please.

4. CLIPPINGS FROM OLD LITERATURE:

This is an open field as long as the publication is more than twenty years old. This of course is so that we don't get in trouble with copyright laws. The possibilities here include technical articles, ads, catalog pages, old radio programming, cartoons, jokes, puzzles and quizzes. By the way, remember to include the answers if you send any puzzles or quizzes.

Use your imagination. Each one of you is capable of making interesting and meaningful contributions to the Call Letter. I'll be waiting for your's. Please send those contributions to:

BILL DeVEY

16969 S.W. TRACY AVE.

LAKE GROVE, OR. 97034

or call me at 635-6746.

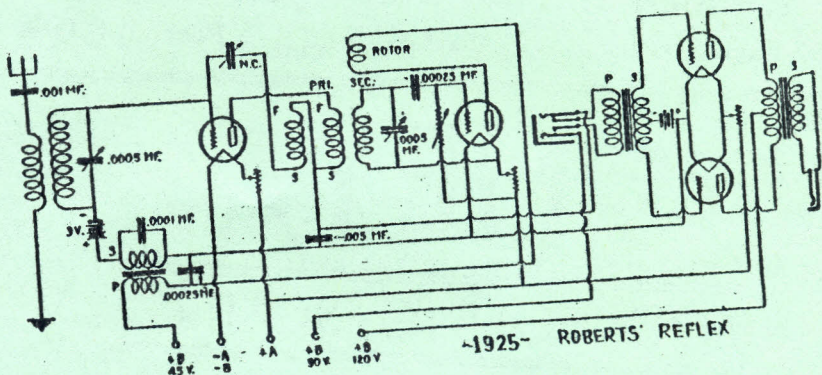
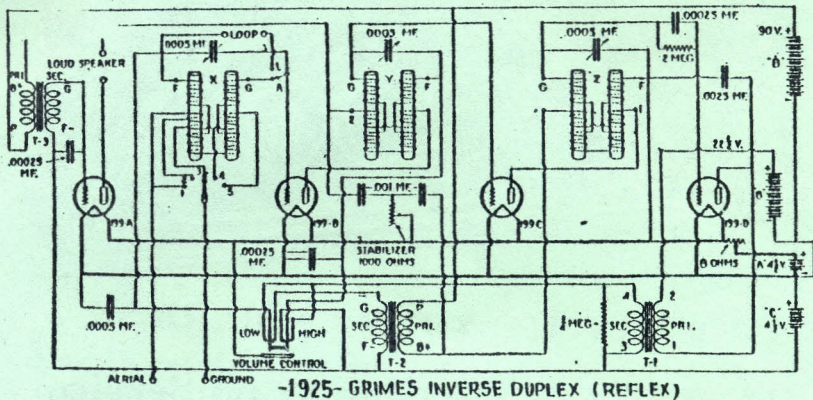
Fifty Years Ago this December-----

old
New sets are coming on the market with tube types; the cheaper with 201A's and 71A's and some of those a little more prestigious are using 26's and 71's in essentially the same old circuits. Evidently the development of new stuff is tied to the economic condition of the country, also the tight rein that tube manufacturers have on the industry.

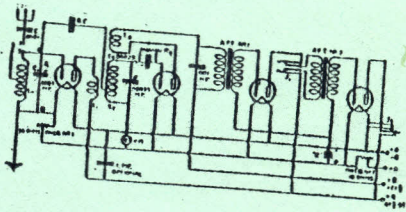
It seems strange to me (since I've been wrestling with some of these old dogs in my shop, recently) that no one of these '28, and '29, and '30 receivers had a real adequate volume control system to squelch local broadcasts. An automatic volume control was non-existent in almost all models, although one would have been easy to develop in a number of ways. Of course I am speaking of the A.C. types in particular, as in the battery types, tube battery consumption was important. I had read of automatic volume controls way back in 1926, in an article by McMurdo Silver, so the engineering was not a factor. The selectivity was bad in most of the sets I've encountered. I suppose this was because of the use of the low-gain triodes, so most sets seemed to sacrifice selectivity to maintain high-gain. I lived in a small town area, where the power line noise, and thermal noise (in summer) was so great that a number of sets popular here in the area around Portland in those years, could not have been sold at home. Remember it was 160 miles to the nearest radio station. The few old Majestics, A. Kents, Crosleys, etc., which used the 26's, in a TRF. ckt., were junked when screen-grid superheterodynes were introduced. Strangely, though, quite a few of the older battery sets survived in areas away from power lines, and gave quite good, but somewhat expensive service.

It took five more years, and the end of the great depression before the advent of AC, screen grids, superheterodynes, good audio, ferrite coils, etc., all in a modestly priced, compact receiver. I almost forgot the inclusion of a short wave band, or two, for those who still liked the fun of DX reception.

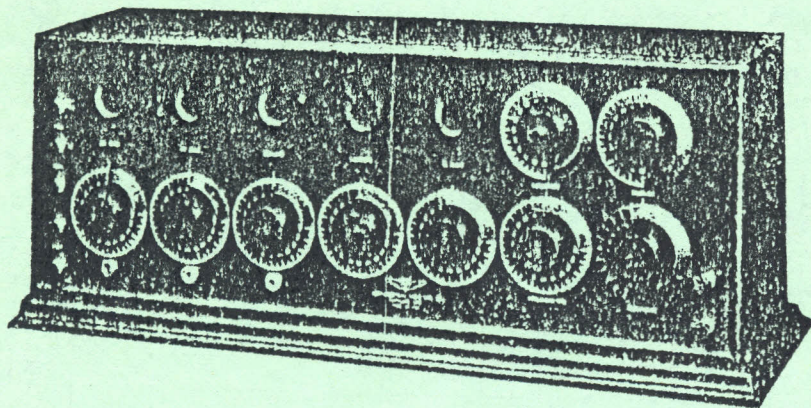
FAMOUS EARLY RADIO CIRCUITS



-1926-
BROWNING-
DRAKE



Introducing the "SR 25"



WE INVITE YOUR ENQUIRIES

Hallock and Watson Radio Service

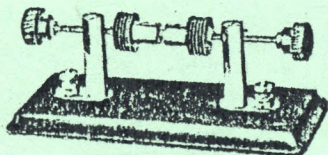
192 Park Street

"KGG"

Portland, Ore.

HEY,

YOU YOUNG SQUIRTS!



*Can you identify
this little item
of
the early 1900's?*

TK

Ole!

Our member, John McConnell, of West Linn, Or. was very pleased this past month with the acquisition of a 30 tube Capehart, 212 M, in beautiful shape. These large babies are his preference in collectables, he says. In addition to the Capehart, he found a 13 tube Stromberg Carlson and a 7 tube Bosch. Nice going!

Too late for last months Call Letter was Dick Howard's Hallock and Watson 1926 All-Wave 5, with the notation "Inspected by Roy Young Sr." and "Tested by Joe Hallock" --also he snagged a home-brew Neutrodyne and some other "junk" I understand. I think we should set up some sort of "Handicap" for those who find stuff too easily (?)

If my information is correct, I believe Don Iverson got his hands on another Hallock and Watson which was a long time materializing from an earlier deal. These sets are a pretty good prize for those of us living the Portland area, as they were made here, and were a pretty good product for their time.

Joey Tompkins, Salem, got three sets in November at an Auction House in Salem area: a Radiola X, a Freed Eisenmann NR-5, and a Radiola III. The latter in poor shape but very restorable. Joe says that he has had poor luck at auctions with vintage radios as most were too high and of poor shape. He further states that he is going to bow down to the high price of gas and stick around home (except for meeting day) more, and to heck with those remote radio finds (?)

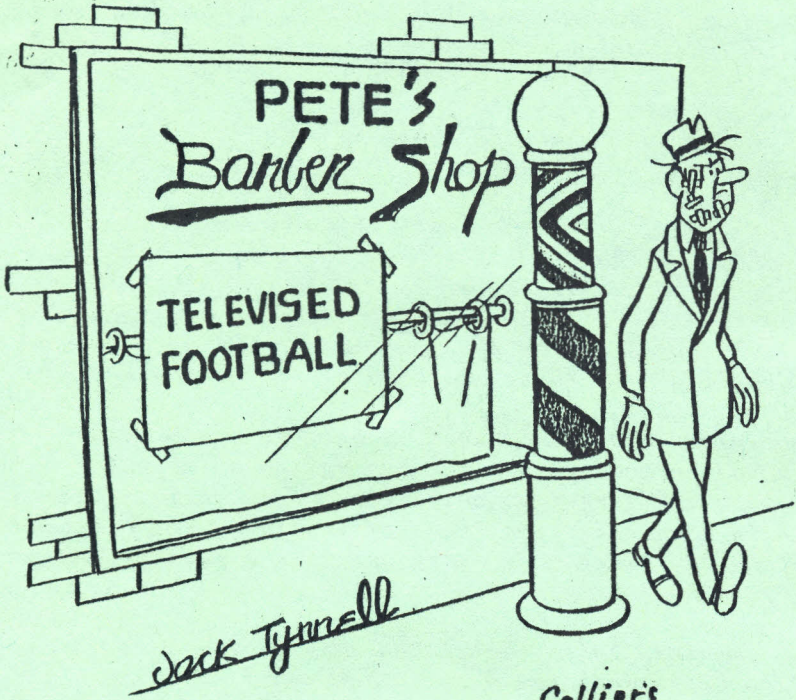
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tj 12/79

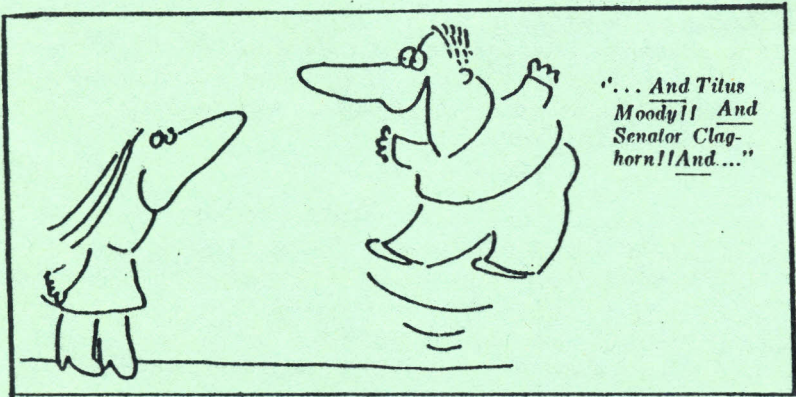
--- Regen-Elation ---

The looks of his set was a fright
When completed early one night,
Then he tickled the dial
And after awhile
The darned thing squealed with delight!

CARTOON CLIPPINGS



Collier's



"... And Titus
Moody!! And
Senator Clag-
horn!! And...."

Sat. Eve. Post.

The IQ Trimmer

by the Prof.

Some more True or False Schmaltz for yon amazement.

1. It was a discovery made by Thos. Edison and discarded, that led to the development of the triode radio tube.
2. Heinrich Hertz invented a death ray in 1887, known as the kilohertz.
3. The Super-regenerative circuit used two crystals, instead of one, in the detector hook-up.
4. The Neutrodyne was so named, because of it's inability to reproduce spurious dynes.
5. The "grid-leak" was detected by a Dutch scientist in 1908, and the firm of Potts and Chambers used the biased rectifier in 1927, which was proven to be superior.

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Answer to last months trimmer: this prestigious old console was a Stromberg-Carlson. It appeared in 1928, as their "Treasure Chest" model.

We don't see very many of these ornate, massive models any more; probably the up-coming depression of '29, had a lot to do with their manufacture during the lean years until '35, and by that time the trends had shifted to more conservative and cheaper styles. Space was probably the prime reason more of them are not preserved today. Many of the fine old cabinets were made over into book cases, liquor cabinets, and other pieces of furniture. As far as the radios were concerned, they left a lot to be desired circuitwise, as AVC, screen grid tubes, built-in antennas, and many other refinements were yet to be developed.

SWAP SHOP

Compiled by
Hugh Ranken

FOR SALE: 1931 Grebe console, Model SK-4
TRF, cabinet refinished. \$75.00
Jim Mason Ph: 644-2343
90 N. W. 150th Ave.
Beaverton, Or. 97005

FOR SALE: Large A-K 20, \$110.00 with tubes,
\$85.00 without tubes.
A-K 33, needs tuning condenser
bands, \$55.00.
A-K model E with speaker.
Radiola 18, with tubes, \$55.00.
Kennedy 22, cabinet only, \$15.00.
Dick Howard Ph: 775-6697
9999 S. E. Frenchacres Dr.
Portland, Or. 97266

WANTED: Cabinet for Crosley Trirdyn.
Cabinet for Federal 135.
Wireless gear and crystal sets.
Dick Howard Ph: 775-6697

WANTED: 2 A-K transformers for A-K
Model 20.
Erik Lofquist
2612 N. W. 96th St.
Seattle, Wn. 98117
(if able to supply phone collect
206 782-6343)

WANTED: Cabinet doors for Radiola ARB12
or complete cabinet.
Bob Campbell Ph: 648-7331
2175 S. E. Pine
Hillsboro, Or. 97123

For Sale: 1949 Philco TV. Has rotating screen on
top of set. Runs OK, and is in mint con-
dition. Table model, no number seen. Will
trade.

Joe Tompkins
3796 Hulsey St. S.E.
Salem, Or. 97302

Ph. 362-8071