

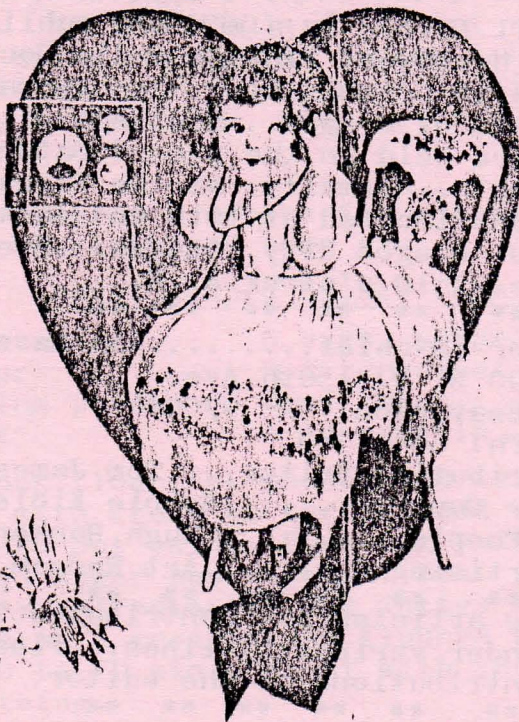
VOL. 7  
No. 2



FEB.  
1981

# CALL LETTER

ST. VALENTINE'S GREETING  
*Through the Radio*



Dearest, if I did but know,  
The reason why I love you so.

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## CALL LETTERS

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.....Jim Mason  
90 N. W. 150th Ave.  
Beaverton, OR 97006  
Ph: 644-2343

Contributing Writer....Tom James  
Power Supply.....Bobbie Kibler  
Our People.....Hugh Ranken  
Advertising Mgr.....Art Redman

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Feature articles are contributed by members under various by-lines. Please send all contributions to the editor.

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Call Letter address: P.O. Box 02379  
Portland, Oregon 97202

# POWER SUPPLY

Since our Radio Club happens to meet on St. Valentine's Day this year, I thought it might be interesting to find out how this day originally came about. It apparently started as an ancient, pagan, Roman festival of love. Since Christian priests were unable to eliminate this pagan rite, they decided to dedicate it to one of their saints whose martyrdom happened to fall in mid February, St. Valentine. During the 17th Century few valentines were mailed. The usual practice was to leave a handwritten note at your sweetheart's door, knock, then dash out of sight. Greetings weren't written at first on cards, but on full-size paper. However in Europe it became the custom to write short greetings on visiting cards which had decorative borders or pictures. From these handwritten greetings evolved our present day Valentines. By the 1780's different styles of cards were being printed in Europe. Handmade and handwritten valentines prevailed in America for a time, but by 1840, manufactured ones were on the market.

- - - - -

The following is a recipe for a cake to be baked in a heart-shaped tube pan.

## Heart-shaped Sponge Cake

|                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 c. warm water    | 6 eggs, separated    |
| 2 c. flour         | ½ t. cream of tartar |
| 3 t. baking powder | 2 c. sugar           |
| ½ t. salt          | 1 t. vanilla         |

Sift together flour, b. powder and salt. Beat egg whites with cream of tartar. Add ½ cup of the sugar. Set aside. Beat egg yolks until blended. Add sugar and vanilla. Beat 4 to 5 min. Add dry ingredients, egg whites and warm water. Bake in a greased and floured pan at 350° for 60 to 70 min. Frost with your favorite white icing.

bk



# ATMOSPHERICA

By J

*The Foible of the Philco---*

*The ad was in the Daily Blurb:  
"An antique radio set",  
Mrs. Hortense Martin-Glover,  
At twenty three North Willamette.*

*He got up at seven thirty,  
He was an early riser--  
And scooted up to that address,  
And boy, did he surprise 'er.*

*He paid the hundred fifty clams  
For that cathedral, spiffy.  
But when he went to fire it up,  
His wisdom seemed more iffy.*

*With sweat and time and expertise  
Spent on this stubborn actor,  
It growled once and spat some tar,  
Then bit it's benefactor !:*

*He dimly saw a vision of  
That sweet conniving granny,  
He cursed the day he bought her set,  
Then-----got up off his fanny !!*

**\*\* \*\* \* \*\* \* \*\* \***

*Old Proverb:*

*It is said that those whose speakers are the loudest,  
may have much distortion in their amplifiers .*

## K U S—City Dye Works Radiophone—360 Meters

Owned and Operated by the City Dye Works, Los Angeles  
Telephone South 120

|                      |                     |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 7:00 to 7:30 a. m.   | Daily Except Sunday | Walter Camp's Daily Dozen |
| 12:00 to 12:30 p. m. | Daily Except Sunday | Concert.                  |
| 2:00 to 2:30 p. m.   | Monday and Thursday | Special Program.          |
| 4:00 to 4:30 p. m.   | Tuesday and Friday  | Code Practice.            |

### WEDNESDAY—

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 7:00 to 7:30 a. m.   | Walter Camp's Daily Dozen.   |
| 12:00 to 12:30 p. m. | Concert.   |
| 6:00 to 6:45 p. m.   | Musical given by the City Dye Works Choral Society. "PA" OLSON on the harmonica. MISS BEATRICE VANCE, Accompanist. |

### FRIDAY—

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 7:00 to 7:30 a. m.   | Walter Camp's Daily Dozen.                   |
| 12:00 to 12:30 p. m. | Concert.                                     |
| 6:00 to 6:45 p. m.   | Special Program given by the CHORAL SOCIETY. |

## Condenser Capacity

ROBERT HORWOOD

The whole theory of condenser operation is based on the simple fact that a current cannot flow steadily through an insulator. However if a steady electro-motive force is applied between two points of an insulator a momentary flow takes place. This flow produces a strain on the insulator, which reacts in its turn. If a sensitive indicator is introduced into such a circuit, when the key is closed, a sudden deflection is observed. This, however, soon drops to zero owing to the neutralizing affect of the reaction. When the electromotive force is reduced a current is seen to exist in the opposite direction. This current is called displacement current, and is the current which it is the purpose of the condenser to store.

The material in which electric strain is induced is called a dielectric, and the displacement is sometimes called a dielectric current. Displacement may be produced on the dielectric by placing same between two plates, and connecting these to some source of electro motive force, such as a battery. Such an arrangement of plates is called a condenser.

When the condenser is connected to a current the displacement commences. The amount of displacement induced depends directly upon both the voltage applied, and the kind of dielectric used. The dielectric, that is the space in which the displacement, or dielectric current is induced need not be a tangible substance, and is generally air, gas, or any other substance. The amount of displacement determined in this way. For a given condenser the charge  $Q$  is found to be directly proportional to the applied voltage  $E$ . This may be written  $Q=CE$ . Where  $C$  is a constant for any given condenser, the value of the constant is to be the ratio of the voltage charge, or  $C=Q$ .

$C$  is the capacity of the condenser, and is measured in farads, or for more practical use micro farads. These measurements were explained in a table given in RADIO DOINGS, Vol. 2, No. 27.

The capacity of the condensers is changed as the dielectric is changed, and as the space between the condenser plates is varied. The obvious purpose of a condenser is to store electricity in the form of electric strain. For many purposes it is desirable to vary the capacity of the condenser, and for this purpose condensers are devised with moveable plates. As the radiation of the plates to one another is changed, the amount of electric strain, and displacement electricity varies. In these condensers two sets of leaves are used, one set being moveable, and the other fixed. These plates are insulated from each other, the insulator being the dielectric, and in the case of the plate condenser consists of air.

Plate condensers are not always used, and metal is not a necessary material. Shunt condensers are made up of a number of wires, with paper being used for the insulator, and the dielectric. Antennas are condensers, as are telephone cables, etc. Variable condensers are calibrated so that the amount of energy stored may be measured.

# OUR PEOPLE

BY  
HUGH RANKEN

The meeting of January 10th saw the installation of officers for 1981, with President Don Iverson presiding at his inaugural and doing first rate.

It was "Variometer Day" with several members each exhibiting a variety of makes and styles. Joe Tompkins showed a Fada 3-tube neutrodyne in nice condition as well as several variometers, one of which he bought at Kress' in 1928 and used in a one tube outfit. Somewhere along the line (Joe says) he re-wound the variometer with taps and thus was born the first "Tompkins Variocoupler".

Don Iverson brought several variometers and in addition, displayed two little known communications receivers - a 12 tube Breting and a 9 tube Breting. The workmanship, particularly on the "12", is superb with most components being chrome plated, in the fashion of Scott receivers. Indications are these were manufactured in the Los Angeles area, probably in the mid 1930's.

Others participating in the variometer display were Jim Mason, Bob Campbell and Art Redman.

There was some discussion on receiving advertising for the "Call Letter". It would be an excellent opportunity for antiques and collectibles dealers who handle radios and related items to get some good exposure. Art Redman agreed to assume the job of Advertising Manager. Art will be happy to receive leads on prospective advertisers.

There was some informal talk a couple of months past about display of a particular make of radio or a certain type of equipment at each meeting. One thought advanced at the time was to display sets by alphabetical

name.... "A" one month, "B" the next and so on, with parts and equipment displays interspersed from time to time. For instance, in the "A" category everyone almost automatically thinks of Atwater Kent. Actually, over the years, there were almost a hundred sets whose names started with "A", from Abbey to Aztec. Sounds like a pretty good idea.

As most of you probably know, KXL-AM finally achieved 24 hour status on December 16. For countless years it had been restricted to a "dawn to dusk" operation. This meant it came on around 6 A.M. and, during the winter months, went off the air as early as 4:30 or 5:00 P.M. Of course, in the summer months they could operate till 9:00 or later. It seems remote there would have been any great amount of interference, since the conflicting frequency was a station in Atlanta, Georgia, but that was the ruling they had to abide by. Eventually KXL had their FM outlet which made up somewhat for time lost on AM, but it is a step forward now that they can operate full time on both.

#### CIVILIAN RADIOS AVAILABLE AGAIN IN 1945.

As radio manufacturers caught up on the stock pile of WWII military equipment, that was the projected date when they hoped to start producing again for the home front. There were new ideas to be introduced and the need was urgent for parts and equipment, since many service shops were forced to salvage parts from old sets for civilian use.

The next meeting for NWVRS will be on Saturday, February 14 .... you guessed it, Valentine's Day ... at the Club House. So, Happy Valentine!

## WIRELESS QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Sir John Wolf-Barry, one of Britain's leading electrical engineers, addressed the stockholders of the Western Telegraph Co. in London. His speech was printed in the Oregonian of Dec. 8, 1907 under the byline "Difficulties in Way of Wireless Telegraph".

"After the recent statements in the newspapers about the promised early opening for commercial business of a wireless system of telegraphy between Ireland and Canada, I do not look upon any system of wireless as a serious competitor with our cables. Some years ago I said the same thing and nothing has since occurred to alter my views. At that time the length over which wireless messages were sent was 400 miles, but I then said that I did not put any bounds to the development of science and that greater distances would probably be compassed.

The fundamental difficulties and imperfections of wireless telegraphy remain in the want of certainty of transmission, the want of secrecy, and the confusion which must occur, when numerous messages are not conveyed by a direct conductor such as a telegraph cable or land line from point to point, but are thrown with great violence up into the ether, into which they radiate in all directions to be disentangled and interpreted at the other side of the globe. I am well aware that by tuning the receiving instruments to the wave lengths of the sending instruments some of these difficulties of publicity and confusion can be met to a limited extent. Secrecy, however, is only attainable so long as other parties abstain from tuning their instruments to intercept the messages. It is also evident that confusion of simultaneous messages in the ether can be lessened by tuning, but here again we must remember that the number of graduations of tuning

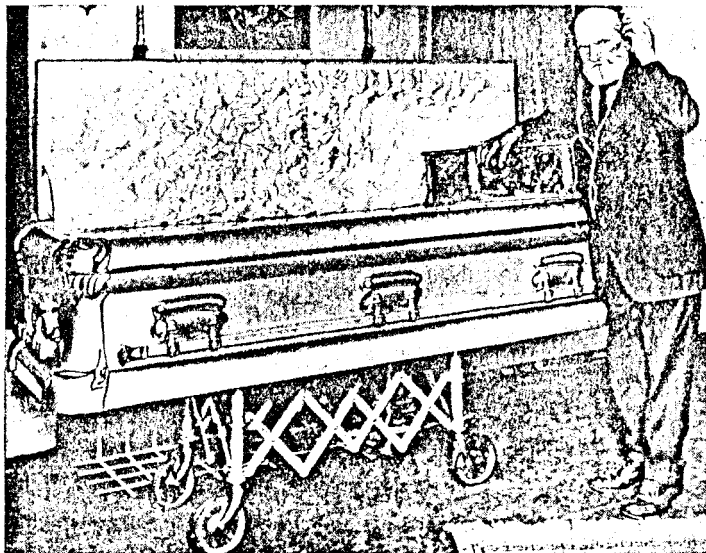


is limited to an extent which seems to me to be quite incompatible with the requirements of a large telegraphic business.

I believe that some 25,000 paying words pass to and from Great Britain by cables during a busy hour, and we know that New York expects to receive and answer stock exchange telegrams with London in 5 minutes. After making all allowances for possible tuning, I cannot but think that the confusion in the ether will be worst confounded if any considerable number of messages are attempted.

With regard to certainty of transmission, I believe that many disturbances of the ether by natural causes must always be encountered, and that the longer the distances attempted the more formidable will be the difficulties from atmospheric or magnetic causes. Then, again, I understand that a wireless sending station of high power cannot, as in the case with telegraphy by continuous cables and wires be at the same time a receiving station or in other words messages cannot be sent and received simultaneously. If this is so, I foresee the greatest difficulties in dealing with one of the matters which cause constant trouble with any system of telegraphy - namely - the elimination and correction of errors and the constant demand for repetition of doubtful signals.

For these and other reasons, I do not look upon a wireless system as a serious competitor with cables...It was well said that, if the order of discovery had been reversed and cables had come second in point of date to a wireless system, it would have been universally recognized that cables were a fundamental and enormous improvement eliminating the difficulties under which a wireless system must labor."



Kadel & Herbert

#### LISTENING IN FROM KINGDOM COME

*Sam R. Kimball, an aged San Bernardino Valley rancher, has placed an order with a Los Angeles undertaker for a twelve hundred dollar steel coffin equipped with a radio receiver. Through it he expects to be able to hear what is going on in the world after he dies, being convinced, he says, that the soul lingers near the body until the day of judgment.*

FROM "POPULAR RADIO", OCTOBER, 1925

Hope he had "lifetime" batteries! (Ed.)

Contributed by Dick Karman

# LETTERS

In this month's letter, Joey Tompkins discusses the value of our club to him, particularly the fellowship of the meetings. Let's all try to attend and show we really support the club.

Dear Jim:

Finds of the month were not much for me, fell into a nice Stromberg Carlson console, with the usual class they always had. A good buy for 15 bucks: it is nice to have.

Here I am in the basement wandering around picking up stuff and sweeping the place out, and I got to thinking. Our club has been good to me; I met a swell bunch of fellows, friends that I never would have met any other way. It's meant a lot to me. The trip there each month was the highlite of my monthly events. I often wonder what I would have done for something to do after retiring from a life of exciting activities a few years ago.

So many good things have been made possible from the club. I learned a bunch from those who knew so much more than I did, and this is so important. I think our club would be even better if all of us would take a moment to ask ourselves what would I be doing if there were no club in my radio collecting. The thrill would not be nearly as great to find a rare set with no one to show it to and do a lot of bragging.

In the club, I get great pleasure in writing to members a long way off: there's Eugene Bordeaux in New Jersey, a prince of a guy I never met; Joe Warburton of Brownsville, Texas, a  
(cont next page)

real hustler. Mr. L. O. Evans of West Monroe, La. There are others who phone sometimes - all darn good guys.

These are the things in the club that are good for me, and when a fella gets to be 72, everything just has to be up. Old radios help a lot and the club helps me in this way. Then there is the Power Supply who are so good with the goodies. And so now, I've said it - let's help pore ole Jim with the bulletin each month. Let's all be helpful - this is what life's all about.

Joey

# # # # # # #

Picking up on Hugh's suggestion for the monthly display, let's see what unusual makes of radios beginning with "A" we can bring to the February meeting.

# # # # # # #

A reminder: Members who have not renewed their membership by the coming meeting will be dropped from the Call Letter mailing list, and not included in the 1981 club membership listing. So, let's get those dues in - no increase this year: \$12.50 regular and \$10.00 associate membership.

M

# Ole!

by

T.J.

You never can fault the freebies given by relatives or friends! Art Redman writes that he was given three radios by those who knew he was interested in collecting. A co-worker gave him an Airline Screen-grid recvr., mod 31 (hasn't been lucky in making it play yet). A cousin gave him an uncle's old communications recvr. An RCA AR 136. The most interesting of his radios came from the estate of a family friend. Originally Art bought the set for \$1.50 from a Goodwill store in 1962 and re-sold it for a whoppin' \$3.50. He told my father I could have it back when he passed on. He played this Brunswick mod. 5 KRO for 18 years until the time of his death at the age of 87. This radio still works!

Dick Howard got an item that many might pass by: An RCA interstage transformer, in original box, unused and in fine cond; the date of manufacture? 1922 or 1921. That's rather a rare item, I'd say.

Chuck Kibler would like someone to ship him a set in good shape to put in his ship-shaped case, in order to complete a super ship-shaped set in serviceable and satisfactory show condition. P.S. he doesn't the name or model number. Ask an old Navy operator (ed)

John McConnell acquired two more of the multi-tube jobs he collects, in the form of a 10 tube Stewart-Warner console in fair shape. Also a Zenith 12 tube (1937) which needs some work also.

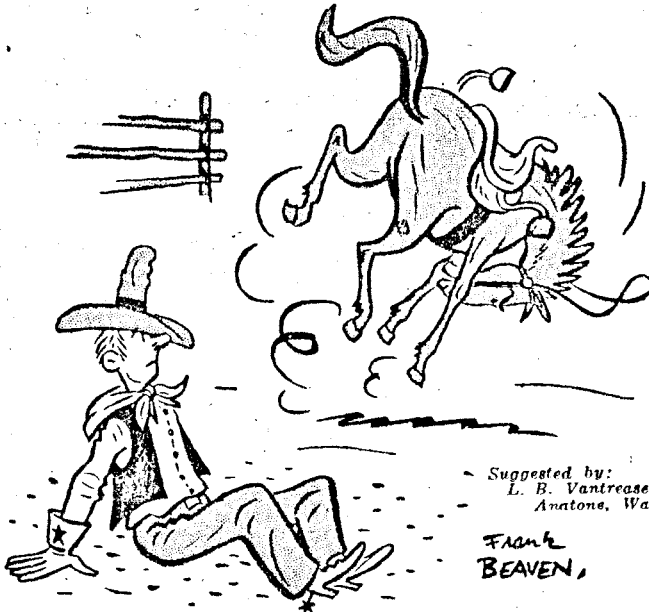
Jim Mason found a ceramic rheostat (old style) with W socket attached, all mounted on slate base! along with an AK drum Spkr. # F-4A, an electro-dynamic job. Jim is puzzled on how to hook these two items together to receive KYJE. Any ideas?

Don't forget the books, periodicals, and printed stuff of a vintage nature when apprising your Ole' editor of any finds. They are often very valuable.

# CARTOON CLIPPINGS



## RADIO TERM ILLUSTRATED



A Solid Ground Connection

# IQ Primer...

by THE PROF.

In retrospect, about 50 years ago, certain important changes were taking place in electronic art. It was in the midst of a great depression and with this in mind you are ready for the following questions, true or not.

1. Variable mu tubes and pentodes were jockeying for a "place in the sun" with older screen grid and triode types.
2. Brunswick Radio Co. signed an agreement with Sony of Japan to manufacture radio parts and assemblies for their new Panatropo Series of radios.
3. The popular "Cathedral" of vintage fame was originally referred to as a "Midget".
4. The Langmuir tube patent was invalidated by the U.S. Supreme Court, thus ending a nineteen year legal battle against the General Electric Mfg. Co., by DeForest Radio Co.
5. The famous Philco "90" chassis, mfg. first in 1931, was offered in three cabinet choices.
6. Radio station K G W, of Portland was forced to move its transmitting towers three miles on account of local static.

\*\* \*\*

Last month's IQ true or false answers are as follows:

1. True
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. False
6. False ( although there are some who will doubt the statement! )

\*\* \*\*

A vintage radio buff and his money are soon parted.  
( Poor Richards Almanac )

# SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE OR  
TRADE

Trade 9 tube Breting short  
wave receiver. Offer?  
Don Iverson, Ph: 286-1144

FOR SALE

Original club logo silk  
screen (for jackets) \$25  
R. C. Campbell, 2175 S. E.  
Pine, Hillsboro, OR 97123  
Ph: 648-7331

WANTED

1. Most often needed 1939  
Radio Diagrams Vol 2, by  
Beitman  
2. Sams Photofact TR-17 Tape  
Recorder Manual. C. R. Kib-  
ler, 25555 N.E. Glass Rd.  
Aurora, OR 97002 Ph: 678-5066

WANTED

Rider's Vol. 1  
Robert Teague, 7522 S. E. Roots  
Rd., Milwaukee OR 97222 Ph;  
655-0077

WANTED

Two vernier dials  
Joe Tompkins, 3796 Hulsey Ave.  
Salem, OR Ph: 362-8071

WANTED

Sparton Model 69 chassis only,  
in repairable condition. Will  
purchase or trade for???  
Ed Charman, Ph: 654-7387 or  
243-4409

WANTED

Collectors willing to trade ra-  
dio repair knowledge for tapes  
of "old time radio shows"  
Dick Karman, 2515 NE 37th, Port-  
land, OR 97212 Ph; 288-1285

WANTED

Old tubes, crystal sets, spark  
gap parts. Don Iverson, Ph:  
286-1144